



NEVADA COUNTY

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

# Summary

## Legislation pursued by State Associations

County Agency and Department Associations are pursuing the legislative items listed here.

### Board of Supervisors ..... *Page 1*

- Bridgeport Bridge Restoration Project.

### Child Support Services ..... *Page 2*

- Availability of employment and training services to non-custodial, single parents.
- Economic Development and job creation creates stable and safe communities, reduces reliance on public assistance, can reduce crime and prevents homelessness.
- Ability to assist the families we serve with their visitation and child custody needs in line with proposed federal regulations in this field.
- Available workforce housing is insufficient to meet demands.

### Public Health ..... *Page 4*

- California Children’s Services Program
- Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness Promotion
- Communicable Disease Control
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Public Health Infrastructure
- Medi-Cal Administrative Activities/Targeted Case Management (MAA/TCM)
- Mandates
- Maternal and Child Health Services
- Tobacco Use Prevention and Control
- Medical Cannabis/ Cannabis Legalization
- Health Equity
- Dental Health Services

### Agricultural Department ..... *Page 10*

- Invasive Species Program Funding: A number of significant invasive species are routinely introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment.
- Pesticide Law Enforcement Activities: Funding for local pesticide regulatory programs.
- Invasive Weed Management Funding: The State of California has eliminated all funding for weed management and the State’s role in weed management has been significantly reduced or eliminated.
- California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act): Elimination of state subventions.

- United States Postal Service (USPS) Inspection Authority.
- Marketplace Equity and Consumer Protection: 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 their ability to provide consumer protection and local county support.
- Weights and Measures Device Registration Fees.
- General Program Authority: New mandates and/or programs are being directed to local governments, from the State, with no funding or resources.

Information and General Services .....*Page 13*

- Rural Broadband Infrastructure
- Cybersecurity and Open Data Legislation Risk to Small Counties
- Tree Mortality

Public Works.....*Page 14*

- Transportation revenues for maintenance activities have decreased
- Hazardous Fuels Conditions

The County Sponsored Proposal section includes specific statutory changes that the County is seeking in the current legislative session. Sponsoring bills provide a proactive opportunity to advance the County’s legislative goals and agenda. This is accomplished by working with the legislative delegation, statewide associations and regional stakeholders.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Board of Supervisors	Bridgeport Bridge Restoration Project	<p>The Bridgeport Bridge has been closed since 2011 after an engineering survey found severe and unsafe structural problems. Thanks to aggressive local efforts, the 2014 State budget included \$318,000 for the initial planning and permitting, and \$1 million of Proposition 84 funds to fully restore and reopen the bridge.</p> <p>The stabilization phase has been completed and restoration is now underway. However, following an extensive assessment of the condition of the Bridge and the work needed to completely renovate the structure, a new cost estimate for the work now stands at \$3.9 million.</p> <p>The increased estimate is due in large part to increased construction costs and a large contingency fund to address unforeseen issues with a very old, uniquely designed structure over a large river. With the \$1.3 million already funded, an additional \$2.6 million is needed to restore this 1862 iconic structure to its former majesty.</p> <p>Funding for this project was not included in the 2016-17 Governor’s budget, but may be requested in the 2017-18 budget after a number of permits are obtained and State and Federal environmental reviews are completed.</p>	(Fall 2016): Support/pursue \$2.6 million in funding in the 2017-18 State budget pending acquisition of permits and completion of State and Federal environmental reviews.

DEPARTMENT      ISSUE      SUMMARY      ACTION

Child Support Services	Availability of employment and training services to non-custodial, single parents	<p>There is a critical need in this community for subsidized job training services and subsidized employment programs. Presently the California Welfare and Institutions code regulates the use of CalWORKs funding for employment services to allow for only the recipient of the CalWORKs dollars to receive these services. The need exists to expand the California Welfare and Institutions code to align with the federal regulations which allow for employment and training services to include non-custodial parents (out of home parents).</p> <p>Many states authorize subsidized employment for the non-custodial parent whereas California only offers services for the parent receiving CalWORKs. This creates a number of problems for our community and impedes our ability to minimize our resident's dependence on public assistance programs. The CalWORKS recipient likely has a greater timeshare with the children which also mean a greater difficulty to maintain full time work due to child care issues. If those job service programs could be expanded to non-custodial parents we could increase the reliability of child support payments which are a safety net for single income households. The reliability of child support paid to the parent receiving CalWORKS makes them less dependent of public assistance and also may allow for them to find and afford adequate child care so they too can benefit from employment and training programs and find gainful employment.</p>	Support changing California regulations to authorize the expansion of CalWORKs funding opportunities to all parents who have children receiving benefits from California's public assistance programs.
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Child Support Services	Economic Development and job creation creates stable and safe communities, reduces reliance on public assistance, can reduce crime and prevents homelessness.	<p>One of the big issues affecting rural counties is the lack of available full time employment opportunities for its residents. To enhance and promote economic development, the county is in need of funding opportunities that would create financial incentives for employers willing to expand in rural areas. Supporting economic development and job creation is critical to maintaining the quality of life in our community. Incentive programs can include loan interest, multi-year loans or grants for acquisition of equipment, development of business plans, and assistance in creating robust job forces, including subsidized apprentice-ship programs, job training programs and job retention programs. Programs can include tax credits or subsidies for hiring low income individuals or former felons returning to the workforce.</p>	Support legislation and funding that contributes to job creation and incentivizes job creation in rural communities.
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DEPARTMENT      ISSUE      SUMMARY      ACTION

Child Support Services	Ability to assist the families we serve with their visitation and child custody needs in line with proposed federal regulations in this field	Evidence based practices including those in Texas and Pennsylvania demonstrate that providing basic custody and visitation services incidental to establishing support, helps families in need and incidentally helps improve the likelihood of support payments from those who pay child support. Other states provide minimal services such as providing instructional videos and the basic custody and visitation templates which would cover about 90% of the cases. Having established custody and visitation orders in place improve family stabilization in our community; the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children positively impacts a child’s physical, mental and emotional well-being. Additionally, parents who plan an active role in their child life are more likely to pay their child support, regular child support payments can provide families with the safety net they need, improve self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on public assistance programs. Proposed federal regulations would allow child support agencies to perform these services with child support funding. Currently California regulations do not authorize child support staff to perform these functions. The allowance of these services would result in a cost savings to the courts as these services would be covered by federal and not state dollars.	Support Legislation to align with California proposed changes to allow child support workers to provide assistance with child custody and visitation orders.
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Child Support Services / Housing / Economic Development	Available workforce housing is insufficient to meet demands	Currently there are very few programs providing for the acquisition and development costs to acquire land and build low cost housing for low-income, working families. Once jobs are created families and employees need to have affordable housing in order to maintain stable employment and stable communities. Providing sources of revenue and funding at low interest rate multiyear financing could support the development of workforce housing in rural communities	Currently there are very few programs providing for the acquisition and development costs to acquire land and build low cost housing for low-income, working families. Once jobs are created families and employees need to have affordable housing in order to maintain stable employment and stable communities. Providing sources of revenue and funding at low interest rate multiyear financing could support the development of workforce housing in rural communities.
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DEPARTMENT      ISSUE      SUMMARY      ACTION

Public Health      California Children’s Services Program

The California Children’s Services (CCS) program provides diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children under the age of 21 with CCS-eligible medical conditions. The CCS program is administered as a partnership between county health departments and the California Department of Health Care Services.

The growth in CCS caseloads and program costs has steadily increased over time. This increase places demands both on the service delivery side (particularly due to a decreasing pool of specialists and/or therapists and because county staff must review each case in order to authorize services) and on the financing of the program. As fiscal pressures have increased on the California State Budget, the State CCS program is now limiting the state’s financial participation in the program, which is further de-stabilizing the program.

Support strategies to streamline funding and program complexities of the California Children’s Services (CCS) program in order to meet the demands of the complex medical care and treatment needs for children in California with certain physically disabling conditions. Monitor the CCS program and seek protections against increased county program costs. Oppose any efforts to require counties to provide funding for the CCS program beyond their Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Explore opportunities to “realign” county share of cost for CCS back to the state. Advocate for CCS pilot project implementation strategies that do not destabilize the current CCS program. Ensure counties retain sufficient resources to meet their responsibilities under the Whole Child Model.

Public Health      Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness Promotion

The leading causes of death in California are heart disease, cancer, lung disease and stroke. Other chronic diseases such as diabetes, arthritis and asthma contribute greatly to disability and mortality and health care costs. In addition, 32% of children in California ages 12-17 overweight. Children who are overweight increase their risk for type 2 diabetes mellitus, asthma and orthopedic problems. They are also more likely to have risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Weight problems are complex with many causes including a person’s diet and physical activity level; however, other aspects of everyday environment also can influence them, such as a lack of recreation facilities, unsafe communities or lack of access to low cost fresh fruits and vegetables. Finally, the growing number of people experiencing food shortages, insecurity and hunger concurrent with the reduction in social assistance programs, has gradually become recognized as a public health concern.

Significant federal, state and local resources are

Support a varied policy agenda addressing the prevention of chronic disease and promotion of wellness. Support a dedicated funding stream to fund preventive health services or activities that improve community health outcomes. Advocate for flexibility for California to design prevention programs to take advantage of the state and local health department strengths and encourage the provision of base funding to state and local health departments. Encourage the allocation of new revenue streams in an equitable manner across all local health jurisdictions. Seek to improve nutrition, obesity and fitness education programs as well as health literacy. Support efforts to

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health (Continued)		expended to treat chronic diseases and they are, in a large part, preventable through a focus on shared risk factors, such as smoking, obesity and lack of access to health care including community and clinical preventive services. However, inadequate resources and programs exist which are dedicated to the prevention and control of these chronic conditions, contributing to more money being spent on health care and to a diminished quality of life for residents.	increase access to healthy foods as well as reduce food insecurity.
Public Health	Communicable Disease Control	The control of infectious disease, through immunizations, surveillance, disease investigation, laboratory testing and response activities has long been a fundamental and statutorily required responsibility assigned to local government public health agencies. However, resources to support these essential activities have been insufficient for years. Preventing and controlling communicable diseases such as seasonal influenza, Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis remain ongoing challenges for local health departments. In addition, new and re-emerging infectious diseases, including pandemic influenza, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, West Nile Virus, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), Meningococcal Disease, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Zika, Valley Fever, and Chikungunya have increased the need to build capacity. In addition, Nevada County's low immunization rates put the community at increased risk of outbreaks of other vaccine preventable communicable diseases including measles, mumps and pertussis. Communicable diseases are only kept in control by rapid response, continuing vigilance and on-going effort even when the threat may not be apparent.	Support increased and flexible state and federal funding and resources directed at building the capacity of local public health departments to combat and control communicable diseases. Oppose efforts to reduce state and federal funding streams which would create cost shifts to local health departments.
Public Health	Public Health Emergency Preparedness	The anthrax attacks post-September 11 identified the need to increase preparedness efforts and local public health jurisdictions response capabilities for dealing with terrorism (including bioterrorism) at the local level. Hurricane Katrina illustrated the impact of natural disasters on local, state and federal medical/health response capabilities, and highlighted the need for an all hazard emergency preparedness. In addition, pandemic influenza threatens to overrun an	Continue to pursue and support fair and equitable funding to local health departments for public health emergency preparedness. Continue to support legislation that clarifies and expands the role of the local Health Officer in recognizing, evaluating and leading the response to bioterrorism and other health



DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health (Continued)		<p>already fragile medical and public health system. With today's increased global travel, diseases abroad can arrive abruptly in the US demanding a rapid response from local health departments. Funding for these activities is most appropriate from either federal or state sources to ensure consistency across the state. Increases in funding are needed to augment local programs to prepare for, and respond to, all forms of natural disasters and other related public health emergencies.</p> <p>The local Health Officer has the ultimate authority and responsibility for preparing for, responding to, mitigating and recovering from all medical and/or health emergencies and disasters that affect a local jurisdiction.</p>	<p>emergencies. Oppose any funding reductions for Public Health Emergency Preparedness at the federal level. Oppose any efforts to shift program costs to local health departments.</p>
Public Health	Public Health Infrastructure	<p>Public health infrastructure can be understood to be the capacities and resources that make the provision of essential public health services possible in a community. This includes an adequate and trained workforce to provide services, public health laboratories, communication and disease tracking systems, community involvement, partnerships and other components of contemporary public health practice. Public health capacities vary widely in California due to geography, population and the availability of resources among other factors.</p> <p>In addition, public health facilities in California were constructed in the 1960's or earlier and are now outdated and insufficient to support current state-of-the-art public health efforts. Federal public health preparedness funds have been used to rebuild and strengthen local public health infrastructure through the modernization of surveillance and communicable disease data systems, recruitment of community volunteers and disaster service workers, training of local staff and community healthcare workers in emergency response, preparation of hospitals and community clinics to address surge capacity issues and the development of public risk communication plans. However, this federal infusion of funds is on the decline while rebuilt infrastructure needs are ongoing and need to be maintained in order to be effective in the long term.</p>	<p>Support legislation that would provide continued funding and support for core local public health services and public health laboratories. Advocate for the distribution of federal funding to state and local health departments in order to maintain and build core public health infrastructure.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health	Medi-Cal Administrative Activities/ Targeted Case Management (MAA/TCM)	<p>Counties provide Targeted Case Management (TCM) services to assist specific Medi-Cal eligible populations (including the severely mentally ill, women and children or frail seniors) in accessing needed medical, social, educational and other services.</p> <p>The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has added additional administrative requirements for the TCM claiming process and have recently disallowed \$19 million in claims. County administrative costs are rising including increasing costs for State positions to administer the program.</p> <p>The Medical Administrative Activities (MAA) program allows counties to receive federal reimbursement for providing certain qualified activities targeting and improving the availability and accessibility of Medi-Cal services to Medi-Cal eligible and potentially eligible individuals and their families. These services include Medi-Cal outreach, assisting individuals to apply for Medi-Cal, transporting Medi-Cal beneficiaries to non-emergency Medi-Cal covered services and improving access to and the delivery of Medi-Cal covered services.</p>	<p>Oppose proposals from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Congress or the Legislature to deny, reduce, cap or eliminate MAA/TCM reimbursement or to make claiming more administratively burdensome.</p>
Public Health	Mandates	<p>The fiscal constraints being faced by most governments demand that all federal, state and local budgets be viewed together as a single public budget bounded by voter preferences and resource limits. It is impossible and inappropriate to shift costs from one government's budget to another without overall adjustments in the revenues and priorities of the total public budget.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose new mandates without specified, stable and adequate funding commitments.</li> <li>2. When new mandates are accompanied with new or expanded funding, ensure those mandates are limited to funds available and/or allocated; avoid vague references to responsibilities or open ended obligations.</li> <li>3. Ensure that if state subvention funds are reduced or redirected, whether through legislative or administrative action, state mandates or obligations should be similarly and correspondingly reduced.</li> <li>4. Seek to add language to tie existing mandates, standards or requirements to the available funds or allocations.</li> <li>5. Ensure that funding increases</li> </ol>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health (Continued)			for ongoing mandates is adequate.
Public Health	Maternal and Child Health Services	Local health departments are responsible for the administration of a variety of programs designed to address the health priorities and primary health needs of infants, mothers, fathers, children, adolescents and their families. These programs include breastfeeding support, childhood lead poisoning prevention, Women, Infants & Children (WIC), childhood lead poisoning prevention, children’s health initiatives, newborn screening, and the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP).	Support programs designed to maximize the health and quality of life for all women, infants, children and adolescents and their families in California.
Public Health	Tobacco Use Prevention and Control	In Nevada County, approximately 14% of adults and 10% of youth smoke, and it is estimated that smoking-attributable health care expenditures in Nevada County totaled \$16,684,117 in 2012. Each year, more than 35,000 Californians die due to tobacco-related illnesses. With tobacco use rates on the decline in the state, a renewed focus on prevention education and smoking cessation programs should be encouraged. The use of electronic smoking devices, and other smokeless tobacco products, has been on the rise throughout the country, and the CDC recently reported that the use of electronic cigarettes by US middle and high school students has more than doubled from 2011 to 2012. Furthermore, the safety of electronic smoking devices has not yet been demonstrated, however, in August 2016, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) released a final rule to extend their regulatory authority over the manufacture, import, packaging, labeling, advertising, promotion, sale, and distribution of these new types of tobacco products.	Support efforts to prevent or reduce the use of tobacco and its accompanying health and economic impacts on the state and its residents. Support efforts to reduce second hand smoke exposure in our communities. Maintain local health department tobacco control capacity and infrastructure. Oppose efforts to exempt electronic nicotine delivery systems, such as e-cigarettes, from current tobacco control laws and regulations. Enforce and/or enact federal and state laws that aim to regulate the sales and marketing of smokeless tobacco products.
Public Health	Medical Cannabis/ Cannabis Legalization	In 1996, California voters approved Prop 215 which allows patients or their caregivers to possess or cultivate cannabis for medical purposes if recommended by a physician. And in 2003, the California Legislature approved SB 420, which further defined the state’s medical cannabis laws, guidelines and practices, including the implementation of a voluntary identification card system (with cards issued by county health departments).	Support a statewide regulatory scheme for medical cannabis and/or recreational cannabis that ensures counties have the ability to set regulatory standards based on local needs and priorities. Support efforts to study impacts of cannabis use and legalization on public health. Advocate for efforts to increase cannabis surveillance, education and

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health (Continued)		<p>In 2015, Governor Brown approved a package of bills creating a comprehensive statewide regulatory structure for medical cannabis in the State recognizing the myriad of gaps created by Prop 215 including the cultivation, processing, transporting, testing, and distribution of medical cannabis. Furthermore, Proposition 64 which will legalize the recreational use of cannabis in California was passed by the voters in November 2016 Election.</p>	<p>prevention. Seek to ensure local health departments are adequately resourced as regulations, state law, and/or ballot measures are implemented. Promote collaboration with state and local agencies through participation on workgroups and other key meetings.</p>
Public Health	Health Equity	<p>Health disparities and inequities result from numerous interactions between community environments, social pressures, lifestyle factors, and economic conditions. Furthermore, these social determinants of health or the conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, work, play and age affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. In California, minority and rural populations have a well-documented higher incidence of chronic diseases, higher mortality rates, and poorer health outcomes. In addition, low-income residents, regardless of race, lack access to regular medical care and lack adequate health insurance coverage, if any at all. Local health departments have begun to emphasize programs to reduce these disparities; however, resources, staff and community awareness must be increased in order to be effective.</p> <p>A lack of stable, affordable housing affects the health of many Californians. Housing instability is associated with negative behavioral outcomes in children, depression and anxiety; and at the most extreme expression of instability – homelessness – homeless Californians are at sharply increased risk of chronic and acute health problems. Unaffordable housing across the state negatively impacts mental health and reduces the income that households have available for other subsistence needs, including food, transportation, and health care expenses. Housing should be seen as fundamental right for all to have access to a safe, secure, habitable, and affordable home.</p>	<p>Seek to reduce health disparities and inequities by working to eliminate barriers to good health for California’s diverse population. Support efforts, working with other sectors, to maintain and expand affordable, safe and stable housing.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health	Dental Health Services	Many Californians, including hundreds of thousands of children, have unmet oral health needs. Untreated dental problems result in days missed at school or work and increased susceptibility to other more damaging health problems such as ear and sinus infections or heart disease. It's estimated that 30% of California's water supply is fluoridated. Public health strategies such as water fluoridation and dental health education programs are not widely supported or funded.	Favor proposals to expand access to dental health services for low-income Californians. Support efforts to increase Denti-Cal reimbursement levels to encourage qualified dentists to participate in providing care to low-income children. Encourage dental health education program expansions including adequate funding.
Agricultural Department	<u>Invasive Species Program Funding:</u> A number of significant invasive species are routinely introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment.	Continued funding of Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication, and Public Education Outreach programs is critical in protecting California's resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation and/or state and federal programs that provide for effective pest management and eradication activities.</li> <li>2. Protect existing revenue sources and enhance state and federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities.</li> <li>3. Support local flexibility to enhance the abilities of Agricultural Commissioners to respond to pest emergencies and high priority local pest exclusion pathways.</li> <li>4. Support budgetary efforts to restore funding for agricultural border stations.</li> <li>5. Support research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.</li> </ol>
Agricultural Department	<u>Pesticide Law Enforcement Activities:</u> Funding for local pesticide regulatory programs	In the budget-trailer bill (Chapter 741, Statutes Of 2003; SB 1049), intent language indicates that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) should fund County Agricultural Commissioners' local pesticide regulatory programs with \$22 million annually. The Legislature failed to appropriate adequate funding to DPR to meet this level and 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 ways are found to fund this program.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support methods that would provide long-term stable funding for county pesticide regulatory activities.</li> <li>2. Support legislative or budgetary proposals that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee that is sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public and the environment and provides funding for education, outreach and compliance assessment</li> </ol>

DEPARTMENT      ISSUE      SUMMARY      ACTION

Agricultural Department (Continued)

activities related to the safe use of pesticides.  
 3. Support the preemptive status of state pesticide laws and authority provided to the Department of Pesticide Regulation and California Agricultural Commissioners.

Agricultural Department

Invasive Weed Management Funding:  
 The State of California has eliminated all funding for weed management and the State’s role in weed management has been significantly reduced or eliminated.

Invasive noxious or non-native weeds continue to proliferate on public and private lands throughout California, threatening the state’s critical infrastructure, its biodiversity, and ecological integrity. Weed Management Areas (WMA’s) have been formed around the state to bring together all stakeholders concerned about invasive weed control within their respective areas. Nevada County belongs to the Nevada-Placer Weed Management Area and now relies strictly on grant monies from the US Forest Service and contract money from Cal-TRANS.

Support federal and state legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Areas or programs for the control of harmful non-native or invasive weed pests.

Agricultural Department

California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act): Elimination of state subventions.

The Williamson Act is one of the most effective tools in preventing the loss of farmland and open space. The Act provides tax breaks to landowners who contract with a County to keep their land in agriculture for a period of 10 years. To encourage County participation in the program, the State historically reimbursed the Counties a portion of the property tax revenue losses resulting from the lower assessments. The State discontinued the reimbursement in FY 2010-2011.

Support legislative or budget proposals to fund the Williamson Act subventions to counties.

Agricultural Department

United States Postal Service (USPS) Inspection Authority

Detector dogs routinely profile parcels containing fruit or plant material at terminal inspections. United States Postal Service packages in First Class, Priority or Express Mail profiled by detector dogs require a magistrate issued warrant or permission from the sender or receiver to gain entry to the parcel for inspection purposes. Many parcels to not get inspected because required authorizations are not obtained. There is significant evidence that the postal pathway contributes to the introduction of exotic, invasive agricultural pests.

Support statutory or rulemaking efforts to facilitate inspector access to First Class, Priority and Express Mail packages containing plant material profiled by detector dogs.

DEPARTMENT      ISSUE      SUMMARY      ACTION

Agricultural Department	<p>Marketplace Equity and Consumer Protection: 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 their ability to provide consumer protection and local county support.</p>	<p>Weights and Measures Programs are important to businesses and consumers in California. Weights and Measures regulatory activities ensure that there is a “level playing field” for business and industries. Likewise, these programs are critical in providing protection for consumers and a method for making value comparisons by providing equity in the marketplace.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state (DMS) and local (Sealer) level for consumer protection.</li> <li>2. Support the use of state general funds for DMS operations.</li> <li>3. Support legislation which assures clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of packaged products to promote value comparison and to ensure the consumer receives the correct product and the quantity of product for which they pay.</li> <li>4. Oppose legislation that would allow for industry self-certification of commercial weighing and measuring devices.</li> <li>5. Oppose legislation that would diminish or remove protections now afforded consumers for transactions measured by weighing or measuring devices or computed by Point of Sale systems.</li> <li>6. Support legislation that establishes funding for quantity control and package inspection.</li> </ol>
Agricultural Department	<p>Weights and Measures Device Registration Fees</p>	<p>Inspection programs to verify accuracy of weighing and measuring devices are partially funded by an annual device registration fee. The authority for this fee is found in Business and Professions Code Section 12240 and Section 12246 sunsets the provisions on January 1, 2016, unless the provisions are extended. This is a significant funding source for local Weights and Measures inspection programs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide and protect local authority for device registration fees.</li> <li>2. Support legislation that extends or eliminates the repeal date in Business and Professions Code Section 12246 pertaining to Weights and Measures Device Registration Fees.</li> </ol>

DEPARTMENT      ISSUE      SUMMARY      ACTION

Agricultural Department	General Program Authority: New mandates and/or programs are being directed to local governments, from the State, with no funding or resources.	County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers of Weights and Measures have limited funding mechanisms as well as resources, to carry out local responsibility or service for new mandates and/or programs. When statutory fees are insufficient to fund mandates or programs, County general funds are required to subsidize the difference.	Oppose legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not provide clearly defined and authorized roles for Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers as well as 100% funding and resources for activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers.
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Information and General Services	Rural Broadband Infrastructure	Rural communities are increasingly falling further behind their urban and suburban counterparts with overall community broadband coverage and capabilities (speed.) In a 2014 survey conducted by the Nevada County Economic Resource Council their members identified rural broadband as their number one local challenge and need to drive local economic development and quality of life.	The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has expanded their California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to promote and fund rural broadband initiatives. There are two major actions needed for the CASF to benefit our County. First, to advocate for the continuation and expansion of the CASF’s rural broadband specific funding allocation. Second, advocate for the CPUC to streamline and lower the burden of the current arduous grant application, challenge, and approval processes that applicants (local broadband providers) must go through to gain access to the funding and be awarded a grant. These current processes have taken years for a local provider to go through when our community needs enhanced broadband now.
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Information and General Services	Cybersecurity and Open Data Legislation Risk to Small Counties	<p>Cybersecurity and Open Data are fast evolving public policy areas. Over the past year, State legislators seem to have taken an increased interest in these overall “information technology and data” related subjects. While this is typically a good thing since legislation commonly trails the technology industry by years, it can have negative impacts on smaller rural counties.</p> <p>This legislation typically is being driven by legislatures out of the larger urban communities where size, economy of scale, and overall organizational capabilities are on a much larger and more sophisticated than rural counties’</p>	All new proposed bills need to have County Information Technology Directors’ review and input on the possible impacts (risk, cost, and others) they can have on our organizations. Many bills proceed through the process too far with zero opposition (even from CSAC, RCRC, UCC, etc.) because on the surface they look and sound like common sense, but looking under the surface with a technologist perspective can reveal major flaws, cascading
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DEPARTMENT      ISSUE      SUMMARY      ACTION

Information and General Services  
(Continued)

technology environments. A one size fits all approach can have major fiscal implications for our smaller organizations. Current Proposed legislation in AB 259 could bankrupt small counties with a single data breach if the Bill is not modified properly. This year saw the legislators pass laws specifically around open data for their State government organization. Past history tells us they will extend these new laws to local jurisdictions over time.

consequences, and large fiscal risks to our rural counties.

Information and General Services/  
Office of Emergency Services

Tree Mortality

With several years of below average rainfall and an outbreak of bark beetle infestation California is experiencing a high level of tree mortality. So far the cumulation of drought and bark beetles has killed over 66 million conifers in California. Data collected by state and federal agencies demonstrate that tree mortality has reached epidemic levels across the entire western slope of the Sierra Nevada range, which includes a large portion of Nevada County. The threats posed by dead trees to public safety, wildfire egress points, and public and private infrastructure requires continued attention from state and local agencies.

Advocate for legislative or budget proposals to secure state funding to address the vast tree mortality issue to reduce fire hazard and promote forest health and watershed.

Public Works

Transportation revenues for maintenance activities have decreased over the past several years and no longer keep pace with maintenance needs.

Research by counties, cities and regional transportation agencies has identified unmet needs of \$79 billion on the local streets and roads system, and the state reports \$59 billion in deferred maintenance on the state highways. Statewide, local streets and roads receive about \$3 billion per year from all funding sources, whereas \$10.8 billion per year would be needed over the next decade to bring the local system into a good state of repair, at which point maintenance costs would be significantly lower. In Nevada County, falling transportation revenues will result in a 10% to 20% decline in pavement condition. In addition, declining revenues will affect our ability to address important activities such as brush clearing on county roads which serve as emergency access during disasters.

Support legislative or budgetary efforts to increase transportation funding. In addition, support legislative actions to support repayment of all existing transportation fund loans and the diversions of transportation funds should be eliminated.

The road system is likely the County's largest single asset. In the long run, investment in roads and other infrastructure could save the County money. As roads deteriorate, they become increasingly expensive to repair. In fact, rebuilding a road from scratch can cost as much as twenty

DEPARTMENT      ISSUE      SUMMARY      ACTION

Public Works  
(Continued)

times more than routine maintenance to extend the service life of our roadway infrastructure. Investing in our roads will allow to spend future funds efficiently.

Public Works

Hazardous Fuels  
Conditions

Public lands occupy nearly 35% of the unincorporated land in Nevada County, with a checkerboard pattern of discontinuous and isolated parcels of federal and state lands intermixed with private property through many areas. Approximately 65,000 residents live in the unincorporated areas. While homeowners are required by state law to treat the hazardous vegetation around their property to meet defensible space standards, the State and Federal governments are not mandated to reduce the hazardous fuels conditions on public property. The lack of direct fuels treatment on public lands adjacent to developed areas increases the risk for wildfires to destroy private property. Conversely, wildfire spreading from a developed private property with or without defensible space into public lands without effective fuels treatment has potential to cause significant environmental losses to timber crops, habitats, watershed, developed properties and infrastructure.

The public expects both federal and state governments to reasonably maintain public lands. The general public perception is that both federal and state lands are not meeting public expectation in being leaders in managing these lands. Furthermore, the public is burdened with many regulations such as those relating to fire prevention in building and land development, yet the lack of fuels treatment to reduce hazardous fuels on federal and state lands poses a significant wildfire threat to private lands.

While both federal and state governments provide funds for fuels treatment activities, most fuels treatment activities focus at the community level as opposed to a single or isolated small parcel level. While funding is steadily increasing to support federal fuels treatment projects on federal lands, generally fewer dollars are allocated by state agencies for fuel treatment

1. Increase funding for hazardous fuels reduction on public and private lands through the use of the SRA fees back to Counties.
2. Allow, encourage and incentivize the private sector to help with the solution through fee reductions, relaxing regulations and other policy changes.
3. For federal lands, utilize the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which is a component of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. The CWPP should identify both the federal and non-federal (private) properties with hazardous fuels conditions, develop priority areas needing fuels treatments and relay this information to the local federal land managers for appropriate funding (perhaps designate this funding as CWPP funding for federal lands).
4. For the state lands, consider adopting similar legislation to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act for state lands, and/ or partnering with the CWPP process for identifying state lands that directly impact private property.
5. Provide federal and state funding to develop a biomass/value-added products market to assist both public and private landowners with fuels treatment. (This is also addressed in the Healthy

DEPARTMENT

ISSUE

SUMMARY

ACTION

Public Works  
(Continued)

projects on state lands. Funding by the state typically occurs through voter-approved bonds, such as Proposition 40. While both federal and state governments fund fuels treatment projects, there are, however, gaps in these funding programs. Hundreds of parcels and thousands of acres of private property are vulnerable due to inadequate fuels treatment efforts on public lands. There is a need to develop a better mechanism for addressing hazardous fuels issues for the public-private property boundary line.

As part of the 2011 Realignment, the Governor proposed to shift \$250 million in fire protection services and medical response in the most highly populated State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) to local governments. The SRA includes areas where the State of California has primary financial responsibility for prevention and suppression of wildfires. The Governor’s proposal did not come to pass; however, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection periodically updates its SRA Classification maps to reflect changes in population, land use or other factors. During these updates the SRA maps should be revised to exclude those areas designated as Certified Firewise Communities.

Forest Restoration Act).

6. Ensure adequate long-term fuels treatment funding to support both the state and federal land management agencies for the next twenty years and for at least one full rotational fuel treatment cycle.
7. Monitor current legislative efforts with regard to State Responsibility Area fees, including waiving the fee for properties within Certified Firewise Communities.

The US Forest Service could do its part to address poor forest health without waiting for increased funding by taking actions such as:

1. Engage in policy discussions regarding user fees on haul roads - Road fees are prohibitive to timber companies that want to increase harvests on federal lands. Many of these haul roads were originally built by timber companies and later taken over by the USFS. Although we realize the fees are necessary to cover road maintenance, the fees also need to reflect the benefit provided by companies that are reducing hazardous fuels on public lands, protecting public safety and natural resources.
2. In addition to relying on hiring contractors to accomplish fuels reduction projects, the USFS needs to encourage cutting of more merchantable timber, providing the incentive for private businesses to bid on timber sales and thus reducing the fuel hazard.

DEPARTMENT

ISSUE

SUMMARY

ACTION

Public Works  
(Continued)

3. Increase funding to enable the percentage of cut allowed based on forest growth to increase from the current level, of approximately 9-10% to 25-40%.
4. Revise timber harvest regulations to expand tree thinning and allow greater removal of dense underbrush, and removal of diseased, unhealthy and overstocked trees, returning forested areas to a more healthy state.
5. Include biomass plants in grant programs and reduce costs and other barriers to facilitate siting these plants within the forests, if appropriate, where they would operate. Biomass plants provide a means to utilize hazardous fuels, improve forest health, provide local energy resources, create jobs, and stimulate the local economy.
6. Work with legislators to streamline the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to facilitate faster implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects.