



County of Imperial

2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY THE IMPERIAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 24, 2017

IMPERIAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Review of the 2016 Legislative Session

At the state level:

This year in Sacramento, the Legislature and Governor collaborated on several issues, including passage of a renewed Managed Care Organization tax, legislation for revenue bonds to support housing for the mentally ill, and extension of climate change legislation. However, additional funding to support affordable housing and transportation infrastructure remained out of reach. These outstanding issues will continue at the top of the priority list in 2017.

Imperial County's legislative strategy concentrated on seeking to forward our agenda and protect county programs. The Governor included \$80 million in the State Budget this fiscal year for projects to support efforts at the Salton Sea. Similarly, the County has created and led a coalition of counties with geothermal and biomass resources in an effort to bolster that energy sector and provide economic, environmental and employment benefits for County residents.

Below are some of the legislative efforts the County sponsored or has been active with:

- **Senate Joint Resolution 22 (Hueso)**, which urges Congress to appropriate \$248 million in funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in order to realize the benefits of the improvements this project will have on the nation's economy.
- **Senate Bill 1074 (Hueso)**, signed by the Governor, will provide grant and loan funding for projects to recover lithium, metals, agricultural products, and other beneficial minerals from highly mineralized geothermal brines at existing geothermal facilities that are in disadvantaged communities and provide local employment opportunities.
- **Senate Bill 1289 (Lara)**, which was opposed by the County and vetoed by the Governor, would have prohibited a city, county, or law enforcement agency from entering into or renewing a contract with a private contractor to detain immigrants in civil immigration proceedings for profit.
- **Assembly Bill 1853 (Cooper)** would have authorized a retirement board to adopt administrative provisions that would have classified various personnel of the retirement system as employees of the retirement system and not employees of the county. This bill was opposed by the County and vetoed by the Governor.

Other areas of interest this legislative year included bills such as:

- **Senate Bill 32 (Pavley) and Assembly Bill 197 (E. Garcia)**. During the last week of Session, SB 32 moved to the Governor's desk after two years' consideration in the Legislature. SB 32 requires the California Air Resources Board to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030, and is seen as a vital step toward the extension of the cap and trade program. AB 197 places additional emphasis on disadvantaged communities. Also, the Legislature gutted and amended two bills, AB 1613 and SB 859, to include language that appropriated \$900 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for a variety of programs.
- **Assembly Bill 26X (Frazier) and Senate Bill 1X (Beall)**. There was a possibility the Legislature would consider a transportation proposal before the end of the Special Session on November 30. But, much depended on the outcome of the elections, particularly if the Democrats could secure a super-majority in the Legislature—which is exactly what occurred. While meeting the necessary 2/3rds threshold in the Legislature changes the dynamics of passage of a proposal—eliminating the need for provisions aimed at securing Republican votes, for example—it also means there could be similar challenges securing the votes of moderate Democrats. Areas that could potentially see getting more attention in this new political environment include additional investment in transit and disadvantaged communities. Both areas are key for moderate Democrats from rural areas, as well as urban areas. These investments will be closely intertwined with discussions about the future of the State's cap and trade program.

On the federal side:

2016 was a busy year for Imperial County at the federal level. In January, members of the Board of Supervisors and key staff traveled to Washington, D.C. to promote the County's primary legislative priorities. Joined by Waterman & Associates, the Imperial County contingent lobbied key lawmakers and agency officials on a variety of issues, including matters related to border security, public lands, and the environment. Supervisors and staff made several follow-up trips to the nation's capital, one of which included Board Member participation in NACo's annual Legislative Conference.

- Congress made significant progress on the fiscal year 2017 budget, with a number of Imperial County's funding priorities addressed in various FY17 appropriations bills. In the House, lawmakers approved over \$248 million for the completion of the second and final phase of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry modernization and expansion project as part of the Financial Services spending bill (HR 5485). Although Congress opted to approve a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) that runs through April, the House action sets the stage for the Calexico West funding to be included as part of a final fiscal year 2017 budget package.
- Imperial County worked with key members of Congress to secure language in a *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA) reauthorization bill (S 612) that expands the list of entities that could partner with the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out restoration projects at the Salton Sea. The legislation, which was approved in the final days of the session, also includes language that would require the Corps to provide Congress with a plan for prioritizing ecosystem restoration projects that address threats to public health or restores habitat for federally protected species, including migratory birds.
- The County worked with key members of Congress on legislation that will enhance infrastructure and staffing along the southern border. The bill, entitled the *Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act* (HR 875/S 461) expands the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's current 559 Donation Program to further promote private-public partnerships for improved border facilities and staffing. Among other things, the measure removes the "pilot" designation from the program and permanently allows CBP to enter into an unlimited number of fee agreements. The bill was passed and signed into law in the waning days of the 114th Congress.
- Imperial County supported efforts to advance Senator Feinstein's *California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act* (S 414), which includes language that would transfer 3,500 acres of land near Holtville Airport from the Bureau of Land Management to the County for airport expansion and economic development activities. We also worked closely with Representatives Vargas and Cook on related efforts in the House.
- PILT funding remained a top legislative priority for Imperial County in 2016. The County worked collaboratively with various groups, including NACo and RCRC, to promote a long-term renewal of mandatory PILT funding. Both the House and Senate fiscal year 2017 Interior appropriations bills included \$480 million in PILT funding.
- The County supported legislation that would fund and enhance the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), including a bill (HR 5035/ S 2395) that would direct additional funds to counties for the costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals.
- The Board of Supervisors worked with its congressional delegation to promote key priorities associated with the renewal of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). With Congress opting to approve a short-term FAA renewal bill, there will be additional opportunities to work on aviation-related priorities in 2017.
- Imperial County continued to explore ways to address bank closures and the corresponding negative consequences for businesses, financial institutions, and communities along the border, including options for a legislative solution to the bank "de-risking" issue.

2017 Legislative Goals and Priorities

This Legislative Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the State of California and the federal government of the United States. To support the accomplishment of these goals and priorities, the Imperial County Board of Supervisors adopts the following general guidelines to assist County staff and legislative advocates in evaluating legislative efforts and executive and regulatory actions.

General Guidelines

Fiscal Stability

Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue and reimbursement levels. Oppose the loss or redirecting of existing revenues and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County.

Efficient Service Delivery/Operations

Support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to the County's services. Oppose legislative efforts that create undue fiscal and operational burdens on departments with little or no benefit to the public.

Local Control

Ensure local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to local preferences and needs.

Economic Expansion

Support efforts to facilitate orderly economic expansion and growth, including regional approaches. Oppose legislative efforts that create undue burdens on businesses and curtail economic growth opportunities.

Collaboration

Partner with neighboring jurisdictions on infrastructure and other large scale projects, when possible. Support the advocacy efforts of organizations the County holds membership in. Collaborate with public and private sector entities on mutually beneficial issues.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND ISSUES BY FUNCTIONAL AREA

Administration and Finance

General Principles

The primary goal of the County's elected representatives and its employees is to serve and support the social, economic, health, safety and well-being of its citizens. To this end, in 2013/14 the Imperial County Board of Supervisors supports the following general principles. County staff, the Executive Office and its legislative advocates, will apply these general principles to evaluate legislation and other proposals, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

- 1.** Encourage and seek legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and growth, and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues.
- 2.** Support legislative efforts that ensure Imperial County's authority to govern itself and oppose legislation which will hinder or limit the County's self-rule authority.
- 3.** Continue to encourage local agencies and governments to cooperate for the betterment of the community and encourage voluntary regional solutions to regional problems, including funding and support for capital acquisition projects.
- 4.** Seek cooperation with state and federal governments on regulatory and administrative issues affecting the County, including those related to health care, public safety, the environment and transportation to ensure the protection and well-being of its citizens.

5. Encourage and seek legislation that protects the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and preserves the essence and history of the County.
6. Support legislative efforts that would align responsibility with authority and provide the necessary resources to execute the responsibility.
7. Support legislative efforts that would simplify or eliminate governmental regulation of local government or businesses, or eliminate duplication of federal, state and local requirements.
8. Support legislative efforts that allow local, state or federal governments to streamline operation and business efficiency.
9. Support efforts, including administrative changes, to implement a state/local fiscal reform plan to stabilize revenues for the delivery of local programs and services, and to increase programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
10. Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexations, incorporation, and redevelopment that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide essential services to its constituents.
11. Support legislative efforts that provide tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies. Support the change of funding formulas which unfairly disadvantage Imperial County.
12. Support increased state and federal appropriations for County mandated programs and the equitable distribution of local tax revenue among all local government agencies.
13. Support legislative efforts that streamline the state mandate process, making the reimbursement process less lengthy or onerous for local government.
14. Oppose state or federal mandates and the transfer of state or federal programs to the County unless adequate, reliable and on-going revenues are provided.
15. Oppose legislative efforts that would impose federal financial penalties on the County resulting from action or inaction by the state.
16. Maintain close relationships with Imperial County's legislative delegation to foster greater advocacy and understanding of Imperial County's issues.
17. Maintain existing coalitions such as CSAC, RCRC, BECC, NADB, Border Trade Alliance and other associated groups that build onto local efforts and form new coalitions and alliances with other like-minded organizations to strengthen our legislative positions, create economic development and impact the decisions that affect our region.
18. Support legislative efforts to seek a permanent and secure funding source for county law libraries and ultimately transferring all responsibilities, including financial support, for law libraries away from counties to courts or other appropriate state agency, consistent with other court related functions that have been transferred from counties to the state.

General Government

We support comprehensive immigration reform. We support provisions that would bolster security at the Southwest Border, improve border infrastructure at our nation's ports of entry (including new authority for CBP to enter into private-public partnerships), the deployment and use of additional surveillance technology, the creation of a functional agricultural worker program, and additional personnel to secure our borders.

Support budget proposals and appropriations that will fully reimburse border communities for their added costs to provide services due to the federal government's inability to effectively carry out their responsibility to maintain a secure border and efficient ports-of-entry.

Support efforts to allow non-traditional funding such as public/private partnerships for the development of critical infrastructure in areas such as ports-of-entry that are no longer assured of reliable funding from the federal government.

We support the California Desert Protection Act of 2013.

We support the development of the Holtville Airport as an international cargo/passenger airport.

We will seek to obtain the land that formerly housed the Navy's Salton Sea Test Base for purposes related to the restoration of the Salton Sea, economic development in the region, and to mitigate potential air quality issues resulting from changes in elevation of the Sea. We will also seek funding from BRAC or other federal or private sources to enable the county to produce a revenue stream from these lands that will assist in local development and help sustain the environmental costs of Salton Sea restoration.

We will continue our efforts to work with other agencies and entities, public and private, to secure a permanent solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea and to mitigate impacts to the Salton Sea which result from lessened inflows to the sea.

We support assurance of a Salton Sea restoration plan that will provide for long-term habitat protection, recreation, economic stimulus, salinity control, and a constant elevation with a reliable and consistent water source, and support immediate funding of first step "no regrets" projects that will begin the restoration process.

We support efforts to protect the water rights for our region. We support regionally directed local solutions to California's water problems, including storage, ground water development, desalination, reclamation, recycling, storm-water retention and appropriate conjunctive use in urban California.

We will continue to seek state assurances that the beneficiaries of the water transfer, and not Imperial County interests will be responsible for fully mitigating environmental consequences of the water transfer.

We will continue to support efforts to improve restoration and conservation of the New River.

The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area and areas in our west desert provide a source of wintertime recreation to Off Highway Vehicle enthusiasts from throughout Southern California and Arizona. At times the visitor population on weekends exceeds the population of Imperial County. These crowds provide special enforcement problems which require assistance from the Imperial County Sheriff's Office. In the past the funding for this assistance has come from BLM or the State OHV Program or both. We must continue to seek full funding for the program of law enforcement on the Imperial Sand Dunes and west desert areas, and also seek additional federal funding for BLM so they can better take care of law enforcement and trash disposal problems on their lands. Similarly we oppose proposals to use OHV funds as a loan to General Fund as this will reduce funds available to provide dunes and desert law enforcement assistance.

Government Finance

PILT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes): In excess of 50% of the land in Imperial County is owned by federal agencies. The federal government has in the past reimbursed local governments for the services provided on federal lands by making Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). In recent years, Imperial County's reimbursement has been far lower than the amount the county should receive due to Congress not fully funding the program. We will continue to work with various partners to seek legislative support for full PILT funding.

Geothermal Royalties: Counties that have geothermal plants operating on federal lands receive a share of the royalty payments that the producer pays to the federal government. In recent budget proposals, these payments were eliminated. So far the Congress has reinstated the county royalty payments at the last minute. We will continue to push to ensure that counties are properly reimbursed for the extraction of geothermal resources on our public lands. In addition, the Department of Interior has developed a complicated formula that results in a reduced PILT payment to the county based upon the amount of geothermal royalties we receive; we will push to eliminate this arcane and unreasonable reduction of PILT payments. (See also the issue on Renewable Royalties in the Natural Resource Development section below)

OHV In-lieu receipts: In 2007 the legislature changed the way funds from OHV registration fees are distributed to counties so that the money is distributed to areas with the greatest use of OHVs rather than by population. These funds are supposed to give counties an opportunity to set their own priorities for distribution of the local in lieu portion of the fees to benefit local OHV conditions. Subsequent changes in the state OHV program resulted in confusing language as to how

counties can spend their OHV in-lieu monies. Imperial County supports clarifying language to clean-up the existing language in the Resources Code.

SCAAP/LLEBG: We will continue to urge Congress to provide maximum funding for and a long term authorization of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), Operation Stonegarden, and other programs to reimburse the county for its costs resulting from the federal government's failure to maintain secure borders.

Assessor

We will support legislative efforts to provide funding that enhances local property assessment efforts.

Library

We support full funding of the statewide Public Library Funds, monies for the California Library Literacy Services and for the collaborative systems.

We support funding to add public libraries to the CENIC (Corporation for Educational Networks in California).

We support the exemption of public library tax districts from the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund.

Workforce Development

We will continue to support the mission of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Workforce development is a critical policy issue for Imperial County, California and the nation that requires sufficient investment of resources to develop a highly competitive and effective delivery system. Workforce development has enabled communities and regions to retain and grow their key industry sectors, and have provided opportunities for workers to develop the necessary skills needed to prosper and grow in a changing economy while supporting the economic competitiveness of businesses.

Veteran Services Office

We will continue to support funding for services mandated and essential to maintain the dignity and health of veterans. This will include the following: Faster access to earned benefits, Education, Improved Mental Health Care to include Military Sexual Trauma, Improved Health Care, Improve Job Opportunities and Employment Rights, Employment Credit, Respect of National Cemeteries, Increase Veteran Outreach and Veteran Services Offices.

Retirement/Pension Reform

We will monitor state pension reform initiatives to ensure that they don't place unnecessary restrictions or new costs on the local county Retirement Program.

We will oppose initiatives that make the process for '37 Act retirement systems to separate from the county less transparent for taxpayers, system payers, and the employers of both the county and its retirement system.

Public Safety

Sheriff's Dept.

We will support legislative efforts to create a funding mechanism for staffing the facilities built under AB900 or SB1022.

We will support changes to the California Rules of Court, Rule 810 to include all court-related costs currently paid by Counties.

We will support legislative efforts to increase portions allotted to Law Enforcement for the Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Safety Team (OHVEST).

We will support legislative efforts to increase funding for Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Services and the inclusion of Information Technology and Regional Communications Interoperability as part of the services to be funded or included in the claims process.

We will support legislative efforts to increase funding for physical improvements and new construction needed at County jails, juvenile facilities, coroner facilities, and justice service administrative and support facilities.

We will support legislative efforts to re-establish or improve services of Crime Labs.

We will support ongoing SB1022 funding for the second round of monies.

We will support legislative efforts which would allow Prisoner Rape Elimination Act (PREA) mandatory inspections to be done by jail professionals. Currently PREA Research Center has 18,000 applications for consultant type inspectors and mandatory inspections may cost up to \$12,000.00 per facility. We would like to see this as a reciprocal approach where one county can inspect another county at no cost to either.

We will support legislative efforts to make Second Chance Act funding an ongoing annual grant.

We will support legislative efforts which would continue funding of the Mentally Ill Treatment Offender and Crime Reduction Grant.

We support continued federal and state funding for adult criminal justice facilities that will meet needs created by realignment, i.e., programming space, substance abuse, and mental health treatment, etc.

We will oppose legislative efforts that connect AB109 funding to recidivism rates.

We will oppose any legislation that supports decreasing jail standards.

We will oppose any legislative efforts regarding elimination of solitary confinement or administrative segregation. County jails are very different from state correctional facilities and should not be included in any discussions or decisions regarding the issue of solitary confinement or administrative segregation at state correctional facilities.

We will oppose additional FCC regulations regarding county jail inmate phone calls. New regulations being discussed could result in a 3-5% reduction in revenue. Apparently violations were occurring at the Department of Corrections level yet County jails are being included in the issues with FCC regulations.

County Fire/OES

Support legislation and budget actions that enable the County to adequately plan for, respond to, and receive reimbursement for emergency disasters.

Support legislation and budget actions that will fund regional disaster management systems and resources to respond to emergencies, acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

Support legislation and budget actions that will increase minimum funding for required OES planning activities. Support the creation of a move from a formula based distribution to a joint minimum/formula based distribution of funding.

Support an adjustment in the threshold numbers for federal assistance. Each county, no matter their size, per capita income status, or other pertinent criteria, must meet the same thresholds as larger urban counties thus creating inequity for low income, low population areas.

Probation

We will support effective reentry services in order to improve a prisoner's probability to successfully reintegrate into his/her community.

We will support legislative action that will expand the resources of the County to address the needs of its offender population, including medical care, criminological program needs, and basic subsistence programs such as employment, job training, and housing.

We will support early intervention, prevention of crime and offender rehabilitation efforts and programs.

We will support legislative efforts for state and federal funding for medical services for incarcerated persons.

We will support legislative efforts to expand the availability of mental health care for the offender population while in custody and while on probation.

We will oppose any legislative efforts that mandate an enrichment of staff ratio for Juvenile Hall and County Jail without supporting funding, e.g. staff ratio for juveniles held in solitary confinement.

We will support legislation to provide a federal tax intercept for state and local agencies to recover outstanding restitution ordered to the victims of crimes and other delinquent court ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile proceedings.

We will support efforts to ensure sufficient funding for realigned responsibilities for juvenile and adult populations, to protect funding for the Local Revenue Fund 2011 and the SB 678 funding streams.

We will support legislative efforts for federal reimbursement for the capitated rate for undocumented juvenile detainees.

AB 109 has created numerous impacts to the families and children of the offender population. We would be supportive of efforts that would track these impacts and seek appropriate remedies.

We will support efforts to create better coordination of mental health and Medi-Cal services for offenders prior to their release.

We will support legislative efforts to create incentives or programs for the private sector to hire ex-offenders. Successful assimilation into a community is critical to the efforts to reduce recidivism. Finding meaningful and lasting employment is an important component of such efforts.

We will support efforts that enhance and augment vital community services that address victims, juvenile and adult offenders needs and targets criminological dysfunctions or community deficiencies.

We seek to insure that all programs, services, efforts or actions that impact juvenile or adults on probation are supported by valid data or successful outcomes that achieve the objectives.

District Attorney

We will support legislation to fund prevention and intervention programs with the long range goal of reducing costs in the juvenile and adult justice systems.

We will support legislation and budget actions that:

- Provide adequate resources to deliver services.
- Ensure the safety of the public, law enforcement officers, first responder personnel, and property of County residents.

- Provide funding for information technology initiatives that improve coordination between multiple agencies at all levels of government.

Oppose legislation and budget actions that:

- Reduce funding at the State and local level for public safety and first responders.
- Compromise the safety of the public, local law enforcement or first responder personnel.
- Impede the local law enforcement or first responder's ability to deliver services.

We will support funding that will assist with gang enforcement.

We support full funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking task force (HIDTA).

We support full funding of grants that fund public safety efforts, e.g. COPS, Law Enforcement Technical, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, etc.

We support funding that will enhance criminal justice and public safety information technology infrastructure.

We support funding that will allow for multi-agency integration of criminal justice related data.

Natural Resources and Development Management

Agriculture

We support legislation that would increase cost recovery to local government for providing mandated services and programs.

We support legislation that would protect our citizens, agricultural industry, and environment from the introduction of invasive species of pests, including insects, weeds, vertebrates, and plant diseases. We also support legislation that provides adequate funding for pest prevention activities including pest exclusion, pest detection, pest management/eradication, and public outreach.

We support funding for education, outreach and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.

We support legislation that improves funding for the California Organic Program.

We support legislation that improves federal and/or state funding to counties for Wildlife Services and managing conflicts with wildlife to protect the health and safety of the public, and the health and value of agriculture, the environment, and other resources.

Weights & Measures

We support legislation that improves protection of consumers from unfair business practices, which may include but are not limited to transactions involving inaccurate weights or measures, inaccurate pricing, inaccurate or unclear net quantity statements, and deceptive advertising. We also support legislation to protect industry and promote fair business competition.

We support more flexible sampling methodology for scanner inspections to provide additional consumer protection.

We oppose legislation that would weaken or remove existing consumer protection laws and regulations.

Air Pollution Control

We will seek to work with the US EPA and CARB to identify air quality impacts caused by the emissions from idling vehicles at our land ports of entry and to develop solutions to lessen those emissions and their impacts.

We will support federal legislation that will streamline and clarify extraordinary/high wind events rules.

We will support legislation to require additional, cost effective reductions in mobile source emissions.

We will support legislation that reduces or eliminates administrative burdens on air pollution control agencies and regulated sources that provide little or no air quality benefits.

We will oppose legislation that prohibits air pollution control districts from imposing emission limits, testing, and reporting requirements on already regulated stationary source categories.

We will support legislative efforts to revise federal emission offset requirements for designated marginal, moderate or serious non-attainment areas to allow payment by project proponents in such areas to a state or district for mitigation programs in lieu of offsets.

We will support legislative efforts to require project applicants to pay lead and responsible agencies for all costs associated with CEQA reviews and indemnify such agencies against all court costs, attorney fees and judgments related to their projects.

We will support legislative efforts to maintain state and federal grant funds to air districts at levels commensurate with state and federal mandates.

We will support legislative efforts to increase funding of emission reduction programs related to stationary and mobile sources.

We will support legislative efforts to provide funding to reduce diesel emissions from school buses.

We will support legislative efforts which would require that fines and penalty monies for violations issued by an air district remain with that air district.

We will support legislative efforts that would allocate state funding to air districts for emission reduction projects (e.g. Carl Moyer program) in a manner that is more closely based on population distribution.

We will support legislative efforts that would increase the state subvention funding for air pollution control districts to pay for state mandated air pollution control activities that help protect public health.

We will support legislative efforts that provide funding (e.g. Prop. 1B) to reduce emissions from goods movement.

We will seek the cooperation of land owners of land beneath the Salton Sea as we work to effectuate the mitigation of exposed lands.

Airport

We will seek to maintain legislation and regulations that provide for Essential Service Airports and funding for that program.

We will seek legislative efforts to fund the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). The State of California needs to provide funding for the functions it mandates. The review of development plans, building plans or other oversight responsibilities should be re-imbursed for its costs.

Planning and Land Use

We will support legislative efforts to reform CEQA by changing the standard for standing to match up with NEPA. Currently, any person can have standing, even if they have no direct connection or impacts from a project. This has led to CEQA losing its purpose of informing the public. Documents have become complicated, detailed legal documents designed to withstand legal challenges. The need is to return CEQA to what it was originally intended – a disclosure document.

We will support legislative efforts to have the State adequately fund the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). Only 3 of California's Counties manage their own airport and airspace issues. The remaining counties manage the State

responsibilities regarding airports and airspace through ALUC's. The State currently provides no funding to operate the ALUC's. We would support the creation of a revenue stream through appropriate and reasonable fees for the work performed on local projects.

We will support legislative efforts to eliminate local match or loan requirements for State funded grants to be utilized in areas with high levels of poverty and unemployment.

We will support legislative efforts that streamline State regulatory requirements for new and expanding businesses to promote retention, expansion and new businesses in Imperial County.

We will support legislative efforts to establish sites for facilities in our community in order to facilitate economic development.

We will support legislative efforts to fund, or provide low or no interest loans, to upgrade water or wastewater infrastructure in small, economically disadvantaged rural communities.

We will oppose any proposed legislation that would result in a loss of local control over land use decision-making.

Economic Development

We will support legislative efforts which would consider the impacts of business incentives which create efficiencies at the expense of the workforce. By helping businesses create more efficient businesses through mechanization, the number of jobs is being reduced thus creating a negative impact. We would like to see efforts which assist businesses in their efficiencies and which expand employment opportunities.

We will support legislative efforts which help to create and locate baseline type businesses such as manufacturing or production type facilities. We will support efforts which seek to create incentives for the creation and location of such businesses but also creating local abilities to fund infrastructure improvements using tools such incremental financing, i.e. Infrastructure Financing Districts. Creating something where nothing exists is very difficult and needs assistance to jump start efforts to create the infrastructure needed to attract business.

Renewable energy projects: Imperial County is the epicenter of renewable energy production in California and the U.S. We need to continue our efforts to create new incentives, increased permitting authority, maintain a viable and productive public benefits agreement, protect prime farmland from development, and seek policies and regulations that will lead to the development of additional renewable resources in Imperial County.

Habitat Mitigation Lands: Many renewable projects will require the proponents to acquire mitigations lands as a condition of receiving a permit, these lands will be donated to the government in perpetuity to provide habitat for wildlife species that are affected by the project. There is a potential for large blocks of land in Imperial County to be removed from the tax rolls through this process. We will seek legislation that will require guaranteed future payments in lieu of taxes for any lands that are dedicated to habitat protection.

Bio Fuels Development: Imperial County has the perfect conditions for the production of bio fuels from renewable resources such as algae, sugar cane, biomass, bio-digesters, and more. We will work with industry leaders, state and federal agencies, and private sources to develop policies, practices, incentives, other processes to cultivate the immense possibilities that exist in our county.

Renewable Royalties: State and Federal policies have resulted in significant incentives to encourage renewable energy developers to build their projects in California. Some of these incentives result in the county being denied property taxes, sales taxes, and other reduced revenues. In many cases projects built on federal lands will have to pay royalties based on their production of electricity. These payments will be made to the federal government. We will seek to ensure that any such royalties are shared with the counties and not be subject to deduction from our existing PILT payments.

Geothermal Permitting: We will seek legislation that will expand the local permit authority for geothermal power plants from the current 50 megawatts to 125 megawatts.

Funding for Renewable Energy General Plan Overlay: We will seek additional funding to expand the scope of the efforts that will create an overlay for renewable energy project sites similar to the existing geothermal overlay.

Incentives: We will seek the continuation of existing economic development incentives and work to create new and/or enhanced incentives for business development and retention. With consistently high unemployment, low per capita

incomes, and high poverty rates, we will seek legislative efforts to impact and improve these serious and long standing issues.

Transportation and Public Works

We support increasing funds for the Highway Bridge Programs to allow for future replacement of County maintained bridges and approaches.

We will support legislative efforts to align the current Local Assistance Procedures Manual with the Code of Federal regulations.

We support the new VLF and HUTA funding formulas which creates dedicated, stable funding for existing road and bridge maintenance.

We will support the County Engineers Association ongoing efforts to seek legislation that would make the fuel tax portion of the State Transportation Fund subject to continuous appropriation so that the CTC can continue to award project funds during periods when there is a budget deadlock in the legislature.

We oppose any “borrowing” from any transportation account in order to balance the General Fund budget as it results in delays in delivering local projects and makes completion of those projects more expensive. Furthermore we will request that all funding that has been borrowed previously from transportation accounts by the State be refunded back for future use by local agencies (i.e. Counties) for use on their public roadway systems.

Imperial County, along with the Imperial County Transportation Commission, will seek introduction of legislation that will ensure the continuance of a numbered State Route 86 as Cal Trans continues to work with the cities for the relinquishment of the existing route of State Route 86. The ICTC 20 year plan still considers a north/south route on the West Side of the Valley that connects SR 78 to the border region as an important corridor that needs to remain as part of the numbered state highway system.

Border Infrastructure

We support the Coordinated Border Infrastructure program (CBI) at the same or higher level as it was in previous authorizations, including the specific language that limits the expenditures from this fund to the immediate border region. We also support formulas in the legislation that will result in increasing the amount of federal funds that are returned to “donor states” such as California to at least 95 cents on the dollar.

We will seek additional funding to improve the Ports of Entry that connect Imperial County with Mexicali. Specifically we will ask for inclusion in the 2017 Fiscal Year budget the \$248 million required to undertake the last phase of a two-phase construction project for the reconfiguration and expansion of the Calexico West Port of Entry as well as an additional \$40 million dollars to add infrastructure improvements for three (3) additional truck inspection lanes in the Calexico East Port of Entry.

We will also seek funding to allow the GSA to promptly construct additional border gates that will include the potential for double stacking, within the existing Calexico East Port of Entry compound. We will seek authority to construct additional port of entry infrastructure with revenues derived from tolls if necessary to build a new port of entry to serve the Silicon Border area or to create additional lane capacity at or near existing ports-of-entry.

We will seek additional state and federal funding to allow for expansion of capacity of local roadways (specifically Menvielle Rd) leading from the Calexico East Port of Entry to ease ingress and egress and decrease border wait times.

We will seek federal and state funding to allow for phased improvements at the SR86 border patrol check point that will add additional lanes for inspection to allow for better flow of traffic. We will seek funding for permanent security and lane widening improvements at full expansion build out.

We support funding levels to the CBP that will allow all Ports of Entry along the Southern Border to be fully staffed to facilitate secure and efficient operations to reduce current unacceptable delays and air quality impacts.

We support CBP programs that will enable greater public participation in programs such as SENTRI that reduce border wait times while increasing security at our border ports of entry.

We will support efforts to allow various kinds of Public Private Partnerships to creatively finance new port infrastructure and/or staffing to speed up the flow of passengers and goods through our international ports-of-entry.

Health and Human Services

Social Services

CalWORKS Welfare-to-Work

We will support legislation and budget actions that:

- Holds Counties harmless for implementation of State-only requirements that result in Federal sanctions and oppose legislation that requires Counties to share in Federal sanctions.
- Provides full funding for CalWORKs Administration and Employment Services and restoration of Performance Incentives.
- Provides families retention services once self-sufficiency is achieved and maintained for a period of time.
- Provides permanent funding for subsidized employment.
- Maintains State funding for subsidized childcare services for families participating in CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work activities.
- Supports the creation of Welfare-to-Work programs that allows participants to best utilize the 24-month clock to complete combined employment and training activities successfully that are most beneficial to their family.
- Provides support services to help participants meet their overall goals with minimal financial hardship.
- Creates alternatives to the current flat adult sanction for a parent failing to cooperate with program requirements.
- Maintains CalWORKs substance abuse/mental health treatment funding and time frames for treatment.
- Supports CalWORKs funding flexibility for Mental Health/Substance Abuse allocation for individuals eligible for Family Stabilization services.
- Funds Linkages, the collaborative effort between Child Welfare, CalWORKs Eligibility and Welfare-to-Work and the provision of supportive services to CalWORKs parents including Family Stabilization services.
- Supports improvement to CalWORKs Welfare-to- Work to enable the individualized focus on the needs of parents and families.
- Measures County performance in a fair and comprehensive manner that recognizes multiple potential positive outcomes for families.
- Builds a partnership between Federal government, State and County that aligns regulations and moves forward with common goals, which are seamless and uncomplicated for customers and workers.
- Maintains the overall work focus of the program while recognizing that 'work first' does not mean 'work only'. Research indicates that the most successful welfare-to-work programs combine work training and supportive services.

Children and Family Services

We will support legislative efforts which advocate for improvements to the child welfare system, including: reasonable workloads and caseload standards for workers in all parts of the system to allow for individualized focus on the needs of children and families.

We will support legislative efforts which advocate for increased flexibility and funding, for enhanced use of existing funding sources, and for prevention and early intervention strategies to keep families strong and children safe in their communities.

We will support legislative efforts which advocate for increased attention to the needs of teenagers who are in the child welfare system, including supports to help them make permanent connections to adults in their lives and successfully transition to adulthood.

We will support legislative efforts which advocate for a concerted effort to recruit, support and retain resource families, including relative caregivers, foster families and adoptive parents.

We will support legislative efforts that expand the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) to include a Non Minor Dependent (NMD)/Extended Foster Care Youth/Young Adults to regulate the oversight so that counties and states would have an opportunity for relief through courtesy supervision of this expanding population.

Adult Protective Services

We will support legislative efforts to fund statewide training for Adult Protective Services (APS) Social Worker Staff.

We will support legislative efforts that will increase funding for APS.

We will support legislative efforts that will increase tangible services funding.

We will support legislative efforts that focus on elder and dependent adult abuse prevention.

We will support legislative efforts that would fund state APS representation with the goal of collecting, analyzing data; develop and provide statewide training; create and fund a statewide automated case management system; and support counties in regulation interpretation.

In Home Supportive Services

We will support legislative efforts that would decrease the county share of the IHSS program.

We will support the continuation of the MOE which requires the state to pay the difference of any and all over-expenditures of the IHSS allocation.

We will support legislative efforts that would provide additional funding to implement federal and state program changes.

We will support a statewide case management system that would allow enhanced coordination, investigation and required data collection.

We will support regulations that define the IHSS Social Worker, not a Health Plan Representative, as the professional that conducts home assessment and assigns the hours for the IHSS Applicant/Recipient.

Medi-Cal/Managed Care

We will support legislative efforts for the Legislature and Governor Brown to help all eligible Californians get both health coverage and CalFresh benefits with one-stop service. Connecting families with both Medi-Cal and CalFresh will lead to better health, nutrition, and economic security for all Californians. This connection will help modernize government customer service and drive more federal funds to California. This could provide an unprecedented opportunity to deliver health coverage and nutrition assistance to the estimated six million Californians who qualify for and need both support programs.

We will support legislative efforts to maximize dual participation in Medi-Cal and CalFresh by all dually-eligible Californians, through integrated eligibility processes and targeted in-reach, among other strategies.

We will support legislative efforts to establish new statewide customer service standards for CalFresh that align with those for Medi-Cal and Covered California's programs, to provide excellent, modern service to all consumers.

We will support legislative efforts to provide adequate funding for intake (applications) and case management staffing with statewide customer service standardized caseloads for each public assistance program, including supervisory and support services.

We will support legislative efforts that would provide equitable state funding to counties for health services to the medically indigent.

We will support legislative efforts that would provide counties with an equitable share of cost savings realized through implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

We will support legislative efforts to assure that any State health care policy replacing the California Health Care for Indigent Program (CHIP) provides the County with offsetting replacement revenues. We will also support legislative efforts to preserve and enhance Proposition 99 funding for CHIP and oppose the diversion of Proposition 99 funding from CHIP without offsetting alternative resources.

Public Health

General

We will support legislative efforts that improve access to quality health care among rural and impoverished communities with no added cost to counties.

We will support legislative efforts that increase the number and availability of qualified physicians, nursing and other health care professionals through individual incentives such as tuition subsidies and loan repayment as well as economic incentives to health care delivery systems.

We will support legislation to maintain sufficient health realignment funding to ensure that counties have resources to meet their obligations to fulfill their statutory public health and indigent healthcare mandates.

We will support legislative efforts that would increase state and federal funding to support basic public health services, including communicable disease control activities, and community and public health surveillance activities.

We will support legislative efforts that would establish and fund chronic disease prevention and health promotion programs, including programs that support healthy environments and address the social determinants of health.

We will support legislative efforts that would make health education activities related to chronic disease management, such as diabetes, asthma, obesity counseling and prevention activities, a covered and reimbursable benefit under Medi-Cal, both through fee-for-service reimbursement and health plan capitation payments.

We will support legislative efforts to expand opportunities to develop and implement asthma surveillance, prevention and treatment programs.

We will oppose legislative efforts that would eliminate, cap or reduce funding for Targeted Case Management (TCM) services and Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MMA).

We will oppose legislative efforts that divert 1991 Realignment funding from counties to the state.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

We will support legislative efforts that maintain County Board of Supervisors oversight of EMS and supports authority of the Local EMS Agency to plan, implement and evaluate all aspects and components of the EMS system.

We will oppose legislative efforts that would result in fragmentation of the EMS system including provision of EMS independent of the County and its Local EMS Agency.

We will support legislative efforts to provide funding for the improvement of the EMS/trauma/specialty care system and emergency room facilities.

We will oppose legislative efforts that would reduce or eliminate the Maddy Fund distribution formula for local EMS agency use.

We will support the State distribution of Federal emergency services and bioterrorism funding to local governments in a manner that achieves maximum allocation and flexibility for local utilization.

We will support legislative efforts that would provide funding for pre-hospital emergency services, including first responder agencies.

County Public Administrator

Area Agency on Aging

We will continue to support adequate funding for programs that provide meals and other assistance to needy seniors.

We will support legislative efforts to preserve funding for the Older Americans Act and other supportive services to help older Americans remain living successfully and independently in their homes and communities.

We will support legislative efforts to provide adequate discretionary funding under the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) for the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs).

We will support legislative efforts which adequately fund the Elder Justice Act (EJA) of 2010.

Behavioral Health

Alcohol and Drug Programs

We will support legislative efforts to stabilize and expand funding for alcohol and drug treatment services for adolescents, their families and adults.

We will support legislative efforts to fund residential treatment services under Medi-Cal.

We will support legislative efforts to allocate all surtaxes, interest and penalties collected as a result of a reclassification of alcoholic beverages from beer to a distilled spirit to fund alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment services.

We will support legislative efforts that would establish stable funding for the Screening and Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment program.

We will oppose legislative efforts that attempt to make further cuts to state and federal alcohol and drug treatment funding.

We will support legislative efforts to fund collaborative Drug Courts including DUI, Dependency Drug Court, and Reentry Court.

Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (Proposition 36)

We will support legislative efforts to provide full funding to counties to fulfill Proposition 36 responsibilities and allow maximum flexibility in the administration of state programs.

We will support legislative efforts to limit participant eligibility in the Proposition 36 program when the annual allocation to counties is not sufficient to fully fund state mandates.

Mental Health

We will support legislative efforts that would provide an equitable allocation of state and federal mental health funds and provide increased funding in the form of a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all programs.

We will support legislative efforts that would ensure that foster children and their parents/guardians have information about and access to safe and effective treatment for children's mental health special needs.

We will support legislative efforts that would establish and fund programs that provide better care coordination for adults and older adults with mental health disabilities and children with mental health special needs.

We will support legislative efforts that appropriate funding to augment services and programs that focus on addressing and preventing factors associated with the high incidence of youth suicide and self-inflicted injuries.

We will support legislative efforts to continue flexibility in the allocation of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to counties.

We will oppose legislative efforts designed to divert MHSA funds away from the provision of behavioral health services.

We will support legislative efforts to remove the exclusion of Medicaid coverage for patients aged 21 through 64 who are treated in an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) or a free-standing non-governmental psychiatric facility.

We will support legislative efforts to fund behavioral health courts.

We will support legislative efforts that provide military service veterans afflicted with mental health disorders as a result of their military service, and are criminal defendants, with sentencing court options for treatment and rehabilitation services that allow them to be self-sufficient and successfully re-integrate into society.