



2018 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

POLICIES AND PRIORITIES



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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
701 OCEAN STREET SANTA CRUZ, CALIF. 95060

ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND AGRICULTURE

Santa Cruz County has a long tradition of environmental protection and leadership on environmental issues, from banning fracking and offshore oil drilling to protection of riparian corridors and endangered species. Situated on the northern end of Monterey Bay and with an economy heavily dependent on tourism and agriculture, environmental protection remains a top priority. As a self-reliant County when it comes to water resources, the County has also been a leader in water conservation and protecting water resources.

Environment/Park Funding and Education

Recommended by the Department of Parks, Open Spaces and Cultural Education

- Protection and support of California's renowned open spaces is one of the State's greatest achievements, and requires continued investment to assure accessibility for all. The County **Supports** voter approval of SB 5, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018. The Act would provide \$4.1 billion for new parks and water projects, including safe drinking water, stormwater capture and groundwater recharge, and provides funding for parks and park improvements in underserved areas.
- The County **Supports** new grant programs increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor recreation and educational experiences.

Environment/Renewable Energy

Recommended by the County Administrative Officer

- The County **Opposes** legislation or actions that restrict or limit customer choice options for retail power providers or programs, including community choice aggregation.

Environment/Air Quality

Recommended by the Board of Supervisors

- During winter months, wood smoke creates diminished air quality in the San Lorenzo Valley. In 2017, Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 563 into law, creating the Wood Smoke Reduction Program at the Air Resources Board. Unfortunately, the program was not funded and efforts to increase funding through cap-and-trade revenues did not progress. The County **Supports** funding for the Wood Smoke Reduction Program.

Environment/Solid Waste

Recommended by the Department of Public Works

- Continuing challenges in the recycled materials market have led to the closure of recycling centers across the State and for the County to request that residents cut down on the use of plastics until the market for such materials rebounds. The County **Supports** bills to help stimulate demand for recycled materials and sustain and recycling operations.

- Santa Cruz County was one of the first in the state to ban polystyrene to-go products, and has since extended the prohibition to all polystyrene products. In 2017, the State Legislature considered but did not pass a statewide prohibition on polystyrene products. Recent history shows that landmark environmental legislation such as this can take several years to achieve, and a similar bill is likely in the next session. The County **Supports** a statewide ban on polystyrene products.
- Santa Cruz County’s Safe Drug and Sharps Disposal Ordinance set the standard for similar ordinances statewide, representing an aggressive step toward addressing medical waste found in communities across the country. It is an excellent example of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, which may apply to pharmaceuticals, packaging, mattresses or any of a number of common consumer products. The County **Supports** these EPR program legislation intended to divert products from the waste stream and help achieve our goal of Zero Waste.
- The County **Supports** additional funding for state-mandated organic waste diversion programs.

Environment/Flood Protection and Infrastructure

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- With the likelihood of increased coastal flooding, climate change represents a significant threat to coastal communities across California. The County **Supports** legislation and administrative actions for flood protection and enhancement financing, including bonds or budget appropriations. Additionally, the County **Supports** legislation and funding reimbursing the County for ongoing efforts to inventory aging infrastructure and for County oversight. The County also **Supports** efforts to provide a source of funding for the repair or improvement of unsafe or outdated infrastructure where maintenance has been deferred.

Water/Economic Vitality

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- Agriculture and economic development are vital to a sustainable Santa Cruz County, but can be constrained by periodic water shortages that impact surface and groundwater sources. An equitable method of conveyance and storage for agricultural water needs should be a priority of any long term statewide or local plan. The protection of vital agricultural crops in the Santa Cruz region through an equitable solution will ensure areas throughout the state may continue to thrive. The County **Supports** federal, State and regional bond measures that continue planning and development of regional water goals and policies.

Water/Land Use Coordination

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- Santa Cruz County **Supports** legislation that would require continued coordination between land use and water regulatory agencies in California, as well as legislation that would mandate increased coordination and collaboration among cities and county agencies when it comes to water and land use management.

Water/Groundwater

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- Groundwater quality continues to be an area of concern for environmental planners and regulators. The County **Supports** legislation that would fund and provide incentives to the agricultural sector for compliance with clean water goals and additional efforts to improve groundwater integrity.
- The County **Supports** funding for programs to explore, encourage and execute groundwater recharge programs.

Agriculture/Vector Control and Pest Management

Recommended by the Commissioner of Agriculture

- Pest prevention is critical to preserving our agricultural industry and the environment. The County **Supports** legislation funding agricultural and public health Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management/Eradication and Public Education and Outreach Programs. The County **Opposes** any state or federal legislation or budget actions proposed to reduce funding to these critical programs.
- The County **Supports** efforts to restore funding for agricultural border stations.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND LAND USE

Roads, alternative transportation infrastructure and public transit are some of the top priorities of Santa Cruz County residents. Neighborhood vitality is also key to our quality of life, though housing shortfalls have led to rising housing prices that have disproportionately impacted lower-income residents and made it difficult to attract and retain jobs and businesses. There is a growing consensus on the need for additional housing to address the needs of the community, as well as strong public interest in addressing local impacts from the statewide homelessness issue.

Transportation/Roads, Bridges and Alternative Transportation

Recommended by the Department of Public Works

- SB 1 and Measure D represent the largest investment in local transportation in years. However, neither will be sufficient to meet the varying needs of the local transportation network. The County **Supports** additional funding for local transportation, including but not limited to roads, bridges, hazard mitigation, bike/pedestrian transportation (including funding for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail) and more.
- The County **Supports** full State and federal funding of the 2017-18 winter storms disaster recovery efforts, as well as any additional damage from future storms or other natural disasters.

Housing/Homelessness

Recommended by the Board of Supervisors, Department of Planning, Health Services Agency, Department of Human Services and the County Administrative Office

- The County has a long history of collaboration with cities, non-profit organizations and the Homeless Action Partnership Continuum of Care to prevent and end homelessness through the provision of housing and services to persons already without shelter and those at-risk of becoming homeless. Each of the State's counties are in need of increased resources to address needs, including housing, emergency shelter, outreach, essential day services, case management, and mental health disorder and substance abuse services. The County **Supports** legislation that would increase resources for and the ability of persons who are homeless to access those resources and assistance needed to end their homeless situation.
- The County **Supports** legislation that creates, and removes barriers to, additional housing and, where needed, additional supportive housing services, for homeless persons.
- The County **Supports** legislation that establishes dedicated and permanent sources of funding for homeless services.
- With the shift away from temporary housing support and other services toward the "housing first" model, there is a lack of available funding for non-housing services, such as day services or the Winter Shelter Program. The County **Supports** the restoration of funding for non-housing services. The County also **Supports** legislation seeking a waiver of Armory fees for the purposes of providing temporary shelter to homeless persons.

- At the federal level, the County **Supports** legislation that will provide increased funding for programs that address the needs of homeless persons and contribute to ending homelessness, including an increase in housing vouchers and funding specifically targeted towards preventing and ending veteran and youth homelessness. The County also **Supports** updating the McKinney-Vento funding formula to more equitably distribute funds to places disproportionately impacted by homelessness, and to provide subsidy amounts that are aligned with the cost of housing in those communities.

Housing/Affordable Housing

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- Land Use planning is a core priority of Santa Cruz County and the development and implementation of policies, programs and regulations that encourage a balance between employment, transportation and housing are major strategies of the Santa Cruz Sustainability Program. The County **Supports** initiatives that increase all housing, particularly workforce housing along major corridors and roadways. One of the key elements of growing our economy is our ability to attract and retain a skilled workforce. Current housing costs make this a difficult goal to achieve and the County needs funding, incentives and administrative actions that encourage private sector development of housing.
- The County **Supports** legislative actions or programs that mandate priority processing of affordable housing through density bonuses and similar measures aimed at addressing the housing shortfall to the local workforce.
- The County **Supports** legislation that provides incentives or funding grants and loans for the use of alternate methods and materials for the construction of affordable housing to meet local housing goals.
- The County **Supports** legislation making it easier to construct alternative housing, including accessory dwelling units, tiny homes, etc., as well as the removal of overly burdensome regulations preventing development of these kinds of homes.
- The County **Supports** additional funding for affordable housing.

Housing/Regional Housing Bonuses

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- The County **Supports** legislation or administrative actions that would return additional sales taxes or other funding or provide other budget incentives for counties that construct housing totals that exceed the eight-year regional housing goals amounts.

Housing/Senior and Dependent Adult Eviction Protection

Recommended by the Department of Human Services

- Adult Protective Services program clients require stable housing in order to benefit from services, reduce their risk of incidents of abuse, neglect, and self-neglect, and achieve better health

outcomes. However, a recent survey of counties statewide found that counties have limited resources available to assist victims of elder and dependent adult abuse who are marginally housed or at risk of homelessness. Survey respondents also expressed difficulty in identifying and accessing appropriate housing and supportive residential options for vulnerable APS clients. The County **Supports** legislation and funding that would develop, test, and support preservation and eviction prevention services among seniors and dependent adults who have been victims of abuse or neglect, or self-neglect.

Land Use/Cannabis

Recommended by the County Administrative Office

- Under State law, local control over the cultivation and distribution of cannabis was preserved so that local governments have a say in the time, place and manner of local cannabis operations. Given the potential land use, natural resource and public safety concerns the industry presents, the County believes this is important. The County **Supports** efforts to protect and preserve local control over local cannabis operations.

Land Use/Commercial Improvements

Recommended by the County Administrative Office

- The loss of redevelopment left many communities struggling for funds to invest in revitalization and economic development. Across the country, local governments have found novel ways to incentivize revitalization, such as tax deferrals or tax abatement programs. The County of Santa Cruz **Supports** legislation allowing local governments to defer property assessment increases on commercial building improvements for a set period of time, with phased increases to follow up to the fair market value of the completed improvements.

Land Use/Neighborhood Vitality

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- Many communities throughout Santa Cruz County have seen an increase in property maintenance issues over the past few years, and this trend is particularly evident in the rural town areas of the County. The County **Supports** legislation providing resources for new and existing property maintenance-related violations, nuisance issues and property enforcement programs to help protect public safety, as well as property values and neighborhood quality of life.

Land Use/Walkable Communities

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- The County is home to several sustainable “walking communities” that contribute to reduced carbon monoxide, particulate matter and nitrogen oxides air pollutant concentrations. The development of interconnected “Safe Walking Pedestrian Routes” for use by school age children and seniors is an important step that will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and increase walking and bicycling. County **Supports** funding to help mitigate potentially dangerous walking and biking routes.

Land Use/Town Plan Updates

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- The County **Supports** legislation that encourages development of main street or town-centered plans that create local jobs, encourages tourism and create opportunities for residents.

Land Use/Community Development Block Grants

Recommended by the Department of Planning

- The County **Supports** legislation or an administrative actions that would change the Community Development Block Grant criteria to increase the amount and frequency of application/funding cycles for communities similar to Santa Cruz.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Lifting Santa Cruz County residents from the margins and providing them opportunities to succeed is a top priority, and one in three County residents depend on County services in some form or another. The County looks forward to continued leadership in providing a range of health and human services to residents regardless of status, particularly among vulnerable populations. The County also seeks to be a public health leader by working to assure healthy neighborhoods and populations across all socioeconomic boundaries. The County is particularly interested in funding for Homeless Services and Mental Health Care, as well as a solution to the fiscal funding cliff and long-term financial security for Community Health Centers

Human Services/Program Funding

Recommended by the Department of Human Services

- The County **Supports** proposals that would provide full funding of County-administered human services programs and **Opposes** cuts and negative policy changes to these programs in the budget process.
- The County **Opposes** any efforts to reduce federal funding for Medicaid administration or benefits, including efforts to place a per-capita cap on funding or limiting the ability of states to leverage funds through assessments on providers.

Human Services/CalFresh Eligibility

Recommended by the Department of Human Services

- Former foster youth are often challenged to meet their most basic security and health needs, and access to food assistance through CalFresh benefits can greatly improve these youth's health outcomes. The County **Supports** legislation that would grant CalFresh eligibility to all former foster youth, age 26 and under, that receive Medi-Cal.
- The County **Supports** legislation to direct the California Department of Social Services to seek a federal waiver to allow county human services agencies to process CalFresh applications of jail inmates and suspend, rather than terminate, CalFresh eligibility when a recipient is detained in county jail for a period of less than a year.

Human Services/In-Home Supportive Services

Recommended by the Department of Human Services

- The County **Supports** legislation that provides the California Department of Social Services the authority to define an authorized representative function for the IHSS program. This function would allow an IHSS applicant/recipient to designate an individual to act on their behalf for purposes of program eligibility and as employer of the care provider.

Human Services/CalWORKs

Recommended by the Department of Human Services

- Existing regulation limits adults' eligibility for CalWORKs benefits to 24 months unless the adult meets either the CalWORKs Federal Work Participation Requirements (WPR) or criteria for having their time extended; this is known as the Welfare-to-Work (WTW) 24 Month Time Clock. These regulations have both hindered the ability of CalWORKs clients to participate in needed educational and training activities and created significant administrative cost burdens on counties. The County **Supports** legislation that would revise CalWORKs program regulations to eliminate the Time Clock and restore the maximum amount of time that parents can access WTW services to 60 months.
- The County **Supports** raising the CalWORKs grant amounts to a level that at least lifts children out of deep poverty, as well as eliminating the "asset test" to qualify for CalWORKs assistance, which discourages low-income families from saving.
- CalWORKs families who are homeless are eligible to receive 16 days of hotel/motel assistance at a rate of \$65 per day for a family of four or fewer, with an additional \$15 per family member, up to a maximum of \$125 per day, a rate established in 2006. The County **Supports** legislation that would increase the daily assistance rate to enable CalWORKs families who are homeless to secure temporary respite in a hotel/motel.

Human Services/Child Welfare

Recommended by the Department of Human Services

- The County **Supports** requests to the federal government to provide adequate federal funding for services and income support needed by parents seeking to reunify with children who are in foster care.
- The County **Supports** requests to the federal government to increase 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.
- The County **Supports** requests to the federal government to retain the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and eliminate outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances.
- The County **Supports** funding to address the needs of youth who are victims of, or at-risk of becoming victims of, commercial sexual exploitation.
- The County **Supports** legislation allowing certain payments to continue to a successor guardian of a foster youth whose relative guardian is unable to care for the child due to death or incapacity. Such a provision would mirror current law for successor adoptive parents.
- The County **Supports** legislation which would allow for the videoconferencing (i.e., 'Skyping') of monthly caseworker visits for foster youth in the extended foster care program who are in another state attending college or living with relatives. Since many states have not yet implemented the option to extend foster care to youth up to age 21, California is unable to establish reciprocal agreements for visits, thus exposing the state to sanctions for not meeting federal requirements.

- The County **Supports** the reauthorization of the Adoption Incentives Fund that includes: 1) draft formula changes which focus on the rates of adoption instead of the current formula which focus on the numbers of adoptions; and/or 2) adjustments to the financial incentive for guardianship to make it equal to the financial incentives for adoption.

Human Services/Adult and Disability Services

Recommended by the Department of Human Services

- The County **Supports** requests to the federal government to restore full funding for the Social Services Block Grant, which in California is used primarily to augment County- and State-funded In Home Supportive Services for elderly and disabled persons, and to coordinate services to children with disabilities.
- The County **Supports** requests to the federal government to appropriate additional funding to support State and county adult protective services programs.

Health Services/Access to Health Care

Recommended by the Health Services Agency and Human Services Agency

- Access to health care is fundamental to an individual's quality of life. The County **Supports** the ongoing implementation and evaluation of the Affordable Care Act.
- The County **Supports** reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- The County **Supports** measures that enhance counties' and communities' abilities to deliver services through their hospitals and clinics. The County also **Supports** proposals that would provide for the continued expansion of both county and community Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs). The County also **Supports** patient access to a strong Medicaid program and preservation of the FQHC PPS payment methodology, and **Opposes** any efforts to reduce federal funding for Medicaid administration or benefits, including efforts to place a per-capita cap on funding or limiting the ability of states to leverage funds through assessments on providers.
- The County **Supports** the federal Community Health Investment, Modernization and Excellence Act of 2017, which would extend funding for the Community Health Center Fund's investments in health centers for an additional five years and ensure modest amounts of would be available in future years to address national priorities, including access to behavioral health, dental and substance abuse services.
- The County **Supports** full funding of the National Health Service Corps by renewing funding at levels necessary to provide scholarships and loan repayment to thousands more clinicians.
- The County **Supports** investment in Teaching Health Centers by providing necessary funding to preserve current programs and put the Teaching Health Centers model on a path to long-term sustainability and growth. This includes ensuring a sufficient per-resident amount so that the true costs of residency training are fully addressed.

Health Services/Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness

Recommended by the Health Services Agency

- The County **Supports** legislation and policies addressing the prevention of chronic disease and promotion of wellness.
- The County **Supports** a dedicated funding stream to fund preventive health services or activities that improve community health outcomes.
- The County **Supports** flexibility for the State to design prevention programs that take advantage of California's state and local health departments' strengths and encourages the provision of base funding to State and local health departments with additional funding available on a competitive basis.
- The County **Supports** the allocation of new revenue streams in an equitable manner across all local health jurisdictions. .
- The County **Supports** efforts to increase access to healthy foods and reduce food insecurity. The County **Supports** the goals of the Let's Get Healthy California Framework, the California Wellness Plan, the California State Innovation Model (CalSIM) Initiative, and Advancing Prevention in the 21st Century (P21), and the local public health role in realizing these goals.

Health Services/Dental Health

Recommended by the Health Services Agency

- The County **Supports** proposals to expand access to dental health services for low-income Californians.
- The County **Supports** efforts to increase Denti-Cal reimbursement levels to encourage qualified dentists to participate in providing care to low-income children.
- The County **Supports** water fluoridation efforts.
- The County **Supports** dental health education program expansions, including additional funding.

Health Services/Health Care Reform

Recommended by the Health Services Agency

- The County **Supports** efforts to ensure all eligible residents are enrolled in Medi-Cal or Covered California in an efficient and timely manner.
- The County **Supports** adequate coverage, access to care, affordability, prevention, streamlining and evaluation components in Medi-Cal and through Covered California.
- The County **Opposes** Medicaid/Medi-Cal reductions at the State or federal level.
- The County also will continue to monitor the implementation of simplification of Medi-Cal enrollment for participants and providers, and **Oppose** efforts that create disincentives to

enrollment and utilization, such as co-payments and premiums, seek ways to expand access to dental services, maximize federal financial participation and increase provider rates.

- The County **Supports** legislation adding nurse home visiting services as an authorized Medi-Cal benefit. The evidence-based Nurse Family Partnership program and other nurse home visiting programs are already available in 21 California counties.
- The County **Supports** a certification process for Peer Support Services and making those services eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement.
- The County **Supports** legislation establishing a specified timeline, proposed to be no later than 14 business days, for the Department of Healthcare Services to process payment for clean Medi-Cal claims submitted to the State for reimbursement from the County. For claims paid after the 14-day allowable processing time, the County **Supports** an additional payment of interest on the total paid claim amount at the current prime interest rate calculated on the date of the clean claim submission to the date of payment. In the event Department of Health Care Services is not able to process the claims in the allowable timeframe, they will advance to the County funds in the amount equal to the amount of clean claims submitted as an advanced payment no later than 21 business days from the date of the clean claim submission and recoup the final claims payment from the advanced payment. DHCS shall submit a quarterly report to the Legislature on clean claims processing times to Medi-Cal providers, by provider type, no later than 30-days following the end of each fiscal year quarter.

Health Services/Public Health

Recommended by the Health Services Agency

- The County **Supports** legislation focusing on preventive health services or activities that improve community health outcomes, decrease health disparities and encourage the enhancement of funding to support these efforts at the county level and seek to improve nutrition, obesity and fitness education programs as well as health literacy in California's population.
- The County **Supports** funding to address the nationwide opioid epidemic. The County also **Supports** prescriber education on the risks and benefits of opioids and their alternatives, as well as adopting prescribing guidelines that encourage physicians to incorporate alternative non-opioid treatments for pain, and provide the lowest effective doses and the fewest number of pills when prescribing opioid medications.
- The County **Supports** legislation and regulatory efforts that protect and ensure the safety of California's food and water supply, without shifting cost from state to counties and with additional funding provided to counties.
- The County **Supports** legislation empowering California moms to breastfeed their babies by streamlining the enrollment process for the WIC Program, creating new metrics to track breastfeeding rates and health outcomes, and requiring the state to regularly review their equipment standards and reimbursement rates.
- The County **Supports** legislation sponsored by the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) to establish a Cognitive Safety Net for at-risk adults with a cognitive impairment including dementia, traumatic brain injury or a substantial developmental disability. The County also **Supports** studies and assessments of the need for a Cognitive Safety Net system to serve at-

risk adults with cognitive impairments and flexibility in funding existing safety net systems, as well as for the creation of new supportive services, including long-term case management, housing, probate conservatorship funding, new in-home supportive services for adults that are not income based.

- The County **Supports** legislation mandating that the Department of Healthcare Services issue decisions on Drug Medi-Cal provider applications no later than 120 days following the submission of a complete provider enrollment package from the County or a provider in the community contracted with the County to provide Drug Medi-Cal services. The County also **Supports** an administrative rule creating a temporary enrollment designation for new Drug Medi-Cal provider's effective 30-days from the submission of a complete enrollment package, and terminating on the effective date of the final decision on the enrollment request, with the provision that Medi-Cal funds paid to the provider during this period for Drug Medi-Cal services shall be returned to the State in the event that the provider enrollment application is denied. DHS shall also submit a quarterly report to the Legislature on average processing time for Drug Medi-Cal provider enrollment applications, by provider type, no later than 30 days following the end of each fiscal year quarter.

Health Services/Health Information Technology

Recommended by the Health Services Agency

- The County seeks to **Monitor and Advise** on the statewide development of a health information exchange system, the Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program and the Health Information Technology Extension Program for hospitals and providers.
- The County **Supports** proposals to provide funding to local health departments and health systems to support infrastructure, and the staff development necessary to support the meaningful use of health information data, particularly the use of health information to advance understanding and improvement in population health strategies.
- The County **Supports** any state Health Information Technology legislation consistent with federal statutes and regulatory requirements.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Residents expect effective local government, and the County works to meet those expectations through the provision of fair and equitable services, positive customer interactions and prudence when it comes to spending public funds.

Government Operations/Unfunded Mandates

Recommended by the Board of Supervisors

- Through Board leadership, the County was previously successful in securing pre-2004 unfunded mandates from the state. The County **Supports** action to recover the full amount of post-2004 mandates.

Legal Process/Public Records Act

Recommended by County Counsel

- California Government Code Sec. 6250 (the California Public Records Act, or “PRA”) authorizes any person to attain any public record from governmental entities for any purpose, while the California Code of Civil Procedure Sec. 2016.010 (the Civil Discovery Act) authorizes parties to civil litigation to secure evidence and documents pertaining to their case. The Civil Discovery Act has a series of built in protections, time limitations, and procedural requirements designed to ensure that the parties in a civil case operate on a level playing field. The County has seen efforts to use the PRA to secure evidence from governmental entities in civil litigation matters brought against the government effectively undermining the procedural safeguards contained in the Civil Discovery Act and prejudicing government entities in their ability to defend cases brought against them. While there is a litigation exception to the PRA, it has been very narrowly construed. The County **Supports** amending Code of Civil Procedure Sec. 2024.020 to add a new subsection (c), which would read: “(c) Where pending litigation involves a public agency as a party, the parties shall not be entitled to use Government Code Sec. 6250, et seq., as a means to obtain information that could otherwise be obtained through the methods of discovery as set forth in this chapter.”
- The County supports the open exchange of non-privileged government information. However, a small number of residents often make repeated requests for information under the California Public Record Act, frequently for previously requested information or information not in the possession of the County, costing taxpayers thousands of dollars annually. The County **Supports** legislation giving local governments express authority to recover their costs for staff time, as well as copying and printing costs, to process public records requests.

Legal Process/Grand Juries

Recommended by County Counsel

- Under California Government Code Secs. 26520 and 27642, County Counsels provide legal services and opinions to the County and all County officers. However, under California Penal

Code Sec. 934, Civil Grand Juries may also request the advice of County Counsels on civil matters. As Civil Grand Juries frequently serve an oversight role for local government operations, the two statutes can create ethical conflicts for county counsels. The County **Supports** new legislation establishing and funding a process for Civil Grand Juries to be represented by outside counsel.

Public Safety/Bail Reform

Recommended by Probation Department

- The County **Supports** bail reform efforts that protect victims and public safety while ensuring equal access to the legal system, including basing pretrial custody decisions on an evidence-based system of risk assessment rather than a defendant's financial status.