

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
2022 LEGISLATIVE POLICIES

County of Santa Clara – Board of Supervisors

Mike Wasserman, President
Cindy Chavez
Otto Lee
Susan Ellenberg
S. Joseph Simitian

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5

County Executive

Jeffrey V. Smith

**Office of the County Executive
Intergovernmental Relations**

Steve Preminger

Director, Office of Strategic and
Intergovernmental Affairs

Danielle Christian

Legislative Manager

Michael Rattigan

Sacramento Representative

Erin Graefe, Prime Policy Group

Washington, D.C. Representative

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FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

FINANCE

The County of Santa Clara's legislative policies include:

- 1) **Flexibility** in the use of federal coronavirus response funds to support recovery in the County and ensure that responsibility continues.
- 2) With regard to the **dissolution of redevelopment agencies**, the County:
 - a) Supports the continued implementation of the **redevelopment reforms** contained in the Fiscal Year 2012 State Budget;
 - b) Supports the development of new mechanisms for economic development, redevelopment, sustainability, or affordable housing that **rely on new funding sources**; the diversion of funds from one agency to fund another public agency and/or purpose will be opposed; and
 - c) Supports the **distribution of former redevelopment agencies' assets to local agencies**, with each entity receiving the maximum benefit possible.
- 3) With regard to legislation related to the creation of **infrastructure financing districts** or related entities, the County:
 - a) Supports the **inclusion of an "opt-in" provision** for local jurisdictions;
 - b) Supports a **public vote requirement** in order to create such an entity; and
 - c) Supports requiring **representation on the governing structure for county government** that is proportionate to the amount of money contributed by a county or counties.
- 4) The County must be **reimbursed for all mandates** and other responsibilities imposed by the federal and state governments. Additionally, the process for determining mandate repayment at the state level should be streamlined to ensure timely payments.
- 5) The County also opposes **new regulatory initiatives** that create new County responsibilities and ultimately result in increased operational, capital, or other costs, or that undermine local government decision making.
- 6) Support for the **preservation of existing revenues**, including those impacted by Proposition 1A, and **revenue authority** and expanded opportunities to generate local revenues.
- 7) Support for a State Constitutional Amendment to **lower the vote threshold** for locally-imposed special taxes and general obligation bonds, from two-thirds to fifty-five percent.

- 8) Support for **equitable funding structures and formulas** that reflect county responsibilities, demographics, cost of living, and caseloads.
- 9) Careful review of restructuring efforts to ensure that **adequate revenues** flow to counties with any new responsibilities. Revenue should include growth projected to match anticipated caseload growth.
- 10) Development of formulas to **redistribute local sales tax revenues** that better reflect the population and service demands of counties.
- 11) Support for implementation of the **Federal Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement** to allow for equitable e-commerce taxation including the fair and equitable collection of the sales and use tax whether through remote or “brick and mortar” sales.
- 12) The County **opposes efforts to expand Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements** on existing funding sources.
- 13) Increased state and federal funding for counties’ **infrastructure needs** and flexibility in their use.
- 14) Increased administrative flexibility to **allow counties to develop more cost-effective ways to operate programs**. This would include increased coordination with other branches of government in order to share resources and eliminate duplication of work including expanded authority for counties to contract-out services when the contract provides a more efficient or economical way of producing the service.
- 15) **Exemption** of purchases by local government agencies **from sales tax**.
- 16) Efforts to create a **timely reimbursement process from the state and federal government**.
- 17) **Continued State funding for the administration of the property tax system** that recognizes the fiscal authority of the Board of Supervisors.
- 18) Sustained ability to impose a **special fee for credit card or debit card payments**.
- 19) The **ability for a collection agency** that is working on behalf of the County to place calls to a debtor’s cellular phone number.
- 20) Requiring CalPERS to prepare **annual valuation reports** that separate assets and liabilities for counties and the courts and requiring the trial courts to have their own plans with CalPERS.
- 21) Allowing counties to **recover property tax administration costs incurred by counties from all non-school entities** (including counties) based on the proportionate share of taxes allocated to non-school entities.

22) With regard to **eminent domain**, the County supports maintaining flexibility in its use for important public purposes.

The County opposes:

- 1) Efforts to modify or reduce **excess Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF)** calculations and other property tax formula changes that would reduce or divert the County's share of property tax revenues.
- 2) Efforts to use **alternative inflation measures**, such as the Chained Consumer Price Index or similar measures, that would harm low-income County residents and reduce eligibility for public benefits and services.

EMPLOYEE SERVICES AGENCY

The County supports:

- 1) Establishing a **maximum rate of temporary disability (TD) benefits** to which inmates would be entitled if injured during the course of work duties while incarcerated.
- 2) Efforts that **align the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)** with the California Family Rights Act (CFRA).
- 3) Efforts to expand reimbursement for the work of all public employees serving in their capacity as **Disaster Service Workers**.
- 4) The creation and implementation of **education, training, internship, recruitment, and retention programs for public sector workers**. Such efforts could include school loan assistance, housing assistance, and various types of tax forgiveness.
- 5) The partnership that administers the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, in which the County is the employer of record **solely for the purpose of collective bargaining**.
- 6) **Visas and regulatory changes** to allow properly trained immigrants to work in the United States. The County opposes efforts to reduce access to needed professionals, such as changes to the H1-B visa program.
- 7) Reforms, such as national standards, that **address the barriers** to obtaining required credentials and licenses that health care workers from other countries or states need to work in California.
- 8) Additional grant opportunities to **fund human resources training and technology projects**.

- 9) Retention of **local control over collective bargaining**. The County opposes efforts to erode the State’s Meyers-Milias-Brown collective bargaining act and supports an equalization of “meet and confer” requirements to apply equitably to both employers and employees. Currently, the requirements only apply to employers.
- 10) With regard to **public employee pensions**, the County strongly opposes efforts to eliminate defined benefit pensions, and, instead, supports these guiding principles:
 - a) Protection of local control and flexibility;
 - b) Reduction and/or **containment of costs**;
 - c) **Increased predictability** of costs and benefits for employee and employer;
 - d) Strengthened local ability to provide more **equitable sharing of costs and risks** between employee and employer and consideration of employees’ self-funded benefits in order to ensure long-term sustainability of pension benefits;
 - e) **Elimination of abuse**; and
 - f) Increased pension system **accountability**.
- 11) Funding for staff education and training to prevent **workplace violence**. (Recommended by Domestic Violence Council)

The County opposes CalPERS’ efforts to shift liability for audit findings of reporting errors to member agencies in situations where member agencies cannot rely upon guidance on practices or procedures from CalPERS.

ASSESSOR

- 1) The County supports the **continued assessment of computer programs** where such programs are integral to taxable business property and are necessary for the proper functioning of that property for the purpose for which it was designed.
- 2) The County opposes **Trial de Novo**, which would promote unfair property values and cause assessments to be determined through compromise and settlement, which is inconsistent with fair property equalization. Trial de Novo undermines the constitutionally established local assessment appeals boards, significantly increases fiscal uncertainty to schools and local governments, and lengthens the time necessary to resolve local property assessment appeals.
- 3) The County opposes any effort to eliminate or limit the assessment of **business personal property**.

- 4) With regard to the assessment of commercial aircraft, the County supports the utilization of a valuation methodology **consistent with other business personal property**.
- 5) The County supports legislation requiring governmental agencies to provide, where feasible **in electronic form, recorded contracts, permits and any other pertinent information**. To timely and accurately enroll equipment and property, assessors are reliant upon cities and the County for the timely discovery of new or recently closed businesses and changes in real property that may impact their assessed value. Examples include new construction, which may increase values and governmental restrictions (e.g., below market rate affordable housing) which may lower values.
- 6) The County supports legislation and Board of Equalization rules/advisory opinions etc. that support the **broad statutory authority of Assessor and the Assessment Appeals Board** to discover pertinent market information from taxpayers.

The County opposes legislation that expands the exemption for qualified nonprofit affordable housing beyond 80% of average medium income.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

The County supports:

- 1) The **right of all eligible individuals to register to vote, and meaningfully exercise their right to vote**, without interference.
- 2) Protection of the federal and California **Voting Rights Acts**.
- 3) Efforts to **prevent voter suppression**, including efforts to oppose voter ID laws and other laws that suppress the right to vote.
- 4) Efforts to support a **complete and accurate census count** and prevent undercounting of historically undercounted groups.
- 5) **Full and timely reimbursement** for state and federal mandates, including Secretary of State directives, regulations, and elections called by the State.
- 6) Greater flexibility to conduct **all-mail ballot elections**.
- 7) Legislation that enhances and improves **election administration** and the electoral process, including appropriation and allocation of state and federal funding and other resources.
- 8) Increased opportunities and incentives for individuals to serve at a vote center or polling place.

- 9) Legislation that enhances and improves the availability of diverse **voting systems** and other election technology for increased availability and use.
- 10) Legislation that enhances and improves the administration and stability of **elections** under the California Voter's Choice Act
- 11) Legislation that enhances and increases the availability and incentives for the recruitment and use of **polling place and vote center locations**.
- 12) Legislation that **improves and enhances** the conduct of audits, recounts, post-election tallies, and the 1% manual tally to account for new technologies and voting models, including expanded use of electronic scanned ballot images.
- 13) **Funding** for the modernization of voting equipment and technology.
- 14) Legislation that enhances and improves the **consistency and administration** of the California Elections Code.
- 15) Legislation that **enhances the security of elections systems** from hacking or other attacks, and that provides funding for such prevention.
- 16) Legislation that solidifies the **challenge period for court matters** for Writs of Mandate related to all ballot information and Voter Information Guide materials.
- 17) Developing alternatives to provide **Conditional Voter Registration and Voting** to voters unable to go to voting locations during the 14-day period immediately before Election Day.

COUNTY LIBRARY

- 1) The County supports state funding of the California Library Services Act, including matching funds for literacy programs for all ages to increase literacy rates.
- 2) The County supports **legislation to reduce the passage of public library operating and bond measures** to the 55% level. Currently, a two-thirds vote is needed for passage.
- 3) The County supports reauthorization of the Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS) and **increased funding for the Federal Library Services and Technology Act**.
- 4) The County supports Intellectual Freedom, patron privacy, and open access consistent with current library policies, values, and the American Library Association Bill of Rights.
- 5) The County supports public access to information technology including every library having easy and affordable access to a high quality, high bandwidth telecommunications network, including the e-rate program.

- 6) The County supports state funding of high-speed broadband in California public libraries.
- 7) The County supports legislation to **mitigate the negative effect of Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) funding** on public libraries in California.
- 8) The County supports the **full inclusion and participation of public libraries** in the local consortia coordinating the implementation of AB 86 and enhanced organizational collaboration to better serve the educational needs of adults.
- 9) The County **supports the freedom to read and opposes embargoes** and other unfair and anti-competitive practices by publishers and others that limit libraries' ability to meet their users' reading and information needs.
- 10) The County **supports the principles of Net Neutrality**, allowing the library patron free and unbiased access to the internet content, which is a vital platform for free speech and intellectual expression for all.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The County supports:

- 1) A formal definition of the **Operational Area responsibility**, which traditionally had roles and responsibilities in the response phase of emergency management, but increasingly has been used for preparedness activity coordination including training, exercising, planning, and information distribution.
- 2) Greater emphasis on proactive funding for **preventive activities**, rather than reactive funding after a disaster has occurred.
- 3) State and federal legislation that **promotes and supports resilient communities** before and after a disaster inclusive of funding and reimbursement.
- 4) Legislative updates to the California Disaster Assistance Act to include, but not limited to, **clarity of organizational models and jurisdictional responsibilities** between local, state, and federal agencies, and sufficient funding for agencies to fulfill their obligations.
- 5) Legislative updates to the **Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)** to include, but not limited to, clarity of organizational models and jurisdictional responsibilities between local, state, and federal agencies, including FEMA's National Incident Management System, and sufficient funding for agencies to fulfill their obligations.
- 6) Federal legislation that **updates the role and responsibilities of the American Red Cross during declared emergencies**, including its shelter management and care obligations, and which provides funding and resources necessary for the agency to fulfill its obligations.

- 7) Federal legislation that assures **full funding to local jurisdictions** during a declared emergency.
- 8) Legislation that authorizes **proactive wildland vegetation management activities** in rural and Wildland-Urban Interface areas inclusive of Community Wildland Protection Plans and funding.
- 9) Increased federal and state funding for **emergency preparedness** to plan, prepare, and respond to natural and man-made disasters to include temporary housing, consistency and coordination among the federal, state, and local emergency preparedness plans, and a unified command structure when multiple jurisdictions are involved in emergency response.
- 10) State and federal legislation that promotes and supports **community wildfire safety and resilience**.
- 11) State and federal legislation the promotes and supports **community alerting, warning, and notification**.
- 12) State and federal legislation the promotes and supports **Local Hazard Mitigation Planning** inclusive of sufficient funding for agencies to fulfill local hazard mitigation planning.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1) The County supports **continued access to remote participation** for both elected and appointed officials and the public for public meetings.
- 2) The County supports changes that offer tools to local agencies to **maintain decorum and manage disruptive behavior during public meetings**, while ensuring open access and robust participation by the public.
- 3) The County supports efforts to **amend the Surplus Land Act** to further define transactions with a public purpose that would be exempt from the Surplus Land Act.
- 4) The County supports establishment of **fees for services** that promote full cost recovery and are based on actual costs to the County.
- 5) The County supports efforts to **protect all vital and official records against fraud**, while ensuring their availability to authorized users.
- 6) The County supports the use of **new security features for paper** used to print a vital record that offers equal or greater security protection than the features currently used.
- 7) The County supports **the use of electronic recording** for real property records that includes appropriate protections for consumers and homeowners against fraud.

- 8) The County supports providing flexibility to counties for the **physical and electronic storage** of records that are mandated to be retained in perpetuity.
- 9) The County supports submission of an **updated background check** at each time of filing or renewal when a criminal justice background check/Live Scan fingerprint submission is required for a license, registration, or permit.
- 10) The County supports **continued access to records** currently provided under the Public Records Act, while maintaining limited access to vital records and restricted access to truncated real estate records.
- 11) The County supports efforts that **preserve the integrity of public records**.
- 12) The County supports efforts that assist with the **redaction of unlawful language** on restrictive covenants.
- 13) The County supports continued **truncation of social security numbers** on documents to the earliest presence of social security in real estate records.
- 14) The County supports requiring foreclosing entities to **include certification in their Notice of Default recordings** that the statutorily required time period of 30 days has elapsed since due diligence contact was made or attempted to be made with the borrower.
- 15) The County opposes decreasing the definition of **“reasonable response,”** currently defined as 10 days.
- 16) The County supports authorization for the County to obtain **full cost reimbursement for information** and services that are developed at public expense and used for commercial purposes.
- 17) The County supports efforts to obtain grant funding for the preservation and storage of **county archives** and other County historical records.
- 18) The County supports that regulations pertaining to property tax agents and property tax agent firms, including registration requirements, be **managed, maintained and enforced by the state**.
- 19) The County supports **changing federal program reimbursements** that currently create disincentives for the County to own facilities.
- 20) The County supports **immunity from liability** for dispatchers who provide standard pre-arrival medical instructions to 911 callers.
- 21) The County supports **state and federal funding for the arts and arts education** in order to contribute to the development of healthy individuals as well as to achieve a culturally and artistically vibrant community.

- 22) The County supports increased protection and transparency for individuals seeking **loan modification services** and consumer debt settlement. (Recommended by Advisory Commission on Consumer Affairs)
- 23) The County supports increased protection for people facing **foreclosures** as a result of predatory lending. (Recommended by Advisory Commission on Consumer Affairs).
- 24) The County supports regulation of the **payday lending** industry, including imposition of a 36% interest rate cap. (Recommended by Advisory Commission on Consumer Affairs)
- 25) The County supports authority for county counsels to bring actions *and issue subpoenas* under **Business & Professions Code section 17200** et seq. and similar laws providing for civil enforcement authority, including regarding environmental health issues.
- 26) The County supports efforts to combat discriminatory business practices by internet service providers and the preservation of **net neutrality** principles.
- 27) The County supports efforts to ensure that **broadband/wireless services** provided to first responders and public safety personnel are not blocked or slowed down (“throttled”) at any time.
- 28) The County opposes efforts to link **federal funds** to compliance with any conditions inconsistent with these Legislative Policies.
- 29) The County opposes efforts to eliminate or render ineffective **federal regulatory agencies**.
- 30) The County supports an increase in the amount of the **purchasing authority** for goods and related services threshold, which is established in the State Government Code.
- 31) The County supports a change in the Public Contract Code to **increase the threshold amount of minor public works projects**.
- 32) The County supports the ability of state and local governments to **use federal supply schedules** for the purchase of goods and services.

TECHNOLOGY, PRIVACY, AND SURVEILLANCE

The County supports:

- 1) **Continued, reasonable regulation and oversight** governing the acquisition and implementation of surveillance technologies, including but not limited to drones with cameras or monitoring capabilities, automated license plate readers, closed-circuit cameras/televisions, cell-site simulators, International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI trackers), Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology, biometrics-identification technology, and facial recognition technology.

- 2) The development of **robust data security and privacy policies and procedures protecting all information** gathered by the County, including but not limited to health data, criminal justice data, tax records, voting records, public benefits information, and child welfare records.
- 3) Financial and operational support of the ongoing acquisition of information technologies dedicated to **protecting the security of County systems and the integrity of County data**.

ENERGY

With regard to **funding and incentives**:

- 1) The County supports development of a statewide grant program to **fund energy conservation and energy management equipment** in local government facilities, including the electrification of such buildings.
- 2) The County supports **expansion of state-funded loan programs** for governmental operations and community programs.
- 3) The County supports utility bill discounts or other incentives for **conservation efforts**, such as reducing air conditioning and heating use.
- 4) The County supports funding, incentive programs, grants and loans to **increase energy efficiency for, local governments, businesses and homeowners**. Some examples might include:
 - vehicle emission reduction technologies;
 - purchase of hybrid, fuel cell, and electric, vehicles;
 - electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
 - energy demand management and storage solutions;
 - more efficient / sustainable back-up generators for essential facilities;
 - energy efficiency and renewable energy projects;
 - development and deployment of economically viable technologies for electrification of systems traditionally powered by fossil fuels, in transportation, space heating, and water heating;
 - use of sustainable and energy efficient building materials; and

- biogas and green hydrogen.
- 5) The CPUC should include **incentive provisions**, such as discounted rate structures, and financing mechanisms for public entities, non-residential and residential accounts where significant investments have been made in sustainable energy conservation and alternative energy generation.
 - 6) The County supports **inclusion of local governments** in the allocation formula developed under the State’s Cap-and-Trade program.
 - 7) The County supports **reinstatement of the Public Goods Charge (PGC)** for energy efficiency programs.
 - 8) The County supports **continuation of the Public Purpose Program** operated by the CPUC.
 - 9) The County supports funding for projects that **capture and insert biomethane** from landfills, wastewater treatment plants, and livestock operations into the natural gas pipeline.
 - 10) The County supports **funding** for projects that use renewable energy to create hydrogen and **incentives** for customers than utilize green hydrogen in onsite energy generation.
 - 11) The County supports **funding for the expansion of retail stations** that offer green hydrogen for fuel cell vehicles.
 - 12) The County supports the creation of programs **that incentivize**, create utility rate discounts and provide funding for microgrid retrofits of existing facilities.

With regard to **legislation and regulation**:

- 1) The County supports legislation and regulations that **increase energy efficiency and conservation**.
- 2) For solar PV systems that were operating or under contract prior to December 31, 2017, the County supports the **grandfathering of the solar rates, time-of-use periods, seasonal definitions, and ratios of peak to off-peak differentials** that were in effect on December 31, 2017,
- 3) The County supports language in the California Public Utilities Commission’s Proposed Decision for proceeding R.20-08-020 that will allow customers with upcoming solar projects **to qualify for Net Energy Metering 2.0 legacy rates for the lifetime of the systems** as long as an interconnection application is submitted within 120 days after the adoption of the decision (currently tentatively scheduled for late January or early February 2022).
- 4) The County supports **expansion of renewable energy markets and associated renewable energy development**, and a more viable market for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

in California through regionalization of the California Independent System Operator, and similar efforts.

- 5) The CPUC should **re-open the Direct Access Program**, subject to the requirement that all additional energy procured under Direct Access is from 100% renewable and carbon free resources.
- 6) The County supports **community solar, wind, biogas, or other renewable energy source programs** to expand consumer use of these programs.
- 7) The County supports **expedited permit processes** that encourage the rapid adoption and diffusion of photovoltaic systems and renewable energy technologies that are consistent with appropriate safety standards, and that incorporate energy storage to help reduce potential impacts associated with oversupply of energy to the grid during certain periods.
- 8) Legislative, California Public Utility Commission (CPUC), and State Board of Equalization (BOE) decisions concerning energy issues should include provisions **to avoid negative impacts on local governments and schools**, such as loss of property tax revenues or franchise fees.
- 9) The County supports **protecting those utility customers with fuel cells** from incurring demand charges as a result of the fuel cell not being able to generate electricity at full capacity quickly enough following an electrical outage.
- 10) The County supports **local control over energy procurement**, such as through Community Choice Energy (CCE) programs, along with the transparent development and fair application of regulatory costs to customers selecting CCEs, including, but not limited to the Power Charge Indifferences Adjustment (PCIA) and other legacy costs of the Investor-Owned Utilities.

With regard to protection from, and notification, of **power outages**:

- 1) Counties, as providers of essential services in the areas of public health and safety, should be **exempt whenever possible from rotating block outages**.
- 2) The County must be **provided adequate notice** regarding any planned rotating block outages.
- 3) The County supports appropriate regulation of public safety power shutoffs, urges limits to their use, and full cost recovery for affected governments, residents, and businesses.
- 4) To reduce outages, the County supports having the Investor-Owned Utilities establish an **emergency load reduction program** for a minimum of ten contiguous years, with financing and discounted rate plans, to facilitate and incentivize load reduction projects by its customers.

CLIMATE CHANGE/SUSTAINABILITY

The County supports:

- 1) Legislation and regulations to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** and efforts to implement the requirements of AB 32, SB 32, SB 375, and SB 100.
- 2) Legislation and regulations that support **on-site nonportable water recycling systems** and efforts to implement the requirements of SB 966.
- 3) More stringent greenhouse gas emissions standards for **motor vehicles**.
- 4) The provision of funds, incentives, and/or revenue-raising authority to assist local governments for the costs of **climate change** (mitigation, planning, adaptation, and resilience) actions.
- 5) A simplified approach and standard methodology to greenhouse gas emission **inventory reporting**.
- 6) Legislation, regulation, and funding that supports **water audits, efficiency, conservation, drought relief and policies, local agencies' ability to manage and protect groundwater supplies**, and the increased use of **recycled** water, on-site **stormwater**, and **greywater** for non-potable water purposes.
- 7) Efforts that support and encourage **green job development**.
- 8) **Regional transportation and local planning efforts** that consider climate change and seek to reduce greenhouse gases, including efforts to encourage the use of walking, bicycles, develop urban forests, and eliminate urban heat islands.
- 9) Efforts that encourage federal, state, regional, and local planning, mitigation, adaptation, and/or resilience strategies that **reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and global warming to communities** that will be particularly impacted and increase the communities' preparedness and resiliency.
- 10) Incentive programs and regulations that encourage **energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy solutions**, particularly those offering high value greenhouse gas reductions.
- 11) **Incentive programs that encourage** water conservation, efficiency, low impact development, recycled water infrastructure, and greywater installations for residential, commercial, and municipal applications.
- 12) Innovation grants for water to provide opportunities to try new technologies and develop alternative technologies for **stable sources of potable water**.

- 13) Incentives and grants for the development and **strategic drought adaption of urban forests, tree inventories, and tree care**, that recognize the water needs of trees.
- 14) Incentives and grants that increase the ability of federal, state, regional, and local authorities and communities to **monitor and measure carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants**.
- 15) Incentives and grants that **support carbon neutrality solutions** and/or state, regional, and local efforts to achieve carbon neutrality.
- 16) Local governments **retaining marketable credits** for investments made in energy conservation and for reduced emissions from solid waste and vehicle fleet activities. The County recognizes the benefits to both economic competitiveness and environmental protection through investments in a clean, low carbon, energy economy.
- 17) Efforts that connect **climate change and environmental sustainability to public health**.
- 18) Development of statewide standards for **greywater and blackwater strategies** and technologies.
- 19) Aggregated, **multiagency pooling of grant and/or cap-and-trade funds** to support local governments integrated greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs and projects.
- 20) Efforts to revise the **definition of disadvantaged communities as it relates to cap-and-trade funding** to better align it with the Bay Area region's definition of "communities of concern."
- 21) Regulations that require consideration of the **social costs of carbon, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone depleters** in regulatory cost-benefit analyses.
- 22) Regulations that support state, regional, and local efforts to **achieve carbon neutrality**.
- 23) **Right-to-repair rules** that require original equipment manufacturers (OEM) to provide consumers and independent repair businesses equal access to repair documentation, diagnostics, tools, service parts, and firmware to reduce waste that occurs because of OEM's high repair costs due to lack of competition.

RISK MANAGEMENT

- 1) The County supports allowing **county hospital liens to be asserted against settlements and compromises**, in addition to judgements, which would put county hospitals on equal footing with other lien holders when a personal injury case is resolved prior to judgement.

- 2) The County supports efforts to **prevent unreasonable increases in Workers' Compensation costs** and changes that will mitigate increasing medical costs and provide fair and reasonable indemnity benefits including:
- a) The prudent use of health care;
 - b) Improved accountability and administration;
 - c) Alignment of the public and private sectors;
 - d) Efforts to expand medical information that may be disclosed to employers by third-party administrators, insurers, and employees and agents specified by a self-insured employer to administer the employer's workers' compensation claims. Access to this information is necessary to effectively administer and operate a workers' compensation program;
 - e) Maintenance of the current maximum time limit of two years for payment of temporary disability benefits to employees for workers' compensation injuries, and
 - f) Maintenance of the current limitations on paid leaves of absence under California Labor Code section 4850.

The County **opposes federal modification of FEMA insurance requirements** that would mandate excessive and unattainable levels of earthquake insurance.

HEALTH SYSTEM

PUBLIC HEALTH

The County supports:

- 1) **Investment of significant additional ongoing state and federal funding** to support local health departments to recover and build a modern workforce and infrastructure to **continue to address the current pandemic and** to prepare for the next pandemic and/or any other emerging critical threats to the health and wellbeing of County residents.
- 2) Existing **health officer authority** to take actions necessary to preserve and protect public health.
- 3) Efforts to address and **eliminate racial and health inequities** across populations, including:
 - a) Increased efforts to **address the root causes of structural inequities** that negatively impact vulnerable populations and minorities and to dismantle barriers to high quality, affordable health care. These include policies, programs, and practices that perpetuate or hold the status quo in place;
 - b) Policies, practices, programs and services that **address the socioeconomic factors** that influence health including employment, housing, education, health care, public safety, and food access; and
 - c) Increased resources and policies that invest in the built environment and mitigate the **social determinants of health** (e.g., housing, transportation, education, food, and adequate health services).
- 4) Efforts that **reduce violence and support violence prevention**, including:
 - a) Increased resources and policies that support **violence prevention**, including suicide prevention;
 - b) Programs, services, and research to **prevent and limit the effects of injury, violence, and abuse**, particularly for children;
 - c) **Promoting and advocating for gun safety to protect and prevent injury** to individuals. For example, advocating for research, new innovations, smart technologies, and gun owner screening.
- 5) Protecting and promoting the **Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF)**, as established in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- 6) Preservation and enhancement of funding and policies that support **chronic disease prevention programs and strategies**, including, but not limited to:

- a) Prevention and early intervention programs and strategies to **address environmental influences** on health in the areas of chronic disease;
 - b) Policies that **address the overconsumption of sugar, lack of food quality standards**, and requiring consumer warnings regarding poor nutritional content of food and/or beverages;
 - c) Policy, systems changes, and organizational efforts **to address and prevent nutrition-related chronic diseases and food insecurity**;
 - d) **Reversal of the pre-emption language** regarding local Menu-Labeling that is included in the ACA;
 - e) **Increased taxes and regulatory control** on tobacco and sugar-sweetened beverages;
 - f) **Prevention and regulation** of the use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping, flavored tobacco, *alcohol* and cannabis by youth and young adults, including reducing access and exposure to marketing and sales;
 - g) **Elimination of exposure to second- and third-hand smoke or aerosol**, including from cannabis and vaping products;
 - h) **Elimination of disparities** among specific populations related to tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping, flavored tobacco, and cannabis;
 - i) **Discontinuing the use of substances that adversely affect health** such as e-cigarettes, vaping, flavored tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, and other substances with adverse effects;
 - j) Policies that **increase regulatory control of virtual spaces** (e.g., TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.) to eliminate unlawful sales of tobacco, vaping products, cannabis, opioids, and other substances that are harmful to health of populations;
 - k) Prevention and early intervention programs and strategies to **address environmental influences on health** in the areas of chronic disease, including promotion of equitable access to parks and outdoor experiences; and
 - l) Programs and policies that **support safe active transportation** (e.g., biking, walking, and public transit) such as Safe Routes to Schools, Vision Zero, Safe Routes for Seniors, and Complete Streets.
- 7) Preservation and enhancement of funding and policies that support **infectious disease prevention and control programs and strategies**, including, but not limited to:
- a) **Providing screening, diagnosis, and treatment for infectious diseases**, such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Chlamydia, and Influenza;

- b) Increased federal and state **funding and policy changes for Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and treatment**, to reflect and respond to the growing number of cases being treated in Santa Clara County. Santa Clara County has more TB cases than 35 states;
 - c) Rules that **mandate insurance coverage** should include, as an essential service, the screening, lab work, and treatment of TB;
 - d) The **strengthening and expansion of pro-vaccination policies**, including COVID-19, (*e.g.*, school and daycare requirements, flu vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, etc.);
 - e) Funding for public health prevention related to rising levels of **sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)**;
 - f) Reauthorization of the **Ryan White Treatment Extension Act of 2009**, which funds treatment and prevention for low-income, uninsured, underinsured people living with HIV/AIDS with core medical and support services. (HIV Commission);
 - g) Updating the Ryan White Treatment Extension Act of 2009 to **address current needs for those at risk or living with HIV**;
 - h) Maintained **funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)**, which provides access to medications for treatment of HIV to low-income people;
 - i) Efforts to strengthen needle exchange programs as part of an overall program to **combat the spread of HIV** and other diseases;
 - j) Allowing items associated with needle exchange programs, such as **cookers, sterile water**, and **cotton** to be distributed along with clean needles;
 - k) **Elimination of federal restrictions** on funding needle exchange programs; and
 - l) **Response efforts for emerging diseases**, such as Zika and new novel coronaviruses/COVID 19.
- 8) Adequate funding and policies that support the **health and well-being of mothers and children**, including, but not limited to:
- a) Providing adequate State funding for children’s programs, including the **California Children’s Services (CCS)** program for clients who are not Medi-Cal eligible to assure that counties are not overmatched in their financial participation; and increasing access to care for children to programs like CCS by easing eligibility requirements;
 - b) **Preserving the nature, quality, and local oversight of safety net services** historically provided at the local level, such as *the* CCS and Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) programs, which are being transitioned into managed care at the state level;

- c) **Legislative efforts to clarify the CCS Medical Therapy Program’s (MTP) responsibility** for providing only medically necessary physical therapy and occupational therapy services and the appeal process to be used for disputes regarding MTP services;
 - d) Legislative efforts **to reduce or eliminate environmental exposure to lead and other toxic substances**, such as wildfire smoke, particularly for infants and children;
 - e) Stable, ongoing funding for programs that work to **reduce environmental exposure to lead** and for resources that communities in impacted areas can access for remediation, prevention, and other activities;
 - f) Funding for **municipal water fluoridation**;
 - g) Funding and policies requiring **comprehensive health education in schools** (e.g., tobacco, other substance use in the setting of rising opioid abuse, sexual health, healthy eating, physical activity, human trafficking, and bullying, including cyberbullying); and
 - h) Increased resources dedicated to **prevention programs targeting teen pregnancy**.
- 9) Preservation and enhancement of funding and policies that support **Public Health Laboratory and Preparedness** efforts, including, but not limited to:
- a) Maintenance or enhancement funding, **streamlined processes, and greater flexibility for Public Health Emergency Preparedness initiatives**; and
 - b) Reinstatement of funds for the **Lab Aspire Program**.
- 10) Legislative efforts to address and mitigate the **impacts of climate change**, including:
- a) Policies to **prevent climate change**;
 - b) Policies and funding for programs that **build resilience to climate change, ensure racial inequities are addressed** in climate actions, and engage vulnerable populations in climate planning and adaptation activities;
 - c) Policies and practices that **mitigate impacts on heat** among vulnerable populations, including urban forest, access to cooling centers and devices, and air quality monitoring; and
 - d) **Reducing carbon dioxide emissions and reducing exposure to toxic air pollutants** including wildfire smoke, in addition to efforts that improve air quality and support public awareness on the health benefits of clean air.
- 11) Maintaining the authority and jurisdiction for the assurance and regulation of **safe drinking water** as described in the California Safe Drinking Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF) with the California Department of Public Health.

- 12) Funding for public health approaches for **prevention, surveillance, and response related to opioid misuse and cannabis use.**
- 13) Policies that support **state and federal funding transparency**, including how much funding is allocated to local jurisdictions, how allocations are determined, and how funding is reassessed to meet changing needs.
- 14) Efforts to **expand certified workforce of lead inspection and abatement professionals.**
- 15) Efforts to **address childhood lead poisoning** by reducing exposure to lead from products and through efforts that facilitate lead abatement in homes and the community.
- 16) Policies that support **linking and integrating Public Health with Primary Care, Behavioral Health, and clinical services.**

The County opposes:

- 1) **Efforts to shift or limit the liability** of lead-based paint manufacturers and supports efforts to hold those entities appropriately accountable.

ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

The County **supports:**

- 1) **Enhancing access to high-quality health care** for all County residents, regardless of a resident's ability to pay and regardless of whether a resident may be uninsured, partially insured, or otherwise lacks adequate health care coverage.
- 2) **Expanding universal, affordable, and equitable coverage.** The County advocates for continued strengthening of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and eliminating barriers to health coverage.
- 3) Establishment of a **single payer system of health care**, with universal coverage for all residents of the County, which would include:
 - a) A **universal coverage system** that would replace thousands of different health care organizations with a single government-administrated health care system, thereby eliminating significant administrative costs and providing significant savings, which would in turn be dedicated to improved health care access workforce development and technological investments. In the absence of a universal coverage system, development of a public option (or solution) that makes coverage more affordable and accessible, taking strides toward universal coverage that ensures comprehensive and a community integrated health system, while recognizing the vital role of the healthcare safety net.

- b) The **full array of services** that is affordable for those in and above the ACA subsidy range.
 - c) **Parity and continuity of care** as essential components.
 - d) To build toward universal coverage, a **community-integrated health system** that, in the interim, could include the County taking full responsibility for certain populations, **with adequate funding from the state and federal governments.**
- 4) Policies that **promote and advance physical and behavioral health parity**, including:
- a) Efforts to improve **integration of care, care coordination and simplification of plan/enrollee interaction;**
 - b) Stronger support for **behavioral health parity by all plans**, so that residents of the community do not need to become destitute to receive services for what could later become a serious mental illness. In addition, full parity that would accommodate truly integrated care, ending silos of care;
 - c) Full federal partnership to **address mental health and substance abuse** issues so that our nation and community can move upstream to address what otherwise could become criminal offenses or public health crises such as the current opioid epidemic; and
 - d) Efforts to **broaden or codify the Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC)** scope of benefits to include integrated behavioral health services and minimize burdens on our patient population, such as allowing reimbursement for 2 or more services in the same day, so patients do not have to schedule multiple visits and trips for medical and behavioral health services.
- 5) Creating and supporting priorities for **cross county or regional partnerships**, including data sharing across entities within the County and regional entities.
- 6) Creating and supporting priorities for **cross county or regional partnerships**, including improving data sharing across entities within the county and regional entities.
- 7) With regard to California's **Medicaid** program, known as Medi-Cal:
- a) **Simplified Medicaid eligibility** to eliminate state procedural and documentation requirements that are not required under federal law, or that may be waived under federal law;
 - b) Efforts to streamline and **increase Medi-Cal enrollment, recruitment and retention**, whereby services can begin before paperwork is completely processed;
 - c) Efforts to create a **single application for benefits**, including Medi-Cal, food stamps, and other programs;

- d) Efforts to address population health that **streamline questionnaires and align care coordination** without recreating infrastructure;
 - e) **Expansion of eligibility and reimbursement** to support the safety net's critical role in providing care and services to the most vulnerable in our community.
 - f) **Maintenance and expansion of telehealth, Hospital Presumptive Eligibility, and other flexibilities** initiated or broadened during the COVID-19 pandemic that expand access to care and ease administrative burdens.
- 8) **Adequate provider networks** that provide and allow timely access to care, including dental services.
 - 9) **Extension of the enhanced ACA subsidies** that reduce insurance premiums and co-payments, and expansion of similar supports that reduce barriers to care, making coverage affordable to all residents of our community.
 - 10) **Access to affordable health care coverage benefits** to all families and the ACA's residually uninsured.
 - 11) Local flexibility for providing **coverage to unsponsored children, adults, and older adults**.
 - 12) Access to **health care for pregnant women** who are not covered by other insurance.
 - 13) With regard to **incarcerated individuals**:
 - a) Medi-Cal **eligibility**, including dental, **to pre-conviction individuals**, including dental.
 - b) Support extension of enhanced care management, community supports, and prescription drug coverage **during incarceration**.
 - c) **Maintain Medi-Cal coverage for inpatient stays over 24 hours**, and secure retroactive payment for stays incurred during implementation delay.
 - d) Continued pursuit of regulatory changes that would **extend coverage to inmates**, including, regulations that streamline access to coverage before or upon release, transition, reintegration and reentry of formally incarcerated individuals.

The County **opposes**:

- 1) An **oversimplification of the challenges** needed to refine and improve the Medicaid program by adding another layer of plan management, shifting healthcare delivery further away from the patient.

HEALTH CARE FINANCING

The County supports:

- 1) **Protection of Medicare, Medicaid**, and other federal health programs, including efforts to maintain sufficient funding levels to serve eligible populations that do not rely on county financial participation. Further, the County rejects any further cuts to Medicaid and Medicare in the federal budget and debt limit legislation.
- 2) Development and funding for **public health systems' emergency response capacity** and services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) Implementation *of the new Section 1115 Medi-Cal 2025 Waiver* and 1915 (b) Waiver, collectively known as CalAIM, for up to a five-year period that allows for:
 - a) **Continued care delivery and care coordination reform** focusing on health improvement and improved outcomes while limiting duplication;
 - b) Maintenance of the full continuum of medical, social, and behavioral health services developed under the Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver, with funding to maintain critical services;
 - c) **Local flexibility and methodologies** to maximize funding that supports universal coverage for Santa Clara County's unsponsored population; and
 - d) **Integration of care and coordination** between plans and delivery system.
- 3) Development of **funding and solutions outside the Waiver** to continue successful programs and initiatives from the 1115 Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver and 1915 (b) Waiver.
- 4) Broader use of **telehealth and telemedicine**.
- 5) Maximization of federal funding and **efforts to address and backfill gaps** necessary to maintain access to services, leveraging available state and managed care funding (such as the Department of Public Health, Enhanced Payment Program, and the Quality Incentive Program).
- 6) **Full integration** of behavioral health, physical health, and oral health within Medi-Cal and other coverage programs, while maintaining current funding levels.
- 7) **Continuing and maintaining funding levels of the disproportionate share hospital (DSH) program** and deferring DSH cuts until there are long-term financing solutions.
- 8) **Preservation of the safety net** including funding for Medi-Cal, FQHCs, indigent health services, and tertiary care services like burn, trauma, and rehabilitation.
- 9) With regard to the federal **Medicaid** program:

- a) **Sufficient funding** should be provided in order for recipients to receive adequate health care, and providers to receive sufficient reimbursement for said services;
- b) The **Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)** should be permanently increased and/or the Federal Poverty Level indexed, which would raise federal Medicaid reimbursements to California;
- c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) **enhanced FMAP** should be maintained, and funds utilized to develop a comprehensive set of coordinated services to assist individuals in remaining in home and community settings;
- d) Medicaid managed care rules should allow for **supplemental payments to continue**, particularly in public health care settings; and
- e) The County supports renewal of its 330H grant to **support our homeless patients** under terms that fit the County's governance structure.

10) With regard to the State **Medi-Cal** program:

- a) **Sufficient funding** to adequately support medical, mental health, drug and alcohol, medical/psychiatric, and dental services, and to preserve and augment the number of Medi-Cal providers;
- b) Securing an adjustment in the Medi-Cal **share of cost** and improve connections between State agencies to reduce the administrative burden on families. Since the share of cost has not been adjusted in quite some time and has become very high, health care services remain out of reach for many individuals;
- c) Securing **sufficient funding levels for Medi-Cal field offices** to improve the timeliness and adequacy of Medi-Cal payments, and the enactment of administrative simplifications to Medi-Cal operations and requirements; and
- d) Expanding and supporting access to a **comprehensive array of services** that are adequately funded.

11) Policies that support ability of state and local entities to draw **down federal funds for Medi-Cal**. For example, supporting renewal of the California Managed Care Organization tax, if it does not adversely impact local health plans.

12) Reinstatement of state funding for **county outreach and enrollment** activities to enroll and retain eligible children in the Medi-Cal and Covered California programs.

13) The County supports an **alcohol excise tax increase** that provides funding for health services and substance use disorder programs.

14) Assuring the State budget continues to benefit our population in terms of their **preventative health, affordability of health care services, and building a system**, including a strong finance system, that cares for and improves the care of our constituents.

- 15) Efforts to **end or mitigate the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)** site neutral policies and related payment cuts.
- 16) Allowing the County to **contract directly with the State** to take risk.

The County opposes changes to **DSH policies and DSH methodology that disadvantage** California or other states that expand or have expanded Medicaid under the ACA.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

The County supports:

- 1) Increased **supplemental federal funding for teaching hospitals** through the Medicare Graduate Medical Education (GME) program, which was reduced in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, to allow for an increased number of physicians to be trained.
- 2) **Funding and flexibility to meet the State's increasing seismic safety requirements** for hospitals, bond funding for other capital needs, and rebates for green building and energy plans.
- 3) Providing a **socioeconomic status risk adjustment** to the Medicare Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP).
- 4) Increased support for the State's system of **trauma care**.
- 5) **Maximization of compensation for emergency medical services** provided to uninsured and out-of-network patients.
- 6) Preserving and maintaining full savings for the **340B program**, which provides the ability to purchase discounted pharmaceuticals for SCVMC Hospitals and Clinics' inpatient and outpatient populations. In addition, support efforts that maintain or expand use of discounts, and support participation of covered entities and/or preserve dollars saved through the 340B program in other ways.
- 7) Facilitating the **use of automated drug delivery systems** for storage and dispensing of prescribed drugs throughout the Health System facilities, including at both licensed and exempt-from-licensure clinics.
- 8) Expanding and streamlining the role of **local government in the transfer or sale** of non-profit or for-profit health facilities (regardless of the entities' out-of-state or tax-exempt status) as well as expanding local governments' role with regard to attempts by non-public hospitals to close emergency rooms or reduce a hospital's capacity, including by adequate provision of public notice of the closure.

- 9) **Minimizing the expansion of existing reporting requirements and implementation of new reporting requirements** (e.g., reportable diseases, hospital acquired infections, and emergency department overcrowding). While the goals of additional reporting are laudable, they could result in diverting staff from other essential services.
- 10) **Drug delivery mechanisms, distribution and administration** that allow for efficiency, integrity, and accessibility.
- 11) Efforts that **balance the safe and timely discharge of a patient**. Balance additional regulations to address non-medical needs in ways that do not delay discharge when medically appropriate and in turn, delay care for others.
- 12) **Transparency in billing information** that provides useful information for the patient to estimate their individual cost through a process that is not significantly burdensome to the provider.
- 13) Allowing counties to operate clinics, open for limited services, as intermittent clinics of existing exempt-from-licensure clinics in order to **maximize vulnerable populations' access to high-quality health care**.

The County **opposes**:

- 1) Any **restrictions that may limit** public health care systems' ability to provide essential services and treatments, including provisions that impose significant costs to the County.
- 2) **Provisions that impede patient care** and prevent public health care systems from using improved and updated pharmaceutical practices.

VALLEY HEALTH PLAN

The County **supports**:

- 1) Policies that **expand access and affordability of health care**, including the development of a single payer system that will reduce costs and promote health equity to eliminate barriers to care.
- 2) The **reduction of cost sharing on Covered California**, which acts as a material disincentive to seek healthcare.
- 3) Special consideration of the **needs, abilities, and benefits of public health plans**, including the role of County Safety Net systems in the development of waiver programs and similar government initiatives, at both the state and federal level.

- 4) The **inclusion of all income eligible individuals** regardless of status in Medi-Cal, Covered California and other public health care programs to address health equity, public health and health disparities.
- 5) Promoting the development and funding of programs that **ensure basic healthcare services** to those who are ineligible for other insurance due to income, documentation status or other reasons.
- 6) **Integration of Behavioral Health and Physical Health**, with policies and laws that foster and promote data sharing, care coordination and member/patient engagement.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The County **supports** the following **behavioral health** policies:

- 1) **Maintaining Medi-Cal benefits**, especially Targeted Case Management and the Rehabilitation Option, for those with persistent and serious mental illness; and extending the same benefit to those with persistent and serious substance use conditions.
- 2) Developing an **integrated care delivery system for mental health, substance use treatment services and physical health** that addresses the client's full spectrum of need and coordinates care, while not duplicating infrastructure and administrative functions.
- 3) Promoting and advancing **physical and behavioral health parity**, including:
 - a. Efforts to **improve integration of care**, care coordination, and simplification of plan/enrollee interaction.
 - b. Stronger **support for behavioral health parity by all plans**, so that residents of the community do not need to become destitute in order to receive services for what could later become a serious mental illness. In addition, full parity that would accommodate truly integrated care, ending silos of care.
- 4) Ensuring that **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)** funding remains in local systems of care, is protected, and the County is able to maintain local control.
- 5) An extension of **Workforce Education and Training (WET)** funding for workforce development until a new long-range workforce plan is developed.
- 6) Medicaid expansion to reimburse services for persons with mental health disorders who are provided treatment in **Institutes of Mental Disease (IMD)** and freestanding psychiatric hospitals. The County strongly opposes the elimination of the state share of Medi-Cal reimbursement for all ancillary medical costs for residents of IMDs, which created a cost-shift to counties. The County also supports State control over rate setting for these providers.

- 7) Funding to cover costs of medication and treatment programs targeted to uninsured, **incarcerated individuals with mental health disorders** or substance use problems.
- 8) State funding assistance for behavioral health clients who have deemed **incompetent to stand trial (IST) and/or conserved (Murphy Conservatorships)**.
- 9) Initiatives to provide increased **mental health services to adoptive and foster care youth**, and funding to serve youth with serious emotional issues who are not eligible for services under other public programs or private insurance.
- 10) New initiatives to provide **intensive and comprehensive services to persons with mental health disorders who are at risk of homelessness, incarceration, and involuntary hospitalization**, and sufficient resources to address behavioral health needs of individuals impacted by corrections reform.
- 11) Increased **federal funding for mental health services**, particularly for programs administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- 12) **Integrated service models** to better serve individuals with co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance use disorder) and primary care needs.
- 13) Programs and funding to serve individuals with **severe psychiatric disorders** and complicating medical conditions including brain injury, dementia, and other chronic medical problems.
- 14) Changes to ~~reporting~~ requirements for the federal **Hill-Burton program**, which provided construction funding for health facilities in return for the provision of free or reduced-cost services. The existing public facility compliance alternative (PFCA) is time-consuming and burdensome and the requirement that no other funds be available should be updated.
- 15) Development of a **statewide certification for Peer Support Specialists**.
- 16) Full state funding for **county diversion of individuals** who are deemed IST or at risk of IST, including misdemeanor defendants.

The County **supports** the following **substance use treatment** policies:

- 1) **Expansion of Medi-Cal coverage** to provide the same rates, terms and conditions for the treatment of substance use disorders as applied to coverage of other medical conditions to all enrollees, including children and youth. This shall include access to such funding streams as FQHC, the various coverage initiative proposals, and minor consent Medi-Cal funding for adolescent treatment.
- 2) Funding to **cover the costs of treatment** of substance use disorders of clients referred from the criminal justice and child welfare systems who are not otherwise insured. This would

include full funding of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act and related drug court programs.

- 3) Coverage for the **full range of services** required to treat substance use disorders, including recovery management and other non-traditional services required for successful treatment. This includes expanding access to treatment and recovery services and non-addictive treatment alternatives (e.g., non-opioid pain management).
- 4) Permanently remove **federal exclusion** of care and mental health services and substance use disorder services provided in residential treatment facilities larger than 16 beds (Institutes for Mental Disease or IMD).
- 5) Expansion of state and federal funding for **prevention and early intervention services** and to combat substance use and abuse.
- 6) **Inclusion of Medication Assisted Treatment** as a covered benefit under all insurance plans.
- 7) Full access to public funding for **housing support** for clients being treated for substance use disorders.
- 8) New initiatives to provide comprehensive services for **transition age youth** leaving the dependency system.
- 9) Initiatives to expand access to and support use of **new medications** for the treatment of substance use disorders.
- 10) The development of necessary **infrastructure** in the substance use system, including information technology, fiscal analysis and management, data sharing and development of adequate facilities.
- 11) Measures to **limit or counter the advertising of alcohol** and drug-related products to minors.

The County opposes the State's ability to access the **Behavioral Health Trust Fund** and unilaterally establish contracts with certified Drug Medi-Cal providers without county involvement.

ALL HAZARDS PLANNING

The County supports:

- 1) **Mass casualty funding**, in addition to that provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

- 2) **Improvement in timely information sharing and planning** to address health related needs of vulnerable populations during power outages no matter the cause.
- 3) Greater **flexibility** for federal funds to accommodate training and personnel costs, as well as multi-use programs that meet a variety of public health needs.
- 4) Adequate funding for **all hazards preparedness and response**, including:
 - a) Development of **hospitals' infrastructure** to address *COVID-19*, bioterrorism, pandemic flu, or other disaster, including the creation of redundant/back-up systems for computers, phones, and other critical systems;
 - b) Increased support for the **public health infrastructure**; and
 - c) Allowing for **multi-year contracting** for ongoing programs.
- 5) With regard to the **Federal Metropolitan Medical Response (MMR)** program, require that counties serve as lead agencies.
- 6) In the event of a public health emergency, the ability to **suspend or modify any procedures that may delay implementation of a response**.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AND TRAUMA

The County **supports**:

- 1) Measures to secure sufficient and **stable funding for emergency medical services** including trauma centers and trauma systems; emergency medical care (physician, hospital, and ambulance provider reimbursement); and local EMS Agencies (LEMSAs).
- 2) Sufficient Medi-Cal and Medicare payment and reimbursement to cover the **cost of transport services** and other services, including assessments that help reduce unnecessary emergency department transports.
- 3) Allowing **county-contracted 911 ambulance providers to seek cost-based Medi-Cal reimbursement** in the same manner that public ambulance providers can.
- 4) **Regional trauma system planning** that supports local oversight and promotes the use of certain specialty care services, such as burn care, pediatric trauma care, and spinal cord trauma care.
- 5) **Regional specialty health care system planning** that promotes the identification, quality assurance, and use of specialty care facilities, designated by the LEMSA, to include stroke care, cardiac care, and other identified specialty health care needs within the region.
- 6) Standardized regional **medical disaster planning** and response.

- 7) Measures that will result in **cellular calls to 911 being routed** to the closest appropriate level local dispatch center.
- 8) Efforts and new initiatives that preserve the ability of the County to provide quality cost-effective **emergency medical services through Exclusive Operating Areas**.
- 9) Efforts to **reform and standardize the process and requirements** for creation and maintenance of Exclusive Operating Areas for emergency medical services.
- 10) Development of **additional tools and options**, including new locations (e.g., clinic drop offs) and response without transport, to treat and release to help address various population needs such as individuals who are homeless and others.
- 11) **Reimbursement for LEMSA patient care** not limited to ambulance transport.
- 12) Allowing LEMSAs to provide patient transport, when appropriately triaged, to **alternate destinations** other than acute care hospitals.
- 13) Allowing LEMSAs to undertake **community paramedicine pilots** that triage patients to appropriate, alternate destinations.
- 14) Developing locally informed, data driven standards for LEMSAs to calculate, monitor and report **ambulance patient offload time**:
 - a) Focus on metrics of Emergency Department (ED) transition of care/ED wall times and validated methods of measuring them and utilizing root cause analysis within hospitals as scientifically valid data is monitored; and
 - b) Address ED metric data to incorporate the collection of data in the field through the use of the next generation electronic Patient Care Records (ePCR) as progressively more features are developed and rolled out.
- 15) Efforts that support **sharing data to better serve patients** (e.g., to support clinic drop offs, WPC pilot, etc.).
- 16) Eliminating requirements to obtain a physician signature for **non-emergency transports**.
- 17) **Maintaining a unified** (non-fragmented) ambulance system.
- 18) Creating a **robust workforce** through alternative education modalities and workforce planning efforts, as well as subsidized education and training.

The County **opposes**:

- 1) Measures that will **fragment the delivery of EMS**.

- 2) **Attempts to reduce the LEMSA’s medical control** over local EMS system providers.
- 3) **Attempts to add regulatory burdens** that negatively impact patient care or deter focus on improving patient care.
- 4) Attempts to add requirements of EDs that **lengthen patient offload time**, while recognizing the balance of patient safety and care.
- 5) Staffing rules and requirements that **negatively impact deployment of rigs or unit deployment** for EMS to be able to provide timely response to all patients’ needs.
- 6) **The transfer of Trauma Center regulatory oversight** responsibilities of the LEMSA to a third party or to the State.
- 7) **Attempts to circumvent the established regulatory processes** in order to change EMS medical standards and protocols.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The County **supports**:

- 1) **Robust data security and privacy protections for medical information**, including information contained in an electronic health record (EHR).
- 2) Financial and operational support of public healthcare providers’ development of information technology, including an **EHR**:
 - a) **Funding to develop and implement EHRs** to better coordinate patient care and improve outcomes;
 - b) **Special recognition of public hospitals**, as large providers of care to uninsured and Medicaid patients, in the receipt of EHR incentive payments; and
 - c) Direct federal funding for county health departments, behavioral health departments, and other county health care providers and agencies to **improve utilization of appropriate health information technology**.
- 3) The development of an **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Data Repository** that will provide pre-hospital patient data and interface with hospital systems.
- 4) Development of a **Health Information Exchange (HIE)** to ensure that the sharing of health information with external entities occurs in a secure and confidential manner.

- 5) Advancement of policies that support **secure data sharing across health systems, hospitals, behavioral health, public health, health plans, social services, custody and other agencies** to improve data collection ~~in order~~ to identify and address social determinants of health and streamline data collection to minimize ~~rework~~ *redundancies* and best serve the whole person.
- 6) Improved data sharing statewide in the context of **Pandemic Influenza Planning efforts** and **Disaster Planning** (earthquake) and **Bioterrorism (BT)** efforts.
- 7) Financial and operational support of **MHSA-funded technology initiatives**.
- 8) Clarification of **rules regarding protected health information** to allow data to be shared to develop population health and predictive modeling.
- 9) Development of policies and options that allow for **data sharing across the state, across entities within the county and across regional entities** to better serve the whole person, while maintaining privacy and security.
- 10) Efforts and funding to **enhance the scientific capacity** of local health jurisdictions, expand access to data, and improve public health data and information infrastructure.

GENERAL HEALTH CONCERNS

The County **supports**:

- 1) **Protection of reproductive choice for all women**, regardless of ability to pay.
 - a) Protection of **contraceptive methods and counseling** as a covered health benefit.
- 2) Standards at both the federal and state level for **notification of dense breast tissue** in mammogram reports that informs a woman whether she has dense tissue so she can discuss additional screenings with her doctor.
- 3) The provision of **state disability insurance benefits and other pregnancy-related benefits** for an extended length of time to pregnant women working in high-risk occupations including, but not limited to, agriculture.
- 4) The establishment of an **oral health benefit** in the Medicare program to provide dental care to seniors.
- 5) **Updating the provider number application and management requirements** to reflect the needs of government providers and current issues with identity theft in the Medicare program.

- 6) The **prevention, reduction, and elimination of health disparities** among racial and ethnic population subgroups. (Recommended by Commission on the Status of Women)
- 7) A change in the current Federal Drug Administration's policy of **not accepting blood donations** from men who have had sex with other men anytime since 1977.
- 8) **Systems-based and locally determined solutions** for those people who are in mental health crisis.
- 9) Efforts to improve **access to safe and affordable prescription drugs**, such as the availability of generic drugs and requiring pricing and cost transparency.
- 10) **Addressing limitations to data sharing** which impact ability for all providers to access full medical record.
- 11) Expansion of opportunities for individuals to **remain at home or in the community** (e.g., Assisted Living Waiver).
- 12) **Infrastructure investments** that cover health care construction projects, including seismic safety.
- 13) **Reducing or eliminating barriers** to care based on immigration status.
- 14) With regard to **prevention and wellness** efforts:
 - a) Increased **support for local Public Health** programs;
 - b) Allowing or requiring insurance plans to **fund population-based services**; and
 - c) Policies and initiatives that **tie housing and health care**.

The County **opposes**:

- 1) **Regulations or other efforts that reduce funding** for, the availability of, or services provided by family planning clinics.
- 2) Regulations or other efforts that seek to impose **negative immigration consequences** for the use of government-sponsored health programs and services.
- 3) Efforts to **prevent individuals from entering or remaining in the United States on the ground that they lack health insurance** or may use government-sponsored health programs and services.
- 4) Regulations or other efforts that **impede access to health services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning individuals**.

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES

The County **supports**:

- 1) **Retaining and recruiting high quality staff** at all levels in the face of scarce talent, pending retirements, internal and external salary equity issues, and increasing demand for services.
- 2) Policies, training programs and resources to **support the recruitment, training and retention of healthcare workers** from underrepresented and low-income backgrounds.
- 3) Continuing to **safeguard healthcare providers' authority to determine health care staffing** and appropriate use of unlicensed personnel including a reasonable and responsible interpretation of nurse and other staffing ratios and policies.
- 4) Increasing the workforce of **Advanced Practice Providers** to increase safe, high-quality care for patients.
- 5) Funding for academic institutions to **expand or maintain capacity in health fields**, inclusive of all levels of staffing (e.g., peer workers, marriage and family therapists), such as San Jose State University's nursing program, and various student internship programs, including training to recognize, refer and appropriately report patients who have been abused or neglected.
- 6) Implementation and funding of efforts as recommended by the **California Future Health Workforce Commission**.
- 7) Funding for the **State Loan Payment Program** to expand the program to provide more assistance to primary care professionals and expand the program to include specialists such as mental health and substance **use disorder** professionals. Obtain funding for public hospitals/health facilities to increase training opportunities.
- 8) Scholarships and **loan forgiveness** to increase enrollment in the health fields of study.
- 9) **Visas and regulatory changes** to allow properly trained immigrants to work in the health field, including continued or expanded ability of H-4 visa holders to obtain work authorization.
- 10) Licensure of clinical lab scientists based on **national standards and reciprocity** with other states for lab technicians.
- 11) **Graduate Medical Education (GME)** and funding through federal programs, based on population needs.
- 12) **Training opportunities** that allow staff to develop new skills.
- 13) Creative funding opportunities for **workforce development and training**.

- 14) Maintained ability to **lawfully employ Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients** who provide safety net services.
- 15) Creative solutions to develop and **support expansion of behavioral health providers** within the community.
- 16) In response to the statewide shortage, implementation of **statewide documentation and billing standards to reduce the paperwork** related to providing behavioral health services and allow providers to increase treatment capacity for its clients.
- 17) Expanding opportunities to **utilize and receive reimbursement for telehealth services**.
- 18) Increasing and accelerating the **training pipeline**.
- 19) Greater use of **allied health professionals**.
- 20) Increased use of **peer workers**.
- 21) Increased use of **team-based care models** that capitalize on existing medical personnel.
- 22) To address the **shortage of primary care physicians**:
 - a) **Increased reimbursement rates**;
 - b) Creating and expanding medical **school loan repayment programs**; and
 - c) Expanding **medical training opportunities**.
- 23) Address **Denti-Cal access issues** by increasing reimbursement rates and creating dental school loan repayment programs providers who serve the eligible population.
- 24) Investing in **workforce development** (e.g., through use of savings).

The County **opposes**:

- 1) Regulations or other efforts that **eliminate work authorization** for H-4 visa-holders, impose restrictive eligibility requirements for H-1B visas, or otherwise restrict the County's ability to hire necessary, qualified immigrants to work in the health field.
- 2) Regulations or other efforts that **interfere with healthcare providers' ability to accommodate the religious and moral convictions of staff** in a manner that allows for advance planning and prevents adverse impacts to patient care.

CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND FAMILIES

CALWORKS AND OTHER BENEFITS

The County supports:

- 1) Efforts to require the State to recognize its responsibility to pay the increasing costs that counties incur in operating **several state-mandated human service programs**.
- 2) **Adequate funding, infrastructure and systems** to manage the annual eligibility redeterminations from increased number of Medi-Cal recipients enrolled as part of the Affordable Care Act.
- 3) **Continued efforts to grant flexibility** in addressing state and local needs such as housing assistance, transportation, and subsidized childcare, particularly in high-cost regions.
- 4) With regard to the Reauthorization of the federal **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** program, the County supports:
 - a) Realignment to more closely model the **California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs)** program;
 - b) Allowing needy families to receive vital support services without impacting their **lifetime limit on cash assistance**;
 - c) **Alignment with federal time limits** when a family is making efforts to work, yet is unable to earn enough to become independent of CalWORKs cash assistance;
 - d) Extending the **one-year limit on education and employment training**; and
 - e) Inclusion of subsidized employment and human capital development programs.
- 5) With regard to California's **CalWORKs** and CalFresh program, the County supports:
 - a) Additional services for clients including increased **access to affordable housing**, transportation, employment and ancillary services to increase self-sufficiency for CalWORKs clients and at-risk families;
 - b) The **reduction of eligibility and enrollment barriers** to benefit programs;
 - c) **Simplifying eligibility determination** and income reporting requirements for benefit programs, including greater automation and information sharing with state agencies and departments;

- d) The **expansion of educational opportunities** and funding for clients and families through adult education and regional occupational programs;
 - e) Creation of a state **childcare credit for** working poor families;
 - f) Restoring CalWORKs program to a **60-month program**; and
 - g) Adjusting **the earned income disregard** to account for increases in State and regional minimum wage.
 - h) Supporting federal actions to increase or expand eligibility for benefits, or state flexibility in determining eligibility for **administering federal benefit programs**.
 - i) Supporting state or federal action to increase CalFresh benefit levels to be adjusted for **state cost of living**.
- 6) Continued support for the CalWORKs **Housing Support Program and Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Programs** as separate and permanent funds to provide housing and housing services.
 - 7) Increased funding for the **Workforce Investment Act** youth employment and adult training programs.
 - 8) Restoration of funding for year-round **youth employment** for all low-income families, including summer work experience programs.
 - 9) Research and pursuit of efforts to **reduce poverty**, such as through enhanced education opportunities and employment training for current and former welfare clients.
 - 10) Policies and strategies that **reduce or eliminate banking and Automated Teller Machine (ATM) charges** for public benefit recipients using an Electronic Benefit Transfer Card (EBT).
 - 11) Restructuring the **state paid cash benefit payments**, including adjusting the earned income and special needs deductions to meet basic needs of families and accounting for increases to the state and local minimum wage.
 - 12) The continuation of federal programs that provide **funding for energy audits, investments in energy conservation, and discounted utility rates** for low-income families and seniors.
 - 13) Access to **high quality early learning and pre-kindergarten programs** for children for at least the two years before they enter kindergarten, including, at a minimum, maintenance of the existing Transitional Kindergarten Program as well as the required resources to support increased capacity, educator effectiveness, facilities, curriculum and materials, and workforce development.

- 14) Replacement of initial 6-month extension period for Medi-Cal health care services with a 12-month extension period for newly ineligible families.
- 15) Funding or permanent waivers for **universal school meals** that provide all children access to school and summer meals.

The County opposes:

- 1) Efforts to **impose negative immigration consequences** for the use of government-sponsored benefits and services.
- 2) Federal efforts to **expand or impose work requirements** for public benefit programs.
- 3) Federal efforts to **impose or expand reporting requirements regarding the application** for or receipt of government-sponsored benefits and services by non-citizens.
- 4) Federal actions that would restrict eligibility for benefits, result in reduced benefits, or eliminate state flexibility in determining eligibility for or otherwise **administering federal benefit programs**.

CHILDCARE

The County supports:

- 1) **Full and guaranteed funding** for all stages of CalWORKs childcare to serve those families moving from welfare to work.
- 2) Restructuring eligibility and allocation of funding for **subsidized childcare** taking into account regional differences in family income, regional minimum wage, and local childcare costs to meet the needs of the welfare caseload that is engaged in part-time and full-time employment.
- 3) Actions that **stabilize and increase access** to subsidized childcare.
- 4) **Investment in workforce development** such funding Early Childhood Education curriculum and classes, funding ongoing professional development and recognizing best practices and accreditation.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The County supports:

- 1) **Greater flexibility in child welfare funding sources** to address preventative, diversion, and post-dependency services.
- 2) A County's ability to research causes and practice improvements that lead to the **reduction and elimination of ethnic disproportionality in the child welfare system**.
- 3) **Funding and services for programs** that safeguard and assist child and transitional age youth victims of sexual exploitation.
- 4) **Regional efforts** to address the issues of human trafficking and sexually exploited children.
- 5) **Removal of the barriers for cross-system data sharing** that benefits research and practice improvements in the child welfare system.
- 6) Efforts to increase **state and federal funding** for county and community-based services, including in-home supervision services, to preserve and support children and families who have experienced abuse/neglect, or are at risk of entering the Juvenile Dependency Court system.
- 7) Modifications to funding and regulations to **encourage service integration** with mental health, alcohol, and drug programs, and other services to meet the needs of the child and his or her family. Additionally, the County supports sufficient health care **resources for children in the foster care system**; in particular, children in out-of-county placement who require mental health services.
- 8) Funding to **research and evaluate preventative interventions** available under the Families First Prevention Services Act.
- 9) Funding and supportive services to **younger children and their families** diverted from Juvenile Court and Probation services.
- 10) With regard to **out-of-home placements**, the County supports:
 - a) Additional resources for Resource Families, Foster Family Agencies, and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program to **sufficiently cover the costs of caring for foster children**. Additionally, the County advocates for other support and services including paid childcare for all caregivers and non-citizen legal immigrants including those who are not federally eligible;
 - b) Additional tools and financing to **improve recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive homes**. The County also supports efforts to address equity issues in the financing of foster care initiatives;
 - c) Continued support for Non-Minor Dependents, youth ages 18-21, **aging out** of the foster care system, including assistance with medical and behavioral health care, housing, employment, education and other benefits;

- d) **Removing barriers to adoption rights** for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender couples or individuals;
 - e) Modification of financing and regulations for resource **family homes**, particularly with implementation of new approval processes and rate structures to reflect regional high living costs;
 - f) Policies supporting **Resource Family Approvals** where there is a kinship or relative bond, simplifying the approval process, and support when children are not Title IV-E eligible;
 - g) Exploring options to enhance **educational services for children in the juvenile and dependent care systems**, and improve collaboration between county placement agencies, the County Office of Education, and regional centers;
 - h) Allowing **non-citizen legal immigrants to receive foster care and adoptive parent benefits** during their first five years in the country;
 - i) **Incentives** and services for a child's permanency; and
 - j) **Continuum of Care reform** that supports placement alternatives, greater Resource Family support, and increased behavioral health services to children and youth.
- 11) Enhanced **educational services and mental health services in the schools as a preventative strategy for children in the juvenile and dependent care systems**, and improve collaboration between county departments, the County Office of Education, and regional centers.
- 12) Full funding for maintenance and updating of the **Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)**, and revisions to privacy requirements to reflect CWS/CMS use and access as an electronic system (as opposed to physical case files).
- 13) An **update to the SB 2030 Child Welfare Services Workload Study from 2000** to include new mandates and court orders implemented since the completion of the Study, and funding for the Study's target caseloads for child welfare workers.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

The County supports:

- 1) **Local flexibility and decision-making authority** to determine how to administer aging services currently provided through the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) structure.
- 2) Efforts to **increase funding for senior services** that promote the general well-being of older adults.

- 3) Programs, services, and policies that **promote independent community living**.
- 4) Programs to **reduce the need for institutional care** for seniors and dependent or disabled adults who are currently ineligible for services.
- 5) Programs directed towards assisting individuals who are **victims of elder or dependent adult abuse and exploitation** including physical, mental and financial abuse and support for legislation that would increase the ability to detect, prevent and prosecute elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- 6) Increased **funding for training Adult Protective Services workers**.
- 7) **Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Reform**, increasing frequency of State visits, improved monitoring practices, and compliant resolution.
- 8) Legislative efforts for **dedicated funding streams and revenues** for Public Guardian/Conservator offices in the State of California.
- 9) Programs that **enhance access to senior nutrition and health and wellness**, including mental health.
- 10) Policies and funding that **support safety net programs**, including:
 - a) **Affordable transportation**;
 - b) **Senior nutrition**, including restoration of federal funding lost due to sequestration;
 - c) **Coordinated information and assistance** including system navigators and professional case managers;
 - d) **Elder abuse prevention**, including affordable legal services and long-term care ombudsmen;
 - e) **Affordable, non-medical in-home care and caregiver respite services**; and
 - f) **Affordable housing**, including programs that prevent eviction and homelessness, mitigate homeowner health and safety issues, and provide affordable accessibility related modifications.
- 11) Policies and legislation that aid an **easy-to-navigate, coordinated system of care and long-term support services**.
- 12) Policies that encourage the concept of **Age-Friendly communities**, which include access to housing; transportation; outdoor spaces and buildings; social participation; respect and social inclusion; community support and health services; communication; and opportunities for civic participation and employment.

- 13) Engagement in the implementation of the **Governor’s Master Plan for Aging**, and legislative proposals that stabilize and fund long-term care services, including In-Home Supportive Services.

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The County supports:

- 1) **Federal comprehensive immigration reform** that includes the following:
 - a) The immigration system must **serve the national interest** and meet the needs of our economy;
 - b) All immigrants, regardless of their status, who are contributing members of the community should be provided the **ability to become citizens**;
 - c) Immigration policies should **promote commerce, respect rights, protect workers, and protect national security**;
 - d) Immigration and immigration enforcement is a **federal responsibility**; and
 - e) Counties should receive **reimbursement for services** provided to immigrants.
- 2) Funding to support efforts to **assist minors** arriving at the borders that include family reunification, due process protections, and alternatives to detention center placements.
- 3) Continued **resettlement of refugees and their families** in Santa Clara County and throughout the United States.
- 4) Funding for **refugee services** that, in addition to caseload demands, reflect actual needs:
 - a) **Increase the ceiling on the number of refugees** allowed to enter the United States each year;
 - b) Federal policy change to allow states to utilize their allocation of federal refugee funds to **provide services to refugees** who are in the country after five years;
 - c) The County continues to **oppose efforts to circumvent State and local authority in allocating refugee funding**, and efforts to redirect funding for cash and medical assistance to private voluntary agencies; and
 - d) **Program funding and adequate time to develop self-sufficiency** and addressing senior refugee needs.

- 5) **Revisions to the citizenship testing process** to better accommodate elderly, pre-literate, or monolingual immigrants.
- 6) Efforts to provide **avenues for immigrant professionals to practice the professions** of their birth countries.
- 7) Efforts to enact a program to **allow currently undocumented persons who have lived continuously in this country for a specified period of time to become legal residents** of the United States and eligible for naturalization, including legislative efforts to provide permanent legal status to participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
- 8) Strengthening **labor rights and worksite protections** for all immigrants, including farmworkers.
- 9) Continued funding for the **Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)** and California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provide food assistance to low-income immigrant families.
- 10) Preclusion of the **deputizing of local law enforcement** by the federal government for immigration purposes.
- 11) Protection of the **confidentiality of information** of all residents regardless of immigration status.
- 12) Expeditious processing of **applications for citizenship** and lawful permanent residence and equity in processing times for persons of all faiths, ethnicities, and national origins.
- 13) **Expeditious family reunification** for lawful permanent residents with minor children and spouses.
- 14) Changing the laws on **material support** enacted in the **USA Patriot Act** and **Real ID Act** consistent with national security concerns and refugee protection objectives. Overly broad definitions of “terrorist organization” and “material support” have resulted in the rejection of thousands of applications from refugees abroad and the suspension of over 1,200 asylum cases and green card applications.
- 15) Funding for staff education to recognize, protect, and assist immigrant victims of international trafficking.

The County opposes:

- 1) Efforts to **expand the definition of the term “public charge”** used in federal immigration policy and other regulatory efforts intended to increase the number of immigrants deemed likely to become a “public charge.”

- 2) Efforts to **impose more restrictive eligibility requirements** for H-1B or similar visas.
- 3) Efforts to **eliminate the ability of H-4** or similar visa holders to obtain work authorization.
- 4) Efforts to **restrict the ability of individuals fleeing violence or persecution to lawfully seek asylum** or to obtain and maintain temporary protected status in the United States.
- 5) Efforts to **condition the receipt of federal funding** on cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement efforts.
- 6) Efforts to create **barriers to refugee** resettlement.

EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The County supports:

- 1) Programs that assist and support populations that have been **disproportionately impacted** by the pandemic.
- 2) Reauthorization and full funding of the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**.
- 3) Ratification of the **Equal Rights Amendment**.
- 4) Efforts to **promote pay equity and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace**.
- 5) Efforts that promote **family-friendly workplaces**.
- 6) **Closing the gender wage gap** by strengthening California's pay laws.
- 7) **Equal access** to educational opportunities and resources in an educational environment free from gender-based stereotypes, violence, and harassment.
- 8) **Increased funding for and the strengthening of services provided to survivors** of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking, and their children.
- 9) Legislation and initiatives to bring attention to **missing and murdered indigenous women**, including providing support to families and to efforts to prevent violence and harm to the community.
- 10) State funding of medical forensic examinations for **intimate partner victims of strangulation**.

- 11) Efforts to **promote healthy relationships and the understanding of consent** among youth, and provide support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- 12) Actions to **maintain or strengthen the protections provided in Title IX** and enforcement of the law.
- 13) Federal legislation and regulations that would use the **broadest definitions of marital status** when it comes to conferring benefits to same-sex couples.
- 14) Efforts to provide **same-gender couples the legal rights and privileges** equal to those of married couples.
- 15) Federal and state efforts to **end discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, queer, or questioning individuals**.
- 16) Strategies and accountability measures to **provide awareness and guidance to foster parents** on how to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning youth to ensure that the youth feel safe, welcomed, and affirmed in foster care placements.
- 17) Efforts and policies that **address health disparities** for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning seniors.
- 18) Programs that focus on the prevention of **identity-based bullying** or incidents.
- 19) Strategies and accountability measures that **provide awareness and guidance to system partners** such as child welfare system, law enforcement, and the courts to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning youth feel safe and affirmed when interactions occur, or assistance is provided.
- 20) Development of program **resources and support for transgender people**.

The County **opposes efforts to impose a binary definition** of “sex” or “gender” or to define “sex” or “gender” based on biology, sex assigned at birth, or similarly restrictive and inaccurate criteria.

CHILD SUPPORT

The County supports:

- 1) The provision of annual funding augmentations for **local child support agencies** (LCSAs) to cover increased operational costs and mitigate the impacts of flat funding to counties.

- 2) Funding that will allow the child support program, as part of the social safety net, to **reach unserved families and grow the program.**
- 3) Legislation that **removes barriers to access the child support program,** increases or eases access to justice, and/or eases operational/administrative burdens.
- 4) Preserving the ability of local agencies to **manage the program under local control.**
- 5) Opportunities to **increase child support collections** directly to families.
- 6) Ability to **expand the sharing of information and data** between agencies to improve services to families.
- 7) Legislation that creates, enhances, or preserves the child support program's **ability to use effective collection tools and methods.**

VETERANS ISSUES

The County supports:

- 1) Maintaining the 2013 increase in the **Site Subvention Fund,** which is used to offset part of counties' expenses for maintaining veteran services offices in California.
- 2) Efforts to identify, treat, and provide local, state, and federal **benefits to veterans, service members, and their families.**
- 3) Funding to **provide transportation** of veterans to **VA Medical Centers,** outpatient clinics, and other locations to receive veterans' services.
- 4) Funding for **outreach, education,** and the ability to provide veteran services in a home setting.
- 5) Increased **access for County Veterans' Services Offices** to the US Department of Veterans' Affairs (USDVA) information systems for use in developing and monitoring claims submitted on behalf of veterans.
- 6) Granting **Presumptive Service Connection** for Hepatitis C, traumatic brain injuries, acoustic trauma, and post-traumatic stress disorder for service in a combat zone.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The County supports:

- 1) **Local flexibility and authority** to make operational changes necessary to continue implementation of Public Safety Realignment and Juvenile Justice Realignment.
- 2) **Local flexibility** to make policy decisions regarding cooperation with federal efforts **to enforce civil immigration laws**.
- 3) Regarding **individuals incarcerated in county jail awaiting adjudication**, who will be eligible for federal entitlement benefits (e.g., Medicaid, SSI/disability, veterans' benefits) upon their release, the County supports:
 - a) **Eliminating the federal health benefits "inmate exclusion"** for persons in custody in county jails and detention centers pending disposition of charges; and
 - b) Allowing inmates to **reapply for supportive services** once they have a custody release date to minimize the length of time an individual is without benefits.
- 4) **Reforms to the pretrial justice system** that treats people fairly, ensures that all people arrested have a right to an individualized evaluation of whether they can safely be released to the community during pretrial stage, considers a dependent's means when setting bail, protects the public, supports the privacy rights of pretrial services clients, and ensures court appearances.
- 5) Efforts to **address institutionalized and implicit racial bias** in the criminal justice system.
- 6) Regarding **DNA testing**:
 - a) Adequate funding to **cover the costs of testing** and new trial activities;
 - b) Efforts to **facilitate and fund regional lab facilities**, which are administered by local jurisdictions; and
 - c) For federal and state crimes, **post-conviction testing of DNA evidence** for defendants where the technology available at the time of trial and where identity was a significant issue that resulted in a conviction.
- 7) Funds for **substance use treatment, case management, in-custody programs**, supervision services and housing within and outside of treatment courts, accompanied by:

- a) **Expanded treatment options** for drug offenses to make sentencing more flexible; and
 - b) **Funding for substance use treatment** for adult diversion programs such as deferred entry of judgment.
 - c) Funding for **drug diversion programs**, such as the expansion of sobering centers.
- 8) Programs that address the **prevention of hate crimes**.
 - 9) Federal efforts to expand **hate crime statutes** to include sexual orientation and gender identity.
 - 10) Modification of the outdated allocation formula for the **Victim Witness Assistance Center** to consider the number of victims served.
 - 11) Allowing victims of crimes committed by a juvenile to be eligible for payment of crime-related expenses from the **California Victim Compensation Program**.
 - 12) Programs that provide **alternatives to school suspensions** and truancy proceedings to help youth avoid delinquent activities.
 - 13) Facilitation of **data sharing to support treatment and services** for criminal justice- and juvenile justice-involved individuals, while preserving their privacy rights to the greatest extent possible.

The County **opposes efforts to condition federal funding** on cooperation with civil immigration enforcement.

PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

The County supports:

- 1) Related to Public Safety Realignment funding, **a permanent, equitable funding formula** that rewards strategies to reduce recidivism.
- 2) Continued State **support for local criminal justice programs** that include prevention and early intervention for juvenile offenders, as well as frontline law enforcement services.
- 3) Funding for mental health in-custody treatment, jail diversion programs, non-carceral mental health treatment, and community-based **alternatives to incarceration**.
- 4) **Investments in reentry programs and services** that help inmates to transition back into the community, including provision of universal basic income for people transitioning back into the community.

- 5) State funding for the **judicial branch** to allow courts to meet their constitutional and statutory obligations and provide appropriate and necessary services to the public.
- 6) **Funding allocations and formulae** that do not eliminate applicant eligibility of jurisdictions with low crime rates, nor favor cities at the expense of counties.
- 7) **Inclusion of funding for public defender services** in grant opportunities that fund other sectors of the criminal justice system that increase the need for indigent defense representation.
- 8) **Consolidation of grant programs and simplification of application** and reporting procedures to prevent the need for preparing, monitoring, and reporting on a multitude of grant applications.
- 9) Funding for efforts to **reduce the number of children and adults unnecessarily or inappropriately detained**.
- 10) Funding for **juvenile and adult justice programs**, focused on a continuum of services, to allow counties to develop and expand innovative prevention, intervention, treatment, housing, and employment development programs.
- 11) Efforts to restore **civic engagement** by appropriate categories of individuals with criminal histories, such as the right to vote.
- 12) Funding for services, such as **housing, drug treatment and employment**, for former third strikers released from prison under Proposition 36 of 2012.
- 13) Funding for law enforcement training in handling **human trafficking** complaints and response.
- 14) Ability to impose an additional fee on vital documents to fund **domestic violence** services.
- 15) Funding for **post-conviction activities** undertaken to help offenders overcome barriers resulting from past criminal behavior.

CAPITAL NEEDS

The County supports:

- 1) Federal and state financing for the construction and operation of **juvenile and adult correctional facilities and reentry centers** including:
 - a) Adequate funding for the construction, expansion, modification, and maintenance of **local justice facilities**. At the federal level, the County also requests the flexibility to use funding for replacement facilities;

- b) Continued flexibility on State regulations regarding the construction and operation of correctional institutions, Correctional Treatment Centers, and **Psychiatric Health Facilities**; and
 - c) Continued flexibility on federal regulations regarding the construction and operation of correctional institutions including **jails and juvenile facilities**.
 - d) Adequate funding for the construction, expansion, modification, and maintenance of **non-carceral diversionary facilities**.
- 2) Efforts to maximize and expand the **use of existing State facilities** and programs to **ensure the adequate placement of mentally ill offenders**, including expanded availability of beds for such individuals in community-based treatment facilities.
 - 3) Adequate funding for **technology projects**, such as electronic transmission of evidence, satellite communication systems, electronic record/case management systems, transfer of fingerprint data, and internal communications projects.
 - 4) Funding for the construction and operation of a spectrum of **non-carceral structures** to provide long-term housing and other supports to people as alternatives to incarceration.

The County **opposes federal funding opportunities that link the receipt of funds** to additional program restrictions.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The County supports:

- 1) Protection of the **Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act grant program**, which is funded through 2011 Realignment, and the Youthful Offender Block Grant program.
- 2) Protection of State **funding for local probation supervision programs** designed to reduce state prison commitments.
- 3) Protection of programs and funding that **provide juveniles with services**, such as housing and employment assistance, when they turn eighteen and “age off” of probation.
- 4) Funding for **community-based alternatives to incarceration** for adult offenders, such as in-community support groups, increased mental health care and support, electronic monitoring, global positioning systems (GPS), day reporting, and diversion programs.
- 5) Programs and funding that encourage the use of **evidence-based practices**.

- 6) Programs and funding that provide **age-appropriate and least restrictive interventions** to reduce recidivism and promote healthy development.
- 7) **Local determination of staffing levels** and operational approaches for juvenile detention and rehabilitation facilities.
- 8) Flexibility to operate **transitional age programs** for young adult offenders who enter the criminal justice system.
- 9) Promotion of the **privacy rights to include sealing of juvenile records, educational opportunities, and developmentally appropriate treatment** of justice-involved youth.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

The County supports:

- 1) Efforts to provide **maximum local control over the management of county jail populations** including:
 - a) Clarification that good conduct and work credit should not be given to persons participating in the **home detention electronic monitoring program**;
 - b) Clarification that good-time, work-time credit should be given to persons participating in alternative sentencing programs, such as **Public Service Program (PSP)** and **Weekend Work Program (WWP)**; and
 - c) The development and financing of alternatives to incarceration including **community monitoring and expanded treatment resources**.
- 2) **Clarification of what constitutes routine and non-routine inmate medical costs**, allowing counties to estimate overall medical costs, and increasing the rate for prisoners with special medical/religious dietary needs.
- 3) **Funding for psychotropic drug costs** incurred by incarcerated mentally ill offenders, and the provision of a 30-day supply of drugs to mentally ill patients upon release.
- 4) The ability to operate a **jail industry program** to provide inmates the opportunity to acquire work skills.
- 5) Programs that provide **women inmates** the ability to reside with and/or parent their infants or young children while in custody.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

The County supports:

- 1) Timely placement in an appropriate facility for a defendant's **mental competency** to be addressed and restored.
- 2) State funding of **Penal Code Section 987.6**, which states that counties should receive reimbursement of up to 10% of the costs of indigent defense.
- 3) State reimbursement for the **costs to counties of defending capital cases** including the costs of expert witnesses (Penal Code Section 987.9), with a provision that would make the reimbursement retroactive, so that costs currently being incurred would be claimable.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The County supports:

- 1) Ongoing financial support for the crime and computer **forensics laboratories**.
- 2) **Creation of a legal limit for THC** (tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive chemical in cannabis) in the blood based on scientific principles, where anyone driving with that amount of active THC or more in their blood would be guilty of a Driving Under the Influence misdemeanor.
- 3) Requiring law enforcement agencies to obtain **ballistic images from firearms and cartridge cases** obtained to be submitted to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network or a comparable automated ballistic identification system used by the agency.

SHERIFF

The County supports:

- 1) Full State **funding for the cost of court security** provided by the County.
- 2) The ability to impose **civil fees that are cost-recovery**.

FIREARM SAFETY

The County supports:

- 1) Promoting a **culture of responsible and informed** gun ownership.
- 2) The **safe use and storage** of guns.
- 3) Requiring a **universal background check, waiting period, and safety certificate** to purchase a firearm.
- 4) **Providing law enforcement the resources necessary** to make sure people prohibited from possessing firearms surrender their weapons to a law enforcement agency.
- 5) A **ban on weapons and ammunition that allow for rapid reloading and multiple rounds of ammunition**, such as “bullet buttons” and high-capacity magazines.
- 6) A **ban on firearm modifications and accessories** that increase the rate of fire, such as “binary trigger systems.”
- 7) Passage of a **federal comprehensive assault weapons ban**.
- 8) Efforts to encourage neighboring states to **adopt bans** similar to those in California.
- 9) **Closing the loophole in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8102** that allows individuals found by a court to be unable to keep their firearms to buy new firearms.

HOUSING, LAND USE, ENVIRONMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION

HOUSING

The County supports:

- 1) The **preservation of existing housing and development of new affordable housing** that is affordable to households with very-low and extremely-low incomes. To the greatest extent possible, these housing opportunities should address the disproportionate impact that the housing crisis has on extremely-low income households and on individuals with disabling conditions. Housing should be prioritized for residents who are elderly, homeless, utilizing County services and benefits (e.g., CalWORKs), farmworkers, veterans, or have special needs – such as a serious disabling condition or serious mental illness.
- 2) The **preservation of existing and development of new supportive housing** to meet the housing and health needs of individuals with serious disabling conditions including individuals and families who are chronically homeless.
- 3) Regarding the federal Section 8 program:
 - a) Preservation of, and an increase in, existing **Section 8 resources**;
 - b) **Restoration** of federal Section 8 funding, cut by the sequestration;
 - c) Strategic use of Section 8 **vouchers** to support County priorities;
 - d) Strategic use of Section 8 resources to **support the development** of new affordable and supportive housing; and
 - e) Prevention of source-of-income discrimination, including against Section 8 voucher holders.
- 4) Legislation that **provides tenant protections** as well as increases choice, options, and stability for renters.
- 5) Increased Federal funding for housing and homelessness assistance programs including the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**, Home Investment Partnership Program (**HOME**), Housing for People with AIDS (**HOPWA**), **Continuum of Care (CoC)**, and **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**.
- 6) Measures that provide additional funding from a new revenue source to **address local housing needs**, including a permanent funding source for counties, provided that source does not negatively impact counties.

- 7) Modification of the State's CDLAC distribution formulas, which finance **Mortgage Credit Certificates (MCCs)**, to allow for home buying in high-cost areas of the state.
- 8) Efforts to address California's **current imbalance of housing to jobs** including incentives to locate employment centers near existing housing, and to ensure an adequate housing supply is created near new employment centers and meets projected housing needs at all income levels, especially extremely-low incomes.
- 9) Continued State funding and authority to **use National Guard armories as shelters** for the homeless year-round until permanent housing is established. The County also supports a decrease or elimination of the rent charged by the State for use of the armories.
- 10) Efforts to encourage development of **green affordable housing**, which is environmentally friendly and generates cost-savings for its residents.
- 11) Efforts to encourage communities to **end homelessness**, rather than managing it, by primarily supporting Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs using Housing First and Harm Reduction approaches.
- 12) Efforts to **remove administrative barriers and incentivize local governmental entities** to produce affordable housing options to meet the housing needs for all income levels.
- 13) Efforts to **expand mobility and increase low-income residents' freedom of choice** in housing, including measures that provide additional funding to assist local jurisdictions in addressing impediments to fair housing choice.
- 14) Efforts to efficiently and sufficiently **fund emergency shelter and housing programs in response to disasters**.
- 15) Efforts to **support farmworker housing**, including funding and local permitting control and flexibility regarding housing types and models, including recreational vehicles and manufactured homes.
- 16) Recognition that **higher density affordable housing should be located within urban areas**.
- 17) Efforts to **affirmatively further fair housing consistent** with the 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) final rule issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The County opposes efforts to repeal or undermine the AFFH rule.

The County opposes:

- 1) **Efforts to impose adverse immigration consequences** based on past, current, or anticipated future participation in the federal Section 8 program or other housing assistance programs.

- 2) **Efforts to increase rent, impose work requirements**, or otherwise place greater restrictions on the receipt of federal housing aid.
- 3) Efforts to **create barriers or decrease access** to federal housing aid.

PLANNING, LAND USE, AND DEVELOPMENT

The County supports:

- 1) The increased ability of local government to **mitigate development decisions made by neighboring jurisdictions**.
- 2) Increased ability to **annex unincorporated pockets of County land** into surrounding cities.
- 3) Regarding the State's **Housing Element**:
 - a) Allowing jurisdictions to **self-certify** their Housing Element;
 - b) Modifications to the current housing element requirements, which do not dilute the goal of increasing the affordable housing supply, but rather **eliminate administrative and other barriers** that can impede successfully obtaining certification of a housing element;
 - c) Recognition that certain counties in California including the County of Santa Clara have adopted and implemented General Plan land use policies that **do not allow urban uses and development in rural areas** outside urban services areas and require **annexation of urban pockets** and parcels prior to new development;
 - d) Adjustments in the way units are attributed to jurisdictions so that local governments have an **incentive to collaborate** on affordable housing projects. Similarly, localities should receive credit for units they assist in developing;
 - e) Ensuring that compliance with the State's Housing Element does not result in a **loss of local government revenue** or **increased local government liability**;
 - f) Related to SB 2 of 2007, which requires local zoning to encourage and facilitate emergency shelters, the County supports compliance with objectives of the law while **allowing for locally appropriate solutions**; and,
 - g) Modifications to the Housing Element requiring jurisdictions to **establish goals and production progress for extremely-low income households**.
- 4) Efforts to encourage "**smart growth**" land use decisions that lead to more livable communities including:

- a) The establishment of **higher-intensity corridors in specified urban areas** in compliance with existing General Plans;
 - b) **Reevaluation of density rules** that currently benefit lower density development;
 - c) Reconsideration of standards that favor **vehicles over pedestrian** traffic;
 - d) Encouragement of **transportation demand management (TDM)** activities, including ability to impose TDM in land use processes;
 - e) Acknowledgement that cities and counties may develop differently, and recognition that the County of Santa Clara has a policy of not developing **urban uses in rural unincorporated areas**;
 - f) Increased **incentives for mixed-use development**, which could include both residential and commercial units;
 - g) Development incentives that **do not erode property tax revenue** for local government; and
 - h) **Not allowing premature extension of urban services into rural areas** – such as municipal sewer or water.
- 5) A **Green Building Program** that encourages building practices that reduces material, water, and energy consumption; uses recycled content materials; and reduces the overall impact to the environment; without reducing health and safety requirements.
- 6) Close review of any new legislative efforts to manage **regional growth issues**. Maintain “revenue neutrality,” which, in an incorporation, helps counties preserve local revenues by requiring the transfer of revenue and responsibility to have a neutral impact on counties.
- 7) Maintenance of adequate **open space, park lands, gardens, and agrihoods** when infill development is utilized.
- 8) Legislation that enhances the ability of local governments to require **new development to pay for the costs of infrastructure and services needed** for infill development and to mitigate the impacts of development.
- 9) Continued **local control** over land use decisions. For example:
- a) The County **opposes imposition of new pre-emptive General Plan or zoning requirements**;
 - b) The County **opposes efforts to restrict local land use laws** and to require preferential treatment by local jurisdictions in favor of any particular type of land use;

- c) The County **opposes providing a property owner expedited access to federal courts** for a regulatory “taking” of his property, skipping the State court level;
 - d) The County **opposes the exemption of specific land uses**, such as for wind turbines, cell towers, and photovoltaic systems, **from local authority**;
 - e) The County supports **local authority to regulate Indian Gaming facilities** and adequate reimbursement to cover increased enforcement costs;
 - f) The County supports **consideration of climate change as part of CEQA analysis** when provided with clear guidelines, protocol, and standards for evaluation;
 - g) The County supports **greater local authority** to address chronic and unresolved code enforcement situations to include filing a lien on the property;
 - h) The County supports local land use authority to regulate oil and gas drilling and exploration; and
 - i) The County supports **local land use control over cannabis dispensaries and the commercial cultivation of cannabis** and will oppose any legislation that will remove that authority.
- 10) **Expedited permitting** by state and federal agencies that would allow County projects to be completed quickly and more efficiently.
- 11) Funding and policies that promote **economic development**, with specific emphasis on local communities where we have significant County assets, while preserving the character of rich historic, cultural, and recreational heritage.
- 12) Related to mitigation properties, **exempting public agencies from an endowment requirement**, and instead permitting the use of other methods to ensure funding for long-term stewardship of such mitigation properties.
- 13) Programs and funding that **preserve and enhance local agriculture and agricultural lands**.
- 14) Pursuing a federal designation as a **National Heritage Area for Santa Clara County**.
- 15) Efforts to **ban the logging practice of clear -cutting trees** throughout the state.
- 16) Funding and policies that **encourage expanding and improving the management of trees** throughout the county including tree inventories and management plans.
- 17) Regarding the **Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC)**:
- a) **Increased ability to impose fees**, which support its activities;

- b) The **deletion of obsolete provisions** in the Airport Land Use statutes;
 - c) **Strengthening the application of the policies** developed in Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plans; and
 - d) Efforts to ensure representation on the ALUC **reflects the population** of the county.
- 18) Greater **collaboration and coordination between the State's Regional Water Boards**. The County, which is under the jurisdiction of two separate Boards, is subject to very different requirements from the two Boards.
- 19) Funding and policies that **promote the response to climate change in the South Bay** and the increased utilization of the San Francisco Bay Trail, San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail, Alviso Marina County Park and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.
- 20) Efforts to **encourage agricultural preservation** as a key to the long-term sustainability and health of our county, food security, greenhouse gas reductions, climate resilience and various ecosystem co-benefits.
- 21) Efforts to **support agricultural preservation as part of a regional climate adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction strategy**, including:
- a) Legislation that recognizes **the importance of agricultural working lands and open space** in supporting urban areas for regional sustainability;
 - b) Allowing counties to have more **local control and flexibility in tax funding** for agricultural preservation programs, including use of a transfer tax;
 - c) Recognizing the **high cost of agricultural preservation in peri-urban areas**, requiring enhanced funding; and
 - d) Appropriate development of **farmworker housing**.
- 22) Design of the California High Speed Rail system, including rail stations, to **avoid urban sprawl and minimize impacts to agricultural lands and rural communities**.
- 23) Efforts to amend and apply **Fire Safety Regulations** to further compliance with local, state, and federal laws.

CEQA REFORM

The County supports reform of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that:

- 1) Improves the CEQA process while maintaining **authority at the local level**.

- 2) Includes **participation of other public agencies in the environmental review process** in order to provide a thorough review and up-front analysis and to avoid conflicts in future discretionary actions.
- 3) Allows counties to continue to **assume lead agency roles** where projects are proposed in unincorporated territory requiring discretionary action by the county and other jurisdictions.
- 4) **Reduce duplication, speed delivery, and facilitate efficient processing** of Resource Agency permit applications that are consistent with the County's environmental protections policies and goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The County supports State efforts to lock in federal endangered species protections.

The County opposes:

1. Efforts to **roll back, rescind, or fail to implement or fund** federal environmental regulations; air quality standards, energy standards; national parks, monuments, refuges, and other protected areas; and other federal environmental protections.
2. Efforts to **open public lands** to oil drilling, fracking, or resource extraction.
3. Efforts to **block or interfere** with the State of California adopting stricter environmental standards than federal standards.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The County supports:

- 1) Legislation that supports the role of public parks and recreation in improving **individual and community health and wellness** through the prevention of chronic disease and the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all activities.
- 2) Dedicated resources that will sustain, protect, restore, and expand environmental assets to combat **climate change, and preserve, protect, and enhance parklands**.
- 3) **Funding** and policies that encourage **walking, biking, and the development of alternative transportation networks** and the interconnectivity of trails that will create more livable and healthy communities.

- 4) State and federal investments that provide funding for the **acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and research** of parks and public lands as well as recreational infrastructure and resources.
- 5) A **definition of disadvantaged community** in the Public Resources Code that considers the varied economic landscape of counties throughout the state.
- 6) Programs and funding that **support planning and land acquisition**, as well as recreational access, directed towards protection and enhancement of biotic communities in support of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan.
- 7) Funding for the **preservation and enhancement of historic, cultural, and archeological resources**.
- 8) Funding for efforts to **provide wildlife with linkages** between and within their natural habitats.
- 9) Improvement of efforts to **prevent, manage, and control invasive species** to provide more consistency across involved State departments as well as funding.
- 10) Ability for local agencies **to take wildlife that threatens** parks natural resources and/or visitors.
- 11) Local authority to **regulate drone use** in parks and open space areas.
- 12) Action that ensures **natural resources and recreational funding** is available to County parks.
- 13) Funding and resources to **improve under-resourced communities and youth access** to nature including natural play spaces and environmental stewardship programs.
- 14) State and Federal programs and funding for **environmental education for youth and adults**.
- 15) Efforts to enhance **funding for fire prevention programs from emergency preparedness, forest management, and climate resiliency perspective**, including funding for vegetation management and tree mortality, as well as efforts to fund wildland fire protection in and around communities identified in the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- 16) Programs and funding that support **increased use of reclaimed water and recycled water** in County parks.
- 17) State and **federal funding for Fire Safe Councils** and other similar organizations that mobilize Californians to protect their homes, communities, and environment from wildfires and protection of parklands and open space.

- 18) Efforts to **limit deed restrictions or easements for grant-funded projects** to funded areas only.
- 19) Funding for **landscape-level agency partnerships**.
- 20) Legislation **that increases the viability of threatened and endangered species**, species of concern, and locally important species.

The County opposes:

- 1) The **use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides** and other toxicological threats to wildlife.
- 2) **State preemption** over hunting and fishing activities on local public lands.

**AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES,
ANIMAL CONTROL AND CLEAN WATER**

The County supports:

- 1) Preserving or enhancing the ability of county sealers and weights and measures officials to **protect consumers and businesses**, encourage equity in the marketplace, ensure consumers receive what they paid for, and ensure consumers are charged the correct price.
- 2) The protection of existing revenue sources and enhancing state and federal funding for **pest prevention activities**. The County supports timely federal and state funding and local flexibility to enhance the Agricultural Commissioner's ability to respond to pest emergencies. In most cases, reimbursement is ultimately provided by state and federal agencies.
- 3) Programs to ensure the legal, responsible, and **judicious use and disposal of pesticides** by farmers and others in the production of a wholesome and safe food supply and in structural pest control situations.
- 4) Statewide regulations that provide **guidance on the use of pesticides in cannabis cultivation**, particularly with regard to developing pesticide testing methodologies and establishing pesticide residue levels that will ensure safe products for cannabis consumers. The County also supports legislation that will ensure safe environments for cannabis industry workers and prevent environmental degradation. This extends to statewide regulations that will clarify restrictions pertaining to the cultivation of commercial hemp.
- 5) Legislation to encourage the **development and implementation of electronic data reporting systems** for agricultural programs, pest management activities, and pesticide data

by businesses and local implementing agencies, with a focus on efficiency of reporting, including:

- a) Ongoing funding sources to provide resources for local agencies, technical support from the state, and assistance to the business community;
 - b) Statewide standards for reporting of data; and
 - c) Support for other entities to submit data electronically.
- 6) Enhanced **local authority to modify fees for agricultural and weights and measures services** to promote full cost recovery.
 - 7) Creation or expansion of **revenue sources for animal control**, welfare, and sheltering activities.
 - 8) Policies, programs, and funding that **reduce the number of cats and dogs entering the animal shelter**, including protection for spay/neuter/return programs for community cats.
 - 9) Incentives that **encourage animal adoptions** from animal shelters.
 - 10) Authorizing temporary animal shelter facilities to **operate during a state of emergency** for a limited period of time without a premises permit as required for all other animal veterinary care services and making human shelters more accessible to people with companion animals.
 - 11) Strengthened **neglect, cruelty and abuse** laws and related penalties, to include counseling when appropriate.
 - 12) Clarification of existing law, California Penal Code Section 597.1, as it pertains to **forfeiture of various types of animals** pending the disposition of any criminal charges as well as specification of a mandatory payment schedule for the cost of caring for and treating animals beyond the currently specified 14-day period, throughout the impound period.
 - 13) Restoration of **Williamson Act funding**.
 - 14) Increased funding and opportunities to **encourage farming and agritourism**.
 - 15) Keeping **companion animals** and their owner/guardian together.
 - 16) Funding and policies that support the County in **meeting increasingly stringent stormwater permit requirements**.
 - 17) Policies, programs, and new technologies that **support the reduction of litter, debris, and pollutants** from entering storm drains and waterways.

- 18) Sustainable approaches to **storm water drainage, groundwater recharge and landscaping** throughout the county.
- 19) Increased **labor protections and benefits** for workers in the food and agriculture sectors
- 20) The establishment of state and federal programs that **incentivize the creation of food production, processing, and service cooperatives.**
- 21) Funding to provide **technical assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers** to maintain successful food production.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Consumer Protection

The County supports:

- 1) Legislation aimed at improving the **safety of the food supply** to minimize the risks posed by bacteriological, viral, chemical, and environmental contaminants and to reduce the incidence of food borne illness.
- 2) Ongoing statewide regulation of **onsite wastewater treatment systems** that preserve local government enforcement programs.
- 3) Statewide regulations relating to the production, distribution, and sale of cannabidiol (CBD) or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) **infused edible food products** with a focus on food safety, product labeling, and product packaging to reduce exposure to children.
- 4) Enhanced statewide regulations relating to the **construction and permitting of mobile or pop-up food facilities** (i.e., food trucks and food carts).
- 5) Change in statewide regulations that provide **flexibility for local agencies** to exempt permit requirements and develop guidelines for best management practices for some small retail food operations (i.e., lemonade stands, Girl Scout Cookies, charitable food providers).
- 6) Changes in statewide regulations on **safe food donation** to support safe and wholesome food rescue and recovery operations with a focus on food safety.
- 7) Enhanced regulations related to the preparation of complex **home prepared foods and Internet sales of foods** in a manner that provides the highest level of protection for the consumer.
- 8) Comprehensive regulations related to the proposed **reuse of wastewater and wastewater recycling** in a manner that provides the highest level of protection to the public and clearly defines water quality standards, training, and maintenance requirements.

- 9) Legislation **ensuring the quality and yield** of new individual and sharing drinking water systems, as well as ongoing monitoring and maintenance of State Small Water systems.
- 10) The use of **lead-free alternatives** in consumer products.
- 11) Efforts to reduce or **eliminate environmental exposure to lead** and other toxic substances.

Hazardous Materials

- 12) Encouraging the Federal Aviation Administration to **develop lead-free fuels for aircraft**.
- 13) Legislation to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of requirements related to the **electronic data reporting** of environmental data by businesses and local implementing agencies, including:
 - a) **Ongoing funding sources** to provide resources for local agencies, technical support from the State and assistance to the business community;
 - b) **Statewide standards** for reporting of environmental data; and
 - c) **Support for other environmental-related Boards and Offices** to submit environmental data electronically.
- 14) Legislation to **enhance local programs and prioritization of services** and penalties based on risks.
- 15) The ability for local agencies to manage and carry out the **oversight of hazardous material clean-up activities**, including the issuance of closure letters.
- 16) Efforts to ensure **hazardous materials and hazardous wastes** are managed in a manner that protects human health and the environment.
- 17) **Efforts to expand or replace the Methamphetamine Contaminated Property Cleanup Act of 2005** (HSC, Div. 20, Ch. 6.9.1) to more comprehensively address toxic contaminants left behind by the illicit manufacturing and storage of drugs.
- 18) **Providing county counsels with civil enforcement authority** across all programs that comprise the State's Unified Program, as defined by HSC 25404(c) consistent with the authority provided in Hazardous Waste Control Law per HSC 25182.

Solid Waste

- 19) Statewide **regulations regarding** the safe storage and disposal of biohazards, such as medical waste, that also preserve and enhance local government enforcement programs.
- 20) Efforts to modify the Statewide Compost Regulations to allow for more **local enforcement, greater consistency, and improved product quality assurance**. Any proposed legislation

should further improve the image and quality of compost in California by providing greater assurance of benefit to farmlands and water quality.

- 21) Efforts to modify the Statewide Composting Regulations to **promulgate operating and permitting requirements** for Anaerobic Digestion and other waste to energy technologies.

VECTOR CONTROL

- 1) Efforts to address vector borne diseases and to prevent the spread of other non-native species of insects with human medical significance, including funding and infrastructure support for Vector Control and other impacted County departments.
- 2) Funding for the use and research of **alternative/environmentally-friendly pesticides**.
- 3) Use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for monitoring and suppressing mosquito population in state and federal lands to protect sensitive and endangered species

RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION

The County supports:

- 1) **Improved Integrated Waste Management Programs** including efforts and funding to aid local compliance with AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, and promote SB 1383, the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Strategy, including a reduction in greenhouse gasses generated from the use of material resources, and the collection, monitoring, processing and disposal of collected materials the standardization of the use of terms; local government authority to direct materials to permitted facilities; local jurisdiction compliance with AB 939 and SB 1393 goals; and improved accuracy of the State-mandated monitoring and reporting.
- 2) **Expanded Product Stewardship and Producer Responsibility** that reduces the amount and toxicity of solid waste generated and shifts physical and financial responsibility for the recovery and disposal of problem wastes through manufacturer implemented take-back programs for products that are difficult to recycle and dispose such as pharmaceuticals, sharps, household batteries, fluorescent lamps, photovoltaic panels, e-cigarettes and vaping products, treated wood waste, and single-use items, among others.
- 3) Securing **funding and financing** for local jurisdictions to support solid waste programs and infrastructure; local solid waste franchising and fee-setting authority; compensation for the collection, recycling, and disposal of waste; and alternative funding sources.
- 4) Expansion of **Recycling, Composting and Organics programs** and facilities to strengthen markets for recyclable materials and finished bio-products, encourage the production and

purchase of products containing recycled-content materials, clarify ownership of recyclable materials, and implement a statewide recycling information network.

- 5) **Energy recovery from landfill gas**, wood wastes, and other source-separated biomass, including facilitating procurement and funding for energy produced from diverted waste.
- 6) Performance standards and use of **alternative cover for landfills**, limited to the quantities required, to protect public health and safety and minimize nuisances.
- 7) Legislation to further address **litter and illegal dumping control** and abatement challenges including program funding, enforcement, outreach campaigns, the cleanup of littered/dumped areas and a reduction in single-use containers, food accessories, service ware and other problem materials.
- 8) Regulations that prohibit the release of **radioactive or radiation-contaminated materials** into the recycling stream.
- 9) Requirements that products containing hazardous waste be designed, manufactured, and used in ways that avoid harm to workers and the environment and shall be managed and recycled using **proper processes and procedures according to environmental regulations and Department of Toxic Substances Control guidelines**.
- 10) Elimination of local government **liability under Superfund for the disposal of ordinary municipal waste**, expedited de minimis settlements for hazardous material generated by local government operations, and allocation of costs on the basis of toxicity rather than the volume of municipal waste. Superfund reform should also provide a level of protection to third party investors, lenders, and developers of Brownfield sites.
- 11) Preventing adoption of state and federal laws and global treaties that **preempt local government** from protecting public health and the environment.
- 12) Legislation, regulations, and funding that **support Countywide Food Rescue efforts**.
- 13) Improved **regulation of Bioplastic products** including labeling, composability standards and biodegradability standards to prevent consumers and retailers/restaurants from purchasing products which are difficult to compost in regular business operations
- 14) **Regulation of Mixed Plastic Exports** to minimize or prevent landfilling of plastics that were intended to be recycled.

FOOD SYSTEMS

The County supports:

- 1) State and federal efforts to **increase funding for food system infrastructure**, including community-based food hubs; regional food processing, distribution, and marketing

infrastructure; infrastructure to combat hunger; sustainable agriculture and farmworker safety and wellbeing.

- 2) Efforts to **continue and expand direct relief to farmers**, especially small and historically underserved farmers, and small businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic.

FIRE PROTECTION

- 1) The County supports legislative efforts to **increase coordination, collaboration, and communication** between the state and local governments to expedite wildland fuels management in open space areas adjacent to and within communities.
- 2) Prioritize state funding (SB 901) for **local projects** identified within existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- 3) The County supports state funding **to reimburse local governments** for conducting defensible space inspections.
- 4) The County supports state funding to **reimburse local governments for pre-positioning resources during high-risk weather events**.
- 5) The County supports state funding to support CAL OES's purchase of additional fire engines, staffed by local government, for **mutual aid responses**.
- 6) The County supports state funding to **increase staffing within CAL OES's Regional Response and Readiness Branch**.
- 7) The County supports proposals that provide the **broadest access to the most effective technologies for disseminating information** to the public.
- 8) The County supports state funding to pay for the **confiscation and disposal of prohibited pyrotechnic products**.
- 9) The County supports efforts that **require manufacturers and importers/exporters of pyrotechnic products to contribute to the costs** of transporting and disposing of these products.
- 10) The County opposes efforts by the State to impose **minimum staffing** standards.
- 11) The County supports state funding for **year-round operation of CalFIRE stations** located outside municipal spheres of influence and established fire protection districts.

TRANSPORTATION

The County supports:

- 1) **Protection of funding provided to counties through SB 1** for local road maintenance and rehabilitation needs.
- 2) **Alternative funding sources for transportation projects**, to avoid reliance on a declining gas tax. (Recommended by Roads Commission)
- 3) The use of **Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)** as a significance threshold for measuring CEQA impacts on County roadways.
- 4) Inclusion of **road improvements and infrastructure maintenance** in federal legislation and grant programs, particularly related to “complete streets,” “last-mile connections,” and “transit-area plans.” (Recommended by Roads Commission)
- 5) The statutory ability to pass a **local transportation sales tax with a less than two-thirds vote**.
- 6) Federal and state funding for **local transportation and transit projects** as well as key regional projects.
- 7) Efforts and programs that **facilitate cooperation and coordination** of priorities on a local, sub-regional, and regional level.
- 8) Efforts to obtain funding for **community safety efforts**, such as accident prevention and traffic safety efforts.
- 9) Requiring state excise taxes on the sale of aviation fuels at general aviation airports to be used for **general aviation airport capital and planning projects**.
- 10) Efforts **that require the Federal Aviation Administration to engage with local communities** and to be responsive to concerns regarding the logistical, environmental, and health impacts of aircraft overflight noise.