



County of Marin

*2009 Federal & State Legislative
Programs & Policy Guidelines*

Adopted December 9, 2008

COUNTY OF MARIN

2009 FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATIVE POLICY GUIDELINES

The Federal and State Legislative Programs are designed to provide the Board's policy direction on legislation regarding matters that are of singular and direct interest to Marin County. In some instances, such matters may also be of general statewide or national interest. Some legislative items appear in both the state and federal programs; this is because the focus of the program or the amount of funding requested may differ depending on the legislative body targeted. In other cases, your Board may wish to sponsor legislation to affect a policy change specific to Marin County.

'Attachment A' represents the 2009 Legislative Policy Guidelines. These Guidelines are designed to (a) provide standing authority to take action on pending legislative matters when time constraints preclude bringing such matters to the Board of Supervisors in advance, and (b) provide our lobbyists a better understanding of the Board's policy preferences regarding a variety of intergovernmental issues that might arise during the course of the year.

2009 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

A. POLICY

1. ***Climate Change.*** Support federal action on climate change to assist Marin County and the Bay Area as a whole in meeting its climate change goals. Support efforts to establish a connection between climate change and local governments' ability to operate local transit systems and other non-motorized transportation programs. Monitor federal legislative proposals on climate change and energy policy to ensure that any legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions be structured in such a way as to assist the region in achieving our greenhouse gas reduction and mobility goals.
2. ***Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment Program.*** Advocate for continued renewal of a federal waiver under which California operates its Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment Program. In 2008 the federal government threatened non-renew of this waiver because of the way the State administers eligibility standards, and federal concerns that federal money is being used for services to undocumented persons. Marin County receives \$900,000 per year for this program.
3. ***Federal Stimulus Package.*** Work to include local concerns and projects - including local road, bridge, transit, flood, watershed, capital improvement, green energy, and bike/pedestrian projects - in any additional federal stimulus package considered by Congress in 2009.
4. ***Sustainable Agriculture on National Parklands.*** Explore opportunities to support sustainable agricultural uses on national parklands and to enhance local agricultural diversity. Explore the extension of lease agreements relating to oyster operations in coastal Marin County.
5. ***Indian Gaming.*** Ensure that the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has discretion to consider impacts to the local community before taking land into trust for gaming purposes. Because of the significant adverse off-reservation impacts of Indian gaming, local communities should have the opportunity for input and review of a tribe's plan for a major casino before land is taken into trust. Support legislation which balances tribal, local, state and federal concerns while protecting or enhancing state and local government authority to mitigate off-reservation impacts.

B. TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

The following represent the County's highest priority federal transportation reauthorization requests. The 'Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users' (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted August 10, 2005. SAFETEA-LU authorizes the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009. The current authorization bill expires September 30, 2009. The new reauthorization bill will be called 'MAP 21' (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), and includes the following transportation priorities:

1. ***Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program.*** Seek a reauthorization allocation of \$50 million to supplement the existing pilot program for nonmotorized transportation projects. In 2005 Marin County was named one of four communities nationwide to receive \$25 million to build and promote bicycle and pedestrian activity through a federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. While the intent is to build a complete bicycle/pedestrian network, estimates currently total \$220 million to do so.
2. ***Highway 101 "Marin-Sonoma Narrows" Multi-Modal Corridor Projects.*** In addition to the annual appropriations process, support the Transportation Authority of Marin in seeking a reauthorization allocation of \$50 million for the "Marin-Sonoma Narrows" Project, which would alleviate congestion on the U.S. 101 corridor from Highway 37 in Novato to Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma. The request would include bike, pedestrian, light rail and/or other multi-modal project elements along the Highway 101 corridor. This project is the final of seven phases for the widening and improvement of U.S. 101 in Marin and Sonoma counties. Approximately \$200 million has been leveraged from various sources over the years, with much more needed for construction of the estimated \$800 million project.
3. ***Pacific Way Bridge at Redwood Creek.*** In addition to requesting funding through the annual appropriations process, seek a reauthorization allocation to support a National Park Service project, in coordination with the County, to replace the Pacific Way Bridge for wetland and Redwood Creek restoration at Big Lagoon in Muir Beach. Estimated cost is \$3.5 million for design and construction of the project. In addition to wetland and creek restoration, construction of a new and longer bridge will also reduce flooding on Pacific Way, a County maintained road.

C. WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA) AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

The following represent the County's new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) federal authorization request(s). WRDA is legislation that authorizes flood control, navigation, and environmental projects and studies by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Unlike Transportation Reauthorization, WRDA authorization does not expire. Because WRDA does not appropriate funds for authorized projects, however, fiscal requests must take place annually as part of the federal appropriations process once a project is authorized. WRDA authorization includes the following new request(s) for the County of Marin:

1. ***Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project/Alternative to Todd Road.*** Support efforts to seek WRDA legislation to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to grant funds to the City of Novato for the planning, design and construction of an alternative to Todd Road for access to the wetlands restoration project. Todd Road serves as the only access point to the Hamilton Airfield Wetlands Restoration Project, and is located just feet from a housing development. Because construction traffic to the site poses health and safety risks to nearby residents, an alternative to Todd Road is required to mitigate these health and safety risks while permitting the restoration project to proceed.

D. PRIORITY FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

The following represent the County's highest priority federal fiscal requests for 2009 (Federal Fiscal Year 2010). Most are continuing, multi-year fiscal requests in association with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for projects already appropriated and/or authorized but which require additional funding.

1. ***Corte Madera Creek Flood Control.*** Seek funding for improvements to the existing portion, and completion of the final phase, of the ACOE Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project. The total request is for \$700,000 for FY 2010. Although 75% of the ACOE Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project has been constructed, it is less than 25% effective because the constructed portion has performed significantly below expectations; the yet-to-be-constructed final phase is needed to make the entire project work. After many years of investigation and the consideration of numerous alternatives, local communities have forwarded to the ACOE an agreed-upon Locally Preferred Plan for completion of the project. Continued federal support is required to fund design, environmental review and construction of the final phase, as well as improvements to already completed portions. In early 2007, residents voted to accept a local assessment/share of participation in the project.
2. ***Las Gallinas Creek/Santa Venetia Levee.*** Seek a federal appropriation of \$500,000 in FY 2010 to the ACOE for a Section 205 Feasibility Study for the restoration of Las Gallinas Creek flood control levees to protect the Santa Venetia area. This project was included in the 2007 reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act, but requires funding. The levees were last repaired in 1983 after severe flooding caused damage to 300 homes. Estimated to cost \$1 million, non-federal interests would be required to fund 50% of the cost of this feasibility study. In 2003, Santa Venetia residents approved an annual parcel tax for six years to finance the replacement of the oldest of five pump stations. Levees have gradually settled and deteriorated to such a point that rehabilitation and restoration is imminently needed.
3. ***Highway 101 "Marin-Sonoma Narrows" Multi-Modal Corridor Projects.*** Support the Transportation Authority of Marin in seeking additional funding for the "Marin-Sonoma Narrows" Project, which would alleviate congestion on the U.S. 101 corridor from Highway 37 in Novato to Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma. The request would include bike, pedestrian, light rail and/or other multi-modal project elements along the Highway 101 corridor. Request is for \$2 million for FY 2010. This project is the final of seven phases for the widening and improvement of U.S. 101 in Marin and Sonoma counties. Approximately \$200 million has been leveraged from various sources over the years, with much more needed for construction of the estimated \$800 million project.
4. ***Pacific Way Bridge at Redwood Creek.*** Seek funding to support a National Park Service project, in coordination with the County, to replace the Pacific Way Bridge for wetland and Redwood Creek restoration at Big Lagoon in Muir Beach. Estimated cost is \$3.5 million for design and construction of the project. In addition to wetland and creek restoration, construction of a new and longer bridge will also reduce flooding on Pacific Way, a County maintained road.
5. ***Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration.*** Seek a federal appropriation of \$900,000 to the ACOE and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to begin revision of the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and EIR/EIS. Restoration recommendations recently developed in partnership with the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary will be a key element of the revision. The existence of the lagoon, which provides critical habitats for hundreds of resident and migratory bird species, as well as marine mammals, fish and invertebrates, may be threatened by an accumulation of sediment. The requested appropriation is essential to ensure that an ecologically sound, community-supported plan is developed to protect one of California's and the nation's most ecologically significant coastal estuaries.

6. ***Bothin Marsh/Coyote Creek Flood Control & Restoration.*** Explore opportunities to identify up to \$100,000 in funding for a Section 216 ACOE Feasibility Study to open the channel of Coyote Creek in the Mill Valley Watershed. The project would redesign operation and maintenance activities for the lower reach of the Coyote Creek Flood Control Project to reduce the frequency and extent of dredging activities, while still providing 20-year level of flood protection to Tamalpais Valley. The project would also explore options for converting upland areas to tidal wetlands and/or enhancing habitat value of the existing tidal marsh.
7. ***Breast Cancer Research.*** Seek additional funding to support a large scale research and risk reduction education project pertaining to the above-average rates of breast cancer in Marin County. The total request is for \$1 million for FY 2010 (of a \$5.5 million research project). Revised rates indicate that Marin County breast cancer rates are approximately 6% higher than the rest of the Bay Area; 15% higher than the rest of California; and 20% higher than the U.S. overall. The intended result is to gain knowledge that will lead to a decrease in breast cancer rates locally and nationally.
8. ***Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project.*** Support additional federal appropriation to the ACOE for the California Coastal Conservancy's Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project, which recently received WRDA authorization to expand the project to include Bel Marin Keys Unit V (adjacent to the Restoration Project). The area has subsided and was diked from San Pablo Bay; this project would restore tidal and seasonal wetlands.
9. ***Tomales Bay Wastewater Treatment.*** Seek federal assistance for private property owners along Tomales Bay to upgrade failing and substandard on-site sewage disposal systems, which may include conversion to small community waste treatment systems. Phase I of the project provided repair and upgrades to faulty septic systems along the east shore of Tomales Bay, addressing 20-30 homes. The total estimated cost of Phase II, to address the remaining 60+ homes, is approximately \$1.76 million, which includes engineering feasibility and environmental analysis, engineering designs, land and easement acquisitions, and construction.

E. OTHER FEDERAL PROJECTS OF CONTINUED INTEREST

The following projects remain of continued and critical interest to the County of Marin. Many consist of watershed/wetlands restoration or flood control projects that have not been authorized or appropriated by Congress, and therefore face intense competition for limited federal resources and ACOE staff capacity.

While the County may not make fiscal requests for these projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2010, staff will continue to identify opportunities to seek new funding – i.e. through competitive grant programs – and will otherwise attempt to advance the projects.

- ***Doyle Drive.*** Support a request from the City of San Francisco, upon ratification of agreement among Marin County and other pertinent parties, for federal funding related to the reconstruction of the Doyle Drive approach to the Golden Gate Bridge.
- ***Marin City Town Center.*** Seek an additional \$100,000 in planning and capital funds to build and operate a town center in Marin City. The project would include a joint-use library and gym. Up to \$600,000 in federal funding has been identified thus far, but significantly more funding is required. Explore the potential ultimately for \$5 to \$10 million in capital funding for the project.
- ***McInnis Wetland Restoration.*** Explore efforts to develop a Detailed Project Report, the next step in the process, to be prepared by the ACOE. Estimated cost is \$750,000. Because the ACOE has not been able to secure the estimated \$4 million project allocation, the project has not moved forward.
- ***Miller Creek Watershed Restoration.*** Explore efforts to support watershed-wide measures to enhance riparian habitat and steelhead salmon populations. Preliminary funding from the State of California Department of Water Resources produced engineering plans to restore 600 linear feet of main-stem

Miller Creek that is experiencing excessive erosion and threatening property, riparian and aquatic habitat. Estimated cost is \$800,000 to County Services Area (CSA) No. 13 to implement restoration design and begin work on sediment reduction/habitat enhancement planning.

- ***Muir Woods National Monument Shuttle.*** Explore options to continue funding shuttle services to Muir Woods National Monument. In 2005, the County implemented a three-year shuttle demonstration project, funded by a federal grant, to minimize traffic impacts on parklands, congestion on local roads, and environmental degradation of the parklands and affected gateway communities. Beginning in 2009, the shuttle will be managed by the Marin County Transit District with a 50/50 funding partnership with the National Park Service. The goal is to operate the shuttle for the next three years while allowing enough time for partners to secure permanent funding. Sustainability of the shuttle relies upon the identification of an annual funding source of \$500,000.
- ***Novato Creek Watershed Reconnaissance Study.*** Explore efforts to support an ACOE reconnaissance study of the Novato Creek Watershed, the first of a two-phase project. Estimated cost is \$200,000. This project involves the study of the 44 square mile watershed of Novato Creek and tributaries in northern Marin County. Past flooding events have caused millions of dollars of property damage and damaged riparian and aquatic habitat, affecting several species on the federal Endangered Species Act list. The watershed contains habitat for the federally-listed endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse, and federally-listed threatened steelhead trout. County staff continues to work with the City of Novato regarding watershed-wide planning and implementation of flood and habitat enhancement programs.
- ***San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration.*** Explore efforts to advance one large wetlands restoration area along the San Pablo Bay from Hamilton Field south to China Camp to protect property, repair and protect valuable riparian and aquatic habitat, and to improve water quality.
- ***Sudden Oak Death.*** Explore opportunities to identify additional funding for federal agencies dedicated to the research and management of the Sudden Oak Death problem in Marin and other coastal California counties. On-going funding is required to maintain federal activities focused on regulatory enforcement; research to identify causative agents; monitoring/early detection; and education, outreach and training. Investigate opportunities to redirect some federal funding to state and local governments to assist with costs relating to disease eradication, tree removal and disposal, fire protection, public education, and financial assistance to homeowners.

2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

A. SPONSORED BILLS

1. ***Flood Control Mitigation Efforts.*** Support efforts to clarify legislation approved in 2008 (SBX2 1; Perata; Section 83002(a)(2)) - which includes funding for urban stream, stormwater and flood management projects that would reduce the frequency and impacts from floods in watersheds that drain into San Francisco Bay. Amendments should direct the State Department of Water Resources to prioritize funding toward communities recovering from extensive damage inflicted during severe floods, such as those that have resulted in both state and federal declarations of emergency. Giving priority to these areas would allow these counties to construct improvements to mitigate future losses in these frequently flooded watersheds.
2. ***Marin County Employees Retirement Association (MCERA).*** Explore amendments to Sections 31522.5 and 31468 of California Government Code that would permit MCERA to become a special district, separate and distinct from the County of Marin. Management employees would be employed by the new MCERA special district, but staff would remain Marin County employees.
3. ***Marin General Hospital.*** Support efforts to change state law to recognize the unique circumstances surrounding the Marin Healthcare District's responsibility for seismic improvements to Marin General Hospital in accord with SB 306 (Ducheny; 2007). The District applied for an extension from the State on the deadline for compliance with new hospital seismic standards per SB 306, however its application was denied. The County will continue to support efforts to help facilitate the establishment of an independent and effective Marin General Hospital, including support for the Marin Healthcare District's efforts to obtain State approval for the timing of its seismic upgrade.

B. PRIORITY ISSUES

1. ***Realignment and Cost-Shifts.*** In light of Governor Schwarzenegger's October 30, 2008 executive order creating a bipartisan 'Commission on the 21st Century Economy' to re-examine the state's tax laws, oppose any proposals that would restructure, realign, or otherwise shift the cost of state programs to local government, or that would reduce services to residents. Support efforts to improve the stability of current county revenue sources.
2. ***Improved Access to Health Care.*** Support efforts to improve access to health insurance for residents, including single-payer health care reform and the development and funding of expanded children's health insurance products.
3. ***Climate Change & Clean/Renewable Energy.*** Support efforts to incent and promote alternative energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - including, but not limited to, solar and tidal energy, improved efficiency of county systems, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), and clean fuel technologies. Explore additional avenues made possible by AB 32 (Nunez; 2006), "The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006," a comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms designed to achieve reduction of greenhouse gases. Additional avenues could include improved transportation policies, congestion pricing, consumer carbon credits, and allowing residential solar installations to sell excess energy to the grid.
4. ***Medi-Cal/Managed Care Restructuring.*** Support efforts to expand Medi-Cal coverage to currently uncovered populations, including appropriate legislative and administrative means to expedite the expansion of Medi-Cal managed care into Marin County, which would expand access and enhance the existing safety net. Oppose restructuring efforts that would limit access to health care, or restrict existing Medi-Cal coverage, reimbursements or eligibility levels - including efforts that would affect

Medi-Cal related programs such as Healthy Families; Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment; and the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program.

5. **Highway 101 “Marin-Sonoma Narrows” Multi-Modal Corridor Projects.** Support the Transportation Authority of Marin in seeking additional funding for the “Marin-Sonoma Narrows” project. The request would include bike, pedestrian, light rail and/or other multi-modal project elements along the Highway 101 corridor. This project would alleviate congestion on the U.S. 101 corridor in Marin and Sonoma Counties from Highway 37 in Novato to Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma, and is the final of seven phases for the widening and improvement of U.S. 101 in Marin and Sonoma counties. Approximately \$200 million has been leveraged from various sources over the years with much more needed for construction of the estimated \$800 million project.
6. **Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program.** Support efforts to demonstrate the extent to which bicycling and walking can carry a significant part of the transportation solution in Marin County, with significant environmental, mobility and health benefits. In 2005, Marin County was named one of four communities nationwide to receive \$25 million to build and promote bicycle and pedestrian activity through a federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. While the intent is to build a complete bicycle and pedestrian network, cost estimates currently total \$220 million to do so. Seek state funding to supplement federal funds for this purpose.
7. **Infrastructure Bond Package & Flood Protection.** Continue to advocate for the inclusion and/or eligibility of local projects for funding through the state “Infrastructure Bond Package” (Propositions 1A-1E), a \$37 billion measure approved by voters in November 2006 to address the state’s deteriorating infrastructure.
8. **Indian Gaming.** Support efforts to provide local government greater authority with respect to Indian gaming. Compacts with California tribes – including those for newly accepted or acquired lands for Indian gaming purposes – should include a mandate for judicially enforceable agreements between tribal and local governments, such that Indian gaming tribes comply with state environmental standards, and localities should have more authority to mitigate the significant adverse off-reservation impacts of Indian gaming.
Work with stakeholders and regional partners to ensure that any casinos proposed for development in Marin or in neighboring jurisdictions: 1) do not create significant local adverse off-reservation impacts, and/or 2) that Marin communities have a voice in such negotiations and are provided sufficient authority and funding to mitigate any such impacts.
9. **Regional Housing Needs.** Support efforts to permit counties to collaborate with their cities to more effectively create affordable housing opportunities. Explore efforts to establish a greater voice for local governments with respect to the share of regional housing needs allocated to them by the state. Allocations should be more consistent with local infrastructure limitations, and with countywide plans. Explore strategies to effectively comply with and utilize new housing element requirements per SB 375 (Steinberg; 2008), which incorporates regional transportation planning and CEQA requirements for housing developments that are consistent with a ‘sustainable communities’ strategy.
10. **Sudden Oak Death.** Seek additional funding to assist with costs associated with the management of the Sudden Oak Death problem in Marin and other coastal California counties, including research, mapping, disease eradication, tree removal and disposal, fire and flood protection, public education, and financial assistance to homeowners. The Governor's FY 02-03 State Budget made \$2.0 million available, but no additional state funds have been appropriated since.

COUNTY OF MARIN 2009 LEGISLATIVE POLICY GUIDELINES

Attachment A represents the 2009 Legislative Policy Guidelines. These guidelines are designed to (a) provide standing authority to take action on pending legislative matters when time constraints preclude bringing such matters to the Board of Supervisors in advance, and (b) provide our lobbyists a better understanding of the Board's policy preferences regarding a variety of intergovernmental issues that might arise during the course of the year. The guidelines include updated items from previous years that remain a priority for the county, as well as several proposed policy additions.

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. **County Revenue Sources and Local Authority.** Oppose attempts to decrease, restrict or eliminate county revenue sources, or to restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities. In particular, monitor any efforts at the state level to retain additional vehicle license fee or local property tax funds for state purposes.
2. **State and Federal Mandates.** Oppose state or federal mandates, or the transfer/realignment of state or federal programs to the county, unless adequate on-going revenues are provided. Support efforts to establish a date certain for the payment of deferred S.B. 90 reimbursements to counties, or efforts that would reform the current mandate reimbursement process to be more cost efficient, predictable and fair.
3. **Workers' Compensation & Disability Retirement Reform.** Support efforts to reform the state workers' compensation program and similar efforts regarding disability payments to control costs and to reduce potential abuse, including disability presumptions.
4. **Privacy Rights.** Support efforts to ensure the privacy rights of individuals, including the ability to maintain the confidentiality of personal records - including medical records and records that include health information. Support efforts to require that individuals must actively agree to any release of their records or confidential information.

B. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

1. **Pension Reform.** Monitor and participate in statewide efforts to investigate pension reform in California. Consistent with the *CSAC Guiding Principles for Pension Reform*, work to amend any legislation to address local concerns. Reforms should include a statewide formula cap on benefits of 2% at 50 for public safety and 2% at 60 for miscellaneous – with any excess to be funded by employee contributions; require that 'final compensation' be calculated using the highest consecutive three-year average salary, and based upon base-salary only; restrict 'safety employee' eligibility to police and fire employees; utilize rate stabilization 'best practices,' such as five-year rate smoothing; reform disability retirement; and protect local control and flexibility.
2. **State Elections Reimbursement.** Support election reform efforts that do not result in costs for elections being passed on to local governments with no realistic method for reimbursement. Continue to work with CSAC to provide state reimbursement of S.B. 90 claims, and other reimbursements, for elections costs for which counties cannot adequately prepare or budget.

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3. ***Mail-Only Voting.*** Support efforts to provide alternatives to polling place voting to increase voter turnout, as well as to reduce the local costs of elections. Under current law, local jurisdictions may conduct local and special elections by mail, but only under limited circumstances.

C. TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

1. ***Multi-modal Transportation.*** Support efforts to incent commuters to use modes of transportation alternative to single-occupancy vehicles, possibly to include employer-sponsored incentives, and potential exploration of a personal rapid transit system. In concert with the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), oppose further efforts by the State to redirect gasoline sales tax “spillover” funds from transit for non-transportation purposes and support efforts in concert with TAM, MTC, MCTD, the Golden Gate Transit District and others to give these funds constitutional protection. Explore the viability of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, which combine High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) and pricing strategies to allow single occupancy vehicles to gain access to HOV lanes by paying a toll.
2. ***Local Road Funding.*** Support efforts to preserve and, where possible, enhance local road funding for counties – including ‘safe routes to schools’ initiatives, enhanced accessibility and mobility initiatives for persons with disabilities, and protection of Proposition 42 and 1B regional allocations. Support initiatives to provide additional funding for road maintenance, such as an increase in – or annual indexing of - state gas taxes, or lowering the threshold for local transportation taxes from 2/3 to 55%.
3. ***Congestion Relief through Buses.*** Seek legislation to reduce congestion by allowing pilot programs for buses to transport passengers more effectively, including improved right-of-way on public roads for buses and discount bus travel programs for school-age children and seniors.
4. ***Storm Water Program Revenues.*** Support efforts to amend the state constitution to exempt fees and charges for storm water and urban runoff management from the 2/3 voter approval requirement for the imposition or increase of property-related fees. Such efforts would enhance local capacity to address unfunded federal mandates through the Clean Water Act regarding local storm water programs overseen by the State Water Quality Control Board.
5. ***Gross Field Airport Runway Extension.*** Support efforts to identify state or federal funds for study, design and construction costs related to an 1,100-foot runway extension and safety improvements to the County airport, with the ultimate goal of Gness Field becoming a designated “reliever” category airport.
6. ***Alto Bike Tunnel.*** Explore opportunities to identify up to \$700,000 in funding for a planning and feasibility study regarding the Alto Bike Tunnel. Closed rail tunnels in Marin represent one of the largest constraints locally to non-motorized commuting and recreational travel. Opening the Alto Tunnel, between the cities of Mill Valley and Corte Madera, would represent a major “gap closure” project for bicycle commuting in Marin.

D. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

1. ***Drug and Alcohol Residential Rehabilitation.*** Without discriminating against those seeking recovery, support efforts to require local notification/input with regard to converting residential homes, particularly multiple contiguous parcels, into drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers in residential areas. Currently, the State Department of Alcohol & Drug programs may permit development of contiguous residential parcels into a recovery complex or compound, which generate complaints about noise, parking, traffic and other problems in residentially-zoned areas.

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2. **Medicaid Reimbursement.** Work with CSAC and the Governor's Office to alter the federal formula for Medicaid matching dollars to become more equitable for California. Oppose efforts to cap Medicaid dollars to states, or to restructure Medicaid that would result in reduced coverage or funding. Support efforts to include medical respite as a Medicaid-reimbursed treatment. Medical respite has been shown to reduce repeated ER/hospital stays, but there is currently no reimbursement to cover the medical costs of caring for the homeless after release from the hospital.
3. **Medicare charges to recipients.** Explore efforts to address problems associated with increasingly expensive Medicare co-payment requirements for prescription medications, particularly among low-income residents with multiple medication needs.
4. **Reimbursement for Mental Health Services to Severely Emotionally Disturbed Children.** Support efforts to ensure comprehensive and ongoing reimbursement to County Mental Health Departments for services to seriously emotionally disturbed children, and/or that County Offices of Education (COE) reimburse counties to the extent that the state provides monies to the COE for this purpose.
5. **Lifetime Healthy Eating and Physical Activity at Schools.** Support efforts to address overweight and obesity issues among children and adults through nutrition and physical activity education; standards and policies; promotion of physical activity, safe routes to schools, healthy foods and beverages (including locally grown foods); and other allied nutrition efforts in schools and elsewhere in the community.
6. **Promote Healthy Habits for Adults.** Support efforts to promote healthy lifestyles, including alcohol and drug policies that reduce or prevent harm; promotion of safe sex; improved nutrition; and increased physical activity.
7. **Senior Programs.** Support efforts to obtain more funding for senior programs – especially senior transportation – as Marin County has a large and growing number of older adults. Support efforts to better prevent senior/elder abuse.
8. **Long Term Care Funding.** Support discussion of restructuring long term care programs, focusing on better addressing chronic health care problems and encouraging independence as long as possible. Support efforts to more flexibly define the Medicaid hospice benefit, allowing patients to remain beyond six months if the physician recertifies that the patient is terminally ill.
9. **Support for Community Based Treatment.** Support Medicaid Home and Community-based waivers that would apply to California and Marin County in a way that maximizes opportunities for Marin's senior and disabled population to preserve their independence as long as possible and to receive community and/or home-based treatment wherever possible.
10. **Strengthen Federal Older Americans Act (OAA).** Support efforts to strengthen the federal OAA by advocating for increased federal funding; by assuring that future funding is tied to growth of the population of older adults; and by allowing flexibility and capability for local autonomy in providing services. As Marin's older adult population is projected to increase substantially in coming decades, increased funding will be necessary to keep pace with anticipated service demands. Support vulnerable elder and dependent adults in order to keep them safely in their own homes.
11. **Restore CMSP Program Funding.** Support efforts to restore state CMSP (County Medical Services Program) funding to smaller counties as promised during the original 1991 Realignment. CMSP exists to better enable smaller counties to provide health care to low-income residents. The program was established in 1991 at \$20 million per year. However, the state has not made these

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payments for several years - resulting in increased local participation fees and reduced program benefits and eligibility.

12. ***AIDS Funding.*** Support additional funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which allows low-income people with HIV/AIDS who are uninsured or underinsured to purchase life-preserving medications. Oppose additional patient co-pays, the establishment of waiting lists, reductions to the existing formulary - or other mechanisms that would disrupt a patient's ability to receive medications through the program, including incarcerated patients. Support efforts to maintain federal allocations for Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act funding to the San Francisco Eligible Metropolitan Area, which includes Marin County.
13. ***Environmental Toxins.*** Seek funding for studies on the health effects of exposure to environmental toxins, and support biomonitoring efforts to monitor the presence of human exposure to natural and synthetic chemicals. Lack of labeling and information prevents customers from being informed about these chemicals in the household.
14. ***Collaborative Efforts to Reduce County Detention Medical Expenses.*** Support efforts to seek federal and/or state reimbursement for local detention medical expenses.
15. ***Social Services Funding.*** Work to protect funding for social services programs including, but not limited to, Child Support, Child Welfare, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Food Stamp programs.
16. ***Foster Children & Their Families.*** Support legislation that promotes services to meet the needs of current and former foster children and their families/caregivers involved in the Child Welfare System, including proposals that allow for continued movement towards meeting State-mandated outcomes for foster children, accountability, and establishment of best practices.
17. ***Child Care & Child Welfare.*** Support increased federal and state funding for childcare facilities, and for the training and retention of child care workers. Support efforts to improve the child welfare system, including updating the baseline for workload standards; advocate for increased flexibility of funding sources to include early intervention and prevention strategies; and advocate for increased attention and resources for youth leaving foster care, including supports to help them make permanent connections to adults and successfully transition into adulthood.
18. ***Medical Treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury Victims.*** Support legislation that provides for state review of the increasing incidence of organic brain syndrome for victims of brain injury or other serious neurological impairments.
19. ***Underage Alcohol and Other Drug Use.*** Support state efforts to reduce problems associated with youth alcohol and other drug use and related community problems. Statistics from the California Healthy Kids Survey document that Marin County's alcohol and drug use rates are higher than state and national averages.
20. ***Private Insurance Reimbursement for Psychiatric Emergency Services and for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services.*** Support efforts to require insurers to reimburse Counties for psychiatric emergency services, and/or require that insurers provide alcohol and drug treatment services. State and federal law require that insurers pay for emergency medical care; a similar provision should be adopted for emergency psychiatric services.
21. ***Substance Abuse & Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (SACPA/Proposition 36).*** Monitor and continue to support efforts to preserve and enhance funding for SACPA. Loss of the program and its related funding would result in a significant loss of treatment availability to non-violent drug offenders.

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22. ***Reinstatement of Federal Benefits to Jail Inmates.*** Support efforts to amend federal regulations to require the federal government to reinstate benefits for jail inmates. Inmates charged with a crime and incarcerated while awaiting trial currently lose eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid benefits, Social Security and other federal benefits. Suspension of these benefits often leaves counties to bear the full cost of providing medical services to these inmates.

E. NATURAL RESOURCES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. ***Product Take-Back & Other Zero-Waste Policies and Practices.*** Support efforts to enhance and fund programs which advocate zero-waste practices, recycling and/or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs among retailers and grocery stores for products which can be recycled. EPR is the extension of the responsibility of producers for the environmental impacts of their products to the entire product life cycle - and especially for their take-back, recycling, and disposal. This added responsibility may incent more environmentally friendly means of production.
2. ***Genetically-Modified-Organism (GMO) Regulation.*** Protect local authority to regulate matters that directly affect the health and welfare of residents. Oppose efforts intended to prohibit county ordinances or ballot initiatives, such as was approved by Marin County voters in 2004, that prohibit or regulate the use of genetically modified organisms in local agriculture
3. ***Native Plant and Low Water Demonstration Gardens.*** Support efforts to develop native plant and low-water demonstration gardens to cultivate water conservation efforts in the community.
4. ***Endangered Species Act.*** Protect the Endangered Species Act from attempts to constrain the federal government's ability to protect critical habitat for plants and animals; oppose efforts to require compensation for landowners if government blocks their development plans to protect certain species.
5. ***West Marin Emergency Services.*** Seek increased federal funding for providing emergency services for the visitors of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and southern and western Marin. The funding for this activity has remained unchanged at \$90,915 since the program's inception in the early 1970s, and is important especially during seasonal high-use periods.
6. ***Protect Endangered Fish in Coastal Streams.*** Explore efforts with the State Water Resources Control Board and others to balance the needs of coastal agriculture while also protecting native fish in coastal streams within the Endangered Species Act. Seek greater and more consistent funding for fishery restoration, particularly for fish which live in the ocean but return to freshwater to spawn, such as salmon.
7. ***Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Reauthorization.*** Work closely with other local government, water district and state officials to support Congressional reauthorization of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and other measures which balance the needs of Coastal agriculture and environmental concerns/habitat preservation.
8. ***State Funded Water Projects.*** Explore opportunities through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water. The IRWM is funded through Proposition 84, the "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Costal Protection Act," passed by voters in 2006, as well as Proposition 50 (the "California Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water Projects, Coastal Wetlands Purchase and Protection Bond"), passed by the voters in 2002.

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9. ***North Bay Water Reuse Program.*** Support efforts to enable a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration objectives - including reclamation projects with the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitation District and Novato Sanitary District.
10. ***Housing Authority Assistance to Remediate Home Health & Safety Code Violations.*** Continue efforts with the State Water Resources Control Board to establish a revolving loan fund which would accommodate grants or low interest loans in excess of \$25,000 to people of low income to address health and safety code violations in their homes. Funded projects should include the upgrade or conversion of failing or substandard on-site sewage systems.
11. ***Tomales Bay Wastewater Treatment.*** Seek state assistance for private property owners along Tomales Bay to upgrade failing and substandard on-site sewage disposal systems, which may include conversion to small community waste treatment systems. Phase I of the project provided repair and upgrades to faulty septic systems along the east shore of Tomales Bay, addressing 20-30 homes. The total estimated cost of Phase II, to address the remaining 60+ homes, is approximately \$1.76 million, which includes engineering feasibility and environmental analysis, engineering designs, land and easement acquisitions, and construction.
12. ***Alternatives to Aerial Spraying to Address the Light Brown Apple Moth.*** While recognizing the potential harm to agriculture of the light brown apple moth, support efforts to implement alternatives to aerial spraying while the potential impact on public health and the environment is adequately studied. Work with the state and federal government as appropriate to improve community notice, outreach and alternative approaches to proposed aerial use of pesticides.
13. ***Coastal Commission.*** Support efforts to adequately fund the California Coastal Commission to facilitate more effective and timely partnership with coastal cities and counties regarding planning and regulatory issues affecting land and water in the coastal zone.

F. LAW ENFORCEMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY

1. ***Disaster Prevention and Recovery.*** Seek additional funding, and expand the definition of programs eligible for grant funding, for disaster recovery/prevention – including efforts to better prevent and respond to oil spills on and around Marin’s coastline, bay front and waterways. Support reform of California’s public health system to allow state and local governments to better plan and prepare for potential public health disasters; to address the erosion of statewide laboratory capacity; and to improve training opportunities for clinical staff, especially nurses and physicians, and to facilitate their availability to County and community-based organizations.
2. ***Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grants.*** Work to restore funding for therapeutic justice programs, such as the MIOCR grant programs administered by the State Board of Corrections. The state authorized approximately \$44M in competitive juvenile and adult MIOCR grants in FY 2006-07. Marin was awarded \$810,000 in juvenile funding (through Probation) and \$1 Million in adult funding (through the Sheriff and HHS). State funding was eliminated in the FY 2008-09 Final State Budget.
3. ***Drug Court Funding.*** Support legislation providing increased or continued state funding for adult and juvenile drug courts, and expansion to pre-plea drug court programs.
4. ***Domestic Violence Court Funding.*** Seek state or federal funding to assist with the continuation of the Family/Domestic Violence Court, particularly the therapeutic treatment aspect of the court’s operation. The Domestic Violence Court is a comprehensive approach toward case resolution, increased offender accountability, victim safety, and integration of the delivery of social services.

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5. ***Court Funding.*** Oppose any increase in Trial Court Funding Act county maintenance of effort levels above the agreement reached in A.B. 233 (1997-Escutia) and subsequent actions providing maintenance of effort relief. Support legislation to expand California Rule of Court 810 regarding Court operations to include all Court-related costs currently paid by counties. Support enactment of a court facilities bond that would allow counties to make needed renovations to local trial court facilities.
6. ***Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Funding.*** Advocate for reinstatement, to FY 2007-08 state funding levels, of U.S. Department of Justice COPS funding opportunities. COPS provides grants to law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals, acquire and deploy cutting-edge crime-fighting technologies, and develop and test innovative policing strategies.
7. ***Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Funding (JJCPA).*** Advocate for reinstatement, to FY 2007-08 state funding levels, for juvenile justice programs under the auspices of the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (AB 1913) – as well as Juvenile Probation and Camps Funding. These funds have historically been legislatively tied to federal COPS funding; in FY 2006-07, the State restored JJCPA funding to nearly original 2001 levels. The Chief Probation Officers of California will seek a legislative sponsor to fund JJCPA at current or expanded levels.
8. ***Adult & Juvenile Probation Funding & Safety.*** Support legislation and/or budget proposals that maintain or enhance funding for adult and juvenile probation services programs, as well as legislation or a ballot measure that would fund local juvenile hall and jail construction or remodeling. Support efforts to change state law to allow an intercept on federal income tax returns so that adults on probation pay victim restitution, fines and fees for their criminal behavior; such authority already exists for state returns. Support efforts to seek legislation to correct poor compliance with Penal Code Section 1203.9 regarding the transfer of jurisdiction of adult probationers to the county of permanent residence. Inconsistent compliance presents difficulty in providing supervision across county lines, safety concerns for staff, and public safety concerns for communities in which the probationers reside.
9. ***Jessica's Law.*** Support efforts to identify funding for unfunded local requirements associated with enforcement of Jessica's Law, including costs associated with lifelong registration for sex offenders and GPS monitoring, and to defray local costs to defend persons arrested for violations. Voters approved Proposition 83 in November of 2006, increasing penalties for violent and habitual sex offenders and child molesters in California.
10. ***State Crime Labs.*** Support funding for local governments to contract out work needed to reduce DNA testing backlogs. Because of backlogs, many local governments outsource at their own cost to resolve cases; local governments should be reimbursed for these costs.
11. ***Local Booking Fee Authority.*** Monitor the booking fee alternative per AB 1805 (Budget Committee: 2006) to ensure County costs are sufficiently recovered. AB 1805 altered booking fee authority (charges imposed on cities, special districts, school districts, colleges and universities to recover costs associated with booking persons into the county jail) by directly appropriating funds, subject to annual appropriation by the state, to a local detention facility revenue account.
12. ***State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).*** Monitor and advocate to preserve federal SCAAP payments to states and localities that incur correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with specified criminal convictions.
13. ***Standards and Training for Corrections.*** Support continued Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) funding, which focuses on job classification requirements, as well as recruitment and training standards for probation officers, juvenile (Juvenile Hall) and jail correctional officers. State general fund contributions to counties and cities were restored in FY

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2006-07; the County should advocate for continuation of funding as STC improves quality of services to the community and reduces potential liability.

G. HOUSING AND LAND USE

1. **San Quentin.** Continue to monitor state plans for infrastructure development/reuse at the San Quentin correctional facility to ensure that concerns of the public, including environmental, fiscal and land-use concerns, are adequately addressed.
2. **Smart Growth.** Continue to work with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to monitor and support Smart Growth initiatives which balance the need to protect local government revenues with sound land use planning by local communities – i.e. incorporating new ideas in the areas of growth management, transportation, commerce, housing (including affordable housing) and open space to create more livable communities.
3. **Homelessness.** Work with regional stakeholders to develop regional solutions to homelessness in the Bay Area. Support efforts to change State law to exempt faith-based organizations from Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements to incent the creation of ad-hoc homeless shelters. Concerns regarding liability/litigation have prevented churches from opening their doors to the homeless. Advocate for, as part of the annual HUD-McKinney grant allocation, a more fair allocation of ‘bonus’ funding that does not disadvantage suburban or rural communities. Explore efforts to allocate Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act funds to new housing opportunities.
4. **Eminent Domain.** Monitor potential legislation or any ballot measures regarding the use of eminent domain by public entities for private use. Eminent domain should be used for clearly public interest and benefit, such as to battle economic and physical blight, and to provide important public infrastructure. Work to ensure that efforts to protect private property do not compromise the use of eminent domain for legitimate public purposes, and do not compromise open space.
5. **County Fees for Workforce Housing.** Explore efforts to amend state legislation to authorize a county to charge a document fee with proceeds dedicated to a revolving fund that could finance affordable/workforce housing projects. A \$1 per-page document fee for county documents, for example, could generate approximately \$500,000 per year in additional revenues.
6. **Housing, Land Use and CEQA.** Work to ensure that any state efforts to develop housing and infrastructure appropriately balance affordable housing needs with environmental concerns, including appropriate CEQA review, and protect local regulation of housing and land use issues. Work to alter State Housing and Community Development (HCD) funding formulas to more fairly consider affordable housing needs in high-cost and non-urban areas of the state.
7. **Affordable Housing Preservation/Rehabilitation/Development.** Explore the possibility of increased funds for affordable housing preservation, rehabilitation and/or development, including costs associated with ADA compliance.
8. **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Housing Programs.** Protect federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program funding, including the CDBG program. The Marin Housing Authority’s Section 8 voucher program, for example, serves over 2,000 households and still has in excess of 1,000 households on a waiting list.
9. **Long Term Care/Assisted Living Facility Opportunities.** Seek funding for, or support efforts to facilitate, the construction of long-term care/assisted living facility opportunities for low and moderate income segments of Marin’s aging population.

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10. **Local Government Regulation of Housing & Land Use Issues.** Oppose efforts to further restrict local governments' ability to regulate housing and land use issues, including development of second unit housing and any attempt to preempt state and local authority regarding the siting of gasoline refineries. Local land use authority should remain local.
11. **Brownfield Remediation.** Support efforts, as appropriate, to identify and remediate abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities to assist developers and property owners interested in reusing the sites for new retail, commercial, residential and industrial purposes.
12. **California National Guard Armory.** Explore the potential for modification of the County lease with the California National Guard Armory, located adjacent to the Civic Center Campus. Such a modification would require legislation. Use of some portion of the property may benefit a potential public safety building east of the Civic Center.

H. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL

1. **Transaction Based Reimbursement Program.** Seek to enhance funding in the Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) Program in the state library budget. The TBR program permits the state library to reimburse local libraries for non-resident use of their materials to promote open library use.
2. **Public Library Fund.** Seek to enhance funding in the Public Library Fund (PLF) in the state library budget. The PLF is a program to assist local library jurisdictions in maintaining library services for residents of California.
3. **Library Bonding Capacity.** Support efforts to amend state education code to permit the Marin County Free Library to issue General Obligation bonds for capital improvements.
4. **State Funding for Public Library Construction or Renovation.** Support efforts to place on the ballot a measure that would provide funds to construct new - or renovate existing - public library facilities in California.
5. **Telecommunications.** Monitor recent state legislation (AB 2987; Nunez; 2006) which allows providers of cable television/video services to receive franchises from the State Public Utilities Commission rather than from cities and counties through local franchise agreements. Support federal legislation that would apply to telephone or other companies the same federal laws and regulations as are currently applied to cable television providers, and oppose any legislation that would restrict local franchising authority, including collection of franchise fees at the local level. All video providers using public rights of way, regardless of program content or delivery method, should be subject to the same statutory regulations and requirements. Providers should also be encouraged to invest in all communities and neighborhoods, and be required to pay a local franchise fee.
6. **Marin Center Renaissance Project.** Explore efforts to identify alternative funding for the Marin Center Renaissance Project, a public/private partnership to develop and implement a comprehensive vision for the renewal and enhancement of the Marin Center complex on the Civic Center campus grounds.
7. **Volunteer Labor.** Explore efforts to permit volunteer labor on a public works project in a limited application to facilitate completion of the West Marin Youth Center, or whether new legislation would be required. Explore the viability of AB 2690 (Hancock; Chaptered 2004) for this purpose.