

STATE LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Legislative Goals

As a result of the dramatic cuts contained in the Revised State budget, Humboldt County's primary, overarching goal for 2010 is the protection and preservation of the County's ability to fund County programs. This includes:

- Supporting State appropriations for public infrastructure projects.
- Supporting legislation that advocates for maximum local control and flexibility in the allocation of resources and the administration of county programs.
- Supporting relief from State mandates and/or elimination of statutory barriers such as:
 - Broadening and extending the current authority to waive regulations and statutes to provide cooperative services in a more cost-efficient manner.
 - Opposing attempts to delegate costs from the State to counties for mandated and/or non-mandated programs.
- Opposing any attempt by the State to borrow funds from county specific funding sources such as property taxes or transportation bonds.
- Opposing reductions to the current level of State funding for county programs. For example:
 - Protecting public safety funding as well as Proposition 36 and other drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

SMART-GROWTH LAND USE POLICIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The carbon storage capacity of Humboldt County's forests will play an important part in meeting the County's AB 32 (2006) carbon dioxide emission reduction requirements. The County supports policies that provide economic incentives to forest land owners to maintain their land for forest production and manage the forests to maximize carbon storage. The County anticipates follow-up legislation to address implementation of SB 375 (2008), which will include policy changes in land use and climate change.

The County supports legislation related to land use planning and growth policies that assist in achieving vehicle emissions reduction targets; protect critical lands (such as natural resources, wildlife habitat, open space, and agricultural lands) when it comes to development; promote regional planning, cooperation between cities and counties, and which provide new fiscal incentives for the development of countywide plans addressing growth; and build incentive-based green building programs.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BIG LAGOON TRIBAL COMPACT

The Big Lagoon Tribe of Humboldt County proposed in 2005 to join the Los Coyotes Tribe for the purpose of building a casino in Barstow next to Interstate 15, the main route from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. The proposal would allow the Big Lagoon tribe to improve its finances through the operation of a casino, but preserve the pristine beauty of the environmentally-sensitive Big Lagoon area. The Los Coyotes Tribe and the City of Barstow approve of the proposal. Both tribes have agreed to give California a bigger share of casino revenues if a casino is built. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the compacts with the two tribes in September 2005. This compact must be ratified by the Legislature. Legislative efforts to authorize the Barstow casino failed in 2007-2008.

The County supports legislation to ratify the compact and allow the Big Lagoon Tribe to join the Los Coyotes Tribe to build a casino in Barstow.

REGULATORY SYSTEM REQUIRED FOR ANY CHANGES TO LEGAL STATUS OF MARIJUANA

There has been recent dialogue on the legalization of marijuana in the Legislature through Assembly Bill 390, the Marijuana Control, Regulation, and Education Act. As a result, there needs to be a discussion on the application of a consistently applied regulatory system. The current landscape of medical marijuana dispensaries is

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problematic given the significant variations in the regulation of those businesses from one jurisdiction to another. If the Legislature decides to change the legal status of marijuana, the new law must be accompanied by a uniform, precise, and clear regulatory framework that explicitly states the roles and responsibilities of all jurisdictions in California.

The County takes the position that any change to the legal status of marijuana at the State level must be accompanied by a thorough regulatory framework that delineates the clear roles and responsibilities of the jurisdictions involved.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

OPPOSE CENTRALIZED ELIGIBILITY OF HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS

AB 7 4X, as part of the July 2009 State budget agreement, requires the Departments of Health Care Services and Social Services to develop a plan in consultation with stakeholders for a statewide eligibility and enrollment determination process for the Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and food stamps programs. States that have implemented this privatization approach, such as Texas and Indiana, have experienced increased costs, undue barriers, reduced client access to services, and massive numbers of mishandled claims by private vendors. The final proposal is to be submitted to the Legislature for approval prior to implementation.

The County opposes proposals to transfer eligibility determination for the Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and Food Stamps programs from the counties to a state-contracted vendor.

PUBLIC WORKS

REDUCTION IN VOTE THRESHHOLD REQUIRED TO PASS LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SALES AND GASOLINE TAX INITIATIVES

Over the last several years, a number of jurisdictions have seen special tax initiatives receive a “yes” vote from the majority of the electorate, but fall short of the two-thirds vote requirement. Because roads are used by virtually every citizen on a daily basis, and a majority has shown that they are willing to tax themselves to support transportation projects, the current two-thirds vote requirement is unfair in a political system based on the concept of majority rule.

The County supports a constitutional amendment that would reduce the vote threshold required to pass local transportation initiatives from a two-thirds majority to majority rule.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

FUNDING FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Public infrastructure in Humboldt County is in need of \$200 million in upgrades to bring existing systems up to regulatory standards, and needs to be expanded to meet current and anticipated population needs. There are numerous sewer, water, and drainage systems in the County that currently pose serious health risks to the public, hamper development, and degrade the community due to their inadequacy such as the Arcata Water Storage Reservoir, and Orick Waste Water System. Infrastructure is critical to maintaining the local economy. These projects require that the State and Federal Government provide financial assistance due to their high costs.

The County strongly supports legislation that maintains or increases State funding for public infrastructure (sewer, water, roads, drainage) projects.

GRANT FUNDING FOR HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PLAN PILOT PROJECT

Humboldt County has been working with the Housing and Community Development Department and the California State Association of Counties on a pilot project to demonstrate an alternative approach to the preparation of General Plan Housing Elements. The first phase of the project preparing a community wide Infrastructure and Services Technical Report is complete. Funds are necessary for implementation, including environmental review and zoning changes.

The pilot project would create a 20-year land supply for housing and zone for 10-year housing production, with a five-year action plan and a five-year supply of “by right” housing.

The County strongly supports legislation that would provide grant funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for a Housing Opportunity Plan pilot project; and provides incentives to jurisdictions that adopt the Housing Opportunity Plan approach.

BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION AND LIABILITY

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 depending upon the amount of toxins found. The County has received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the past to assess the number of brownfield sites in redevelopment areas. The County’s goal is to expand this work to other unincorporated areas of the County.

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On September 25, 2009, the Legislature passed SB 32, the California Land Environmental Restoration & Reuse Act to help promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfield properties. The bill establishes a new hazardous materials investigation and cleanup program to be administered by local agencies with State oversight. It also establishes a two-year pilot program to test certain hazardous substance screening values at 25 sites in Southern California. The County of Humboldt supports expanding the program to include sites in Northern California.

The County strongly supports legislation to expand the program established in SB 32 as well as legislation that develops bond grant guidelines that includes brownfield remediation funding.

EDUCATION

LIBRARY FUNDS

The State Public Library Fund (PLF) has provided a dependable source of funding to public libraries statewide. However, today this fund has become an easy expenditure for legislators to cut from the budget without angering voters. The PLF has been cut by 75% since 2000. For Humboldt County, this meant a reduction from \$211,000 in 2000-01 to \$40,345 in FY 2009-10. This severe reduction in PLF has reduced the County's ability to purchase new library materials for our public users. In addition to the Public Library Fund, the library receives \$18,000 in Transaction Based Reimbursements and \$6,000 in California Library Literacy Services funding. The library depends on the funding of these programs in order to provide an adequate level of service to Humboldt County residents.

The County supports legislation which would increase funding for the Public Library Fund, Transaction Based Reimbursements, and California Library Literacy Services.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

FULFILL THE PROVISIONS OF THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES ACT RELATED TO FISH & GAMES 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 and are currently owed \$238,500. Most of this funding would flow to special districts, but the County's General Fund is owed \$37,100, the Roads Fund \$5,215, and Library \$4,615. The State has missed payments for this program statewide.

Thus, this request is for legislative action that would fund the required payments.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

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% of every property tax dollar collected in Humboldt County. The State recognized that it was in its own best interests to ensure that properties were being assessed to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, in 1994, the State established the Property Tax Administration Program (PTAP). PTAP provided funds to each county to support the work of the Assessor's Office and the rest of the property tax administration system. Humboldt County received \$210,806 in PTAP funding in FY 2004-05, the last year the program was funded.

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

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RESTRUCTURE COST OF DOING BUSINESS

While counties are legislatively mandated to administer numerous human services programs, funding for these services is frozen at 2001 cost levels. As inflationary increases occur, realignment revenues fall and devastating State budget cuts are approved, this chronic underfunding puts counties in the untenable position of backfilling the gap with our own limited resources or cutting the services that the State expects counties to deliver. Legislation is needed to restore the process of budgeting mandated human services programs based on reasonable current costs.

The County supports legislative efforts to align funding with the cost of doing business for mandated human services programs.

UNFUNDED MANDATE OF AB 3632

The State has failed to fully reimburse counties for costs to provide mandated services to special education students with mental health needs pursuant to AB 3632 (1984). AB 3632 transferred the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act mental health treatment and assessment responsibility from local education agencies to county mental health departments. According to the State Legislative Analyst's Office, the State owes counties more than \$500 million for unreimbursed claims under AB 3632, in violation of the State Constitution. Proposition 1A (2004) amended the State Constitution to require the State either suspend a mandate or fully fund the mandated services. This unfunded mandate produces social justice consequences by diverting resources necessary to the County's ability to fulfill its obligation to serving target mental health populations.

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The County supports either repeal or full funding of the AB 3632 mandate through legislation or other means necessary to provide relief.

DIVERSION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT FUNDING

California voters approved the Mental Health Services Act to provide a dedicated funding stream for counties to expand and develop innovative and integrated mental health services. The State enacted strict guidelines regarding implementation of the MHSA; however efforts to divert funding from the initial voter intent have gained traction during fiscal crisis. As MHSA relies on a tax on the wealthiest 1% of Californians, these revenues are highly dependent on capital gains and are therefore anticipated to dramatically decline in the out-years of the current recession. As funding erodes for all but the sickest, MHSA services must be maintained as intended and not diverted to backfill core programs.

The County opposes proposals to divert Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds.

FOSTER CARE AND TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH

The Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 allows for federal financial participation in kinship-guardianship assistance payments and transitional foster care services for eligible youth ages 18 to 21 years old. Several bills have been introduced in the State Legislature to implement this Act and other recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Foster Care, but have stalled due to fiscal constraints on the state. Most notable is AB 12 (Beall), a measure to implement the Federal Act in California. Studies show a \$2.40 return on every dollar invested in extended foster care. California cannot afford to pass up this opportunity to tap into federal dollars to fulfill the State's duty to these young people.

The County supports efforts to expand county ability to serve foster youth.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT NEEDS OF INMATES AND PAROLEES

Prison population reduction proposals have included discussions of returning aged and medically unwell offenders to the county level, placing the costs of providing medical, mental health and substance abuse services to these populations squarely on the backs of counties. Funding to serve the mental health and substance abuse needs of inmates and parolees has been systematically dismantled over the past several years. Most recently, the 2009-10 State budget discontinued funding for Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act. Approximately 31% of Humboldt's inmate population typically requires mental health services. Treatment services have consistently been shown to be cost-effective, reduce recidivism and improve rehabilitation outcomes of offenders.

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The County supports efforts to ensure adequate resources to provide services for criminal justice clients with mental health and substance abuse problems.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

The 2009-10 State budget suspended general fund support (\$17.9 million) on a one-time basis for immunization assistance to local agencies, as proposed by the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO). The LAO based this proposal on the understanding that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds would be used to backfill these losses, demonstrating legislative intent to reinstate general fund support for local childhood immunization programs after ARRA funds expire.

The County supports the reauthorization of childhood immunization funding at the State level after temporary federal funding expires.

PROTECTION OF DEDICATED HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING

Rural counties such as Humboldt rely heavily on dedicated funding to provide critically-needed Health and Human Services programs to the County's most vulnerable residents. Counties are legislatively mandated to administer numerous human services programs, while funding has been frozen at 2001 levels. As inflationary increases occur, this puts counties in the untenable position of backfilling the gap with their own limited resources or cutting the services that the state expects counties to deliver. Therefore, further erosion of dedicated funding puts counties in financially unstable and precarious situations. Some of these dedicated funding programs include:

- Proposition 36 Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act (SACPA) Services and Treatment Diversion
- Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
- Proposition 10 California Children and Families Act (First 5)
- Mentally Ill Homeless AB 2034

The County strongly supports legislation and budget language which strengthens the preservation and protections for these funding sources. Furthermore, the County adamantly opposes any legislative or administrative proposal to reduce or borrow from these funds in order to achieve a balanced State budget.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

WILLIAMSON ACT FUNDING RESTORATION AND RESTITUTION

The Williamson Act (California Land Conservation Act) is a state/county partnership to preserve and prevent the loss of farmland. When land is enrolled in a Williamson Act agreement, the landowner is taxed at a rate based on the actual use of the land for agricultural purposes, as opposed to its Proposition 13 or unrestricted market value. The program is estimated to save agricultural landowners from 20 to 99% in property tax liability each year. In return, the landowner commits to restricting the use of his/her land to agricultural and open space for at least ten years. The written agreements are automatically renewed each year. In Humboldt County there are approximately 198,000 acres eligible for subvention funding under Williamson Act Contracts. The County collects approximately \$220,000 in State subventions to reimburse for the reduced taxes collected on Williamson Act restricted lands.

Amendments to the State Budget Act of 2009 reduced the Williamson Act Subvention payments budget to \$1,000 statewide, essentially suspending subvention payments to counties. The Humboldt County Planning Department is currently processing five new applications for entry into the Williamson Act Program. These applications if approved would result in the loss of another \$32,000 to Humboldt County for a potential total loss of approximately \$252,000 in tax revenue.

The County strongly requests that funding be restored to the Williamson Act Subvention payments budget and that restitution be made for the lack of funding during Fiscal Year 2009-10.

FUNDING FOR HIGH-RISK PEST EXCLUSION PROGRAMS

Humboldt County conducts high-risk pest exclusion inspections at distribution points for packages containing plant material. These inspections are extremely important for ensuring that the County and the State are kept free from the introduction of foreign pests on commercial plant shipments, which could seriously impact our environment and agricultural industries. The California Department of Food and Agriculture only reimburses for costs associated with inspections conducted at points of entry that receive Hawaiian origin plant material.

The County supports legislation that would restore full funding for State-mandated High-Risk Pest Exclusion Programs.

FUNDING FOR WEED MANAGEMENT GROUPS

Weed Management Groups (WMG) are local organizations that bring together managers (private, city, county, State and federal) and landowners in a county or geographical area to coordinate efforts and expertise against common invasive and

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noxious weed species. Currently \$1.5 million is allocated in the California Department of Food and Agriculture's budget for funding local WMG projects. Without a secure and stable source of funding, local Weed Management Groups will likely cease to function in an effective manner.

The County supports legislation or budgetary proposals that would continue State general fund support of local Weed Management Groups.

FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM

The Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently share costs to maintain Humboldt County's Wildlife Services Program. In prior years, this program was funded one-third by the USDA, one-third by the California Department of Food & Agriculture, and one-third by the County. However, State funding was eliminated some years ago. The program responds to public needs in handling conflicts with wildlife, to reduce losses to livestock producers by predatory animals, and to protect urban areas and respond to nuisance complaints. Due to the proximity of urban areas to wildlife areas in Humboldt County, it is inevitable that conflicts arise between humans and wild animals. In these cases, it is crucial to have trained Wildlife Service professionals available to respond to complaints and/or concerns.

The County supports legislation or budget language that would provide an adequate State contribution to the cost of the Wildlife Services Program.

PROTECTION OF KLAMATH RIVER FISHERIES

Severe infection by the myxozoan parasite *Ceratomyxa shasta* has been a primary contributor to the declining numbers of juvenile Klamath River salmon and subsequent negative impacts on later adult returns. Research conducted by Oregon State University and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified a stretch of the river in which high parasite densities and large numbers of infected invertebrate hosts for the parasite result in severe disease and high mortality, thus providing a target for management actions.

The County supports legislation to fund the management of the disease in Klamath River salmon. The County also supports State and federal legislation, and associated funding to facilitate removal of dams on the Klamath River and restoration of habitat and water quality.

PROTECTION OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

The County receives approximately two million dollars annually from a variety of State funds. These funds protect and serve 132,000 residents spread over 2.3 million acres or 3,572 square miles. The funds are crucial in providing law enforcement the

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ability to reduce the use and sale of methamphetamine as well as allow for a significant number of positive programs for those that reside in juvenile hall.

Some of the most important programs to Humboldt County are listed below:

- ☑ Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) – For FY 2009-10, this program provides Humboldt County with \$287,454.
- ☑ Juvenile Probation and Camps Funding – The Humboldt County Probation Department currently receives approximately \$218,000 annually.
- ☑ Cal-MMET “War on Methamphetamine” Funding – Humboldt County anticipates receiving approximately \$269,002 in FY 2009-10.

The County strongly supports protecting and preserving these vital public safety funding sources.

CONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR PROPOSITION 36 (SACPA)

Voters approved Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (SACPA) of 2000, which refers drug offenders to treatment rather than incarceration with the hope of stopping the cycle of continuous drug use and re-arrest. The Act required that the State continuously appropriate \$120 million in funding to implement the Act beginning in FY 2001-02 through FY 2005-06. As part of the FY 2006-07, FY 2007-08, and FY 2008-09 State Budgets, the Legislature appropriated “one time” continuation funding to support mandated SACPA activities.

Humboldt County’s Probation Department currently supervises approximately 120 drug-involved adult offenders through its SACPA program. SACPA funding supports two full-time Probation Officers. In FY 2009-10 State funding (\$90 million) for SACPA was eliminated from the State budget; however, one-time federal stimulus monies (\$45 million) from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act were allocated to the Offender Treatment Program (OTP) as a backfill for the loss in State funding. Without stable and continuous funding, the statutory requirements of SACPA would become an unfunded service mandate for county probation departments and health and human services drug-prevention/treatment programs.

The County strongly supports protecting and preserving Proposition 36 or some equal funding source for substance abuse and crime prevention.

FUNDING FOR BEACH PATROL

Humboldt County borders the Pacific Ocean and has 110 miles of coastline. Since FY 2000-01, the Sheriff’s Office has received funding through the State’s Off-Highway Vehicle Commission to fund a Deputy Sheriff’s position to perform beach patrol duties. This Deputy Sheriff’s primary responsibility is to patrol local coastal beaches

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to ensure that members of the public who utilize the beaches for recreational purposes are doing so in a safe and proper manner.

Without sufficient funding to cover the program's actual costs, the Sheriff's Office will not be able to maintain the two positions needed for effective enforcement and management of the beach on a year-round basis. A funding level of \$200,000 would provide the Sheriff's Office with sufficient funding for the two full-time Deputy Sheriffs, which allow the County to provide consistent beach patrol coverage on all local beaches.

The County strongly supports additional Beach Patrol funding due to the County's extensive coastline geography and recreational sports activities associated with the beach and ocean.

ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT FUNDING

The Humboldt County Abandoned Vehicle Authority, consisting of the County and the cities of Arcata, Eureka, Fortuna, Blue Lake, and Rio Dell, spends over \$225,000 annually to dispose of approximately 3,400 abandoned vehicles. The current level of revenue, approximately \$129,000 from vehicle registration, is insufficient to handle the volume of abandoned vehicles and illegal dumping. Abandoned vehicles have become a safety hazard as well as an eyesore – an abandoned trailer resulted in the death of two local teens in December 2004.

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 1225 in 2006 and Assembly Bill 878 in 2007 to authorize local jurisdictions to increase the fee from \$1 to \$2 per vehicle registration. However, the Governor vetoed both bills, stating his belief that fees like these should be approved by the voters. Counties do not currently have the authority to place an item like this on the ballot.

The County strongly supports increased Abandoned Vehicle Abatement funding.

ADULT PROBATION SERVICES FUNDING

California is one of only two states where primary funding for adult probation services comes exclusively from county funds and offender fees. The only State funding that has been made available for adult probation services in California is the portion of Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act funding that local coordinating committees allocate to probation departments to supervise the probationers receiving treatment under the act.

The State FY 2008-09 budget did not include designated funding for adult probation services. However, for FY 2009-10, \$45 million in federal stimulus monies from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been designated to fund Senate Bill 678, the California Community Corrections: Intensive Probation Services Act of 2009.

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SB 678 will provide a funding source to increase the effectiveness of adult probation services in California, particularly with offenders in 18-25 year old range. It is imperative that the State commit to an investment in funding for adult probation, which would in turn cut crime and prison costs.

The County strongly supports SB 678.

LOCAL DETENTION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

Local detention facilities – adult jails and juvenile halls and camps – are the crucial front-end of California's correctional system. They are a vital part of every community's effort to protect itself. Without them, law enforcement, probation and parole lose a deterrent to illegal behavior. In California's local adult system, jail facilities are bursting at the seams. Dangerous crowding is a daily fact of life in many of the state's 460 jails. California does not have enough local detention capacity or adequate program space to meet its current and future public safety demands.

There are a number of small counties that need to replace old, outmoded facilities and others that will continue to face chronic crowding problems in their juvenile and adult facilities.

The County strongly supports Local Detention Construction funding.

MEDI-CAL DRUG TREATMENT SERVICES FOR YOUTH

In California and within Humboldt County, very few resources exist for youth drug treatment, specifically residential or inpatient care. Even the State's Drug Medi-Cal program neglects many of the drug treatment needs of youths. In addition, youths suffering from substance abuse disorders are restricted from access to SACPA-Proposition 36 funds. The increasing trend of both youth substance abuse disorders and juvenile drug arrests is compounded by the lack of drug treatment in the juvenile institutional setting. There is a large youth treatment gap that needs to be addressed.

The County strongly supports legislation that would support Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Services for Youth.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR MINORS TRANSITIONING TO ADULT LIVING

When a minor has been placed out of the home and turns 18, there are few, if any, local resources to help the transition into independent adult living. A cost-effective solution would be the development of programs with a multiple assistance center or co-housing center for young adults that provides a somewhat structured setting or assistance in living for 18-25 year-olds who are former dependents or delinquent youths.

The County strongly supports funding for Minors Transitioning to Adult Living.

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PUBLIC WORKS

WATER BOND

On November 5, 2009, the Governor signed into law SB 2 that authorizes the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Water Supply Act of 2010. The Act is an \$11.14 billion general obligation bond proposal that would provide funding for California's aging water infrastructure and for projects to address ecosystem and water supply issues in California. The bond will go before the voters in the November 2010 statewide election.

Funding is distributed regionally with Humboldt County being located in the North Coast Hydrologic Region. With voter approval, this region will receive \$315 million for Water Supply Reliability and other water management programs and projects. The region would also be eligible for a share of \$3.38 billion in other regional and statewide funding.

The County of Humboldt supports the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Water Supply Act of 2010.

BUCKHORN GRADE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Buckhorn Grade Improvement Project is of critical importance to the economic stability and development of Humboldt County and adjoining counties. Humboldt is one of only two counties in California that is entirely inaccessible to the size of truck that carries most goods in the state. The Buckhorn Grade on State Route 299 between Eureka (U.S. Highway 101) and Redding (Interstate 5) is a 7.2-mile stretch of highway consisting of narrow roads, hairpin curves and steep inclines, making it inaccessible to the majority of long-haul trucks. Although \$8 million in federal funds has been appropriated for the revised project description (for a less-costly on-alignment alternative) and environmental impact report, up to \$150 million is estimated to be needed for construction of the complete project.

The County supports legislation and/or the development of grant criteria that provides funding for further development of the Buckhorn Grade Improvement Project on State Route 299.

STORM WATER WASTE DISCHARGE IN AREAS OF SPECIAL BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The California State Water Resources Control Board revised the Ocean Plan, which included various prohibitions against stormwater waste discharge in Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). The State has not provided any funding to implement this mandate.

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Current regulations essentially require local areas to cease all drainage. State-designated ASBS's in Humboldt County include the Shelter Cove area in southern Humboldt County, Redwood National Park, Trinidad, Westhaven, and the King Range. The topography of these areas makes it economically infeasible and environmentally destructive to relocate drainage from these areas of the County. Legislation and regulations need to be more realistic, streamlining requirements to focus on what is absolutely necessary to protect habitat. Future regulations should be based on best management practices as established by scientific panels.

Humboldt County is seeking an exemption from the stormwater discharge requirement. However, the application costs for the exemption alone are estimated to cost the County approximately \$100,000. Carrying out the provisions of the mandate would cost far more. The County is requesting postponement of the regulations until such time as funding to carry out this mandate is provided by the State.

The County supports legislation or regulations that postpone implementation of the State Water Resources Control Board's Ocean Plan prohibitions that relate to stormwater discharge in Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). In addition, the County supports legislation that provides funding for implementation of these requirements. Furthermore, the County supports legislation that requires future regulations to be based on best management practices as established by scientific panels.

CALIFORNIA AID TO AIRPORTS PROGRAM

The California Aid to Airports Program (CAAP) is a state funded program that provides \$10,000 per year to each of the General Aviation Airports in the State of California. This program was not funded this year due to the State's budget emergency. The State saved \$4,000,000 by not funding CAAP this fiscal year. These funds are used by Humboldt County to provide the 5% match required for Federal Aviation Administration funded projects. The deallocation of this budget by the State resulted in Humboldt County not being able to leverage \$950,000 in federal funds to provide General Aviation improvement projects and provide sorely needed work for the private sector construction industry.

The County supports legislation that would reinstate funding for the California Aid to Airports Program (CAAP).

FUNDING AND REGULATORY RELIEF FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF REDWOOD CREEK LEVEE SYSTEM

The Humboldt County Public Works Department maintains the flood control system at Redwood Creek. The levees were built as federal flood control projects in the 1950's and 1960's by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in response to catastrophic floods.

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However, there were several design flaws that lead to the proliferation of vegetation and gravel. In order to provide an acceptable level of protection to the community of Orick, extensive maintenance is required to remove the overgrown vegetation and the accumulation of gravel. The work needed to reclaim the design capacity of this flood control system would require a variety of permits and/or regulatory relief from State and federal agencies. Rural flood control systems would benefit from streamlined permitting when local agencies need to maintain or repair levees.

The County is seeking legislation to allow Proposition 84 (Flood Control, Natural Resources, and Parks Bond Act) or other State funding to be used for rehabilitation, repairs, and/or maintenance to the Redwood Creek levee system near Orick; and legislation that would allow for streamlined permitting from State agencies for levee system rehabilitation, repairs, and maintenance.

TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Existing law generally provides for allocation of transportation funds pursuant to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process. Existing law provides for 75% of funds available for transportation capital improvement projects to be made available for regional projects, and 25% for interregional projects. Existing 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.

The County strongly supports legislation or grant criterion that explicitly states that local road rehabilitation projects are eligible for STIP funds.