



December 8, 2015

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Honorable Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: 2016 LEGISLATIVE PLAN AND GUIDELINES

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Approve, with modifications as deemed appropriate by your Board, the proposed:

- 2016 Federal Legislative Plan;
- 2016 State Legislative Plan; and
- 2016 Legislative Policy Guidelines contained in Attachment A

OVERVIEW

We bring to your Board the proposed legislative plan for the 2016 calendar year. As always, your Board retains the opportunity to amend the plan at any time during the year to reflect new or emerging legislative priorities. This plan, including input from departments, our Federal and State lobbyists, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), Marin Transit District, Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) and your Board, gives staff the opportunity to react quickly to legislative issues consistent with your Board's priorities and policy guidelines. We will be highlighting our proposed legislative priorities in 2016 consistent with your Board's priorities in the following focus areas:

- Preserving affordable housing
- Addressing issues of income inequality
- Preventing climate change and adapting to sea level rise, and
- Increasing investments in road and public infrastructure

STATE PLATFORM

The State's financial position continues to improve with the economy, particularly the Bay Area economy. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recently projected that 2015-16 will end with \$7.9 billion in reserves, \$3.3 billion more than the Budget Act's assumptions -largely due to \$4 billion in increased personal income tax receipts. While good news, most of this additional revenue will go to the Proposition 2 "rainy day" fund, which voters approved in 2014.

Ending Fiscal 2016-17, the LAO is estimating \$11.5 billion in total reserves, up by \$3.7 billion over 2015-16 levels, assuming no new budget commitments. Of this amount, however, \$4.3 billion is dedicated to the State's budget reserve and \$7.2 billion is dedicated toward the budget stabilization account per Proposition 2 for future budget emergencies. Although the LAO notes that the state budget is "better prepared for an economic downturn than it has been at any point in decades," the Governor will likely remain restrained with respect to new program spending proposals for FY 2016-17.

2016 State Platform Highlights

While we are not at this time recommending any Marin County sponsored bills for 2016, we anticipate focus in the following areas consistent with your Board's priorities:

- Preserving **Affordable Housing**, including the creation of second units and junior second units. Other efforts will include support for increased funding to affordable housing, including support for efforts to authorize a county to charge a document or transfer fee with proceeds dedicated to revolving affordable/ workforce housing projects, as well as efforts with regional stakeholders to help find solutions to homelessness in Marin and the Bay Area;
- Addressing issues of **Income Inequality**, including efforts to increase the state minimum wage; supporting quality and more universal pre-school and increased day care slots and child care reimbursement rates; as well as efforts to provide high-speed internet to seniors, rural and other underserved communities;
- Enhancing efforts to **Prevent Climate Change and Adapting to Sea Level Rise**, including support for clean/renewable energy; funding for sea level rise planning and adaptation; securing funding under the AB 32 'Cap and Trade' investment plan, including for transportation and housing; and support for emissions reduction programs; and
- Increasing investments in **Road and Public Infrastructure**, including efforts to fund watershed management, stormwater and flood control needs; opening the third lane of the San Rafael/Richmond Bridge as soon as possible; and supporting increased funding for local streets and roads as the State's special session on transportation continues into 2016.

FEDERAL PLATFORM

In acknowledgement of continued fiscal challenges at the Federal level, including a ban on earmarks since 2011, Federal funding for local projects has been severely constrained. However, the draft legislative plan continues to indicate our top priorities in case any opportunities should arise over the course of the next year:

- Consistent with efforts to preserve **Affordable Housing**, we will support efforts to protect federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program funding, including the CDBG program, the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, and Section 8;
- Support **Equity and Income Inequality** by supporting efforts to increase the federal minimum wage; increase access to health care under the federal Affordable Care Act; as well as improving broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas;
- In the area of **Preventing Climate Change and Adapting to Sea Level Rise**, we will work to support federal efforts to spur investment in clean energy; efforts to adapt to sea level rise, including vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies; as well as funding for wetland restoration projects, levee reconstruction or similar structural resilience measures, and flood control or watershed protection efforts – including the Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project and exploration of opportunities for the Las Gallinas Creek/Santa Venetia Levee with the Army Corps of Engineers; and
- Increasing investments in **Road and Public Infrastructure**, specifically supporting Highway 101 multi-modal corridor projects, including the Marin-Sonoma Narrows and the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) extension

from San Rafael to Larkspur; as well as support for a stronger and more sustainable federal investment of surface transportation.

Staff will continue efforts to coordinate with TAM, SMART and Marin Transit regarding legislative advocacy for countywide transportation issues to better ensure local coordination of priorities among our delegation. As always, the County's Federal and State legislative advocacy resources will also remain available to assist in the implementation of your Board's most critical countywide projects and issues.

With your Board's approval, including any amendments to the plan, we will continue to work with Assembly Member Marc Levine and State Senator Mike McGuire to ensure that they are aware of your Board's priorities and concerns going into 2016. While our plan includes initiatives that may not be achievable in the short-term, as opportunities arise the plan provides policy direction to guide our legislative program in a manner consistent with your Board's long-term vision for the County.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Submitted by:



Daniel Eilerman
Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed by:



Matthew H. Hymel
County Administrator