



Humboldt County



2018 State and Federal Legislative Platform



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STATE LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Humboldt County's primary, overarching goals for 2018 include:

SUPPORT STATE EXPANDING ITS ROLE IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES.

PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE COUNTY'S ABILITY TO FUND LOCAL PROGRAMS.

SUPPORT STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

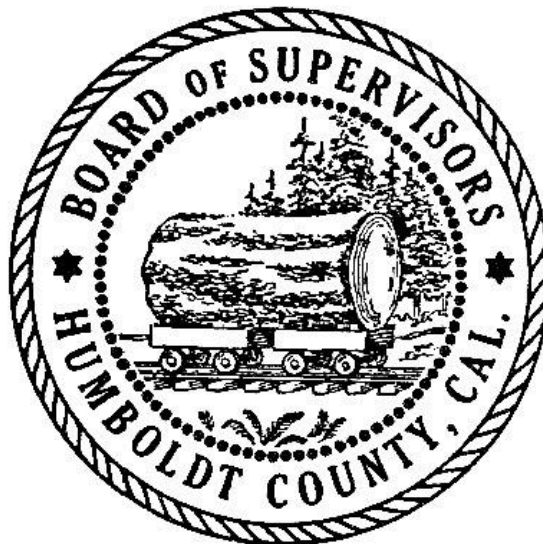
SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR MAXIMUM LOCAL CONTROL AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTY PROGRAMS.

SUPPORT RELIEF FROM STATE MANDATES AND/OR ELIMINATION OF STATUTORY BARRIERS SUCH AS:

- Broaden and extend the current authority to waive regulations and statutes to provide cooperative services in a more cost-efficient manner.
- Oppose attempts to shift costs from the state to counties for mandated and/or non-mandated programs.

OPPOSE REDUCTIONS TO THE CURRENT LEVEL OF STATE FUNDING FOR COUNTY PROGRAMS.

SUPPORT AND ADVANCE LOCAL INTERESTS IN NATURAL RESOURCE DISCUSSIONS.



STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

AGRICULTURE

RETAIN LOCAL CONTROL REGARDING CANNABIS

The proliferation of cannabis dispensaries and cultivation has created a variety of problems in many areas of the state. Local governments must be able to enact prohibitions or regulations in the face of threats posed by cannabis to the public's health, safety and general welfare. In addition, the cultivation of cannabis is often accompanied by land use and operational activities such as clearing of land, grading, road-building, water withdrawals from streams and application of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. These activities are routinely regulated and enforced by federal, state and local agencies when they are associated with industries such as timber, ranching or farming, so as to reduce their potential impacts on the environment.

As cannabis regulation around the state continues to evolve, the county supports legislation that allows individual local governments the discretion to either adopt new programs in full, to modify the program as they see fit, or to opt out of the program completely. The county also supports efforts to give clear guidance and resources to agencies responsible for enforcing environmental laws associated with cannabis cultivation. Finally, the county supports a requirement that state agencies coordinate with local governments in enforcement efforts around cannabis.

GROWING LIMITS ON CANNABIS CULTIVATION SITES

Small cannabis cultivation operations make up a large majority of the cultivation sites in Humboldt County and around the state, which benefits both the environment and industry. These small sites have a lesser impact on the environment than larger grows, and due to the high number of small operators the local cannabis industry is protected against the failure of one or a few businesses. It is in the interest of the county and the rest of the state to ensure that small cultivators can remain competitive in the marketplace by limiting the size of cannabis farms to no larger than 1 acre. However, current law states that restrictions on grow sizes will be eliminated beginning in 2023.

Humboldt County supports legislation that limit the size of cannabis cultivation sites.

REVENUE FROM CANNABIS TAXES

The revenues raised from state cannabis taxes are dedicated to certain activities and agencies. Some of the revenues raised by the taxes will come back to local governments in the form of competitive grants. However, Humboldt County has traditionally been less competitive than larger governments at securing these types of grants due to our small population and other limiting factors. This presents a potential significant issue for

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Humboldt as there is more cannabis activity that happens locally than other more populated areas in the state.

The county supports legislation that disburses revenue from cannabis taxes to local governments by formula.

PROTECTING HUMBOLDT COUNTY'S COASTAL AGRICULTURAL LANDS FROM SEA-LEVEL RISE

The prime agricultural lands around Humboldt Bay support a significant portion of the county's dairy and livestock industry. These lands are at risk from sea level rise due to regulations that prevent agricultural producers from repairing and enlarging dykes and levees needed to protect their land from sea water. Specifically, raising the heights of existing flood control structures will in many trigger the requirement to obtain an expensive and time-consuming Coastal Development Permit.

The county supports legislation that helps agricultural producers protect agricultural land in that is in the coastal zone.

PRESERVING STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM

A recent state Supreme Court ruling identified consumer protection from fraudulent labeling of organic products as a public right. Today every person engaged in the State of California in the production or handling of raw agricultural products sold as organic, and retailers that are engaged in the production, processing and sales of products sold as organic, register with the State Organic Program (SOP). Through this efficient and cost-effective program, a meaningful regulatory framework was established that supports the integrity and enforcement of organic production in California.

The county supports legislation that strengthens the SOP and organic production.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PROGRAMS

In 2002, the state provided local communities with the opportunity to procure electric power for their own residents through the establishment of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs under Assembly Bill 117. The county is a member of a joint powers authority that has established a CCA program for Humboldt County. Redwood Coast Energy Authority is leading this effort.

The county supports legislation that preserves CCA authority and opposes legislation making formation difficult or increases operational costs.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

HEADWATERS FUND INVESTMENTS

In 1999, the federal government purchased approximately 7,500 acres of land within Humboldt County called the Headwaters Forest. Due to the loss of timber tax revenue to be received by the county, the state and federal governments awarded Humboldt County \$22 million as compensation. These funds are expressly separated from the General Fund, do not contribute to the operations of the county in general, and the interest from the fund supports economic development projects in our area. However, Government Code sections 53601 and 53635 limit options for investments and the county has not been able to return more than 2 percent.

The county supports legislation that would allow the county to invest money from the Headwaters Fund in equities and other non-fixed income securities.

ALLOW LARGE TRUCKS THROUGH RICHARDSON GROVE

Currently, trucks over 43 feet in length are not allowed to travel through Richardson Grove along US Highway 101, which is a narrow two-lane road with large old-growth redwood trees close to the roadway. This stretch of road is critical to the commerce of Humboldt and other surrounding counties. While the truck limits do not apply to livestock haulers, there are many other businesses and non-profits, including local blood banks that find it financially prohibitive to ship products to the North Coast under the current regulations. In order to strengthen our local economy and public health it is necessary that larger vehicles be allowed to travel this part of the highway.

The county supports legislation that would allow trucks over 43 feet long to travel through Richardson Grove.

VACATION RENTALS AND TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX COLLECTION

The rapid growth of the online home sharing economy poses many challenges to local municipalities such as identifying vacation homes that are operating without the required permits and certificates. Due to real concerns for their users' privacy and safety, most online sites do not post actual property addresses or full names and contact information for their users. Requiring online home sharing sites to collect and share information with local governments, as well as to collect Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) and allow for audits, will significantly improve tax compliance and remove the competitive advantage non-payers enjoy.

The county supports legislation that requires online vacation rental and home sharing sites to collect and share vacation rental information with California municipalities; collect TOT on behalf of California municipalities; and allow for the audit of their users.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

REDUCED VOTER APPROVAL THRESHOLD FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

Currently, state law requires a two-thirds voter approved threshold for local initiatives for projects such as public library construction and transportation. This current two-thirds requirement is unfair in a political system based on the concept of majority rule. Changing the vote threshold to 55 percent would enable local governmental jurisdictions to more effectively address local issues.

The county supports a constitutional amendment that would reduce the vote threshold required to pass local initiatives from a two-thirds majority to 55 percent.

SEPARATING TRIAL COURT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS FROM COUNTY PERS

Existing Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) law requires that, in the case of a trial court within a county contracting with PERS for retirement benefits, the trial court and the county must participate under a joint contract with PERS. This results in pooled assets and liabilities, a single employer contribution rate, and a single benefit package. However, trial Courts and counties function independently across the state of California, and for over a decade the County of Humboldt has separated county functions from courts. In the current system courts provide for their own capital needs, develop and fund their own budgets, and maintain their own checking accounts. With capital and budget needs separated from the county, it is illogical for trial courts to be part of county PERS contracts.

The county supports legislation which would separate the courts PERS contracts for trial courts located within California counties.

MITIGATION OF IMPACTS FROM TRIBAL GAMING COMPACTS

Total grant funding made available to municipalities, government organizations, businesses and non-profits within Humboldt County is only 5 percent of the total funds available in the Tribal Casino Accounts, with the state receiving the remainder of the funds, or 95 percent. Five percent of these funds is insufficient to offset the social and environmental impacts of casinos. Since local communities do not receive any tax revenue from the Tribal Casinos, it is imperative that this grant revenue increase.

The County of Humboldt supports legislation which would increase funding to mitigate impacts from Tribal Gaming Compacts. Additionally if the state renegotiates contracts with Native American tribes, the county supports legislation which would allow more county and local government involvement to address environmental, social, and planning concerns of the local community.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

ENSURE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SHARE OF SALES TAX FROM SERVICES

Sales taxes in California can only be applied to tangible goods, but that may change as the nature of our economy transitions to more service-based. The county still provides many services to those involved in service-transactions, including public safety, road maintenance, social services and a host of others. While there have been discussions at the state level regarding imposing sales tax on services, there must also be discussions about allocating any associated revenues with counties.

The county supports legislation that would ensure counties continue to receive at least the same proportion of sales tax revenue if sales tax is applied to services in the future.

PROTECT COUNTIES' ABILITY TO CONTRACT FOR PERSONAL SERVICES

Counties often contract with non-profits and other community organizations to provide personal services to their citizens. It is more efficient and often more effective for services to be delivered as a result of these public-private collaborations as these community-based organizations are often best equipped to deliver high-quality services to the most vulnerable citizens in our community.

The county opposes legislation that restricts the county's ability to contract for services.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HELPING FAMILIES MOVE OUT OF POVERTY

The Department of Health and Human Services' mission is to reduce poverty and connect people and communities to opportunities for health and wellness. Poverty negatively impacts families, leading to poor health and social outcomes. Strengthening anti-poverty programs like CalWORKs that are dedicated to supporting families on the path to economic success, will assist more people in becoming self-sufficient.

The county supports legislation that strengthens the CalWORKs program and employment opportunities.

ADDRESSING IMPACTS OF OPIOID ABUSE

Across California, communities are struggling to address the impacts of opioid abuse. Continued legislative attention is needed to ensure access to Medi-Cal mental health and substance abuse treatment benefits is preserved, expand capacity to provide medication assisted treatment for patients of all ages, and expand resources for public health measures such as naloxone distribution, sharps disposal and local addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The county supports legislation that addresses the causes of opioid abuse and increases local public health options for addressing the impacts of opioid abuse.

SUPPORT FOR RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS

Rural counties struggle to recruit and retain qualified health professionals. This is especially true in the medical and mental health fields. State incentives for building education pipelines to health careers, training for trauma-informed agencies that support professionals in addressing secondary traumatic stress, and expanded opportunities for substance use disorder treatment professionals would improve local health outcomes and employment opportunities.

The county supports legislative efforts to improve workforce opportunities in health careers.

PUBLIC SAFETY

CAL FIRE TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS

Emergency service gaps exist along several state highways in Humboldt County, including U.S. Highway 101, State Routes 299 and 254 (Avenue of the Giants) corridors as no local fire district includes those areas within their boundaries. Due to the high number of traffic collisions and medical aid calls for service along those stretches of highway, emergency response services are currently provided to those areas by nearby fire districts on a good-will basis. However, because many of these calls are out of district, the dedicated revenue sources that currently exist for responding agencies are only sufficient to cover in-district responses. This is an emergency services priority that is growing in importance, and if not addressed will have a negative impact on public safety.

Law enforcement is provided by California Highway Patrol, with assistance as needed from local agencies on state highways within Humboldt County. Similarly, the county supports legislation that requires state agencies to provide fire and emergency response services along state highways.

PUBLIC WORKS

CONTINUE SAFETY PRACTICES FOR EXPRESSWAY BETWEEN ARCATA AND EUREKA UNTIL IMPROVEMENTS ARE MADE

In 1995, Senate Bill 414 (Thompson) introduced 14 double fine zones across the state. The bill was set to expire on January 1, 2004, but several bills, including AB 1384 (Chesbro), have extended the double fine zone along the Highway 101 corridor between Eureka and Arcata through 2010. In 2013, the California Coastal Commission conditionally approved a project submitted by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), which would improve the State Highway 101 corridor and eliminate the need for a double fine zone. This project, while beneficial to Humboldt County citizens, may be years away from completion.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Due to current safety concerns, the County of Humboldt seeks to maintain increased safety enforcement through the segment of State Highway Route 101 between the Eureka Slough Bridge and the Gannon Slough Bridge, until improvements are made.

SURVEYOR MONUMENT PRESERVATION

Government Code sections 27584 and 27585 authorize the Board of Supervisors to establish a survey monument preservation fund for retracement or re-monumentation surveys of major historical land division lines upon which later surveys are based. Pursuant to this code, and Humboldt County Ordinance No. 1835, a fund was established and user fees are collected by the County Recorder at the time of the recording of any grant deed except those which convey lots created by a recorded tract map, or lots conveyed to or from a government entity. Several County Surveyors have found that the exemption of subdivision lots from the collection of this fee has been confusing, and therefore the fee is not always properly collected.

The county supports legislation that would remove the exemption from the survey monument fee in Government Code Section 27585.

HUMBOLDT BAY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to minimize the environmental and economic impacts associated with port congestion, California must begin planning to maximize multi-modal cargo handling capabilities. The transportation improvements included in the state funded Samoa Industrial Waterfront Transportation Access Plan would significantly increase multi-modal transportation infrastructure for Humboldt Bay. These improvements would improve Port of Humboldt Bay dock access and linkages to interstate routes for cargo handling. Funding for these infrastructure improvements are included in the Humboldt County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and programmed in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

The county supports state legislation to facilitate increased freight and cargo handling capacity at the Port of Humboldt Bay, including Samoa Industrial Waterfront Transportation Access Plan funding by the State of California and expedited environmental review by Humboldt County and the Coastal Commission.

ENVIRONMENTAL STREAMLINING FOR FISH PASSAGE PROJECTS

Local governments frequently undertake projects that will improve the passage of fish through streams and rivers by removing blockages and improving culverts. Often the permit process can delay and increase costs for these projects. Fish passage enhancement projects should be considered water quality improvements and not be delayed in the permit process. Legislative and regulatory efforts should focus on streamlining the delivery of projects that improve fish passage for salmonids and therefore enhance the environment.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The county supports streamlining the permit process for fish passage enhancement projects.

LOCAL REHABILITATION PROJECT ELIGIBILITY FOR STIP FUNDING

Existing law generally provides for allocation of transportation funds pursuant to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process. The law also provides for 75 percent of funds available for transportation capital improvement projects to be made available for regional projects, and 25 percent for interregional projects. The law describes the types of projects that may be funded with the regional share of funds, and includes local road projects as a category of eligible projects. Legislation that specifically states that local road rehabilitation projects are eligible for STIP funds is necessary to protect the ability of local agencies to prioritize the regional project share to the needs of the local agency.

The county supports legislation that would state that local road rehabilitation projects are eligible for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds.

FINANCIAL RELIEF FROM STATE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL STORM WATER DISCHARGE

In February 2013, the State Water Resources Control Board significantly expanded the permitting requirements related to municipal storm water in cities and unincorporated areas, known as Phase II Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permits. While Humboldt County continues to support efforts to improve and maintain storm water quality, the MS4 General Permit is an unfunded mandate that requires extensive new programs and practices in administration, reporting and monitoring, and shifts enforcement responsibilities to local communities while the state continues to collect fees.

The county supports legislation and/or state regulations to reduce state fees and authorize state funding in order to assist economically disadvantaged communities to comply with the State Water Board's 2013 MS4 general permit. The county also seeks legislative delegation support before regulatory bodies in ensuring that the State and Regional Water Boards provide needed flexibility for local agencies to comply with the new permit requirements.

REDWOOD CREEK LEVEE REHABILITATION AND ESTUARY RESTORATION

A large-scale, multi-objective water resources project is needed to achieve a sustainable solution for flood protection, ecosystem restoration, and endangered species recovery in lower Redwood Creek. In addition to this being an expensive project, permits and approvals for such an action are not obtainable due to the environmental impacts, and similar work would be needed periodically due to the annual influx of sediment.

The county supports legislation or administrative action to release Proposition 84 (Flood Control, Natural Resources and Parks Bond Act) or other state funding to be used for rehabilitation, repairs, and maintenance to the Redwood Creek levee system near Orick.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

OPPOSE CERTAIN FOOD WASTE COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

In rural areas, the cost of setting up a food waste collection/processing facility can exceed the cost of disposing the materials with no significant benefit due to the low amount of materials and the high cost of collection and facility construction. One of the goals of these processing facilities is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but there may not be any substantial benefit in rural areas with low amounts of materials due to the travel required in collection.

The county supports legislation that eases food waste collection requirements on rural counties.



STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

AGRICULTURE

STATE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION FOR AGRICULTURAL HANDLERS IN REGARDS TO THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FEE

The passage of the 1986 Community Right-to-Know Act assures the public access to a business' hazardous material information, and formalized emergency preparedness requirements. In response, California established the Hazardous Materials Business Plan Program mandating all businesses storing hazardous materials to manage the risk from such materials to humans and the environment. Such businesses are referred to as "handlers." Agricultural businesses (Ag handlers) are included in this mandate.

The county supports legislation that would provide state financial participation for Ag handlers for the hazardous materials fee, due to the limited quantities of hazardous materials used by Ag handlers.

DEPREDAATION OF ALEUTIAN GEESE AFFECTING AGRICULTURAL LANDS

As populations for the once-listed Aleutian Goose continue to rise, it is evident that mandates under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are insufficient and too restrictive to appropriately address ongoing pressures on agriculture lands from the increased goose population. In addition to growing goose numbers, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has lost all grazing leases throughout the state that were in place to create healthy grasslands to serve as wildlife habitat. With the decrease of suitable goose habitat on public lands, it is necessary to give private landowners additional tools to address the growing threat to their livelihoods and reduce goose impacts on private lands.

The county supports state legislation that helps private landowners respond to or protect from goose depredation losses on agricultural lands.

FUNDING FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMS

Each year Humboldt County's Pest Exclusion and Pest Detection programs are underfunded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and local expenditures are required to meet statutory obligations to conduct invasive species management and control, while a number of significant invasive species are routinely introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment.

The county supports maintaining or enhancing funding for federal, state and local programs that prevent the introduction and spread of invasive pests in California. The county supports efforts to restore funding for agricultural border stations. The county also supports funding for research on invasive species pathways and funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

RESTORING FUNDING FOR PESTICIDE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

While past budget bills have indicated the intent for the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to fund county Agricultural Commissioners' regulatory programs at higher levels, the legislature has failed to appropriate adequate funding to DPR. In addition, no authority was provided to county agricultural commissioners to establish fees to cover their program costs. As approximately \$16 million in county general funds are contributed per fiscal year in order to maintain the integrity and quality of the pesticide regulatory system Californians have grown to expect, it is critical that these local programs receive adequate funding.

The county supports efforts to provide adequate funding for county pesticide regulatory activities.

MARKETPLACE EQUITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Weights and measures regulatory activities are critical in providing protection for consumers and a method for making value comparisons by providing equity in the marketplace. The Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture is the lead agency for weights and measures. DMS has incurred significant general fund reductions that have diminished its ability to provide consumer protection.

The county supports legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state and local levels for consumer protection. It also supports legislation that establishes funding for quantity control and package inspection.

The county opposes legislation that would allow for industry self-certification of commercial weighing and measuring devices. The county also opposes legislation that would diminish or remove protections now afforded to consumers for transactions measured by weighing or measuring devices or computed by Point of Sale systems.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING FOR BROADBAND SERVICE TO RURAL AREAS

Humboldt County is served by a north-south fiber optic line from Ukiah to Eureka and will be served by an east-west line running from the Central Valley along the Highway 36 corridor. This infrastructure provides improved telecommunications service to developed areas of the county, but additional investment is necessary to make "last mile" and "middle mile" connections between developed areas and small outlying communities.

The county strongly supports legislation to provide funding or business incentives to assist companies in bringing broadband service to unserved and underserved areas.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

FULFILL THE PROVISIONS OF THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES ACT RELATED TO FISH & GAME PROPERTY

According to State Fish & Game Code Section 1504, the state is committed to making payments in lieu of property taxes to local agencies in areas where state wildlife management areas affect local property tax collections. In Humboldt County, local agencies have not been paid since 2001. Although most of this funding would flow to special districts, a portion of these funds is directed to the county's General Fund, Roads Fund, and Library.

The county supports legislative action that would fund the required payments.

RESTORATION OF PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

In 1992, the State enacted the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), which shifted property tax revenues from local governments to the state. Although counties assess property values, act as a hearing board for property tax appeals, and collect property tax payments, the state receives more than 65 percent of every property tax dollar collected in Humboldt County. After the state recognized it was in its own best interest to ensure that properties were being assessed to the greatest extent possible, it provided funding through the Property Tax Administration Program to support the Assessor's Office and the rest of the property tax administration system. However, the program hasn't been funded since FY 2004-05 when Humboldt County receive \$210,806.

The county supports funding that re-establishes and restores funding for the state's share of property tax administration costs.

SEPARATING SUPERIOR COURT EXPENSES FROM COUNTIES

Two pieces of legislation, the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 and the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, transferred from counties to the state fiscal responsibility for court operations and trial court facilities. The Superior Court Law Enforcement Act of 2002 further delineated responsibility for court security services by county sheriffs to the courts. Despite these extensive acts and their transfer of responsibilities, Humboldt County continues to bear a significant burden for the costs of services provided to the local Superior Court.

The county supports legislation that removes fiscal responsibility from the county for the Grand Jury, security and facility maintenance.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUPPORT FOR FULL FUNDING OF COUNTY MEDI-CAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS

Counties administer the efficient enrollment of Medi-Cal beneficiaries on behalf of the state. The steep increase in caseload associated with implementation of the Affordable Care Act has resulted in significant workload demands for county eligibility staff.

The county supports full funding for county Medi-Cal administration costs.

RESIDENTIAL BEDS FOR PERSONS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

There is a lack of appropriate state beds for persons with serious mental illness. Within the criminal justice system, defendants who have been deemed incompetent to stand trial are too often housed in county jails with few resources to adequately treat the person's illness for excessive amounts of time awaiting placement in a state hospital. Community treatment facilities are also too few, and counties are inadequately resourced to expand the number and types of available housing options.

The county supports efforts to increase state and community placements for persons with serious mental illness.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

When compared to other counties, Humboldt County struggles with the highest number of adults with four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) in their childhood history. ACES are strongly correlated with long term negative health and life outcomes such as greatly increased risk of substance use disorder, mental illness, cancer, incarceration and unemployment. More focus and funding needs to be brought to early childhood prevention programs and programs which build community resilience.

The county supports legislation that provides funding for early childhood prevention programs such as home visiting, training for county and community staff in trauma-responsive practices, and universal trauma and developmental screening.

PARENT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parent education programs focused on families with young children have been shown to strengthen early parent-child attachment, promote healthy nutrition, and increase school readiness in young children. The influence of these programs doesn't stop at elementary school; early supports can affect behavior into adolescence and beyond. Evidence-based programs (like those funded by First 5 in communities across the state), have been shown to decrease drug use, reduce aggression, reduce depression and anxiety, and improve mental health. These types of programs include both the parent education opportunities offered

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

through Family Resources Centers and the parent education and support opportunities offered through First 5 Humboldt Playgroups.

The county supports legislation that provides parent education to families with young children, such as parenting classes and playgroups.

INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

Only 25 percent of Humboldt County families who are seeking child care are able to find licensed child care for their children. Child care is a crucial component for most of today's working families; it keeps them in the workforce and reduces poverty. And yet a single mother with one preschool and one school-age child, working at Humboldt County's median wage, pays an average of 82 percent of her income to child care costs. State subsidized child care in Humboldt is often subject to waiting lists. For the 1.2 million California preschoolers eligible, the state only has 200,000 subsidized child care spaces.

The county supports legislation that expands child care availability to working families.

NATURAL RESOURCES

LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR NATURAL RESOURCE AFFAIRS

Humboldt County is home to significant water resources that include the Eel, Klamath, Mad and Trinity Rivers; home to fish populations of salmon, groundfish and crab; and home to dense forests which include coastal Redwoods. These considerable natural resources were once abundant and contributed notably to the local economy.

Decisions and regulatory management of these natural resources often occur at the state and federal levels. These decisions have had cumulative impacts on water resources, fisheries and timber, and therefore on the community as well. State and federal decisions need to adequately account for local priorities, knowledge and needs in order to minimize adverse economic and social impacts, while appropriately managing and restoring these significant natural resources.

The county strongly supports legislation that provides stable funding for long-term engagement, administration and capacity development for natural resource affairs in the County of Humboldt.

WILLIAMSON ACT FUNDING RESTITUTION, RESTORATION THROUGH CAP AND TRADE

The Land Conservation Act is one of the most effective tools in preventing the loss of farmland and open space, while also helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Act provides tax breaks to landowners who contract with a county to keep their land in agriculture or open space for a period of 10 years. To encourage county participation in the

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

program, the State historically reimbursed counties a portion of the property tax revenue losses resulting from the lower assessments. The state discontinued the reimbursement in FY 2010-2011.

The county supports legislative or budget proposals to fund the Land Conservation Act subventions to counties.

PLANNING AND BUILDING

GRANT FUNDING FOR INFILL DEVELOPMENT

The county's General Plan Housing Element includes designation of "Housing Opportunity Zones" to promote infill housing development. The county adopted an ordinance to relax requirements in these zones. The county would also like to provide financial incentives for residential development in these areas.

The county strongly supports legislation that would provide grant funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development for infill development incentives in Housing Opportunity Zones.

FUNDING FOR ASSISTANCE ON LOCAL COASTAL PLANS

Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) identify land uses and standards by which development will be evaluated within the Coastal Zone, and must be certified by the California Coastal Commission. The development and updates of LCPs are expensive endeavors as they involve a series of special studies, background analysis, public hearings and composition of the programs. Humboldt County's existing LCPs, most of which were adopted in the 1980s, were completed with financial assistance from various state and federal agencies. Recent required updates, however, including the requirement of planning for sea level rise and climate change, are imposing costs that are unsupported by local jurisdictions.

The county supports additional funding to the Coastal Commission to help assist local jurisdictions creating and updating their LCPs.

FUNDING FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS

Assessments of renewable energy generation capacity in Humboldt County indicate the county could be a significant exporter of electricity generated from renewable sources. The development of these resources, including solar, wind, biomass and wave energy, will assist the county in reaching AB 32 carbon emission reduction targets and stimulate the county's economy.

The county supports legislation that would accelerate the development of renewable energy resources including price supports, grant funding and utility policy that facilitates export of

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

renewable energy generated from the county. The county also supports incentives and policies to promote residential and commercial energy conservation, including Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FUNDING AND FLEXIBILITY NEEDED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSITION 47

On November 4, 2014 California voters passed Proposition 47, which reduces penalties for a number of drug and theft crimes that were once considered felonies to misdemeanors. Because of this shift in law, a number of offenders have had their sentences changed to misdemeanors. In Humboldt County this has led to a reduced jail population of 35 percent. However, this has also led to an increased number of property crimes in the community such as car break-ins and vandalism.

The county supports funding for the implementation of Prop. 47 by increasing treatment options, particularly in rural areas of the state. In addition, the county supports local control and flexibility with funding provided to deal with the Prop. 47 effects in local communities.

STABLE FUNDING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Juvenile Justice funding is imperative to providing supervision and treatment services for high-risk youth in local communities. Treatment and confinement solutions are provided for a community's youth who are at highest risk to re-offend and hardest to place due to their co-occurring mental health disorders, thereby putting community safety in jeopardy.

The county supports legislation for continued and increased resources for juvenile justice programs in order to provide for stable and secure sources of funding.

FUNDING FOR INCREASED ENFORCEMENT OF ILLEGAL WATER DIVERSIONS ALONG MAD RIVER

Illegal water diversions for use in cannabis cultivation continues to threaten the health of Humboldt County water bodies. All of the major rivers and creeks (and their tributaries) are fully appropriated all year long, so no water is available for new diversions during that period. While Humboldt County works with other appropriate agencies to ensure that cannabis cultivators go through the correct process when permitting their cannabis operations, there are not enough funds to prevent operators from illegally drawing on these precious natural resources.

The county supports legislation that would provide increased funding to support local enforcement regarding water-related issues within the Mad River watershed.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ASSISTANCE

The planning and coordination of response, recovery, and mitigation activities related to emergencies and disasters is vital for our community. This includes developing emergency operations plans, conducting trainings, and communicating with the community. Funding is required to provide financial assistance to local governments and private property owners to efficiently prepare for disasters and repair homes, businesses, infrastructure and the natural environment.

The county supports additional funding for: emergency operations planning, exercises to validate the planning process, trainings, and equipment, emergency planning specifically addressing the safety of seniors and those with disabilities; and an increase access to funding for local jurisdictions for disaster-related damages.

PUBLIC WORKS

FUNDING FOR PREVENTATIVE ROAD MAINTENANCE

Local cities and the county do not have the necessary level of funding needed for preventative road maintenance. It is significantly more cost effective and energy efficient to preventatively maintain roadways versus entirely reconstructing a deteriorated roadway.

The county supports a set-aside in the Cap and Trade funding for preventative maintenance of road systems for all local governments.

STATE ASSISTANCE WITH RECRUITMENT OF AIR SERVICE

Humboldt County, like many rural communities throughout the state, struggles to recruit new air service for its airports. Small communities must have instruments like minimum revenue county guarantees and others in order to attract additional airlines to service their communities. The state can provide an important role in ensuring rural airports remain competitive in this recruitment process.

As state aeronautical funding grows the county supports the state developing a match program to pay for the local share of the Small Community Air Service Grant. The county also supports additional funding to recruit air service to rural airports.

INCREASE CALIFORNIA AID TO AIRPORTS PROGRAM (CAAP) FUNDING

The CAAP program, managed by the California Department of Transportation underneath the California Transportation Commission provides for direct subvention to General Aviation Airports of \$10,000 per year that is used for maintenance. The program also provides grants and loans for airport projects. The subvention amount has not been changed since the program started, while maintenance costs continue to rise.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

The county supports legislation that increases funding for CAAP. Going forward, this funding should be tied to inflation.

ACCESS TO SELF-HELP FUNDING

Senate Bill 1 has provisions for additional funding to self-help counties, or counties that have passed local transportation taxes. The State Controller maintains a list of counties that have Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements for existing funding that could be used elsewhere but have gone instead to repair local roads. There are 34 counties with MOE requirements under SB 1. Counties on this list are in dire need of funding to fix our roads.

The county supports legislation that allows all counties on the State Controller's MOE list to be eligible for the self-help component of SB 1.

HUMBOLDT BAY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Ports throughout the world are becoming congested; California ports are exceptionally impacted by the growth of international trade and are losing business to other regions. California's agricultural producers are experiencing significant increases in transportation costs as their products are increasingly delayed, up to nine days through existing facilities. In order to minimize the environmental and economic impacts associated with port congestion, California must begin planning to maximize multi-modal cargo handling capabilities. Humboldt Bay is underutilized and the only deep water harbor in California without rail service to the national rail system.

The transportation improvements included in the state funded Samoa Industrial Waterfront Transportation Access Plan would significantly increase multi-modal transportation infrastructure for Humboldt Bay. These improvements would improve Port of Humboldt Bay dock access and linkages to interstate routes for cargo handling. Funding for these infrastructure improvements are included in the Humboldt County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and programmed in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

The county supports state legislation to facilitate increased multi-modal cargo handling capacity at the Port of Humboldt Bay, including Samoa Industrial Waterfront Transportation Access Plan funding by the State of California and expedited environmental review by Humboldt County and the Coastal Commission

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Humboldt County's primary, overarching federal legislative goals for 2018 include:

SUPPORT INCREASING THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP IN COUNTY PROGRAMS.

- Support funding for public infrastructure programs such as transportation and water infrastructure.

SUPPORT RELIEF FROM FEDERAL MANDATES AND STATUTORY BARRIERS.

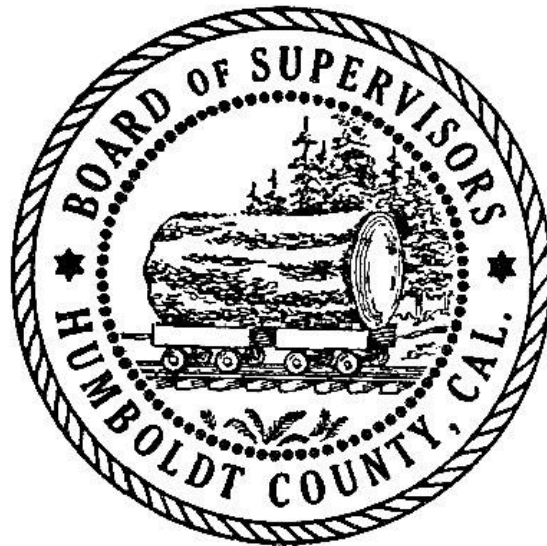
- Support broadening of allowable uses of Secure Rural Schools Act (Title III) funding to include fire protection services.

SUPPORT FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS.

- Support funding for broadband service to rural north coast of California.

OPPOSE REDUCTIONS TO THE CURRENT LEVEL OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR COUNTY PROGRAMS.

SUPPORT AND ADVANCE LOCAL INTERESTS IN NATURAL RESOURCE DISCUSSIONS.



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

AGRICULTURE

ALLOWING CANNABIS REGULATIONS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

Cannabis is currently listed on Schedule 1 drug of the Controlled Substances Act, which is reserved for drugs that have “no currently accepted medical use.” Consequences of this action have prevented state and local governments from being able to address clear and compelling public health and safety issues pertaining to the use, production and distribution of cannabis and products which contain cannabis. In addition, it prohibits federally insured banks from being able to knowingly accept money from cannabis transactions, forcing the industry into an underground economy conducive to crime.

The county also supports legislation that allows cannabis to be regulated at the federal level, including removing cannabis from Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act. The county takes the position that any change to the legal status of marijuana at the federal level must be accompanied by a thorough regulatory framework that delineates the clear roles and responsibilities of the jurisdictions involved.

Finally, the county supports the continuation of the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer amendment (formerly known as Rohrabacher-Farr), which prohibits the Department of Justice from using federal resources to prosecute individuals or businesses that are acting in compliance with state medical marijuana laws. The county also supports efforts to expand these protections to state-legal recreational laws.

DEPREDAATION OF ALEUTIAN GEESE AFFECTING AGRICULTURE LANDS

As populations of the once-listed Aleutian Goose continue to rise, it is evident that mandates under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are insufficient and too restrictive to appropriately address ongoing depredation pressures on agriculture lands from the increased goose population. In addition to growing goose numbers, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has lost all grazing leases throughout the state that were in place to create healthy grasslands to serve as wildlife habitat. With the decrease of suitable goose habitat on public lands, it is necessary to give private landowners additional tools to address the growing threat to their livelihoods and reduce goose impacts on private lands. Currently, under MBTA, hunting of waterfowl in our region must cease after March 10; however, Aleutian geese are often present in Humboldt County well into April.

The county support efforts at the federal level that would allow private landowners to be issued migratory bird depredation permits after hunting season is closed.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

ANALYSIS OF ALLOCATION OF WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM, FERAL HOG DEPREDATION

Increased urbanization and suburbanization has led to a reduction and fragmentation of wildlife habitat, including feral hogs in Humboldt County. At the same time, wildlife populations continue to expand because of reduced hunting, changes in animal protection status, and the loss of various control mechanisms. Conflicts between people and wildlife are all too frequent.

Humboldt County supports analysis of the current allocation formulas used to distribute available resources to states in the Wildlife Services (WS) Program. The County requests that the WS budget be maintained at least at the FY 2013 level and that any enhanced funds from within WS budget be distributed to state and county programs according to need.

Humboldt County supports legislation or administrative rulemaking to allow growers to take feral hogs without a depredation permit or hunting license.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REFORMS THAT WILL NOT UNDULY BURDEN BUSINESSES

In California, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1186 (2013) designed to protect California business from predatory lawsuits filed under the ADA. Although there are several positive features of the new law, there are a number of harmful unintended consequences that will likely lead to an increase in ADA lawsuits. For example, the law's provisions that ban so-called "demand letters" from litigious plaintiffs who threaten to sue over a potential ADA violation unless a business pays to settle the lawsuit have led plaintiffs to stop sending pre-litigation letters altogether. As a result, businesses are being served with ADA lawsuits without any warning, which eliminates the opportunity for a business owner and an aggrieved party to come to an out-of-court settlement.

The county supports common-sense reforms to the ADA that would allow local businesses to remain open while working toward compliance with the requirements of the Act.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SUPPORT PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAMS

In 2008, the State of California passed legislation (Assembly Bill 811) to give localities the authority to create Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, providing businesses and homeowners the ability to finance energy-efficiency and clean-energy upgrades to their property. In 2014, the State of California implemented a PACE Loss Reserve Fund, which is a state-backed fund that ensures PACE assessments are paid off in the event of a mortgage default, which is intended to reduce the financial risk to Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or any

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

other mortgage lender. However, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) continues to have concerns with California's first-lien PACE program, claiming that it fails to offer full loss protection. The agency has also questioned the reserve fund's ability to be sustainable over time. As such, FHFA will continue to prohibit housing lenders from purchasing or refinancing mortgages with a PACE lien.

The county supports the right to implement PACE programs and establish property assessment liens for energy conservation and renewable energy investments. The county also supports legislation that would prevent Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and other federal residential and commercial mortgage lending regulators from adopting policies that contravene established state and local PACE laws.

LOCAL AUTHORITY TO LEVY INTERNET SALES TAX

The Supreme Court ruled in 1992 that retailers are not required to collect sales taxes in states where they lack a physical presence. While the purchaser is still generally responsible for paying the use tax, the rate of compliance is low. States and local governments have been struggling with reduced revenues and increased demand for services, and the collection of Internet sales taxes is a revenue source that has been untapped. Recent legislation – the *Marketplace Fairness Act* - would allow states to require remote sellers to collect and remit sales and use taxes.

Humboldt County supports the *Marketplace Fairness Act*, which would allow local jurisdictions to recover revenues from purchases made by remote means.

FEDERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL PENSIONS

The county opposes legislative proposals that challenge the validity of current state and local government accounting rules and practices and would mandate inappropriate federal reporting requirements on state and local governments regarding their pension costs. Such a proposal would set a precedent for federal intervention into areas that are the financial responsibility of, and have thus been historically regulated by, states and/or localities. Furthermore, it would represent a lack of understanding regarding the strong accounting rules and strict legal constraints already in place that require open and transparent governmental financial reporting and processes.

The county opposes legislation that conflicts with existing governmental accounting standards, and increases state and local government costs.

LIMIT CORPORATE AND UNION CONTRIBUTIONS IN ELECTIONS

The United States Supreme Court ruled that corporations and unions have the same political speech rights as individuals under the First Amendment. The court found no compelling government interest for prohibiting corporations and unions from using their funds to make election-related expenditures. Thus, it struck down a federal law banning this practice and also overruled two of its prior decisions. In 2016, California voters approved a proposition

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

to have its elected officials do everything in their power to overturn the ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.

The county supports a Constitutional Amendment to reverse the ruling in *Citizens United*.

STOP WRONGFUL POSTAL CLOSURES

In 2012, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) began closing or consolidating mail processing plants across the country, including two facilities in Eureka and Petaluma. Mail processing plants are the central sorting hubs for our area, and their elimination can mean that mail has to travel further before delivery.

Facility closures have been associated with delays in mail delivery, missed overnight mail deadlines, and reduced frequency of deliveries. These closures are particularly taxing on seniors, veterans, and rural communities who depend on timely deliveries for prescriptions and other services. While USPS temporarily halted these closures, they could begin again at any time.

The county supports legislation that:

- Puts a moratorium on current closures and consolidations;
- Establishes a framework that any future closures must be approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC);
- Creates a list of criteria and data that USPS must analyze including impact on small businesses, vote by mail voters, and unique geographic situations;
- Requires a robust public notification and comment period so stakeholders' views are a part of the PRC's review;
- Reinstates the July 1, 2012 mail delivery standards of the 1-3 day delivery, which was eliminated at the start of 2015 by USPS; and,
- Empowers the PRC to set annual performance benchmarks.

LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

In light of the prospect of changes to immigration laws and enforcement at the federal level, additional legal protections for immigrants and increased resources for the provision of legal services, including deportation defense by public defenders and local nonprofit legal service organizations, is critical. Further, undocumented immigrants in the community include children and teens that often have fled from crises in their home countries. The number of children traveling alone across the U.S.-Mexico border has increased, and the number of deportations has increased tenfold since 2010. Adequate federal funding is needed for shelter, care and legal services to address this growing humanitarian crisis.

The county supports legislative and budgetary efforts to enhance legal protections for undocumented immigrants, increase funding for legal services and deportation defense, and address the growing number of unaccompanied children crossing the border, including increasing funds for immigration-related legal services, shelter and care.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PROTECT FUNDING AND ACCESS TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

CalFresh is California's primary nutrition assistance program. It is of critical importance to the health, well-being and financial survival of low-income individuals, students, and families. Proposals to reduce funding, block grant, or add new state mandates to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the federal budget or in reauthorization of the Farm Bill would restrict access to this vital health benefit, increase poverty and worsen health outcomes.

The county supports continuing the current structure of federal investment for SNAP and opposes efforts to reduce funding or access to food and nutrition.

INCREASING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

Rising childcare costs increases poverty and is a barrier to working family success. According to the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce, childcare costs have increased by more than 25 percent over the past decade. Legislation, such as the Childcare for Working Families Act (H.R.3773), would broaden eligibility and access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early learning programs, and increase childcare workers' compensation and professional development opportunities.

The county supports legislation that increases access to affordable, high-quality childcare and early learning programs.

STRENGTHENING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The Family First Prevention Services Act (HR 253) has been introduced in the House of Representatives. Identical to the bill approved by the House in 2016, the measure provides for the first time a federal match for a limited set of prevention services. The bill, however, places a number of additional requirements on the use of congregate care that conflict and sometimes make more onerous the ability of the state and Humboldt County to implement California's landmark Continuum of Care Reforms (AB 403).

The county supports protecting existing federal funding and increased federal funding for services and supports needed by parents seeking to reunify with children in foster care. In addition, the county supports retaining the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and elimination of outdated rules that would give states flexibility to use federal IV-E funds to pay for evidence based preventative services.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

PUBLIC WORKS

KLAMATH BASIN

In April of 2016, the U.S. Department of the Interior, PacifiCorp, and the states of California and Oregon adopted an amended version of the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA). The amended KHSA set the parameters for the parties to pursue dam removal through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process. Under the KHSA amendment, dam owner PacifiCorp agreed to transfer its license to operate the dams to a newly created nonprofit called the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC). The new organization will manage the decommissioning process and assume liability for any problems associated with the removal.

In September of 2016, the KRRC filed two applications with FERC. The first application – a joint submission by the KRRC and PacifiCorp – requests that federal regulators transfer PacifiCorp’s operating licenses to the KRRC. The second application asks FERC to approve the decommissioning and removal of the Klamath dams beginning in the year 2020.

Humboldt County supports the amended KHSA. In addition, the county supports any legislative or regulatory effort that would benefit Klamath River fisheries, provide economic stability for affected agricultural interests, and improve the overall ecosystem health of the Klamath River basin. It should be noted that the FERC relicensing process does not require congressional approval. However, other provisions or potential funding opportunities that were previously associated with the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) could be considered in the 115th Congress.

RETAIN STATE, COUNTY ROADS IN INDIAN RESERVATION ROADS (IRR) INVENTORY

California’s tribes have long been underserved in the federally funded IRR program. As a result, the roads, bridges and transit systems that make up the California State Transportation System and provide access to the 109 federally recognized Tribes and rancherias in California are in such poor condition that the health, safety, security and economic well-being of Tribal members and California’s traveling public are in jeopardy. Efforts are continually underway to erase those improvements and decrease the amount of money flowing to California.

The changes proposed to the IRR funding would remove state and county roads from the IRR inventory. These changes would reduce current funding available to California tribes by nearly one-third. To date, Humboldt County has received over \$1.3 million from local Tribes for improvements on county roads, with \$2.5 million in additional projects moving forward. This funding could be compromised by proposed changes in IRR funding allocations. The county opposes changes to the Indian Reservation Roads Program that would remove state and county roads from the IRR inventory.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

TRINITY RIVER DIVISION – PROTECTING HUMBOLDT COUNTY’S WATER CONTRACT WITH U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Humboldt County has a vested interest in the Trinity River Division, the Central Valley Project, and the State Water Project due to the 1955 Trinity River Division Act (Public Law 84-386) and a contract executed on June 19, 1959, between Humboldt County and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Subsequent to the contract execution, the State of California’s State Water Board issued eight long-term permits to the Central Valley Project permit holders. Specifically, Section 5 of the 1959 Contract states:

Whereas, the said Act of August 12, 1955, provides in Section 2 thereof in part as follows”...2) that not less than 50,000 acre-feet shall be released downstream annually from the Trinity Reservoir and made available to Humboldt County and downstream users.”

In March 2003, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors formally requested that the U.S. Department of the Interior make available for release “not less than 50,000 acre feet” of water pursuant to the county's permanent contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. After numerous subsequent requests, the Interior Solicitor in December 2014 issued a long-awaited legal opinion confirming Humboldt County's right to the water in the 1959 Contract. Since that time, Humboldt County has and will continue to work with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the release of the water, including the potential for its use for flow augmentation purposes.

Humboldt County has an interest in the California WaterFix Project (formerly the Bay Delta Conservation Plan) because to date, the modeling assumptions include existing state water rights and laws, federal contractual obligations for the Central Valley Project and the Trinity River Restoration Program Record of Decision, but Humboldt County’s contractual flows have not been included in the modeling assumptions. On September 11, 2012, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 12-74 that opposes the proposed construction of two peripheral tunnels to divert water from the Sacramento River unless State and Federal agencies affirm specific conditions identified in the Resolution.

The Bureau of Reclamation should work closely with Humboldt County to ensure adequate storage and availability for the annual release of not less than 50,000 acre-feet of water from the Trinity Reservoir for the beneficial use of Humboldt County. The county expects maximum flexibility consistent with federal and state law in the county’s exercising of its priority right for Trinity River water. The county expects that the county’s priority right is fully recognized in all Central Valley Project and State Water Project planning documents. The county opposes any further water diversions from the Trinity River Division or releases from its reservoirs to supplant the loss of flows to the Sacramento Delta as a result of the California WaterFix Project. The county supports accounting for encumbered flows associated with Humboldt County’s vested right in the proposed California WaterFix Project modeling and operations.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

ENVIRONMENTAL STREAMLING FOR FISH PASSAGE PROJECTS

Local governments frequently undertake projects that will improve the passage of fish through streams and rivers by removing blockages and improving culverts. Frequently, the permit process can delay and increase costs for these projects. Fish passage enhancement projects should be considered water quality improvements and not be delayed in the permit process. Efforts in the legislative and regulatory arenas aimed at streamlining the delivery of projects that will enhance the environment such as projects that improve fish passage for salmonids should be undertaken.

The county supports streamlining the permit process for fish passage enhancement projects.

STRENGTHENING SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE

For several years Humboldt County has attempted to recruit additional air service to the California Redwood Coast – Humboldt County Airport (ACV). Specifically, Humboldt County has sought additional service to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) as that is the most requested destination by local citizens and the business community. In 2012, Humboldt County received a \$750,000 Small Communities Air Service Development Program grant (SCASDP) to serve as a component of a minimum revenue guarantee, which is provided as a standard industry practice in order to entice airlines into rural airports. Without this incentive it is unlikely rural counties like Humboldt will be able to attract additional airline routes.

Humboldt County received a SCASDP grant in 2004 to provide service to LAX. However, the program stipulates that funds cannot be used twice for service to the same location, thus precluding the county from using the 2012 grant funds – or any SCASDP funds – for service to Los Angeles. If another airline route is added to local service, the airport generates additional matching funds for construction projects that historically have gone to hire local contractors. In addition, from past data, county staff and the Redwood Region Economic Development Corporation (RREDC) estimate that an additional route pulls in between 30,000 and 40,000 new passengers each year. These are people who are currently driving to other airports in order to save money or guarantee connections.

The county supports legislation that would include a sunset for the SCASDP destination restriction. In addition, the county supports maximum flexibility in the ways rural communities use SCASDP funds.

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS FOR PILOT CANDIDATES TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

In 2013, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) finalized a rule that requires all commercial airline pilots to obtain at least 1,500 hours of flight time before receiving their Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate. Notably, this new requirement is six times higher than the previous standard of 250 hours.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

While the new 1,500 hour threshold was meant to increase flight safety, it has significantly contributed to a pilot shortage, one that is particularly felt by small regional airports like ACV. In fact, many airlines have already dropped commercial service to small airports like ACV because they cannot recruit enough pilots to meet these requirements. Meanwhile, those pilots who are qualified are typically reserved to fly routes serving larger airports. Losing commercial air service to ACV would have a devastating impact on Humboldt County's local economy and will likely put additional strain on county roads, as more citizens will be forced to take longer trips to get to the nearest airport.

The county supports legislation that would address the current and looming commercial pilot shortage. In particular, the county supports efforts to reduce the total number of hours pilots need to receive their ATP certificate, as well as alternate pathways for pilots to reach the 1,500 hour threshold.



FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

AGRICULTURE

STABLE FUNDING FOR FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was established in 1990 under the federal Farm Bill to protect forest lands. Although city and county governments are able to direct development away from sensitive lands through zoning, this federal program helps to establish easements which restrict development and require sustainable forestry practices on private lands.

To qualify for participation in the FLP, private landowners must submit a multiple resource management plan. The federal government may fund up to 75 percent of the project cost, while private landowners, and state and local governments are required to pay at least 25 percent of the project cost. Additionally, land owners have the added benefit of reduced taxes on the land. As of 2010, the Forest Legacy Program had protected nearly 21,000 acres of privately held forested land in California. A large portion of that land is in the Chalk Mountain Area in Humboldt County. Humboldt County is home to nearly 1.5 million acres of public and private forest, and home to over 40 percent of all remaining old-growth Coast Redwood forests in California.

The FLP is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The proceeds, which fluctuate from year to year, are generated through royalties from off-shore drilling activities.

The County of Humboldt supports adequate funding for the Forest Legacy Program and programs that promote conservation efforts for the old-growth Coast Redwood forests. The county encourages the State of California and the federal government to engage in acquisition of partial interest in privately owned forest lands, while maintaining private ownership, to conserve natural lands for timber, wildlife habitat, open spaces and recreation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING FOR BROADBAND SERVICE TO RURAL AREAS

Humboldt County is served by a north-south fiber optic line from Ukiah to Eureka and will be served by an east-west line running from the Central Valley along the Highway 36 corridor. This infrastructure provides improved telecommunications service to developed areas of the county, but additional investment is necessary to make “last mile” and “middle mile” connections between developed areas and small outlying communities.

The county strongly supports legislation to provide funding or business incentives to assist companies in bringing broadband service to unserved and underserved areas.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

DEVELOP LEGISLATION, BOND GRANT GUIDELINES THAT INCLUDE BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION

Rural areas of Humboldt County include large unused vacant industrial sites, particularly former mill sites. Clean-up of these apparent toxic Brownfield sites is the single largest hindrance to redevelopment of these areas. These sites can cost tens of thousands into the millions of dollars depending upon the amount of toxins found. The county has received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the past to assess the characterization and cleanup of Brownfield sites. The county's goal is to receive additional funding to expand the program and provide greater incentives to property owners to cleanup and redevelop Brownfield properties.

The county strongly supports legislation and developing bond grant guidelines that include Brownfield Remediation funding.

DREDGING HUMBOLDT BAY

The Port of Humboldt Bay is vital to maintaining and promoting diverse industry in our region. It is the only deep-water port between San Francisco and Coos Bay, and provides transportation opportunities for Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino Counties. The port is the primary mode of transportation for gasoline and diesel into the area, and has historically been an important transportation route for forest products. Humboldt Bay also serves as a "harbor of refuge" for disabled ships transiting the coast or vessels seeking shelter from storms.

The port has been active with export ships, but the activity level is threatened because the water at the bay entrance is not deep enough for vessels to travel due to storms that deposit sediment throughout the year. The Army Core of Engineers (ACOE) has deepened this channel to 44 feet in the past. However, the authorized depth, established through a cooperative agreement between ACOE and the Port, is 48 feet. The channel is more likely to remain open throughout the year at this depth, but it cannot be maintained due to current appropriations levels to ACOE.

The county is in favor of sufficient funding to ACOE to maintain the mouth of the bay at the 48-foot depth and federal channels within the bay at 42-foot depth.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

LONG-TERM FUNDING SOLUTION FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

The Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program seeks to compensate local jurisdictions for non-taxable Federal lands and payments may be used for any governmental purpose. In 2015, the PILT program provided \$404.6 million to approximately 1,900 counties and other local governments to compensate for revenues foregone because of federal tax-exempt public lands within their jurisdictions.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

Funding for the PILT program was extended through fiscal year 2015 as part of the *Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015* (HR 719). These funds provide essential services such as law enforcement for Humboldt County. The inability to collect local taxes on the extensive acreage of federal lands in Humboldt County poses a significant burden. A fully-funded PILT program helps to offset the loss of these important revenues and fulfill the government's obligation to local communities with large amounts of federal land. Humboldt County received \$773,146 in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and \$824,400 in Fiscal Year 2016-17.

The county strongly supports legislation that would provide long-term funding certainty for the PILT program. In absence of a long-term authorization, the county supports a one-year extension of mandatory PILT funding.

EASING RESTRICTIONS ON SPENDING FROM HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

Annual Harbor Maintenance Tax receipts have soared since the late 1990s, due in large part to the increase in trade since China joined the World Trade Organization. When combined with interest on balances, HMTF proceeds have tripled in nominal terms since 1999. Actual spending from the trust fund, however – which is controlled by Congress via the annual appropriations process – has not kept up with tax receipts and has resulted in a large surplus of unspent dollars. While there are a variety of reasons why HMTF spending has been constrained, the 2011 Budget Control Act's strict statutory limits on discretionary spending has prevented lawmakers from increasing outlays from the trust fund in recent years.

Humboldt County supports legislation that eases restrictions on spending receipts from the HMT, including legislation that would take the HMTF "off budget."

STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION

The State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction allows taxpayers to deduct state and local property, income and sales tax to reduce their federal liability. The SALT deduction, as well as other such deductions for mortgage interest or charitable giving, are routinely targeted whenever discussions to reform the federal tax code take place. As one of six deductions allowed under the original federal income tax code enacted in 1913, the SALT deduction has a strong linkage to home ownership and providing public services.

Humboldt County utilizes the revenues from property, sales and income taxes to help finance infrastructure projects, law enforcement, emergency services, and many other services. Eliminating this provision could limit local control of our tax systems, as well as constrain the policy options available to address local challenges and increased responsibilities due to the devolution of federal programs.

The county supports legislation that protects the SALT deduction.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

PROTECTING MUNICIPAL BOND TAX EXEMPTION

Tax-exempt municipal bonds have been a fundamental feature of the United States tax code since 1913. Municipal bonds remain the primary method used by states and local governments to finance public capital improvements and public infrastructure projects, which are essential for creating jobs, sustaining economic growth and improving the quality of life for Americans in every corner of this country.

The tax-exemption of municipal bond interest from federal income tax represents one of the best examples of the federal-state-local partnership. Because of the federal tax exemption, investors are willing to buy municipal bonds that pay less interest relative to other securities. With a cap or the elimination of the exemption entirely, investors will want to receive greater interest payments, which would be borne by counties, states, localities and state/local authorities. Finally, all Americans, as taxpayers securing the payment of municipal bonds, will incur the cost.

The county supports efforts to protect the municipal bond tax exemption.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PROTECT FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN MEDICAID

Counties are the health care provider of last resort for the state's indigent population under California welfare and institutions code section 17000. Currently, the Medicaid program provides health coverage for more than 50,000 low-income Humboldt County residents. Proposals to repeal the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act of 2010 and to limit federal investment in the program via state block grants or fixed state allotments would further increase financial risk for counties.

The county supports continuing the current structure of federal investment for the Medicaid program while protecting small businesses and opposes measures that would reduce access to this important safety net program.

ADDRESSING IMPACTS OF OPIOID ABUSE

Across California, communities are struggling to address the impacts of opioid abuse. The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis issued a number of recommendations that would help communities. Federal efforts are needed to expand capacity to provide medication assisted treatment for patients of all ages, and expand resources for public health measures such as naloxone distribution, sharps disposal and local addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs.

The county supports legislation that addresses the causes of opioid abuse and increases local public health options for addressing the impacts of opioid abuse.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES REAUTHORIZATION

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (CalWORKs/TANF) program was last reauthorized in 2005 and has since been operating on a series of short-term extensions. TANF contains California's block grant for CalWORKs and the CalWORKs work participation rules. Comprehensive reauthorization should provide effective pathways to family economic success, including access to education, counseling, child care, job training and individualized services for those with barriers to employment.

The county supports increased federal investment in safety net programs, as well as flexibility for states and counties in meeting the federal work participation rates.

NATURAL RESOURCES

LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR NATURAL RESOURCE AFFAIRS

Humboldt County is located on California's Pacific North Coast and is home to significant water resources that include the Eel, Klamath, Mad and Trinity Rivers; home to fish populations of salmon, groundfish and crab; and, home to dense forests that include coastal Redwoods. These considerable natural resources were once in abundance to the community and contributed significantly to the local economy.

Decisions and regulatory management of these natural resources often occur at the state and federal levels. These decisions have had cumulative impacts on water resources, fisheries and timber, and on the community as well. State and federal decisions need to adequately account for local priorities, knowledge and needs in order to minimize adverse economic and social impacts, while appropriately managing and restoring these considerable natural resources, including ongoing federal management of national parks.

The county strongly supports legislation that provides stable funding for long-term engagement, administration and capacity development for natural resource affairs in the County of Humboldt. In addition, the county supports legislation that adequately funds operations of national parks such as the King Range and Six Rivers National Park, which form an essential component of Humboldt's tourism industry.

PLANNING AND BUILDING

RESTORE CDBG PROGRAM FUNDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2011 LEVELS

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program facilitates affordable housing, service provision to low-income and vulnerable citizens, job creation and efforts to support economic growth. At least 70 percent of the funds must be used on programs benefiting low- and moderate-income individuals. The County of Humboldt has benefited from the CDBG program and has received more than \$11.5 million in CDBG funding over the past

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

seven fiscal years. CDBG funds have been targeted for cuts in recent budget cycles, making it increasingly challenging to maintain adequate funding for the block grant.

The county supports legislation that would return funding to fiscal year 2011 levels (\$3.34 billion) or increase funding for the CDBG program. In addition, the county supports allowing permanent housing to be considered an eligible activity for the program. The county also opposes efforts to reduce funding and operational flexibility for the CDBG.

RESTORE HOME PROGRAM FUNDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2009 LEVELS

The County of Humboldt relies on the Housing and Urban Development HOME Program funds to develop multi-family housing. Since 2009, funds at the federal level have decreased by 50 percent. This has meant that only six to eight projects are funded annually for the entire State of California.

The County of Humboldt supports legislation that would return funding to the fiscal year 2009 levels (\$1.825 billion), or increase funding for the HOME program. In addition, the county supports efforts to re-establish a reliable and adequate source of affordable housing funds that can be used by formula in rural areas. The county also opposes efforts to reduce funding and operational flexibility for the program.

PUBLIC WORKS

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION

The current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding bill increased the local match requirements from airport owners for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding from five percent to 10 percent, while failing to increase the allowable Passenger Facility Charge that is used by the Aviation Division of the Humboldt County Department of Public Works. The increase in local match costs – combined with a failure to allow airports to increase their PFC's – will reduce the number of projects that can be performed under the AIP program for Humboldt County. The AIP program has allowed the Aviation Division of the Humboldt County Department of Public Works to significantly improve airports while also providing for a large number of jobs in the community. Increasing the match requirement and not allowing local agencies to increase the funding source that provides for the local match negatively impacts the county's ability to improve the airport system and provide jobs for the local community.

The county supports legislation that reauthorizes FAA funding as well as amends FAA funding to reduce the match requirements from 10 percent to 5 percent.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

APPROPRIATION FOR REDWOOD CREEK LEVEE REHABILITATION AND ESTUARY RESTORATION

A large-scale, multi-objective water resources project is needed to achieve a sustainable solution for flood protection, ecosystem restoration, and endangered species recovery in lower Redwood Creek. In addition to this being an expensive project, permits and approvals for such an action are not obtainable due to the environmental impacts, and similar work would be needed periodically due to the annual influx of sediment.

The county supports legislation that appropriates funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to analyze opportunities to provide adequate flood protection to the community of Orick and restore the Redwood Creek Estuary.

REAUTHORIZATION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

The 100-year plus partnership that was created between the federal government and rural communities in 1908 compensated counties affected by placement of timber into federal ownership. The partnership stipulated that 25 percent of the revenues derived from U.S. Forest Service activities (timber sales, mineral extraction and grazing fees, etc.) would be returned to the counties that housed these forests. These revenues supported schools and the maintenance of infrastructure, as well as the health of watersheds and ecosystems.

By 2000, these revenues dwindled – as policies and lawsuits restricted much of the economic activity that supported the payments. To ensure that the terms of the partnership were upheld, Congress passed the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRSCA)*. The program initially expired at the end of fiscal year 2011; however, Congress has provided one-year extensions every year since then. The program has once again expired, and unless Congress acts, county payments will return to a revenue-based system. Consequently, Humboldt County could be left with significantly less funding than in recent years.

Humboldt County supports a long-term funding solution for SRS, including alternate models that provide stable funding for counties. However, in the absence of a long-term agreement, the county supports a short-term program extension. As part of a long-term reauthorization bill, the county supports re-establishing active management of the nation's forests, promoting responsible timber production on Forest Service commercial timber land, and revising Title III of the Act to allow fire protection funds to be spent as flexibly as possible, as funds are currently limited to fire protection activities on federal lands, severely restricting fire departments from containing fires adjacent to federal land.

HOMELAND SECURITY – FULL FUNDING OF SECURITY MANDATES FOR COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created to provide for safe aviation travel in the United States. As an outcome, airports were required to increase security. The Humboldt County Department of Public

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

Works – Aviation Division contracts with the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Department to provide the additional security required. DHS reimburses the County on an hourly rate for the required service, but does not pay the full hourly rate of the mandated security and has been reducing the hourly rate of reimbursement annually.

The county supports funding to cover the costs of providing mandated security at the California Redwood Coast – Humboldt County Airport.

FUNDING FOR RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

Humboldt County’s small rural communities are in need of financial assistance to maintain or upgrade water supply and wastewater systems. Many systems are approaching the end of their useful life and require levels of capital investment that exceed rate-payers’ ability to pay. In the worst cases, failing systems pose serious health risks, degrade water quality, prevent economic development and trigger regulatory violations and financial penalties.

The county strongly supports legislation that maintains or increases federal funding for small community water and wastewater projects.

