

Agriculture, Environment and Natural
Resources Policy Committee

Thursday, January 29, 2015 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Via Conference Call: 1- (800) 867-2581 (pass code 7500511)

AGENDA

Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, Chair, Chair
Supervisor Pam Giacomini, Shasta County, Vice Chair

- 10:00 a.m. **I. Welcome and Introductions**
Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, Chair
- 10:05 - 10:30 **II. Water Plan Update: Department of Water Resources**
Lewis Moeller, Department of Water Resources
- 10:30 - 11:05 **III. CSAC AENR Platform Update and Revisions**
Karen Keene, CSAC Senior Legislative Representative
Cara Martinson, CSAC Legislative Representative
- 11:05 - 11:15 **IV. Groundwater Sustainability Implementation Update**
Karen Keene, CSAC Senior Legislative Representative
- 11:05 - 11:20 **V. Discussion of Water Board's Grazing Regulatory
Action Project (GRAP)**
Supervisor Pam Giacomini, Shasta County, Vice Chair
- 11:20- 11:50 **VI. Review of 2015 Legislative Priorities and Budget Update**
Karen Keene, CSAC Senior Legislative Representative
Cara Martinson, CSAC Legislative Representative
- 11:50- 12:00 p.m. **VII. Closing Comments & Adjournment**

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment One.....Water Plan Update Slides
- Attachment Two.....CSAC Platform Chapter three: AENR
- Attachment Three.....CSAC Platform Chapter four: Energy
- Attachment Four.....CSAC Platform Chapter fourteen: Climate Change
- Attachment Five.....CSAC Platform Flood Policy Addendum
- Attachment Six.....Groundwater Legislation Timeline
- Attachment Seven.....Grazing Regulatory Action Project
- Attachment Eight.....2015 CSAC State & Federal Priorities

Attachment One
Water Plan Update Slides

Overview of California Water Plan Update 2013

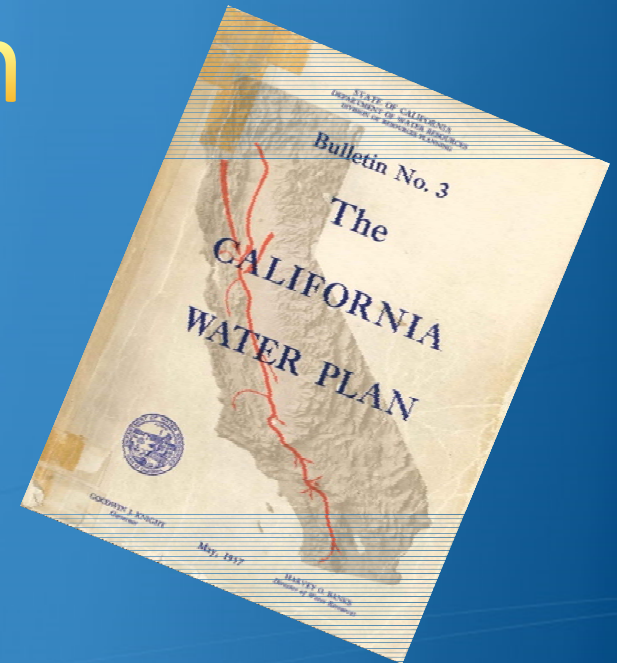
Prepared for:
**CSAC -Ag, Environment and Natural
Resources Policy Committee**

December 2, 2014



The California Water Plan

- First published in 1957 as Bulletin 3
- Water Code requires DWR to update Water Plan every 5 years – updated 10 times (Bulletin 160)
- Strong nexus with Governor's Water Action Plan
- Tool for guiding investment priorities and legislative action
- Update 2013 lays out recommendations -- no mandates or appropriations



Water Plan Update 2013 Organization

Strategic Plan Volume 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goals, Objectives and Related Actions• State and Federal Companion Plans• Water Portfolios• Future Scenarios
Regional Reports Volume 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports for 10 Hydrologic Regions• Reports for 2 areas with common water interests
Resource Management Strategies Volume 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports for 30 resource management strategies
Reference Guide Volume 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detailed reference material related to information presented in Volumes 1, 2, and 3
Technical Guide Volume 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web portal to document assumptions, data, analytical tools, and methods

Update 2013 Helps Implement the Governor's Water Action Plan



A Resource for Implementing the Governor's Water Action Plan

Water Action Plan's 10 Essential Actions

Make conservation a California way of life

Invest in integrated water management and increase regional self-reliance

Achieve the coequal goals for the Delta

Protect and restore important ecosystems

Manage and prepare for dry periods

Expand water storage capacity

Provide safe drinking water and secure wastewater systems to all communities

Increase flood protection

Improve operational and regulatory efficiency

Identify sustainable and integrated financing opportunities

How the 10 Essential Actions Are Advanced in Update 2013

Update 2013 Objectives (Volume 1, Chapter 8)	#2 – Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently	#1 – Strengthen Integrated Regional Water Management Planning	#7 – Manage the Delta to Achieve the Coequal Goals for California	#4 – Protect and Restore Surface Water and Groundwater Quality	#2 – Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently	#3 – Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies (includes groundwater and surface storage)	#4 – Protect and Restore Surface Water and Groundwater Quality	#6 – Improve Flood Management Using an Integrated Water Management Approach	#3 – Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies	#17 – Improve Integrated Water Management Finance Strategy and Investments
<p>See foldout 11A-11B for an explanation of all Update 2013 Objectives</p>		<p>#10 – Improve Data, Analysis, and Decision-Support Tools</p> <p>#17 – Improve Integrated Water Management Finance Strategy and Investments</p>		<p>#5 – Practice Environmental Stewardship</p> <p>#9 – Reduce the Carbon Footprint of Water Systems and Water Uses</p> <p>#14 – Public Access to Waterways, Lakes, and Beaches</p>	<p>#3 – Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies</p> <p>#7 – Manage the Delta to Achieve the Coequal Goals for California</p> <p>#8 – Prepare Prevention, Response, and Recovery Plans</p>		<p>#12 – Strengthen Tribal/State relations and Natural Resources Management</p> <p>#13 – Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits</p>		<p>#16 – Strengthen Alignment of Government Processes and Tools</p>	
<p>Resource Management Strategies (Volume 3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag Water Use Efficiency • Urban Water Use Efficiency • Recycled Municipal Water • Outreach and Engagement • Economic Incentives 	<p>All 30+ RMSs can enhance regional self-reliance, depending on where they are implemented and how the benefits are allocated.</p>	<p>All 30+ RMSs have the potential to help meet Delta coequal goals, depending on where they are implemented and how the benefits are allocated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six RMSs pertaining to water quality • Ag Lands Stewardship • Ecosystem Restoration • Forest Mgmt. • Land Use Planning and Mgmt. • Recharge Area Protection • Sediment Mgmt. • Watershed Mgmt. 	<p>(Partial list)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag Water Use Efficiency • Urban Water Use Efficiency • Recycled Municipal Water • Conjunctive Mgmt. of Surface and Groundwater • CALFED/Local/Regional Surface Storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conjunctive Mgmt. of Surface and Groundwater • CALFED Surface Storage • Local/Regional Surface Storage • System Reoperation 	<p>Nearly all 30+ RMSs can help provide safe water and wastewater to all communities, depending on where they are implemented and how the benefits are allocated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Management • Land Use Planning and Management • Sediment Management • Watershed Management • Urban Stormwater Runoff Management • Forest Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conveyance Delta • Conveyance Regional/Local • System Reoperation • Water Transfers 	
<p>Cross-Cutting Objectives (Volume 1, Chapter 8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #10 – Improve Data, Analysis, and Decision-Support Tools • #11 – Invest in Water Technology and Science • #12 – Strengthen Tribal/State Relations and Natural Resources Management • #13 – Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits • #15 – Strengthen Alignment of Land Use Planning and Integrated Water Management • #16 – Strengthen Alignment of Government Processes and Tools • #17 – Improve Integrated Water Management Finance Strategy and Investments 									

Water Plan Highlights

- Core Messages
- **Why We Should Care**
- What We Should Do
- **How We Should Invest in IWM**
- What We Must Know
- **What Happens If We Delay**
- The Path Forward



Core Messages

▶ **Water is the Essence of Life for California.**

Every living thing in the state, as well as our economy, depends on reliable, clean water to thrive. There are greater demands for water in our state than ever before.

▶ **California's Complex Water System is in Crisis.**

Our interconnected system of water resources — natural and human made — is severely threatened on many fronts, with significant risks to our health, safety, economic well-being, and quality of life.

▶ **A Diverse Portfolio Approach is Required.**

The complexity of our water resources systems and the associated risks demand a diverse set of actions and investment strategies. There is no silver bullet.

▶ **Solutions Require Integration, Alignment, and Investment.**

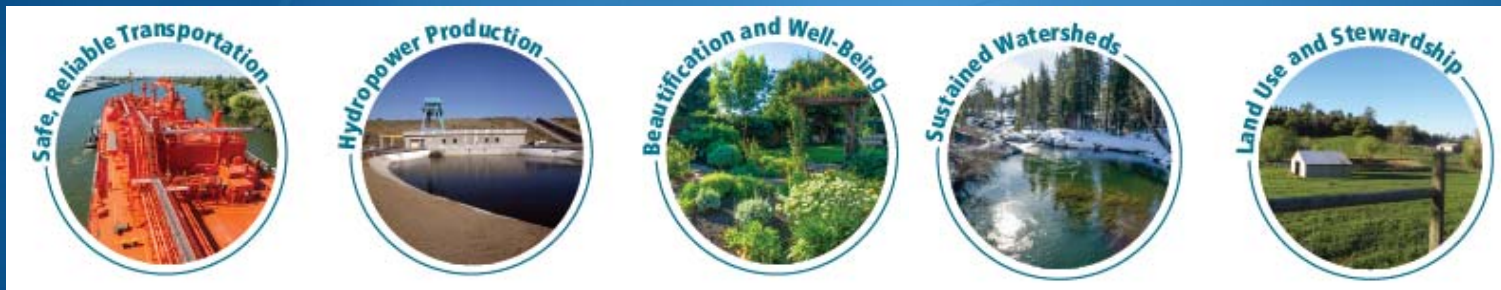
Commitment to the IWM approach, alignment toward a common vision, and stable financing are essential to ensuring future resiliency — the ability to adapt to change.

▶ **We All Have a Role to Play in Securing Our Future.**

Decision-makers, resource agencies, water resource managers, interest groups, and water users at the State, federal, tribal, and local levels need to actively engage in the solutions.

Why We Should Care

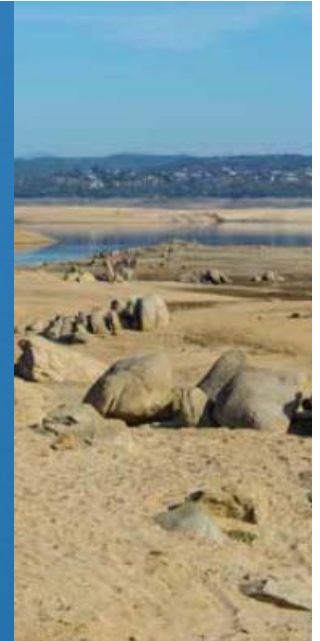
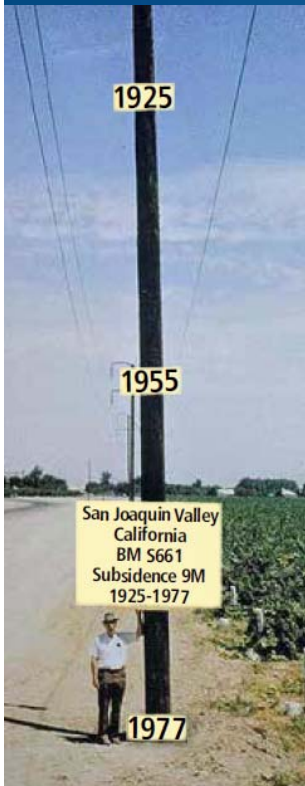
Water is the Essence of Life



A System in Crisis

Reduced Prosperity for Future Generations

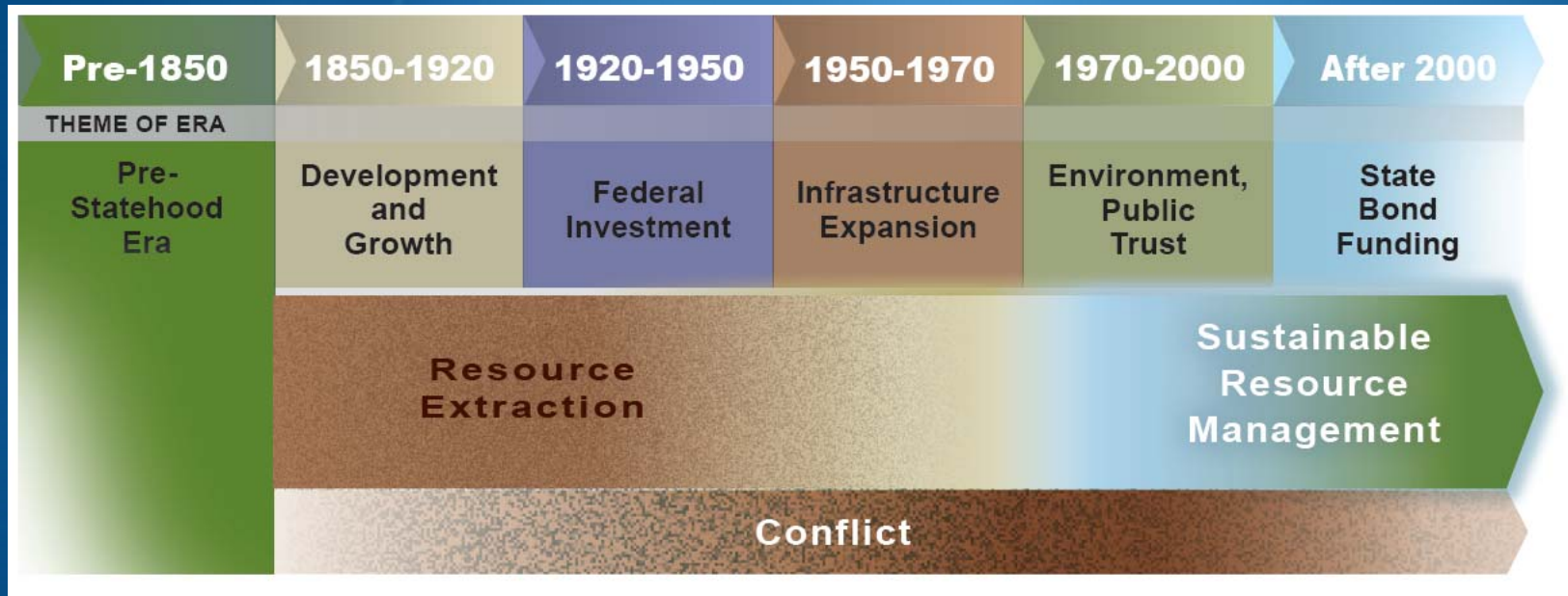
- Greater Drought Impacts - Unreliable Water Supplies
- Increasing Flood Risk
- Groundwater Depletion and Subsidence
- Degraded Water Quality
- Declining Environmental Conditions
- Aging Infrastructure



Low water level at Folsom Lake (January 2014)

How We Got Here

Past Choices Shaped Today's Water Challenges



What We Should Do

Roadmap for Implementing Integrated Water Management

Vision & Mission

Update 2013 provides a vision for more sustainable and reliable water resources and management systems. Mission statement describes collaborative efforts to prepare for California's most pressing statewide and regional water management issues and challenges.

10 Guiding Principles

Ten guiding principles express the core values and philosophies for making decisions about how the vision, mission, and goals will be achieved.

30+ Resource Management Strategies

More than 30 resource management strategies are described as tools for diversifying water portfolios and implementing IWM.

7 Goals

Seven goals set forth the desired outcomes of Update 2013.

17 Objectives

350+ Related Actions

Seventeen objectives and their 350-plus related actions are geared toward fulfilling the vision, mission, goals, and principles.

30 Resource Management Strategies

Tools for Diversifying Regional Water Portfolios

Reduce Water Demand

- Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
- Urban Water Use Efficiency

Improve Operational Efficiency & Transfers

- Conveyance – Delta
- Conveyance – Regional / Local
- System Reoperation
- Water Transfers

Increase Water Supply

- Conjunctive Management & Groundwater Storage
- Desalination (Brackish & Sea Water)
- Precipitation Enhancement
- Municipal Recycled Water
- Surface Storage – CALFED
- Surface Storage – Regional / Local

Improve Flood Management

- Flood Management

** New for Update 2013

Improve Water Quality

- Drinking Water Treatment & Distribution
- Groundwater / Aquifer Remediation
- Matching Quality to Use
- Pollution Prevention
- Salt & Salinity Management
- Urban Stormwater Runoff Management

Practice Resource Stewardship

- Agricultural Land Stewardship
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Forest Management
- Land Use Planning & Management
- Recharge Area Protection
- Sediment Management **
- Watershed Management

People & Water

- Economic Incentives
(Loans, Grants & Water Pricing)
- Outreach & Engagement **
- Water & Culture **

Three Themes of Update 2013

- Commit to Integrated Water Management
- Strengthen Government Agency Alignment
- Invest in Innovation and Infrastructure

Integrated Water Management

System flexibility and resiliency
Advocacy from implementers and financiers
Delivery of benefits using fewer resources

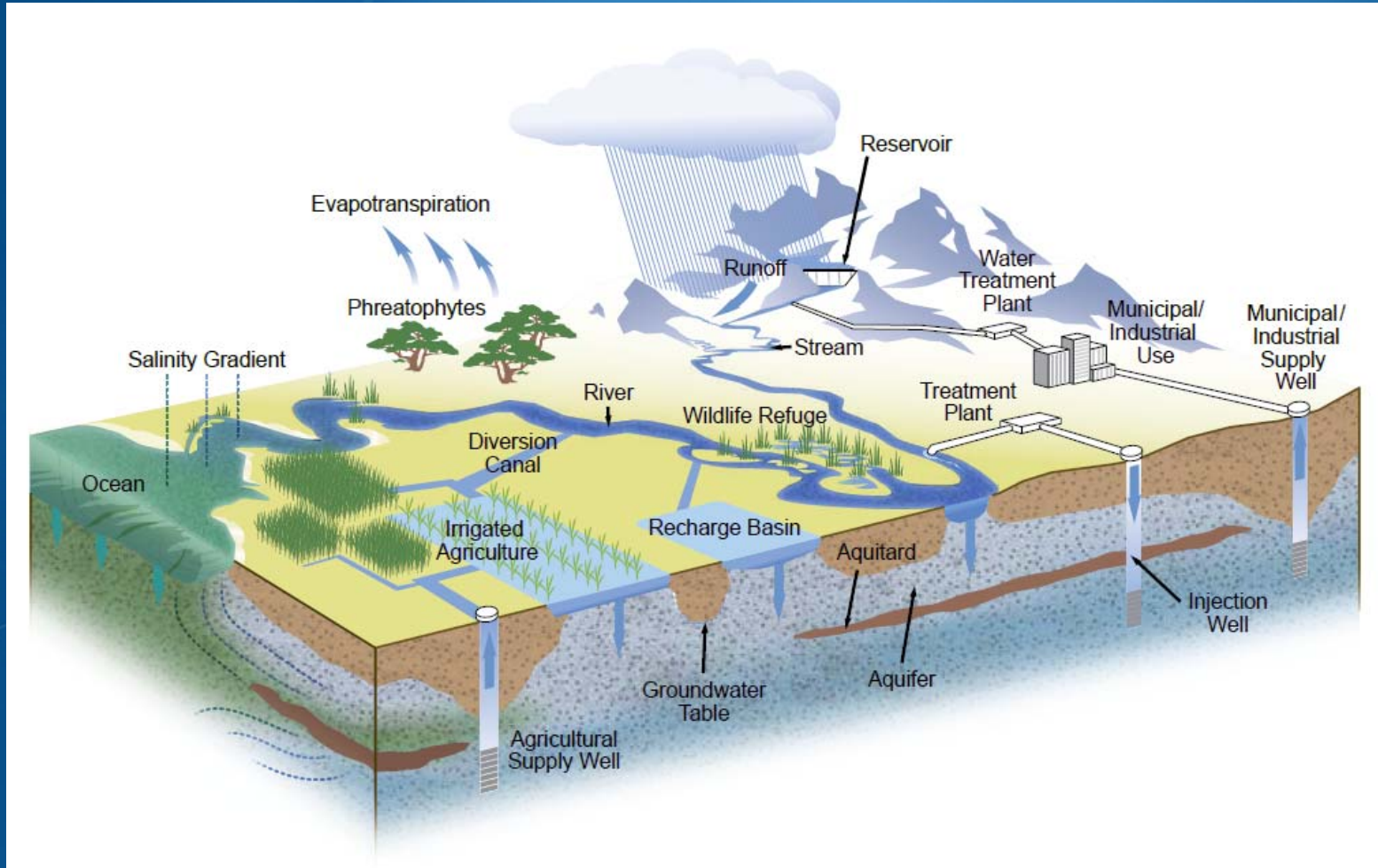
Government Agency Alignment

Clarification of state roles
Reduction in implementation time and costs
Efficient achievement of multiple objectives

Investment in Innovation and Infrastructure

Stable and strategic funding
Priority-driven funding decisions
Equitable and innovative finance strategies

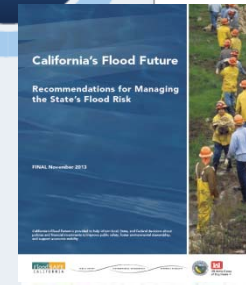
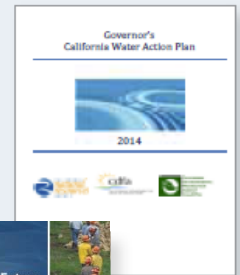
A Call to Integrate Interconnected Systems Require Integrated Solutions



A Call to Align Agency Alignment Is Critical

Expediting and reducing the cost of implementation through:

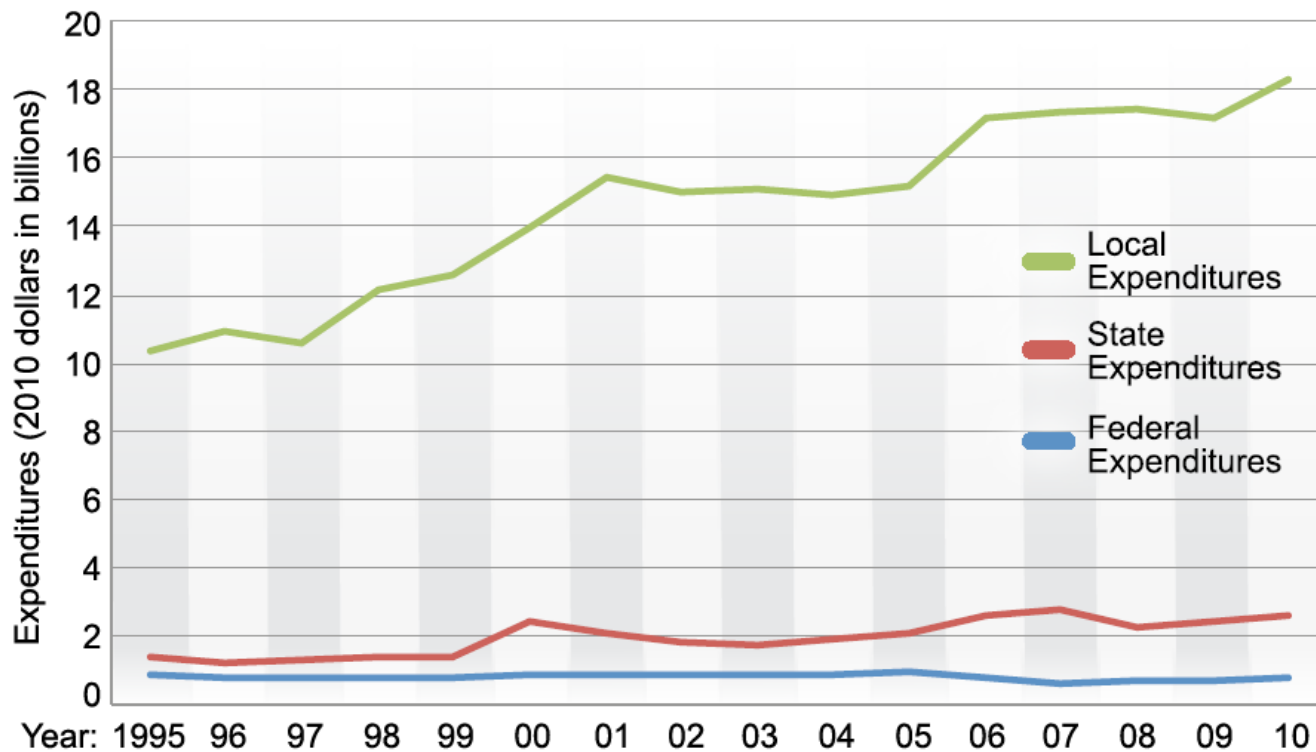
- Principles for improving alignment
- Actions for Aligning Government Agencies



A Call to Invest

Resiliency Requires Sustained Investment

Investments Over Previous Decade: A Good Down Payment



Despite significant local investments and State bonds, management of California's water resources remains underfunded.

How We Should Invest in IWMM

How We Should Invest

Recommended Financing Strategies

- Shared Values For Guiding State Investment
- Attributes of Future Finance Strategies
- Actions for Developing State Finance Strategies
- Menu of Funding and Finance Alternatives



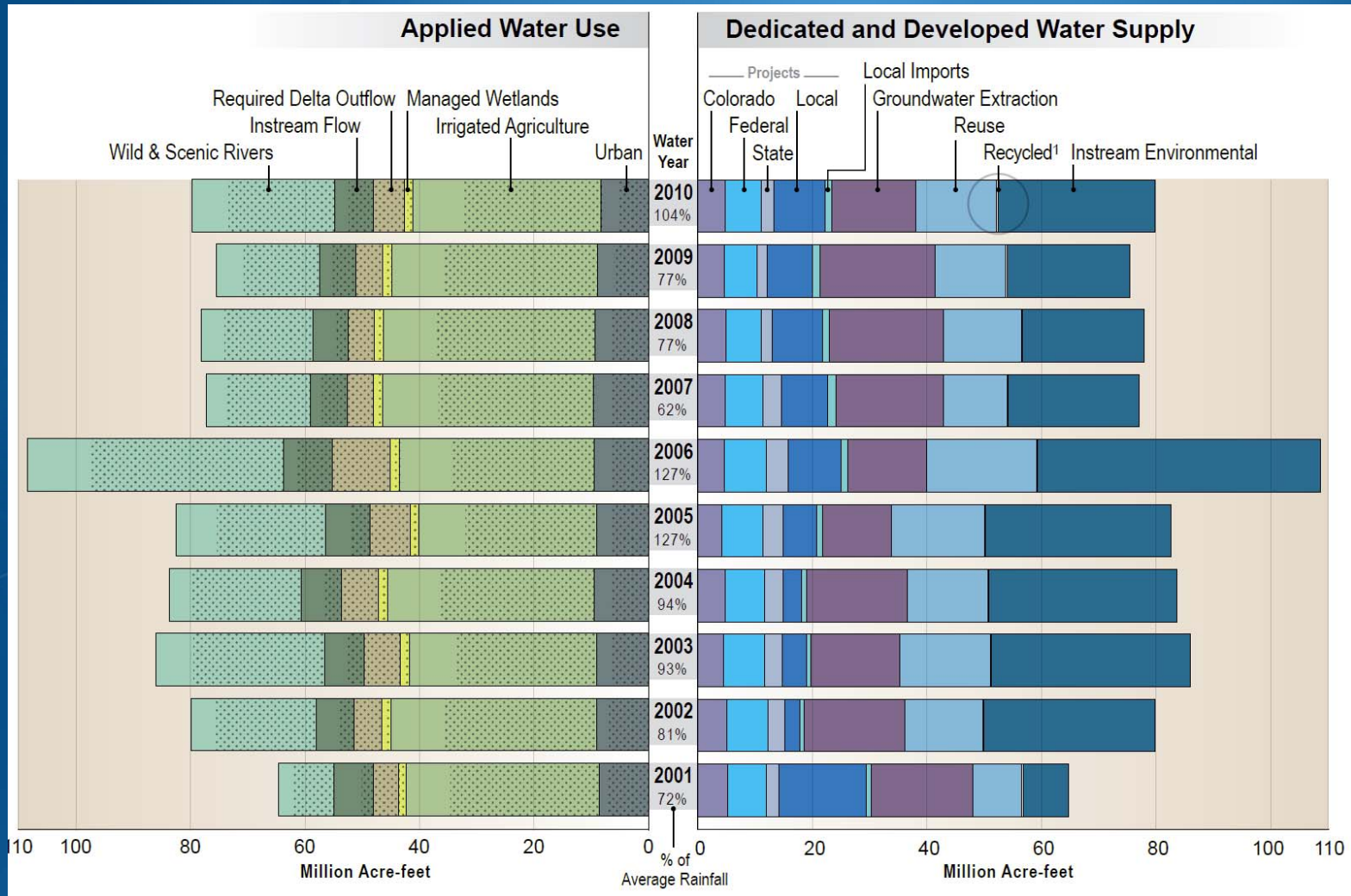
Existing and Potential New Revenue Sources

Table 7-2 State and Local Water Management Revenue Sources

Revenue Source	Appropriate Uses	Feasibility	Key Tradeoffs	Application in California
General Fund	Activities that benefit the general public	Available each year, but subject to competing uses	Funds are limited	A common source of funding
General Obligation Bonds	Projects that benefit the general public	Commonly used	Subject to voter approval	Commonly used over the decade, but polls have shown reduced public support for large water bonds
Revenue Bonds	Projects where a dependable revenue stream is available	A standard method of financing	None	A typical method of financing for local and State projects
User Fees (includes contractually negotiated commodity charges)	Projects where direct beneficiaries are easily identified.	Potentially works well with clearly defined beneficiaries, less likely to work for projects with significant public benefits	Will focus projects to those with local scope which may undermine IWM efforts. May limit State's ability to increase fees and taxes to support other projects	State Water Project is an excellent example as over 90% of project cost will be repaid by direct beneficiaries (contractors).

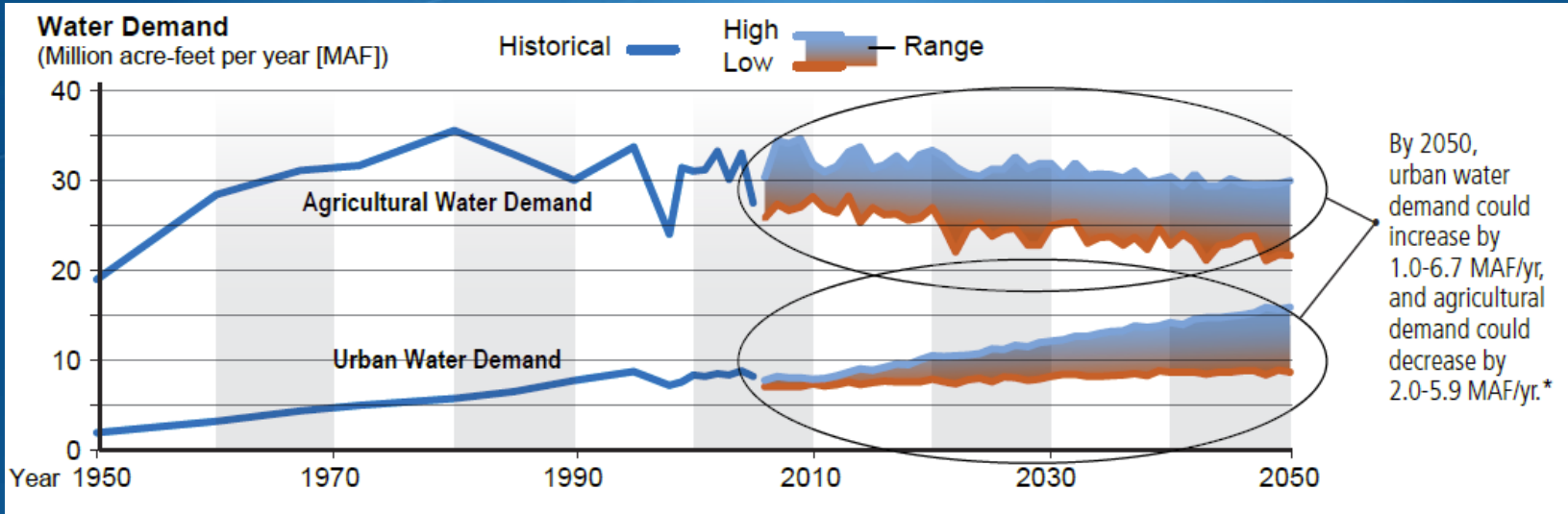
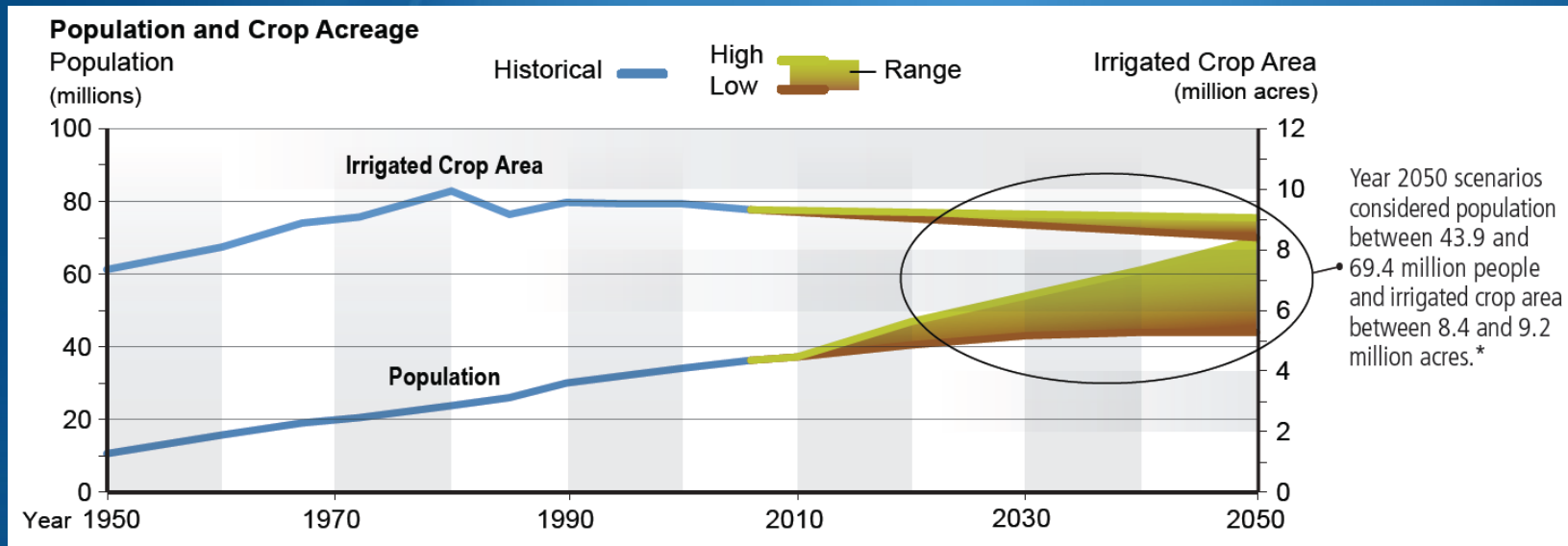
What We Must Know

Understanding How We Use and Supply Water



Water Scenarios 2050

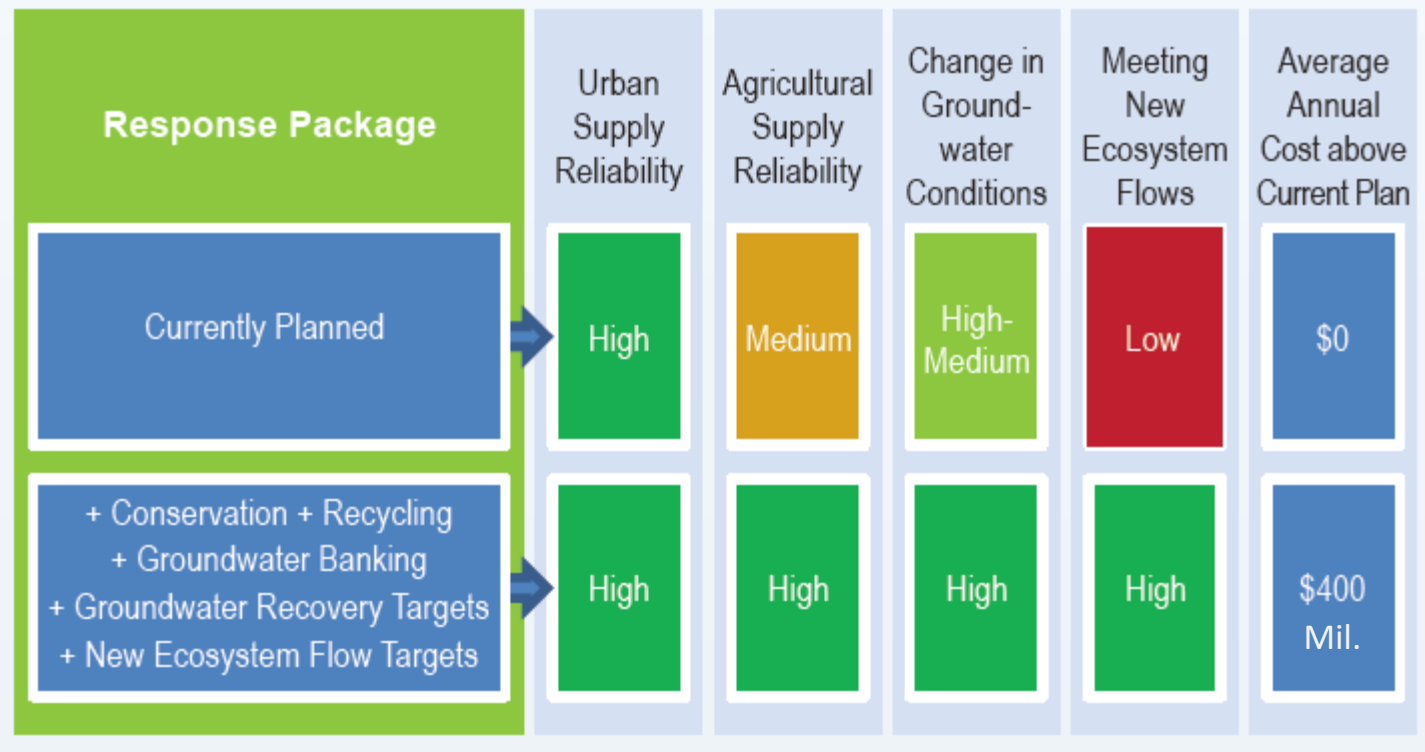
Extreme Uncertainty in Future Demands



Value of Public Investment

Using Data and Tools to Evaluate Performance

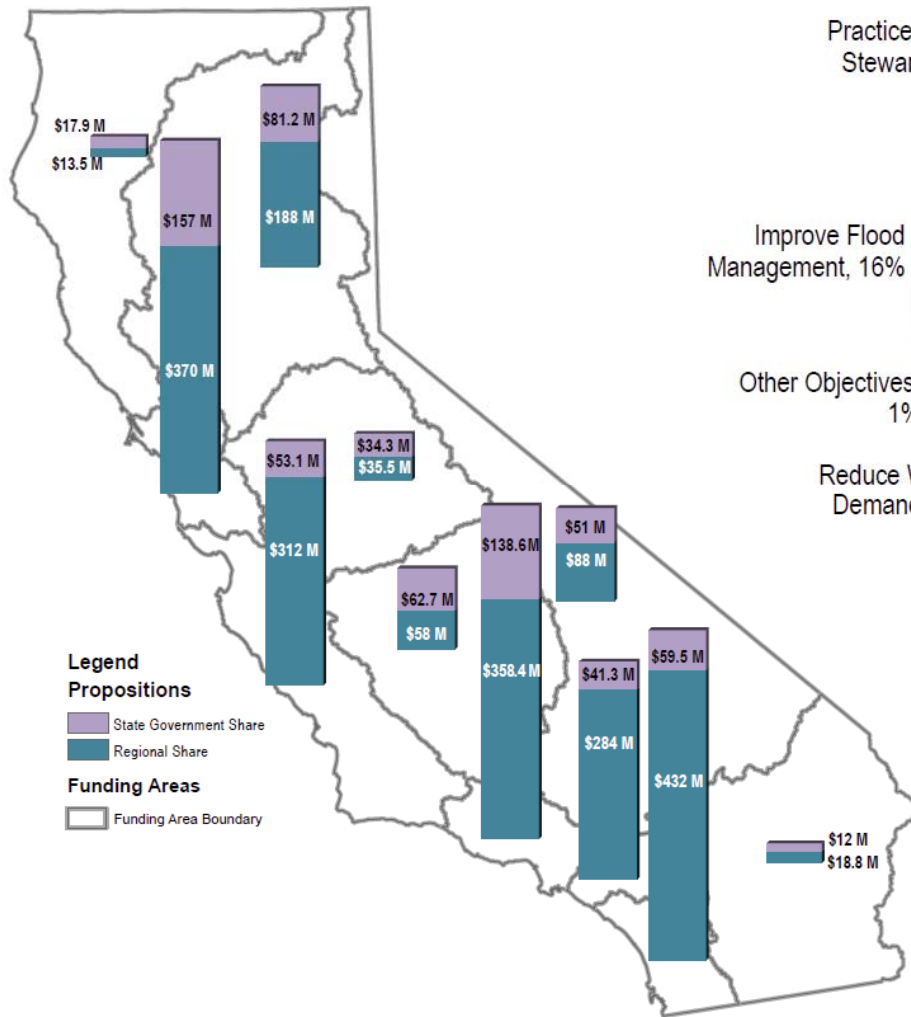
Increasing Resilience in the San Joaquin Region¹



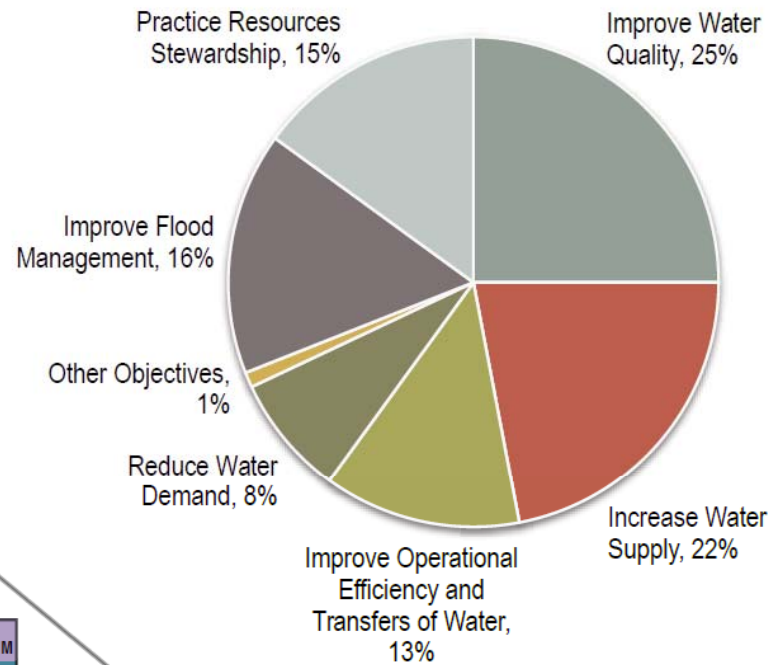
A Decade of Regional Investment

Regional Diversity Requires Regional Solutions

Investing in California's Regions

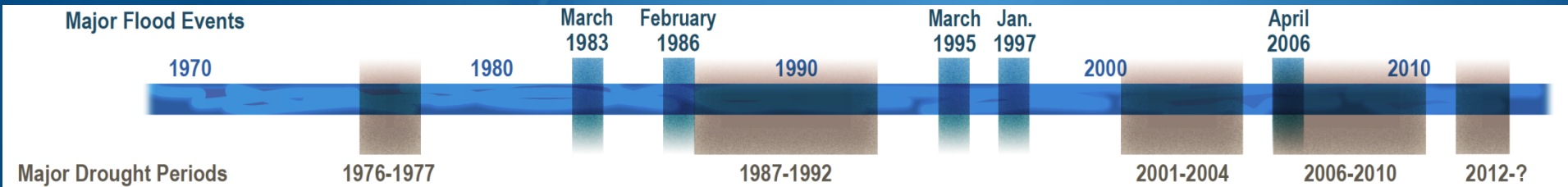


Achieving Multi-Benefits

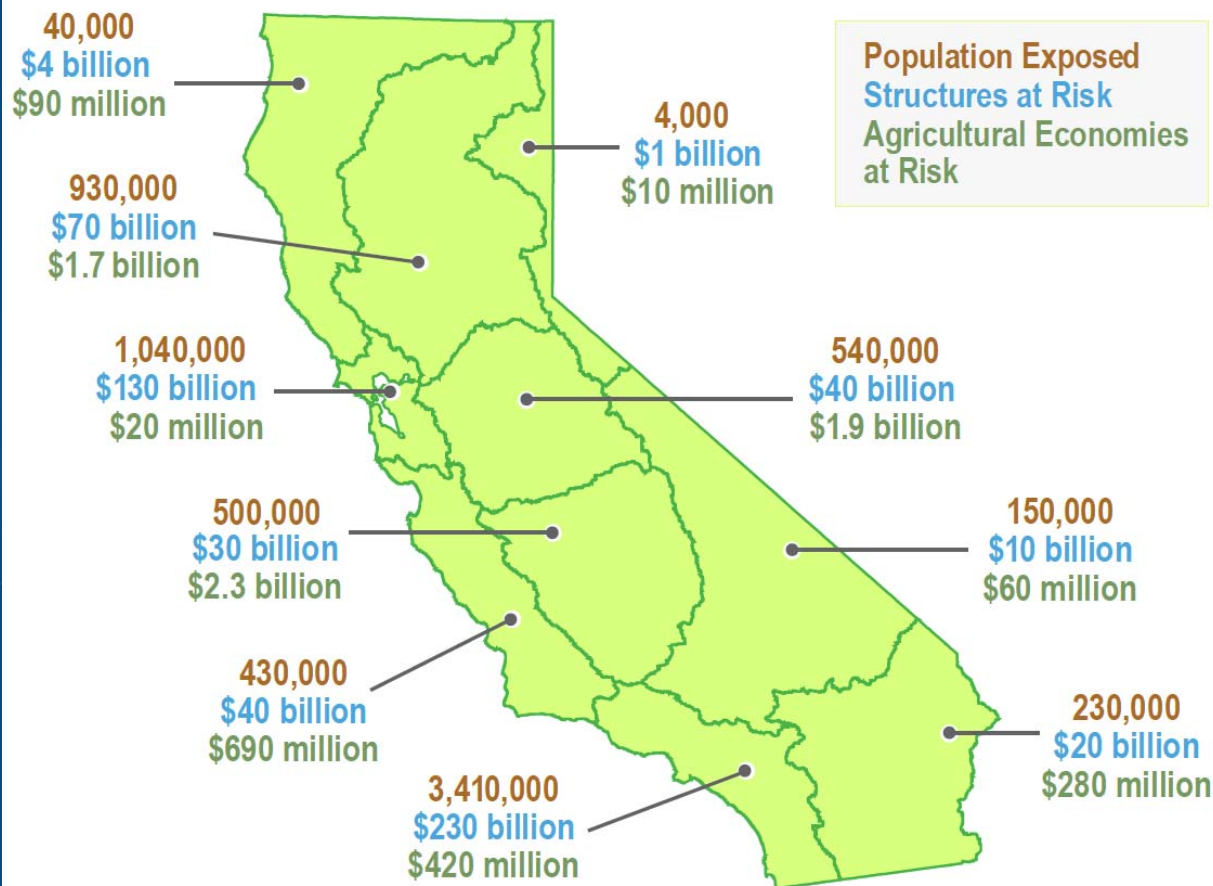


What Happens if We Delay

Delay At Our Own Peril



7 Million People and \$600 Billion in Assets in Floodplains



Droughts and floods are inevitable in California, but drought and flood impacts don't have to be.

Conclusion - The Path Forward

Questions & Comments



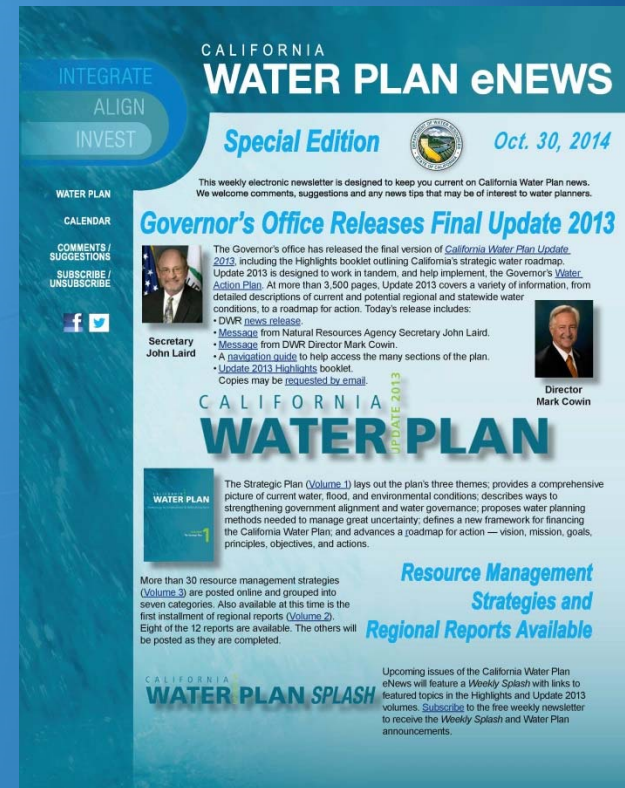
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Ways to Access Water Plan Information

- Visit the *Water Plan Web Portal*
www.waterplan.water.ca.gov



➤ Subscribe to *Water Plan eNews*
a weekly electronic newsletter
www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/enews

Attachment Two
CSAC Platform Chapter three: AENR

CHAPTER THREE

Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

Section 1: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Counties recognize the necessity of balancing the need to develop and utilize resources for the support of our society and the need to protect and preserve the environment. Counties also recognize that climate change and the release of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere have the potential to dramatically impact our environment, public health and economy. Due to the overarching nature of the climate change issues, all sections in this chapter should be viewed in conjunction with chapter fifteen.

Counties assert that solutions necessary to achieve this delicate balance can best be formulated at the local level in cooperation with public and private industry and state and federal government.

Over-regulation is not the answer. Processes must be adopted for all federal and state proposed rules and regulations that include a detailed environmental and economic cost/benefit analysis. Additionally, proposed and existing state rules and regulations that exceed federal standards should be evaluated and justified.

Section 2: AGRICULTURE

Counties recognize the importance of agriculture and its contribution to the state's economy. If California is to continue as the leading agriculture state in the nation, the remaining viable agricultural lands must be protected. In order to ensure that agricultural land protection is a statewide priority, the state, in cooperation with local governments, must continue to implement existing policies or adopt new policies which accomplish the following:

1. Provide innovative incentives that will encourage agricultural water conservation and retention of lands in agricultural production;
2. Promote agricultural economic development activities.
3. Support allocation of transportation resources for the ~~to~~ improvement of important goods movement corridors and farm-to-market routes.
4. Encourage the development of new water resources;
5. Provide research and development for biological control and integrated pest management practices;
6. Ensure water and air quality standards are retained at a level that enables agricultural production to continue without significant lessening in the quantity or quality of production;

7. Support the continuation of statewide public education curricula that address^{es} the essential role that agriculture plays in California and world economics;
8. Promote California agriculture, protect it from pests and diseases and ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food and other agricultural products for the consumer;
9. Foster a decision-making environment based upon input from all interested parties and analysis of the best available information, science and technology;
10. Continue to build consumer and business confidence in the marketplace through inspection and testing of all commercial weighing and measuring devices;
11. Encourage low impact/sustainable agricultural practices;
12. Support the elimination of inheritance taxes on agricultural lands; and,
13. Support full funding for UC Cooperative Extension given its vital role in delivering research-based information and educational programs that enhance economic vitality and the quality of life in California counties.

A. Working with other Entities

In addition the University of California's Cooperative Extension Service, County Agriculture Commissioners, Sealers of Weights and Measures, Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), local farm bureaus, Coordinated Resource Management Planning committees (CRMPs), and Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&Ds) are valuable resources that can be relied upon to assist state and local governments with the implementation of the policy directives noted above, as well as other programs supporting agricultural and natural resources. Given the long-standing relationship between local cooperative extension offices, county agricultural departments (i.e. County Farm Advisors and Agricultural Commissioners), RCDs, local farm bureaus, CRMPs, RC&Ds and individual counties, it is imperative that state and county officials develop ongoing support for these programs. Further, state and county officials are encouraged to remind other policy and decision makers of the importance of these entities and their value to agriculture, natural resources, the environment and community development.

B. Williamson Act

Counties support revisions to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, that provide property owners greater incentives to continue participation under the Act. Additionally, counties are committed to support other reasonable legislative changes which preserve the integrity of the Williamson Act and eliminate abuses resulting in unjustified and premature conversions of contracted land for development.

Counties support the restoration of Williamson Act subventions. The state subventions to counties also must be revised to recognize all local tax losses.

Section 3: FORESTS

Counties recognize the importance of forests to the state's economy. California is the second leading timber producing state in the nation. As with agriculture, to remain so, the state must protect and

maintain its viable timberland base. Counties also recognize the importance of forestry in the context of climate change. Effectively managed forests have less of a probability of releasing harmful greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere and increase the potential for carbon sequestration. To ensure protection of a the viable timberland base, ~~the state must it must become a statewide priority to~~ implement existing policies or adopt new policies that accomplish the following:

1. Continue reimbursement to counties for lost timber related revenues as currently provided under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000;
2. Encourage sustainable forestry practices through the existing regulatory process;
3. Encourage continued reforestation on private timberlands;
4. Provide new and innovative incentives that will encourage good management practices and timberland retention;
5. Support the State Fire Safe Council's mission to preserve California's natural and man made resources by mobilizing all Californians to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe; and,
6. Oppose any net increase in state or federal land acquisition, unless otherwise supported by the affected local governments and until all of their issues and concerns are addressed or mitigated to their satisfaction.

A. Biomass

~~Increased bioenergy production and the use of sustainable biomass can provide a range of economic and environmental benefits. CSAC encourages the state to implement strategies put forth in its Bioenergy Action Plan, which calls for the increase in bioenergy production, the commercialization of next generation conversion technologies, the removal of statutory hurdles and streamlining of the existing regulatory process. Counties recognize the problems and opportunities presented by biomass bi-product and accumulated fuels reduction efforts. The state of California must develop a coherent, integrated biomass policy that will guide regulation and investment for the next 20 years.~~ The state must give highest priority in the near term to the retention of its unique biomass energy industry, which is in danger of disappearing as the result of electric services restructuring and changes in energy markets. By integrating State and local air quality goals, wildfire prevention and waste management strategies into a statewide biomass policy, California will solve several critical environmental problems and create viable private industries, which will serve the public need.

Section 4: MINERAL RESOURCES

The extraction of minerals is essential to the needs and continued economic well-being of society. To ensure the viability of this important industry and to protect the quality of the environment, existing and new statewide policies concerning mineral resources must accomplish the following:

1. Encourage conservation and production of known or potential mineral deposits for the economic health and well-being of society;
2. Ensure the rehabilitation of mined lands to prevent or minimize adverse effects on the environment and to protect public health and safety;

3. Recognize that the reclamation of mined lands will allow continued mining of minerals and will provide for the protection and subsequent beneficial use of the mined and reclaimed land;
4. Recognize that surface mining takes place in diverse areas where the geologic, topographic, climatic, biological and social conditions are significantly different and that reclamation operations and the specifications thereof may vary accordingly;
5. Oversee surface, pit, in-stream and off-site mining operations so as to prevent or minimize adverse environmental effects;
6. Specify that determination of entitlements to surface mining operations is a local land use issue provided that reclamation plans are obtained and enforced.

Section 5: AIR QUALITY

Counties fully recognize that clean air laws have been enacted to protect the public from the adverse and deleterious health effects of air pollution. However, any rules and regulations aimed at improving California's air quality must not be developed without the input of local government. Rule makers working on air quality issues must ensure a balance between economic advancement, health effects and environmental impacts.

Counties assert that federal and state agencies, in cooperation with local agencies, have the ability to develop rules and regulations that implement clean air laws that are both cost-effective and operationally feasible. In addition, state and federal agencies should be encouraged to accept equivalent air quality programs, thereby allowing for flexibility in implementation without compromising air quality goals.

As it pertains to air quality regulations, distinctions need to be drawn between different types of open burning (i.e. wildland fuel reduction programs using prescribed fire v. agricultural burning). Efforts should continue to find economical alternatives to open burning in general.

Failure to meet air quality standards may jeopardize federal transportation funding statewide. Counties continue to work closely with congestion management agencies, air quality districts, metropolitan organizations and regional transportation agencies to ensure that transportation planning is coordinated with air quality objectives.

Many portions of the state, including the broader Sacramento area and mountain counties air basin, have been formally identified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as receptors of ozone-related air pollution transported from the San Francisco Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley. Although ~~the CARB California Air Resources Board~~ is considering actions that will help mitigate air pollution transport, the receptor counties are still potentially subject to sanctions if they do not take sufficient steps to achieve and maintain healthy air quality. Sanctions can take many forms, including lowered New Source Review thresholds in the receptor districts as compared to transporting districts and through transportation conformity. Given the potential impacts on the receptor counties, legislation and/or policy measures must be enacted that provide reasonable sanction protection for counties impacted by air pollution transport from upwind areas. Other legislative or policy measures that would require the upwind areas to implement air pollution mitigation measures should also be considered.

Given its longstanding support of local autonomy, CSAC opposes the addition of state appointees to local air districts. Such an action would result in a loss of local control without perceived improvements to the public process and clean air efforts. However, technical support services at the state level, such as research, data processing and specialized staff support should be maintained and expanded to assist local air quality management efforts.

Section 6: WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A. Water Resources Development

Counties recognize the complexities of water use and distribution throughout the state, and therefore should be officially represented geographically on all federal, state, and/or regional water policy bodies and decision-making authorities. A comprehensive statewide water resource management plan – one that includes the upper watershed areas – is essential to the future of California. Such a plan should include a full assessment of needs for all users.

In relation to any specific water project, counties support statutory protection of counties of origin and watershed areas. These protections provide that only water that is surplus to the reasonable ultimate human and natural system needs of the area of origin should be made available for beneficial uses in other areas. A natural system includes the ecosystem, meaning a recognizable, relatively homogeneous unit that includes organisms, their environment, and all interactions among them. Additionally, the cost of water development to users within the areas of origin should not be increased by affecting a water export plan. Furthermore, in all federal and state legislation, county of origin protections should be reaffirmed and related feasibility studies should clearly identify and quantify all reasonable future needs of the counties of origin to permit the inclusion of specific guarantees. Existing water rights should be recognized and protected.

Counties must be compensated for any third party impacts, including, but not limited to, curtailed tax revenues and increases in costs of local services occasioned by an export project.

~~With California's population expected to increase to 40 million by 2020, there is a need for new solutions to expand water resources to meet the growing demands presented by population growth, agricultural needs and industrial development. There currently exists a need for the development of new solutions to expand water resources to meet the growing needs of the state. The increased demand for water is due to the rapid population growth, agricultural needs and industrial development.~~ Projects should be considered that will create new water supplies through a variety of means such as conservation, recycling, water neutral ~~development~~developments, storm water capture, desalinization, waste water reclamation, watershed management, and the development of additional water storage, ~~and conservation~~. In building any new water projects, the state must take into account and mitigate any negative socio-economic impacts on the affected counties.

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Counties support the incorporation of appropriate recreational facilities into all water conservation and development projects to the extent feasible.

B. Water Rationing

Counties oppose statewide mandatory water rationing programs that would establish unrealistic and unnecessary restrictions on some areas of the state and which establish inadequate goals for other areas. Instead, counties support a voluntary approach to water conservation that promotes a permanent "conservation ethic" in California. If water rationing does become necessary in certain

areas of the state, counties will need statutory authorization to impose water rationing decisions at the county government level.

C. Water Conservation

The Legislature has recognized the need for water conservation. Counties recognize the need for local programs that promote water conservation and water storage. Water conservation may include reuse of domestic and industrial wastewater, reuse of agriculture water, groundwater recharge, or economic incentives to invest in equipment that promotes efficiency. No conservation of water shall be recognized if the conservation arises from the fallowing of agricultural land for compensation, unless the board of supervisors of the county in which the water has been devoted to agricultural use consents to the fallowing.

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards need to direct staff to issue permits for direct discharge of properly treated wastewater to promote reuse.

D. Ground Water Management

It is CSAC's position that ground water management is necessary in California and that the authority for ground water management resides at the county level. Adequate management of water supply cannot be accomplished without effective administration of both surface and ground water resources within counties. Ground water management boundaries should recognize natural basins and responsibilities for administration should be vested in organizations of locally elected officials. Private property rights shall be addressed in any ground water management decisions.

Ground water management programs should maintain the flexibility to expeditiously address critical localized and basin-wide problems. Studies necessary to design ground water programs should be directed by local agencies with technical or economic support from state and federal programs.

E. Financing of Water Conservation and Ground Water Management

Area-wide water conservation and ground water management programs are costly. Those benefiting should pay a fair share of these costs. Local agencies should have the discretion to recover those costs.

F. Flood Control

The following policy guidance on flood control shall be followed in conjunction with CSAC's Flood Management Principles and Policy Guidelines.

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Long-term flood control improvements are necessary in order to provide improved flood protection and minimize future damages. Local, state and federal agencies should work to improve communications, coordination and consistency prior to and following a flood disaster. Counties are encouraged to look for funding opportunities to move structures out of flood plains.

CSAC supports and encourages the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through the Waterways Experiment Stations, to adopt innovative geo-technical (high-tech) inspections systems to identify unexpected voids and saturated sand lenses in government-authorized levees. CSAC further supports follow up by the Army Corps with a recommendation for non-federal sponsors to add these techniques to their annual levee inspection programs.

Counties continue to experience frustration when applying for the state and federal permits that are required to repair, restore and maintain flood control facilities. Counties support streamlining of such permits or any other efforts that would allow expeditious implementation of such activities.

Counties recognize the need for environmental mitigation measures to protect endangered species. The unique need for ongoing and routine levee maintenance must be reconciled with reasonable mitigation requirements. Solutions could include a blanket "take permit" exempting levee maintenance from compliance and a more efficient process for routine maintenance.

Counties further recognize that providing habitat and flood control may not be mutually achievable goals within river, stream or ditch channels. However, ecosystem restoration projects may provide flood control benefits and will require detailed hydraulic and other engineering studies to assess the individual and cumulative hydraulic impacts in floodways. Counties also recognize that habitat areas shall be maintained in such a manner as to not obstruct the flow of water through the channel. Further, the river, stream and ditch channels should also have blanket "take permits" issued to allow for proper cleaning of obstructions to the water flow and/or carrying capacity.

Federal and state agencies that have the expertise and have been funded to identify, protect and are responsible for species that would be harmed in the course of flood control projects – such as levee reconstruction, maintenance or repairs – must be charged with the rescue of these species and not the local government performing such activities. These local governments have little, if any, expertise in the identification and rescue procedures of threatened and endangered species. This identification and rescue should be accomplished in the most expedient time frame practicable. The federal agencies should be required to consult with the local action agencies within thirty days of any species rescue determination.

In respect to locally sponsored flood control projects, CSAC shall continue to urge the administration and the legislature to fully fund the State Flood Control Subvention Program.

G. Delta

CSAC believes that any proposed Delta solutions be implemented in a manner that:

- Respects the affected counties' land use authority, revenues, public health and safety, economic development, water rights, and agricultural viability;
- Promotes recreation and environmental protection;
- Ensures Delta counties' status as voting members of any proposed Delta governance structure;
- Improves flood protection for Delta residents, property, and infrastructure;

- Improves and protects the Delta ecosystem, water quality, flows and supply;
- Ensures consistency with affected counties adopted policies and plans;
- Secures financial support for flood management, improved emergency response, preservation of agriculture, protection of water resources, and enhancement and restoration of habitat;
- Accords special recognition, and advances the economic vitality of “heritage” or “legacy” communities in the Delta.
- Demonstrates a clearly evidenced public benefit to any proposed changes to the boundaries of the Delta;
- Support development of adequate water supply, utilizing the concept of "Regional Self Sufficiency" whereby each region maximizes conservation and recycled water use, implements storage (surface and groundwater) and considers desalination, as necessary.

H. Stormwater Funding

Counties recognize stormwater as an important resource that must be cleaned of pollutants to be useful for other purposes, and the need to protect business districts, schools, and other properties from flooding when stormwater becomes a force of nature. Counties support adequate funding for all sectors of water in California; drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. Counties support adequate funding for stormwater and to have a similar process for funding stormwater projects and programs as water districts and wastewater districts fund their projects and programs. Counties support providing the authority to fund stormwater statewide, but the decision on how to fund stormwater programs will reside locally within each County.

CSAC supports a Constitutional Amendment to grant local government agencies an exemption to the voting requirements for establishing fees and charges for stormwater services similar to the exemption currently in place for water and wastewater services.

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Section 7: PARKS AND RECREATION

Counties are encouraged to consider supporting the efforts of the California Association of Regional Park and Open Space Administrators to provide for the health, safety and quality of life for all Californians by protecting parkland and open space.

Section 8: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. CSAC supports policies and legislation that aim to promote improved markets for recyclable materials, and encourages:
 - The use of recycled content in products sold in California;
 - The creation of economic incentives for the use of recycled materials; and,
 - The expansion of the Beverage Container Recycling Program.
2. CSAC shall oppose legislation that:

- Preempts local planning decisions regarding solid waste facility siting;
- Preempts local solid waste and AB 939 fee-setting authority; and,
- Requires burdensome changes to locally adopted plans.

3. CSAC shall support legislation that:

- Protects local solid waste franchising and fee-setting authority;
- Provides for the use of performance standards and alternative daily cover for landfills; and,
- Requires state facility cooperation with local jurisdictions on waste reduction to meet AB 939 goals.
- Promotes the development of conversion technologies as an alternative to land filling, and provides state funding to local jurisdictions for such projects; provides full diversion credit and greenhouse gas emission reduction credits under applicable State law; and, provides that all energy produced by these conversion technology facilities be designated as renewable energy (CSAC Staff suggested edits).

CSAC does not oppose legislation that assesses fees on solid waste that is disposed of out of state, as long as the fees reflect the pro-rata share of [the Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery \(Cal Recycle\) California Integrated Waste Management Board](#) services used.

In order to comply with the diversion requirements of [Cal Recycle-the California Integrated Waste Management Act](#), local governments must continue to have the ability to direct the flow of waste. Given ~~f~~Federal and ~~s~~State court decisions which restrict this ability, counties are encouraged to consider supporting legislation which ensures local governments' authority to direct the flow of waste.

Section 9: ENDANGERED SPECIES

Because of widespread impacts of the state and federal endangered species acts on public projects, agriculture, timber and other industries in California, including the resulting impact on county revenues, both acts should be amended to provide for the following:

1. Recognition and protection of private property rights and local government's land use authority;
2. All those who benefit should pay the costs. It should be recognized that inequity exists concerning the implementation of the existing ~~A~~acts in that the cost of species protection on private property is borne by a few property owners for the benefit of all;
3. If Congress and the ~~state-L~~egislature deem the protection of certain species is of national interest, then the responsibility for that protection, including the costs, should be assumed by all who benefit through federal and/or state funding, and a process should be adopted which is consistent with other public projects of national interest;
4. Applications for a listing should be required to include a map of critical habitat, a recovery plan and an economic and environmental analysis of costs and benefits;

5. The development of a delisting process that is as aggressively adhered to as the listing process;
6. The creation of a scientifically-based and efficient process for delistings;
7. Include independent scientific peer review, local public hearings, and equal access to judicial review;
8. Delegation of implementation of the Federal Endangered Species Act to the state;
9. Full compensation to property owners when historical or future use of their land is diminished;
10. Use of public lands first for multi-species protection;
11. Prohibit the distribution of public grant funds to private entities for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing listings or delistings of endangered species;
12. Control of protected species that prey upon and reduce either the adult or juvenile population of any listed species;
13. Protection of current land uses;
14. Support recovery efforts of endangered species;
15. The ability to produce food, fiber, and all other agricultural products is not abridged;
16. Agricultural producers should not be held liable for any “take” that occurs during normal agricultural operations.

Section 10: PUBLIC LANDS

Plans for state and federal public lands shall be coordinated and compatible with local general plans and zoning. Private uses on public federal lands, exclusive of Native American lands, should be required to comply with applicable state and local laws. In addition, counties should be reimbursed for lost tax revenues when land is transferred for non-profit or public uses.

Counties should have an opportunity to review and comment on management decisions affecting their economies, general plans and resources. Public participation, including public hearings, should be required in land use planning on public lands to ensure that economic or environmental concerns are addressed.

Counties encourage the operation and ownership of land resources under private rather than governmental control. Lands acquired by government or utilities for particular purposes which are no longer essential should be returned to private ownership – with preference to previous owners where possible – and without reservation of water and mineral rights. Small isolated units of publicly held property should be offered for sale to private operators, with preference to adjacent owners.

Government should be required to demonstrate, using reliable data, an integrated program of land use and the need for the acquisition before being permitted to purchase, further expand or transfer land from one governmental agency to another. Management plans and budgetary information should be required on all lands proposed for acquisition by governmental agencies prior to such acquisition, so that they can be made part of the public hearing process.

The practice of government funding through grants or other means to organizations and foundations in order to purchase private land that will be resold or donated to some governmental entity threatens to diminish the tax base of local units of government. As a result, counties' tax base should be kept whole in the event of federal or state purchase of land.

Counties support the multiple use of public lands. Uses of these lands include grazing, mining, timber, wildlife and recreation. Lands under governmental control should be actively managed in concert with private activities to encourage the greatest use and improvement. Counties believe that timber harvest, mining, and grazing activities are a valuable component of ecosystem management in some instances and that recreational activities, impacts on wildlife and natural events like fires and floods must be considered. Properly managed land results in higher sustained yields of water, forage, timber, minerals, and energy. Grazing and logging are important elements of the multiple-use concept. Therefore, counties support efforts to minimize additional acreage designated as wilderness, unless otherwise supported by the affected local governments, and all of their issues and concerns are addressed or mitigated to their satisfaction.

Reforestation and continued management of public lands with suitable soils for producing forest crops are essential to maintaining a viable forest industry in California. Timber stand improvement is needed and required for producing maximum yields both for quality and quantity of timber products. Additionally, comprehensive fuels management programs are encouraged for the protection and sustainability of timber producing lands. Counties support economically and environmentally sound management of public forests for the production of forest products, which support local industry and, in the case of National Forests, maximize federal payments for support of local government.

A. Federal and State Compensation

Adequate compensation must be made available to local governments to offset the costs of providing services to public lands. Current federal compensation programs such as [the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act \(SRS\)-PL-106-393](#), should be retained with respect to land where harvesting is severely limited or no longer occurs. Counties continue to support a per acre charge for any land which has historically received revenue timber receipts.

Information regarding county revenues generated from federal lands indicates that receipts are down, will continue to go down, and are not likely to change direction in the near future. In order to ensure that a system is in place that is fair and equitable, a revenue sharing and/or payment in-lieu of taxes system must meet three criteria:

1. Equitable - The federal government must compensate the state and counties at a level that is consistent with revenues that would be expected to be generated if such lands were not in federal ownership and management.
2. Predictable – The system in place must provide some assurance and predictability of the level and timing of revenues; and,
3. Sustainable - Revenues should be maintained over time; and changes in federal policies in the future should not adversely affect local communities.

CSAC shall continue to pressure the state and the federal government to meet its statutory obligation to annually pay local agencies full in-lieu fees and payments in-lieu of taxes for state and federal purchased properties. CSAC supports the premise that no new state or federal acquisitions of private property shall occur until state in-lieu fees and federal payments in-lieu of taxes are fully funded. Federal legislation is needed to provide additional compensation for those public land counties that meet specified hardship criteria.

B. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Exchanges

Counties recognize that efficient management of public lands requires land adjustments to ensure manageable units and prevent conflicts with adjacent private land uses.

Land exchanges and purchases are the usual means available to the two federal agencies. Tripartite and direct timber for land exchange are permitted under federal law.

Counties will support the federal agencies in these exchange and consolidation efforts when:

1. Better and more productive management of public land will result;
2. Counties affected are consulted and given opportunity to help determine acquisition of local lands in exchange process and negative effects are fully mitigated;
3. County revenues, ~~including including SRS PL-106-393~~ and ~~P~~ayment in ~~L~~ieu of ~~T~~axes (PILT) are protected or enhanced;
4. Areas slated for disposal in exchanges are included in the county general plan and classified as to probable use (e.g. residential, TPZ, commercial); and

5. Land-for-land exchanges enhance the counties and result in no net loss of value.

Counties support efforts to streamline and shorten the federal land exchange procedure so mutually beneficial consolidations will be more attractive and expeditious.

C. Local Use of Public Lands

Counties support legislation and land management policies to enable local agencies to acquire state and federal lands for public purposes.

D. Waste Disposal on Public Lands

Counties experience considerable difficulty locating and maintaining facilities to dispose of solid waste. Counties with large areas of state and federal lands used for recreation are required to assume the responsibility of disposing solid waste generated by these recreational activities. The entities that administer these public lands should assume responsibility for providing sites for solid waste disposal and funds for development, maintenance and operation of such sites.

E. Predator Control

Counties benefit from the established federal-state Cooperative Animal Damage Control Program through reduced livestock depredation, and property damage as well as public health protection.

Counties support predator control and promoting program efficiency through cooperative federal-state-county programs.

Changes in state law have removed many tools previously utilized by landowners and Animal Damage Control professionals for use in predator control. The result is an increased need for additional Animal Damage Control professionals.

Counties support expanded program funding through the current Federal-State Cooperative Animal Damage Control program and strongly support equal cost sharing between counties and cooperative agencies.

F. Fire Protection

Fires are best prevented and fought through long-term fuels management and other anticipatory actions. Such fire protection efforts must be integrated and supported by other natural resource programs and policies. Counties support the achievement of a sustainable ecosystem and the maintenance of healthy forests while providing defensible space for protection of life and property. Governmental agencies alone cannot achieve fire safe communities; private property owners are also obligated to take necessary actions to reduce their fire risk.

Counties further support an increase in state and federal funding for fuels management. However, given existing concerns expressed by counties regarding the allocation of fire protection resources, it is imperative that local governments be included in any effort to develop appropriate allocation of these resources between pre-fire management and fire suppression.

Fires are best fought by rapid response from trained firefighters. Counties support CDF's reconnaissance and rapid response systems. Counties support state funding of local fire agencies – both paid and volunteer – and local Fire Safe Councils for wildland fire response.

G. Prescribed Fire

The state of California should pursue alternate methods of biomass disposal that conserves energy in order to reduce the wildland fuel volumes consumed by prescribed fire.

Where alternative methods are not available, the state of California should assume greater responsibility in the development of a less restrictive program of prescribed fire for forest and range improvement, enhancement of wildlife, watershed management and reduction of major wildfire hazards.

Solutions must be found to the problems of liability when a county maintains a controlled burning program.

The State Department of Forestry and the State Air Resources Board should arrive at a joint policy concerning controlled burning so that counties will be dealing with one state government policy, rather than with two conflicting state agency policies.

H. Invasive Species Control

Counties support aggressive action by federal, state, and local agencies to limit the spread, and to enhance the eradication of, identified invasive plants and animal species, and support prioritizing the efforts that are most attainable and cost-effective.

Section 11: ENERGY

This section should be viewed in conjunction with Chapter 4, which includes CSAC's Energy Policy Guidelines.

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It is CSAC's policy that the state and the 58 counties should seek to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency. Counties are encouraged to undertake vigorous energy action programs that are tailored to the specific needs of each county. When developing such action programs counties should: (1) assess available conservation and renewable energy options and take action to implement conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy development when feasible; (2) consider the incorporation of energy policies as an optional element in the county general plan; and, (3) consider energy concerns when making land use decisions and encourage development patterns which result in energy efficiency.

In order to meet the state's energy needs, counties fully recognize the importance of establishing a cooperative relationship between other levels of government and the private sector. This includes working with public and private utilities that serve their areas to develop energy transmission corridors and to minimize delays in approvals and land use conflicts.

With respect to alternative and renewable energy sources, the state and counties should encourage use of agricultural, forestry and non-recyclable urban wastes for generating usable energy. They should also take into consideration the other benefits of waste-to-energy production. Additionally, the state should encourage, and counties should explore, the development of cogeneration and conversion technology projects at the local level. In respect to public power options, counties

support efforts that enhance local governments' ability to become community aggregators of electricity.

Counties support the encouragement of new generation facilities by the provision of increased incentives and a streamlined permitting process. However, state government needs to maintain regulatory oversight of these facilities. Lastly, counties oppose state acquisition and/or management of electric generating or transmission facilities.

Attachment Three
CSAC Platform Chapter four: Energy

CHAPTER FOUR

CSAC Energy Policy Guidelines

The following policy guidelines cover a wide range of energy issues of significant interest to county governments. This policy direction will assist CSAC with its efforts to represent county interests on energy proposals moving through the legislative process.

Section 1: TAX AND REVENUE IMPACTS

- Legislative, Public Utility Commission (PUC), and State Board of Equalization (**BOESBE**) decisions concerning energy issues shall include provisions to avoid negative impacts on local government and schools.
- Local governments rely on property tax revenues and franchise fees from utilities to provide essential public services. These revenues, as well as property tax revenues from alternative energy facilities, must be protected to ensure that local governments can continue to provide essential services, and support statewide energy needs by siting new power plants, and alternative energy facilities, bringing old power plants back on line and enacting long-term conservation measures.

Section 2: GENERATION

- Counties support efforts to ensure that California has an adequate supply of safe, reliable energy at the most competitive prices possible, while adhering to the state's **preferred resources**~~expressed order~~ of priorities of conservation, renewables, new generation and new transmission.
- Counties support establishing incentives that will encourage the development and use of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, and geothermal resources. Counties also support promoting the timely development of new infrastructure, such as new electric transmission, needed to facilitate renewable energy development. Such efforts will lead to the state realizing its goal of having 33% of its electricity supply come from renewable sources by 2020. To encourage local siting of renewable energy facilities, counties support restoring authority to assess alternative energy facilities such as commercial solar facilities currently exempt under AB 1451.
- While CSAC supports a statewide assessment and planning for future transmission needs, we oppose transmission corridor designations that ignore the local land use decision-making process.
- Counties support the construction and operation of biomass facilities through the establishment of state policies that will ensure sustainable long-term commitments to resource supply and electrical generation purchases at a price that supports resource-to-energy conversion.
- Counties shall commit to examine their own policies on alternative energy for any potential impacts that discourage the use of such systems.

- Counties support efforts to allow local agencies to retain regulatory oversight over generators by statutorily changing the threshold from 50 megawatts to 100 megawatts.
- Counties support additional state grant funding for back-up generation for essential facilities.
- Counties support additional state grant funding for air quality compliance for emergency generation facilities.
- Provide incentives to local agencies to site energy facilities. Some of the financial incentives that would stimulate the development and siting of more energy generation facilities in California include:
 1. Funding to streamline the siting process at the local level. Funds would be available to reimburse cities and counties for the costs of permits, environmental review and other local expenses in order to expedite the process at the local level.
 2. Energy facility incentive payments to cities and counties that approve new generating facilities, and/or the expansion of existing generation facilities, to replace them with more efficient facilities, or to build renewable projects, including photovoltaics, fuel cells or cogeneration. Increased incentives would be given to those facilities that generate power beyond the demand of the host jurisdiction's facilities alone.
 3. Any city or county that approves siting of a privately developed generating facility should receive 100% of the property tax of that facility.
 4. To stimulate development of projects such as cogeneration facilities, standby charges for generating facilities should be waived.
 5. Streamlining of timeframes currently associated with the state and federal regulatory process for siting power generating facilities.
- Counties support an amendment to the California Integrated Waste Management Act to provide full diversion credit for cogeneration facilities to further encourage their development. The CIWM Act currently establishes a 10% limitation on solid waste diversion that occurs through transformation.
- Counties support streamlining the approval and environmental review process for new power plants and any building using alternative sources of energy.
- Counties support payments to qualified facilities consistent with state and federal standards for renewable energy sources.
- Counties oppose state ownership of power plants because of the impact on local government revenue streams, water rights, the re-operation of hydro facilities, and the efficient management of such systems, including the economic uncertainty associated with state ownership of power plants. In the event of state ownership, all impacts on local government shall be mitigated.

Section 3: PUBLIC POWER

- Counties support measures that enhance public power options available to local governments.
- Counties support measures that enhance local government's ability to become community aggregators of electricity.

Section 4: CONSERVATION

- CSAC and its member counties are committed to reducing electricity use and increasing efficiency in their facilities.
- Counties support development of a statewide grant program to fund energy conservation and energy management equipment in local government facilities.
- Counties support a rate structure that recognizes conservation efforts.
- Counties support grants and loans that promote energy efficiency among businesses and homeowners.
- Counties support the adoption of real-time metering and time-of-use metering, allowing consumers to make choices about their consumption of electrical energy based on the real-time price of electricity.
- Counties support providing incentives, including the use of new technologies, for businesses that generate their own energy, and support encouraging them to make their excess capacity available to the utilities.

Section 5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Counties support the development and implementation of a statewide "proactive" California business retention strategy, led by the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency in partnership with local economic development organizations, including support of legislation that would provide funding for this effort through emergency legislation.
- Counties support the development and execution of a statewide, consistent and balanced message campaign that presents the true business climate in California.
- Counties support efforts to encourage alternative energy solutions to be instituted in businesses and residences.
- Counties support the right to implement Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs and establish property assessment liens for energy conservation and renewable energy investments. PACE programs create jobs, stimulate business growth, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and add lasting value to residential and commercial properties without increasing risks of mortgage defaults.

Section 6: NOTIFICATION OF POWER OUTAGES

- Counties, as providers of essential services, must be provided with adequate notice regarding any planned rotating block outages.

Section 7: MISCELLANEOUS

- Counties support a utility market structure that ensures that energy supply and demand is not unreasonably constrained by artificially imposed price caps.

Attachment Four
CSAC Platform Chapter fourteen: Climate Change

Chapter Fourteen

CSAC Climate Change Policy Guidelines

Section 1: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- CSAC recognizes that sustainable development and climate change share strong complementary tendencies.
- CSAC recognizes that mitigation and adaptation to climate change – such as promoting sustainable energy, improved access and increased walkability, transit oriented development, and improved agricultural methods – have the potential to bolster sustainable development.
- CSAC recognizes that climate change will have a harmful effect on our environment, public health and economy. Although there remains uncertainty on the pace, distribution and magnitude of the effects of climate change, CSAC also recognizes the need for immediate actions to mitigate the sources of greenhouse gases.
- CSAC recognizes the need for sustained leadership and commitment at the federal, state, regional and local levels to develop strategies to combat the effects of climate change.
- CSAC recognizes the complexity involved with reducing greenhouse gases and the need for a variety of approaches and strategies to reduce GHG emissions.
- CSAC supports a flexible approach to addressing climate change, recognizing that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate for California’s large number of diverse communities.
- CSAC supports special consideration for environmental justice issues, disadvantaged communities, and rural areas that do not have the ability to address these initiatives without adequate support and assistance.
- CSAC supports cost-effective strategies to reduce GHG emissions and encourages the use of grants, loans and incentives to assist local governments in the implementation of GHG reduction programs.
- CSAC recognizes that adaptation and mitigation are necessary and complementary strategies for responding to climate change impacts. CSAC

encourages the state to develop guidance materials for assessing climate impacts that includes adaptation options.

- CSAC finds it critical that the state develop protocols and GHG emissions inventory mechanisms, providing the necessary tools to track and monitor GHG emissions at the local level. The state, in cooperation with local government, must determine the portfolio of solutions that will best minimize its potential risks and maximize its potential benefits. CSAC also supports the establishment of a state climate change technical assistance program for local governments.
- CSAC believes that in order to achieve projected emission reduction targets cooperation and coordination between federal, state and local entities to address the role public lands play in the context of climate change must occur.
- CSAC recognizes that many counties are in the process of developing, or have already initiated climate change-related programs. CSAC supports the inclusion of these programs into the larger GHG reduction framework and supports acknowledgement and credit given for these local efforts.
- CSAC acknowledges its role to provide educational forums, informational resources and communication opportunities for counties in relation to climate change.
- CSAC recognizes that collaboration between cities, counties, special districts and the private sector is necessary to ensure the success of a GHG reduction strategy at the local level.
- CSAC encourages counties to take active measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create energy efficiency strategies that are appropriate for their respective communities.

Section 2: FISCAL

The effects of climate change and the implementation of GHG reduction strategies will have fiscal implications for county government.

- CSAC recognizes the potential for fiscal impacts on all levels of government as a result of climate change, i.e. sea level rise, flooding, water shortages, [increased wildfire intensity](#) and other varied and numerous consequences. CSAC encourages the state and counties to plan for the fiscal impacts of climate change adaptation, mitigation and strategy implementation.
- CSAC supports the use of grants, loans, incentives and revenue raising authority to assist local governments with the implementation of climate change response activities and GHG reduction strategies.

- CSAC continues to support its state mandate principles in the context of climate change. CSAC advocates that new GHG emissions reduction programs must be technically feasible for counties to implement and help to offset the long-term costs of GHG emission reduction strategies.
- CSAC advocates that any new GHG reduction strategies that focus on city-oriented growth and require conservation of critical resource and agricultural lands within the unincorporated area should include a mechanism to compensate county governments for the loss of property taxes and other fees and taxes.

Section 3: LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING

CSAC recognizes that population growth in the state is inevitable, thus climate change strategies that affect land use must focus on how and where to accommodate and mitigate the expected growth in California. Land use planning and development plays a direct role in transportation patterns, affecting travel demands and in turn vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and fuel consumption. It is recognized that in addition to reducing VMTs, investing in a seamless and efficient transportation system to address congestion also contributes to the reduction of GHG emissions. The provision of housing affordable to all income levels also affects the ability to meet climate change goals. Affordable housing in close proximity to multi-modal transportation options, work, school, and other goods and services is a critical element to reducing GHG emissions in the state. Smart land use planning and growth, such as that required by SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008), remains a critical component to achieve the GHG emission reduction targets pursuant to AB 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), particularly to address the emissions from the transportation sector (i.e. vehicle, air and train). With the first round of SB 375 sustainable communities strategies complete, it is critical that the state deliver on its promise to fund the transportation, housing and land use projects within the regional strategies that will make the plans a reality. ~~In order to better understand the link between land use planning, transportation, housing, and climate change further modeling and consideration of alternative growth scenarios is required to determine the relationship and benefits at both the local and regional levels.~~

- CSAC supports measures to achieve reductions in GHG emissions by promoting housing/jobs proximity and transit-oriented development, and encouraging high density residential development along transit corridors. CSAC supports these strategies through its support for SB 375 and other existing smart growth policies for strategic growth. These policies support new growth that results in compact development within cities, existing unincorporated urban communities and rural towns that have the largest potential for increasing densities, and providing a variety of housing types and affordability. CSAC also supports policies that efficiently utilize existing and new infrastructure investment and scarce resources, while considering social equity as part of community development, and strives for an improved jobs-housing balance.

- CSAC existing policy also supports the protection of critical lands when it comes to development, recognizing the need to protect agricultural lands, encourage the continued operations and expansion of agricultural businesses, and protect natural resources, wildlife habitat and open space.
- CSAC policy also acknowledges that growth outside existing urban areas and growth that is non-contiguous to urban areas may be necessary to avoid the impacts on critical resource and agricultural lands that are adjacent to existing urban areas.
- CSAC policy supports providing incentives for regional blueprint and countywide plans, outside of SB 375, to ensure that all communities have the ability to plan for more strategic growth and have equitable access to revenues available for infrastructure investment purposes. ~~It is CSAC's intent to secure regional and countywide blueprint funding for all areas.~~
- CSAC supports new fiscal incentives for the development of countywide plans to deal with growth, adaptation and mitigation through collaboration between a county and its cities to address housing needs, protection of resources and agricultural lands, and compatible general plans and revenue and tax sharing agreements for countywide services.
- CSAC recognizes that counties and cities must strive to promote efficient development in designated urban areas in a manner that evaluates all costs associated with development on both the city and the county. Support for growth patterns that encourage urbanization to occur within cities must also result in revenue agreements that consider all revenues generated from such growth in order to reflect the service demands placed on county government. As an alternative, agreements could be entered into requiring cities to assume portions of county service delivery obligations resulting from urban growth.
- While local governments individually have a role in the reduction of GHG emissions through land use decisions, CSAC continues to support regional approaches to meet the State's GHG emission reduction and climate change goals, such as SB 375 efforts, — which build upon existing regional blueprint and transportation planning processes. CSAC continues to support regional approaches — over any statewide “one size fits all” approach to addressing growth and climate change issues. Further, CSAC supports countywide approaches to strategic growth, resource and agricultural protection, targeting scarce infrastructure investments and tax sharing for countywide services.
- CSAC finds it critical that state and federal assistance is provided for data and standardized methodologies for quantifying GHG emissions for determining and quantifying GHG emission sources and levels, vehicle miles traveled and other

important data to assist both local governments and regional agencies in addressing climate change in environmental documents for long-range plans.

Section 4: ENERGY

Reducing energy consumption is an important way to reduce GHG emissions and conserve. Additionally, the capture and reuse of certain GHGs can lead to additional sources of energy. For example, methane gas emissions, a mixture of methane, carbon dioxide and various toxic organic and mercuric pollutants, from landfills and dairies have been identified as potent GHGs. Effective collection and treatment of these gases is not only important to the reduction of GHG emissions, but can also result in an additional source of green power.

- CSAC supports incentive based green building programs that encourage the use of green building practices, incorporating energy efficiency and conservation technologies into state and local facilities. A green building is a term used to describe structures that are designed, built, renovated, operated or reused in an ecological and resource-efficient manner. Green buildings are designed to meet certain objectives using energy, water and other resources more efficiently and reducing the overall impact to the environment.
- CSAC supports the state's development of green building protocols sustainable building standards, including guidelines for jails, hospitals and other such public buildings.
- CSAC supports the use of grants, loans and incentives to encourage and enable counties to incorporate green building practices into their local facilities.
- CSAC supports the use of procurement practices that promote the use of energy efficient products and equipment.
- CSAC supports state efforts to develop a dairy digester protocol to document GHG emissions reductions from dairy farms. CSAC supports funding mechanisms that support the use of dairy digesters to capture methane gas and convert it to energy.
- CSAC supports state efforts to capture methane gases from landfills; and supports its development of a reasonable regulatory measure with a feasible timeline, that will require landfill gas recovery systems on landfills that can support a self-sustaining collection system. CSAC supports the development of a guidance document for landfill operators and regulators that will recommend technologies and best management practices for improving landfill design, construction, operation and closure for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. CSAC also

supports funding mechanisms, including grants, loans and incentives to landfill operators to help implement these programs.

- CSAC continues to support its existing energy policy, which states that counties should seek to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency and broader use of renewable energy resources. Counties are encouraged to undertake vigorous energy action programs that are tailored to the specific needs of each county. When developing such action programs counties should: (1) assess available conservation and renewable and alternative energy options and take action to implement conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy development when feasible; (2) consider the incorporation of energy policies as an optional element in the county general plan; and, (3) consider energy concerns when making land use decisions and encourage development patterns which result in energy efficiency.
- CSAC continues to support efforts to ensure that California has an adequate supply of safe and reliable energy through a combination of conservation, renewables, new generation and new transmission efforts.

Section 5: WATER

According to the Department of Water Resources, projected increases in air temperature may lead to changes in the timing, amount and form of precipitation – (rain or snow), changes in runoff timing and volume, effects of sea level rise and changes in the amount of irrigation water needed. CSAC has an existing policy that recognizes the need for state and local programs that promote water conservation and water storage development.

- CSAC supports the incorporation of projections of climate change into state water planning and flood control efforts.
- CSAC recognizes that climate change has the potential to seriously impact California's water supply. CSAC continues to assert that adequate management of water supply cannot be accomplished without effective administration of both surface and ground water resources within counties, including the effective management of forestlands and watershed basins.
- CSAC supports water conservation efforts, including reuse of domestic and industrial wastewater, reuse of agriculture water, groundwater recharge, and economic incentives to invest in equipment that promotes efficiency.
- CSAC continues to support the study and development of alternate methods of meeting water needs such as desalinization, wastewater reclamation, watershed management, the development of additional storage, and water conservation measures.

Section 6: FORESTRY

With a significant percentage of California covered in forest land, counties recognize the importance of forestry in the context of climate change. Effectively managed forests have less of a probability of releasing large amounts of harmful GHG emissions into the atmosphere in the form of catastrophic wildfires. Furthermore, as a result of natural absorption, forests reduce the effects of GHG emissions and climate change by removing carbon from the air through the process of carbon sequestration, [and- properly managed forests can significantly increase the amount of water runoff available for downstream beneficial uses, such as urban and agricultural uses.](#) CSAC also recognizes the benefits of biomass energy as an alternative to the burning of traditional fossil fuels, as well as the benefits of carbon sequestration through the use of wood products.

- CSAC continues to support its existing policy on sustainable forestry, encouraging sustainable forestry practices through the existing regulatory process, and encouraging continued reforestation and active forest management on both public and private timberlands.
- CSAC supports responsible optimum forest management practices that ensure continued carbon sequestration in the forest, provide wood fiber for biomass-based products and carbon-neutral biomass fuels, and protect the ecological values of the forest in a balanced way.
- CSAC supports the state's development of general forestry protocols that encourage private landowners to participate in voluntary emission reduction programs and encourage National Forest lands to contribute to the state's climate change efforts.
- It is imperative that adequate funding be provided to support the management of forest land owned and managed by the federal government in California in order to ensure the reduction of catastrophic wildfires.
- CSAC supports additional research and analysis of carbon sequestration opportunities within forestry.

Section 7: AGRICULTURE

The potential impacts of climate change on agriculture may not only alter the types and locations of commodities produced, but also the factors influencing their production, including resource availability. Rising temperatures, changes to our water supply and soil composition all could have significant impacts on California's crop and livestock management. Additionally, agriculture is a contributor to GHG emissions in form of fuel consumption, cultivation and fertilization of soils and management of livestock manure. At the same time, agriculture has the potential to provide offsets in the form of carbon sequestration in soil and permanent crops, and the production of biomass crops for energy purposes.

- CSAC supports State efforts to develop guidelines through a public process to improve and identify cost effective strategies for nitrous oxide emissions reductions.
- CSAC continues to support incentives that will encourage agricultural water conservation and retention of lands in agricultural production.
- CSAC continues to support full funding for UC Cooperative Extension given its vital role in delivering research-based information and educational programs that enhance economic vitality and the quality of life in California counties.
- CSAC supports additional research and analysis of carbon sequestration opportunities within agriculture.

Section 8: AIR QUALITY

CSAC encourages the research and development and use of alternative, cleaner fuels. Further, air quality issues reach beyond personal vehicle use and affect diesel equipment used in development and construction for both the public and private sector.

- CSAC supports state efforts to create standards and protocols for all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks that are purchased by the state and local governments that conform to the California Strategy to Reduce Petroleum Dependency. CSAC supports state efforts to revise its purchasing methodology to be consistent with the new vehicle standards.
- CSAC supports efforts that will enable counties to purchase new vehicles for local fleets that conform to state purchasing standards, are fuel efficient, low emission, or use alternative fuels. CSAC supports flexibility at the local level, allowing counties to purchase fuel efficient vehicles on or off the state plan.
- CSAC supports identifying a funding source for the local retrofit and replacement of county on and off road diesel powered vehicles and equipment.
- CSAC opposes federal standards that supercede California's ability to adopt stricter vehicle standards.
- Counties continue to assert that federal and state agencies, in cooperation with local agencies, have the ability to develop rules and regulations that implement clean air laws that are both cost-effective and operationally feasible. In addition, state and federal agencies should be encouraged to accept equivalent air quality programs, thereby allowing for flexibility in implementation without compromising air quality goals.

- CSAC also recognizes the importance of the Air Pollution Control Districts (APCDs) and Air Quality Management Districts (AQMDs) to provide technical assistance and guidance to achieve the reduction of GHG emissions.
- CSAC supports the development of tools and incentives to encourage patterns of product distribution and goods movement that minimize transit impacts and GHG emissions.
- CSAC supports further analysis of the GHG emission contribution from goods movement through shipping channels and ports.

Section 9: SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

The consumption of materials is related to climate change because it requires energy to mine, extract, harvest, process and transport raw materials, and more energy to manufacture, transport and, after use, dispose of products. Recycling and waste prevention can reduce GHG emissions by reducing the amount of energy needed to process materials, and reducing the amount of natural resources needed to make products.

- CSAC continues to support policies and legislation that aim to promote improved markets for recyclable materials, and encourages:
 - The use of recycled content in products sold in California;
 - The creation of economic incentives for the use of recycled materials;
 - Development of local recycling markets to avoid increased emissions from transporting recyclables long distances to current markets;
 - The expansion of the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 and the Beverage Container Recycling Program;
 - The use of materials that are biodegradable;
 - Greater manufacturer responsibility and product stewardship.

Section 10: HEALTH

CSAC recognizes the potential impacts of land uses, transportation, housing, and climate change on human health. As administrators of planning, public works, parks, and a variety of public health services and providers of health care services, California's counties have significant health, administrative and cost concerns related to our existing and future built environment and a changing climate. Lack of properly designed active transportation facilities have made it difficult and in some cases created barriers for pedestrians and bicyclists. Lack of walk ability in many communities contributes to numerous chronic health related issues, particularly obesity which is an epidemic in this country. Heat-related illnesses, air pollution, wild fire, water pollution and supply issues, mental health impact and infectious disease all relate to the health and well-being of county residents, and to the range and cost of services provided by county governments. CSAC recognizes that there are direct human health benefits associated with improving our built environment and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, such as lowering rates of

obesity, injuries, and asthma. Counties believe that prevention, planning, research, education/training, and preparation are the keys to coping with the public health issues brought about by our built environment and climate change. Public policies related to land uses, public works, climate change and public health should be considered so as to work together to improve the public's health within the existing roles and resources of county government.

- CSAC supports efforts to provide communities that are designed, built and maintained so as to promote health, safety and livability through leadership, education, and funding augmentations.
- CSAC supports efforts to improve the public health and human services infrastructure to better prevent and cope with the health effects of climate change through leadership, planning and funding augmentations.
- CSAC supports state funding for mandated local efforts to coordinate monitoring of heat-related illnesses and responses to heat emergencies.
- CSAC supports efforts to improve emergency prediction, warning, and response systems and enhanced disease surveillance strategies.

Glossary of Terms

Climate change

A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon sequestration refers to the provision of long-term storage of carbon in the terrestrial biosphere, underground, or the oceans so that the buildup of carbon dioxide (the principal greenhouse gas) concentration in the atmosphere will reduce or slow. In some cases, this is accomplished by maintaining or enhancing natural processes; in other cases, novel techniques are developed to dispose of carbon.

US Department of Energy

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

US Environmental Protection Agency

Greenhouse gas

A gas that absorbs radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of radiation (infrared radiation) emitted by the Earth's surface and by clouds. The gas in turn emits infrared radiation from a level where the temperature is colder than the surface. The net effect is a local trapping of part of the absorbed energy and a tendency to warm the planetary surface. Water vapour (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄) and ozone (O₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere.

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Attachment Five
CSAC Platform Flood Policy Addendum

California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

FLOOD PROTECTION PRINCIPLES AND POLICY GUIDELINES

(As Approved by the CSAC Board of Directors 3/30/06)

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) believes that the State flood control system must be viewed as a complete functioning system and funded accordingly. Intermittent and piecemeal efforts at mapping, maintaining, and repairing the system has proved to be inefficient, costly and generally ineffective. CSAC also recognizes the critical need for new projects and repairs within the existing flood control infrastructure and the necessity of ensuring the ongoing maintenance of all components, from upper watershed to end-users. As such, CSAC has developed the following flood protection principles and policy guidelines that CSAC can use as a base for lobbying efforts on behalf of counties.

Funding

CSAC supports a statewide, multi-level funding approach to funding new flood protection projects, mapping, improvements to the system, and the maintenance and operation of all flood mitigation efforts, including upper watershed flood-positive mapping and watershed rehabilitation, coastal watershed mitigations and flood protections plans, and other identified projects in each of the state's 10 flood control zones. CSAC also recognizes that appropriations or bond funds earmarked for flood protection must be equally available to all areas of the state.

- CSAC would consider the use of financial incentives to encourage local governments to adopt flood related planning activities if such incentives applied equally to all jurisdictions affected by the statewide flood control system and were based on a uniform standard, such as the community rating system used by FEMA.
- CSAC supports full funding for the State's Flood Control Subvention Program within the Department of Water Resources to ensure appropriate staffing and reimbursements for delinquent and future claims.
- CSAC supports funding mechanisms originating within all levels of government, including local, state and federal, but not relying solely on ratepayer shares.
- CSAC encourages state and federal funding that is stable, predictable and sufficient for planning, capitol projects, and ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

- CSAC supports prioritizing funding for improvements to areas deemed to be at the most risk in the statewide flood control system.
- CSAC supports a variety of funding sources which may include but are not limited to: statewide bond measures, statewide and local assessments, developer fees, wheeling charges, beneficiary pays and the creation of a maintenance endowment fund.
- CSAC supports identifying specific dollar amounts for flood protection within any bond measure, and supports the minimization or elimination of local matching requirements.
- CSAC supports funding being made available for both capital costs and operation and maintenance of the system.
- All state flood protection funding shall be protected under Proposition 1A.
- CSAC will continue to support ACA 13 (Harman), which would exempt flood control and storm water fees from the voter approval requirements of Proposition 218.

Flood Protection and Levee Integrity

CSAC supports the assessment of the integrity of the statewide flood control system provided it is not to the exclusion of investing in actual and critical project improvements.

- In assessing the integrity of the flood control system, CSAC believes that project levees shall be distinguished from non-project levees; and levees that protect agriculture, urban areas or critical infrastructure shall be distinguished from each other.
- CSAC supports the assessment and inclusion of non-project levees into the statewide project levee system, as they are integral to the overall water management system.
- CSAC supports the use of formal, uniform and reliable federal standards relating to levee integrity and the flood management system upon which all flood control agencies and jurisdictions can rely.
- CSAC supports the targeted and expedited assessment of levees in problem areas, and recognizes that those at the local level are willing to provide their expertise to agencies tasked with assessing the integrity of California's flood protection system.

- While CSAC recognizes the need for detailed studies of the flood protection system, we support a reasonable ratio of time and funds for this purpose to be balanced by the urgent need for actual flood protection to protect threatened areas.
- CSAC supports the use of forecast-based management of the statewide flood protection system.
- CSAC supports the rehabilitation of the upper watershed areas for partial mitigation of flood events affecting downstream reservoirs and control systems.
- CSAC supports recognition of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a critical region of statewide importance encompassing vital water, transportation, energy, agricultural and economic interests. As such, funding to assure the adequacy of its flood protection systems is of statewide importance.

Mapping of the System

CSAC supports the creation of updated detailed FEMA and Statewide Awareness Maps and acknowledges the need for such maps to be created as soon as possible.

- The updated maps should be based on general plan build out of the watershed or a reasonable build out scenario.
- If FEMA must maintain a floodplain map based on existing development, then it should include a second floodplain zone based on a reasonable watershed build out.
- CSAC opposes changing federal standards from the current 100-year flood designation to a 200-year standard without a clear demonstration of the benefits and the attendant amount of funding that would enable local governments to achieve the new standard.

Development in Flood Prone Areas

CSAC opposes any state preemption of local land use authority and reiterates that land use decisions must remain at the local level. CSAC supports the strengthening of flood protection policies in State General Plan law while recognizing the value of agricultural uses, existing natural resources and housing needs of each region in the state.

- CSAC recognizes the existing role of state agencies to review and comment on development proposals.
- CSAC supports updated building standards to reflect appropriate flood prevention standards.
- CSAC supports efforts to ensure that every local entity creates an emergency flood response management plan that would include such items as emergency response protocols, integrated regional communications and emergency evacuation plans.
- CSAC believes that new development should pay its fair share, up to the full cost of project related impacts including mitigation, to achieve a designated level of flood protection. Furthermore new development should be a part of the funding solution relative to the maintenance and operation costs of project related flood protection.
- CSAC supports the update of the CEQA Guidelines Checklist to ensure that projects are evaluated for flooding impacts.

Regulatory Streamlining

CSAC supports improvements to the regulatory process for flood protection projects, especially those deemed to be imminent threats.

- CSAC supports an expedited permit process for flood protection projects, including maintenance and operation work.
- CSAC supports better coordination between state and federal regulatory agencies and clear direction on flood control requirements and responsibilities.
- CSAC supports programmatic Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and standardized mitigation measures for the flood management system, levee maintenance and capital projects that fall under certain thresholds.
- CSAC opposes repeated mitigation requirements in connection with any ongoing maintenance of the flood management system, projects and facilities.

Insurance

CSAC supports outreach and notification efforts by all levels of government to people at risk in identified flood prone areas.

- CSAC supports the establishment of an outreach or notification program administered by the state to educate the public regarding the level of risk they face in identified flood prone areas. Such efforts by the state shall be developed with input from, and coordinated with, local government.
- CSAC is concerned about the possible effects of any new state-imposed flood insurance program and would oppose any mandates requiring local governments to administer such a program.
- CSAC supports efforts to encourage property owners to secure and maintain flood insurance.

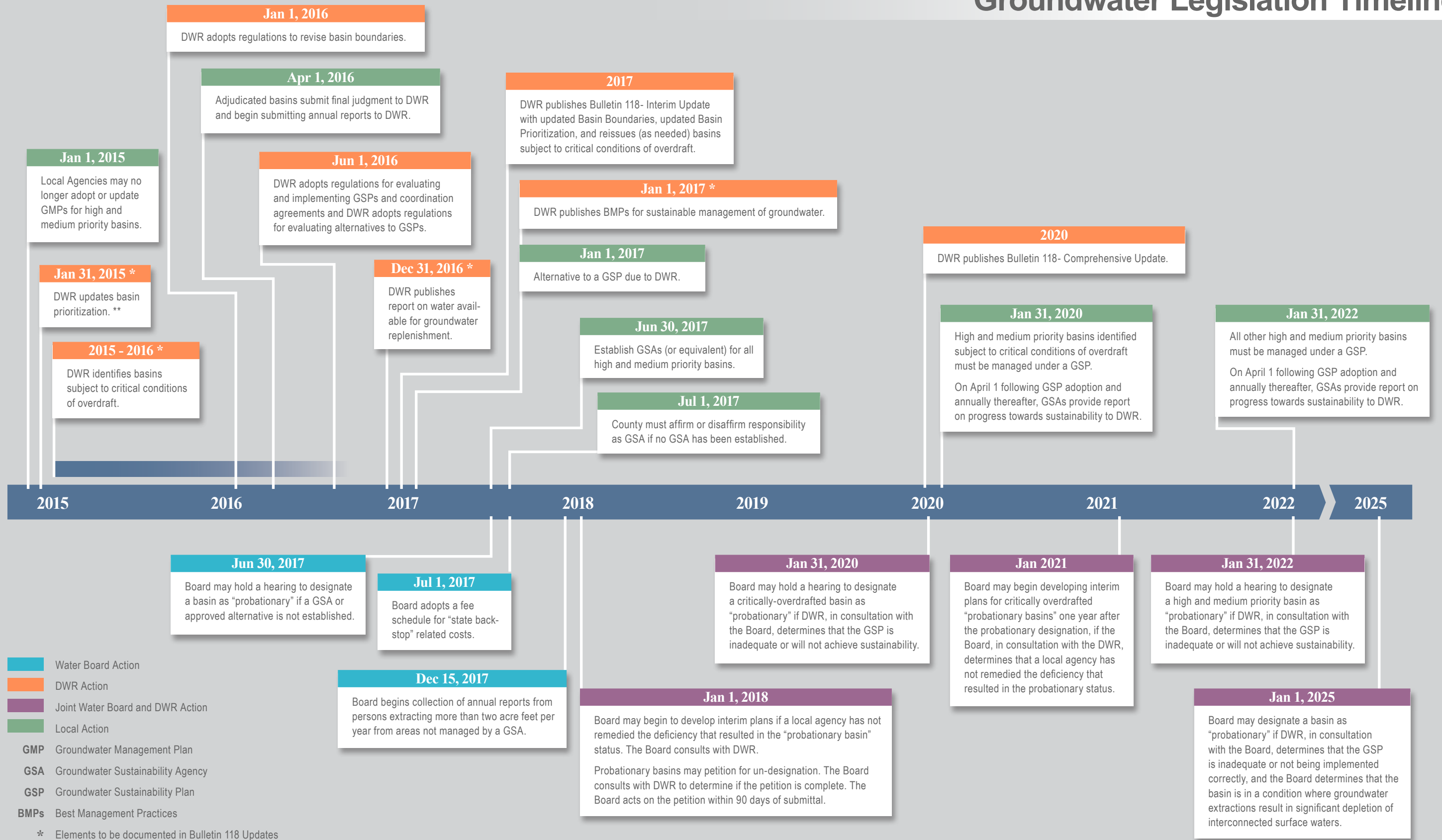
Liability

CSAC opposes the transfer of primary liability for the statewide flood control system to local jurisdictions.

- CSAC supports a defined standard of liability for flood control infrastructure
- CSAC supports a proportional and equitable distribution of liability between all levels of government associated with the statewide flood control system.
- CSAC supports the enactment of a State Hazard Mitigation Plan law to provide funds for targeted relocation efforts in high-risk areas.

Attachment Six
Groundwater Legislation Timeline

Groundwater Legislation Timeline



- Water Board Action
- DWR Action
- Joint Water Board and DWR Action
- Local Action
- GMP** Groundwater Management Plan
- GSA** Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- GSP** Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- BMPs** Best Management Practices

* Elements to be documented in Bulletin 118 Updates
 ** Basin prioritization will be updated prior to each Bulletin 118 Update (estimated to be every 5 years)

Attachment Seven
Grazing Regulatory Action Project

**GRAZING REGULATORY ACTION PROJECT
(GRAP)**

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grap.shtml

**Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Informational Update**

State Water Resources Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Boards

1


Purpose and Overview of Today's Session

Purpose:


- Background of GRAP
- Summary of Input from Focused Listening Sessions
- Listen to Stakeholder Comments & Questions
- Next Steps

Overview: Who Where What When Why How

2



Who/Where




The Water Boards

State Water Resources Control Board & Nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Primary responsibility for coordination and control of water quality

Mandate to address all discharges of waste

3



What

Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP)

Enhance environmental benefits from grazing, protect beneficial uses of surface and groundwater & address water quality impacts potentially related to livestock grazing.

Facilitate efficiency and consistency while accounting for regional differences.

Collaborative effort to address impaired and priority waters.

4



GRAP will not include:
Overlapping regulations with
Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)
or
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Programs

5



When

GRAP Schedule

Milestone	Estimated Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused Outreach Listening Sessions 	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader Outreach • Call for Science • Development of Options 	2015

6



Why

Well-managed livestock grazing operations can provide benefits to the environment, the economy, and California consumers.

Grazing operations can contribute to impairments of water quality and impact beneficial uses.

7



Why

It's the Law

The Water Boards are mandated to:

- Address discharges of waste
- Address impaired waters
- Protect high quality waters

8

How

In developing GRAP, we will consider:

- Water Board mandates
- Tools already in use
- Stakeholder input

9

We will also consider:

- California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan (1995)
- Proposed Statewide Waiver For National Forests in 2011
- Online submittal of related science

10

Stakeholder Input Focused Listening Sessions November 2014

Focus Groups: Ranching and related Industries;
Government and Local Agencies; Environmental &
Environmental Justice Organizations; Academia; Tribes

Asked for input on same topics from each Group

11

Definition of Grazing for GRAP

- Commercial operation
- No confidential business information
- Based on risk to water quality
- Season of use/duration of use
- Nexus to water
- Size of operation/not on size of operation
- Types of animals/not on types of animals
- Herd size/not on herd size
- By habitat type
- Include ecosystem services

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A Successful Regulatory Program

- Both private & public lands/not both
- Regional, not statewide
- Statewide
- Voluntary-not regulatory
- Regulatory – not voluntary
- Reward good practices/not punitive
- Include incentives
- Include incentives for rancher's participation in outreach/education programs
- No cost to operators where water quality standards are being met
- Emphasize management practices with monitoring
- Encourage herding
- Fencing problematic/encourage fencing
- Priority to protect wet areas
- Consider wet/dry areas differently

13

(continued)

- Tiered system that treats high risk operations differently than low risk
- Stable/adequate resources for both short & long term
- Not duplicative/coordinated with other agencies
- Build off of past efforts
- Recognize the benefits of grazing
- Coordinate with rangeland experts
- Statewide bacteria standard
- Stream setbacks
- Self-monitoring
- Focus on areas with problems

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Monitoring

- Low cost
- Inexpensive & cost effective
- Use *E.coli* as fecal indicator bacteria (FIB)
- Monitor parameters other than bacteria
- Include FIB, temperature, sediment, fish habitat
- Not duplicative
- No monitoring required unless problem
- No monitoring required if Ranch WQ Plan is being implemented
- Focus on areas with highest public health risk
- Focus on areas with intensive public recreation

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(continued)

- Structure & health of streams
- Specific for type of animal
- Required for public lands only
- Coordinated with land management agencies and watershed groups
- Monitor pack stations in the back country
- Focus on sensitive areas (e.g. alpine wet meadows)
- Include cost-effective computer modeling
- Flexible
- Include structure & health of stream reaches
- Protective of all beneficial uses
- Focus on habitat function

16

Unusual or extreme circumstances

- Catastrophic fire
- Livestock & wildlife diseases
- Climate change
- Drought
- Flooding
- Flexibility in stocking rates

17

Better Collaboration With All Stakeholders

- Hold a lot of small sessions like the Focused Listening Sessions
- Like invitation only/don't like invitation only
- Don't separate stakeholder groups/separate stakeholder groups
- More meetings not in Sacramento/more meetings in Sacramento
- Use the website to share the progress of GRAP and the types of input received from stakeholders
- Keep the process transparent
- Use a listserv

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listserv

To self-subscribe to the GRAP email subscription list or "listserv", please go to http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml and select "Water Quality", then "Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP)".

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Next Steps

- Stakeholder Sessions
 - Sacramento – November 2014
 - San Luis Obispo, Redding, Bishop - January 2015
- Online submittal of related science –*coming soon!*
- Share summary of input and science on our website
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grap.shtml
- Develop Options
- Stakeholder Input on Options

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For questions about the process of developing the GRAP, please contact:

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For questions related to stakeholder meeting schedule or locations, please contact:

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Stakeholder Comments and Questions

- Time Limit of Three (3) Minutes Per Speaker
- Esther Tracy, Moderator

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Attachment Eight
2015 CSAC State & Federal Priorities



California State Association of Counties

(As adopted by the CSAC Executive Committee)

CSAC 2015 STATE ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

California counties remain focused on implementing numerous significant reforms involving fundamental shifts of responsibilities in the public safety and health arenas that require flexible and efficient solutions. While economic recovery in California has remained steady, it has been modest and inconsistent throughout our 58 counties. Further, income growth has not been uniform across our communities, thus placing further challenges on counties tasked with providing public services to those in need. With the goal of ensuring that all counties succeed, CSAC is leading efforts to ensure that counties can effectively manage new responsibilities and meet service demands in an ever-changing environment. From working to protect existing revenues and avoiding new costs to encouraging innovation and collaborative problem solving, CSAC remains at the forefront of significant statewide issues, fighting for counties and the Californians we serve.

The 2015 CSAC State Legislative Priorities reflect an ongoing commitment to successful implementation of 2011 realignment and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, as well as seeking resources to address infrastructure deficiencies from transportation to water systems. The chart below outlines areas of opportunity to retain and secure financial resources for counties. Additionally, CSAC will advance county interests within a diverse array of key county issues.

Protecting Vital County Resources

Every day, year after year, CSAC works to protect billions of dollars in financial resources that support locally delivered services. For 2015, the priority funding areas below will serve as the focus of CSAC’s advocacy efforts. While other funding sources also require ongoing, permanent vigilance, the list below represents policy areas where CSAC will lead the charge to protect existing resources and secure new or renewed funding for California counties. Brief descriptions of many issues can be found in the pages that follow.

2011 Realignment <i>Ensure proper distribution of 2011 realignment, including the \$1 billion AB 109 allocation and allocation of mental health funds</i>	\$6B
AB 85/Affordable Care Act Implementation <i>Ensure proper distribution of 1991 realignment funds, including retaining funds for public health and returning savings associated with indigent health</i>	\$1.3B
Cap and trade funds <i>Secure additional funding for local government GHG reduction projects and protect funding for affordable housing and sustainable communities</i>	\$0.5B - \$1B
Dept of Fish and Game Payment In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	\$18M

<i>Includes payment of past due monies owed to counties since 2002-03</i>	
Water Bond <i>Influence water bond allocation and guideline development for local government access to funding for groundwater implementation, stormwater and flood control programs, regional planning funds and clean drinking water programs</i>	\$2B
Court security funding <i>Maintain recent increases and secure new resources for new facilities</i>	\$2M - \$5M
Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction grants (MIOCR) <i>Increase grants for juvenile and adult offenders' mental health services</i>	\$100M
Medi-Cal Administration <i>Protect existing and seek new funding for county outreach, eligibility, and enrollment</i>	\$500M
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Maintenance of Effort <i>Monitor the mechanics of the 2012 IHSS MOE deal</i>	\$1B
Property tax allocation issues <i>Secure continued funding for counties with insufficient ERAF</i>	\$5M
Mandate backlog <i>Secure further repayment of debts for pre-2004 and suspended mandates</i>	\$1.9B
Transportation Funding <i>Ensure existing gas tax revenues are accurately allocated and secure additional transportation revenues for local streets and roads</i>	\$800M - \$1.2B
Special Distribution Fund <i>Secure funding to mitigate gaming impacts on government services</i>	\$9M
TOTAL	\$13B

2015 Legislative Priorities

Budget Priorities

Pre-2004 Mandate Repayment. CSAC will continue to support the Administration's commitment to paying down the Wall of Debt mandates and urge the Governor to continue to make the full repayment a priority. Should current year revenues not be sufficient to complete the remaining \$800 million in reimbursements owed to local agencies, we request that the Administration continue to pay down this debt, either through direct appropriation or via the Rainy Day Fund reserve.

Payment-in-lieu of Taxes (PILT). CSAC will advocate for approximately \$18 million in PILT owed counties dating back to FY 2002-03. The law clearly indicates that the state owes counties for the loss of local property taxes resulting from the state taking ownership of private lands. PILT funds are discretionary dollars to local governments and remain critical to some of the smallest counties. The non-payment of PILT by the state has a direct impact on local general funds and the ability to provide services, many state mandated.

Recidivism Reduction Grants / Behavioral Health Interventions. CSAC will advocate for \$100 million in additional resources for the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) program to assist with mental health services for both the juvenile and adult criminal justice populations.

Medi-Cal County Administrative Costs. CSAC will seek an additional \$100-150 million (split between state and federal funds) for county administration of Medi-Cal in the current year. We continue to develop an estimate for the budget year based on the work counties are required to perform, what counties can reasonably expect to spend, and what appears reasonable to the Administration.

Administration of Justice

2011 Public Safety Realignment. CSAC will continue to actively work in collaboration with the Administration, Legislature, and key public safety stakeholders in addressing public safety realignment implementation issues, primarily related to sentencing changes associated with AB 109. In 2015, CSAC's primary areas of focus will be the long-term impacts associated broadly with county liability, long-term jail offenders, and better managing of behavioral health concerns of the court-involved population. Specifically, CSAC will continue to advocate for a hard cap on felony jail terms, seek – in collaboration with the state – potential remedies and mutually beneficial behavioral health responses and strategies, and promote additional investment of \$100 million in the Mentally Ill Crime Reduction Grant Program. Our ongoing commitment to a robust realignment-related training and education program will continue.

Supplemental court security funding (new court facilities). In follow up to last year's success in securing both funding and a process by which counties can seek supplemental court security funding associated with the activation of a new court facility, CSAC – in collaboration with the California State Sheriffs' Association – will advocate for sustained baseline funding for those counties awarded resources in 2014-15, work to identify potential future needs, and undertake individual county outreach where needed. In 2015-16, the funding level for the supplemental court security line item must be calibrated to cover ongoing approved county costs from the current year along with an estimate of the potential new costs in the budget year. In addition, CSAC is requesting elimination of the per-deputy funding cap.

Criminal Justice/Affordable Care Act Intersection. The CSAC Administration of Justice and Health and Human Service Policy Committees continue to work collaboratively to promote best practices and encourage maximum participation associated with new opportunities for the court-involved population under the Affordable Care Act. As part of these efforts, CSAC is requesting a statutory change that would expressly grant counties the authority to claim federal financial participation for Medi-Cal eligible inmates who have 24+ hour stays at a hospital if the services delivered are for mental health or psychiatry. Those costs are allowable for the juvenile population. It is our understanding that DHCS indicated its intent to permit claiming only for health (and not mental health) services. We continue to work with the Administration to secure finalized and streamlined claiming protocols as soon as is practical.

Reinvestment in the Juvenile System. CSAC will partner with the Chief Probation Officers of California to refocus interest in the juvenile justice system, specifically related to smart and targeted prevention and intervention efforts aimed at preventing deeper downstream involvement in the criminal justice system. This initiative will encompass a commitment of time and resources to exploring counties' gang violence intervention and prevention efforts and well as broad-based framing of issues to help refocus interest and resources on a vital component of the

criminal justice system that largely has been overlooked during the intensive triage period following the October 2011 implementation of public safety realignment.

Proposition 47. CSAC anticipates criminal justice system disruption associated with the implementation of the new sentencing structure imposed by Proposition 47, approved by voters in November 2014. To assess impacts and ensure that counties are well positioned to benefit from allocation of any state savings anticipated in 2016-17, CSAC will work closely with counties, our criminal justice system partners, the Administration, Legislature, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and other key stakeholders in assessing specific operational and fiscal impacts.

Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

Groundwater Legislation Clean-up & Implementation. CSAC will work closely with counties, the Administration and the Legislature regarding needed changes to the new groundwater sustainability laws that will facilitate county implementation without threatening the intent of groundwater sustainability. CSAC serves as the county representative contact at the Administration's regular meetings on the groundwater legislation implementation. CSAC is also organizing several educational forums in 2015 for county officials on the groundwater legislation.

Stormwater Funding. Counties are having difficulty raising revenue to support flood protection infrastructure upgrades and maintenance and compliance with new water quality requirements because of the vote threshold requirements under Proposition 218. CSAC, in collaboration with other public and private stakeholders, will support legislation that would amend Article XIII D, section 6(c) of the California Constitution (Proposition 218) to expand its exemption from the majority-property-owner or 2/3-registered-voter election requirement from "fees or charges for sewer, water, and refuse collection services" to "fees or charges for storm water and flood control, sewer, water, and refuse collection services".

Water Bond Implementation. Proposition 1 (Prop 1), the \$7.5 billion Water Bond was approved by California voters on Nov. 4, 2014. Prop 1 will fund investments in water projects and programs as part of a statewide, comprehensive water plan for California. The ultimate value and effectiveness of the bond will depend on how it is implemented and how the funds are spent. CSAC will work with the Legislature and Administration on the implementation of Prop 1 and guideline development with a specific focus on groundwater management funding, clean drinking water funding, stormwater and flood control programs and Integrated Regional Water Management Planning funds, among other items.

Marijuana Regulation. Similar to last year, the California Police Chiefs Association and the California Cannabis Industry Association are planning to sponsor separate pieces of legislation that would, in differing ways, establish a statewide regulatory framework for the cultivation, processing, transportation, testing, recommendation and sale of medical marijuana. As directed by CSAC policy on medical marijuana, CSAC will continue to advocate for strong local control and environmental protections in the legislation relative to cultivation activities and dispensary operations. In addition, CSAC will continue to oppose proposed requirements that would impose unreasonable enforcement responsibilities onto counties.

Rural Counties Initiative & PILT. CSAC will continue to advocate for a restoration of funds for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). Additionally, CSAC will advocate for a Rural Infrastructure Program to provide additional funding to California's smallest counties for critical infrastructure investments that ensure the health and safety of California's unique, rural communities. Furthermore, CSAC will continue to advocate for programs of particular importance to rural areas, including farmland and open space preservation and county fairs.

Cap and Trade. The Legislature approved and the Governor signed California's first Cap and Trade Expenditure plan this year, totaling \$872 million in investments to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in California. In addition, the budget created a framework for how the Legislature will allocate future Cap and Trade auction revenues with 60% of all futures funds dedicated to continuous appropriations for a variety of different program areas (see Housing, Land Use & Transportation section for additional details). However, 40% of Cap and Trade funds have been secured for natural resource investments in future budget years, upon annual appropriation of the Legislature. CSAC will continue to advocate for local government eligibility for these funds, with a focus on programs in the waste management, energy and water resources sectors.

Employee Relations

Pensions. CSAC will participate in a discussion with other public agency stakeholders, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), the Administration and the Department of Finance regarding what should be considered compensation when computing retirement benefits. Since its passage in 2012, the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) has necessitated cleanup language, including what can be classified as pensionable compensation. CSAC will advocate for maximum flexibility, while maintaining the need for fiscal prudence at both the local and state levels.

CSAC will lead the effort to ensure additional PEPRA cleanup is held as a priority by CalPERS and the Administration, specifically the exemption for public retirees to serve in a locally elected capacity without being forced to reinstate or waive their access to retirement benefits.

Workers' Compensation. CSAC will be active in strongly opposing further efforts by labor organizations to increase such benefits at the cost of public employers.

Open Meetings and Public Records Act. CSAC will join other public agency advocates in ensuring access to open government remains without imposing greater costs to our public agencies.

Collective Bargaining. As is the case each legislative session, labor organizations will undoubtedly attempt to modify the Meyers-Milias Brown Act (MMBA) to make it more difficult for public agencies to balance fair benefits with budgetary needs at the collective bargaining table. CSAC will maintain its strong opposition to any change to MMBA that would provide an unfair advantage to employee organizations.

Government Finance and Operations

Municipal Bankruptcy. The Great Recession has regrettably been marked by three significant municipal bankruptcies in California; the Cities of Vallejo, Stockton, and San Bernardino are going through or have completed the Chapter 9 bankruptcy process in federal court. Stockton's case, however, has brought with it significant implications for other local agencies that find themselves in fiscal crisis. In October, a federal bankruptcy judge ruled that payments to CalPERS (Stockton's pension system) could be reduced by the court.

While Stockton's bankruptcy plan does not include reduced payments to CalPERS, it is likely that the Legislature will view this ruling – the first of its kind in California – as one that poses significant financial risk to CalPERS and its members. CSAC successfully negotiated resolution on the last bill that sought to limit local agencies' access to federal bankruptcy by requiring a neutral mediation process prior to filing (or declaration of a fiscal emergency); however, it is likely that the Legislature will seek to revisit this issue in the coming session.

While legislators have discussed municipal bankruptcy in the past, this new issue brings with it an additional policy consideration: the safety of public employees' retirement provided by CalPERS. We don't yet know where legislative leaders or the Governor will land with regards to an appropriate remedy.

Vote Thresholds for Locally-Approved Taxes. CSAC has long-supported greater revenue raising authority at the local level and will support legislative constitutional amendments to reduce vote thresholds for local taxes. Depending on the outcome of the November election, the Legislature may seriously consider a number of measures that reduce voter approval requirements for a variety of specific purposes; as such a change requires a constitutional amendment, the challenge ahead is to determine the approach that has the best chance for voter support.

Redevelopment Dissolution. Counties remain critical players in the ongoing dissolution of community redevelopment agencies. CSAC is committed to assisting counties in their multiple roles as successor agency, oversight board participants, and tax administrators to ensure consistent and timely communication and coordination among the county, local stakeholders, and the state. Further, CSAC will continue to advocate against unnecessary changes to the current dissolution process in order to ensure that former tax increment revenues flow back to affected taxing entities and that former redevelopment agencies wind down in an expeditious manner. Based on the Governor's veto messages on several bills dealing with redevelopment, the Administration will be taking a leadership role with interested legislators in crafting future solutions.

Mandates. The current process for identifying reimbursable mandates and securing payments owed to local agencies for mandated programs and services is arcane and oftentimes biased against local agencies. While the state is making progress on paying down the debt associated with pre-2004 mandate reimbursements, CSAC will continue to advocate for additional funding to ensure that debt is resolved, as well as future reforms to ensure a more equitable mandate reimbursement process.

Health and Human Services

Renewal of California's Federal Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver. With California's current federal Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver ending in October 2015, the Department of Health Care Services will be submitting their proposal for the subsequent waiver in early 2015. CSAC will remain engaged in the stakeholder processes and will be advocating for another five-year waiver that provides at least the same level of funding for county safety-net providers as the current waiver. The waiver concept paper released by the Administration included a proposal to seek federal approval to fund "shelter," or housing, using Medicaid funds. In collaboration with our county partners, CSAC will advocate for federal funding to test county whole person care pilot programs that aim to integrate health, behavioral health and social services that may include utilizing funding for housing and shelter services.

Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Waiver. The Department of Health Care Services plans to request a waiver amendment to California's current Section 1115 waiver to operate the Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) program as a county opt-in organized delivery system. Counties choosing to participate would act as specialty health plans for the delivery of substance use disorder treatment, similar to the existing delivery of specialty mental health services at the county level.

CSAC will be advocating for the waiver amendment to include the flexibility to test pilots allowing some counties to assume the role of the specialty health plan, to make integration as seamless as possible, and considerations for rural counties.

The Administration has yet to finalize the financing considerations. They have proposed creating a county-specific sharing ratio based on history and future projections. CSAC will remain engaged in the development of the financing mechanism as it evolves.

Connecting Jail and Health and Human Services. CSAC will continue to seek partnership opportunities with the Department of Health Care services, the Department of Social Services, private foundations and other stakeholders on enrollment, eligibility, quality and improving outcomes for the court-involved population. CSAC will seek opportunities to obtain funds for inpatient hospitalizations, including psychiatric hospitalizations, for adults and juveniles while incarcerated. CSAC will also seek opportunities to connect the court-involved population to social services that will improve outcomes and reduce recidivism.

AB 85 Formulas. CSAC will continue to engage the Administration and monitor the integrity of the mechanics associated with the diversion of the 1991 Health Realignment funds under AB 85.

Poverty. California's poverty rate continues rank amongst highest in the nation. Poverty undermines the success of our programs and the families we serve. It is anticipated that several bills and issues related to poverty will be introduced in the upcoming legislative session. CSAC will convene a workgroup to establish policies to address poverty and homelessness at the county level.

Congregate Care Reform. CSAC will continue to engage the Department of Social Services as their proposal to redesign the foster care agency and group home system moves forward. Counties are especially interested in potential fiscal impacts and retaining the flexibility to ensure the best placement option for each child in the foster care system.

Eliminating EBT Fees. CSAC has joined a coalition to advocate for a reduction in the amount of bank fees that CalWORKs and CalFresh recipients pay through the use of the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system California families that qualify for and receive public assistance on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards currently pay about \$19 million a year from their grant amounts to withdraw cash from ATMs or check their account balances.

Housing, Land Use and Transportation

New Revenue for Transportation Infrastructure. CSAC will continue to work with a coalition of transportation stakeholders to identify and evaluate viable new revenue options to replace and/or augment the gasoline excise tax (gas tax) for transportation infrastructure investments. The local street and road system is facing a more than \$7 billion annual shortfall for the maintenance and preservation of the existing system, let alone other critical modes of transportation. Mileage-based road user charges seem to be gaining traction as a potential replacement revenue source. Accordingly, CSAC will participate in the California Transportation Commission's Road User Charge (RUC) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to inform the development of a vehicle miles traveled based demonstration project in California.

Even if the state moves to replace the gasoline excise tax with a RUC, implementation will take many years. CSAC will also explore interim revenue options to bridge the funding gap in the short-term. This will include options such as securing the near-term repayment of approximately \$1.2 billion in existing transportation loans, returning truck weight fees back to transportation (\$950 million is currently being diverted to pay transportation related general fund bond debt service), identifying a replacement revenue source to pay existing and future transportation bond debt service, new transportation infrastructure bonds, and reducing the voter threshold for local transportation sales tax measures (estimated to potentially generate over \$300 million annually for local transportation priorities). Additionally, CSAC will continue to work with stakeholders to sunset the existing diversion of \$128 million in annual Highway User tax Account (HUTA) revenue to the general fund. Staff will also continue to monitor gas tax subventions to counties to ensure counties receive accurate levels of funding.

Permanent Source for Affordable Housing. Safe, decent and affordable housing is the foundation of healthy and sustainable communities. The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) reports that 1 million Californians lack access to affordable housing, that 2 in 3 renters are overpaying, and that 1 in 5 renters have overcrowded households. The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program provides an opportunity to invest new revenues into building affordable housing in the state but a more flexible permanent source of funding, not limited to GHG-related funds, is also needed. CSAC will support efforts to create a permanent source for affordable housing.

CSAC will continue regular conversations with the department to ensure state oversight of local planning activities is commensurate with statutory authority. The challenge of affordable housing requires a proactive partnership between counties, cities and the state. CSAC staff will work to develop new relationships and find ways to partner together to incentivize and encourage planning for affordable housing in California.

Cap and Trade Implementation. A significant majority of cap and trade auction revenues were continuously appropriated in the FY 2014-15 state budget, including 20-percent of all future cap and trade auction proceeds for affordable housing and sustainable communities. With the fuels coming under the cap in 2015, auction revenues are expected to grow significantly into the future. CSAC will continue to work with the Strategic Growth Council (charged with implementing the AHSC program) and other state agencies and departments to ensure all counties are eligible to apply for grants and loans under the program and that eligible projects include improvements to the local street and road network that have greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions benefits and provide the right-of-way for active transportation and mass transit.

Sixty-percent of all cap and trade auction proceeds have been budgeted on an on-going basis. The other 40-percent of revenues were allocated on a one-time basis in FY 2014-15 for energy, water and natural resource programs and projects. This puts the appropriation of 40-percent of cap and trade revenues squarely in the middle of budget negotiations between the Administration and Legislature on an annual basis.

Tribal and Intergovernmental Affairs. CSAC will proactively engage with the Administration and Legislature to influence the renegotiation of 1999 Tribal-State Gaming Compacts which are set to expire in 2019. CSAC's priorities for the revised compacts include requiring judicially enforceable local mitigation agreements for any new or expanded gaming or related facilities, a more robust tribal environmental review process with state oversight to ensure adequacy of environmental documents, and ensuring robust mitigation mechanisms for preexisting local off-reservation impacts from gaming enterprises underway prior to date of any new compacts.

The Special Distribution Fund (SDF), the sole mechanism for mitigation of local impacts under the 1999 compacts, is insolvent. Starting in FY 2014-15, counties will no longer receive SDF grants unless the Legislature and Governor backfill the account or gaming revenues paid into the account increase. CSAC will seek a \$9 million appropriation to fund the SDF grants to counties until Tribal-State Gaming Compacts are renegotiated to replace the SDF with local agreements.



CSAC 2015 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

CSAC staff, in consultation with Waterman and Associates, developed the following list of federal issues of significance to California's counties. These issues will represent the association's top lobbying priorities for 2015, with CSAC staff and Waterman and Associates working together to identify other emerging topics that may necessitate action throughout the year.

MAP-21 Reauthorization. CSAC will continue to promote a number of key transportation priorities as part of the ongoing highway and transit reauthorization process. Among other issues, the association strongly supports a dedicated federal funding stream for local bridges, both on- and off-system. Additionally, CSAC is seeking opportunities to: further streamline the regulatory and project delivery processes; promote programs that increase safety on the existing transportation system; and, advocate for initiatives that protect previous and future investments via system maintenance and preservation.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. CSAC will continue to serve as a lead advocate in efforts to protect - as well as enhance - the SCAAP program, which is a key source of federal funding for a significant number of California's counties. CSAC will fight to eliminate statutory language that authorizes the U.S. Department of Justice to transfer up to 10 percent of SCAAP funding to other justice accounts.

CSAC also will continue to advocate for a long-term reauthorization of SCAAP and will continue to seek several key programmatic changes to the program. Such changes could come about as part of an immigration-reform effort.

Native American Affairs/Fee-to-Trust Reform. CSAC will continue to lead local government opposition to any legislative effort that would overturn the Supreme Court's *Carcieri v. Salazar* decision absent concomitant reforms in the Indian fee-to-trust process; likewise, the association will continue to promote its comprehensive legislative reform proposal. CSAC will continue to oppose administrative changes to the federal acknowledgment process that would diminish the role of local governments and other interested parties.

Payments-in-lieu-of-Taxes. CSAC will continue to advocate for a long-term reauthorization of mandatory entitlement funding for the PILT program. In the absence of a long-term renewal, CSAC will support full funding for PILT via the appropriations process. Mandatory funding for PILT expired in fiscal year 2014, and final payments were distributed to counties in June.

Secure Rural Schools Act Reauthorization. CSAC will maintain efforts aimed at securing a multi-year reauthorization of the SRS program. Absent a long-term program renewal, CSAC supports a short-term extension of the Act. The program expired at the end of fiscal year 2013, and final payments were distributed to eligible counties in April of 2014.

Property Assessed Clean Energy Program. CSAC supports legislative and administrative remedies that would help expand residential PACE programs. The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) issued a directive in 2010 that effectively shut down PACE programs in California and across the country. Bipartisan legislation that would prevent FHFA from adopting policies that contravene established state and local PACE laws remains on the table.

Water Resources. CSAC will monitor legislative proposals to ensure consistency with the association's comprehensive policy direction on water. Given the ongoing drought, various interests continue to pressure California's congressional delegation and the Obama administration to address the state's chronic water shortage. A range of proposals are being discussed that would address water transfers, endangered species laws, water quality, and California Bay-Delta protections, to name a few.

CSAC will continue to promote legislation that would provide a *Clean Water Act* Section 404 permitting exemption for maintenance removal of sediment, debris, and vegetation from local flood control channels and basins.

CSAC also will continue to monitor and support congressional efforts to block EPA's administrative actions aimed at expanding regulatory authority over certain bodies of water. The EPA's proposed "Waters of the U.S." regulation remains highly controversial and is opposed by a variety of stakeholders, including state and local governments, agricultural interests, and the Small Business Administration.

Remote Sales Tax Legislation. CSAC will continue to advocate for federal legislation - the *Marketplace Fairness Act* - that would authorize state and local governments to require tax collection and remittance by remote sellers. Under current law, online retailers are exempt from collecting sales taxes in states where they have no physical presence, or "nexus." In these situations, the consumer is responsible for calculating the use tax and remitting the payment to the relevant jurisdictions, but compliance is low. As online sales continue to grow, local governments are losing billions of dollars in uncollected sales tax revenue.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Reauthorization. CSAC will continue to promote TANF reauthorization legislation that would restore state and county flexibility to tailor work and family stabilization activities to families' individual needs. The association also supports maintaining the focus on work activities under TANF, while recognizing that "work first" does not mean "work only."

Child Welfare Services. CSAC supports increased federal funding for services and income support needed by parents seeking to reunify with children who are in foster care. The association also supports increased financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, and access to health care.

In addition, CSAC supports retaining the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and elimination of outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances. Finally, CSAC supports federal funding to address the service needs of youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

In 2014, Congress approved the *Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act* (HR 4980). The new law makes several federal reforms to better serve foster youth and includes provisions that focus on the emerging issue of sex trafficking of minors. While the Act exemplifies the bipartisan approach that Congress typically takes on child welfare issues, sufficient funding is needed to support the goals of the law.

CSAC Internal Monitoring

In addition, CSAC will continue to provide internal monitoring on a number of issues that are of significance to California's counties.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Levee Vegetation Removal Policy. In 2014, Congress approved a major water resources reform bill known as the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act* (PL 113-121). Among other things, the legislation includes language championed by CSAC that requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to undertake a comprehensive reexamination of its controversial levee vegetation removal policy. CSAC will actively monitor the Corps' review process, which, under the law, must be concluded by December 10, 2015.

Health Reform Implementation. CSAC will support continued federal funding for the Affordable Care Act, including measures supporting state and county administration of the law.

Pension Tier Changes - Conflict with IRS Requirements. CSAC will continue to support legislation (HR 205) that would clarify the authority of local governments to propose and implement creative solutions to rising pension costs. At the same time, the association will urge the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to remove regulatory barriers that prevent local governments from implementing their own local pension reforms.

Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds. CSAC will oppose any proposal that seeks to limit or eliminate the tax treatment of municipal bonds. Under current law, investors are not required to pay federal income taxes on interest earned from most bonds issued by state and local governments. The tax exempt status of municipal bonds therefore provides counties with a cost-effective tool to finance public infrastructure projects and capital improvements.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). CSAC supports the creation of a new agricultural flood hazard area under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Specifically, Congress should establish a FEMA flood zone for agriculturally-based communities to allow replacement or reinvestment development in historically agricultural floodplains. This program would not require expensive elevation of structures or dry flood proofing, but would still have requirements for wet flood proofing certain structures. Congress should instruct FEMA - for these special agricultural zones - to adjust the NFIP rate to be more actuarially structured in order to evaluate the actual flood risk based on levees providing historical protection, as opposed to assuming that no protection exists.

It should be noted that Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) introduced such legislation - the *Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2012* (HR 4020) - in the 112th Congress. The congressman is expected to reintroduce the bill in the 113th Congress.

Community Development Block Grant. CSAC will promote increased funding for the CDBG program to allow localities to continue to provide a wide variety of economic and community

development activities, such as home rehabilitation loans, public works and infrastructure projects, and various youth-related services. CDBG funds have been targeted for cuts in recent budget cycles, making it increasingly challenging to maintain adequate funding for the block grant.

Eliminate Inmate Exception. CSAC supports the elimination of the federal health benefits "inmate exception" for persons in county jails and detention centers who are in custody pending disposition of charges. Counties are prohibited from billing federal programs for the health services provided to jail inmates prior to adjudication.

Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act. CSAC will oppose legislation that would prohibit state and local governments from imposing taxes on digital goods and services that are taxable under current law. Digital goods and services are online purchases that are downloaded directly by consumers, including music downloads, movies, and newspaper subscriptions. House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) may seek to package such a proposal with remote sales tax legislation.

Byrne Grant Funding. CSAC strongly supports prioritizing Byrne funding in the annual appropriations process and will work collaboratively with the California congressional delegation and others to secure and promote increased funding for the program and the positive local outcomes it helps achieve.

Federal Geothermal Royalties. CSAC opposes any legislative effort that would discontinue geothermal royalty payments to county governments. The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 specifies a formula for the distribution of geothermal revenues to federal, state, and county governments. Under the formula, the federal government retains 25 percent of the revenue, the States receive 50 percent, and county governments receive 25 percent. Several recent attempts have been made to permanently repeal the sharing of geothermal revenues with counties.

Transient Occupancy Tax. CSAC will work to ensure counties' continued authority to assess and collect transient occupancy taxes on the full rate paid by the consumer for all appropriate transient lodging, regardless of whether the consumer pays through a hotel or any other vendor.

2-1-1 Statewide. CSAC has actively supported both state and federal legislation to help build and fund a statewide 2-1-1 referral system. 2-1-1 is a free, easy-to-remember telephone number that connects people to essential community information and services. In 2009, over 1.6 million Californians called 2-1-1 to find needed community services such as rent and mortgage assistance, food and shelter, health care, job training, transportation, child care, and senior care. 2-1-1 also plays an informational role during emergencies and disasters and relieves pressure on the 9-1-1 system at these critical times. The value of this service was evident during the 2007 San Diego wildfires when 2-1-1 call centers provided information and support to more than 130,000 callers in five days. Currently, just 27 of California's 58 counties have 2-1-1 service covering 92 percent of the population. CSAC will continue to work at both the state and federal levels to promote the need for a comprehensive statewide 2-1-1 system.

Medical and Long-Term Care Premiums. CSAC supports federal legislation to extend to all retirees the option to use tax free distribution from qualified retirement plans to pay for medical and long-term care premiums. In the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Congress granted specified

public safety officers the ability to use up to \$3,000 per year of tax-free dollars from their qualified retirement plans to pay for medical and long-term care premiums. Extension of this benefit to all retirees who participate in a qualified retirement plan could encourage people to save more while lessening the burden on government budgets to cover rising health care costs.

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