

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

BOARD AGENDA # B-6

Urgent \_\_\_\_\_ Routine X

AGENDA DATE January 30, 2001

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES 4 NO \_\_\_\_\_  
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO ✓

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2001

STAFF  
RECOMMEN-  
DATIONS:

APPROVE THE STANISLAUS COUNTY 2001 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

FISCAL  
IMPACT:

No immediate fiscal impact. However, changes in law often have significant fiscal impact on local and County government in particular.

BOARD ACTION

No. 2001-69

On motion of Supervisor Simon, Seconded by Supervisor Caruso, and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

Motion:

ATTEST: REAGAN M. WILSON, Clerk

By: Christina Ferraro Deputy

File No.

## APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2001

Page 2

**DISCUSSION:** The Legislative Platform focuses on issues of general concern to County operations, as well as specific issues of interest to the Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Officer and County departments.

Peterson Consulting, Inc., lobbyists for Stanislaus County, in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Officer, Department Heads and County staff, have developed the Legislative Platform that will serve as a guide during the upcoming legislative session. The Legislative Platform will allow lobbyists, working with the County staff and members of the Board, to represent the County's interests without returning to the Board for approval of specific bills which may impact the County, thus allowing them to respond without delay during the legislative session. A draft copy of the 2001 Legislative Platform is available with the Clerk of the Board.

As in the past, Stanislaus County will support legislation that leads to prudent governmental restructuring at all levels, with the goal of increasing efficiencies, streamlining bureaucracies, protecting available revenue sources, reducing State mandates, and providing the Board of Supervisors with more local control and financial flexibility. The County will oppose legislation that erodes County discretionary revenue and local control. Moreover, the County will continue to focus its efforts on legislation that improves our quality of life through economic development, and the provision of services that are responsive to the needs of our customers.

This year's Platform includes many of last year's unresolved issues. However, we also plan to pursue new issues and some of these include: supporting legislation to establish a permanent property tax cost sharing among all local entities; addressing some significant Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Medi-Cal program-related changes to effect efficiencies and cost savings; supporting legislation which would require the State, as opposed to local officials, for placing responsibility for filing an action regarding the disposal of waste tires; supporting legislation which would provide State funds for the complete removal of all tires from the Westley tire site; supporting legislation for continued

APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2001  
PAGE 3

funding of the State's abandoned vehicle abatement program; and, supporting legislation to acquire funds from parks bonds and other sources to implement parts of the Parks Master Plan, as well as legislation which would fund the Tuolumne River Initiative.

The County has identified a number of priority legislative objectives which it plans to actively pursue this year, and these are to:

- Continue to seek either a legislative or administrative remedy to the shortfall of income for Stanislaus County's Health System.
- Support legislation which would continue the planned State Buy-Out of Stanislaus County's Trial Court costs.
- Continue to seek a legislative remedy to the "Negative Bail-Out" as implemented through the passage of AB 8 in 1982.
- Continue to seek and assure the active support of the West Stanislaus Flood Control Project by the appropriate state agencies so that the project may proceed to completion.
- Continue to seek the County's fair share of funding for transportation improvements and beautification.
- Continue to seek one-time funding for projects that promote economic development in Stanislaus County including the County's advanced communication technology initiatives.

APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2001  
PAGE 4

The 2001 Legislative Platform does not exclude consideration of any other issues/concerns that may arise during the coming year. The Platform is a guide that will help the County in its legislative advocacy program. Throughout the year, staff will regularly return to the Board for direction and necessary action on other legislative matters of import to the County.

POLICY  
ISSUE:

The Board of Supervisors should decide if this Platform is consistent with the priorities of maintaining safe and healthy communities, promoting economic development, and improving our community service delivery system through efficient government operations and community leadership.

STAFFING  
IMPACT:

None.

*DRAFT SEVEN*

**STANISLAUS COUNTY**  
**2001 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**



# STANISLAUS COUNTY 2001 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

## **STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Pat Paul ..... District 1

Thomas Mayfield ..... District 2

Nick Blom ..... District 3

Raymond Clark Simon ..... District 4

Paul Caruso ..... District 5

Reagan Wilson ..... Chief Executive Officer

\*\*\*\*\*

Compiled by:

**Peterson Consulting Inc.  
1127 Eleventh Street, Suite 950  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 441-4424  
Ptrsn24lb@aol.com**

***Stanislaus County 2001 Legislative Platform***  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction..... Page 4

Priority Legislative Objectives.....Page 5

General Goals ..... Page 6

Aging ..... Page 7

Agriculture ..... Page 7

Assessor ..... Page 8

Auditor/Controller..... Page 8

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.....Page 8-9

Chief Executive Office ..... Pages 9-10

Clerk of the Board..... Page 11

Community Services Agency ..... Pages 11-13

County Counsel..... Pages 14-15

Courts.....Pages 15

Emergency Dispatch ..... Page 16

Employment and Training ..... Page 16

Environmental Resources .....Pages 17

Health Services .....Pages 18

Library .....Pages 19

Parks..... Page 19

Planning and Community Development..... Pages 19-20

Probation..... Pages 20-21

Public Works.....Pages 21

Sheriff ..... Page 22

## **INTRODUCTION**

Each year, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors adopts a Legislative Platform. The Platform is a statement of the priorities and goals of the Board of Supervisors for the County in its relations with the Executive and Legislative Branches of California State Government. It serves as direction for the County's representatives as they initiate and respond to legislation, and administrative actions and regulatory issues.

This year's Legislative Platform contains both broad generic goals and specific proposals. The emphasis, however, is on Stanislaus County issues. In adopting this platform the Board of Supervisors has stated its clear intent that the County's principal legislative and administrative efforts are to be directed toward those measures which are of specific interest and benefit to Stanislaus County.

As work on legislative and administrative issues progress, the adopted strategic priorities of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, as set forth below, will serve as a guide and provide direction for the County.

The Board has adopted the following priorities:

**Safe, Healthy Communities**  
**Economic Development**  
**Community Service Delivery**  
**Efficient Government Operations**  
**Multi-jurisdictional Cooperation**  
**Community Leadership**



## **STANISLAUS COUNTY PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES**

1. Continue to seek either a legislative or administrative remedy to the shortfall of income for Stanislaus County's Health System. The loss due to the reduced room rate reimbursement is \$2,000,000 per year. The loss of disproportionate share monies is \$5,000,000 per year.
2. Support legislation which would continue the planned State Buy-Out of Stanislaus County's Trial Court costs. The County's MOE for Administrative Costs is \$3,500,000 and Fines and Forfeitures is \$1,850,000 per year.
3. Continue to seek a legislative remedy to the "Negative Bail-Out" as implemented through the passage of AB 8 in 1982. The estimated cost of this reverse subsidy to the State of California to Stanislaus County is \$3,687,000 for 2001-2002.
4. Continue to seek and assure the active support of the West Stanislaus Flood Control Project by the appropriate state agencies so that the project may proceed to completion.
5. Continue to seek the County's fair share of funding for transportation improvements and beautification.
6. Continue to seek one-time funding for projects that promote economic development in Stanislaus County including the County's advanced communication technology initiatives.

***Stanislaus County 2001 Legislative Platform***  
**GENERAL GOALS**

The County's elected officials and employees are committed to serve the community with pride, and to enhance the economic, environmental and social quality of life in Stanislaus County.

In 2001, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors will, as a top priority, support legislation and administrative action that facilitates, encourages and supports orderly economic expansion and growth.

The Board will support administrative and legislative changes to increase programmatic and financial flexibility for the County and oppose any action which limits it.

The Board will continue to support the authority to assure mutual agreement for annexation, incorporation and redevelopment within the county.

The Board will support revenue shifts and State appropriations for health and human services sufficient to meet the demand by eligible persons and assure that the design of systems guarantee: (1) quality of care, (2) uniform availability of appropriate services throughout the State, (3) accountability by service providers, and (4) local determination of needs and priorities. Legislative and/or administrative action to the contrary will be opposed.

Even though the Legislature and the Governor have increased State funding for Trial Courts, the Board will continue to support further increased funding for all aspects of the justice system while allowing local flexibility in organizing and structuring it.

The Board will continue to encourage local agencies and governments to cooperate for the betterment of the community. In doing so, schools, businesses and other aspects of the county infrastructure can only benefit from such cooperation.

The Board will support legislative and administrative action, which encourages and facilitates agriculture as a vital part of the county's economy and will oppose any action which unreasonably hinders it.

As in past years, the Board will oppose any transfer of existing State programs to the County unless adequate funding is provided and assured which does not require additional County dollars to support the programs.

The Board will support State funding of local infrastructure such as transportation and telecommunications improvements. The Board will support State incentives that advance a job/housing balance.

**STANISLAUS COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT ISSUES**

Our departments have identified the following legislative interests, concerns, and proposed actions:

**Aging**

1. **Issue:** As the federal government shifts to block grant funding, there is a concern that the money be fairly distributed.

**Action:** Support legislation that assures that the money for Older Americans programs follows program responsibility.

**Agriculture**

1. **Issue:** The Stanislaus County Agriculture Foundation is developing plans for the construction of an agriculture pavilion, which would serve as an agricultural technology and learning center to focus on the significance of agriculture to the California economy. Local governmental agencies along with private businesses, foundations, State and Federal agencies are being asked to participate.

**Action:** Support State Budget allocations for the construction of an agriculture pavilion in Stanislaus County.

2. **Issue:** Funding for adequate staffing of County based agricultural extension services of the University of California is being reduced and/or transferred to non-county based services.

**Action:** Support budget appropriations and control language to bolster the county based agricultural extension services.

3. **Issue:** The education of people interested in agriculture is of utmost concern to Stanislaus County. Special support is needed to meet the demand for agricultural education.

**Action:** Sponsor/support legislation to promote agricultural education.

### **Assessor**

1. **Issue:** The current statute providing funds for the administration of property taxes expires in July, 2002. A “permanent” process is needed which would require that the property tax administrative costs be distributed equitably among each entity receiving property tax dollars.

**Action:** Support legislation to establish a permanent property tax cost sharing among all local entities.

### **Auditor/Controller**

1. **Issue:** The Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) was created to provide increased funding to schools by transferring property tax receipts from counties, cities and special districts to schools. The fund grows each year as the assessed value grows. This constitutes a continuing and growing revenue loss to the County.

**Action:** Support legislation to “freeze” the transfers to ERAF at the 2000-2001 level.

2. **Issue:** When the State of California enacted AB 8 following the passage of Proposition 13, counties were supposed to benefit by an infusion of property tax dollars. Stanislaus County, and five other counties, actually incurred a loss of property tax receipts. This so called “negative bailout” grows each year and is an unfair and unanticipated impact of AB 8.

**Action:** Sponsor/support legislation to hold Stanislaus County harmless in the implementation of AB 8.

### **Behavioral Health and Recovery Services**

1. **Issue:** The closure of the County operated hospital made the County ineligible for reimbursement of costs under the disproportionate share regulations (DSH). This is a concern to both the Health and Mental Health Departments.

**Action:** Support legislation to broaden the DSH eligibility definition to include Stanislaus County.

2. **Issue:** AB 34 was enacted by the 1999 Legislature as a pilot program in mental health. Stanislaus County was included in the legislation.

Action: Support the continuation of the AB 34 program and the continued inclusion of Stanislaus County.

3. Issue: The allocation of revenue from the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) and the sales tax (known as Realignment) to various health, mental health and social service programs is subject to a very complex formula. The current formula has had some “unintended” consequences and pressure is building to revise it.

Action: Support legislation to revise the Realignment formula while protecting income streams which Stanislaus County depends upon to fund needed programs.

4. Issues: There are several issues of concern to the continued successful provision of mental health services in Stanislaus County. They are:
  - a. The proposals to reduce the Vehicle License Fees pose a potential for losing needed funds for mental health services. The County will strongly oppose any efforts to reduce state funds for mental health services.
  - b. A number of counties are pursuing efforts to more closely link the provision of services by mental health, health, social services and drug and alcohol abuse departments. There are, however, some statutory and regulatory collaboration of efforts. The County will seek to remove those inhibitions and encourage collaboration.
  - c. The County is interested in becoming a pilot for treating individuals convicted of possession and use of illicit drugs in a non-prison setting.

Actions: Support legislative and administrative actions to protect and enhance the County’s revenue for mental health services and its options to provide them.

### **Chief Executive Office**

1. Issue: The \$25 billion settlement reached with American tobacco companies was based on the business practices of these companies, yet a number of legislators and private groups are attempting to mandate the expenditure of the settlement on a limited number of public programs.

Action: Oppose legislation that restricts Board of Supervisors’ discretion in the use of these funds.

2. Issue: Legislation applying Cal OSHA (AB 1127 Steinberg) standards and enforcement sanctions to public agencies passed the legislature, was signed into law by the Governor and became effective on January 1, 2000. While the legislature provided funds to reimburse schools and universities for costs arising out of this implementation, no funds were provided to local governments.

Action: Support legislation to reimburse counties for the cost of implementing the expanded Cal OSHA standards or legislation which would repeal those sections which require local governments to fund the correction of Cal OSHA violations if State reimbursement is not forthcoming.

3. Issue: The County is interested in increasing funding and local flexibility in designing and developing economic development programs which would include the creation of jobs for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients.

Action: Support or sponsor legislation to provide the County increased funding and local flexibility to design and develop economic development programs which would include increased job opportunities for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients and increased funding through the Job Creation Investment.

4. Issue: The County of Stanislaus is currently researching the feasibility of a 401(a) defined contribution retirement plan which could be offered to a limited number of County employees. This would be an alternative retirement plan to our 457 plan.

Because of requirements set forth in the Government Code, counties are required to have special legislation. The counties of Ventura and Los Angeles have special legislation for their alternative retirement plans.

Action: Support legislation necessary to have an alternative retirement plan to our 457.

5. Issue: Current State law does not provide for the appointment of the Chief Probation Officer by the Board of Supervisors.

Action: Support legislation which would empower the Board of Supervisors to appoint the Chief Probation Officer.

6. Issue: The use of specialized domestic violence courts has been especially effective in reduced domestic violence and realistically addressing its prevention. More judges and support personnel are needed in order to make domestic violence courts effective. Governor Davis vetoed legislation in 2000 that would have partially addressed this problem.

Action: Support legislation to provide increased funding for the domestic violence court in Stanislaus County with sufficient support personnel to be effective.

### **Clerk of the Board**

1. **Issue:** Current law contains many references to “clerks”. Some of the references date from the time when the County Clerk also served as the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors and the Court Clerk. Since this is no longer the case in most counties, the references to “clerks”, without a clear distinction, is confusing.

**Action:** Support legislation to clarify the definition wherever it is necessary in the statutes.

### **Community Services Agency**

1. **Issue:** The Cal Works/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program has been in existence long enough now to recognize that there needs to be some changes in the program. We note the following:
  - a) Deprivation- Full elimination of deprivation.
  - b) The age of “children” should be consistent in all programs.
  - c) Inter-County Transfers- require reapplication for TANF, in a new county, as in the Food Stamp program.
  - d) Simplify penalty provisions for school attendance, immunizations, and non-cooperation with DA Family Support. Penalty should be 25% rather than removal of a person from the assistance unit. (Consistent policy)
  - e) Allow TANF funds to be used to support adults, who have had their children removed from their homes, as long as the adults are cooperating in the reunification process. These adults should be allowed to continue in their Welfare to Work activities, including Behavioral Health Services.
  - f) Allow convicted drug felons who have gone through rehabilitation and remained drug free for a reasonable amount of time, to be eligible again for TANF benefits.
  - g) Single moms tend to be unduly punished with a “punishment beyond the punishment.” Allow parent(s) who obtain a job during the initial intake process to receive aid for at least one month. This will allow time for the parent to receive a paycheck rather than punish them for getting a job quickly. Adults are encouraged up front to look for work, and yet if they find work quickly they are no longer eligible for TANF benefits.
  - h) Abolish TANF intake re-computations.
  - i) Support legislation that will allow greater ability of agencies to share and exchange information without having each individual customer sign a release of information. Client would sign once only.
  - j) Eliminate the 18/24-month state time limits.

- k) Exemptions for state and federal 60-month time limits should be the same.
- l) Do not allow an earned income disregard for TANF recipients who are in subsidized employment.
- m) Eliminate MFG (Maximum Family Grant) provisions. MFG was implemented to discourage women from having children in order to remain at home and to achieve a reduction in births by limiting the amount of cash a family would receive. Welfare reform has changed the laws and requires even mother of young children to seek employment and this law has not proven to be a deterrent to families having additional children while on assistance. As families are encouraged to find immediate work, often with low wages, this fiscal “punishment” may be adding to a family’s employment barriers.
- n) Welfare to Work sanctions should discontinue the entire case and not just the adult removed from the grant. Research indicates states that are using full family sanctions, have been more successful in reducing their welfare roles than those that have continued to provide assistance to the family. Initially, maybe just take the parent out of the grant, but after repeated attempts to engage the parent in a meaningful activity with no success, the entire family should be discontinued.
- o) Create a state only program (if the Federal government continues to refuse to participate) that covers the costs and needs of undocumented children who end up in foster care.
- p) Lobby the State to amend the welfare reform plan to allow TANF to continue for up to 180 days after kids go to foster care (if parent is doing treatment program). This will be cost effective because we are spending incredible amounts of money to locate housing and pay first/last month’s rent and utilities in order for a child to return home.
- q) Expand the eligible population for CalWORKs supportive services beyond only Welfare to Work cases, to include all CalWORKs aided cases. Family focused services to benefit children placed with/living with non-needy relative caregivers; SSI parents and even undocumented parents could be provided. This would truly prevent the cycle of dependence and provide access to good preventative services like the Family Learning Centers.

Action: Support legislation and/or administrative actions to achieve the recommendations listed above.

2. Issue: In the field of Child Welfare Services there are some specific changes in law and administrative practices that would improve the services to children in the welfare system.

Actions:

1. Support legislation that would fund any of our best practice programs such as FDM’s, FIP, MDIC, DEC (Drug Endangered Children) etc.



2. Expand the State Child Care Plan to include CWS as a first priority for child care funds. This would bring the state into alignment with the Federal Welfare Reform regulations and provide much needed funds.
  
3. Issue: The Medi-Cal program continues to require simplification. We have been successful in the past year to eliminate quarterly reporting, eliminate the requirement for face to face interviews, implement the mail-in application/re-determination process, increase the maintenance need for the aged and disabled, and increase Medi-Cal for foster youth between the ages of 18-21. However, there is still much to be done in the area of Medi-Cal simplification. The following items will be addressed by CWDA Medi-Cal Care Communities and are also important to the County of Stanislaus:
  - a) Elimination of the asset test for all programs. Currently, asset waivers are only available for pregnant women (for pregnancy related services only) and children under the age of 19. The asset/resource test should be eliminated in all Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs. Cost estimates conducted by SDHS Fiscal forecasting have indicated that this would not result in an increase in program dollars.
  - b) Uniform Maintenance Need Level for Medi-Cal programs. Increase the MNIL to 200% of the federal poverty level. This would be an expansion of the program and would increase program dollars, however it would collapse the multitude of programs into one, and reduce the need to compute many different budgets.
  - c) Categorical eligibility to Medi-Cal for children in the school lunch program (express lane eligibility). If the maintenance need was increased as in b) above, or if the maintenance need for just children (6-19) was increased to 133% of the FPL, then this concept would be possible. Eligibility for the school lunch program is 130% of FPL.
  - d) Long Term Care - Increase the minimum monthly maintenance allowance, used for personal needs from \$35.00 to \$60.00. The \$60.00 is the limit allowed under federal law. This would create a slight increase in program dollars.
  - e) Eliminate the 100 hour rule for all Medically Needy programs. This has been eliminated in the 1931b program when the recipient parent has income at or below 100% of FPL.
  - f) Revise Minor Consent regulations for continuous eligibility for a one year period.
  - g) Eliminate the requirement for monthly reapplication for these services.

Action: Support legislation and/or administrative actions to achieve the listed objectives.

## County Counsel

1. Issue: Allocating tax increment for the Redevelopment Agency on a project area basis will not work in Stanislaus County due to the physical separation of our sixteen redevelopment sub-areas and the fact that there is a different mix of taxing entities in each sub-area. It would provide tax windfalls, at the expense of the Redevelopment Agency, for some taxing entities located in sub-areas that have declining property tax values.

Action: Support an amendment to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 96.6 which permits allocation of increment by tax rate area if circumstances such as exist in Stanislaus County occur.

2. Issue: Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 6 of the California Government Code covers the preparation, adaptation, and amendment of general plans. General Plans are also recognized as projects under California Law which must conform to the California Environmental Quality Act. Adoption or amendment of general plans through the initiative process do not have to conform to the procedural requirements set forth in the Government Code and do not have to conform to the California Environmental Quality Act. The California Supreme Court has determined that, to date, these Government Code provisions have not preempted the public from adapting or amending general plans by initiative.

Action: Proposed legislation that makes it clear that the legislature has preempted the adaptation or amendment of general plans and adapt a provision in the Government Code that limits adaptation or amendment of general plans exclusively to legislative bodies pursuant to the process set forth in Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 6 of the California Government Code.

3. Issue: Property owners who placed agricultural property of less than 10 acres in the Williamson Act in the late 1960's and 1970's did so anticipating tax benefits. Most of these have not in fact received any tax benefit since 1985. In order to remove these parcels from the Williamson Act without the property owner having to pay a fee, a change in the statute will be necessary.

Action: Sponsor and/or support legislation to correct this unintended consequence of current law and allow a petition for cancellation of a Williamson Act contract without a cancellation fee if the subject property has been under contract for more than 10 years and has received no Williamson Act tax relief for 10 years.

4. Issue: SB 876 amended Public Resources Code Section 42845 to authorize the Integrated Waste Management Board to direct the County Counsel and District Attorney to abate time related nuisances. It is unprecedented to authorize a State agency to direct the action of the attorney for a local governing body. The amendment also conflicts with existing State law.

Action: Sponsor and support legislation to delete this section from the statute; coordinate action with the California District Attorneys Association and County Counsels Association.

### **Courts**

1. Issue: There is a need to fund capitalization costs for criminal justice information systems including the courts.

Action: Support or sponsor legislation to provide for a one dollar per filing fee increase within Government Code Section 76000 for county justice information systems.

2. Issue: Problems surrounding the security of courtrooms have increased particularly in high risk/high profile cases. The provision of special arrangements for these cases is not an eligible expenditure as part of the State funded Trial Court Program.

Action: Support legislation to provide funding necessary for the special security arrangements required for high risk/high profile cases as part of the State funded Trial Court program.

3. Issue: Several years ago, voters called for greater funding for public safety by passing Proposition 172, which provided funds for public safety and called for minimum funding level guarantees. Since the passage of Proposition 172, the State has created new judgeships, necessitating new staff including courtroom staff, deputy district attorneys, court clerks and public defenders and courtroom construction. Yet the State's funding for these new judgeships and the accompanying costs have not kept pace with the costs, thereby reducing per capita funding for public safety.

Action: Support legislation, which would require the State to fully fund the creation of new court judgeships including corresponding support positions in the courts, the district attorneys office and the public defender and new courtrooms to accommodate the newly appointed judges.

### **Emergency Dispatch**

1. Issue: Emergency services rely on the continued operation of the 911 universal emergency reporting and locating system that has enabled emergency personnel to respond in a timely manner and with the appropriate agencies.

Action: Support legislation to broaden the method of financing the 911 system.

2. Issue: The Emergency Dispatch Department is frequently involved in training school children about the proper and appropriate ways to respond to emergencies including the use of the 911 telephone line. The cost for this training is borne by the County.

Action: Support legislation to provide for reimbursement of training costs for 911.

### **Employment and Training**

1. Issue: The future of job training programs, particularly the organization of them, is very much in doubt. There is concern that existing programs will be replaced without regard for the needs of the County's residents.

Action: Support or sponsor legislation to ensure and coordinate funding continuation with State and Federal sources for any transfers of programs providing training and job preparation.

2. Issue: Given the anticipated Federal downsizing of various departments, particularly the closing of military bases, it is imperative that other options for employment in the private sector be encouraged and supported.

Action: Support legislation designed to encourage business creation and expansion and training to provide opportunities for Stanislaus County residents to provide for themselves and their families.

## **Environmental Resources**

1. **Issue:** The Westley Tire Fire site has been a problem for decades. The community seeks the removal of all tires, including buried ones, and closure of the site to insure the safety and health of the site.  
  
**Action:** Sponsor and support legislative action to provide state funds for the complete removal of all tires from the Westley Tire Site.
  
2. **Issue:** The statute that provides state funding for the removal of abandoned vehicles will sunset at the end of this year. Abandoned vehicles are a nuisance, but counties need state funding to continue the abatement program.  
  
**Action:** Support legislation to continue the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program with a five year sunset.
  
3. **Issue:** The construction of a water treatment plant at Woodward Reservoir would lead to a prohibition of water/body contact at the reservoir and lead to reduced use of the reservoir for recreational use.  
  
**Action:** Sponsor and support legislation to permit water/body contact at Woodward Reservoir.
  
4. **Issue:** The Eastside Irrigation District is embarking on a ground water recharge project to reintroduce water into the groundwater basin to attempt to correct the current overdraft.  
  
**Action:** Support legislation to provide funding for the ground water recharge project in the Eastside Irrigation District.
  
5. **Issue:** The Waste-to-Energy Plant currently sells electricity at the power exchange price that does not include the “capacity component.” Revenue could be increased to the WTE plant if the power exchange price did include the capacity component.  
  
**Action:** Sponsor/support legislation to assure the inclusion of the capacity component in electricity purchase prices.
  
6. **Issue:** The increased number of clandestine laboratories has taxed local resources in responding to these hazardous materials calls.  
  
**Action:** Support legislation to reimburse local agencies which respond to law enforcement related hazardous materials calls.

## **Health Services**

1. **Issues:** There are several issues of great significance to Stanislaus County with regard to funding for health care. They are:
  - a. The most pressing issue, which was created by the closure of the County Hospital, is the loss of the MediCal Room charge revenue of \$21.66 per Fee for Service MediCal visit. The loss of over \$2 million per year is forcing the Health Services Agency into crisis.
  - b. The closure of the hospital eliminated the County's eligibility to receive DSH payment. The County is seeking a pilot program to improve access to uninsured and under-insured working poor. The pilot program would provide funding to expand access to these residents.
  - c. The County continues to seek approval to organize its Local Initiative into a County Organized Health System. The process to select a commercial plan for the County has been stalled. The number of beneficiaries does not support the cost of the two-plan model.
  - d. MediCal and CCS rates have to be increased if the County is to provide specialty services to its patients. An increase in rates will assist in ensuring access.
  - e. Categorical funding needs to be reconsidered to allow more flexibility and less reporting requirements to help meet public health needs of the community.

**Action:** Support legislative and administrative actions to protect and enhance the County's revenue for health services and its options to provide them.

2. **Issue:** There currently is little ability to coordinate and share information between the various agencies such as health, social services and the criminal justice system. This results in both duplication and in uneven treatment of those in need of these services and in a lack of a coordinated approach to treatment or response.

**Action:** Support or sponsor legislation which will allow greater ability of agencies to share and exchange information which will allow for more appropriate treatment or responses along with greater cost efficiencies.

## **Library**

1. **Issue:** There is an inconsistency between the statute which provides  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent in sales tax for the Stanislaus County Library and the generic state statute which applies to all counties.

**Action:** Seek a clarification in the Stanislaus statute which does not disadvantage Stanislaus County.

## **Parks**

1. **Issue:** Stanislaus County has completed a Park Master Plan which provides for increased recreational opportunities for the residents of Stanislaus County.

**Action:** Support legislative actions to provide funds from the Park Bonds and elsewhere to implement the first two years of the Parks Master Plan.

2. **Issue:** Stanislaus County has embarked on a program to gain public access to the Tuolumne River, to enhance and protect the riparian habitat and natural resources along the river within Stanislaus County.

**Action:** Support legislation to provide funding for the Tuolumne River Initiative.

## **Planning and Community Development**

1. **Issue:** The current subvention to counties for Williamson Act contracts is far below the actual tax loss to counties for Agricultural Preserves. The subvention fund has not been increased in 5 years. Preserving agricultural land is a priority for Stanislaus County.

**Action:** Support legislation to increase both the fund for subventions and the reimbursement rate to counties.

2. **Issue:** The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 needs to be the focus of attention during legislative sessions. Stanislaus County should continue to support streamlining CEQA requirements.

**Action:** Support CEQA reform legislation which streamlines and simplifies the environmental review process and oppose legislation which would impose costly and time consuming environmental reporting requirements without providing for an adequate source of funding to reimburse County costs.

3. Issue: Current law does not permit the implementation of the "clustering" of residential units in Williamson Act preserves.

Action: Sponsor and/or support legislation to amend the Williamson Act to allow the "clustering" of residential units and the maintenance of remaining open space in the Williamson Act.

### **Probation**

1. Issue: AB1913 (2000 legislative session) provides \$121 million dollars for juvenile probation statewide, Stanislaus County will receive \$1.6 million. This was only a one year appropriation.

Action: Support the continued funding at the 2000 or greater level to assure the ability to sustain the juvenile justice programs begun under AB1913.

2. Issue: Stanislaus County needs funds to:
  - a) restructure the central receiving area of Juvenile Hall to better utilize the space and to improve security.
  - b) design, build and operate a Juvenile Camp Commitment facility.

Action: Support the passage of legislation authorizing either a general fund appropriation or a bond measure to provide funding for Stanislaus County's projects at well as other county needs.

3. Issue: There is a need for joint action by probation and law enforcement to provide supervision for adult probationers who have used firearms in their crimes or have "no firearms" search conditions. Legislation providing funding for such programs has been introduced in prior sessions.

Action: Support legislation to fund joint law enforcement/probation teams for high risk, adult offender intrusive supervision.

4. Issue: Stanislaus County is currently the recipient of an Adult Mentally Ill Offender Reduction Grant Program. There is a need to continue this program on a permanent basis and to start a similar program for juveniles.

Action: Support legislation to fund a Juvenile Mentally Ill Offender Program and continue the Adult Program on a permanent basis.

5. Issue: Many felony offender adult probationers are not receiving face to face probation supervision due to funding cut-backs.

Action: Support legislation to fund adult probation supervision for felony offenders.



6. Issue: The implementation of Proposition 36 passed by the voters at the November 2000 election will require expenditures and other actions by Stanislaus County that will necessitate legislation.

Action: Sponsor and/or support legislation aimed at assisting the County financially and otherwise in the implementation of Proposition 36.

### **Public Works**

1. Issue: The Cities of Patterson and Newman, located in the west side of Stanislaus County have long been subjected to flooding. The City of Newman is flooded from Orestimba Creek and the City of Patterson is flooded from Salado and Del Puerto Creeks. Both creeks flood these towns on an average of about every five years. Property damage due to flooding is extensive, and there is a major threat to life and safety.

To address these issues, Congressman Gary Condit had funding placed in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of FY 1997 to allow the Corps of Engineers to study potential flood control measures. This study was completed in September 1997 and approved by Corps Headquarters in December 1997. The Project Study Plan (PSP) was completed in July 1998 and we are presently in the Feasibility stage of the process.

Originally, Stanislaus was strictly looking for measures to control flooding. As the project evolved, however, it became apparent that the most probable solution to control flooding would be the construction of dams. If dams are to be constructed, a truly unique mix of potential projects with significant, positive impact on Stanislaus County and our entire region becomes possible. These include irrigation water supply, recreation and power generation.

Action: Sponsor necessary legislation to implement the multifaceted projects on Orestimba Creek, Salado Creek, and Del Puerto Creek to address the flooding, irrigation, recreation and power generation needs in West Stanislaus County.

2. Issue: During the 2000 legislative session, \$400 million was appropriated to cities and counties for road maintenance and rehabilitation projects. There is a need for at least \$400 million more in succeeding years.

Action: Support legislation to continue the \$400 million annual allocation and increase it to meet the road and street maintenance needs of counties and cities.

## **Sheriff**

1. **Issue:** While counties struggle to meet their Proposition 172 Public Safety maintenance of effort requirement, an increasing number of those funds is required to be used to pay increasing retirement costs due to large number of industrial disabilities being incurred within the Sheriff's department. The diversion of these funds to pay for an increasingly expensive retirement program shrinks the available dollars for new deputies and equipment.

**Action:** Support ongoing efforts to rein in the presumptions allowed within the retirement system and to prevent further broadening of the disability presumptions.

2. **Issue:** The State has placed a cap on the rate paid to counties for holding State prisoners. This rate is below actual cost.

**Action:** Seek a change in the rate used to reimburse counties for State prisoners.