

2020

SR 20-2794 - Legislative Platform
2020_Final



County of Nevada
950 Maidu Ave
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www.MyNevadaCounty.com

Introduction

The Nevada County Board of Supervisors, County Executive Office, and senior executives develop this Legislative Platform on an annual basis in order to prioritize and draw attention to legislative areas of interest to the County as a whole, as well as specific program or specific legislative efforts that affect the County's ability to deliver the best possible services to our residents.

The County Executive Office leads the effort to identify and assess the priorities, funding requests and initiatives described here by engaging the senior executive team, our contracted and organization-based legislative advocates, as well as the Board of Supervisors at their annual workshop, where the Board of Supervisors sets the Board Objectives for each year. Input is also solicited from the appointed and elected department heads regarding program specific issues as well as alignment with County planning documents such as the Capitol Facilities Plan, Health and Human Services Strategic Plan, etc.

This document is shared with our contracted legislative advocacy firm, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, Inc. as well as the public on the County's website. It is used throughout the year by the Board of Supervisors, County Executive Office and Department Heads to assess legislative issues as they arise and determine if advocacy on a particular issue is in alignment with the County's Legislative Platform.



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2020 Board Objectives



Maintain the County's financial stability and core services.



Reduce the loss of life during a wildfire by improving evacuation routes and early warning systems; creating more defensible space around private properties and driveways, building a network of maintained fuel breaks, engaging residents in emergency preparedness and fire-safe stewardship, and enhancing critical infrastructure.



Provide community leadership to prepare for and minimize the impacts of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events on residents and local businesses by providing timely and accurate public information, prioritizing and advocating for the hardening of critical public safety and telecommunications infrastructure, and assisting people with disabilities and older adults.



Proactively support job-enhancing economic development by implementing business friendly data-driven policies, investing in broadband and infrastructure projects that enhance the quality of life for all Nevada County residents, and partner with private sector, non-profit, Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee leaders to collaboratively support local businesses and promote tourism.



Coordinate with local jurisdictions, developers and other partners to facilitate development of and access to affordable and workforce housing development.



Maintain and continue to improve the cannabis permitting and enforcement program to promote permitted cannabis activities while investigating options for additional supply chain license types and a compassionate use program.



In partnership with community providers and other jurisdictions, utilize housing first and continue efforts to prevent homelessness, provide emergency shelter, expand supportive services, secure housing, and enhance coordination to address the needs of the homeless population and to mitigate impacts on the community.

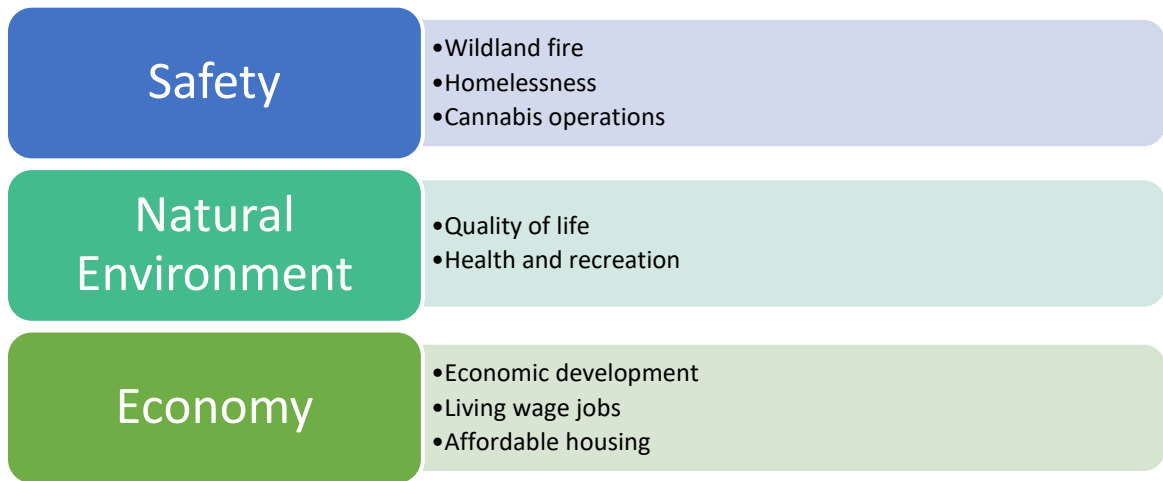


Promote community resiliency by implementing policies, cost-saving programs and best practices supported by the County's Energy Action Plan.

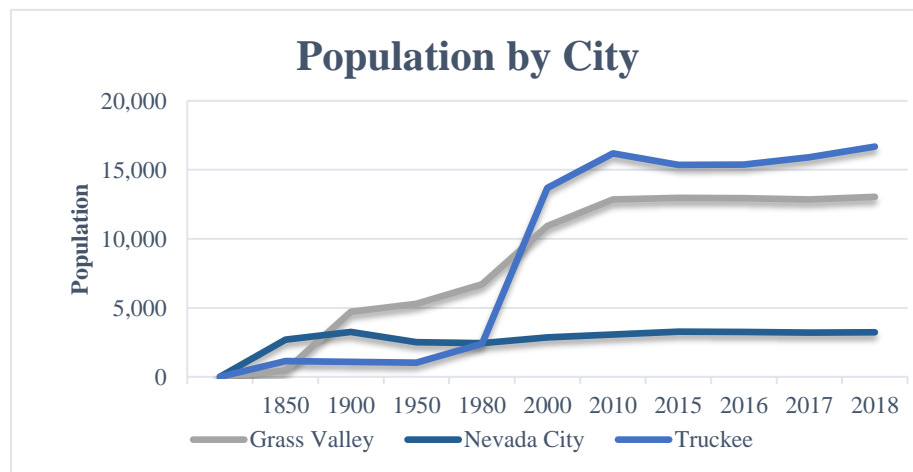
Community Description

Nevada County is a small rural county in Northern California. The County spans 958 square miles from the Sacramento Valley to the Sierra Mountains and borders the state of Nevada, near Reno. Nevada County is home to approximately 100,000 residents with three incorporated cities which include Grass Valley, Nevada City and the Town of Truckee. Generally, Nevada County residents are older, racially similar yet politically diverse, and well-educated. Nevada County's rich gold rush history, active arts and culture scene, and access to recreational activities attract tourists, retirees, and new residents to the area.

Citizen priorities per the 2017 National Citizen Survey data:



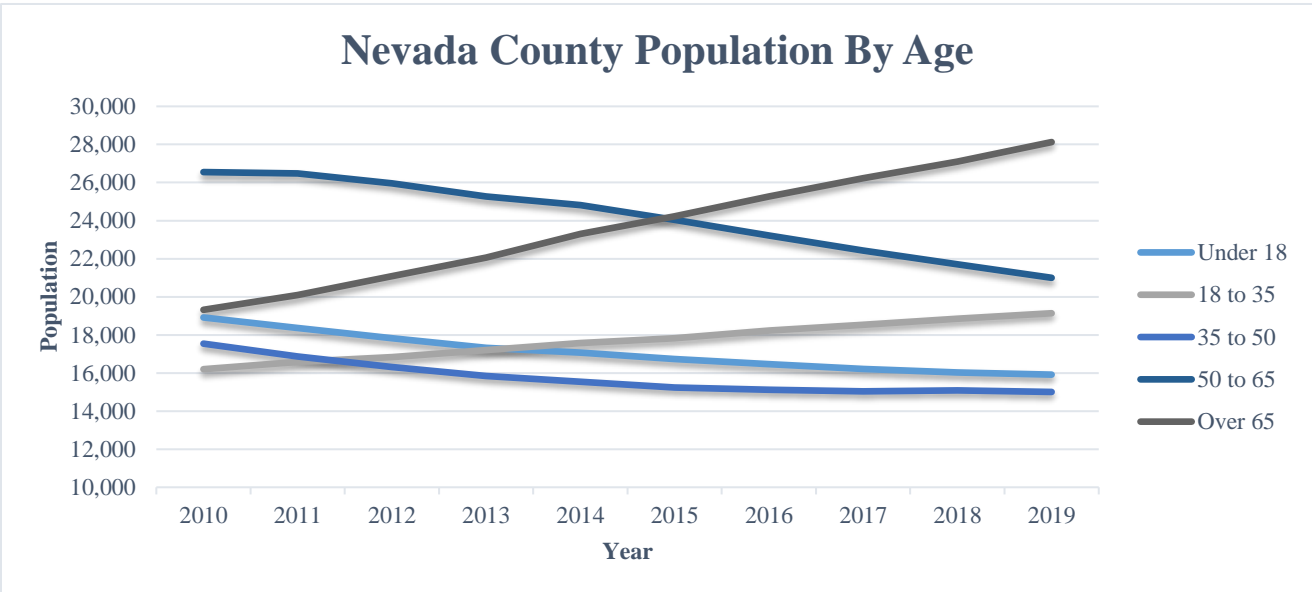
Nevada County is the 36th most populous county in California. The population grew from 92,053 in 2000 to 98,764 in 2010, and is estimated at 99,696 in 2018. Nevada County saw its highest growth between the 1950s and 1990s. The 2019 preliminary data indicates that the population will remain stable. In the last 18 years, the unincorporated portions of the County have seen the largest growth. The incorporated areas of the County are



home to 33% of the population, with 17% in Truckee, 13% in Grass Valley, and 3% in Nevada City, while 68% live in outlying unincorporated areas.

Compared to its surrounding counties, Nevada County has the highest percentage of residents over 65 years of age. There are fewer residents under the age of 30 in Nevada County (29%) than statewide (41%). With the recent

improvement in the County's unemployment and economic status, the attractiveness of this area as a great place for young families continues to increase.



Nevada County is a small, rural population and sits well below the overall California population density of 251 people per square mile. The assessed value of Nevada County real estate increased from \$4.2 billion in 1997 to a high of \$16.6 billion in 2016. Both assessed value per capita and average home value have increased since the last recession, reflecting the rebound in the real estate market. State law allows for temporary property tax reductions (Prop 8) when values decline, these reductions spiked to a peak of 31% of all properties in the County in 2010. An estimated 60% of all housing is in the unincorporated area of the County. According to Counting California Report (2000), 14% of housing units in Nevada County were second homes at that time, which continues to contribute to a lack of housing availability today. Second home ownership is especially prevalent in Truckee, a popular resort community in the Tahoe region. Total housing units is the number of single- and multiple-family dwellings, mobile homes, and other dwelling units situated within a given jurisdiction. The total number of housing units in Nevada County was 53,393 units in 2017, with a median sales price of \$391,750 placing Nevada County in the higher value range among comparison counties.

Assessed Secured Property Values and Taxes					
Year	Total Assessed Value (\$Bill.)	Assessed Value per Capita \$	Property Tax Per Capita \$	% Parcels in Prop 8 Status	Avg Assessed Value of Home
2012	15	154,420	1,859	26%	292,488
2013	14.8	152,744	1,801	26%	293,636
2014	14.9	153,833	1,871	23%	309,783
2015	15.7	160,103	1,940	23%	335,416
2016	16.6	168,735	2,049	20%	275,381
2017	17.3	175,480	2,131	18%	292,423
2018	15.7	157,659	2,124	13%	287,556

Employment by sector paints a picture of economic health by industry in the County overall. The Service-Providing sector leads in the number of people employed (64.8%), followed by Government (20.7%), and Goods Producing (13.2%) sectors. Average weekly wages range from \$473 in Leisure and Hospitality to \$1,488 in Federal Government. This year, the number of jobs in the County increased from 31,380 to 32,840. However, with outbreak of the coronavirus, unemployment has dramatically risen across state and local levels. As of the date of this writing, estimates show approximately unemployment rates could be 15.5 percent across the state.

Nevada County’s vibrant community, abundant natural beauty, location and natural resources provide a competitive advantage for employee attraction. Nevada County’s top businesses include technology, ski-resort and other lodgings, grocery stores, schools, and other service providers.

Industry	# Employed	% Employed
Education and Health Services	5,390	17%
Retail Trade	4,040	12%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,050	16%
Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction	3,310	10%
Professional and Business Services	2,260	7%
Manufacturing	1,420	4%
Financial Activities	1,320	4%
Other Services	2,200	7%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	480	2%
Wholesale Trade	380	1%
Information	310	1%
Farming	100	0.3%
Government	6,370	20%
Total	32,630	100%

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Legislative Priorities







Policy Area: Administration of Justice (AOJ)

Issue	Summary/Action Item	Department	Board Object.	Target
Animal Control	Support legislation that increases flexibility for local animal control officers to administer vaccinations to prevent the spread of communicable disease by expanding exemptions of licensure and specified requirements on licensees when engaging in specified acts of veterinary care	Sheriff's Office		State
County Jail Operations	Support funding for construction, modernization and staffing of adult criminal justice facilities that will meet the needs created by realignment and address long term sentences in county jails	Sheriff's Office		State

Court Appointed Dependency Counsel Funding	Support legislation or administrative action to fully fund optimal caseloads for dependency attorneys	Public Defender		State
Juvenile Rehabilitation	Oppose legislation to amend Proposition 57 by requiring the court to find that a minor is not amenable to rehabilitation while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in order to find that the minor should be transferred to a court of criminal jurisdiction.	Sheriff's Office; Probation; Behavioral Health		State
Public Safety Realignment	Support continued and protected funding for Public Safety Realignment	Sheriff's Office; Probation Department; Health and Human Services		State

Policy Area: Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources (ANR)





Issue	Summary/Action Item	Department	Board Object.	Target
Bridgeport Bridge Restoration Project	Continue to pursue funding for the restoration of this historic landmark	Board of Supervisors		State
Cannabis Banking	Support legislation to reform federal banking regulations that prohibit a Federal banking regulator from penalizing a depository institution for providing banking services to a legitimate marijuana- or hemp-related business	Board of Supervisors; Treasurer Tax Collector; Auditor-Controller		Federal




Cannabis Regulation	Support legislative efforts to clarify consistent state regulation, protect local control of cannabis allowable activities, fund enforcement and public health activities	Community Development Agency; Sheriff's Office; Public Health		State
Cap and Trade Funds/SRA Fees for Rural Communities	Advocate for dedication of cap and trade revenue to rural communities through revising the definition of "disadvantaged communities"	Community Development Agency		State
Emergency Preparedness	Support fair and equitable funding to local health departments and emergency services for emergency preparedness programs	Office of Emergency Services; Public Health		State/ Federal
Federal Emergency Management Agency Funding	Advocate for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and other FEMA Grant Funds including timely award notification and fund distributions	Office of Emergency Services		Federal
Invasive Species Program	Support continued funding for effective pest management and eradication activities and to restore funding for agricultural border stations	Agricultural Commissioner		State/ Federal
Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)	Support PSPS event legislation and rulemaking that ensures maximum communication between local Office of Emergency Services and Public Health Departments, notification to all impacted residents, special provisions for access and functional needs individuals, back-up generation to critical infrastructure and incorporated jurisdictions, and necessary reimbursement funding for PSPS related costs	Office of Emergency Services; Public Health, Adult Protective Services; Child Protective Services; County Executive Office		State

Residential and Commercial Wildfire Insurance	Support legislation that provides greater consumer protection, access to, and transparent and consistent risk modeling related to residential and commercial wildfire insurance that balance consumer protections and extreme risks faced by the insurance industry	Board of Supervisors; Office of Emergency Services		State/ Federal
South Yuba River State Park	Advocate for increasing resources dedicated to the South Yuba River State Park, Bureau of Land management, and USFS Tahoe National Park for public safety and environmental protection	Board of Supervisors		State/ Federal
Trails	Support proposals to increase funding for multi-modal trails	Board of Supervisors		State
Tree Mortality and Fire Protection	Support proposals to secure funding and dedicate resources to address tree mortality on local, state, federal and private lands to reduce fire hazard and promote forest and watershed health	Office of Emergency Services		State/ Federal
Vegetation Management	Support easing of environmental review criteria for vegetation removal along public roads	Public Works		State/ Federal
Williamson Act	Support legislation or budget proposals to fund the Williamson Act subventions to counties	Community Development Agency; Assessor		State

Policy Area: Government Finance and Administration (GFA)

Issue	Summary/Action Item	Department	Board Object.	Target
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Animal Care Shelter	Support funding for regional animal shelter facility and programs	Sheriff's Office		State
Bonds & Funding Measures	Support an equitable disbursement of state and federal funding in all bond and funding measures affecting the County	County Executive Office		State/ Federal
Burdensome Regulatory Requirements	Support rulemaking that minimizes burdensome requirements and legal obstacles, takes into consideration the various environments of the state and minimizes duplication of regulations by multiple agencies	All Departments		State/ Federal
County Revenue	Oppose efforts to decrease, restrict, eliminate or otherwise restrict local autonomy and control of local revenues	County Executive Office		State/ Federal
COVID-19 Cost Recovery	Advocate for funding related to COVID-19 cost recovery of local municipalities that includes direct funding allocations and provides maximum flexibility on spending discretion at the local level	County Executive Office; Board of Supervisors; Auditor-Controller; HHSA		State/ Federal
Cyber Security and Open Data	Advocate for County Information Technology Directors' review and input on all proposed bills related to cyber security and open data to identify the possible unique impacts on rural counties	Information and General Services		State

Elections & PSPS Events	Support legislation and advocate for increased coordination between Elections Officials and Investor Owned Utilities to ensure the continuation of operations during PSPS events and to secure necessary operational funding	Elections; Office of Emergency Services		State
Employee/Labor	Support full cost recovery for salary, benefits and administration for all employee relationships and protect and enhance flexibility and local control over employee and labor relations issues	Human Resources Department County Executive Office; Auditor-Controller		State
Health Realignment	Advocate for maintaining sufficient health realignment funding to ensure adequate resources to obligations and fulfill statutory public health, behavioral health and indigent health care mandates	Public Health; Behavioral Health		State
Preserve Local Control	Oppose legislation that does not recognize California's diversity and the need for local government's autonomy in addressing the problems and services of our residents	Board of Supervisors		State/ Federal
Privacy/Security	Support efforts to protect non-public information that is collected electronically by the County in compliance with various state and federal laws and local ordinances	All Departments		State/ Federal

Property Tax Refunds

Oppose legislation that would provide property tax refunds to owners of commercial properties by making available mid-year property assessment reductions based on disaster relief for economic losses absent physical damage

Auditor-Controller; Assessor's Office; Treasurer Tax Collector; Clerk of the Board; County Executive Office



State

Public Records Retention of Electronic Mail

Oppose legislation to increase retention period requirements of public records that includes electronic mail unless adequate funding is included

Clerk of the Board; Information general Services Agency; County Counsel

State

Special Elections

Advocate for State Funding of Elections for special elections

Elections

State

Split-Roll Initiatives

Oppose "split-roll initiatives" that generally would require regular reassessment of Commercial and Industrial property at current market value, and would eliminate Proposition 13 protections for significant numbers of those properties

Auditor-Controller; Assessor's Office; County Executive Office

State


State & Federal Mandates

Support full funding to ensure that state and federal mandates are cost-neutral to the County and pursue revisions to streamline the process for local government


Auditor-Controller; County Executive Office



State/
Federal


State Realignment & Cost Shifts	Oppose proposals to restructure, realign or otherwise shift the cost of state programs to local government without commensurate compensation	County Executive Office		State
Tele-communication Legislation	Advocate to protect the rights of local government to control location and permitting process of telecommunications infrastructure	Information and General Services		State/ Federal

Policy Area: Health and Human Services (HHS)

Issue	Summary/Action Item	Department	Board Object.	Target
Affordable Care Act	Support continuation of the Affordable Care Act for the 1 in 5 Nevada County residents currently enrolled	Social Services		State/ Federal
Child Custody and Visitation	Support legislation to allow child support workers to assist families with child custody and visitation orders	Child Support Services		State
Dental Services for Low Income Californians	Increase funding to expand access to dental health treatment and prevention services for low-income Californians through increasing Denti-Cal reimbursement levels to qualified dentists and expanding public education and awareness	Health and Human Services		State

Emergency Medical Services Support legislation and funding that will enhance emergency and/or trauma services, including operations, equipment, infrastructure, ancillary services, public health interventions, and physician reimbursements


Office of Emergency Services; Public Health



State/
Federal

Health in our Community Support legislation and funding for individual and community health programs delivered by counties through public health, behavioral health and social services. Further support legislation that encourages coordination of physical and mental health services to patients as well as innovative practices to improve the health and wellbeing of Californians.


Health and Human Services



State/
Federal

Homelessness Program Funding Support proposals to increase funding for shelter and coordination of services for homeless people in rural communities


Health and Human Services



State/
Federal

In-Home Supportive Services MOE Advocate for equitable County IHSS MOE and collective bargaining that ensures sustainable funding that does not jeopardize other necessary funding sources including Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds


Health and Human Services Agency; Behavioral health, Social Services; County executive Office






State

Mental Health Services Support legislation that shifts the payment structure of mental health services away from “per minute” to a method that supports efficient and effective care. End the IMD exclusion for Medi-Cal billing


Behavioral Health












State/
Federal

Realignment Funding	Advocate for State General Fund back-fill of loss revenues of 1991 Realignment and 2011 Realignment to ensure the provisions of core services	HHSA; Behavioral Health; Social Services; Sheriff's Office; County Executive Office		State
Rehabilitation and Treatment for Inmates	Seek funding to support both in-custody programming and facilities in order to enhance the County's rehabilitation and treatment programs for inmates with mental health and substance use disorders	Behavioral Health; Sheriff's Office		State
Workforce Training	Enhance and expand employment and training programs to non-custodial parents	Child Support Services; Social Services		State

Policy Area: Housing, Land Use and Transportation (HLUT)

Issue	Summary/Action Item	Department	Board Object.	Target
Affordable Housing	Support legislative efforts to encourage affordable/workforce/senior housing developments in rural communities	Community Development Agency; Health and Human Services		
Amend Streets and Highway Code to allow for Emergency Access	Support legislation to amend Streets and Highway Code that provide clarification allowing the issuance of encroachment permits on any State highway or freeway for emergency access where access is limited in moderate, high and very high Fire Severity Zones (as determined by Cal FIRE)	Public Works; Sheriff		State

Bridges	Advocate for continuing funding of HBP funds to replace aging bridges throughout the County	Public Works		Federal
Broadband Infrastructure Development	Seek funding to support the expansion of rural broadband infrastructure development, and implementing a Dig Once Policy	Public Works; Information General Services; Board of Supervisors; County Executive Office		Federal/ State
CSBG/CDBG/ Housing Choice Programs	Advocate for continuing funding of CSBG/CDBG/HC programs which are vital to local government for infrastructure, development and housing programs	Health and Human Services		State/ Federal
Economic Growth and Development	Support efforts of job growth and economic development	County Executive Office		State/ Federal
Fund/Reform CASF Broadband Infrastructure Development Program	Advocate for the continuation and expansion of the California Advanced Services Fund's rural broadband specific funding allocation and for the CPUC to reform the grant application, challenge and approval processes that includes the ability for local jurisdictions to apply	Information and General Services		State
Hwy 49 Safety Improvements	Advocate for planning, funding and implementation of safety improvements to the Hwy 49 corridor between Grass Valley and Auburn	Board of Supervisors		State

Impact and Development Fees	Oppose legislation that caps, removes or alters Impact and Development fees without local control or summarily creates an unfunded mandate through deferral or other development incentive programs	Public Works; Planning; Building; Community Development Agency		State
Land Use: Housing Element Flexibility for Rural Counties	Advocate for proposals that provide for flexibility in how rural counties designate parcels for specific zoning in order to meet housing development requirements	Planning Department		State
Organic Waste and Recycling	Advocate for flexible rule making that factors economies of scales for organic waste diversion and processing infrastructure capacity and funding solutions that address declining recyclable markets	Public Works; Solid Waste		State
Protect Rule 20A	Oppose legislation that threatens Rule 20A for overhead/underground conversion project funding	Public Works		State
Reform CA Transportation Development Act	Support legislation to reform the California Transportation Development Act (TDA) that a) eliminates the financial penalty for transit agencies not in compliance with farebox recovery requirements, without requiring an entirely new system for all operators; and b) modify guidelines and procedures that negatively impact rural counties	Auditor-Controller; Public Works; Transit		State

<p>Reform NEPA for broader exclusions of public safety and increase local control</p>	<p>Support legislation and regulatory rules that support a) the broader use of categorical exclusions (CE) under NEPA to address threats to communities or watersheds, reduce the risk of catastrophic events and ensure the timely construction and maintenance of critical transportation and water infrastructure, and b) revising NEPA in order to strengthen the involvement of local governments in the federal decision-making process, including clarifying the cooperating agency definition, and to expedite project analyses that deliver final decisions in a more timely and effective manner</p>	<p>Public Works; Planning</p>	<p>Federal</p>	
<p>Roads Funding</p>	<p>Support proposals to increase and back-fill lost revenues for transportation funding and repay existing transportation fund loans</p>	<p>Public Works</p>		<p>State</p>
<p>Subdivision Map Act</p>	<p>Oppose legislation to reform the California Subdivisions Map Act that removes or decreases local control and conditional use requirements</p>	<p>Public Works; Planning</p>		<p>State</p>
<p>Vegetation Management along Public Roadways</p>	<p>Seek funding to support sustainable funding for vegetation management along public roadways and programs that support efforts to for vegetation management along private roadways</p>	<p>Public Works; Office of Emergency Services</p>		<p>State/ Federal</p>