

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2 and Bruce Kranz, Supervisor District 5

DATE: December 19, 2006

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION– Approve Commendations for the Old Fruitvale School: Community History & Agriculture Project and the Colfax Passenger Depot Renovation Project for receiving the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards as requested by Supervisors Weygandt and Kranz.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve Commendations for the Old Fruitvale School: Community History & Agriculture Project and the Colfax Passenger Depot Renovation Project for receiving the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards as requested by Supervisors Weygandt and Kranz.

BACKGROUND

The Governor's Historic Preservation Awards are presented annually under the sponsorship of the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) to organizations or public agencies whose contributions demonstrate notable achievements in preserving the heritage of California. In addition, the purpose of the Governor's Historic Preservation Award is to recognize meaningful achievements in historic preservation and to increase public awareness, appreciation, and support for historic preservation throughout the state. This year, two Placer County projects were nominated by the Historical Advisory Board to receive the Governor's Historic Preservation Award, the Colfax Passenger Depot Renovation Project and the Old Fruitvale School: Community History & Agriculture Project; both were selected recipients for 2006. This is a rare and special honor.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

COUNTY OF
Placer
Board of Supervisors

COMMENDATION



**In the matter of a Commendation honoring
the Colfax Passenger Depot Renovation Project
for being selected to receive the Governor's Historic
Preservation Award for 2006.**

Whereas, the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards are presented annually under the sponsorship of the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) to organizations or public agencies whose contributions demonstrate notable achievements in preserving the heritage of California; and

Whereas, the purpose of the Governor's Historic Preservation Award is to recognize meaningful achievements in historic preservation and to increase public awareness, appreciation, and support for historic preservation throughout the state; and

Whereas, the Colfax Passenger Depot Renovation Project was one of two projects in Placer County to be nominated by the Historical Advisory Board and selected for this prestigious award in 2006; a rare and special honor; and

Whereas, during the early twentieth century, railroads provided nearly 98% of intercity passenger travel in the United States, making the depots focal points to citizens in towns served by the railroad throughout the western states; and

Whereas, the original Colfax Passenger Depot was built by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and served as a transportation and shipping center for the City of Colfax from 1905 to the 1950's; and

Whereas, the City of Colfax, the Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society, the Colfax Area Historical Society, and the Colfax Depot Management Committee have worked together to renovate the Colfax Passenger Depot and successfully achieved placement of the Depot on the National Register of Historic Places on January 15, 1999; and

Whereas, the early 20th century architecture is referred to as Southern Pacific's "Colonnade" style distinguished by an arcade supported by cast iron columns; and

Whereas, there were only 25 depots built with the same architectural style as the Colfax Passenger Depot; of which, only 14 remain standing today and only the one in Colfax is located in Placer County; and

Whereas, the old-time depot served as the office for Wells Fargo, Western Union and the railroads' passenger depot, baggage room, ticket office, saloon and restaurant; and

Whereas, the depot continued to be used for regular passenger service until April 30, 1971, resulting passenger service by Amtrak in 1976; and

Whereas, the Placer Sierra Railroad Heritage Society took the lead in renovation of the depot interior and site with the help of many volunteers and has maintained the integrity of the original location, setting, design, and materials while preserving the original quality of workmanship and sense of time associated with the historical relevance of the railroad and developing the west

Now Therefore Let It Be Know That, on this 19th day of December, 2006 the Placer County Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in honoring the Colfax Passenger Depot Renovation Project for being selected to receive the Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2006 and presents this Commendation with great pride to Colfax Mayor, Joshua Alpine, on behalf of the renovation committee

Bill Santucci
Chairman

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Vacant
Supervisor, District 4

Jim Holmes
Supervisor, District 3

Bruce Kranz
Supervisor, District 5



COUNTY OF
Placer
Board of Supervisors

COMMENDATION



In the matter of a Commendation honoring
the Old Fruitvale School: Community History
& Agriculture Project for being selected to receive
the Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2006.

Whereas, the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards are presented annually under the sponsorship of the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) to organizations or public agencies whose contributions demonstrate notable achievements in preserving the heritage of California; and

Whereas, the purpose of the Governor's Historic Preservation Award is to recognize meaningful achievements in historic preservation and to increase public awareness, appreciation, and support for historic preservation throughout the state, and

Whereas, the Old Fruitvale School: Community History & Agriculture Project was one of two projects in Placer County to be nominated by the Historical Advisory Board and selected for this prestigious award in 2006; a rare and special honor; and

Whereas, the Old Fruitvale School was originally built in 1889 on land donated between 1882 and 1889 by Larkin Green Fowler, and

Whereas, it is the last remaining country school in the area still open to the public and hosting public events; and

Whereas, there were generally around twenty children attending school at any given time in the one-room classroom with students ranging in age and class level up through the eighth grade, and

Whereas, facilities were moderate with no indoor plumbing or running water so plainly marked "Girls" and "Boys" outhouses were used as restrooms and drinking water was pumped by hand from the well outside, and

Whereas, the ethnic population of children at Fruitvale School was primarily British, Danish, Portuguese, Italian, and Japanese; and

Whereas, the role of the school was to educate and integrate the children into their new country, and

Whereas, the schoolhouse functioned as a community school up until it closed in 1946 when the Lincoln School District began busing the country children to Lincoln to attend school; and

Whereas, in the text of the plaque bestowed upon the schoolhouse, the governor wrote, "This 1889 one-room schoolhouse demonstrates how a building preservation project can unite a community to preserve stories and a vanishing lifestyle" and

Whereas, the building was used for community potlucks and functions until the Fruitvale Community bought the building in 1971 for \$50 and with the help of donations and volunteers, restored the building to preserve its history. The school is currently used for special events and education programs including a "Living History" program and a unique agricultural program called "Farmer to Farmer" sponsoring farmers from Bulgaria invited to the area on an International Exchange program to visit local ranches, farms and agricultural organizations.

Now Therefore Let It Be Know That, on this 19th day of December, 2006 the Placer County Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in honoring the Old Fruitvale School: Community History & Agriculture Project for being selected to receive the Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2006 and presents this Commendation with great pride to Lyndell Grey on behalf of the Old Fruitvale School: Community History & Agriculture Project

Bill Santucci
Chairman

Robert M Weygant
Supervisor, District 2

Jim Holmes
Supervisor, District 3

Vacant
Supervisor, District 4

Bruce Kranz
Supervisor, District 5

