

STATE ADVOCACY

2015 MENDOCINO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

ELECTED STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

Assemblyman Jim Wood, 2nd Assembly District

Senator Mike McGuire, 2nd Senate District

PRIORITIES FOR STATE ADVOCACY:

SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (AND CLEAN UP LEGISLATION)

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SB1168, AB 1739, and SB 1319) was signed in to law by Governor Brown on September 16, 2014.

The Act sets out a framework of guidelines, priorities, and requirements for groundwater management in California. Provisions of the act authorize local agencies to undertake a more active role in groundwater management.

The County will exercise its authority for local control with regard to implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Governance Structure and associated groundwater sustainability agencies pertaining to Mendocino County, and will advocate for associated clean up legislation that may be introduced in the 2015/2016 legislative session.

ENCOURAGE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN SEEKING FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION NO. 1 TO ASSIST WITH DROUGHT RELIEF AND WATER SUPPLY PLANNING MEASURES (THE WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014)

With the voters' passage of Proposition No. 1, The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, \$7.1 Billion in new bonds will be available for water storage, groundwater management, water recycling, river flows, storm water capture, and flood management. Mendocino County, through the Mendocino County Water Agency, will convene goal-setting sessions with local/regional stakeholders to aggressively pursue available grant funding to assist with drought mitigation infrastructure projects, water supply planning efforts, and other water board mandates.

ADVOCATE FOR LEGISLATION AND POLICY OUTCOMES THAT: REVISES OR MODIFIES FEDERAL LAWS RELATED TO MARIJUANA, SUPPORTS AND PROVIDES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE REGULATION, TAXATION AND CONTROL OF MARIJUANA, AND PROMOTES A PRO-ACTIVE REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY IN PREPARATION OF IMPENDING LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS IN CALIFORNIA

Support the Repeal or Modification of Federal Prohibition of Marijuana

Mendocino County supports the principles of legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana pursuant to the Board's policy statement of June 5, 2007. Inconsistencies in local, State, and Federal law create challenges within our public safety system network and criminal justice system. Mendocino County supports federal initiatives to either repeal or modify the federal prohibition of marijuana, and encourages federal recognition of state laws regulating medical marijuana.

The County supports efforts for the descheduling or rescheduling of cannabis, from a Schedule 1 Federally Classified Substance, as part of its support for the repeal or modification of federal prohibition of marijuana.

Advocate for Legislation that Supports and Provides for the Development of an Effective Framework for the Regulation, Taxation and Control of Marijuana, and Encourage Efforts to Combat Illegal Trespass (Marijuana Cultivation) on Public and Private Lands

Instances of illegal trespass and violent crimes on both public and private lands place our residents, visitors, and law enforcement officers at risk. The County supports measures to combat the impacts of these illegal activities within Mendocino County. The County will advocate for solutions to stem illegal marijuana cultivation in all areas of the county by working with private property owners, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other regulatory entities to address this problem.

The County also supports fines that cover the cost of site clean-up and restoration to mitigate for the impacts to the land, water quality and quantity. The Board of Supervisors supported H.R. 2735 (Protecting Lands Against Narcotics Trafficking Act), which was enacted into law and increases penalties on those who illegally use public or private property while trespassing and while damaging natural resources.

Mendocino County supports adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass marijuana growing operations.

Promote a Pro-active Engagement and Advocacy in Preparation of Impending Legalization of Cannabis in California

It is likely that California voters will decide the outcome of marijuana (cannabis) legalization with a 2016 ballot initiative. Mendocino County supports efforts to convene stakeholder workgroups, including representation from California's Congressional Delegation, to prepare for the impending legalization of marijuana in California.

The County believes local government must proactively address this issue through an active and participatory process to promote a policy framework that will protect local government economic interests including potential revenue streams, provide environmental protections, and ensure sustainable public safety services.

With the 2014 implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in California, local government continues to be impacted by the many facets of ACA implementation. It is vital that local government funding streams reflect equitable distribution formulas to serve our rural constituents. Adequate funding to sustain health care reform measures, including adequate funding for increased eligibility and enrollment functions at the local level is one of the County's priorities for State advocacy.

Furthermore, the lack of health insurance plans and options for consumers in rural counties through current Covered California's programs remains an ongoing concern. Currently more than 98% of our constituents enrolled in a health plan are limited to only two options – Anthem Blue Cross PPO and Blue

PROTECTION OF COUNTY FUNDING STREAMS AND IMPROVED COVERAGE PLANS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) IN CALIFORNIA