



COUNTY OF PLACER

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OFFICE OF
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
THOMAS M. MILLER, County Executive Officer

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TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By Mary Herdegen, Senior Management Analyst
DATE: December 9, 2008
SUBJECT: Request Approval of Placer County's 2009 Legislative/Regulatory Platform

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt the 2009 Legislative/Regulatory Platform (Attachment 1) for Placer County and direct staff to pursue action items, and support or oppose legislation in accordance with the Platform. Authorize staff to coordinate an advocacy program to support the goals and objectives of the 2009 platform.

BACKGROUND:

The Congress and State Legislature will reconvene in January 2009 and it is appropriate for your Board to consider a legislative program that advocates issues and matters of importance to the County. In keeping with past practices, a proposed Legislative/Regulatory Platform has been prepared for consideration by your Board. All department heads, as well as our legislative advocates, were invited to participate in the planning process.

The proposed platform is composed of three parts. Part One outlines the County's overall legislative principles for 2009. Parts Two and Three list specific state and federal proposals, all of which are consistent with the County's general principles.

Significant effort is required to educate key lawmakers on County priorities and our legislative agenda. It is also important to note the planning and funding horizons vary with each legislative proposal. For example, in some cases a minor technical revision may be recommended to correct existing statute and can move quickly through the legislative process. Other times, proposals may take a year or more to develop, or we may even be unsuccessful in identifying a legislative sponsor to carry, or securing support for, a particular proposal. In still other cases, there may be competing projects or interests that prevent us from advancing certain priorities during the legislative session.

Through the leadership and efforts of the Board of Supervisors, Placer County achieved several federal and state accomplishments in 2008. At the federal level, accomplishments included successful advocacy of the reauthorization of the "Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000."

This Act, which originally expired in 2006, was enacted to restore stability and predictability for payments made to counties related to national forest revenues for the benefit of local roads and schools. The four-year reauthorization was in the Federal Financial Rescue Bill (H.R. 1424) signed by the President in early October. The bill provides for a total of \$3.3 billion in federal funding for fiscal years 2008 through 2011. Placer County's share is approximately \$4.3 million.

Your Board also advocated for federal funding assistance for several county priority projects. Pending House appropriations include: \$1 million in continued funding for the Regional Wastewater and Treatment Facility; \$250,000 for the County's biomass utilization program; and \$150,000 for the Children's Emergency Shelter/Health Center, Phase II. Pending Senate appropriations include: \$1.5 million for the County's biomass utilization program. The final disposition of the pending appropriations bills will not be completed until early 2009 when the new Congress and Administration is in place.

At the State level, the County successfully sponsored Senate Bill 1159, authored by Senator Dave Cox. The Governor signed the measure into law on June 30, 2008 and allows the Board of Supervisors to ban alcohol on a portion of the Truckee River during specified holiday periods. Your Board also advocated its position on several legislative and budgetary proposals related to state bond implementation, court facilities transfers, land use planning, workers' compensation, law enforcement, health care, and transient occupancy tax.

For 2009, staff is recommending that advocacy efforts be maintained to continue to pursue federal funding for several County priorities, including the Regional Wastewater facility, law enforcement communications upgrades, transportation projects, Placer Legacy/PCCP, and biomass utilization. 2009 state advocacy efforts will continue to focus on ensuring the County's fair-share of state infrastructure bond funding, adequate state funding for mandated programs, as well as regulatory relief as appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are annual contract advocacy costs and additional costs for related staff time associated with this action. CEO staff will return to your Board in January to approve 2009 federal and state advocacy contracts. 2008 federal and state advocacy costs totaled \$287,000. As in past years, the potential for cost reductions, and or increased revenue to the County may occur if all, or a portion of, the Legislative/Regulatory Platform is enacted. Funding is included in the County's FY 2008-09 Final Budget and will be included in its FY 2009-010 Budget.

Attachment 1: Placer County 2009 Legislative/Regulatory Platform

cc: California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Donald Peterson, Peterson Consulting, Inc.
Richard Gold, Holland & Knight LLP
County Department Heads



PLACER COUNTY

2009

LEGISLATIVE &

REGULATORY PLATFORM

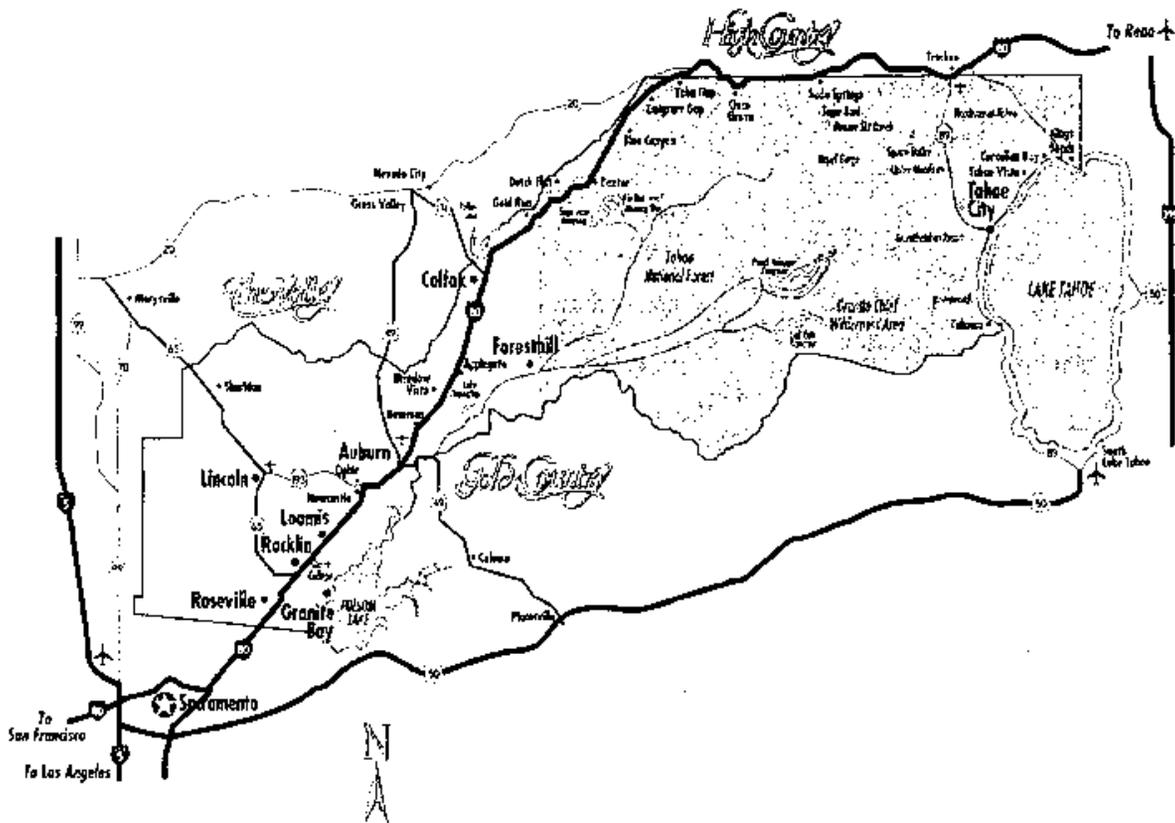
Board of Supervisors
December 9, 2008

**County of Placer
2009 Legislative/Regulatory Platform**

Board of Supervisors

- Supervisor Rocky Rockholm, District 1**
- Supervisor Robert Weygandt, District 2**
- Supervisor Jim Holmes, District 3**
- Supervisor Kirk Uhler, District 4**
- Supervisor Bruce Kranz, District 5**

Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer



**PLACER COUNTY
2009 Legislative/Regulatory Platform**

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PLACER COUNTY
2009 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM
Executive Summary

Placer County's Legislative/Regulatory Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government and the State of California. The annual Platform contains broad goals and specific legislative proposals of interest and benefit to the County of Placer and its citizens.

In 2009, in recognition of the State of California's significant budget constraints, the County of Placer is not requesting additional state funding in several program areas (i.e. Public Safety, Health & Human Services, Child Support Services, Library Services, and Agriculture and Natural Resources), however these program areas remain a high priority for the Board of Supervisors.

While maintaining or increasing funding levels in these program areas is critical to the County's ability to provide services, we recognize that the current fiscal hardships facing the State will likely present continued funding challenges in the upcoming fiscal year.

PLACER COUNTY
2009 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Part One
General Principles

1. Support legislation to restore local control and oppose efforts that will hinder or limit the County's ability to self-govern.
2. Encourage and seek legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and growth, and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
3. Support State/Local government fiscal restructuring efforts that align program responsibility and revenue sources to assure Placer County the financial independence necessary to provide services to its residents and meet its mandated responsibilities.
4. Oppose federal or state legislation for new or transferred mandated programs that do not contain their own revenue source.
5. Support current or increased levels of state and federal funding for County mandated programs.
6. Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict or eliminate County revenue sources.
7. Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation, incorporation and redevelopment that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its constituents.
8. Encourage and seek legislation that protects the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and continued preservation of agricultural lands, wildlife habitat and open space.
9. Seek cooperation with the federal and state government, on regulatory and administrative issues affecting the County, to ensure the protection and well being of its citizens.
10. Continue to encourage local agencies and governments to cooperate for the betterment of the community, and encourage and expand voluntary regional solutions to regional problems.

PLACER COUNTY
2009 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Part Two
State Proposals

County Executive Office

Proposal: County Fair Share of State Infrastructure Bonds

In November 2006, state voters approved several billion dollars in bond authority for transportation, housing, flood control, natural resources, and other projects. Placer County should continue to seek a distribution of those funds that will assure its fair share.

Problem: Several of the bond measures still require implementing legislation that has not yet been finalized. Jurisdictions throughout the state are fiercely competing for this bond funding and the County needs to continue to be prepared to ensure that our interests are protected.

Proposal: Preserve Redevelopment Tax Increment

Support legislation and budget proposals that do not allow the State to fund its budget with redevelopment agency revenues, and seek state reimbursement of \$660,000 in FY 2008-09 Placer County redevelopment funds shifted to the State.

Problem: To assist the State in balancing its 2008-09 budget, Placer County was required to shift \$660,000 in redevelopment revenue to the state. Due to its ongoing fiscal challenges, it is anticipated that the State will consider similar redevelopment revenue shifts in FY 2009-10 and future years. The taking of redevelopment revenue damages the overall economy by reducing the opportunities to leverage redevelopment dollars with private sector dollars. Placer County stands to lose property taxes and other revenues from Redevelopment Agency projects and programs that must be reduced or eliminated.

Proposal: Support Set-Asides Funds for Lake Tahoe Housing & Infrastructure Programs

Support State housing and infrastructure set-aside funds for the Tahoe Basin.

Problem: Placer County finds it difficult to compete for federal and state housing and infrastructure funding for Lake Tahoe Basin projects under the jurisdiction of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). Because of the unique development restrictions enforced by the TRPA, that other regions do not have to contend with, it is difficult to be competitive for scarce federal and state funding. State and federal regulations need to be amended to establish separate set-aside funds to be used in the area subject to the jurisdiction of TRPA. This set-aside could be applied to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) programs and state bond funds.

County Executive Office, Con't.

Proposal: Biomass Facility Project Funding

Continue to seek legislation or budgetary proposals to assist in funding a woody biomass facility within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Problem: The State's Bio-Energy Action Plan finds that a renewable energy facility should be located in the Sierra Nevada by 2010. This plan element supports the Board of Supervisors' (BOS) biomass utilization, wildfire protection and air pollution reduction goals. The County needs to secure funding from a variety of sources, including state and federal agencies, in order to fund a biomass facility in the basin.

Proposal: Preserve Original Intent of Workers' Compensation Act

Preserve the original intent of the Workers' Compensation Act in delivering prompt and fair benefits to employees injured on the job.

Problem: Each year, legislation is proposed that attempts to erode the original intent of the Workers' Compensation Act. Existing provisions related to medical treatment, indemnity benefits, and apportionment (among others) need to be protected or the State's Workers' Compensation system will be faced with spiraling costs and result in the loss of employment opportunities in California.

Proposal: Modify Employer-Required Retraining Noticing

Amend the Labor Code to delay employer noticing (to an employee who has sustained a work-related injury) of employee retraining benefits until the employee's actual work restrictions are known.

Problem: Presently, employers are required to advise an employee of retraining benefits before actual work restrictions are known. This advance noticing creates confusion for the employee and unnecessary cost to the employer.

Proposal: Reinstate Actual Earnings as the Minimum Temporary Disability Rate Support Workers' Compensation Reform legislation that will reinstate actual earnings, at the time of the injury, as being the basis for determining the temporary disability rate.

Problem: Based on current law, inmates on work release, work furlough, and minimum security, as well as volunteers, jurors and community service workers, who are not paid by the County and did not have paid employment prior to an injury, are entitled to the minimum temporary disability rate of \$132.25 dollars per week. Persons who are not receiving a wage for performing services (such as inmates and volunteers) should not receive temporary disability because there has been no loss of wages.

County Executive Office, Con't.

Proposal: Modify Employer Disability Credit for Employees Returned to Work

Amend the Labor Code to allow employers to begin receiving the 15% permanent disability credit when an employee first returns to work from a work-related injury.

Problem: Even though an employee has returned to work, current law does not allow the employer to begin receiving the 15% permanent disability credit until the employee has reached maximum medical improvement and a finding of permanent disability has been made.

Proposal: Tort Liability, Design Professional Limited Liability & Indemnification

Support efforts that would allow the County to broaden its indemnification agreements or waive current statutory limitations for specified licensed professional groups.

Problem: Agreements between public agencies and design professionals only require design professionals to indemnify and defend public agencies for liability arising out of negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of the design professional. Existing statute does not allow the public agency to broaden indemnification agreements or waive current statutory limitations for specified licensed professional groups.

Proposal: Oppose Changes to Permanent Disability Rating Schedule

Continue to oppose legislative efforts that limit the ability to apply apportionment of permanent disability.

Problem: Legislation has been previously proposed that removes the ability to apportion against pre-existing conditions and removes the ability to apportion on presumptive injuries involving safety officers. Without the ability to apportion for pre-existing conditions or presumptive injuries, the employer becomes disproportionately burdened for disability support unrelated to actual work related injury/illness.

Proposal: Oppose Change of Venue Regulations

Oppose legislation that will limit an employer's ability to object to venue related to an injured worker's filing of an application for adjudication of a workers' compensation claim.

Problem: Legislative attempts have been made to limit an employer's ability to object to change of venue related to the filing of a worker's compensation claim. Current law allows an injured worker to file an application for adjudication of a claim in any one of three specified venues: 1) employee's residence; 2) employer's location; or 3) employee's attorney's principal place of

County Executive Office, Con't.

business. The employer can object to choice of venue and request the application be filed in one of the other allowable venues.

Proposal: Support Retention of the CA Film Industry

Endorse the Governors efforts and legislative proposals that will help retain film and television production in California, specifically those types of productions (commercials) that traditionally have been shot on location in Placer County.

Problem: Film production in California has dramatically declined since 2001 due to effective incentive programs offered by 42 states and foreign countries. This decline has resulted in a decrease of economic impact countywide of approximately 50% of production dollars.

Facility Services

Proposal: Funding for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

Seek and support increased state and federal funding for WWTPs and infrastructure, particularly for those facilities required to meet new discharge standards.

Problem: All four of the County's wastewater plants need significant upgrades. The amount of available state and federal funding for wastewater programs and infrastructure is insufficient to fund necessary facility upgrades. Likewise, user fees do not cover the costs needed to fund the improvements necessary to meet the new, more stringent water quality standards. Agencies that cannot fund improvements to maintain compliance will be faced with regulatory fines, potential third-party lawsuits, strict enforcement actions, and may be unable to accommodate future growth.

Proposal: Permit Relief for Regional Wastewater Programs

Support legislation and regulations that would allow the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to provide incentives and/or relief from permit timelines and penalties to enable agencies the time needed to form regional programs. Regionalization of wastewater programs is the most effective solution to the aging wastewater infrastructure in Placer County.

Problem: Regionalization projects cannot be completed in the fixed timelines set forth in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for each facility. These WDR's mandate that facilities must meet specific water quality standards. If these standards are not met, the RWQCB has the authority to levy fines on those facilities that are not in compliance. Without the ability to meet regulations through regional approaches, the County's non-compliant wastewater facilities will be forced to continue to implement costly, short-term remedies, or face significant regulatory penalties and lawsuits.

Facility Services, Con't.

Proposal: Oppose Increase in State-Mandated Solid Waste Diversion Rate

Oppose efforts to increase the state-mandated solid waste diversion rate that is not substantiated by cost/benefit studies, and relies on tipping fees or garbage rates to fund diversion.

Problem: Recent legislative proposals have sought to increase the State diversion mandate beyond 50% and to mandate landfill disposal reductions with insufficient consideration of the costs to local jurisdictions and the potential environmental impact. There is a lack of state mandates placing responsibility on "front-end" entities (e.g. manufacturers, distributors) to generate less waste and to reduce landfill dependency.

Health & Human Services

Proposal: Allow Counties to Set Vital Records Fees

Amend the Health & Safety Code to allow counties to set county-specific fees for birth and death certificates issued by a county.

Problem: Vital record fees are set by the State. These fees are split between state and local programs to support vital records activities. The fees have not kept pace with inflation or the increasing cost of conducting business.

Proposal: Establish Financial Eligibility for CA Children's Services (CCS) Medical Therapy Program (MTP)

Amend the Health & Safety Code to provide that necessary MTP services under the CCS program rendered in the public schools shall not be exempt from financial eligibility standards and enrollment fee requirements.

Problem: Some CCS MTP services, paid in part by the County General Fund, are received by children whose families have the ability to pay for these services.

Proposal: Support Continued Denti-Cal Coverage for All Age Groups

Support legislation that would assure continued Denti-Cal funding for all age groups.

Problem: In recent years, elimination of state funding for adult Denti-Cal coverage has been proposed, which would render low-income adults with no dental care. This strategy is not cost effective since the lack of dental care often leads to dental infections requiring emergency room care and results in greater needs for medical care. Loss of adult Denti-Cal coverage will likely result in increased costs to the County's Medical Care Services Program for indigent adults.

Proposal: Strengthen Spay/Neuter Requirements for Dog & Cat Owners

Support legislation that seeks to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats through stiffer penalties for owners who are repeatedly cited for their dogs

Health & Human Services, Con't.

and/or cats being unlicensed or frequently impounded for being at large; and/or require that these animals be spayed or neutered.

Problem: Overpopulation of dogs and cats poses a significant risk to public health and safety, particularly the occurrences of dog bites and the transmission of rabies and other communicable animal diseases. Unaltered dogs are three-times more likely to attack humans and other animals.

Proposal: Strengthen Laws & Penalties against Illegal Dog Fighting & Cock Fighting

Support legislation that strengthens laws against illegal dog fighting and cockfighting in California, included increased fines and jail time for any person who is convicted of owning, keeping or training dogs or fighting cocks with the intent to use them in fighting.

Problem: Although dog fighting and cockfighting are illegal in California, this type of criminal activity has managed to flourish regardless, resulting in the needless suffering of animals forced to perform in these ways. Over the last year, Placer County Animal Services has identified and abated several premises raising cocks for fighting.

Personnel

Proposal: CalPERS Health Insurance Vesting

Allow Placer County to maintain local control to contract with their bargaining groups for County employees, regarding health insurance premium contribution formulas. Allow Placer County to construct a tiered system that could apply to both current employees as well as future employees, or allow Placer County to use the Schools' vesting formula (non-teaching tier system) as provided for under the government code.

Problem: Current law limits public agencies, that contract with CalPERS for health insurance under the Public Employees Medical Care and Hospital Act (PEMCHA), to a limited number of options to pay for the retiree premium contribution. Depending upon the option chosen to pay for the health insurance, this can cause an economic hardship to the agency providing benefits and impact the agency's Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligation. The changing dynamics of the workforce, as well as the spiraling health insurance costs, necessitates the consideration of more viable options for health care for active employees and retirees.

Planning

Proposal: Modify CA Public Resources Code Related to Oak Woodlands

Support legislation to clarify a number of provisions of the Public Resources Code (PRC) related to oak woodland impacts. Emphasis should be on providing clarification of levels of significance thresholds, definitions, and mitigation and conservation standards. Additional clarification will assist the County in meeting the State's goal of oak woodland conservation resulting in increased regulatory certainty and a consistent application of mitigation requirements.

Problem: Placer County has thousands of acres of oak woodlands ranging from the Valley Oaks to the Black Oaks in the Sierra Nevada. Given the diversity of the oak woodland landscape, the legislation has a profound impact on land development activities in Placer County. Counties throughout California are making ongoing attempts at implementing the Public Resources Code related to oak woodlands. Because no consistent guidelines or established procedures have been developed, each jurisdiction is independently attempting to develop its own means of compliance. Potential statutory conflicts exist between fuel load reduction needs and activities and impacts to oak woodlands.

Proposal: Support to Preserve and Enhance Agricultural Lands and Open Space, Restore and Protect Natural Communities and Implement Watershed Protection Efforts through Placer Legacy and the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP)

Support legislation that advances the objectives of the Placer Legacy program and the PCCP to protect open space and agricultural land in the County and to comply with the myriad of state and federal laws that apply to wetlands and sensitive species while streamlining regulatory procedures.

Problem: The pressures of urban development have an effect on the amount of land dedicated to open space and agriculture production. With an increase in urbanization, more open space and agricultural land will be lost resulting in a decrease in biological diversity, agricultural production, scenic landscapes, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the general open character of the County's landscape.

Proposal: Support a Programmatic Approach to Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy

Ensure that the Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy can provide for programmatic approach methods to conservation and mitigation of aquatic resources in coordination with the County's habitat plans. This will provide opportunities, to ensure in perpetuity, preservation of high quality resources and effective compensatory mitigation, including the conservation and restoration of functions and values through adopted plans managed at the local level.

Planning, Con't.

Problem: Presently, the State of California is drafting a statewide regulation regarding wetlands. The Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP) is seeking to provide regulatory compliance for all major state and federal species and habitat laws in effect today. The County is concerned that the State's new wetlands regulations may preclude programmatic solutions, such as the PCCP, as a means of compliance. If a separate and independent permitting program, managed by the State, is present after the PCCP is completed, there may be a requirement to obtain permits whose mitigation requirements could be separate and independent from the agreements reached with state/federal agencies for all other habitat impacts.

Proposal: Support Amendments to Senate Bill 375

Support amendments to SB 375 that include: clear exemptions for all transportation projects funded through Proposition 1B (2006 voter-approved Highway Transportation Bond), and expansion of CEQA streamlining to other projects that are consistent with a "Sustainable Communities Strategy."

Problem: SB 375 was approved by the Governor on September 30, 2008. The "smart growth" bill, authored by Senator Darrell Steinberg (SAC), links land use and transportation planning with greenhouse-gas reductions, resulting in significant revision of land-use policies. Legislative "clean-up" of the bill is needed to clarify various provisions of the new statute and address lingering concerns.

Public Works

Proposal: Support Proposition 1B Guidelines that Allow Uniform Traffic Impact Fees to be An Eligible Match

Proposition 1B funded a State Local Transportation Partnership Program (SLTPP) to assist local jurisdictions in funding local projects. State guidelines are pending on how the SLTPP Program will be administered.

Problem: Various jurisdictions utilize different techniques, such as Placer County's uniform traffic impact fee, for funding needed transportation infrastructure. Jurisdictions who do not utilize a transportation sales tax should not be penalized for using other funding methods to satisfy the state match requirements.

PLACER COUNTY
2009 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Part Three
Federal Proposals

Proposal: Support Continued Funding for a Regional Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility

Problem: Existing aged wastewater treatment plants in the County require significant ongoing upgrades to meet regulatory requirements. Each existing facility faces: 1) Major expansion needs; 2) Increasing stringent federal pollutant permit conditions; and 3) Cost constraints (both capital & operation and maintenance). Costs to meet regulatory requirements exceed individual districts' ability to fund mandated improvements. The County's Regional Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility will accommodate projected growth well into the future and provide significant environmental benefits to receiving waters throughout the region, including the Bay-Delta ecosystem as well as long-term cost efficiencies. The regional project was authorized in the 2003 Reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act.

Proposal: Advocate Advanced Funding Concept - Regional Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility

Problem: The Placer County Regional Wastewater project is at a critical juncture. Placer County, and its regional partners, is facing severe regulatory pressure to complete multi-million dollar upgrade/expansion projects to address current regulatory deficiencies and near-term capacity issues. If design and construction of the regional pipeline does not proceed immediately, with completion over the next four to five years, jurisdictions will be forced to spend all available resources to upgrade their existing facilities, effectively ending the regional project. In 2003, Congress authorized \$35 million in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Existing federal procedures allow large transportation and flood control projects to utilize an "advanced funding" process. Under this concept, the local agencies would fund construction through local sources, including debt. Congress would fund future debt-service through annual appropriations of WRDA funds via the Army Corps of Engineers' budget.

Proposal: Support Funding for Mandated Wastewater Treatment Upgrades

Problem: There is insufficient federal funding available, or is often too limited, to support wastewater infrastructure needs. Funding is needed to support facility upgrades required to meet increasingly stringent federal water quality standards. Agencies that cannot fund improvements to maintain compliance are faced with fines, third-party lawsuits and strict enforcement actions. Additionally, if facility upgrades cannot be completed, agencies would ultimately be unable to accommodate growth in their communities.

Proposal: Support Continued Funding for a Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter

Problem: The Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter is for children who are removed from their families for protection from abuse or neglect, or for children who have failed other placements ranging from foster care to intensive high-level group homes. Phase I of the County's new shelter opened in Spring 2008. It includes emergency shelter housing, a mental health/behavioral health housing area, on-site medical facilities and a multi-disciplinary interview center for forensic investigations, as well as a supervised visitation/parent education center. Funding is needed to complete Phase II, construction of a multi-purpose building to provide recreational and enrichment programs to shelter residents at a time when they may be feeling insecure and vulnerable from the abuse or neglect they have experienced. These programs will include nutrition education and substance abuse classes.

Proposal: Support Additional Funding for Public Safety Communications Network

Problem: Maintaining public safety is one of the most important roles of government. Communications equipment currently used by law enforcement and other public safety officials in the County is outdated, unreliable, has limited functionality and interoperability, and is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to maintain. In addition, the current system does not comply with Project 25 (Federal Communications Commission equipment standards providing greater public safety interoperability). Continued federal funding is critical to continue implementation of a countywide Project 25 compliant communications system to provide increased public safety and disaster response by increasing communication across and between multi-jurisdictional boundaries with other mutual aid agencies.

Proposal: Support Funding for Auburn-Folsom Road Widening

Problem: The construction of Auburn-Folsom Road was a part of the original Federal Folsom Dam Project and was designed as a rural two-lane road. Due to regional growth in the counties of Placer, Sacramento and El Dorado, today it serves as a key transportation connector across the American River between the Interstate 80 Freeway to the north and U.S. 50 Highway to the south. The current traffic volumes are exceeding the capacity of the road in Placer County. The increase in traffic will also be fueled by construction of the new Folsom Dam Bridge and reopening of the relocated Dam Road. The bridge project was approved under a NEPA Environmental Impact Statement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) as lead agency. The mitigation for traffic increases is identified in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document prepared for the bridge project administered by BOR. The two-mile project section is adjacent to United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) land and will restore trail connectivity to the BOR property and associated trails systems currently hampered due to increasing traffic on Auburn-Folsom Road. Funding through BOR is needed to assist in constructing the proposed improvements to meet regional growth demands.

Proposal: Support Continued Funding for Walerga Road at Dry Creek Bridge Replacement

Problem: The Bridge is located on Walerga Road in western Placer County. Walerga Road is a critical arterial roadway that connects Sacramento County to the City of Roseville. Traffic levels are expected to double in the next 10 years. The existing bridge (126 ft. /span) was constructed in 1973 and is frequently covered by floodwaters resulting in road closures. These closures have adverse effects on emergency response and traffic patterns. The proposed project, constructed above the flood plain, would provide for four vehicle lanes and shoulders/bike lanes. Federal transportation dollars are often used to replace bridges that are functionally obsolete. However, existing federal regulations do not recognize flooding as justifiable authorization for replacement through the federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP). These regulations need to be modified to allow federal financial assistance through HBP to support the bridge replacement.

Proposal: Support Lake Tahoe Federal Transit Operations

Problem: The Lake Tahoe basin has an inadequate level of transit operating funds and is not able to provide the level of service needed to serve demand. There are urbanized and non-urbanized pots of funds made available on an annual basis through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Tahoe basin receives non-urbanized FTA funds which are provided to jurisdictions with populations less than 50,000. Due to the high level of visitors to public lands in Tahoe, along with the permanent resident population and seasonal population, the average daily population of the Lake Tahoe basin is over 152,000 according to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). These demands place a larger burden on our transit systems than most non-urbanized areas. Placer County is seeking support for TRPA's federal request that Lake Tahoe be designated as an urbanized area for the purposes of receiving FTA funding for transit operations.

Proposal: Support Funding for Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project

Problem: Lake Tahoe is designated an Outstanding National Resource Water by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Kings Beach commercial area is located at the northerly entrance to the Lake Tahoe Basin. Federal financial assistance, in conjunction with state and local funding, is needed to provide water quality treatment facilities, pedestrian/bicycle paths and other streetscape amenities to improve the water quality of Lake Tahoe and revitalize the historical commercial core of Kings Beach. It is estimated that the project will result in a reduction of up to 50% of the estimated 88,000 pounds of sediment that discharges annually into Lake Tahoe from the Kings Beach area.

Proposal: Advocate Transportation Reauthorization Project Priorities

Problem: The federal surface transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU) expires in 2009. Rapid growth within the region has fueled the need for additional investment in the County's traffic circulation system which includes Interstate 80, a major cross-country interstate highway. Funding is also needed for transportation

improvements including: Auburn-Folsom Road widening; Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project; Tahoe City Transit Center, and the Walerga Road Bridge Replacement.

Proposal: Support Funding for the Tahoe City Transit Center

Problem: Federal funding is needed to assist in the construction of the Tahoe City Transit Center, a proposed intermodal public transit facility that will be located on federal land (in the community of Tahoe City) near the west shore of Lake Tahoe. Public bus ridership has continued to rise in the Lake Tahoe Basin and construction of this facility will better accommodate the increase in ridership, encourage other transportation modes such as walking and bicycling, and improve air quality. This project is located on federal land, requiring a Federal Special Use Permit, and has been approved environmentally by the U.S. Forest Service.

Proposal: Support Funding for the Foresthill Bridge Repainting

Problem: The Foresthill Bridge, originally built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), was opened in 1973 in anticipation of spanning the reservoir created by the proposed (but never constructed) Auburn Dam. The bridge links Auburn with the community of Foresthill and other developed areas on the south side of the north fork of the American River. At nearly one-half mile long and 730 feet above the river, the bridge is the third highest in the United States. At 35-years old, the bridge has not been repainted since construction and recent testing shows deterioration of the paint. If not repainted within the next 5 years, structural impacts to the bridge could occur. Because of the lead paint originally applied by the USBR and the environmentally sensitive American River Canyon that the bridge spans, the cost of removing, containing and disposing of the lead paint and repainting is estimated at \$26 million and federal funding assistance is needed.

Proposal: Advocate CMAQ Funding Regulatory Change

Problem: The federal Congestion Management & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) provides reimbursement to local governments for full vehicle replacement of their fleets to improve air quality. However, FHWA regulators have stated that full vehicle replacement 'may' be limited to those elements that lead to emission reductions. Consequently, California counties are only being reimbursed approximately 40% for replacing a vehicle. This slows the County's fleet upgrades and prevents replacement of higher polluting fleet vehicles in the system. FHWA regulations must clearly state allowance for 100% federal funding of chassis for diesel retrofits.

Proposal: Support Reauthorization of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

Problem: Approved in 2000, the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act authorized \$300 million in federal funding, over 10 years, to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe from continued environmental deterioration. The federal funding supports the Environmental Improvement Program –a \$900 million federal, state, and local partnership to improve the water clarity of the lake, and restore Lake Tahoe's

environmental health. To date, nearly 300 environmental projects and restoration activities have occurred as a result of this funding. Placer County received approximately \$20 million of this federal funding to plan, design, permit, and construct 10 water quality improvement projects throughout the north and west shore areas of Lake Tahoe. The Act must be reauthorized to allow for the continued efforts of the Environmental Improvement Program.

Proposal: Support Hazardous Materials Clean Up at DeWitt Center

Problem: The DeWitt Center was constructed in 1943 as a military hospital during World War II. Construction practices at that time included the use of materials such as asbestos and lead paint, and utilized underground tanks for heating and fuel oil. The 200-acre DeWitt property is now owned by the County and has served as a critical resource for county agencies for many years. The property's redevelopment potential to house government, commercial, and light industrial activity is promising. However, extensive renovation activity, including hazardous material cleanup of asbestos and lead paint, would be required before successful redevelopment could be undertaken. Federal assistance would initially be used to abate and/or remediate the hazardous materials currently on site. The FFY 2005 House Department of Defense Appropriations Report made note of the important environmental cleanup activities at the DeWitt Center and said that it "expects the Army to provide adequate funding to complete cleanup requirements at this site in a timely manner". To date, cleanup efforts at DeWitt Center remain unfunded by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Proposal: Funding and Support to Preserve and Enhance Agricultural Lands and Open Space; Restore and Protect Natural Communities and Implement Watershed Protection Efforts through Placer Legacy and the Placer County Conservation Plan

Problem: The pressures of urban and rural residential development in the County results in a loss of open space, biological diversity, agricultural production, scenic landscapes, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the general open character of the County's landscape. To counterbalance these impacts, the Placer Legacy program was established in 2000 as a proactive, long range, comprehensive strategy for protection of open space and agricultural lands in the County. The Placer Legacy program, in concert with the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP), will assist in protecting open space and agricultural land, and will assist the County in complying with the myriad of state and federal laws that apply to wetlands and sensitive species while streamlining regulatory procedures.

Proposal: Continued Funding to Enhance the County's Wildfire Protection & Restoration Efforts and Biomass Utilization

Problem: In 2007, Placer County approved a Wildfire Protection and Biomass Utilization Strategic Plan that will enhance the County's ability to prevent catastrophic wildfire and to utilize the County's vast renewable woody biomass load. The strategic plan envisions the future operation of a biomass energy

facility in the Lake Tahoe basin. Additional federal resources are needed to enhance, expand and promote the County's biomass efforts.

Proposal: Support Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits in Lake Tahoe Basin

Problem: Placer County is currently undertaking several initiatives to assist in providing affordable housing in its North Lake Tahoe area. Over the past decade, job formation has far outpaced the development of affordable housing in this resort based economy. Housing construction in the Lake Tahoe Basin is hampered by its remoteness, high labor costs, high infrastructure costs, mountain topography, winter weather conditions and environmental sensitivity. Additionally, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), a federal bi-state compact, sets forth extensive and complex land use controls in this area. Because of these challenges, land located within the boundaries of TRPA should receive a permanent federal designation as a "High Cost Housing Area" (i.e. "Difficult to Develop") in order to be eligible for their associated low-income housing tax credits.

Proposal: Support for Lake Tahoe Housing & Infrastructure Funds

Problem: Placer County finds it difficult to compete for federal and state housing and infrastructure funding for Lake Tahoe Basin projects under the jurisdiction of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). Because of the unique development restrictions enforced by the TRPA, that other regions do not have to contend with, it is difficult to be competitive for scarce federal funding. Federal regulations need to be amended to establish separate set-aside funds to be used in the area subject to the jurisdiction of TRPA. This set-aside could be applied to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) programs and state bond funds.

Proposal: Repeal Section 7309 of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to Restore Child Support Program Funding

Problem: Section 7309 of the 2005 Federal Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) disallowed the match of state-earned incentive dollars with federal financial participation funds. This action has adversely impacted California's Child Support Services program funding. In FY 2008-09, the DRA action resulted in the loss of \$88 million in total funding to the California's Child Support Services program and puts it at risk of significant service reductions in the future. DRA Section 7309 must be repealed to restore funding for critical child support services.

Proposal: Support Designation of Placer County as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)

Problem: Funding has not kept pace with the increased cost of providing mandated health care to low-income adults. A Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) designation would enhance federal reimbursement for additional patient populations in Placer County, and assist in offsetting burgeoning health care costs.

