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# 2019 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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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 of the environment is one of Santa Cruz County's top priorities. The County **Supports** additional funding for local parks and open spaces, including in the areas of coastal protection, climate change preparedness and equitable outdoor access.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4A (Outdoor Experience), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 4D (Climate Change)
- Prop 68 provides \$4.1 billion for outdoor recreation, land conservation, water projects and more. The County **Supports** maximizing the amount of funding available to Santa Cruz County communities for related projects, including environmental education projects in underserved communities.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4A (Outdoor Experience), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 4D (Climate Change), 5D (Educational Opportunity)
- The County **Supports** new grant programs increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor recreation and educational experiences.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4A (Outdoor Experience), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 4D (Climate Change), 5D (Educational Opportunity)

## **Environment/Climate Change**

*Recommended by the Department of Public Works*

- The Board of Supervisors adopted Santa Cruz County's Climate Action Strategy in 2013, with annual implementation updates. However, the State has not provided funding for implementation of climate adaptation strategies. The County **Supports** additional State funding to address climate change, which is critically important in coastal communities such as Santa Cruz County.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4D (Climate Change)
- The County **Supports** efforts and funding to develop climate change mitigation strategies to help protect against potential impacts on human health such as increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events, including fires, changes in the prevalence and geographical distribution of food- and water-borne illnesses and other infectious diseases, and threats to mental health, particularly for disadvantaged communities most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 4D (Climate Change)

## **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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 4D (Climate Change)
- The County **Supports** extended provider responsibility legislation to address the problem of solar panel recycling.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 4D (Climate Change)

## **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. The County **Supports** additional funding for the Wood Smoke Reduction Program.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources), 4D (Climate Change)

## **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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 4D (Climate Change)
- 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. The County **Supports** a statewide ban on polystyrene products.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4C (Local Conservation), 4D (Climate Change)
- Santa Cruz County's Safe Drug and Sharps Disposal Ordinance is a model for a statewide law adopted in 2018. It also a good model for federal action. The County **Supports** a federal drug and sharps takeback program to reduce waste and combat the opioid crisis.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1D (Behavioral Health), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation)
- The County **Supports** additional funding and regulatory reform for state-mandated organic waste diversion programs mandated by the State.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation)

## **Environment/Flood Protection and Infrastructure**

*Recommended by the Department of Planning*

- Climate change includes the likelihood of increased coastal flooding and represents a significant threat to coastal communities across California. The County **Supports** legislation and administrative actions for flood protection, including the monitoring and inventory of aging infrastructure and the repair or improvement of unsafe or outdated infrastructure.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 3C (Local Roads), 4D (Climate Change), 6C (County Infrastructure)

## **Water/Economic Vitality**

*Recommended by the County Administrative Office*

- The environment, agriculture and economic development are vital to a sustainable Santa Cruz County, but can be constrained by limited surface and groundwater sources. Whether through storage, conveyance or other means, equitable access to water for Santa Cruz County's long-term residential, commercial, agricultural and ecological water needs should be a priority of any statewide or local plans. The County **Supports** continued funding for the planning and development of local, regional and statewide water goals and policies.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 2A (Affordable Housing), 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 5A (Regional Workforce), 5B (Community Vitality), 5C (Local Businesses)

## **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.
- **Strategic Plan elements:** 2A (Affordable Housing), 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 5A (Regional Workforce), 5B (Community Vitality)

## **Water/Groundwater**

*Recommended by the Department of Planning*

- Groundwater quality continues to be an area of concern for 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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 5A (Regional Workforce), 5C (Local Businesses)
- The County **Supports** funding for programs to explore, encourage and execute groundwater recharge programs.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 2A (Affordable Housing), 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 5B (Community Vitality)

## **Agriculture/Vector Control and Pest Management**

*Recommended by the Commissioner of Agriculture*

- The County **Supports** legislation to continue to fund and increase funds for pest exclusion, pest detection trapping and survey activities, rapid response, pest management and eradication and public outreach in order to protect our agriculture and environment from invasive species.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 4B (Natural Resources)
- The County **Supports** legislation providing long-term funding for county pesticide regulatory activities. This includes maintaining or increasing funding of the pesticide mill fee sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public and the environment, and provide for education, outreach, and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 4B (Natural Resources)
- The County **Supports** the preemptive status of state pesticide laws and authority provided to the Department of Pesticide Regulation and California Agricultural Commissioners.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity)
- The County **Supports** legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Areas or programs for the control of harmful non-native or invasive weed pests.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources)
- The County **Supports** legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Areas or programs for the control of harmful non-native or invasive weed pests. The County **Supports** legislation that supports and provides stable and continuous funding from USDA for the control and management of harmful non-native or invasive weeds in USFS Region 5 (California) for on the ground efforts and ensure that those funds are not diverted for use on other projects. The County **Supports** research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 4B (Natural Resources)
- The County **Supports** legislation or budget proposals to fund the Williamson Act subventions to counties.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources), 4D (Climate Change), 5C (Local Businesses)
- The County **Supports** legislation that requires environmental review of new school site proposals so they are similar to other developments and that set specific mitigations when schools are sited in agricultural areas to include buffers, setbacks and pick-up/drop-off locations to be incorporated into the school footprint to minimize interference with agricultural operations.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 4B (Natural Resources), 5D (Educational Opportunity)

- The County **Supports** legislation that preserves and enhances funding sources for Weights and Measures programs as the state (Department of Measurement Standards) and local (Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer) level for consumer protection.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 5C (Local Businesses)*
- The County **Supports** legislation assuring the clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of packaged products to promote value comparison and that ensure consumers receives the correct product and the quantity of product they paid for.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 5C (Local Businesses)*
- The County **Supports** legislation establishing funding for quantity control and package inspections.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 5C (Local Businesses)*
- The County **Supports** legislation that maintains, extends or eliminates the repeal date in Business and Professions Code Section 12246 pertaining to Weights and Measures Device Registration fees.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 5C (Local Businesses)*
- The County **Supports** legislation that reduces regulatory and enforcement ambiguities and redundancies for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits for pesticide discharges to waters of the U.S.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 4B (Natural Resources)*

# 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 **Opposes** additional mandates in order to access SB1 funding.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 3A (Regional Mobility), 3B (Community Mobility), 3C (Local Roads), 3D (Public Transit)
- The State and federal governments are important partners to recovery efforts following major disasters, and meeting their commitments is key to the timely restoration of County infrastructure. 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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 3A (Regional Mobility), 3B (Community Mobility), 3C (Local Roads)

## **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 to prevent and end homelessness through the provision of housing and services to persons already without shelter and those at-risk of becoming homeless. The State made important strides in addressing this important statewide issue, and momentum should be maintained. The County **Supports** additional legislation to increase resources to address homelessness at the local level in a manner providing local governments flexibility in designing workable solutions.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 2A (Affordable Housing), 2D (Homelessness), 5B (Community Vitality), 5C (Local Businesses)
- The County **Supports** legislation that creates, and removes barriers to, additional housing and, where needed, additional supportive housing services, for homeless persons.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 2A (Affordable Housing), 2C (Local Inventory), 2D (Homelessness)

- The County **Supports** legislation that establishes dedicated and permanent sources of funding for homeless services.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2D (Homelessness)*
- The County **Supports** flexibility in designing housing solutions for homeless populations, including the flexibility to adopt by ordinance reasonable local standards for the design, site development, and operation of emergency housing communities and the structures and facilities therein notwithstanding other provisions of law, provided those provisions inhibit, prevent or delay measures to mitigate the impacts of an existing shelter crisis.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2A (Affordable Housing), 2C (Local Inventory), 2D (Homelessness)*
- At the federal level, the County **Supports** legislation that will provide increased funding to address the needs of homeless persons and end 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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2A (Affordable Housing), 2D (Homelessness)*

### **Housing/Affordable Housing**

*Recommended by the Department of Planning*

- 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 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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2A (Affordable Housing), 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory), 3B (Community Mobility), 3D (Public Transit), 5A (Regional Workforce), 5B (Community Vitality), 5C (Local Businesses)*
- The County **Supports** legislative actions or programs that increase affordable housing through density bonuses and similar measures aimed at addressing the housing shortfall, prioritizing transit-oriented development while retaining local control over land-use choices.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2A (Affordable Housing), 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory)*
- 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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2A (Affordable Housing), 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory)*

- 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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2A (Affordable Housing), 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory), 2D (Homelessness)*
  
- The County **Supports** additional funding for affordable housing.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2A (Affordable Housing), 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory), 2D (Homelessness)*

### **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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 2A (Affordable Housing), 2C (Local Inventory)*

### **Housing/Senior and Dependent Eviction Protection**

*Recommended by the Department of Human Services*

- Stable housing for seniors reduces their risk of incidents of abuse, neglect, and self-neglect, and achieve better health outcomes. The County **Supports** legislation and funding that would develop, test, and support housing preservation and eviction prevention services among seniors and dependent adults who have been victims of abuse or neglect, or self-neglect.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1D (Behavioral Health), 2A (Affordable Housing)*

### **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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 4B (Natural Resources), 5C (Local Businesses)*

### **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. The County of Santa Cruz **Supports** novel ways to incentivize revitalization, including 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.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 5A (Regional Workforce), 5B (Community Vitality), 5C (Local Businesses)

### **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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 4B (Natural Resources), 5B (Community Vitality)

### **Land Use/Healthy Communities**

*Recommended by the Department of Planning and Health Services Agency*

- 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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1C (Local Justice), 3B (Community Mobility), 4A (Outdoor Experience) 4C (Local Conservation), 5B (Community Vitality)
- The County **Supports** legislation and funding that encourages the inclusion of health in all policies and consideration of public health impacts in the design and planning of healthy communities.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 3B (Community Mobility), 4A (Outdoor Experience), 5B (Community Vitality)

### **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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 2B (Community Development), 3B (Community Mobility), 5A (Regional Workforce), 5B (Community Vitality), 5C (Local Businesses)

### **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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 2B (Community Development), 4B (Natural Resources)

## 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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6A (Customer Experience)*
- 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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6A (Customer Experience)*

### **Health Services/Access to Health Care**

*Recommended by the Board of Supervisors, Health Services Agency and Human Services Agency*

- Access to health care is fundamental to an individual's quality of life. The County **Supports** access to health care for all, including the Affordable Care Act. The County **Opposes** policies and legislation that undermine the principles of access to care, coverage for preexisting conditions, preventative care, the transformation of health care delivery and more.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6A (Customer Experience)*
- The County **Supports** measures that enhance counties' and communities' abilities to deliver services through hospitals and clinics, including the expansion of County and community Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs). The County also **Supports** enhanced Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements and reduced costs on prescription and non-prescription drugs for outpatient care.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6C (County Infrastructure)

- 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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6D (Continuous Improvement)
- The County **Supports** a certification process for Peer Support Services and making those services eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6D (Continuous Improvement)
- The County **Opposes** proposals from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Congress, or the Legislature to deny, reduce, cap, or eliminate MAA/TCM reimbursement or to make claiming more administratively burdensome.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)

### **Health Services/Behavioral Health**

*Recommended by the County Administrative Office and Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** additional funding for behavioral health services and behavioral health infrastructure, and **Opposes** efforts to divert MHSA funding from existing services and programs.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)
- Support removal of the Institute for Mental Disease exclusion on inpatient mental health services provided at facilities greater than 16 beds, which prevents Medicaid Federal Funds from supporting the program.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)

### **Human Services/CalFresh Eligibility**

*Recommended by the Department of Human Services*

- The County **Supports** legislation that would grant CalFresh eligibility to all former foster youth, age 26 and under, that receive Medi-Cal.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1B (Community Support)
- 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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1B (Community Support)
- The County **Supports** enhanced and expanded food access through programs that include, but not limited to, delivery services, direct certification of vulnerable populations such as students and their families, people experiencing homelessness, immigrants, and survivors of natural disasters.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1B (Community Support)

## **Human Services/In-Home Supportive Services**

*Recommended by the Department of Human Services*

- The County **Supports** full IHSS funding through methodology and assumptions that enable counties to properly administer the IHSS program on the State's behalf.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 6B (County Workforce), 6D (Continuous Improvement)
  
- The County **Supports** funding to counties for a back-up IHSS Provider (caregiver) system to match the needs of IHSS Recipients when their Providers use their paid sick leave.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 6B (County Workforce), 6D (Continuous Improvement)
  
- 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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 6B (County Workforce), 6D (Continuous Improvement)

## **Human Services/CalWORKs**

*Recommended by the Department of Human Services*

- The County **Supports** legislation that would provide a funding methodology and assumptions that enable counties to properly administer the CalWORKs program on the State's behalf, including county administration, services, and child care.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1B (Community Support),

## **Human Services/Child Welfare**

*Recommended by the Department of Human Services, Health Services Agency and Child Support Services*

- The County **Supports** funding for child abuse prevention efforts.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)
  
- The County **Supports** Increased funding for child welfare training.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 6B (County Workforce)
  
- The County **Supports** legislative, budget or administrative action to fully fund county child support collection program costs. The County **Supports** legislation that improves the effectiveness of the child support program in establishing, enforcing, and collecting child support orders.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)

- 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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*
- The County **Supports** increased funding to meet the needs of foster youth in Extended Foster Care, including, but not limited to housing, education, and vocational training. The County **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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*
- 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.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*
- The County **Supports** funding to address the needs of youth who are victims of, or at-risk of becoming victims of, commercial sexual exploitation.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice)*
- The County **Supports** ongoing State funding to implement Continuum of Care Reform for child welfare, including, but not limited to on-demand, in-home crisis support. The County also **Supports** aligning existing statutes with Continuum of Care Reform and providing the necessary funding.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*

### **Health Services/Family Services**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** programs to reduce inequities in maternal, infant, and child health and designed to maximize the health and quality of life for all women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families in California.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*
- The County **Supports** efforts to integrate trauma informed practices into both newly proposed or existing programs and services provided to women, infants, children and adolescents.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*
- The County **Supports** policies and programs to reduce teen and unplanned pregnancy and assist with family planning.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*
- The County **Supports** access to family planning services, including contraception, and **Opposes** funding cuts at the State or federal level that would reduce access to such services.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** *1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*

## **Human Services/Adult and Disability Services**

*Recommended by the Department of Human Services*

- The Human Services Department and Safety Net Coalition has drafted a legislative proposal, with current support from HSA and the Social Services Directors Association to establish a legislative study committee to make recommendations on establishing a service system for individuals who have an acquired brain disorder, traumatic brain injury, dementia or Alzheimer's to ensure that those individuals have access to the necessary services they need. These individuals often come to the attention of Adult Protective Services or Behavioral Health, but do not meet the criteria for the existing service systems. The County **Supports** legislation to establish a study committee to address gaps in existing services systems to assist these individuals.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Supports** increased State funding for Adult Protective Services training and making it a permanent item in the State budget. A temporary increase was only budgeted for three years, and expires at the end of 2019.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6B (County Workforce), 6D (Continuous Improvement)*
- The County **Supports** confidentiality to APS social workers, including DMV confidentiality, to ensure their safety on the job.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6B (County Workforce)*
- The County **Supports** the ability of counties to provide at-risk adults who have cognitive impairment including substantial developmental disability diagnosed after age 18 with treatment and services like those that other at-risk adults receive through existing safety-net programs.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*

## **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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Supports** a dedicated funding stream to fund preventive health services or activities that improve community health outcomes.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- 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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Supports** the allocation of new revenue streams in an equitable manner across all local health jurisdictions. .  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*

- The County **Supports** efforts to increase access to healthy foods, reduce access to unhealthy foods and reduce food insecurity.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*

### **Health Services/Communicable Diseases**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** increased and flexible state and federal funding and resources directed at building the capacity of local public health departments to combat and control communicable diseases. The County **Opposes** efforts to reduce state and federal funding streams which would create cost shifts to local health departments.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*

### **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.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Supports** efforts to increase Denti-Cal reimbursement levels to encourage qualified dentists to participate in providing care to low-income children.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Supports** water fluoridation efforts.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Supports** dental health education program expansions, including additional funding.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*

### **Health Services/Emergency Medical Services**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** maintenance of existing laws and regulations governing the role of counties in the oversight of pre-hospital emergency medical services including ambulance services and quality assurance. The County **Supports** legislation or regulatory reform that would enhance county authority and increase funding for such oversight.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)*
- The County **Opposes** any efforts to limit the authority of the local Emergency Medical Services Medical Director over pre-hospital patient care including disciplinary actions over licensed or certified personnel.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 6B (County Workforce)*
- The County **Supports** legislation that will enhance the provision of emergency and/or trauma services and increase funding for the various components of emergency and trauma care systems,

including operations, equipment, infrastructure, ancillary services, public health interventions, and physician reimbursements.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)

### **Health Services/Environmental Health**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** legislation and funding that promotes safe and healthy living and working environments for all California residents.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 4B (Natural Resources), 5A (Regional Workforce)
- The County **Supports** scientifically proven efforts that prevent or reduce community exposure to toxins and other environmental contaminants that impact human health.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 4B (Natural Resources)
- The County **Supports** legislation and regulatory efforts to protect and ensure the quality and safety of California’s food and water supply, without shifting cost from state to counties and with additional funding provided to counties.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation)
- The County **Supports** efforts to promote the development of safe “alternative water” sources, e.g., recycled water, storm water, rainwater, and gray water, for both outdoor and indoor use.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 2A (Affordable Housing) 2B (Community Development), 2C (Local Inventory), 4B (Natural Resources), 4C (Local Conservation), 5B (Community Vitality), 5C (Local Businesses)

### **Health Services/Public Health**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** development and retention of a skilled and diverse Public Health Workforce through both state and federal advocacy efforts. Support partnerships with universities and community colleges to develop viable public health workforce programs and incentives.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 6B (County Workforce), 6D (Continuous Improvement)
- The County **Supports** efforts to reduce health disparities and inequities by working to eliminate barriers to good health and supporting the equitable distribution of resources necessary for health for California’s diverse population. The County also **Supports** efforts to understand the health impacts of discrimination and bias.  
**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)
- 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.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)

- 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.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)

- The County **Supports** efforts to prevent injuries to California residents, including but not limited to fall prevention programs, child passenger safety programs, youth & gang violence prevention, and intimate partner/domestic violence programs; however, resources are scarce.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support)

- 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.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity)

### **Health Services/Drug & Alcohol Services**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** the creation of alcohol or other drug mitigation fees with funding dedicated to prevention and treatment services.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** the ability of local health agencies to reduce and prevent substance use disorder (SUD) related problems, including the protection of SAMHSA block grant funding for prevention.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** the ability of local health agencies to decrease SUD disparities in communities and populations at highest risk for SUD, including communities of color, rural communities, LGBTQ, homeless, or justice-involved populations.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** legislation that would make a range of substance use disorder SUD treatment services available to adolescents.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** efforts to adequately fund Drug Medi-Cal services and ensure access to substance use disorder services, including Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) and Withdrawal Management.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** legislation that allows for better integration of substance use disorder treatment and physical healthcare.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6D (Continuous Improvement)

- The County **Supports** funding of professional development for substance use disorder clinicians and other professionals, including incentives and partnerships for recruitment and retention.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6B (County Workforce)

### **Health Services/Cannabis**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** efforts to study the impacts of cannabis use and legalization on public health, particularly epidemiological surveillance of youth and adult cannabis use and on the impacts of use on infant and youth brain development.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** regulations that address transactional limits on the purchase of edibles, beverages and other consumable products infused with THC, such to establish a reasonable margin of safety for consumers.

- **Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** increased cannabis surveillance, education, youth prevention, environmental prevention strategies (eg: retail availability, retailer overconcentration), responsible adult use, and drugged driving prevention. Support efforts to insure local health departments are adequately resourced as regulations and state law are implemented.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** efforts to mitigate community-level harms such as overconcentration as well as clustering with alcohol and tobacco retailers, especially for communities who have been historically disproportionately affected by cannabis criminalization.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1C (Local Justice), 1D (Behavioral Health)

### **Health Services/Tobacco Control**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- The County **Supports** efforts to prevent or reduce the use of tobacco and its accompanying health and economic impacts on the state and its residents.

**Strategic Plan elements:** 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)

- The County **Supports** efforts to reduce second hand smoke exposure in our communities.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Supports** efforts to prevent youth access to all tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices and flavored tobacco products including menthol.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Opposes** efforts to exempt electronic nicotine delivery systems, such as e-cigarettes, from current tobacco control laws and regulations.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*
- The County **Supports** efforts to mitigate community-level harms for communities disproportionately impacted by tobacco.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health)*

### **Health Services/Health Information Technology**

*Recommended by the Health Services Agency*

- 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 and particularly the use of health information to advance understanding and improvement in population health strategies.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6A (Customer Experience), 6B (County Workforce), 6D (Continuous Improvement)*
- The County **Supports** efforts, consistent with federal statutes and regulations, to allow bi-directional information sharing across county systems as well as with external partners in order to improve system efficiency.  
*Strategic Plan elements: 1A (Health Equity), 1B (Community Support), 1D (Behavioral Health), 6A (Customer Experience), 6B (County Workforce), 6D (Continuous Improvement)*

# 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 of Supervisors 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 to help sustain county operations.

***Strategic Plan elements:** 6B (County Workforce), 6C (County Infrastructure)*

## **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. Unfortunately, the PRA is being used to effectively undermine the procedural safeguards contained in the Civil Discovery Act and prejudicing government entities in their ability to defend cases brought against them. The County **Supports** amending Code of Civil Procedure Sec. 2024.020 to prevent parties from circumventing discovery processes through the PRA.

***Strategic Plan elements:** 6D (Continuous Improvement)*

- The County supports the open exchange of non-privileged government information. However, repeated requests for information under the California Public Record Act, frequently for previously requested information or information not in the possession of the County, costs 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.

***Strategic Plan elements:** 6D (Continuous Improvement)*

## **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.

*Strategic Plan elements: 6D (Continuous Improvement)*

### **Government Operations/Public Contracts**

*Recommended by the Department of Public Works*

- Under Section 20783 of the California Public Contract Code, Sanitation Districts must place projects out to bid if they exceed \$35,000. The County **Supports** amending Section 20783 to increase the threshold to \$100,000, which would be consistent with County practices for professional services and other maintenance.

*Strategic Plan elements: 6D (Continuous Improvement)*

### **Government Operations/Unfunded Mandates**

*Recommended by the County Administrative Office*

- Despite limited local resources, the County strives to provide efficient, effective and culturally responsive services to resident. New requirements and programs which have a cost element but no dedicated funding impair the County's ability to provide these services. The County welcomes new efforts to meet the needs of the public, but **Opposes** new programs or requirements which include unfunded mandates.

*Strategic Plan elements: 6B (Continuous Workforce), 6C (County Infrastructure), 6D (Continuous Improvement)*