

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2 and Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3

DATE: June 8, 2010

SUBJECT: REVENUE SHARING – Approve appropriation of \$700 in Revenue Sharing monies to the *Placer Nature Center* to help support the cost of educational field trip scholarships, as requested by Supervisor Weygandt (\$200) and Supervisor Holmes (\$500).

---

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve appropriation of \$700 in Revenue Sharing monies to the *Placer Nature Center* to help support the cost of educational field trip scholarships, as requested by Supervisor Weygandt (\$200) and Supervisor Holmes (\$500).

**BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS:** In approving the following contributions, the Placer County Board of Supervisors finds that each and every approved contribution serves a public purpose by promoting the general welfare of the County and its inhabitants therefore a benefit results to the County.

The Board of Supervisors is being asked to approve appropriations to help support the Placer Nature Center with assistance to students for educational field trip scholarships. Since 1992, Placer Nature Center has connected over two hundred thousand children with the out-of-doors where they learn science in their environment and experience nature first-hand. For eighteen years students and teachers have depended on the Placer Nature Center for opportunities to be active science and environmental learners. The Placer Nature Center is staffed by volunteers who donate their time to lead school children through science learning and nature hikes as a part of their school field trips. The Nature Center serves over ten thousand community members annually from all supervisory districts. Due to budget cuts, several enrichment programs are being cut including field trips for students to the Placer Nature Center. The funds designated towards this organization will be used to support the cost of the school field trips to the nature center.

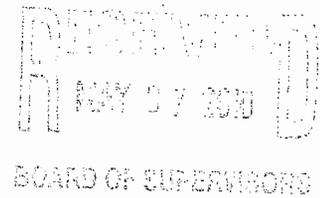
**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds are available in the Revenue Sharing budget.

# PLACER NATURE CENTER

May 4, 2010

Supervisor Jim Holmes  
Placer County Board of Supervisors, District 3  
175 Fulweiler Ave  
Auburn, CA 95603



Dear Supervisor Holmes:

In the 2009-2010 school year a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teacher wrote to us, explaining she wanted to say a huge "THANK YOU" for the funds that allowed them to come to Placer Nature Center, "These students get maybe 2 fieldtrips a year at most and only one will be free - the others (students) who can't pay ...teachers pay for them. So we (teachers) really appreciate the exposure you are giving these kids! (Honestly, some have never been out of our city ... So sad!)"

For 18 years students and teachers have depended on Placer Nature Center for opportunities to be active science and environmental learners. Let's not let the continuing budget crisis deny children this *essential educational experience!* One 5<sup>th</sup> enthusiastically described his experience, "All of the things you taught me were really cool! I want to learn science a lot more now!"

Will you help us raise \$5,000 (\$1,000 from each Supervisor's Revenue Sharing Fund) to continuing allowing all our students the opportunity to get out-doors, hike the trail and take part in Placer Nature Center's nature-based science field trips? Where the State takes away - together, we can ensure that *no child is left behind or inside* - to ignite curiosity, wonder and joy for learning in our county's children.

We herein request that you make the "No Child Left Inside" pledge with us and make a \$1,000 one-time gift of Revenue Sharing Funds to enable 833 children to participate in a school field trip to Placer Nature Center. If you wish, we can target the funds to students in schools within your Supervisorial District. 100% of the Revenue Sharing grant will be used to support the cost of school field trips to the nature center. \$5,000 will pay the tour fees for 833 children (PNC field trip fee is only \$6 for a 2-3 hour thematic program). \$1,000 from your Revenue Sharing Fund will enable 167 children (between 5-6 full classrooms) to visit Placer Nature Center.

As you well know, Placer Nature Center is a nonprofit organization with a simple mission: to give children the opportunity to learn science in their environment and experience nature **first-hand**. We serve children throughout Placer County. Placer Nature Center was founded in response to significant research findings: Nature is important to children's development in every major way—intellectually, emotionally, socially, spiritually, and physically. Studies also show that children who have access to the natural environment do better in school including the development of new competencies and decision-making skills, resiliency, and the ability to share with others and resolve conflicts. Let's keep nature learning experiences alive for our children who must grow up in our increasingly urbanized and electronically driven society.

Since 1992, Placer Nature Center has connected over 210,000 children with the out-of-doors where they learn science, enjoy nature, experience teamwork, and develop curiosity. It is also

where the seeds of stewardship are planted. We celebrate your partnership with Placer Nature Center and schools throughout our County. Thank you for making a pledge to give every child access to academic enrichment and nature.

Please generously share your District's Revenue Sharing Funds with the children of Placer County. We are grateful for all the support you have provided to Placer Nature Center in the past. During this particularly challenging time, we hope that you will be able to continue to provide support for the educational needs of our young citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Kirkorian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

By Leslie Warren, Executive Director, and Megan Kirkorian, Program Manager, representing Placer Nature Center's Board of Directors

