



**LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**  
**State and Federal Priority Areas**  
**Kings County Board of Supervisors**

February 2016

**2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**  
**Kings County, California**

The Kings County Board of Supervisors has identified 18 priority areas for legislative action and monitoring in the current year. These topics have immediate and lasting impacts to the County, to the health and safety of our residents, and to a variety of constituents who are reliant upon local government's effectiveness and representation to yield best outcomes for the local, state, federal and global economies we influence.

- **High Speed Rail – High Priority**

Oppose any state funding or support of California High Speed Rail project. The California High Speed Rail Authority has openly refused to coordinate with Kings County and the High Speed Rail Authority's business plan does not comply with Proposition 1A. Coordination is designed to assure consistency with the County General Plan and resolve discrepancies and impacts in furtherance of the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the community, which is required by the National Environmental Policy Act and various implementing regulations. The Authority's less than good faith behavior has prompted removal of the County's support.

Oppose using cap-and-trade revenue on high-speed rail. The greenhouse gas benefits proclaimed to be realized by the project will not occur in any near or definite timeframe. If the project is able to become electrified and serve a substantial ridership which is projected for 10-20 years from now, the project might then be a candidate for such funding to build out additional phases. Cap and Trade should be used in accordance with the statute, should be used to assist the polluters who paid to become greener, and should be used in a manner that nets more immediate benefit.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **California Drought Declaration – High Priority**

Find solutions for dealing with water shortages. California has the unfortunate characteristic of being prone to prolonged and severe droughts at any time, and farmers in Kings County are taking steps to prepare for continued severe reduction in water during the summer months. In addition to having negative impacts to jobs and the food supply for this State and the Nation, for every crop dollar lost, \$3.50 will be lost in the economy. Kings County, with 87% of its land in agricultural use ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in agricultural value among all counties in California, which is the number one agricultural producing state in the nation.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Water**

Without increased water storage, the demands placed on our water resources will not be achieved for food and fiber, urbanized growth, energy needs, or habitat restoration. At present, an estimated 40% of Kings County's water use comes from groundwater. Because of Endangered Species Act-related court rulings and ongoing historic drought conditions, water has become extremely limited in Kings County and groundwater levels are at historic lows.

Much of the Kings County economy is based on agribusiness. Accordingly, when farmers are unable to obtain water to produce crops, laborers cannot find work. The result is that neither essential component of our County's workforce can conduct business and contribute to our local economy. Prolonging the planning or delaying the funding for water storage/reservoir/hydropower projects is counterproductive to the demands that population

growth places upon our region, as well as our State. Bringing badly needed water to our communities is essential.

Kings County continues to work on groundwater sustainability planning, and applied for a State Sustainable Groundwater \$500,000 grant to develop a baseline groundwater model that includes policy, programs, and regulations to name some examples.

Kings County is a member of the newly developed a Joint Powers Authority, the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority, which is made up of five counties, two cities (including a disadvantaged community), two water agencies, one tribal council, and one member at large. Its mission is to seek funding for water infrastructure improvement projects, such as, but not limited to local surface storage projects, groundwater recharge projects and construction starting with the Temperance Flat Dam project.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, Interim Assistant County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Public Safety**

Ensure that adequate funding is provided for court security to prevent a reduction in service delivery, increased obligations on sheriffs or counties, or other significant programmatic changes that would not otherwise have occurred absent realignment. The Superior Court of California County of Kings will open its new court building in February 2016. Ensure that adequate funding is authorized to properly address security requirements provided by the Sheriff in the new facility.

Provide new resources on sustaining and funding local gang prevention and enforcement activities. Resources will offer additional routes to sustaining local youth and gang violence prevention efforts. Kings County's Gang Task Force and law enforcement agencies drew a total of 222 major investigation cases in 2015.

Contact: David Robinson, Sheriff, (559) 852-2795

- **Inmate Detentions**

Support legislation that would allow a court to require the appearance of a defendant held in any state, county, or local facility within the county on felony or misdemeanor charges to be conducted by two-way electronic audio-video communication between the defendant and the courtroom in lieu of the physical presence of the defendant in the courtroom for noncritical portions of the trial.

Contact: David Robinson, Sheriff, (559) 852-2795

Reopen the application process through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the State Controller's Office for the authorized fee for local expenses incurred by the County, as per Penal Code 4750, so that the County may charge the State for housing State Prisoners in the County's jail. The current rate of \$55.73 per day does not cover the costs to house the State prisoner in the County's jail.

Support legislation that expands Medi-Cal eligibility to allow counties to receive any available federal financial participation for medical services performed for adult and juvenile inmates that occur on the grounds of the correctional institute.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, Interim Assistant County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2379

- **Video Recording**

Amend Government Code Section 26202.6 which governs the retention of video recordings that are made for “routine monitoring” purposes, so that recordings are only needed to be retained for 60-90 days versus the one year requirement now. Annual retention of routine monitoring has deemed to be extremely costly for counties and is discouraging the use of video cameras in various operations.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, Interim Assistant County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2379

- **Capital Projects**

Support legislative efforts which would reduce the voter approval requirement for local taxes and bonds from a 2/3rds vote to 55% for purposes of authorizing and issuing local infrastructure bonds. Seek and support bond funding for the construction of new and the renovation of existing public libraries and for criminal justice facilities.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Voting Rights Act**

Oppose legislation that makes preclearance Statewide as well as singling out Kings, Monterey, and Yuba Counties.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Voting Centers**

Support legislation that allows for the use of voting centers in place of polling centers. Voting centers offer accessibility for voters, and have potential cost savings.

Contact: Kristine Lee, Assessor, (559) 852-2501

- **State Responsibility Areas**

Repeal the State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Benefit Fees, and cooperate with counties in modifying the current criteria for designating SRAs. Mutually acceptable and enforceable agreements should be provided for the State and counties that would benefit both agencies to cover costs of wild land fire protection.

Contact: William Lynch, Fire Chief (559) 852-2880

- **Williamson Act Program funding**

Seek legislative support for positive modifications to the agricultural land conservation program. Reduction of the Williamson Act Subvention funding has financially strapped our rural County. Losing the subvention funds has had a negative impact to the County as well as the landowners within the County. Legislative support to re-establish reimbursements to participating counties is essential to agricultural preservation in the State.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Agricultural Commissioner State Organic Program Fees**

Oppose legislation that imposes State Organic Program (SOP) registration requirements and fee based enforcement activities, as there are already adequate regulations and reporting required by the National Organic Program. An SOP would be a duplication of services.

Contact: Tim Niswander, Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer, (559) 852-2833

- **Military and Veterans Code**

Support efforts to educate the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public on the importance and value of the County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs). The eventual goal is to fully fund CVSOs by permanently appropriating the full \$11 million in local assistance funding as reflected in Military and Veterans Code Section 972.1(d).

California is home to approximately two million veterans. Currently, the state budget allocates \$5.6 million in funding to the County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) in 58 California counties. CVSOs are the first contact for most veterans and are historically able to bring in \$100 of federal veterans benefits for every \$1 spent by the state. Without full funding, California's veterans will not get the government benefits for which they earned through their service in the military. Funding totals for the Kings County Veterans Service Office for Veterans Subvention Funding was as follows: FY 2014/2015 \$81,060; and FY 2013/2014 \$54,066.

Support legislation that would require state agencies to coordinate with CALVET to improve state services provided to veterans. There are many services that are offered to veterans. Many state agencies are involved in administering these services. Improved coordination between agencies would allow veterans to more easily access these services, and would also allow the CVSOs to better assist the veteran. An example would be for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to collect data on incarcerated veterans and provide that data to CALVET. CALVET could then provide that data to the CVSOs who could then provide assistance to those incarcerated veterans.

Contact: Joe Wright, Veterans Service Officer, (559) 852-2659

- **Human Services**

Support increased funding for Medi-Cal Administrative Funding in order to face the increased workload and information technology issues related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Support legislative cleanup, and allocating additional funding and start-up funds for the implementation of the foster parent recruitment and retention program changes. Partnerships with Behavioral Health organizations will need to be made in order to strengthen the access to mental health for the youth in foster care. Kings County currently has over 400 youth in the foster care program.

Support increased funding for rapid rehousing activities for homeless CalWORKs families. Current funding levels do not meet demand.

Eliminate the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) Rule in the CalWORKs program. The MFG rule currently applies to a child born into an assisted unit that received Child Welfare aid the previous ten months prior to the month of birth without a two month consecutive break in aid. This rule contributes to housing issues, child care issues, and destabilizes families. Kings County currently has approximately 775 children that don't qualify for aid due to the MFG Rule.

Contact: Sanja Bugay, Director Human Services Agency, (559) 852-2200

- **Health and Behavioral Health**

Maintain sufficient health realignment funding to ensure that Kings County has the resources to meet its obligations to fulfill its statutory public health and indigent health care mandates.

Support policies addressing the prevention of chronic disease and promotion of wellness.

Support policies that seek to reduce health disparities and inequities by working to eliminate barriers to good health for Kings County's diverse population.

Support requiring State financial participation in the funding of medical care for inmates in our jail that were realigned to counties by AB 109.

Support State funding of home visitation programs. In these programs, support is provided to vulnerable families with children from birth to age 5. Many studies show that early intensive support to high risk families can have a significant impact on long range family functioning. This results in earlier identification of children with developmental delays and other health issues; children ready to learn and excel in school, more resilient parents and families and lower incidents of child maltreatment. The study reports that "94% of high-need children in California do not have access to home visiting programs."

Urge that the State develop a realistic plan for providing hospital care to seriously ill children in the event of an influenza pandemic. During a pandemic, children will likely be disproportionately affected. The current planning model does not insure that adequate pediatric surge capacity will be available. The solution entails having the State take the lead in developing a pediatric surge plan that is population-based. The proposed approach would recognize that the need for pediatric surge capacity will require: 1) recognition that baseline pediatric capacity is markedly less than adult capacity and the baseline pediatric capacity is concentrated in relatively few jurisdictions in the state; and 2) the plan for pediatric surge capacity can not be based on the local jurisdiction "Operational Area" model. No child in the state should be disadvantaged because of his/her county of residence.

Support funding for Valley Fever vaccine and treatment research and development.

Support maintaining the current minimum level of Proposition 99 Tobacco Control Program funding to each county.

Maintain State General Fund support to counties for pandemic influenza preparedness.

Contact: Keith Winkler, Public Health Director, (559) 852-2625

Support legislation that allows Mental Health Services Act funding to be used for behavioral health court expenses. These could be used to enhance and expand, not supplant, court models such as drug court, veteran's court, and collaborative court.

Seek additional funding for Substance Use Disorder treatment. Access to treatment has become increasingly burdened and limited with the response to AB 109 and SB 47 in small counties. Providers are at a premium and treatment providers have to answer to the courts and Probation as a first line of defense. People in need of help that are not part of the court system may be pushed to the end of the line due to the lack of funding and/or ballooning need for treatment.

Support legislation that clarifies the financial formula for counties electing to participate in the juvenile inpatient psychiatric admission Medi-Cal payment process. Counties fund the state's administrative costs through their pro-rata share of the nonfederal share of the State's cost.

Contact: Mary Anne Ford Sherman, Behavioral Health Director, (559) 852-2382

- **Transportation Reform**

Oppose legislation that would increase weight limitations on vehicles. Increasing weight loads on trucks would cause county maintained roads to crumble and county maintained bridges are not rated for such weight increases.

Seek coalition to support the return of the new Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA) revenues attributable to Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) fuel sales to counties, cities, and the State as intended under the Transportation Tax Swap. This share of funds is approximately \$128 million annually statewide and approximately \$28 million for counties.

Contact: Kevin McAlister, Public Works Director, (559) 852-2700

- **Community Development**

Oppose efforts aimed at the continued compounding of environmental regulatory requirements as part of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process as qualifiers in maintaining local eligibility for critically needed transportation funds.

Provide cost considerations that may restrict business attraction as the California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board adopts regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Contact: Greg Gatzka, Community Development Agency Director, (559) 852-2680

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

Allow time for clarification and guidance from the federal government on proposed regulations related to the implementation of the WIOA before the State takes action on related regulations.

Contact: John Lehn, Job Training Office Director, (559) 585-3536

## **2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

### **Kings County, California**

This document offers summary information on 14 legislative priority areas for legislative action and monitoring in the current year. Each item includes a contact person to be reached for any additional supporting information or to alert in the event of pending legislative action, remedy or resolution.

- **High Speed Rail – High Priority**

Oppose any federal funding or support of the California High Speed Rail Project. Additionally, stop American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funding to California High Speed Rail project. The project is in an impossible race to meet ARRA grant funding requirements and deadlines. The Authority's agreement with the administering agency, the Federal Railroad Administration, has been amended numerous times to accommodate shortfalls by the Authority in frantically trying to meet its obligations under the agreement, including the lack of dollar for dollar matching funds; the lack of agreements with Union Pacific and BNSF Railroad; the failure to complete environmental review for all 300 miles of the proposed initial operating segment; and the shabby environmental review for the two project segments to date, one of which is being challenged by at least four different agencies/entities (Fresno-Bakersfield). The Authority has taken shortcuts which undercut the safety, quality and expectations of the public it will serve and has created an example of how not to implement high speed rail. Haste makes waste and creates concern for safety, the environment and the tax paying ridership. A recent example of environmental harm and fiscal irresponsibility is the unauthorized take of 9 acres of suitable habitat for the San Joaquin Kit Fox along with violation of other terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion/Take Permit issued in 2012 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resulting in revocation of the permit and requirement that the Authority reinitiate consultation. This unfortunate circumstance is detailed in a four page January 26, 2015 letter from the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, to the California High Speed Rail Authority.

Oppose any efforts to have federal agency decisions trump the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for any projects in California, including High Speed Rail.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **California Drought Declaration – High Priority**

Find solutions for dealing with water shortages. California has the unfortunate characteristic of being prone to prolonged and severe droughts at any time, and farmers in Kings County are taking steps to prepare for continued severe reduction in water during the summer months. In addition to having negative impacts to jobs and the food supply for this State and the Nation, for every crop dollar lost, \$3.50 will be lost in the economy. Kings County, with 87% of its land in agricultural use, ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in agricultural value among all counties in California, which is the number one agricultural producing state in the nation.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Water**

Without increased water storage, the demands placed on our water resources will not be achieved for food and fiber, urbanized growth, energy needs, or habitat restoration. At present, an estimated 40% of Kings County's water use comes from groundwater. Because of Endangered Species Act-related court rulings and ongoing historic drought conditions, water has become extremely limited in Kings County and groundwater levels are at historic lows.

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Kings County supports various operational provisions in pending House and Senate drought-relief legislation (HR 2898, Rep. Valadao & S 1894, Sen. Feinstein) designed to provide additional water deliveries to the parched Central Valley. Kings County also strongly supports provisions of both bills that would expand the authorized service area of the Central Valley Project to include the Kettleman City Community Services District to provide for the delivery of up to 900 acre-feet of Federal water to Kettleman City.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, Interim Assistant County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Voting Rights Act**

Oppose any legislation that includes Kings County as a covered jurisdiction under Sections 4 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore**

With the siting of the F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter squadrons at NAS Lemoore in Kings County, California, steps should be taken to ensure that adequate facilities, services, and infrastructure are in place on and off base to handle the increase of more than 600 families and single sailors. Additional barracks, schools, and housing are just a few of the needs for the influx of people to arrive to the community starting in 2016.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, Interim Assistant County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2379

- **Fee-to-Trust Reform/Indian Gaming**

Support federal legislation that would provide an incentive for counties and tribes to enter into judicially enforceable agreements when tribes are permitted to engage in economic development activities, including gaming. Agreements should fully mitigate local impacts from a tribal government's business activities and fully identify the governmental services to be provided by the county to that tribe. In cases in which a county and tribe are unable to reach a local

mitigation agreement, federal legislation should require the Secretary of the Interior to certify that all anticipated off-reservation impacts have been mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. Kings County has an enforceable agreement in place, but is supportive of legislative reforms that would protect the county's interests in case of a possible future expansion or new development.

Contact: Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Public Safety**

Pursuant to the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015* and the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016*, Congress rescinded over \$1.2 billion in the Department of Justice (DOJ) Asset Forfeiture Program. The program, which provides equitable sharing payments to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, has been a key source of federal funding for Kings County. In a very real sense, the rescission of these funds is a vote against California's public safety interests. In 2012, the California Department of Justice found 305 drug-related transnational criminal organizations operating in the state, creating an enormous public safety threat for Californians. In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, California state drug task forces disrupted or dismantled 140 drug, money-laundering and gang organizations, arrested nearly 3,000 individuals, rescued 41 drug-endangered children, confiscated 1,000 weapons, and seized nearly \$28.5 million in U.S. currency in anti-narcotic law enforcement actions statewide. The funding rescission has directly impacted Kings County, forcing the Sheriff's Department to put 32 pending cases on hold. Funding received by the Sheriff's Office for work on this program for the last three fiscal years is as follows: FY 2014: \$75,514; FY 2015: \$52,180; and FY 2016: \$42,293. Kings County strongly supports legislative efforts that would fully reinstate FY 16 Asset Forfeiture Program funding, as well as efforts to fully fund the program in FY 17.

Kings County's Gang Task Force and local law enforcement agencies drew a total of 222 major investigation cases in 2015, and many of those cases involving higher level narcotics investigations. Support legislation and appropriations for County efforts directed at: programs that recognize the extent of the gang and narcotics problems in our County and in the San Joaquin Valley, prevention programs that educate youth about drugs and gangs, treatment programs, and tougher penalties for methamphetamine-related crimes.

Provide adequate funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which partially reimburses Kings County for the significant costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals. Due to recent cuts in the appropriation for SCAAP, along with an increasing number of jurisdictions applying for the program, Kings County's SCAAP allocation has dwindled. Additionally, Congress should approve legislation that provides a long-term reauthorization of the SCAAP program; although SCAAP expired at the end of fiscal year 2011, it has continued to be funded through the annual appropriations process. To follow are Kings County's SCAAP allocations for the past several fiscal years: FY 2009: \$102,314, FY 2010: \$74,126, FY 2011: \$59,619, FY 2012: \$46,949, FY 2013: \$60,985, and FY 2014: \$30,193; FY 2015: \$44,260.

Contact: Dave Robinson, Sheriff, (559) 852-2795

- **Telecommunications/Interoperability/Broadband**

Support funding for first responder infrastructure upgrades and/or repair, such as repeater site restoration and upgrades. Dedicated funding has not been set aside since 2007 with the Public Safety Interoperability Communications grant, and systems are aging with no replacement funds in site. Categorical funding, such as Homeland Security funding, is allocated in one-time amounts that are not sufficient to completely convert our local systems.

Support funding for Department of Commerce broadband infrastructure and planning grants. Communities and outlying areas are in great need of broadband infrastructure to bring and enhance much needed services in the area of education, public safety, economic development, and for medical purposes. Broadband connection rates need to be reasonable in order to be competitive for local government use.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, Interim Assistant County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2379

- **Human Services**

Support legislation that would retain the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and eliminate the outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances. Support updating the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in which assistance is based on, that include the FPLs from the 1996 welfare reform.

Continue to have the Title IV-E funding for Foster Care and Child Welfare services an open entitlement program, for the Child Welfare Services caseloads in Kings County have drastically jumped from 346 in 2011 to 618 in 2014.

Continue to fund the Social Services Block Grant, which funds adult protective services. In 2014 the County's Human Services Agency received 623 APS referrals and over 900 In Home Supportive Services applications.

Support legislation that includes additional funding for programs impacted by the Affordable Care Act. Maintain federal funding in order to phase out programs at a slower pace.

Contact: Sanja Bugay, Director Human Services Agency, (559) 852-2200

- **Health**

Maintain funding for the following programs:

- Women, Infant, and Children. Kings County currently has over 8,000 participants in this program.
- Title V Maternal and Child Health Program.
- The 317 Immunization grant program, which supports children's vaccines and influenza vaccines for the uninsured in Kings County.

Maintain funding for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program and the Hospital Preparedness Program.

Establish a national center for excellence for coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever). Valley Fever is an orphan disease. The affected areas of the country, including counties in California, Arizona and elsewhere that are endemic for this disease, could work together to develop the needed resources. There would be two immediate benefits for Kings County: an authoritative source for provider and community education and a national warmline for provider consultation.

Contact: Keith Winkler, Public Health Director, (559) 852-2625

- **Military and Veterans Code**

Support legislation that would increase the access for County Veterans Service Offices to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) information systems for use in developing and monitoring claims submitted on behalf of veterans. County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs)

are local government agencies responsible for assisting veterans and their dependents and survivors in obtaining benefits to which they may be entitled. As such CVSOs need maximum possible access, regardless of VA Power-of-Attorney (POA), to VA client and claims databases. Enhancing this access will result in better, timelier services to claimants and reduce the workload in VA call centers.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office will process over 1,500 benefit claims for veterans this fiscal year, and enhancing access to the federal system will result in more efficient, timelier, services to claimants and reduce the workload in the Veterans Affairs call centers.

Support legislative, regulatory or policy changes that would create a federal/state/local government partnership to reduce the VA veteran's claims backlog and expand outreach services to veterans. VA has expressed the belief that one important way to reduce the unacceptable claims backlog is the initial submission of as complete as is possible claims packages. Individual claimants are unfamiliar with the requirements of the VA claims system. It is, therefore necessary to have competent, trained intermediaries, such as County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO), participate in the preparation and submission of claims. Many CVSOs do not have the resources to do the community outreach that would enable them to reach the maximum possible number of benefit claimants. Federal/state/local partnerships will enable State and County veterans service programs to reach and assist more claimants thus helping to reduce the chronic VA claims backlog.

Contact: Joe Wright, Veterans Service Officer, (559) 852-2659

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

Kings County utilizes these program funds with increasing success to develop unincorporated communities and provide better housing conditions and opportunities to Kings County residents. CDBG funding has typically been used for first-time home buyers' loans since the late 1990's, as well as owner-occupied rehabilitation projects in locations in remote communities within the County since the mid-1970's.

Allow continued use of the CDBG program income for continued operational costs without risking the ability to apply for future grants.

Contact: Chuck Kinney, Deputy Director-Planning, (559) 852-2674

- **Franchise Business Model**

Oppose the National Labor Relations Board's efforts at forcing franchise companies to assert total control over the daily operations of the independently owned franchised restaurants, such as human resource management, controls over scheduling, pay rates, benefits, and working conditions, to name a few. This change will add an increased financial burden to small employers in the County.

Contact: Doug Verboon, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, (559) 852-2362

- **Transportation**

Farm-to-Market Roads – Support legislation to rehabilitate 240 miles of rural roads that are impacted due to use by, among others, Kings County farms, dairies, and processing plants.

Contact: Kevin McAlister, Public Works Director, (559) 852-2700

Seek funding to assist with the movement of goods on State Route 198. Normal highway traffic rates are 15-18%, and SR 198 has a higher rate of use at 38%. This year, in 2016, an influx of

new military related personnel will be arriving and staying in the area due to the basing of the new F-35C Lightning II Strike Fighter squadrons and two relocated F-18 Super Hornet squadrons. Widening approximately 20 miles of SR 198 will assist with goods movement to the Naval Air Station Lemoore, as well as the Central Valley of California.

Contact: Joe Neves, Board of Supervisor, (559) 852-2370