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Mendocino County 2020-2025

Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (SYASL) is a corporation specializing in advocacy, association management, and public affairs and is owned by Partners Paul Yoder, Andrew Antwih, Jason Schmelzer, Karen Lange, Matt Robinson, Silvia Solis Shaw, and Michael Pimentel. Including the Partners, SYASL currently employs twelve registered lobbyists, three legislative aides, and one dozen other full-time or part-time professional, clerical, and technical staff. We are registered with the Fair Political Practices Commission to lobby state government for various clients consisting of local governments, transit or transportation agencies, private sector organizations, and non-profit trade associations.

Our reputation of integrity and professionalism allows us to forge and maintain strong relationships with lawmakers and influencers, and with the hundreds of local elected officials we represent through their Boards of Supervisors and City Councils. And our intimate understanding of policymaking enables us to always know what to do next. So, when challenges arise, we lead our clients to the local, legislative, regulatory, or budgetary outcome they seek – and deliver the results they want.

Our firm enjoys a reputation among legislators, staff, and peers as one of the hardest working and most effective lobbying firms in Sacramento. All our advocates spend much of their time in the “Swing Space” and the Capitol making direct contact with legislators and staff. It is in the halls of the Capitol that we can be most effective, and it is there that we are most likely to learn in a timely manner about opportunities for, and challenges to, our clients.

The firm also represents a variety of twenty-one other counties in California, which allows for multi-dimensional and cross-cutting analysis and implementation of strategies that produce excellent results for all our clients. We regularly work with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the Urban Counties Caucus (UCC). These relationships help us coordinate allied interests on important legislative measures and stay informed of key bills that will impact county interests.

We have a demonstrated record of success in working not just with the leadership of both parties and both houses of the California Legislature, but also with the Governor’s legislative unit and cabinet, state agencies, departments, commissions, boards, and offices. SYASL’s client base ensures that our lobbying team has regular contact with almost every level of government in the State of California.

It is our sincerest belief that nothing really can attest to any firm’s advocacy approach better than the extent to which its approach produces very tangible results for clients. So, we want to demonstrate how our approach has been, is, and can continue to be effective for Mendocino County by highlighting areas of success on your behalf over the last five years:

2025

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Support Bills

Mendocino County supported the following bills that were signed into law by the Governor:

- **[AB 564 \(Haney\)](#) Cannabis: excise tax: rate increase suspension: report**
 - This bill reduces the cannabis excise tax rate from 19% to 15% beginning October 1, 2025 and until May 1, 2028.

The following bills listed below have been enrolled to the Governors' desk and are awaiting a veto or signature:

- **[AB 830 \(Rogers\)](#) State highways: encroachment permits: relocating or removing encroachments: public utility districts: County of Mendocino**
 - This bill requires the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to pay for relocating or removing the encroachment of a public utility district (PUD) with a ratepayer base of 5,000 households or fewer in the County of Mendocino in the event of a future improvement to the highway, and to notify the PUD at each stage of a project.
- **[AB 993 \(Hadwick\)](#) Hazardous materials management: Rural CUPA Reimbursement Account**
 - This bill expands eligibility for the Rural Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Reimbursement Account to include all counties with populations of less than 150,000.
- **[SB 547 \(Perez\)](#) Commercial property insurance cancellation and nonrenewal**
 - This bill prohibits an insurer from canceling or refusing to renew a commercial property insurance policy, as specified, for one year from the declaration of a state of emergency, if the commercial property is located within the perimeter of a wildfire or in an adjacent ZIP Code.
- **[SB 616 \(Rubio\)](#) Community Hardening Commission: wildfire mitigation program**
 - This bill creates an independent Community Hardening Commission (Commission) within the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to develop fire mitigation/community hardening standards, and generate guidelines to enable the creation of a wildfire data sharing platform.

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Oppose Bills

The following bill listed below has been enrolled to the Governors' desk and is awaiting a veto or signature:

- **[AB 339 \(Ortega\)](#) Local public employee organizations: notice requirements**
 - This bill requires public agencies regulated by the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA) to give a recognized employee organization (REO) no less than 45 days' written notice regarding contracts to perform services that are within the scope of work of job classifications represented by the REO, among other provisions.

The following bills listed below failed passage during the 2025 Legislative Session:

- **[AB 470 \(McKinnor\)](#) Telephone corporations: carriers of last resort**

- This bill would have required the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in coordination with the Office of Emergency Services (OES), to adopt a process for telephone corporations to petition the CPUC to amend their status as a carrier of last resort (COLR) in designated areas by December 15, 2026, as specified.
- **[AB 946 \(Bryan\)](#) Chief probation officer: designee**
 - This bill would have required, in a county with a population of at least 3,500,000 people, the chief probation officer (CPO), or a designee who is appointed by the county board of supervisors and who has jurisdiction over youth development, to perform duties and discharge obligations normally within the jurisdiction of the CPO.
- **[AB 1331 \(Elhawary\)](#) Workplace surveillance**
 - This bill would have regulated and limited the use of workplace surveillance tools, by both public and private employers, as specified.
- **[AB 1337 \(Ward\)](#) Information Practices Act of 1977**
 - This bill would have amended the Information Practices Act by expanding the definition of “personal information,” extending its scope to cover local governmental entities, and bolstering protections regarding disclosures and accounting.
- **[SB 357 \(Menjivar\)](#) Juveniles: delinquency**
 - This bill would have authorized a board of supervisors, in a county with a population of at least 6,000,000 people, to delegate to a county official who has jurisdiction over youth development, the duties and authorities that the county probation department has with respect to juveniles, as specified.

Budget 2025

The following funding requests listed below, represent requests made on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to the legislature that were incorporated into the final 2025-26 Budget:

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs): Right-size County Administrative Funding

- Approved placeholder trailer bill language, and was largely addressed under SB 105 the budget bill Jr.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): Restore \$81 million cut to IHSS Administrative Funding and Reject CFCO County Penalties

- While the final budget did not restore the \$81 million cut to IHSS Administrative Funding, the final budget modified the May Revision proposal regarding In-Home Supportive Services Community First Choice Option Late Penalties to split the penalty 50/50 between state and counties in 2025-26, resulting in savings of \$40.5 million General Fund, and adopting May Revision savings for 2026-27 and ongoing that will occur if late CFCO reassessments continue, with trailer bill language. However, it should be noted that beginning in 2026-27, counties are responsible for the full costs of any Community First Choice Option reassessment late penalties.

Mendocino County Earmark in SB 105:

- Of the funds appropriated in this item, \$4,000,000 shall be allocated on a one-time basis to Mendocino College to support the Mendocino College Fire Academy.

2023-24

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Support Bills

Mendocino County supported the following bills that were signed into law by the Governor:

- **[AB 1359 \(Papan\)](#) California Environmental Quality Act: geothermal exploratory projects: lead agency**
 - This bill establishes new procedures governing the accrual and use of paid sick leave days for employees of a covered "health care facility," as defined.
- **[AB 1187 \(McGuire\)](#) Housing programs: Tribal Housing Reconstitution and Resiliency Act**
 - This bill authorizes the California Victim Compensation Board to reimburse the expense of counseling services provided by a Certified Life Specialist who provides counseling under the supervision of a licensed provider, subject to the board's approval and limitations set by the board.

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Oppose Bills

The following bills listed below failed passage during the 2023-24 Legislative Session:

- **[AB 702 \(Jackson\)](#) Local government financing: juvenile justice**
 - This bill would have revised and recast required components of the multiagency juvenile justice plan to, among other things, additionally require a plan to include an assessment of existing community-based youth development services, identification and prioritization of areas of the community that are vulnerable to court system involvement due to high rates of poverty and the incarceration of at-risk youth's family members, among other things, and a description of the target population funded under these provisions. The bill would have also required programs and strategies funded under these provisions to, among other things, be modeled on healing-centered, restorative, trauma-informed, and positive youth development approaches and in collaboration with community-based organizations.
- **[AB 2223 \(Aguilar-Curry\)](#) Cannabis: industrial hemp**
 - This bill would have integrated the manufacturing, distributing, and selling of hemp and hemp products into the regulatory structure of cannabis and made changes related to the regulation of industrial hemp, as specified.
- **[AB 2797 \(McKinnor\)](#) Telephone corporations: carriers of last resort: tariffs**
 - This bill would have no longer required a telephone corporation seeking relief from carrier of last resort obligations to be a carrier of last resort or to have any carrier of last resort obligations if the telephone corporation submits a notice containing certain information to the commission and modifies and removes its commission tariffs. The bill required telephone corporations to identify, as part of the notice, (1) a census block of the telephone corporation's service territory where there is no population or where the company has no basic exchange telephone service customers, or (2) a census block

designated as urban where 2 or more different service providers offer alternative voice services, as defined, to customers, or both.

- [AB 2882 \(McCarthy\)](#) **California Community Corrections Performance Incentives**
 - This bill would have required the inclusion of the heads of a county's department of social services, department of mental health, and county alcohol and substance abuse programs, on each county's executive committee of the local Community Corrections Partnership (CCP); and required the CCP to submit the approved local plan for the implementation of the 2011 public safety realignment to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) annually.
- [SB 1057 \(Menjivar\)](#) **Juvenile justice coordinating council**
 - This bill would have changed the requirements a county Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) must meet to be eligible for funding under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA).

Budget 2023-24

The following funding requests listed below, represent requests made on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to the legislature that were incorporated into the final 2023-24 Budget:

Oppose Proposed 50% Budget Cut to Small Business Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and Capital Infusion Program (CIP) at GO-Biz

- The final 2023-24 budget rejected the proposed cuts to the TAP and CIP programs at GO-Biz.
- The final 2023-24 budget also included \$23.5 million Federal Funds, to be spent over 5 years, for the Office of the Small Business Advocate to provide technical assistance to small businesses, including businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals applying for State Small Business Credit Initiative capital programs.

Support Emergency Regulations for Serving Size, Age, and Intoxicating Cannabinoids for Industrial Hemp

- While this item was not included in the final budget and there were no subsequent trailer bills during the 2023-24 legislative session on the topic, due to the advocacy of several counties and organizations, including Mendocino County, Governor Newsom and the California Department of Public Health issued emergency regulations to protect youth from the adverse health effects of dangerous hemp products. The regulations strengthen California's ability to stop the peddling of intoxicating hemp products to California's children and require that industrial hemp food, beverage, and dietary products intended for human consumption have no detectable THC or other intoxicating cannabinoids per serving, create a minimum age to purchase hemp products to 21, and limit the number of servings of hemp products to five per package.

2021-22

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Support Bills

Mendocino County supported the following bill that was signed into law by the Governor:

- [SB 307 \(McGuire\)](#) **Great Redwood Trail Agency: County of Humboldt: state moneys: compatible offices**

- This bill prohibits state moneys from being used to initiate or operate rail service, or for projects to rehabilitate an existing operation or facility, including a rail terminal, a railyard, a rail facility, and rail infrastructure, except as specified, on the North Coast Rail Authority's (NCRA), or Great Redwood Trail Agency's (GRTA), right-of-way north of the City of Willits. Also, prohibits state moneys from being spent on any new bulk coal terminal project within the County of Humboldt.

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Oppose Bills

- There were no bills on file that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors opposed during the 2021-22 Legislative Session.

Budget 2021-22

The following funding request listed below, represents a request made on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to the legislature that was incorporated into the final 2021-22 Budget:

Governor's proposal to invest \$7 billion to close the Digital Divide – Support

- SB 156 (Chaptered, 2021) The Legislature and Governor agreed to spend about \$6 billion over three fiscal years on broadband infrastructure, per the 2021-22 Spending Plan.

2019-20

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Support Bills

Mendocino County supported the following bills that were signed into law by the Governor:

- [**SB 67 \(McGuire\)**](#) **Cannabis: marketing: appellations of origin: county, city, or city and county of origin**
 - This bill prohibits a licensed cannabis cultivator from designating a city, or city and county, of origin for cannabis if 100 percent of the cannabis was not produced within the designated city or city and county, and restricts the establishment of appellations of origin to cannabis that was produced in the ground in a canopy area that excludes certain specified practices.
- [**SB 185 \(McGuire\)**](#) **Cannabis: marketing**
 - This bill prohibits the use of an appellation of origin or similar-sounding word unless the cannabis or cannabis product meets the appellation of origin requirement guidelines.
- [**SB 560 \(McGuire\)**](#) **Wildfire mitigation plans: deenergizing of electrical lines: notifications: mobile telephony service providers**
 - This bill expands the protocols required as a result of the deenergizing of electrical lines initiated by an electrical corporation (electric IOU), a local publicly owned utility (POU), or an electrical cooperative (co-op) to mitigate the impact of the event on specified customers and critical services and specifies the duties of the facilities-based mobile telephony service providers (wireless carriers) before and during a deenergization event.

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Oppose Bills

The following bills listed below failed passage during the 2019-20 Legislative Session:

- [AB 1366 \(Daly\)](#) **Office of Emergency Services: coordination of communications**
 - This bill would have extended the sunset date on prohibitions against the regulation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and other internet protocol (IP) enabled services from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2022.
- [AB 6 \(Reyes\)](#) **Attorney General: duties**
 - This bill would have provided for statutory changes to enact the public safety-related provisions of the Budget Act of 2020.

Budget 2019-20

The following funding request listed below, represents a request made on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to the legislature that was incorporated into the final 2021-22 Budget:

Realignment Funding – Support

- Mendocino County was allocated \$3,038,072 in the County General Fund COVID-19 Allocations (Realignment Backfill) schedule under Item 9210-110-0001 in July 2020. For more information, see [here](#).