



Humboldt County



2020 State and Federal Legislative Platform



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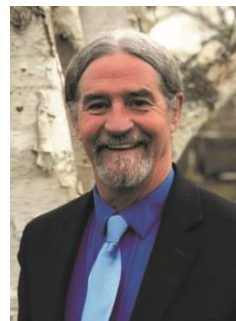
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STATE LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Humboldt County's primary, overarching goals for 2020 include:

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

SUPPORT RELIEF FROM STATE MANDATES AND/OR ELIMINATION OF STATUTORY BARRIERS.

OPPOSE ATTEMPTS TO SHIFT COSTS FROM STATE TO COUNTIES.

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

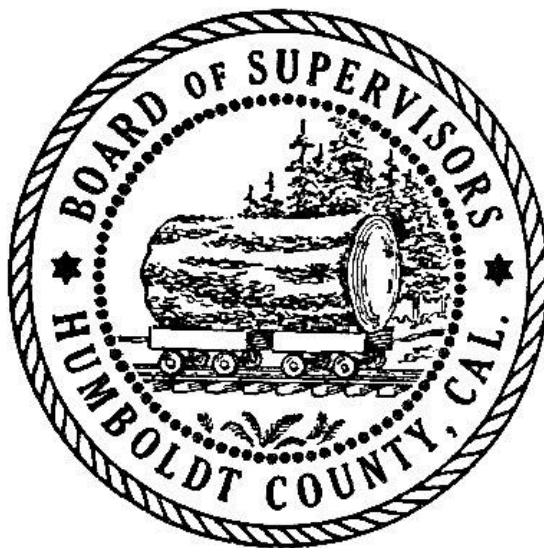
SUPPORT EFFORTS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.

SUPPORT AND ADVANCE LOCAL INTERESTS IN NATURAL RESOURCE DISCUSSIONS.

- Increase efforts and funding for climate protection, renewable energy.
- Restoration of beneficial uses of water on the Eel River.

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

SUPPORT STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.



STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

AGRICULTURE

RETAIN LOCAL CONTROL REGARDING CANNABIS

The proliferation of cannabis dispensaries and cultivation has created a variety of problems in many areas of the state. Local governments must be able to enact prohibitions or regulations in the face of threats posed by cannabis to the public's health, safety and general welfare. In addition, the cultivation of cannabis is often accompanied by land use and operational activities such as clearing of land, grading, road-building, water withdrawals from streams and application of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers.

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

GROWING LIMITS ON CANNABIS CULTIVATION SITES

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

Humboldt County supports legislation that limits the size of cannabis cultivation sites. In addition, Humboldt County supports legislation that allows small farmers to remain competitive in cannabis industry.

REVENUE FROM CANNABIS TAXES

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

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Humboldt as there is more cannabis activity that happens locally than other more populated areas in the state. In addition, much of the revenues from cannabis taxes go toward enforcement and young adult intervention. Humboldt County has found that funding early prevention efforts, particularly for young children and parents, can have a greater effect at producing positive outcomes later in life.

The county supports legislation that uses revenue from cannabis taxes to help rural counties, and/or disburses revenue from cannabis taxes to local governments by formula. The county also supports state funding from cannabis taxes to go toward prevention, particularly for early childhood.

PRESERVING STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM

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

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

USDA/CALIFORNIA COUNTY COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS) PROGRAM

Increased urbanization and suburbanization has led to a reduction and fragmentation of wildlife habitat. At the same time, wildlife populations continue to expand because of reduced hunting, changes in animal protection status, and the loss of various control mechanisms. Conflicts between people and wildlife are common necessitating professional services to mitigate conflict and reduce the potential for human health and safety impacts to residents. Funding for USDA's Wildlife Services program has traditionally been secured through cooperative agreements between federal, state, and county governmental agencies. Additionally, Wildlife Services contracts with California counties have been challenged based on their lack of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Humboldt County supports legislation or administrative rulemaking to allow farmers to take feral hogs without a depredation permit or hunting license when the hogs are damaging crops or agricultural infrastructure and supports wildlife management tools and/or methods that have proven effective. Humboldt County also supports collaborative efforts to fund and complete CEQA documentation for all Wildlife Services in California.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

The California Industrial Hemp Farming Act (Senate Bill 566, Chapter 398, Statutes of 2013) was signed into law to authorize the commercial production of industrial hemp in California. The Act became effective on January 1, 2017, due to a provision in the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Proposition 64, November 2016). The Farm Bill 2018 removes the plant *cannabis sativa L.* from the Controlled Substances Act if it or a plant contains no more than 0.3% THC on a dry-weight basis. This applies to any and all parts of the plant. States must develop regulations that include: THC testing procedures, including inspections done at least annually; bookkeeping procedures to keep track of land approved for hemp cultivation and plans for “effective disposal” of hemp plants with too much THC. County Agricultural Commissioners have limited funding mechanisms and 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.

Humboldt County opposes legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not provide 100% funding and resources for additional regulatory activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners or Sealers. Humboldt County also opposes any legislative initiatives that impair or restrict local land use authority.

CHILD SUPPORT

ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE TOOLS AND INFORMATION

Having the right tools for the job is important for any organization. For Local Child Support Agencies (LCSAs), this means keeping and bolstering SLMS (State Licensing Match System), securing digital court reporting procedures, and expanding interagency data sharing. SLMS' existence is contentious because it suspends licenses of those who fail to pay child support promptly, but directors of LCSAs argue that it is one of the most effective methods to ensure that obligated parents consistently pay child support on time. It is also vital to secure new tools like digital court reporting in order for obligated parents to more easily and affordably pursue the option of appeal. Therefore, the County would support any legislation that led to digitalized recordings being permitted in the court, or digitalized court reporting.

The county supports legislation that will lead to broader interagency data sharing. The county supports legislation that allows LCSA's to have appropriate tools for enforcement. The county supports efforts to digitize court records.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

LOCAL ENERGY AND RELIEF FROM POWER SHUTOFFS

The Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)-imposed Public Safety Power Shutoffs disproportionately affect Humboldt County due to the way the local grid is organized. Humboldt County receives its electricity via large, east-bound transmission lines that connect to power stations in another county. Therefore, when fire conditions are present in other areas, any shut off imposed by PG&E affects large swaths, or even the entirety of Humboldt County.

Humboldt County supports legislation and funding for increased ability to prepare for, and respond to, events related to electricity outages.

PROTECTING FROM SEA-LEVEL RISE

The Humboldt County coastline is a pristine natural resource that also supports the county's economy. In addition, lands around Humboldt Bay support a significant portion of the county's dairy and livestock industry. These lands are at risk from sea level rise due to climate change and regulations that prevent agricultural producers from repairing and enlarging dykes and levees needed to protect their land from sea water.

The county supports state and/or federal legislation that supports local agencies' adaptation measures in response to sea level rise, and opposes legislation that adversely impacts wetlands without an overriding public benefit (e.g., sea level rise protection). The county supports legislation that helps agricultural producers protect agricultural land that is in the coastal zone.

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

Humboldt County is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on extreme weather, sea level rise, water reliability and increased wildfire danger. The county has incorporated these threats into its hazard mitigation plan, Climate Action Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan and other planning processes. The State has taken important steps to address climate change mitigation and adaptation including the enactment of SB 32-Greenhouse Gas emission target for 2030 and AB 398-Cap-and-Trade Extension. It is critically important that the state continue to lead in the areas of both climate mitigation and adaptation.

The county supports legislation and regulatory policy to achieve SB 32 climate goals, including the continuation of the State's cap-and-trade program. The county also supports

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

the exploration of opportunities for regulatory and policy changes and streamlining to advance the activities recommended in the California Forest Carbon Plan and to remove obstacles to increasing the pace and scale of fuel reduction, forest thinning, and the use of prescribed fire.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Humboldt County possesses significant sources of renewable energy, including on- and off-shore wind and biomass. However, there are many obstacles that prevent Humboldt from turning these resources into viable energy products that can be used by consumers and governments alike. The economic and environmental benefits to effectively tapping these resources are immense, and Humboldt County needs assistance at the state and federal levels to make its renewable energy resources available for use.

Humboldt County supports legislation that: encourages research and analysis of renewable energy projects; streamlines and eases environmental review processes on the North Coast; increases investment in critical infrastructure, including the Port of Humboldt Bay and the regional electric grid; allows stakeholder involvement; and supports the development of renewable energy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RURAL BROADBAND AND NET NEUTRALITY

Access to free and fair high-speed internet has become a cornerstone of our lives and economy. Unfortunately, rural areas like Humboldt County still lack adequate access to the quality of broadband service necessary to compete with the rest of the state. In addition, state and federal agencies and governments must protect access to broadband to ensure it is treated as a public resource and not sold off to the highest bidder.

Humboldt County supports legislation that provides resources to improve rural counties access to high-speed broadband. The county also supports legislation that protects access to broadband service.

HEADWATERS FUND INVESTMENTS

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

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

sections 53601 and 53635 limit options for investments and the county has not been able to return more than 2 percent.

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

SUPPORT COMPLETION OF THE RICHARDSON GROVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ALLOWING TRUCKS

Caltrans is proposing to make minor adjustments to the roadway alignment through Richardson Grove along US Highway 101, which is a narrow two-lane road with large old-growth redwood trees close to the roadway. Industry standard-sized trucks conforming to the Surface Transportation Assistance Act are currently prohibited from traveling on US 101 north of Leggett due to the narrow alignment at Richardson Grove. This stretch of road is critical to the commerce of Humboldt and other surrounding counties. In order to strengthen our local economy and public health it is necessary that larger vehicles be allowed to travel this part of the highway.

The county supports legislation and efforts to complete the Richardson Grove Improvement Project. The county also supports efforts that would allow larger trucks into Humboldt County.

VACATION RENTALS AND TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX COLLECTION

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

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PROTECTING AND REDUCING VOTER APPROVAL THRESHOLD FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

Currently, state law requires a two-thirds voter approved threshold for local initiatives for projects such as public library construction and transportation. This current two-thirds

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

requirement is unfair in a political system based on the concept of majority rule. Changing the vote threshold to 55 percent would enable local governmental jurisdictions to more effectively address local issues.

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

SEPARATING TRIAL COURT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS FROM COUNTY PERS

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

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

MITIGATION OF IMPACTS FROM TRIBAL GAMING COMPACTS

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

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

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

ENSURE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SHARE OF SALES TAX FROM SERVICES AND INTERNET SALES

The United States economy is changing to a more service-based economy with a higher portion of overall sales coming online. As the economy changes, it is vital that state and federal laws and regulations change with it to allow local governments to receive their fair share of tax revenue. The county still provides many services to those involved in online sales and service-transactions, including public safety, road maintenance, social services and a host of others. While there have been discussions at the state level regarding implementing recent Supreme Court decisions on online sales (*Wayfair*) and imposing sales tax on services, there must also be discussions about allocating any associated revenues with counties.

The county supports efforts to ensure counties continue to receive at least the same proportion of sales tax revenue for online sales and sales tax applied to services as it does currently for sales taxes on tangible goods.

EXEMPTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

Assembly Bill 5 (Gonzalez), passed in 2019 codifies the decision in the Dynamex case and clarifies its applications to consider a person providing labor or services for remuneration is considered an employee rather than an independent contractor. There are several exemptions included in this bill, including licensed insurance agents, a limited exemption for commercial fishermen, and full exemption for others. Registered professional foresters (RPFs) and licensed timber operators (LTOs) should also be exempt from requirements of this law as they do infrequent work for varying periods of time, most frequently for family forest ownerships. RPFs and LTOs work for many clients at a time and it would be overly burdensome for them to have to become employees of hundreds of families, and would lead to poorer forest and land management.

The county supports legislation that allows commercial fishermen, registered professional foresters and licensed timber operators, and other professions that are essential for rural counties, to be considered independent contractors.

GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH LABOR GROUPS

Humboldt County is dedicated to maintaining positive labor-management relations between the County, its employees and employee organizations and resolving disputes regarding terms and conditions of employment between the county and employee organizations. This includes negotiating labor agreement with employee organizations; fostering compliance with labor contract terms and conditions of employment; providing

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

advice to county management on labor relation issues; and assisting county departments with responding to grievances and arbitration hearings.

The county supports legislation that strengthens good faith negotiations with employee organizations.

HOUSING

State law requires counties to identify sites in unincorporated areas for placement of low and very low-income housing. Rural areas are often characterized by inadequate roads and areas where utilities providing water, sewer and power are not available. Even where these utilities are available in counties, these locations are often significant distances from employment centers and areas where services needed for these income groups can be provided. Rural areas are also characterized by a lack of adequate public transportation making it difficult for people to commute to and from work without using a vehicle. This is inconsistent with the overall state objective to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by minimizing total miles traveled associated with new development. Rural counties should be given the flexibility to be able to partner with urban areas to meet Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) objectives. It is difficult for developers to obtain necessary financing for affordable housing under these circumstances, placing rural counties at a disadvantage when it comes to meeting RHNA objectives. This becomes increasingly problematic when there is increasing discussion tying funding availability to achieving RHNA allocations.

Humboldt County supports efforts that would increase affordable housing, particularly in areas including partnering with cities and identifying housing that is near employment, services and public transit. The county also supports regulatory exemptions for truly rural areas as a location for very low- and low-income housing. Humboldt County opposes the idea that RHNA goals should require provision of housing at a growth rate which exceeds the population growth rate, which is the case in Humboldt County.

Humboldt County supports legislation that gives rural counties flexibility in meeting RHNA allocations. In addition, the county supports legislation that provides rural counties with assistance for affordable housing, including new tools to incentivize developers to construct housing in the more rural areas. Humboldt County has only a handful of affordable housing developers willing to work in this area, even with the County providing incentives to developers. RHNA compliance is difficult on the production of homes when there are so few developers interested in developing housing in Humboldt County.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

California voters approved the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) to provide a dedicated funding stream for counties to expand and develop innovative and integrated mental health services. Humboldt County has a robust local stakeholder process to determine the most effective use of these local funds. Counties welcome efforts to increase transparency of how MHSA funds are spent that align with, or enhance, existing reporting structures. Proposals to bypass local direction of funds and impose statewide mandates for their use have recently gained traction. As funding erodes for all but the sickest, MHSA services must be maintained as intended and not diverted to backfill core programs.

The county supports local direction of Mental Health Services Act funds and opposes proposals to divert funds to other uses.

SUPPORT FOR HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE TAXATION OF SWEETENED BEVERAGES

Sugar-sweetened beverages have been significantly associated with increased risk of obesity, diabetes, dental disease and heart disease. The 2018/19 state budget imposed a moratorium on locally-imposed grocery taxes, including sugar sweetened beverages. Legislation to impose a statewide tax or fee on sweetened beverages will aid in reducing the consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks and generate revenue for health programs. Local health departments are in a prime position to administer programs that reduce childhood obesity, improve oral health and promote community health and should be the recipients of a significant portion of funds generated by a sweetened beverage tax.

The county supports legislation and efforts such as the California Wellness Trust to create health promotion programs, funded by the taxation of sweetened beverages.

SUPPORT FOR TOBACCO AND VAPING RESTRICTIONS

Each year, more than 35,000 Californians die due to tobacco-related illnesses. While tobacco use rates are declining, the use of electronic smoking devices, particularly among youth, has been on the rise. The safety of electronic smoking, or vaping, devices has not yet been demonstrated. Flavored tobacco and vaping products are especially appealing to youth. Efforts to ban flavored tobacco and regulate vaping products can assist in reducing the public health and economic impact of tobacco use. Local health department tobacco control capacity and infrastructure should be maintained and enhanced.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The county supports legislation to reduce and prevent tobacco use and regulate electronic smoking devices.

HELPING FAMILIES MOVE OUT OF POVERTY

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

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

SUPPORT FOR CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

Counties have been implementing California's landmark Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) since 2015 to ensure children and youth in foster care have their physical, mental and emotional needs met. In 2018, Congress passed the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). FFPSA includes new requirements for foster care placement settings, some of which conflict with California's reforms already underway. Reconciling the differences between CCR and FFPSA is necessary to provide counties with clear direction so that families and the community may benefit from these systemic changes in the foster care system.

The county supports legislative efforts and full funding to continue Continuum of Care Reforms initiated by the state while reconciling differences with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

NATURAL RESOURCES

CALIFORNIA WATER RESILIENCE PORTFOLIO INITIATIVE

Executive Order N-10-19 (signed April 29, 2019) directed state agencies to form a Water Resilience Portfolio containing a suite of actions to ensure safe and dependable water supplies, flood protection and healthy waterways for the state's communities, economy and environment. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale and should be adopted at the state level. Nearly 50 IRWM regional entities have been established across the state, including the North Coast Resource Partnership, of which Humboldt County has been an active member since 2004.

The county supports efforts by the state to adopt IRWM as the principal framework for implementing the Water Resilience Portfolio. The county supports funding for regional,

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

multi-benefit planning and projects. The county supports working with the IRWWM and other stakeholders to address needs.

PUBLIC SAFETY

SUPPORTING A RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS

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

Law enforcement is provided by California Highway Patrol, with assistance as needed from local agencies on state highways within Humboldt County. Similarly, the county supports legislation that requires State agencies to provide fire and emergency response services along State highways. Alternatively, the county supports legislation that would compensate local agencies for responding outside of their jurisdiction to provide services along state highways.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

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

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

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

SURVEYOR MONUMENT PRESERVATION

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

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

HUMBOLDT BAY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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

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

LOCAL REHABILITATION PROJECT ELIGIBILITY FOR STIP FUNDING

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

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

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

REDWOOD CREEK LEVEE REHABILITATION AND ESTUARY RESTORATION

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

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

ACCOUNT FOR RURAL CONSIDERATIONS IN FOOD WASTE COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

COMPLETE STREETS

The rate of bicyclist and pedestrian deaths is unacceptably high, both in Humboldt County and across the nation. The safety of non-vehicular road users is a particular challenge in rural areas, where many roads lack even the most basic facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, and many state and federal highways serve as primary local thoroughfares and main streets.

The county supports legislation which provides additional funding for active transportation and transit facilities, and legislation which prioritizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities as part of road maintenance, repair and improvement projects funded by state and federal dollars. The county also supports updates to applicable state and federal guidelines, rules and regulations to provide more emphasis on non-vehicular facilities.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

AGRICULTURE

INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT FUNDING

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. Humboldt County supports 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. 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.

Humboldt County supports 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.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

California's 4th Climate Assessment warns that the costs of climate change could climb beyond \$113 billion annually if action is not promptly taken. Unfortunately, while the county has identified numerous climate-induced challenges, the investment necessary to fund required resiliency efforts is far beyond available financial resources. Funding is needed to support efforts to reduce emissions, increase the pace and scale of forest health and wildfire resiliency activities, and support other action to increase climate adaptation. In response to the urgent need for action the state has enacted legislation, regulations, and executive orders that put the state on a course to achieve robust climate change adaptation measures. These efforts, as well as new legislation and regulatory refinements still under development, aim to improve forest health and fire resiliency, ensure water quality and security, increase carbon sequestration, and facilitate greenhouse gas reductions.

Humboldt supports investing funds from cap-and-trade and existing water bonds and other funding sources to support programs that improve climate resiliency. The county supports state investment in the collaborative process, via regional block grants or other funding, required to implement effective on-the-ground efforts of local governments and other organizations across the state.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING FOR BROADBAND SERVICE TO RURAL AREAS

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

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

RESTORATION OF PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

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

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

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

SEPARATING SUPERIOR COURT EXPENSES FROM COUNTIES

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

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

FUNDING FOR NEWLY FORMED CITIES

AB 818 provides a city that incorporated after January 1, 2012, with property tax in lieu of vehicle license fees (VLF). AB 818 provides the same financing mechanism for future city incorporations that was approved by the Legislature in SB 130 (2017) for previously incorporated cities. For the past eight years, despite the state's population increasing by 2 million residents, no new cities have formed in California. A primary factor for this is the passage of SB 89 in 2011, which removed a financing mechanism that communities previously relied on to assist incorporation. To restore options for future city incorporation and the enhanced civic engagement and benefits to local services and quality of life that it can offer to residents, AB 818 applies the same financial fix for future incorporations that was provided in 2017 to four recently incorporated cities harmed by SB 89. AB 818 proposes that the Legislature provide the same financing solution that was provided in SB 130 for future city incorporations

The county supports allowing newly formed cities to receive a share of vehicle license fees.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUPPORT FOR INVESTMENT IN HOUSING

Safe and stable housing is a foremost concern for low-income individuals and families and without it, a primary barrier to health and self-sufficiency. The state has made significant investments in housing over the past several years. However, new resources continue to be needed to expand housing case management, provide income supports such as subsidized rent, to rehabilitate existing buildings, and to generate additional housing units. Funding is needed for housing case management services across all populations for which counties have responsibility, including child welfare services, adult protective services, CalWORKs, transition age youth, foster youth and persons with serious mental illness.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

The county supports increased state investment in low-income, permanent supportive, and subsidized housing and supportive services.

SUPPORT FOR INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION

Local public health departments are mandated to provide a broad array of services to protect and improve the health and safety of communities. On the front lines of improving health equity and mitigating the impacts of climate change, public health works to improve the built environment, access to healthy food and clean water, and active transportation options. Investment in local public health prevention programs such as substance use disorder prevention, cannabis and tobacco prevention programs, oral health promotion, sexually transmitted disease prevention, testing and monitoring, and lead prevention and clean-up protect the health of the county and its residents now and into the future.

The county supports increased public health prevention funding and legislation that protects community health.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

When compared to other California counties, Humboldt County struggles with the highest number of adults with four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) in their childhood history. ACES are strongly associated with long term negative health and life outcomes such as substance use disorder, mental illness, cancer, incarceration and unemployment. While the state has made unprecedented steps to identify ACES with expanded access to screenings, resources are needed to address the long-term, generational impacts of these experiences.

The county supports increased funding to prevent and address the impacts of ACES, including home-visiting programs, behavioral health services and trauma informed practices.

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Rising child care costs increases poverty and is a barrier to working family success. The California Assembly convened a Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education that issued policy recommendations in 2019. State investment is needed to increase the number of subsidized child care slots and the availability of high-quality, affordable childcare and early learning programs, increase childcare workers' pay and professional development opportunities, lower barriers to starting and maintaining a care child business and expand early childhood education opportunities.

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

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

FUNDING TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT & PREVENTION

Across California, communities are struggling to address the impacts of substance use disorder, particularly alcohol, methamphetamine and opioids. Continued legislative attention is needed to ensure access to Medi-Cal mental health and substance abuse treatment benefits is preserved, expand treatment options, fund a continuum of care for parents, adolescents, transition age youth and foster youth, provide resources to navigate pathways to treatment, and expand funding for local public health addiction prevention programs.

The county supports state investment in substance use disorder treatment and supportive services.

FUNDING TO PROTECT OLDER AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

As the number of older adults increases across California and the nation, renewed focus has been brought to their needs. The Governor has recently begun a state Master Plan on Aging process and Healthy Brain initiative. Counties are on the front lines of protecting vulnerable and older adults, although both the Adult Protective Services and Public Guardian programs have been historically underfunded and are struggling to meet the needs of the fastest increasing segment of the homeless population – older adults. The county Public Guardian office is under-resourced to care for an increasing number of clients requiring conservatorship. Efforts to change or expand conservatorships must be accompanied by corresponding funding to support new client placement options and the county Public Guardian office.

The county supports state investment in county Public Guardian and Adult Protective Services.

SUPPORT FOR RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS

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

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

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

NATURAL RESOURCES

LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR NATURAL RESOURCE AFFAIRS

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

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

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

WILLIAMSON ACT FUNDING RESTITUTION, RESTORATION THROUGH CAP AND TRADE

The Land Conservation Act is one of the most effective tools in preventing the loss of farmland and open space, while also helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Act provides tax breaks to landowners who contract with a county to keep their land in agriculture or open space for a period of 10 years. To encourage county participation in the program, the State historically reimbursed counties a portion of the property tax revenue losses resulting from the lower assessments. The state discontinued the reimbursement in FY 2010-2011.

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

INCENTIVES FOR WATER STORAGE

Home and business water storage systems have become critically important as California, especially heavily forested land, is experiencing more natural disasters such as wildfire and drought. It is important to incentivize more construction of these systems on existing construction so that property owners may be better equipped to survive these events. Any such incentives and evaluation must take in to account the effect that additional water

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

storage may have on the environment, including water availability, vector impact, public health and invasive species.

The county supports legislation that incentivizes responsible water storage systems for existing construction.

PLANNING AND BUILDING

GRANT FUNDING FOR INFILL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

FUNDING FOR ASSISTANCE ON LOCAL COASTAL PLANS

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

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

FUNDING FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS

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

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

The county supports legislation that would accelerate the development of renewable energy resources including price supports, grant funding and utility policy that facilitates export of renewable energy generated from the county. The county also supports incentives and policies to promote residential and commercial energy conservation, including Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.

FUNDING FOR DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL BUILDING CODES

The State of California has building code requirements beyond federal regulations, especially as it relates to the Americans with Disabilities Act and local jails. These requirements add significant time and expense to public projects and inhibit the county's ability to provide important services to the community.

Humboldt County supports funding and legislation to mediate the discrepancies between state and federal building requirements.

PUBLIC SAFETY

STABLE FUNDING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

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

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

FUNDING FOR INCREASED ENFORCEMENT OF ILLEGAL WATER DIVERSIONS

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

The county supports legislation that would provide increased funding to support local enforcement regarding water-related issues.

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ASSISTANCE

The planning and coordination of response, recovery, and mitigation activities related to emergencies and disasters is vital for our community. This includes developing emergency

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

operations plans, conducting trainings, and communicating with the community. Funding is required to provide financial assistance to local governments and private property owners to efficiently prepare for disasters and repair homes, businesses, infrastructure and the natural environment.

The county supports additional funding for emergency planning, preparations, operations and recovery, including addressing the safety of residents and seniors and those with disabilities.

COMMUNITY LEVEL WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

According to the 2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California, “loss of life and structures as a direct or proximate result of wildland fires is at an all-time high,” and “recent trends have shown an increase in the number of ignitions, area burned, and impacts to ecosystems.” The Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan determines that there are periods of high wildfire risk for every Humboldt County community, including coastal areas, when conditions are just right for a single fire ignition to have potentially devastating consequences. Weather and fire patterns, together with Humboldt County’s rugged topography and dense fuel loads, combine to create a generally high wildfire risk during dry parts of the year.

The county supports legislation, including and similar to AB 38, the Home Hardening bill. The county encourages the state to invest in efforts to prepare homes and infrastructure to withstand damage from wildfire, meet defensible space standards, design communities to mitigate the impacts of wildfire, prepare communities for successful evacuation, reduce wildfire ignitions, establish roadside shaded fuel breaks, and educate citizens about how to prepare their families, home, and communities for wildfire.

COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

Humboldt county residents and businesses depend heavily on local fire and rescue services. These service providers are also depended on to support CAL FIRE’s efforts to keep fire ignitions from growing into large wildfires and, as described above, to respond outside of their jurisdictions to vehicle collisions on State highways. More resources and volunteers are needed to ensure the continuation of these services. When firefighter numbers fall, services suffer. This issue is not unique to Humboldt County; the sustainable delivery of local fire and rescue services is a challenge in many other areas of the state and nation. Investing now to ensure future emergency services must to be a priority.

The county supports legislation designed to support the survival and sustainability of local fire service organizations and agencies as well as the retention of volunteer firefighters. Legislation could take the form of volunteer incentives such as, but not limited to, tax and

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

insurance credits, discounts on state fees, tuition breaks, student loan forgiveness programs, length-of-service awards, training and retiree stipends, jury duty waivers, and more. The county opposes legislation that threatens the survival and sustainability of local fire service agencies and organizations or the retention of volunteer firefighters such as reductions in state reimbursements for fighting wildland fires.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR COURT SECURITY

Humboldt County is mandated by the state to provide security for the county courthouse, including security services for courtrooms. The county receives an annual allocation from the state to provide these services, however, the allocation does not take in to account local court decisions to provide additional services such as additional courtrooms or extended hours. Humboldt County frequently needs to allow deputies to work overtime and incur additional costs beyond the annual allocation in order to meet its state mandate.

Humboldt County supports additional funding to counties for courthouse and trial court security.

PUBLIC WORKS

FUNDING FOR PREVENTATIVE ROAD MAINTENANCE

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

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

STATE ASSISTANCE WITH RECRUITMENT OF AIR SERVICE

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

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

STATE FUNDING PROPOSALS

INCREASE CALIFORNIA AID TO AIRPORTS PROGRAM (CAAP) FUNDING

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

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

ACCESS TO SELF-HELP FUNDING

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

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

HUMBOLDT BAY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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

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

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Humboldt County's primary, overarching federal legislative goals for 2020 include:

OPPOSE REDUCTIONS OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR COUNTY PROGRAMS.

SUPPORT AND ADVANCE LOCAL INTERESTS IN NATURAL RESOURCE DISCUSSIONS.

SUPPORT FOR PROTECTION FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE.

SUPPORT INCREASING THE FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP IN COUNTY PROGRAMS.

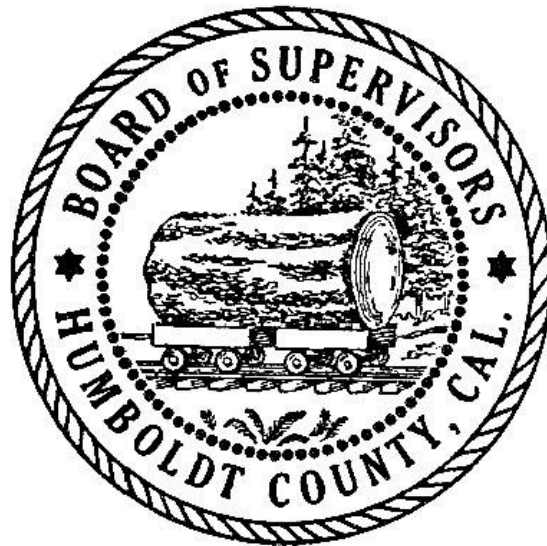
- Allowing cannabis regulations and decriminalizing cannabis at the federal level.
- Support funding for public infrastructure programs such as transportation and water infrastructure.

SUPPORT RELIEF FROM FEDERAL MANDATES AND STATUTORY BARRIERS.

- Support broadening of allowable uses of Secure Rural Schools Act (Title III) funding.

SUPPORT FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS.

- Support for enhancing broadband service to rural north coast of California.
- Preserve local control in technology considerations.



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

AGRICULTURE

ALLOWING CANNABIS REGULATIONS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

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

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

Finally, the county supports the continuation of the Rohrabacher-Blumenauer amendment (formerly known as Rohrabacher-Farr), which prohibits the Department of Justice from using federal resources to prosecute individuals or businesses that are acting in compliance with state medical marijuana laws. The county also supports efforts to expand these protections to state-legal recreational laws. In addition, the county supports federal legislation that would ensure greater access to banking for cannabis-related businesses and allow proper medical research on the effects of cannabis use.

DEPREDAATION OF ALEUTIAN GEESE AFFECTING AGRICULTURE LANDS

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

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

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

CHILD SUPPORT

SUPPORT FLEXIBILITY IN PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Local child support agencies (LCSAs) frequently assist obligated parents who have lost jobs, but these agencies are limited in terms of the services they provide due to outdated regulations. For example, due to current restrictions on Title IV-D cases, LCSAs cannot expend funds to support parents to get back to work, despite these agencies being named in the *Workforce Investment Opportunity Act* (WIOA) legislation. Allowing LCSAs to provide these tools can help non-custodial parents (NCPs) to keep paying child support. In addition, workforce development support in LCSAs is a tenet of the “no wrong door” approach to public service. Recipients of state or federal services must often go to many different offices to apply for different services, none of which communicate client information. Streamlining approaches to public service would increase the effectiveness of public programs, and serve children and families better.

Humboldt County supports legislation that would allow more flexibility to local child support agencies to serve clients. Changes in federal law could include, but are not limited to, requiring WIOA to prioritize child support program referrals of NCPs to meet their employment and training needs and providing a federal financial match of child support incentive funds used for WIOA employment and training purposes. The county supports efforts to increase coordination across agencies to provide services including, but not limited to, workforce development or indirectly related services such as signing participants up for CalFresh or MediCal benefits.

COURT AND PROGRAM EFFICIENCIES THROUGH MAXIMIZING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Child Support partners with the local courts in order to obtain child support orders. This partnering is often held back by the lack of technological interfaces between the two. Currently not all local courts have technology that enables electronic filing. Additionally, access to justice issues are created when there is no court reporter at hearings and hearing outcomes are not on record.

Humboldt County supports a more effective child support program through the use of technological advancements that can streamline processes and create a more just outcome for families. This includes but is not limited to digital court reporting, video appearances by commissioners, and effective interfaces between county and court such as e-filing.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

Humboldt County is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on extreme weather, sea level rise, water reliability and increased wildfire danger. The county has incorporated these threats into its hazard mitigation plan, Climate Action Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan and other planning processes. The State has taken important steps to address climate change mitigation and adaptation including the enactment of SB 32- Greenhouse Gas emission target for 2030 and AB 398-Cap-and-Trade Extension. It is critically important that the State continue to lead in the areas of both climate mitigation and adaptation.

The county supports legislation and policy to achieve SB 32 climate goals, including the continuation of the state's cap-and-trade program. The county also supports exploring opportunities for regulatory and policy changes and streamlining to advance the activities recommended in the California Forest Carbon Plan and to remove obstacles to increasing the pace and scale of fuel reduction, forest thinning, and the use of prescribed fire.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REFORMS

The *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) is an important piece of legislation that helps ensure all Americans, regardless of ability, can access public and private services and facilities. However, there is a significant lack of funding for counties to comply with this expansive law. In addition, public agencies and businesses are frequently served with ADA lawsuits despite honest attempts to comply with the law, which eliminates the opportunity to an out-of-court settlement.

The county supports common-sense reforms to the ADA and additional funding that would help local agencies and businesses work toward compliance of the Act.

BOOST BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY WHILE PRESERVING LOCAL ZONING AUTHORITY

The county supports the deployment and availability of emerging technologies, such as small cell 5G, to rural areas of the nation to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities for all. By preserving the long-standing, existing local zoning authorities of counties and other local governments in the deployment process, Humboldt County can ensure that the public interest is being served by communications providers regardless of the delivery platform. County officials can also fulfill their responsibilities as trustees of public property and as protectors of public safety and welfare during this deployment process.

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Humboldt County supports efforts to recognize counties as co-regulators, providers and partners in extending the benefits of advanced telecommunications and broadband technology — including improvements to county emergency preparedness and response systems — to all Americans. The county supports local decision-making and accountability, and opposes actions that would preempt or limit the zoning and siting authority of local governments.

The county supports legislative efforts that would nullify the Federal Communication Commission's recent wireless infrastructure rule (*83 Fed Reg. 51867*). Among other things, the Commission's rule preempts local government authority to regulate 5G deployments by restricting the timeframes for the review of small-cell applications and places limitations on the level of compensation that localities can receive from siting the technology.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SUPPORT PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAMS

In 2008, the State of California passed legislation (Assembly Bill 811) to give localities the authority to create Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, providing businesses and homeowners the ability to finance energy-efficiency and clean-energy upgrades to their property. In 2014, the State of California implemented a PACE Loss Reserve Fund, which is a state-backed fund that ensures PACE assessments are paid off in the event of a mortgage default, which is intended to reduce the financial risk to Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or any other mortgage lender. However, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) continues to have concerns with California's first-lien PACE program, claiming that it fails to offer full loss protection. The agency has also questioned the reserve fund's ability to be sustainable over time. As such, FHFA will continue to prohibit housing lenders from purchasing or refinancing mortgages with a PACE lien.

Additionally, Governor Brown in 2017 signed two bills (Assembly Bill 1284 and Senate Bill 242) into law to strengthen consumer protections, significantly enhance underwriting standards, and establish a new regulatory framework for PACE financing in California. Pursuant to the new laws, a borrower's income and ability to repay a PACE assessment will now be factored into underwriting. In addition, PACE administrators will be required to call borrowers and explain the terms of the loan prior to the closing, among other things. The new law also establishes a minimum training requirement for PACE contractors.

On March 4, 2019, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to solicit information relating to residential PACE financing. The Bureau is expecting to use this information to help implement section 307 of the *Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act* (EGRRCPA; PL

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115-174), which seeks to subject residential PACE assessments to the same rules and regulations as banks and mortgage lenders. As the Bureau continues to examine this issue, there is some concern that a forthcoming proposed rule could disrupt the unique structure of the PACE program and make it more difficult for homeowners to obtain affordable financing for energy efficiency upgrades.

While Humboldt County supports strong national consumer protection standards for the program, the CFPB should not subject PACE to the rigorous requirements of the *Truth in Lending Act*. Instead, the aforementioned California laws should act as a template to establish federal standards.

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY TO LEVY INTERNET SALES TAX

On June 21, 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the state of South Dakota in a landmark case involving the collection of sales taxes from online vendors. While a previous Supreme Court decision (*Quill Corp. v North Dakota*) held that online retailers were *not* required to collect sales taxes in states where they lack a physical presence, the 2018 decision overturned *Quill*.

In the wake of the Wayfair decision, a number of states – including California – have updated their laws for out-of-state Internet retailers. This has resulted in a patchwork of state laws that could make sales tax compliance more challenging for out-of-state businesses. As more and more states adopt economic nexus policies, Congress could look to consider legislation – like the *Marketplace Fairness Act* – that would create a national framework for online sales tax collection and remittance.

On the other hand, congressional opponents of the Wayfair decision have introduced legislation that would overturn the ruling. Humboldt County is opposed to any legislative or regulatory action that seeks to delay, limit, or even prohibit the collection/remittance of online sales taxes.

FEDERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL PENSIONS

The county opposes legislative proposals that challenge the validity of current state and local government accounting rules and practices and would mandate inappropriate federal reporting requirements on state and local governments regarding their pension costs. Such

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proposals would set a precedent for federal intervention into areas that are the financial responsibility of, and have thus been historically regulated by, states and/or localities. Furthermore, these types of proposals reflect a lack of understanding regarding the strong accounting rules and strict legal constraints already in place that require open and transparent governmental financial reporting and processes.

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

LIMIT CORPORATE AND UNION CONTRIBUTIONS IN ELECTIONS

The United States Supreme Court ruled that corporations and unions have the same political speech rights as individuals under the First Amendment. The court found no compelling government interest for prohibiting corporations and unions from using their funds to make election-related expenditures. Thus, it struck down a federal law banning this practice and also overruled two of its prior decisions. In 2016, California voters approved a proposition to have its elected officials do everything in their power to overturn the ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, which allows corporations to use their funds to make election-related expenditures.

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

STOP WRONGFUL POSTAL CLOSURES

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

Facility closures have been associated with delays in mail delivery, missed overnight mail deadlines, and reduced frequency of deliveries. These closures are particularly taxing on seniors, veterans, and rural communities who depend on timely deliveries for prescriptions and other services.

The county supports legislation that:

- Puts a moratorium on current closures and consolidations;
- Establishes a framework that any future closures must be approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC);
- Creates a list of criteria and data that USPS must analyze including impact on small businesses, vote by mail voters, and unique geographic situations;
- Requires a robust public notification and comment period so stakeholders' views are a part of the PRC's review;

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- Reinstates the July 1, 2012 mail delivery standards of the 1-3 day delivery, which was eliminated at the start of 2015 by USPS; and,
- Empowers the PRC to set annual performance benchmarks.

IMMIGRATION REFORM, AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

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

The county supports legislative and budgetary efforts to enhance legal protections for undocumented immigrants, increase funding for legal services and deportation defense, and address the growing number of unaccompanied children crossing the border, including increasing funds for immigration-related legal services, shelter and care. In addition, the county supports efforts at the federal level to provide comprehensive immigration reform, as well as establishing a clear path to citizenship, protecting the well-being of undocumented workers, supporting deferred action programs and related efforts to make immigration relief available. Finally, the county supports efforts to protect the health and welfare of children and children whose parents are detained or deported by Immigration and Customs enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol.

PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDS

The State of California passed in 2017 its Sanctuary State bill (SB 54), which legalizes and standardizes statewide non-cooperation policies between state and local law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities. As a result, the Department of Justice has threatened to withhold federal funding from agencies that abide by this or similar laws. It is Humboldt County's position that local law enforcement agencies should not be enforcing federal immigration laws and should not be held hostage by the federal government if it declines to do so.

Accordingly, Humboldt County opposes legislation and administrative rules that would require local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. Further, the county supports legislation that protects current and future federal funding from such requirements.

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PROTECT ACCESS TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

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

The county supports federal investment in SNAP and opposes efforts to reduce funding or access to food and nutrition.

PROTECT FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN MEDICAID

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

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

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES REAUTHORIZATION

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

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

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NATURAL RESOURCES

POTTER VALLEY PROJECT

The Potter Valley Project (PVP), currently owned by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), was constructed on the main stem of the Eel River upstream of Humboldt County in the early 20th century to generate hydroelectric power. Operation of the PVP serves as an inter-basin transfer of water from the Eel River basin to the Russian River basin, and the benefits of water diversions to the Russian River have come at the expense of substantial downstream impacts to the Eel River and its fisheries. In 2017, Congressman Jared Huffman convened the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee to work toward a Two-Basin Solution that protects fisheries and water supply in both the Eel and Russian River basins. In January 2019, PG&E announced that it would discontinue efforts toward relicensing the PVP. In June 2019, Humboldt County joined California Trout, Sonoma County Water Agency, and Mendocino Inland Water and Power Commission in the submission of a Notice of Intent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as a proxy for a future regional entity to file a new license application for the PVP. A feasibility study to evaluate the necessary facility modifications, financial plan, and governance structure will be completed in April 2020.

Humboldt County supports a collaborative approach to solving the regional issues and concerns associated with the PVP. Humboldt County supports legislation to create a new regional entity that is structured to fairly represent the interests of the affected counties and tribes.

PUBLIC WORKS

KLAMATH BASIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Humboldt County has a vested interest in the Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project due to the 1955 *Trinity River Division Act* (Public Law 84-386) and a water delivery contract executed on June 19, 1959, between Humboldt County and the U.S Bureau of Reclamation. Proviso 2 of Public Law 84-386 created a statutory entitlement for annual water releases of not less than 50,000 acre-feet from Trinity Reservoir for the beneficial use of Humboldt County and other downstream users. The 1955 statutory entitlement was implemented through the 1959 water contract between Humboldt County and the Bureau of Reclamation; however, the Bureau has yet to meet its obligations for delivering the county's contract water.

In March 2003, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors formally requested that the U.S. Department of the Interior make available for release "not less than 50,000 acre feet" of water pursuant to the county's contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. After numerous subsequent requests, and critical advocacy from the Hoopa Valley Tribe and Yurok Tribe,

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the Interior Solicitor issued a long-awaited legal opinion in December 2014 affirming Humboldt County's right to the water in the 1959 contract. Since that time, Humboldt County has and will continue to work with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the release of the water.

The Trinity River provides drinking water supply, habitat for fisheries, recreation opportunities, and an abundance of ecosystem services for Humboldt County residents. Humboldt County recognizes the importance of the Trinity River and its fisheries to the Hoopa Valley Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria, and other affected tribes for ceremonial, medicinal, practical, economic, and subsistence uses. Humboldt County is committed to environmental stewardship and the goal of achieving and maintaining healthy rivers. Humboldt County intends to full exercise its contract right for water releases to benefit the residents of Humboldt County.

Humboldt County calls for a firm commitment from the Bureau of Reclamation to develop any remaining protocols, reviews, agreements, and/or operational plans and to complete any regulatory actions necessary for the Bureau to meet its obligations for delivering Humboldt County's Trinity River contract water. Further, all modeling assumptions, operational plans, and other planning documents for the Central Valley Project should account for Humboldt County's contract water being utilized in the Trinity River. Humboldt County opposes any additional water diversions from the Trinity River Division associated with operational changes to the Central Valley Project or State Water Project.

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS FOR PILOT CANDIDATES TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

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

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

The county supports legislation or regulatory action that would address the current and looming commercial pilot shortage. In particular, the county supports efforts to reduce the

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total number of hours pilots need to receive their ATP certificate, as well as alternate pathways for pilots to reach the 1,500 hour threshold.

LONG-TERM FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION BILL

The county supports efforts to enact a long-term reauthorization of the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act*. A new surface transportation bill should provide increased funding for highway and transit programs and should prioritize resources to jurisdictions to allow for the proper maintenance of local transportation systems, including funds for reducing fatalities on rural roads.

The county also supports maintaining a dedicated federal funding stream for local bridges. This funding is used for critical bridge repairs and replacements to ensure the safety of the traveling public. Additionally, the county supports efforts designed to further streamline the regulatory and project delivery processes as long as proposed actions would not result in degradation to the physical environment.



FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

AGRICULTURE

INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT FUNDING

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.

Humboldt County supports 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.

FARM BILL FUNDING FOR PLANT PEST AND DISEASE PROGRAMS

Additional resources are needed for biological-based programs that safeguard America's natural environment and food and fiber systems from the potential destruction caused by invasive pests and diseases. Now more than ever, due to increased international trade and travel early pest detection is important to prevent significant economic, biologic and environmental damage throughout the U.S. Once a pest becomes established or spreads significantly, the cost to eradicate, suppress, or manage it can become exponentially more expensive, not to mention the economic costs in lost crops and damage to native ecosystems.

Humboldt County supports efforts to promote diverse biological activity that protects the agriculture industry. The county supports legislation that provides additional funding for national pest and disease program, especially funding directed towards known pest pathways. In addition, the county supports efforts to strengthen inspections at border and ports of entry to safeguard against invasive pests and diseases.

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 of sender or receiver to gain entry to the parcel for inspection purposes. Many parcels are not inspected because required authorizations are not obtained. There is significant evidence that the postal pathway contributes to the introduction of exotic, invasive pests harmful to agriculture and the environment.

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Humboldt County supports rulemaking efforts to facilitate inspector access to First Class, Priority or Express mail packages containing plant material profiled by detector dogs.

CHILD SUPPORT

SUPPORT EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT AGENCIES

Changes needed to update antiquated service delivery of the child support program will increase program costs. LCSAs in small rural counties are particularly challenged to provide the same level of services to communities that large urban counties receive when funding methodology is based on a staff to caseload ratio. In part, the economies of scale enjoyed by large counties do not exist in small counties and administrative program costs are not spread among as many cases/staff.

Humboldt County supports legislation that would provide small county LCSAs with funding to provide adequate and similar services as citizens in medium and larger counties receive, as happens with other human services agencies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING FOR BROADBAND SERVICE TO RURAL AREAS

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

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

DEVELOP LEGISLATION, BOND GRANT GUIDELINES THAT INCLUDE BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION

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

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

funding to expand the program and provide greater incentives to property owners to clean up and redevelop Brownfield properties.

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

DREDGING HUMBOLDT BAY

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

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

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

LONG-TERM FUNDING SOLUTION FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

The Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program seeks to compensate local jurisdictions for non-taxable Federal lands and payments may be used for any governmental purpose. In 2019, the PILT program provided \$515.7 million to more than 1,900 counties and other local governments to compensate for revenues foregone because of federal tax-exempt public lands within their jurisdictions.

PILT funds provide essential services such as law enforcement for Humboldt County. The inability to collect local taxes on the extensive acreage of federal lands in Humboldt County poses a significant burden. A fully-funded PILT program helps to offset the loss of these important revenues and fulfill the government’s obligation to local communities with large amounts of federal land. Humboldt County received \$964,287 million in fiscal year 2019.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

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

EASING RESTRICTIONS ON SPENDING FROM HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

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

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

STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION

The State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction allows taxpayers to deduct state and local property, income and sales tax to reduce their federal liability. The recently implemented comprehensive tax reform law will continue to allow taxpayers to deduct property taxes and income or sales taxes, but only up to a combined cap of \$10,000 (unlike previous law, which allowed federal taxpayers to deduct the entirety of their state and local property taxes, as well as their state income taxes or sales tax). While many of the individual tax provisions of the law expire at the end of 2025, the changes to the SALT deduction do not expire until 2028, when state and local taxes will once again become fully deductible.

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

The county supports legislation that would fully restore the SALT deduction, and opposes any effort to further reduce or eliminate this tax benefit.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

PROTECTING TAX EXEMPT BONDS

Municipal bonds and private activity bonds (PAB) are critical financing tools used by state and local governments to finance public capital improvements and public infrastructure projects, which are essential for creating jobs, sustaining economic growth and improving the quality of life for Americans in every corner of this country. Because investors are not required to pay federal income tax on interest earned from most bonds issued by state and local governments, localities ultimately receive a lower interest rate on their borrowing than they would if their interest was taxable to investors.

The new tax reform law fully preserves the tax exempt status of municipal bonds and PABs. However, it eliminated the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds, which counties use to refinance outstanding bonds to take advantage of better terms and rates. Humboldt County supports efforts to protect the municipal bond and PAB tax exemption, as well as legislation that would restore the exemption for advance refunding bonds.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

SUPPORT FOR INVESTMENT IN LOW INCOME HOUSING

Safe and stable housing is a foremost concern for low-income individuals and families and without it, a primary barrier to health and self-sufficiency. Currently, the Department of Health and Human Services operates limited permanent supportive housing programs that have proven effective in helping people receive treatment and lead productive lives. However, proposals to disinvest in federal housing subsidies reduce the likelihood of positive economic outcomes for individuals and families. Increased investment in low-income, affordable housing is needed to expand homeless prevention programs, provide income supports such as subsidized rent and to generate additional housing units.

The county supports federal investment in low-income and subsidized housing.

NATURAL RESOURCES

LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR NATURAL RESOURCE AFFAIRS

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

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

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economic and social impacts, while appropriately managing and restoring these considerable natural resources, including ongoing federal management of national parks.

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

PLANNING AND BUILDING

PROVIDE MAXIMUM CDBG FUNDING

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program facilitates affordable housing, service provision to low-income and vulnerable citizens, job creation and efforts to support economic growth. At least 70 percent of the funds must be used on programs benefiting low- and moderate-income individuals. CDBG funds have been targeted for cuts in recent budget cycles, making it increasingly challenging to maintain adequate funding for the block grant.

The county supports the maximum level of funding for the CDBG program (currently funded at \$3.3 billion in fiscal year 2019). In addition, the county supports allowing permanent housing to be considered an eligible activity for the program. The county also opposes efforts to reduce funding and operational flexibility for the CDBG.

RESTORE HOME PROGRAM FUNDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2009 LEVELS

The County of Humboldt relies on the Housing and Urban Development HOME Program funds to develop multi-family housing. Since 2009, funds at the federal level have been cut or have remained stagnant, which has resulted in a limited number of projects receiving funding in the State of California.

The County of Humboldt supports legislation that would return HOME funding to the fiscal year 2009 levels (\$1.825 billion).. The program is currently funded at \$1.25 billion. In addition, the county supports efforts to re-establish a reliable and adequate source of affordable housing funds that can be used by formula in rural areas. The county also opposes efforts to reduce funding and operational flexibility for the program.

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PUBLIC WORKS

APPROPRIATION FOR REDWOOD CREEK LEVEE REHABILITATION AND ESTUARY RESTORATION

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

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

REAUTHORIZATION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

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

By 2000, these revenues dwindled – as policies and lawsuits restricted much of the economic activity that supported the payments. To ensure that the terms of the partnership were upheld, Congress passed the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act* (SRSCA). The program initially expired at the end of fiscal year 2011; however, Congress has provided short-term extensions every year since then. The program has once again expired (final payments will be distributed in the spring of 2019), and unless Congress acts, county payments will return to a revenue-based system. Consequently, Humboldt County could be left with significantly less funding than in recent years.

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

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HOMELAND SECURITY – FULL FUNDING OF SECURITY MANDATES FOR COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created to provide for safe aviation travel in the United States. As an outcome, airports were required to increase security. The Humboldt County Department of Public Works – Aviation Division contracts with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department to provide the additional security required. DHS reimburses the County on an hourly rate for the required service, but does not pay the full hourly rate of the mandated security and has been reducing the hourly rate of reimbursement annually.

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

FUNDING FOR RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

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

The county strongly supports legislation that maintains or increases federal funding for small community water and wastewater projects. In the 116th Congress, several pending bills would increase federal funding for water infrastructure projects, including HR 2473 (Rep. Harder), HR 1162 (Rep. Napolitano), and S 1932 (Sen. Gardner).

FUNDING FOR NUCLEAR STORAGE

It is well known that the federal government has been found by the courts to be in partial breach of the contractual obligation created by the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act to remove this material beginning in January 1998. Over the course of litigation in the intervening years, the U.S. Court of Claims has consistently ruled in favor of companies for expenditures they have incurred in the continuing storage of these materials. The Department of Energy (DOE) has previously estimated that the resulting impact on taxpayers could reach or exceed \$30.8 billion – assuming it is in a position to begin meeting its obligation through the use of a pilot consolidated storage facility in 2021. Any delay in this schedule will only increase the Department's liabilities. These funds are paid out of a permanent appropriations account known as the Judgment Fund and they add to the federal deficit without benefit of budget or appropriations considerations.

Humboldt County supports increased funding for dealing with nuclear waste from shutdown reactors.

