

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

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA:5.B.6  
AGENDA DATE: March 27, 2018

**SUBJECT:**

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2018

**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0134**

On motion of Supervisor Olsen, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1)  Approved as recommended
- 2)  Denied
- 3)  Approved as amended
- 4)  Other:

**MOTION:**

ATTEST:   
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA:5.B.6  
AGENDA DATE: March 27, 2018

CONSENT:

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

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**SUBJECT:**

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2018

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2018.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Legislative Platform for 2018 consists of State and Federal components. The Platform addresses general policy concerns as well as very specific pieces of legislation or topics of concern for the Board of Supervisors, the County Chief Executive Officer and County departments.

This recommended Platform was prepared in collaboration with staff from each county department and legislative consultants who have assisted in identifying priority issues for our county. It is intended for use as a guide for legislative involvement throughout the year and includes various legislative priorities, positions and principles to shape the County's legislative efforts. The Platform also includes the policy for the Board of Supervisors and staff to support or oppose positions on key issues.

Legislative Priorities of the State Platform for 2018 include transportation, water policy, renewable energy, assistance for homeless and mentally ill, economic development/job creation and funding for coordinated care and the In Home Supportive Services program. The legislative principles address areas such as community prevention efforts, program flexibility, revenues, mandates and financial burdens, regulatory law and legislation changes, economic development, healthcare reform, tax revenue, collaboration, and protection of payments to counties for services they provide. Additional State Legislative Platform items include storm water and flood control, mental and physical health issues, Williamson Act, roads and bridges, property tax allocation, environmental regulation and more.

The Federal Legislative Platform addresses significant priorities such as homelessness and access to services for veterans, enhanced radio operability for public safety, the Tuolumne River Regional Park, and the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park.

The Legislative Platform for 2018 is not all-inclusive and does not prohibit Board of Supervisors' consideration of additional issues, policies or legislation that may arise throughout the year. The Legislative Platform for 2018 will stay in effect until replaced by next year's Platform. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign

letters of support and opposition on behalf of the Board for those items that are covered specifically, or by the scope or intent, of the current approved Legislative Platform.

In addition, the Chief Executive Officer, executive leadership and appointed Department Heads are authorized to sign letters of support and opposition, and to appropriately advocate for those items that are covered by the scope of the current approved Legislative Platform. In the event of urgency for legislation that is not covered by the current Legislative Platform, the Chief Executive Officer will work with Board Members and legislative representatives to ensure that the County's interest are appropriately represented.

The County contracts under separate agreement with Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc. for State legislative advocacy at an annual cost of \$62,496, and with Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP for Federal legislative advocacy at an annual cost of \$90,000. These advocacy agreements are included in the Chief Executive Office - Operations and Services 2017-2018 Final Budget.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

Approval of the Legislative Platform provides authority for County staff to advocate on State and Federal legislative, regulatory and administrative issues in accordance with Board of Supervisor direction. The Legislative Platform also provides a framework for addressing issues that develop during the year that are not in the approved Legislative Platform.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no immediate fiscal impact in approving the platform. A primary focus of the legislative priorities is financial. Changes in the law and actions by elected officials and government agencies during the year may have a significant fiscal impact on local government.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

Approval of the Legislative Platform supports the advancement of each of the five Board of Supervisors' priorities by promoting policy advocacy across a spectrum of County services and projects.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

The County will use existing staff for implementation of the Legislative Platform. Staff may include members of the County Chief Executive Office, County departments and the Board of Supervisors.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Amy Vickery, Chief Executive Office, (209) 525-6333.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. 2018 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

# 2018

## LEGISLATIVE & POLICY AGENDA



**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
2018 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY AGENDA**

**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Kristin Olsen ..... District 1  
Vito Chiesa ..... District 2  
Terry Withrow ..... District 3  
Dick Monteith..... District 4  
Jim DeMartini..... District 5  
  
Jody Hayes..... Chief Executive Officer



Stanislaus County Administrative Offices  
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(209) 525-6333

Prepared in Collaboration with Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.  
& Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLC

***Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative and Policy  
Agenda***

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## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Stanislaus County State Legislative Priorities

The following is a list of legislative priorities approved by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. Additional projects and priorities are contained in this document. Further legislation and administrative actions also may be added during the 2018 legislative session. The 2018 Legislative Platform will not expire until the passage of the 2019 Legislative Platform.

- **Protect Transportation Funding** - The Legislature and Governor approved a comprehensive transportation package in 2017 that will provide funding for county roads. Support efforts to protect those funds and ensure they are timely distributed to enhance travel and delivery of goods throughout the County.
- **Water Policy** - Support policies that appropriately prevent increased river flows through Stanislaus County. Support policies that promote appropriate local control of water resources and protect local water needs. Seek all necessary technical and policy assistance in implementing new laws related to groundwater management. Advocate for favorable criteria in the development of any water, parks or resources bond grant funds that may become available through current or future voter-approved bonds.
- **Covanta Renewable Energy** - State legislation has removed the long-standing renewable energy designation of the Covanta Waste-to-Energy facility. Support legislation and regulatory efforts to restore the renewable designation which will preserve the County's investment in the facility.
- **Expedited Assistance to the Homeless and Mentally III** - The current process to provide care and services to homeless persons on the street is cumbersome and leads to repetitive behaviors that waste resources and do not deliver services that are durable and impactful. Seek and support legislation that will assist counties in aligning and leveraging local resources to deliver services to the homeless and mentally ill in ways that will permanently improve lives and reduce the number of homeless and mentally ill people in our communities who cannot provide care for themselves. Identify resources to assist gravely disabled individuals.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

- **Increased Child Support Funding** - Despite a significant effort to restructure how federal and state funds flow to county child support departments, no changes or increases in funding have been provided by the State in fifteen years. Stanislaus County remains critically underfunded along with several other counties in California. A more equitable distribution of funds to all counties is the reasonable solution to this inequitable funding issue.
- **Health Care** - Stanislaus County opposes any shifts in health care costs that would increase the expense of health care service, coverage or treatment to the county or residents of the county.
- **Changes to Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) pilot program and the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program** - The Governor proposed to eliminate the CCI and return the IHSS MOE to the Counties as part of the final approved 2017-2018 budget. Some concessions were made to assist counties in managing the immediate financial impact; however, when the mitigation measures are exhausted in year four, the County will face exceptional new costs regarding this entitlement program. It is imperative that the County stay in close coordination with the California State Association of Counties and the Department of Finance on any impacts that are unanticipated.
- **Court Security** - The Sheriff's Department provides security to the Superior Court of Stanislaus County as required by State Assembly Bill 118 which requires each county treasurer, city and county treasurer, or other appropriate officer to create a County Local Revenue Fund 2011. Funding for court security services is not sufficient to cover the cost of maintaining the safety of all court facilities for court employees, County staff and members of the public.





## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Stanislaus County Legislative Principles

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors supports the principles and policy agenda items set forth below as general, guiding principles for legislative issues impacting Stanislaus County. County staff, including the County's legislative advocates, will apply these general, guiding principles to evaluate proposed and adopted legislation, as well as executive and regulatory actions, and to guide County action on these issues. Positions of "support" and "oppose" in the Legislative Platform authorize action to be taken on issues, but do not mandate the Board to act on each issue that might arise.

- **Economic Development/Job Creation** - Support policies that appropriately promote local economic expansion and job growth, including development of the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park. Encourage and seek legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and growth, and increases the opportunity for appropriate economic development in the County. Support State incentives for hiring and bringing employment opportunities to Stanislaus County. Support appropriate State incentives or funding for the development of shovel ready land at the local level, including programs for funding local infrastructure development. Support technology and the development of a robust, high speed fiber infrastructure that would attract private investment and serve as a foundation for new business creation. Oppose any State actions that would negatively impact economic development in Stanislaus County.
- **Prevention** - Support appropriate State efforts that address topics such as homelessness, strengthening families, youth early intervention, reducing recidivism and gang reduction including targeting root causes of these societal issues.
- **Program/Regulatory Flexibility** - Support full funding and maximum program flexibility for the County to implement state and federally mandated programs, including the 2011 Public Safety and Health and Human Services Realignments. Support efforts to streamline or eliminate unnecessary administrative requirements, and to reduce or eliminate inappropriate legal or regulatory burden on local government.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

- **Revenue/Fees** - Support additional revenue from changes in funding formulas for more equitable allocation to the County. Support additional funding for programs where service needs and costs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenue. Support opportunities for revenue from appropriate grant applications. Oppose state revenue reductions to Stanislaus or revenue shifts away from the County including property tax, sales tax, etc. to Stanislaus County without a corresponding decrease in program responsibilities. Oppose inappropriate increases in fees charged to the County or associated County programs or services.
- **Mandates and Financial Burdens** - Support efforts to lessen financial burdens on counties through legislative, administrative or regulatory action. Support legislation which would relieve local governments from implementing state mandates in the absence of state funding. Support the ability of the County to streamline or eliminate unnecessary administrative requirements, reduce or eliminate regulations that control implementation of state-mandated programs, and promote the ability of the County to exercise greater program flexibility to meet its needs. Oppose state or federal mandates without a dedicated, ongoing revenue source. Oppose passage of State mandates which contain only optional funding sources. Oppose, as needed, the use of new, optional local fees as the funding source for mandates. Oppose the transfer of state or federal programs to the County unless adequate and protected on-going revenues are provided and dedicated exclusively for that purpose. Oppose language that would recognize projects to be “deemed approved” if action is not taken by local jurisdictions within prescribed timeframes, if those timeframes are not reasonable. Support reimbursement from the State in full for any previously deferred mandate payments.
- **New Regulations & Legislation** - Support legislation that freezes or decreases the imposition of new regulations that negatively impact local governments or local businesses. Support legislative and administrative efforts to appropriately suspend or reduce regulatory burdens on local public agencies. Support efforts for all new legislation to include the estimated financial impact to local government. Oppose new regulations that increase costs to local governments without an appropriate funding source. Oppose any additional non-urgent regulatory requirements on the County from any organization, agency or entity.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

- **Healthcare Reform** - Support healthcare reform that provides for more cost-effective care of County uninsured patients. Support reform efforts that increase provider competition in order to decrease the cost of healthcare for employers. Oppose legislation or regulation that penalizes local government as a result of employees contributing money into their Health Savings Accounts.
- **Tax Revenue** - Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies. Support the additional allocation of property tax revenues to Stanislaus County. Oppose attempts to decrease, restrict, shift, or eliminate County tax revenue sources.
- **Collaboration** - Seek appropriate cooperation with the state and federal government on regulatory and administrative issues affecting the County so as to ensure the protection and well-being of its citizens.
- **Protection of Payments** - Support legislative and administrative action to assure that the state will meet its financial obligations to counties through the timely and full remittance of payments due.



# Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

## Assessor

**Contact: Don Gaekle, Assessor  
209.525.6461**

### 1. Support of the Williamson Act

Issue: The Williamson Act is economically and environmentally important to Stanislaus County. There are more than 8,150 properties with more than 660,000 acres under contract in Stanislaus County. Of these acres, approximately 532,000 are in economically sized and productive units that can benefit from the Williamson Act. For the 2016-17-tax year, the Williamson Act reduced overall revenue from property taxes by nearly \$17 million. The County's share of that is \$1.87 million. In the 2009-2010 Budget, the Governor eliminated Williamson Act subvention payments and created a significant fiscal hardship for counties like Stanislaus with substantial acreage enrolled in the Act. Had the County received a fully-funded subvention from the State in 2016-17 it would have been eligible for \$1.3 million.

Action: Support restoration of subventions to fully fund the loss of property tax as a result of the Williamson Act program. Support legislation and administrative action that would enhance the program and improve the ability of both the State and the County to enforce the Williamson Act contracts through uniform control measures. Oppose any further weakening of the Act.



# Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

## Auditor-Controller

**Contact: Lauren Klein, Auditor-Controller  
209.525.6398**

### 1. Property Tax Allocation – AB 8

Issue: Counties receive an average of 15% of property tax revenues generated within their boundaries. Stanislaus County receives approximately 10% of each tax dollar generated countywide. This is the second smallest number for all counties statewide. These funds are discretionary and are used principally to fund public safety and other vital county services. Addressing this issue would help facilitate an adequate and stable level of services for Stanislaus County.

Action: Ensure an adequate and stable level of services from County to County by supporting legislation that would appropriately address this inequity.

### 2. Property Tax Administration Fee

Issue: The State has previously provided a subvention to counties, most particularly the Assessor, to assist in paying for the collection of property taxes. This is an important source of revenue to the County necessary to sustain the property tax program, however, in the final fiscal year 2005-2006 California budget negotiations the Property Tax Administration Grant program was eliminated.

The current property tax administration fee legislation specifically precludes counties from recovering their costs from school districts. This has a significant impact on discretionary funds which must be diverted to cover these costs. In fiscal year 2015-2016 these unreimbursed costs totaled over \$5 million.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or executive action to restore funding to the property tax administration program that would address this inequity. These costs reduce resources that are discretionary and could be used to fund public safety activities. Addressing this issue would also help ensure an adequate and stable level of services from County to County.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

**Contact: Richard DeGette, Behavioral Health Director  
209.525.6225**

#### **1. Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Waiver**

Issue: Some rules and regulations for the DMC-ODS 1115 waiver are inappropriately restrictive and need to be changed. One example is Drug Medi-Cal certification where local rates and certifications of non-county programs are being set by the State instead of at the local level like Mental Health programs under the 1915(b) Waiver.

Action: Advocate for and raise awareness for reasonable Department of Health Care Services Drug Medi-Cal rules, regulations, and rates with top DHCS administration and with higher state administrative and legislative levels.

#### **2. Appropriate Funding for Behavioral Health Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment**

Issue: Opioid addiction is a serious national crisis that affects public health and the wellbeing of communities across the United States. It is important that state and local agencies allocate appropriate funding to this epidemic. Inadequate State and Federal funding for SUD programs has significant impacts on the provision of client services and County budgets. Decreases in funding, without decreases in service mandates, is problematic. Likewise, growth in program clients without appropriate growth in funding is an increasing challenge. Secured, stable, and appropriate funding sources are needed for access to medically managed detox.

Action: Support increased access to affordable residential substance abuse treatment, increased reimbursement rates for medication-assisted treatment for Opioid Addiction (along with increased education to doctors and med students about opioid prescribing), increased prevention/early intervention and treatment for youth, and tele-health options for certified drug and alcohol counselors to provide Medi-Cal covered counseling services for individuals with barriers



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

preventing them from attending a treatment site. Increased oversight of Recovery Residences (clean and sober homes) for safe housing and recovery support activities for individuals in outpatient SUD treatment. Support increased outreach and engagement efforts, and post treatment services for substance users. Oppose unfunded mandates.



# Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

## Chief Executive Office

**Contact: Jody Hayes, Chief Executive Officer  
209.525.6333**

### 1. Water Policy

Issue: We value efforts to protect our water and recognize that it is a precious commodity for Stanislaus County. We will actively pursue legislation that sustains our vital rivers and reservoirs and water supply system at large for the provision of reliable and sufficient water resources.

Action: Oppose any law or regulation that inappropriately increases unimpaired flows in rivers and waterways or that does not appropriately address non-flow alternatives. Support policies that prevent unimpaired flows for rivers running through Stanislaus County. Support policies that recognize the importance of local groundwater re-charge and alternative advantages of our access to water. Hydroelectric power generation should be considered an important benefit of our water resources and advocacy efforts with balanced consideration to developmental resources and wildlife protection. Support the Don Pedro Project with respect to the role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the successful license renewal reducing economic impact of water use to county residential users and our farming community

### 2. Storm Water and Flood Control

Issue: Stanislaus County is home to many levees in need of significant repair and improvement. In addition, this past winter brought many weak spots in our road system. At the peak of the flood emergency, 23 roads were closed and an equal number were severely flooded. Cost estimates exceed \$40 million. Major critical river crossings should be mitigated before the next flood event. Below is a list of road closures due to flooding.

These projects to date are unfunded and represent roads that cannot be repaired or otherwise addressed with Measure L funds: Hickman Road Bridge from Hwy 132 to Delaware Road, Shiloh Road from Grayson Road to Paradise Road, Grayson Road from Cox Road to Shiloh Road, River Road from Hills





## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

Ferry Road to Villa Manucha Road, Ellenwood Road from Oakdale Waterford Hwy to Claribel Road, Oak Flat Road from Ward Ave to Diablo Grande Parkway, Welty Road from Spencer Road to Gaffery Road, Spencer Road from Welty Road to SR 33, Hale Road from Stuhr Road to Anderson Road, Eastin Road from Stuhr Road to Anderson Road, Jorgenson Road from Stuhr Road to Anderson Road, Bell Road from Stuhr Road to Anderson Road, Pelican Road from Orchard Road to Dairy Road, River Road from 7th St. bridge to Zeff Road, Cooperstown Road from Willms Road to J59(La Grange Road), Anderson from SR 33 and Bell Road, Haile from Stuhr Road to Anderson, Montpelier from Whitmore Avenue to Keyes Road, Litt Road just north of Claribel Road, Crows Landing Road.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide funding for repairs and upgrades to roads and levees and support flood control efforts in Stanislaus County, provided such actions do not create a new or increased level of financial or legal risk to Stanislaus County and that ownership of the levee does not transfer to the County.

### 3. Workers' Compensation Program Reforms

Issue: Since the enactment of substantial reform to California's Workers' Compensation System several years ago, there has been a slow legislative erosion of those reforms. As a large employer, Stanislaus County is concerned about legislative efforts to add new benefits or presumptions to Workers' Compensation coverage, due to the cost and liability concerns.

Action: Oppose legislation that will weaken reform, add new presumptions or otherwise increase liability to the County.

### 4. UC Merced Medical Education

Issue: There is an extreme shortage of physicians in the Central Valley of California. A School of Medicine at UC Merced will provide increased access to health services for needy patients in the valley by graduating physicians who would stay in the valley.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

Action: Support efforts that would develop and sustain a school of medicine at the University of California, Merced.

### 5. Valley Family Medicine Residency Program

Issue: The Central Valley is in desperate need of physicians. The Valley Family Medicine Residency Program began training resident physicians in Stanislaus County starting July 1, 2010 and remains an important Stanislaus County collaboration.

Action: Support the Valley Family Medicine Residency Program. Support budget, grants, legislative or administrative action that would assist in supporting and enhancing the program.

### 6. Video Arraignments

Issue: The Stanislaus County Public Safety Center is located four miles from the Stanislaus County Courthouse. The cost of transporting prisoners for arraignment is costly and can be physically dangerous for officers, with the risk of a possible inmate escape or injury being present. Existing law allows rights for certain prisoners as they may choose to be arraigned remotely via video so they do not need to be transported to the Courthouse.

Action: Support legislative or other action that would promote increased use of video arraignment in the county public safety system.

### 7. Grand Jury Financial Responsibility

Issue: Grand Juries are empaneled in each California county through provisions in the California Constitution. Existing law establishes the Superior Court system as having supervisory authority over the County Grand Jury, while the financial responsibility and the responsibility to defend actions brought against Grand Juries, is delegated to the local county.

Action: Support legislative or other action that would provide for full State funding of the Grand Jury, including the legal defense of the Grand Jury.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### 8. Targeted Enforcement of Disadvantaged Communities

Issue: The State legislature has made attempts to pass laws and regulations that would cause negative impact to low income communities and communities of color. Stanislaus County is desperately in need of jobs and economic development. Actions that would target enforcement of businesses in underserved communities by doubling fines or through other negative impacts in these areas are unjust, do not promote good public policy and negatively impact economic development in these areas.

Action: Oppose legislation or other programs that single out disadvantaged communities with more stringent regulations, excessive fines or other impacts that can negatively impact economic development and the well-being of the local community. Ensure that funding targeted to help disadvantaged communities is directed to disadvantaged communities - especially in the Central Valley.

### 9. Americans with Disabilities Act

Issue: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is extremely important legislation which requires businesses to comply with accessibility standards; however, there are some individuals who have manipulated the ADA to harass businesses and file frivolous lawsuits. Meaningful reforms have been enacted to reduce frivolous lawsuits for businesses but local governments were inadvertently left out of the solution.

Action: Support legislation or other actions that protect the importance of the ADA while also protecting businesses from abuse and frivolous lawsuits. Support legislation or other actions to permit local governments a window of 60 days to correct any ADA violations before a lawsuit could be brought forth, just as business are now granted.

### 10. Crows Landing Industrial Business Park

Issue: The Crows Landing Industrial Business Park presents enormous potential for economic development, offering approximately 370 acres of airport and another 900 acres of possible logistics/industrial/business park. The



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

County has identified that approximately \$32 million in initial investment for infrastructure is needed to facilitate economic development; however, there is no readily available assistance that the County can apply for to initiate this development.

Action: Seek out all available resources that the County can access to secure these needed funds. Support budget, grants, legislative or administrative action that would assist in successful completion of Phase 1A of the project.

### 11. Local Preference for Contractors

Issue: The County cannot hire local contractors for small, one-time projects due to bidding law requirements. The functional result of this prohibition is that large, out-of-town contracting companies win most bids for work, despite the County's strong desire to hire more local businesses for work that cannot be done by in-house staff.

Action: Seek additional flexibility in the law to ensure that the County may provide preference points or favorable consideration to businesses located in Stanislaus County that bid for jobs advertised by the County.

### 12. Veterans Services

Issue: Stanislaus County and the surrounding area are home to many veterans. State funding and programming has lagged behind the growing need of this population. The large number of veterans sharing similar needs has established the need for a veterans' one-stop facility for services in the community.

Action: Support increased funding for veteran's services. Support increased local services for veterans with appropriate funding. Support budget, grants, legislative and administrative action or other efforts that would assist in successful completion of the veterans' one-stop facility.

### 13. County Homepage Postings

Issue: The State legislature has proposed various mandatory postings on County website homepages. Stanislaus County supports freedom of



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

information, however, opposes the State mandating what information should be posted on County website homepages. This micro-management of local governments does not provide the County the ability to provide information to county residents in the most appropriate and effective way. There are numerous publicly accessible County webpages where vital information can be posted and easily accessed, and it should be the County's final decision on which way important public information should be communicated to the residents the Board serves.

Action: Oppose State legislative and regulatory efforts to mandate specific information postings on County website homepages.

### 14. IRS Publication 1075

Issue: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 1075 provides guidance to ensure that the policies, practices, controls and safeguards employed by recipient agencies adequately protect the confidentiality of Federal Tax Information (FTI) and related financial data. This publication was updated and released in September 2016, with updated requirements going into effect immediately upon release. New requirements impact how agencies perform background checks on employees. Implementation of the requirements might require State legislation.

Action: Support State legislation to facilitate the appropriate implementation of IRS Publication 1075.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Child Support Services

**Contact: Baljit Atwal, Interim Director  
209.558.3062**

#### 1. Child Support Flat Funding

Issue: For 15 years, the Stanislaus County Department of Child Support Services, as a Local Child Support Agency, has experienced flat funding based upon the current funding allocation formula. The funding has not accounted for increases in the annual cost of doing business. The current funding allocation formula needs to be updated to address inequities that exist among agencies across California. The continued flat funding in Stanislaus County has reduced staffing from 242 to 161; however, the Department has been unable to fill all allocated positions in recent years. In order to fit within the Department's allocation for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, a minimum of 13 positions had to be left vacant. This reduction in staff has directly affected the Department's ability to provide comprehensive services to the families in need of our services.

The current funding allocation formula (developed in the 1990s) is no longer sufficient to maintain an adequate number of caseworkers to establish and enforce the court-ordered amount of child support collections needed by Stanislaus County families. The impacts of the outdated allocation methodology are significant and affect County residents even beyond those served by the child support department via compromised safety net for lower income families, decreased ability to collect (because of reduction in staffing), diminished customer service, less assistance for families and increased child poverty.

In 2015, the California Department of Child Support Services (CADCSS) established a committee including LCSA directors to develop and recommend several potential allocation methodologies. The committee, along with assistance from a vendor, developed three separate methodologies. To this date, none of these methodologies have been implemented, though each would have positively affected Stanislaus County's local program allocation. Adoption of any of these methodologies would provide Stanislaus County an increase of several million dollars. Such an increase would stabilize the staffing resources within the department and provide more comprehensive services, thereby creating greater financial security for families in our community.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

Action: Increase child support allocation/funding and develop a new statewide budgeting methodology that accurately and equitably funds current and future child support caseload and workload. Advocate for and support legislative, administrative, and/or budgetary efforts to revise the California Department of Child Support Services funding allocation formula to adequately address funding issues. Support Local Child Support Agency efforts to revise and modernize an equitable funding allocation formula.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Clerk of the Board

**Contact: Elizabeth A. King, Clerk of the Board  
209.525.4494**

#### **1. Brown Act and Public Records Requests**

Issue: Changes in the law regarding Open Meeting regulations (Brown Act) or Public Records Act can impact the Clerk of the Board operations.

Action: Closely monitor legislation introduced in these areas, advocate as appropriate and oppose additional unfunded mandates.

#### **2. Assessment Appeals Process**

Issue: Changes in the law regarding the Assessment Appeals process can impact the Clerk of the Board operations.

Action: Closely monitor legislation introduced in these areas, advocate as appropriate and oppose additional unfunded mandates.





## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Community Services Agency

Contact: Kathy Harwell, Director  
209.558.2520

- 1. Increase Medi-Cal Allocation/Funding and develop a new Statewide Medi-Cal Budgeting Methodology that accurately and equitably funds current and future Medi-Cal caseload and workload.**

Issue: The allocation for the administration of the Medi-Cal program is based on antiquated budgeting methodologies and has been held at the same level for several years. The Governor's budget included an additional \$169 million in total funds (\$57 million State General Fund) for FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18. The additional funds reflect only a two year agreement, do not recognize the ongoing costs attributed to significant caseload growth resulting from the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and do not continue past FY 2017-18. The FY 2016-17 budget assumes that the Medi-Cal caseload will increase 8.1 percent from FY 2014-15 to FY 2015-16 (an estimated 727,000 new cases), and grow another 1.5 percent from FY 2015-16 to FY 2016-17 (an estimated 62,000 new cases). It is important to note that Stanislaus County's caseload growth is higher than the statewide average. The steep increase in caseload has been coupled with a sharp increase in manual work for county eligibility staff. A significant amount of that workload is due to automation problems that exist within the CalHEERS enrollment system developed by the California Department of Health Care Services and Covered California to implement the ACA and interfaces with the C-IV Statewide Welfare System. A permanent increase in funding for these activities is needed in order to keep pace with a growing and permanently larger Medi-Cal enrollment.

Action: Support permanent increases in Medi-Cal funding and provide a new budgeting methodology for determining allocations equitable to all counties.

- 2. Increase funding to support full implementation/mandates of the Continuum Care Reform enacted under Assembly Bill 403. Increased funding is required for Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention, Child and**



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### **Family Team Meetings, Child Mental Health Services, monitoring of Psychotropic Medication and Foster Family Home Rate Structure**

Issue: AB 403 (Stone, Statutes of 2015) requires significant changes to the placement and care provided to children in foster care, including increasing capacity and support to resource families in California and improving outcomes for children and youth in our child welfare system. The proposed state budget does not sufficiently fund all of the statutory mandates and legislative requirements that need to be met to implement this significant reform beginning January 1, 2017. Current funding for foster parent and adoptive parent recruitment and support was realigned to counties in 2011 and is inadequate for the needs of foster and adoptive parents. There are currently several State initiatives that rely on having an adequate supply of quality foster parents to reduce use of group home care and increase permanency for children and families, including Katie A and the Continuum of Care Reform effort. Counties are required to increase their local supply of quality foster parents through local initiatives including the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) and the Resource Family Approval Program (RFAP) in order to meet the legislative mandate to eliminate group homes and transition all youth into a lower level of care effective January 1, 2017.

Action: Increase funding for implementation of Coordinated Care Reform to enable counties, including Stanislaus County to implement mandatory legislation to increase the supply and availability of high quality foster parents, conduct Child and Family Team meetings, and administer the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment for all youth in Foster Care. The current level of funding does not adequately fund counties to recruit foster family (Resource Family) homes with capacity to serve high needs children and teens in Intensive Services Foster Care home setting and complete mandatory Child and Family Team meetings. Current funding level does not include new requirements for the use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS) now required for each child. There are currently over 825 children in out-of-home placements. The rate of out-of-home placements in Stanislaus County has increased over 18% during the past three years and continues to increase.

Each child in an out-of-home placement must have a Child and Family Team Meeting and a CANS assessment. These multidisciplinary team meetings



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include the foster youth, his or her care givers, Social Workers, Mental Health Clinicians, and other critical partners. On average urgent high needs cases require, on average, six, ten-hour CFT session per child. High needs cases require, on average three, eight-hour session per year. The most stable cases will require on average, two, five-hour sessions per year. In addition, each child will be required to have an assessment, utilizing the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment tool. This assessment will add an additional two hours to the CFT requirements.

Counties are required to comply with new legislative and court-mandated requirements to eliminate the use of group home care, effective December 31, 2018. All youth must be transitioned into high quality foster parent homes equipped with the resources and services to meet the developmental needs of youth placed in their care. Counties are required to ensure that high quality foster parents who are prepared and supported to meet the needs of all foster children, especially those transitioning from group home level care, with the goal of improved child and family outcomes and helping the state to meet federal outcome and accountability requirements and avoid federal fiscal sanctions. Currently, Stanislaus County has over 60 children placed in Group Homes, including children who have been placed out of state, due to the inability to locate placement within California. Finding placements for these children is extremely challenging, often requiring inquires to over 150 different facilities for children/teens with the most significant needs.

### **3. Elimination of Enhanced Funding for IHSS:**

Issue: Elimination of enhanced federal funding of 6% for specific In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program costs beginning in 2020. California's IHSS program is the largest in the country, and is the core of our home-and-community-based system that allows the elderly and disabled to remain in their homes rather than be placed in a more costly institutional care setting. Serving over 480,000 beneficiaries today, this reduction in funding is estimated to increase state costs by about \$400 million in 2020, growing annually. Over the past decade, the Stanislaus County IHSS authorized cases have increased by 24.8% rising from 5,547 cases in July 2007, to 6,924 cases in July 2017. In Stanislaus County, the aging population has accounted for the majority of IHSS cases for the past decade and those 80 years and older represent nearly a quarter of IHSS recipients.



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Action: Oppose federal legislation that would reduce the groups of individuals that are currently ineligible to and in receipt of health benefits under the ACA. In addition, oppose legislation that would reduce the federal funding California receives for the coverage of such programs.

### 4. **Ensure Against Cost Shift to State and County Related to Health Care Reform**

Issue: Changes to or the elimination of the Affordable Care Act represents can lead to a significant fiscal shift from the federal government to states and to Counties, especially in California. Given California's significant population of low-income individuals, in addition to Medi-Cal's historic coverage for populations of children, senior and persons with disabilities, proposal at the Federal level, abandons the current and historical state/federal partnership and shifts billions in additional costs to California. Proposals that include block grant funding to States have dramatic fiscal implication on California's safety net health care providers. Over 230,000 individuals in Stanislaus County are in receipt of Medi-Cal and over 80,000 of these individuals received eligibility under ACA. If changes to the ACA are adopted and become law, California will be faced with tens of billions of dollars in new costs that will require difficult decisions regarding the groups of individuals covered under Medi-Cal and the benefits covered. In addition, there may be a significant shift of cost to Stanislaus County to support the medical needs of the newly determined uninsured population. Prior to ACA, over 9,000 individuals received health care coverage through Medically Indigent Program. The number of individuals eligible to MIA and the costs associated with the program could be significant.

Action: Oppose State and Federal legislation that would shift costs and responsibility to local government.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Environmental Resources/Parks and Recreation

**Contact: Jami Aggers, Director  
209.525.6770**

#### 1. Park System

Issue: Stanislaus County has an existing master plan for development of park facilities in the County which is currently being updated to identify needs for the next 20-year planning horizon. The County also is in a Joint Powers Authority with the City of Modesto and the City of Ceres for the Tuolumne River Regional Park. The Mission of the Parks Department is to implement the policies established by the Board of Supervisors pertaining to parks which includes acquiring, developing and maintaining recreation areas serving every segment of society, including the disabled and economically disadvantaged. Under Board leadership, Stanislaus County works to develop and manage parks and recreation facilities in ways that will provide the best possible experience for people to enjoy the outdoors at the most reasonable costs.

Action: Support actions that will prioritize funding for the improvement and development of County parks, including the Tuolumne River Regional Park. Support legislation that would assist the County Parks Department in achieving its mission.

#### 2. Off Highway Vehicle Parks

Issue: Stanislaus County operates two Off Highway Vehicle Parks utilizing State Grant funds. Operations would be severely reduced without grant funding.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide continued or expanded grant funding for Off Highway Vehicle Parks. Oppose efforts to reduce funding and/or any transfer of local assistance funds to State Parks from the Off Highway Vehicle Trust Fund.

#### 3. County Parks



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Issue: Competitive grant funding that has historically been available to local governments has never included a category for construction of amenities that would ultimately assist the park in becoming a revenue-generator and thus self-sustaining.

Action: Seek an inclusion in any future parks bond proposal for additional points or favorable treatment of applications that include amenities that would become revenue-generating.

### 4. **Cap-and-Trade**

Issue: The California Air Resources Board (ARB) has approved regulations that negatively impact the Stanislaus County Waste to Energy Facility. The ARB is now proposing to increase greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets more than three-fold, bringing landfills into the Cap-and-Trade program, adding additional costly and ineffective methane emissions controls at landfills and banning organics from landfills. The County is very concerned that such proposals, particularly by including solid waste facilities, will result in significant rate increases for our commercial and residential customers. The inclusion of the County's solid waste program in the Cap-and-Trade regulations are costly to the County.

Action: Monitor any changes in the Cap-and-Trade program that will expand the GHG reductions to include landfills into the Cap-and-Trade program.

### 5. **Definition of Solid Waste Facility**

Issue: The County is very concerned with legislative attempts to revise the definition of a solid waste facility.

Action: Monitor proposed legislative changes to ensure any new definition would include waste disposal eligible for diversion credit, inclusive of Waste-to-Energy transformation facilities.

### 6. **Oppose Increasing the 50% State Solid Waste Diversion Mandate**

Issue: AB 939 established a 50% waste diversion mandate from landfill disposal by the year 2000. The enactment of AB 341 established a policy goal for



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California that by the year 2020, at least 75% of solid waste generated within the State be source reduced, recycled or composted. Stanislaus County invested millions of dollars to build a transformation facility prior to the enactment of AB 939. It provides employment to about 50 full time employees and serves 10 local communities by transforming approximately 800 tons of municipal solid waste daily to produce up to 22.5 megawatts of clean renewable energy. If the 10% diversion credit for use of the Waste-to-Energy Facility is phased out or not “counted” toward a 75% diversion mandate should that be enacted, Stanislaus County would be forced to make significant additional investments in infrastructure and programs. This would be a significant financial burden on the residents and businesses of Stanislaus County.

Action: The 75% recycling goal should remain a State target/goal and not become a mandate. Strongly oppose any legislation which seeks to mandate 75% recycling or diversion from disposal unless transformation is given full credit. Any newly established Statewide targets should also not become mandates (ex: organics).

### 7. Solid Waste Diversion Member Agency Credits

Issue: Another waste diversion issue is how shared diversion credit from a Regional Agency is allocated by CalRecycle when one of its members decides to leave. The Stanislaus County Regional Solid Waste Planning Agency was formed to share the County’s excess diversion credit from the Food Processing By-Product Diversion Program (FPBP) that allowed all member jurisdictions to meet the 50% diversion mandate by the year 2000. At the time of the Agency’s formation only the County exceeded the 50% mandate. Currently CalRecycle does not take into account the County’s excess diversion credit it shared with the member agencies when calculating a withdrawing member’s diversion credit. CalRecycle allocates the diversion credit equally based on current levels of disposal for each jurisdiction. This method does not take into account the County’s FPBP program excess diversion credit used by all Regional Agency members to meet the mandate.

Action: Support legislation requiring CalRecycle to address the inequity in their current method of allocating diversion credit to Regional Agency jurisdictions when there is a member withdrawal. The current method awards jurisdictions with diversion credit from AB 939 programs not implemented by that jurisdiction.



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### 8. CalRecycle Landfill Tipping Fee Surcharge

Issue: For the past few years, CalRecycle has sought to significantly increase the State's \$1.40 per ton tipping fee surcharge in order to increase their declining revenue stream. While we recognize that the State's funding has been fixed at the \$1.40/ton level for many years and tonnage has decreased because of mandated diversion requirements, landfills cannot singlehandedly bear the burden of the increased funding CalRecycle needs. The State must find a more equitable way to have diversion programs as well as waste generators support the cost of State regulatory oversight efforts.

Action: Oppose any significant increases to the \$1.40/ton landfill tipping fee. Additionally, local governments should be compensated if they are required to collect and pass-through fees required by the State. If an increase in funding is approved, request a delineation of the programs additional revenue will be used for.

### 9. Odor Complaints Associated with Composting Facilities

Issue: The State is the Enforcement Agency (EA) and thus responsible for, but not able to respond quickly to, odor complaints due to travel distances. Furthermore, unlike local air districts, the State does not issue Notices of Violation (NOVs) which have financial penalties attached. NOVs are a necessary fiscal incentive to obtain compliance in problem situations. The State's inability to adequately address these issues results in significant problems with inadequate solutions.

Action: Return oversight responsibility for odor complaints back to the local air districts, at least in areas where the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is the Enforcement Agency.

### 10. Extended Producer Responsibility

Issue: Local jurisdictions are shouldering an ever-increasing cost for the disposal of waste materials, including "Universal Wastes" which are toxic and hazardous substances such as batteries, pharmaceuticals, and fluorescent tubes that are banned from the landfill but have no other convenient disposal method. Presently, local governments are paying an increasing cost for disposal of Universal Wastes, while the manufacturers and distributors share no burden or





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responsibility for the costly disposal. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation would place the responsibility for free and convenient disposal of these and other problematic products back on the manufacturers and remove this cost and logistical burden from local governments. CalRecycle previously adopted Strategic Directive No. 5 seeking to establish legislation supporting “cradle to grave” producer responsibility and analyzing various approaches to EPR.

Action: Support legislation that implements EPR principles and removes the cost burden for disposal of products containing Universal Wastes from local governments.

### 11. California Integrated Waste Management Board Diversion Credits

Issue: Stanislaus County diverts a significant amount of waste from landfilling through transformation at the Stanislaus Resource Recovery facility. Also, the food processing industry generates up to 350,000 tons of solid food process by-products on an annual basis that are land-applied as a soil amendment or fed to livestock, thereby keeping these byproducts out of landfills and creating a positive impact on the waste stream. At times, legislation and regulations are proposed that would impact this process and jeopardize the County’s diversion credits. If Stanislaus County loses the food processing credit, it would lose an approximately 16% diversion credit that would drop the County to about 48% diversion rate. Currently, the Waste-to-Energy credit the County receives is restricted/capped by legislation at 10% - a number that is significantly less than the actual waste diverted. In addition, if the County also loses the Waste-to-Energy transformation credit, the Stanislaus Regional Planning Agency would be down to 38% landfill diversion. This would, in effect, put the County in violation of the Public Resources Code by having an inadequate Integrated Waste Management Plan, creating a liability for each jurisdiction in our Regional Agency of up to \$10,000 per day in fines. Ratepayers would incur additional costs for these new programs and the Regional Agency jurisdictions would incur (County) staff time costs to revise the plan(s).

Action: Support legislation that increases diversion credits for Waste-to-Energy technology to reflect actual diversion rates. Support legislation to expand the County’s ability to maximize its diversion credits, including allowing more than



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10% diversion credit if conversion technologies are implemented when a jurisdiction already receives the full 10% diversion credit for transformation. Oppose legislation which would eliminate or negatively impact the diversion credits earned by the County, and any regulations that add additional oversight to a program which is already sufficiently regulated.

### 12. Renewable Energy Status for the Stanislaus Waste To Energy facility

Issue: SB350 allowed for a one year extension of the renewable energy credits to Jan. 1, 2017. It is estimated the loss of the renewable energy designation would yield a potential revenue loss to Covanta of \$4,065,000 to \$5,420,000 per year. (This loss estimate is based on an estimated value of 135,500 megawatts produced by the Covanta Facility annually.) In a worst case scenario, the renewable energy designation could be removed, thereby significantly increasing the cost of processing waste at the WTE facility.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any legislation on renewable energy credits. Oppose any legislation that may negatively affect the renewable energy designation of the Covanta facility. Support legislation that would restore the renewable energy designation of the Covanta facility. Also, support any legislation or administrative action that improves the price paid per megawatt. The sale of electricity from this facility should draw a premium over conventional electricity rates. Previous discussion with a local utility provider stated a mid-range estimate of the value of the “green” power premium would be an additional \$30-\$40/megawatt over conventional power.

### 13. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program

Issue: The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), as amended, requires cities and counties to prepare, adopt, and implement an HHW Element which details a program dedicated to collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of residential HHW. Stanislaus County has met this requirement by operating the HHW Collection Program for over 20 years. This Program utilizes a combination of a permanent collection center, mobile collection events, and extensive public education and outreach efforts. The County provides Program data on an annual basis to CalRecycle and to the



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Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The Program provides a cost-effective means to serve all jurisdictions in Stanislaus County.

In the 2015 legislative year, AB 45 proposed to require each jurisdiction that provides for the residential collection and disposal of solid waste to increase the collection of HHW by an unspecified percentage. One version of the bill would have required jurisdictions to provide a door to door collection and diversion program which have been problematic and costly and is unnecessary for jurisdictions like Stanislaus County that has a long-standing successful program. In addition, AB 45 classified home-generated pharmaceutical waste as an HHW thus making local governments responsible for managing this waste with no help from pharmaceutical industry, which is regarded as the most profitable industry in the world.

In January 2016, this bill shifted to mandate CalRecycle to create one or more model ordinances for local governments to adopt and thereby create comprehensive programs for the collection of HHW. Current law already requires cities and counties to implement HHW Programs. Then the bill was once again amended to remove the local government mandate.

The current version of the bill includes a mandate on local governments to divert additional products, such as batteries, home-generated sharps, and pharmaceuticals from disposal in landfills with no share of responsibility by product manufacturer. AB 45 lacks specific details regarding the roles of manufacturers and distributors with regard to HHW waste streams. AB 45 does, however, require CalRecycle to determine whether a “nonprofit organization has been created and funded for the purpose of making grants available to local government” to assist in educating communities about existing HHW Programs. The \$5M that is anticipated to be provided by the nonprofit organization in the form of dedicated grants to local HHW programs over five years is wholly insufficient to cover the cost of HHW management. The current status is that CalRecycle has until December 31, 2018, to make the determination that there are appropriate nonprofit organizations for the purpose of making grants to local governments to assist with implementing this bill, otherwise this article will be repealed on January 1, 2019.

Action: Closely monitor legislation pertaining to HHW programs. Oppose efforts to establish new mandates to divert more HHW, home-generated sharps, and pharmaceutical waste that do not fully fund local governments for State



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requirements. Oppose any efforts to undermine or preempt local regulatory authority relative to the collection, disposal, and recycling of HHW. And oppose any efforts to undermine EPR on local and State levels. Support funding that is adequate for counties to operate programs associated with HHW.

### 14. Groundwater

Issue: Enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 mandates the formation of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within a two-year timeframe and the development and completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) within a five to seven year planning horizon. There are four separate groundwater sub basins within the political footprint of Stanislaus County of which it is conceivable that individual GSPs will be required for each. This level of planning will be very expensive.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any proposed legislation pertaining to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act or new legislation that addresses water resource matters that may affect the citizens of Stanislaus County. Also engage in and promote the passage of any appropriate legislation that addresses financial assistance for the development, creation and implementation of GSP's.

### 15. Groundwater Recharge

Issue: Groundwater recharge is an extremely important element of managing a sustainable groundwater supply; however, managed groundwater recharge is not recognized in state water law as a beneficial use. The notion of including groundwater recharge as a legally recognized beneficial use was originally included in the packet of bills that resulted in the enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014; however, the groundwater recharge element did not survive the final language. This oversight needs to be addressed, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. Many, if not most, of the groundwater sub-basins cannot achieve sustainable groundwater management without some form of managed groundwater recharge.



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Action: Closely monitor and engage in any proposed legislation pertaining to the concept of groundwater recharge. Support the acceptance of groundwater recharge as a legally defensible “beneficial use” of water in the state.

### 16. Department of Environmental Resources Program Fees

Issue: Stanislaus County operates several local programs that could otherwise be operated by the State (such as milk inspections). In these cases, the State’s fees for County residents are typically higher than the County’s fees. In recent years, however, it has become common for the State to impose surcharges on local fees charged to customers, placing a hardship on the County and its customers.

Action: Oppose efforts to implement State surcharges on local fees if fees are not substantiated or appropriate.

### 17. Recover Costs of School Inspections

Issue: A number of schools that contain food facilities in Stanislaus County require inspection, routine monitoring, and food safety education. This service has been provided without the benefit of cost recovery because of the exemption clause in Government Code Section 6103. Health & Safety Code Section 113920 provides for cost recovery. If Environmental Resources were to charge for this service, over \$100,000 in revenue could be collected; however, schools are considered exempt because of Government Code Section 6103. Adding a subset to Health and Safety Code Section 113920 would provide clarity to this issue and allow for cost recovery to take effect.

Action: Support legislation to change Health & Safety Code Section 113920 to clarify and allow for the recovery of the costs of inspecting, monitoring and providing education regarding food safety, so as to allow cost recovery to take place within the education system of the State of California.

### 18. Local Programs such as Curbside Recycling

Issue: Local jurisdictions have for many years chosen what types of programs, such as curbside recycling, work best given local considerations. Legislation



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that mandates how current programs must be operated by local jurisdictions or requires local jurisdictions to collect fees for State programs are unnecessary. In some cases, requiring the expansion of services to a current program may cause unnecessary cost and in some cases, may put the general public in undo harm with little to no benefit to public safety.

Action: Oppose legislation that dictates how current programs must be operated and/or expanded that currently meet the existing law.

### 19. Glass Recycling

Issue: The closure of a large capacity glass recycler in Southern California has influenced the export of glass, as a valuable commodity, to Mexico as feedstock for new glass bottles. The loss of this material may cause a shortage of feedstock for California glass producers who are struggling for this material in large quantities. To take this issue a bit further, markets are “drying up” for recycled commodities in general, making it harder and more costly to divert materials.

Action: Support legislation that encourages in-State glass recycling to help support a strong State economy. In addition, encourage the development of local markets and reasonable pricing for recycled commodities.

### 20. Milk and Dairy Program

Issue: The Milk and Dairy Program is one of the largest agricultural commodities in Stanislaus County.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any legislation pertaining to the Milk and Dairy Program, including cattle, goats, and sheep that may affect the dairy industry. Oppose efforts that may place a financial burden on the industry, such as additional fees, water programs, by-products from dairies, feeding products, manure/methane production, etc. Additionally oppose any efforts to restrict dairy size.

### 21. Raw Milk Sales

Issue: Raw milk sales and consumption can have serious public health and safety considerations. Raw milk has an increased probability of pathogenic



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bacteria in human consumption, such as E. coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, and Listeria monocytogenes.

In 2014, 40 Bills were introduced in 23 statehouses in regards to raw milk sales and consumption. The most recent in California was AB 2505 that would allow the exchange, shared or selling of raw milk, and would exempt small scale home dairy farms from “burdensome laws and regulations applicable to the production of market milk by large-scale retail milk producers that are not necessary or appropriate for the operation of small home dairy farms producing raw milk.” The bill also would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act. Although there was required testing, it did not state who would conduct the testing, how funded, and in the event of an outbreak/ recall, the industry that is regulated would have to fund and bear the burden of a negative impact to the industry and associated costs.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any proposed legislation pertaining to Raw Milk Sales or new legislation that addresses Raw Milk Sales Direct to the consumer from Dairy Farms that may affect the citizens of Stanislaus County. Oppose any unfunded mandates impacting local governments.



# Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

## Health Services Agency

**Contact: Mary Ann Lee, Managing Director  
209.558.7163**

### 1. Funding for Public Health Services, Infrastructure and Workforce

Issue: In the absence of adequate funding through Realignment, there are few funds to provide for Public Health infrastructure, chronic disease prevention, communicable disease data collection, emergency preparedness and community health efforts including prevention activities.

Action: Pursue and support legislative and budgetary proposals for local health department programs which would: a) address prevention of chronic health conditions, b) fund injury and violence prevention, c) support and enhance local disease control and prevention, d) provide a sustainable disease control and outbreak response infrastructure that would include epidemiology, surveillance, investigation, and response, d) support public health infrastructure development to enable national accreditation and e) support emergency, bioterrorism, and pandemic influenza preparedness, response, and infrastructure development to address public health threats and emergencies. Monitor any legislation or administrative policy change that alters realignment funds and/or other program funding. Also, monitor efforts to repeal and/or replace federal health reform to ensure public health needs are adequately, appropriately and equitably addressed with adequate and timely funding to carry out mandates and responsibilities.

### 2. California Children's Services (CCS)

Issue: There are efforts underway in the State to redesign the CCS program in a way that places operational and financial responsibility on the Medi-Cal health plans for children who are eligible for CCS and Medi-Cal.

Action: Support legislation and encourage administrative regulation which clearly defines the role of County Public Health and provides commensurate funding





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with regard to all CCS eligible children including those who are eligible for Medi-Cal.

### **3. Expanded Access to Healthcare with Adequate Funding, Efficiency and Quality Improvement**

Issue: While much has occurred in the past three years regarding expanding coverage for healthcare services, there is new uncertainty with regard to that expansion and concern in regard to adequate funding for providers of healthcare. County priorities include: preserve access to care; invest in prevention and outpatient care; and support efficient and effective utilization management. In aggregate, these would reduce the exposure to the more costly inpatient and emergency room care.

Action: Support state and federal healthcare policy change which would expand access to medical care in a manner which does not financially impact Stanislaus County in a negative way. Support appropriate funding for unfunded or under-funded mandates and oppose reallocation of existing Stanislaus County funding that increases County general fund obligation. Support infrastructure, funding, and reimbursement policy for telemedicine and other forms of appropriate healthcare. Support appropriate reimbursement for email or telephonic consultation, and group visits.

The safety net care system needs adequate funding, public negative impacts could health needs to be adequately and appropriately addressed with appropriate funding, and workforce capacity must be addressed. Reimbursement related policy change should include same day outpatient visits in the Medi-Cal system, Patient Centered Medical Home support, telemedicine infrastructure and operational support, increased integration of behavioral health and primary care, and group visit reimbursement. Other administrative changes should include appropriate utilization management which supports quality evidence-based outcomes and avoids ineffective administratively burdensome controls.



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### 4. Health Professional Shortages

Issue: There is a critical regional shortage of physicians, nurses and allied health personnel in the San Joaquin Valley.

Action: Support budget, legislative or administrative action to provide funding for health professional training and/or recruitment to increase access to healthcare for residents of the San Joaquin Valley. Support the team-based Patient Center Medical Homes in the primary care setting, to extend the effective capacity of each primary care physician.

### 5. Information Technology

Issue: There is a need for improved information technology, particularly to support data exchange with other healthcare entities and providers. Such technology will add efficiency and create opportunities for improved quality, lower healthcare costs and better health outcomes. There is a local effort underway with the larger institutions however to be fully effective, smaller provider groups and individual providers will need to commit to and invest in the capability to exchange data.

Action: Support legislation and/or administrative action which provide funding or other incentives to finance, or make financially feasible, information technology infrastructure improvements, including community-wide Health Information Exchange capability.

### 6. Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Care System Improvement

Issue: There is a need for improved infrastructure and funding for the pre-hospital emergency medical services administration, training, integrated communications and dispatch, and operations/services at the county level. Additionally, a recent pilot demonstration Community Paramedicine project using specially trained paramedics and an EMS based protocol for behavioral health patients has proven beneficial.

Action: Support legislation and/or administrative action which provide funding for infrastructure improvement, training, emergency preparedness and operations,



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which support the unique and growing needs at the local level. Support innovative initiatives such as the Community Paramedicine project and other case management projects, which support the federal Triple Aim concept of improved health outcomes, improved health access and systems, and lower healthcare costs.

### 7. **Medically Indigent Adults – W&I Section 17000**

Issue: There continues to be financial exposure to the Stanislaus County General Fund for the Medically Indigent Adult program obligations. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's Medi-Cal Expansion and the passage of AB 85, there are substantially fewer indigents under the county's obligation, however all of the State funding was redirected to an unrelated State program such that the county receives no State funding for the residual obligation. Under the current federal administration and the potential for a repeal and/or replacement of the Affordable Care Act or other related, there is new and significant uncertainty regarding this County obligation. Current law is vague, leaving interpretation to the counties and to the courts. Over the years, litigation has been isolated to a small subset of counties, resulting in significant variation of programs by county. Stanislaus County's cost exposure is greater than many other counties as a result.

Action: Should proposed or actual changes to the Affordable Care Act or other federal or State actions, potentially or actually result in a negative financial impact to the County, advocate for legislation and/or administrative policy which provides for adequate funding for the county's obligations under the law (including applicable case law). Additionally, advocate for legislation and/or administrative policy which brings equity to the obligation across the counties and enables program efficiencies.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Planning and Community Development

**Contact: Angela Freitas, Director  
209.525.6330**

#### 1. **Williamson Act Reform**

Issues: Counties face various challenges in administering the Williamson Act. Locally, changes in State minimum parcel size requirements over the Act's 40 plus years have resulted in parcels of a non-conforming size being subject to contract restrictions while deriving no benefit. Also, State requirements for the local approval of lot line adjustments, specifically the process for rescinding and reentering contracts in order to facilitate lot line adjustments, adds unnecessary time and cost to the lot line adjustment process by requiring Board of Supervisor approval.

Action: Support amendments to the Williamson Act that will assist counties with their administrative responsibilities. Amendments supporting local needs could include: an alternative cancellation process for parcels rendered non-complaint due to changes in State requirements; and an alternative approval process for contract recession/reentry allowing for local delegation of the approval authority.

#### 2. **Regional Housing Needs Allocation Process Local Control**

Issue: Under California Housing Element Law, Councils of Governments (COGs) are responsible to develop and approve a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA); however the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) must ultimately approve the RHNA and certify individual housing elements. Local coordination with HCD has historically been challenging. HCD's housing targets have historically been higher than actual population growth and inconsistent with local population growth projections, which are the foundation of the region's planning efforts.

The RHNA cycle is now tied to the local Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)/Regional Transportation Planning (RTP) process. An inconsistency between locally accepted population growth projections and HCD housing targets increases the risk of litigation, loss of funding, and forces the unnecessary



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allocation of land and infrastructure resources towards residential and away from efforts to attain a jobs-housing balance.

Once RHNA allocations are established, local jurisdictions should be provided with the flexibility to share housing development credits for the purpose of incentivizing regional planning efforts benefiting the development of affordable housing and/or the conservation of agricultural land.

Action: Support legislation requiring the use of local population growth projections established by the COG's for development of the RHNA housing numbers; allows local jurisdictions to self-certify their housing elements; and eliminates ties to the annual housing element report for receipt of any State funding.

### 3. **Maintain Local Permitting Control**

Issue: Efforts to balance the public need for expanded wireless communication networks and the need to streamline local permitting of wireless facilities has resulted in proposed legislation that erodes the local authority to control the design and location of wireless telecommunication facilities.

Action: Support legislation that allows for a streamlined expansion of wireless communication networks and facilities while retaining local control for the design and siting of wireless telecommunication facilities.

### 4. **Federal Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Jurisdiction Funding**

Issue: Community Development Block Grant(CDBG) funding is under continuous threat of elimination. Funding provided through the CDBG program has been instrumental in addressing the issues of health and safety due to the lack of or deteriorated infrastructure in the community. The program is critical for infrastructure development supporting existing low-income neighborhoods throughout the Stanislaus Urban County (comprised of unincorporated County and the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, and Waterford).

Action: Support the continued funding of CDBG Entitlement Jurisdictions; including support for program reforms streamlining administration and maximizing funding for infrastructure development.



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### 5. **SB 375 Implementation**

Issue: The principles of SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008) are meant to encourage development that will reduce vehicle miles traveled and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While these are important goals, they were not accompanied by funding for the local agencies that must implement the law.

Action: Support legislation that will ensure adequate funding to Stanislaus County to implement the tenets of SB 375 that is not a burden to businesses or local government.

### 6. **Jobs and Housing Imbalance**

Issue: Stanislaus County has a jobs/housing ratio that is less than the currently accepted standard of 1.14 jobs per housing unit. The current ratio is less than 0.9 jobs per housing unit in Stanislaus County.

Action: Support legislation and administrative rule-making that provides State-funded fiscal incentives and local flexibility to support job creation projects to mitigate the imbalance of jobs and housing.

### 7. **Residential Housing Projects**

Issue: The Housing Accountability Act, Government Code § 65589.5, limits the ability of local governments to reject proposed affordable housing development projects only if findings are made that (1) “the project would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety unless the project is disapproved” and (2) “[t]here is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact.” Until recently, local governments only made these findings when considering affordable housing projects. However, the Fifth Appellate District in *Honchariw v. Stanislaus County* (F060788) applied §65589.5(j) to a project unrelated to affordable housing. This new judicial requirement imposes a high burden for local government to deny residential housing projects that are unrelated to affordable housing, such as ranchettes and “McMansion” type projects.

Action: Support amendment of Government Code §65589.5 to clarify that it is only applicable to affordable housing projects.



# Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

## Public Works

**Contact: Matt Machado, Director**  
**209.525.4153**

### 1. State Transportation Funding Priorities

Issue: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1) has a strong emphasis on maintenance, rehabilitation, and safety on the existing local street and road system with increased accountability and transparency provisions. California State Association of Counties will work to implement SB 1 including, but not limited to, development of annual SB 1 revenue projections by counties, adoption of annual SB 1 project lists, development and submittal of project expenditure reports, achieve any necessary changes to the California Transportation Commission's reporting guidelines, and development and disseminating best practices to build capacity at the local level to meet the goals of SB 1.

Action: Support efforts to protect SB 1 revenue from diversion to other State programs and to secure the allocation of funding to Stanislaus County.

### 2. Federal Transportation Funding Priorities

Issue: County Projects eligible for federal funding require a complicated process (FAST Act Implementation). We must continue to work to ensure that California counties are well-positioned to utilize environmental review streamlining opportunities available from the FAST Act.

Action: Continue to educate Congress and the Administration about the need to further streamline the federal process to reduce costs and improve project delivery. Take opportunities to educate Congress and the Administration about the need for new federal funding for transportation in advance of the next reauthorization effort.



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### 3. Transit Fare Recovery Requirements

Issue: The Transportation Development Act (TDA) of 1971, provides funding for public transportation services. Funds are allocated to each county based on population, taxable sales and transit performance. TDA is funded through local sales tax revenues that are collected by the state and returned to the local governments and transit operators through the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies. TDA funds are a major funding source for public transportation in California. Stanislaus County's population recently exceeded 500,000, resulting in a classification change to an urban county and increasing fare recovery requirements. However, some cities and rural areas have experienced only minimal growth.

Action: Support legislation that would allow Stanislaus Council of Government to adjust operations by considering population density when establishing fare recovery ratios, resulting in a fair, reasonable and more readily achievable standard.

### 4. Orestimba Creek Flood Control Project

Issue: Orestimba Creek, on the west side of Stanislaus County, floods and creates millions of dollars of annualized damages to the community with significant negative impact on the local economy, especially the City of Newman.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action that would appropriately fund the Orestimba Flood Control Project through the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) and also construction phases. Support City of Newman efforts to become the Non-Federal Sponsor for Project Engineering and Design (PED) and Construction phases of the US Army Corps of Engineers Orestimba Creek Flood Control Project.





## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Sheriff

**Contact: Adam Christianson, Sheriff  
209.525.7216**

#### 1. Court Security

Issue: The Sheriff's Department provides security to the Superior Court of Stanislaus County as required by State Assembly Bill 118 (AB 118) which requires each county treasurer, city and county treasurer, or other appropriate officer to create a County Local Revenue Fund 2011. Chapter 6.3 Section 30025(f)(3) requires the monies in the Trial Court Security Account be used exclusively to fund trial court security provided by county sheriffs. Certain overhead costs are not allowable expenses that can be charged under the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 Rule of the Court 810. This fund requires a net county cost to cover the Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) charges that are not allowable under the Trial Court Funding Act or AB 118. For Fiscal Year 2017-2018, these overhead costs are budgeted at \$99,528.

While this fund currently has a positive fund balance, it is anticipated that the fund balance will start to decrease due to additional expenditures associated with security measures needed for multi defendant murder trials. The Sheriff's Department anticipates using approximately \$173 thousand of fund balance for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. This will exhaust the available fund balance in the next fiscal year. The Sheriff's Department will not be able to provide the level of security services needed by the Superior Court.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide Stanislaus County funding to cover overhead costs and the increased costs for court security services.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### 2018 Federal Legislative Projects

#### Project Funding:

##### **Stanislaus County Public Safety Radio Interoperability: \$6 million**

Stanislaus County representatives are seeking \$6 million in funding to help obtain public safety communications equipment for regional law enforcement and homeland security needs. The requested funding would be used in ongoing efforts to build out an interoperability communications solution for the Highway 99 corridor from Modesto to Turlock. Funding will be used to replace twenty-five (25) 9-1-1 center dispatch consoles with P25 compliant systems which would link the Dispatch Centers in Modesto, Turlock and Ceres. Six additional P25 simulcast linear trunking transmitter sites would be installed to expand county-wide coverage.

##### **Crows Landing Industrial Business Park: \$32 million**

Infrastructure funding for site development is needed for Phase 1A of the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park. Funding would be used for basic road, sewer and water infrastructure for the first 200 acres of the development. Phase 1a would provide for the first five years of the site build out.

##### **Tuolumne River Regional Park (TRRP): \$1.8 million**

\$1.8 million will provide for development of a two-lane access road in the TRRP Gateway Parcel, including a Finding of Conformance to the existing Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR), creation of Construction Documents with construction of approximately 2,300 feet of local access roadway within the Gateway Parcel, a gateway connection to 10<sup>th</sup> Street and a Pedestrian Bridge over Dry Creek.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### Federal Legislative Policy Items 2018

*(not prioritized)*

#### **Affordable Care Act**

On January 22, 2018, federal legislation was enacted to create another two-year delay in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's 40 percent excise tax on high-value health care plans known as the "Cadillac Tax." The intent of the excise tax was to slow the rate of growth of health costs. Unfortunately, the tax disproportionately impacts public entities. The following information outlines the top issues facing Stanislaus County and other governmental agencies as the "Cadillac tax" draws closer to implementation:

1. State and local governments typically offer more expensive plans than private businesses. To maintain these benefits, government employees tend to receive less in wages. This tendency means that government employees will likely be disproportionately represented among those whose plans will be adversely affected by the "Cadillac Tax."
2. State and local governmental agencies must rein in skyrocketing health costs or face the massive cost of the excise tax, which would cause severe financial problems, threatening government jobs, public services, and employee compensation.
3. If the tax is finally enacted, the Internal Revenue Service will need to issue regulations. However, the overall lack of information and understanding of the effects of the tax makes it difficult for employers and labor groups to plan and bargain effectively.
4. Appropriate reforms to the Affordable Care Act would:
  - A. Recognize the multiple factors influencing the cost of health plans including participant health status, age, professional job risk, cost of living factors, regional disease/health status, and the inherent higher cost of public agency benefit plans.
  - B. Consider exemption of public entities, tax modifications for public entities, and/or incorporating the recognition of key factors of cost differences for public agencies, and geographical locations.
  - C. No longer penalize employers for employee contributions to Health Savings Accounts.



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Should changes be made to the Affordable Care Act or other federal or State actions, potentially or actually result in a negative financial impact to the County, legislation and/or administrative policies would need to align adequate funding to the County's obligations under the law (including case law).

### **Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Jurisdiction Funding**

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is under continuous threat of elimination. Funding provided through the CDBG program has been instrumental in addressing the issues of health and safety due to the lack of or deteriorated infrastructure in the community. The program is critical for infrastructure development supporting existing low-income neighborhoods throughout the Stanislaus Urban County (comprised of unincorporated County and the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, and Waterford). Stanislaus County needs continued funding of CDBG Entitlement Jurisdictions, including support for program reform, streamlined administration and maximized funding for infrastructure development.

### **City/County Islands**

Stanislaus County has identified more than 25 city/county islands that have infrastructure needs. The County is working with local cities to create a strategy for continuing to improve infrastructure in these islands. Support any efforts that would assist the County's attempt to improve infrastructure in these islands.

### **Department of Labor Statistical Tracking**

Currently, the Department of Labor's (DOL) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) unemployment and mass layoff statistics do not include agricultural workers, forestry personnel, fishermen, and government workers. Stanislaus County supports inclusion of these statistics for the formula based funding allocations and Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker funds. Non-inclusion of these personnel could negatively impact the County.

### **Health Services Agency**

The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency is critical to the healthcare infrastructure of Stanislaus County. Agency staff provides tens of thousands of outpatient clinic visits each year. The County has received the Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike designation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which will help to preserve health access in the community, protect access to federal funding that will support the provision of



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healthcare to the underserved community and support increased funding for FQHC-LAs. Support the continuance of FQHC-LookAlike status for the Health Services Agency.

### **Homeland Security Funding**

Homeland Security grant funding plays an important role in ensuring local jurisdictions are prepared for emergency situations, including terrorism. The County supports ongoing and increased funding for local government through the Homeland Security Grant Program, Emergency Management Planning Grants and other funding sources.

### **Homelessness**

In late 2014, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed a new multi-sector initiative called Focus on Prevention designed to change the practice of local government (as it works with multiple sectors) from treating symptoms to addressing root causes of homelessness and incarceration. Focus on Prevention aims to improve the quality of life for Stanislaus residents and families through coordinated prevention efforts that work across multiple sectors to promote health and wellbeing. These sectors include: government, business, healthcare, non-profit, philanthropy, education, faith, neighborhood, media, arts and entertainment, and sports.

For efforts to become more effective, there was a recognized need to break out of silos focusing more intentionally on results that matter. These results will not be achieved in a few months, or even in a year or two but would require sustained awareness efforts, and engagement by numbers of people across the county.

The volunteer Stewardship Council, representatives from each of the partner sectors, has articulated five priority results with associated indicators to guide Focus on Prevention. The results aspire to ensure:

- Our families are healthy; physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.
- Our families are supported by strong and safe neighborhoods and communities.
- Our children and young people are getting a first-rate education from cradle to career.
- Our families are participating in and supported by a healthy economy.
- Our families and neighbors who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, permanently escape homelessness.



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Two movements have coalesced. The first, launched in May 2015, is working to improve the wellbeing of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Community System of Care Leadership Council guides the initiative to reduce and prevent homelessness. During the summer of 2017, this cross sector collaborative effort led to the opening of an outreach and engagement center located in Downtown Modesto, to connect the homeless with community resources that can help. Another accomplishment of note will be a low barrier shelter, day center and access center for over 80 homeless, planned for the second quarter of 2018. Housing options continue to be of primary concern. The Leadership Council seeks legislative support by way of Housing and Urban Development to address the gross shortage of low income housing in Stanislaus County.

The second movement, led by a community-based action council and the Strengthening Families Leadership, is focusing on individuals who have been engaged in the criminal justice systems, their families, and the families they have directly affected. Non-profit organizations, neighborhoods and church groups have been very involved in advancing the cause. Efforts will continue to grow and evolve as resources align to improve the quality of life for residents and meet the needs of the underserved through identifying areas of concern and reaching goals through continuous strategic collaboration.

### **Individually Identifiable Health Information HIPAA Regulations**

A multi-disciplinary team of service providers and public safety agencies in Stanislaus County are collaborating to better serve the needs of adults experiencing chronic homelessness, substance abuse disorders, mental illness and other debilitating hindrances to their quality of life. However, federal HIPAA regulations restrict sharing of medical and/or clinical data for privacy and protection purposes. Support legislation that would allow California behavioral health experts to strategically collaborate within a designated multi-disciplinary team to share critical patient information with or without a signed release. Information would be shared exclusively under MOU within the designated team of providers and associates. Stanislaus County seeks a waiver for the purpose of serving a compelling need related to public health, safety, and welfare of the priority population identified by the Community Assessment Response and Engagement (CARE) initiative. This waiver would facilitate the expedited identification, assessment and linkage of homeless and mentally ill individuals to housing and supportive services within Stanislaus County.



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### **Levees and Flood Control**

There is not sufficient funding to maintain and improve the levee and flood control system in Stanislaus County. Support any legislative or executive action to provide funding for building, repairing, upgrading and maintaining the levee and flood control system in Stanislaus County provided such funding does not create additional legal responsibility or risk for the County.

### **North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program (NVRWP)**

The Cities of Modesto, Turlock and Ceres, and the Del Puerto Water District are working collaboratively on an important recycled water project with total project costs estimated at \$100 million. The NVRWP will have the potential to provide 32,900 acre-feet per year of recycled water to the drought-impacted west side of Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced Counties when completed. This would provide enough water to irrigate 10,966 acres of prime agricultural land, restore 572 jobs, generate \$29 million in total annual income, and provide \$67.5 million in total annual economic output to an area with historically twice the national unemployment rate.

The City of Modesto has completed Phase I of the project which includes the pump station at the Modesto plant and a pipeline to the Delta-Mendota Canal and began delivering water to the Del Puerto Water District at the end of 2017. In 2018, the City of Turlock will begin construction on Phase II of the project, linking the Turlock plant to the Modesto pump station. The environmental work was certified Title XVI "Water Reclamation and Reuse Program" eligible, ranking among the highest of all proposed projects in the 2017 review process. Over \$4 million in Water Smart 2017 Title XVI funding was awarded, to be presented after appropriations legislation is enacted to designate project funding by name. A 2018 Water Smart grant will be requested to be used for Phase II of the NVRWP to offset construction costs and reduce cost of water to Del Puerto Water District and the federally designated wildlife refuge located in the Central Valley. Stanislaus County and Del Puerto Water District will be seeking congressional support for additional funding to supply water to these largely disadvantaged communities reliant on agriculture as an economic base.

### **Public Safety Resources**

Stanislaus County public safety departments are in need of additional staffing, equipment and other resources for the provision of services. Support



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appropriate grant applications to federal agencies such as the United States Department of Justice for financial support for hiring of personnel, equipment and support of programs in accordance with County priorities. Support appropriation of Federal funds for County public safety.

### **Stanislaus Family Justice Center**

Ongoing funding is needed to support the work of the Stanislaus Family Justice Center. Support appropriate efforts to secure funding to continue and grow the work of this agency.

### **Subsidized Employment Programs**

Unemployment levels in Stanislaus County continue to be some of the highest in the nation. Support job creation through appropriate funding of work and educational opportunities for unemployed/underemployed workers, those who can't qualify for unemployment benefits, and other disadvantaged individuals in Stanislaus County. Support skills and career training enhancements for people currently employed.

### **Transportation System**

There is not sufficient funding to maintain and improve the roads, bridges and highways in Stanislaus County. Support any legislative, administrative or executive action to provide funding for building, repairing, upgrading and maintaining the roads, bridges and highway network in Stanislaus County.

### **Valley Family Medicine Residency Program**

Physician training is vital to help change the disproportionately low share of physicians per capita in the valley. Support additional funding for the Valley Family Medicine Residency Program through various funding sources. See reference. <http://www.modbee.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article173495791.html>

### **Veterans Affairs**

The Stanislaus County Area Agency on Aging and Veterans Services helps seniors and veterans obtain services and benefits they need to live secure, healthy, independent lives. In Stanislaus County, the Department of Aging & Veterans Services is one of 33 designated Area Agencies on Aging for the California Department of Aging, providing a one-stop-shop for services to connect this population to basic needs.





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Through partnership with local non-profit agencies, the Veterans Service Office assists area veterans, their dependents and survivors in obtaining Federal, State and County benefits. Stanislaus County is home to an estimated 30,000 veterans. The Veterans Service Office is in need of technical assistance for coordination of services. Though various services exist, a lack of awareness, coupled with transportation obstacles and other issues make it difficult for homeless veterans to obtain or receive services. Local faith-based nonprofit organizations, like Catholic Charities are working to serve and address this issue serving 175 homeless veterans in Stanislaus County last year. There were 60 deemed ineligible who did not receive assistance. HUDVASH was able to house 131 veterans, but many more remain unhoused. There are over 100 documented homeless veterans in Stanislaus County.

Stanislaus County seeks federal support for technical assistance to navigate and connect these homeless veterans to services such as health services, housing, transportation, treatment and job training as well as claim status monitoring and facilitation.

### **Energy-from-Waste/Alternative Energy**

Energy from Waste (EFW) is a renewable energy source that needs appropriate inclusion and recognition in legislation. Stanislaus County partners in an extremely environmentally clean energy-from-waste plant that diverts more than 50% of waste from the landfill into the plant. The County is very concerned with legislative attempts to revise the definition of a solid waste facility. Supporters of (EFW) want to make sure that future legislation allows the anthropogenic portion of the waste stream to qualify as renewable. Without this fix, only two-thirds of Stanislaus' waste would qualify as renewable and receive a higher value for the electricity. Any new definition of renewable energy must include the WTE facility and (EFW) should be included in any renewable energy standard. Legislation must give (EFW) a full renewable energy credit in the Renewable Energy Standard. Further, EPA regulations must be sure to recognize the greenhouse gas and renewable benefits of (EFW).

### **Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Program**

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, (WIC) has improved at-risk children's health, growth and development, and prevented nutrition-related and other health problems for over 40 years. WIC children enter school ready to learn, showing better cognitive performance. WIC also improves the health of at-risk mothers during pregnancy and helps to



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rebuild nutrient stores after birth. Oppose funding cuts which could deprive vulnerable young children the opportunity of a healthy start in life, take away purchasing power in local economies, and increase long-term healthcare costs.



## Stanislaus County 2018 Legislative Platform

### **Board of Supervisors Support or Opposition of Legislation, Regulations and Initiatives**

On occasion, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors will be asked to take a position on legislation, regulations or other subjects that are not part of the approved Legislative Platform.

In the event this occurs, there are several important elements to note:

- 1) A brief position paper and draft support/oppose letter or resolution is created by the Department Head and sent to the County Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for review. If the request is approved by the CEO, it is placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda for consideration at a future meeting. If approved by the Board, the item is considered part of the complete body of approved items contained in the Legislative Platform where it remains until expiration of the current approved Platform.
- 2) Individual Board members may send support/oppose correspondence on issues that are not in the Legislative Platform. This type of correspondence may not be distributed on Chairman's letterhead.
- 3) The Board of Supervisors does not, as a regular practice, take support/oppose positions on State ballot initiatives.
- 4) Requests for Board of Supervisors' letters of support/opposition or resolutions on issues not in the Legislative Platform should arise from within County government. Requests from outside County government should be weighed as to whether they have a clear and compelling direct impact on County government.