

The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the Seal of Placer County, California. The seal is circular and contains the text "COUNTY OF PLACER" at the top and "PLACER COUNTY CALIFORNIA" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a landscape with a mountain range, a river, and a building. A five-pointed star is positioned to the right of the central landscape.

**PLACER
COUNTY**

2012

Placer County's Legislative 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.

**ANNUAL
LEGISLATIVE
PLATFORM**

**Placer County
2012 Legislative/Regulatory Platform**

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**PLACER COUNTY
2012 Legislative/Regulatory Platform**

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PLACER COUNTY
2012 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.

The Legislative/Regulatory Platform is composed of three parts. Part One outlines the County's overall legislative principles for 2012. Parts Two and Three list specific state and federal proposals, all of which are consistent with the County's general principles.

PLACER COUNTY
2012 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 sufficient 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, sufficient 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
2012 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Part Two
STATE PROPOSALS

Proposal 1: Parcel Fees for Fire Planning in State Responsibility Areas (SRA)

Support legislation revising or repealing the imposition of fire protection fees on properties within SRA. State law requires the state to have the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires in areas that the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has determined are SRA.

Problem: In order to close the gap in the State's fire protection budget, the Governor signed into law AB 29 X1 (July 2011), shifting some economic burden of fire prevention activities to local residents, requiring up to \$150 in annual fire prevention fees on habitable structures within the SRA. The Board of Forestry took action (November 2011) to implement the full fee with a potential \$35 credit for all parcels that pay a local fire protection assessment to a local fire district or agency. The SRA fees is anticipated to hinder local fire districts that have been particularly hard hit by reductions in property tax revenue from obtaining voter approval of special tax initiatives to fund at current levels.

Proposal 2: 2011 Realignment - General Protections, Revenues, and Local Flexibility

Support efforts to achieve appropriate protections, dedication of adequate revenue, and flexibility leading to best outcomes for Placer County with implementation of 2011 Realignment. Work with CSAC, other stakeholders, and as may be necessary, directly with Legislative and Governor's office in achieving this goal. Shift of State responsibilities to counties must be accompanied with the local tools, adequate revenues, and risk protection to successfully carry-out mandates. Constitutional protections ensuring adequate and stable funding and flexibility is critical to maintaining public safety and to the successful implementation Of 2011 Realignment.

Problem: The 2011-12 State Budget did not include the proposed constitutional amendment previously negotiated between the Administration and counties, leaving counties with a commitment from the Governor to pursue the constitutional protections, but no mechanism by which to achieve them. Absent a constitutional amendment, counties remain vulnerable to potential diversion of revenues dedicated to fund realignment, as well as the fiscal consequences of changes to program requirements and parameters. In addition, many critical details to implement the 2011 Realignment have yet to be approved by the Legislature/Governor. It is imperative that the statutory/constitutional framework include adequate revenues, local flexibility, and county protections to best position the County to meet the largest expansion of State mandates on counties in 20+ years.

Proposal 3: 2011 Realignment – Local Child Support Agencies Constitutional Funding Protections, Phase II

The Child Support Program is a federal program delivered to the public, locally, in California through local child support agencies, with State oversight. Support legislation that provides funding protections to counties for the Child Support Program and the Child Support Agencies who must provide the services. Sufficient constitutional protections that offer appropriate revenue stability and predictability, program certainty and flexibility, with an acceptable level of fiscal risk are the primary concern to counties.

Problem: The Child Support Program was noted by the Governor as one of the programs to shift to the Counties in Phase II of Realignment. The federal government pays 66% of the program costs. The State currently provides 34% in order to comply with the Social Security Act and TANF Grant. The state can be inconsistent in how it pays for mandated service costs. The LAO has suggested in the past that counties need to provide a share of costs in order to have some ownership of the program. Without financial protections, the funding source could be shifted to the County.

Proposal 4a: Redevelopment Agency Re-establishment

Support legislation that may emerge to re-establish the Placer County Redevelopment Agency. In January 2011, the Governor announced a proposal to eliminate all California redevelopment agencies in AB 1X26 (RDA Dissolution Act) and provide a voluntary in lieu program AB1X27 (Alternative Redevelopment Program Act). The legislation was ultimately adopted and signed into law. It allowed agencies to avoid elimination if their legislative bodies commit to making significant payments to local school and special districts. On December 29, 2011, the California Supreme Court delivered its decision to a lawsuit filed against the new laws finding the AB1X26 constitutional, however, AB1X27, unconstitutional. The Court's decision means that all California Redevelopment Agencies will be dissolved, effective February 1, 2012. At the time of Platform approval, no legislative remedies had emerged. However in the event there are, this proposal is included in the Platform to facilitate advocacy efforts.

Problem: The Placer County Redevelopment Agency operates three redevelopment project areas – Sunset Industrial, North Auburn, and North Lake Tahoe Project Areas. The Agency's FY2011-12 budget includes a Work Program of dozens of community revitalizations, economic development, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, and affordable housing projects and programs in all three Project Areas. These projects and programs have been stopped by the Court's recent ruling. This is anticipated to result in the loss of annual tax increment revenue, Agency reserve funds, and other assets such as real property.

Proposal 4b: Redevelopment Successor Agency to Retain Real Property in the Tahoe Basin

Allow the Successor Agency of the former Placer County Redevelopment agency to retain real property or easements that were purchased or constructed explicitly for public purposes to satisfy environmental mitigation requirements as established under regulatory authority of statute and to satisfy an environmental improvement project approved by a regional body responsible for "Outstanding National Resource Water", or for the purposes of accomplishing related infrastructure improvements for said real property, and provide for the Successor Agency to be exempt from disposing of such assets and compensating other taxing entities.

Problem: Over the past several years, the County has worked with regional partners toward meeting the Total Maximum Daily Load standards and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency required threshold standards by completing several projects in the North Lake Tahoe area. As part of a long term plan for the North Lake Tahoe Project Area, the former Placer County Redevelopment Agency invested millions of dollars in community revitalizations, economic development, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, and affordable housing projects and programs. These efforts assist in satisfying requirements set to achieve water quality and other standards unique to Lake Tahoe, such as air quality, vehicle trips, scenic, noise, soils, stream environment zones, vegetation, wildlife, and fisheries.

Proposal 5: 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 and programs that advance 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. Placer County supports legislation to clarify a number of provisions of the Public Resources Code, related to oak woodland impacts. Emphasis should be on clarification of levels-of-significance thresholds, definitions, and mitigation/conservation standards, as implemented by proposed or adopted NCCPs/HCPs. Resolving potential statutory conflicts between fuel load reduction needs and activities and impacts to oak woodlands is also necessary.

Problem: Even with the slowing of the housing market, landowners are continuing their efforts for large-scale entitlements that have the potential to convert over 50,000 acres of county land over the next 50 years. 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 6: State Wetlands and Riparian Areas Protection Policy

Support legislation or policy development that direct the State Water Quality Control Board to prepare a Wetlands and Riparian Areas Protection Policy that takes advantage of the science-based planning and programmatic regulatory opportunities provided by programs such as the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP).

Problem: Presently, the State Water Quality Control Board is drafting a statewide regulation regarding wetlands. The State Board should coordinate any new state-wide wetlands regulation with the numerous landscape-level conservation efforts being developed to ensure that a new project-by-project regulatory scheme is not developed when all other resource management issues have been addressed at the landscape-scale through an adopted conservation strategy. This lack of coordination, without any regional context, will result in fragmented mitigation activities, bureaucratic redundancy, and a lack of certainty for regulatory outcomes for the public and private sector.

Proposal 7: Placer County Regional Water Strategy

Support the efforts of the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and the regional water purveyor team (the Sacramento Water Alliance) to protect our water resources and prevent increases in fees and/or changes in our infrastructure that is dedicated to conveying and distributing water to Placer County residents.

Problem: Over the past few years there has been a significant increase in legislative activity intended to solve California's water delivery problems. In Placer County, upstream from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and valley, the County and its partner PCWA see the problem as an export water contractor problem. Inevitably, however, the proposed solutions require upstream and valley water right holders and water purveyors to contribute water and money. There are several venues where these proposals take shape but, ultimately, there must be state legislative implementation to resolve the issues. County staff would work with PCWA to coordinate the interests of the County.

Proposal 8: Renewable Energy Legislation

Monitor and evaluate legislation regarding renewable energy to ensure compatibility with the Placer County land use, transportation, environmental, and economic goals and objectives. In

order to implement AB 32/SB 375 and other legislation related to renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction, there is a significant amount of legislation being proposed in California that could affect Placer County. In the past year legislation has been developed to reform/modify CEQA to streamline or exempt projects, to streamline incidental take authorization for the listed species, to modify the Williamson Act to cancel contracts for solar projects and other similar bills (e.g., Senate Bills 226, 16, 267 and 618).

Problem: The scope and pace of legislative initiatives is significant and it is necessary to carefully evaluate new legislation and regulations as they are being developed to insure that the County both benefits from legislation that is consistent with local objectives and protects the County from those initiatives that are inconsistent with our objectives.

Proposal 9: Economic Incentives for Green Technology Legislation

Support efforts to provide financial and other incentives to assist in implementing compliance programs using green technology including, but not limited to diversion credits for new technologies designed to convert waste materials into usable energy, renewable energy credits, tax credits, and greenhouse gas reduction credits.

Problem: State and federal mandates require local jurisdictions to increase waste diversion and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. New, green technology can be highly effective in helping jurisdictions achieve the mandates, but are often infeasible without economic and other incentives. Currently, it is not feasible to implement some new, green technologies either due to their cost or their inability to qualify for financial incentives or as compliance programs. For example, conversion of solid waste to energy reduces dependence on landfills and creates a fuel source for renewable energy; however, such technology does not currently qualify for AB 939 diversion credits or renewable energy credits, making it infeasible to implement. For agencies to be able to help meet emission mandates and energy goals, and to continue to reduce dependence on landfills and fossil fuels, they must receive the tools and incentives needed to implement new and greener technology. The provision of financial and other incentives, such as tradable credits, could encourage and enable use of new, green technology at our facilities by providing a revenue stream, associated with environmental attributes, that is not currently available. Without incentives, such as diversion credits, renewable energy credits, and greenhouse gas emission credits, many green technologies will remain financially infeasible.

Proposal 10: Williamson Act

Support legislation and state funding for the Williamson Act program.

Problem: There is continued uncertainty at the state level pertaining to the Williamson Act program with various subvention funding cuts and program changes, including crossover with solar energy initiatives. Elimination of Williamson Act subventions to counties poses a threat to the continued viability of family farms and ranches in Placer County and California if their property taxes are raised to development land value levels. Established in 1971, the Williamson Act Program provides a property tax exemption designed to keep agricultural and open space land free of development and give local governments a useful tool to implement land use planning goals. The program also provides limited financial recovery to local jurisdictions that approve Williamson Act contracts to help protect California's vanishing farmland. The reduced tax base on farmland can be a critical determining factor as to whether land is sold and developed or it remains in agricultural production.

Proposal 11: Department Inclusion in Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

Oppose any new legislation that seeks to force direct regulatory enforcement by the Agricultural Commissioner of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). While The ILRP creates an

additional, unnecessary and redundant layer of regulation for Placer County's agricultural community, the primary reason for opposition is an unfunded mandate that would strain the staffing resource.

Problem: The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) currently operates the ILRP under the authority of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. This program requires commercial agriculturalists who irrigate to join a water quality coalition and pay for water quality monitoring. As evidenced by AB 2595 (Huffman), the Regional Board and a portion of the state legislature seek to require the local county Agricultural Commissioner to assume a regulatory role, within the ILRP, by prohibiting the Agricultural Commissioner from issuing pesticide use permits to growers until the Agricultural Commissioner has verified that each grower is currently participating in the ILRP. This would create an unfunded mandate for the Agricultural Commissioner by adding a minimum of one hour of staff time to each of the several hundred permits issued in Placer County each year, increasing costs by an estimated \$15,000, annually. Current state law prohibits counties from charging a fee for the issuance of pesticide permits.

Proposal 12: Weights and Measures Device Registration Fee Sunset

Support legislation to continue the authority for the County Sealer of Weights and Measure to charge registration fees for all commercial weighing and measuring devices beyond the existing sunset date of January 1, 2013. Further, support increases in allowable fees to cover the complete cost of testing commercial weighing and measuring devices. Weights and measures regulatory activities are a core function of the County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures. Weights and measures activities protect California's consumers and businesses by providing a level playing field for all.

Problem: The authority to charge registration fees for commercial weighing and measuring devices expires on January 1, 2013. Unless new legislation is passed to extend the authority to charge fees, all weights and measures activities currently performed by the County Sealer will become unfunded, constituting a potential loss of \$175,000 per year.

Proposal 13: Permit Relief for Regional Wastewater Facilities

Support legislation and regulations that would allow state and federal agencies to provide some incentives and/or relief from permit timelines and penalties to enable agencies the time needed to form regional solutions. Permits are valid for a period of five years and allow agencies time to come into compliance within that fixed timeframe; however wastewater agencies cannot form regional partnerships, design, fund, and construct regional conveyance and treatment facilities in that timeframe.

Problem: Regionalization of wastewater facilities may be an effective solution to aging wastewater infrastructure. However, regionalization projects cannot be completed in the fixed timelines set forth in the permits for each facility. The County will be precluded from participating in regional solutions without relief from permit timelines and penalties. Without this relief, regulatory fines and lawsuits could cost Placer County over a million dollars.

Proposal 14: Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Support increased funding for water and wastewater programs and infrastructure, particularly for those facilities required to meet new discharge standards. Support revisions to EPA and State Revolving Fund loan requirements to allow loans of up to 40 years for wastewater regionalization projects.

Problem: Existing aged wastewater treatment plants in the County require significant upgrades to meet stringent regulatory requirements. Each existing facility faces: 1) major expansion needs;

2) increasing stringent federal pollutant permit conditions; and 3) cost constraints (both capital and operation & maintenance). Costs to meet regulatory requirements exceed individual districts' ability to fund mandated improvements. Agencies that cannot fund improvements to maintain compliance are faced with fines, third-party lawsuits and strict enforcement actions. In addition, if facility upgrades cannot be completed, agencies will ultimately be unable to accommodate growth in their communities. 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 15: State-Mandated Solid Waste Diversion Rate

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

Problem: Recent legislative proposals, including AB341 (2011), 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.

Proposal 16: Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation

Support Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation designed to shift the financial disposal burden of household hazardous waste, universal waste and other problematic products from cities and counties to manufacturers and producers of the products. Oppose landfill bans that are not substantiated by scientific studies showing that land filling the material poses a danger to human or environmental health and oppose bans that do not provide a plan for cost-effective ways to remove the material from the waste stream.

Problem: In recent years, various materials have been designated as hazardous and banned from landfill disposal. Such requirements, along with a lack of producer responsibility, for hazardous and difficult to recycle materials, have resulted in significant financial impacts to local jurisdictions. Without producer responsibility, jurisdictions will continue to be responsible for implementing appropriate diversion programs to keep the wastes out of landfills. Without producer responsibility, the County will continue to pay for diversion programs and operational costs to divert these wastes. Such costs will likely be passed on to garbage ratepayers.

Proposal 17: Fees Imposed by the State and Local Regulatory Agencies

Generally oppose efforts to increase fees or other costs of operation unless substantiated by life-cycle and/or cost-benefit analyses, or reasonable demonstrated need. Oppose any new or increased fees designed to help state agencies make up for budget deficits or to fund subsidies or grant programs. Local governments have had to streamline operations in response to the economic climate, and cannot afford continual increased costs of operation. Support measures to reduce regulatory program implementation costs. Regulatory agencies should identify ways to streamline costs before passing on the financial burden to local government - costs which will likely be passed on to ratepayers.

Problem: There have been recent efforts by regulatory agencies to increase or implement new fees including, but not limited to, disposal tipping fees, landfill closure/and corrective action costs, Waste Discharge Requirement fees, AB 32 administrative fees, and landfill closure plan review fees - many designed to subsidize unrelated programs and/or to balance state agencies' budgetary shortfalls. Any increased fees will directly impact Placer County operations; increased costs of operation will likely be passed on to ratepayers.

Proposal 18: Residential Fire Sprinkler Requirements in the 2010 California Building Standards Code

Support legislation that will provide local agencies, particularly in rural and mountainous areas, structure size qualifications for fire sprinkler requirements in the 2010 California Building Standards Code for one and two-family dwellings. Clarification of interest would include, for example, relief from these fire sprinkler requirements until the area classification is an urban category or until a proposal to increase density from rural to urban is processed by the local jurisdiction.

Problem: The 2010 California Building Standards Code (Part 2.5) includes a fire sprinkler requirement for newly constructed one and two-family dwellings. This requirement, without clarification of requirements in rural communities, is anticipated to be onerous in some areas of the County due to cost and infrastructure conditions. Requirements may place an undue burden on property owners and water purveyors in providing this additional infrastructure.

Proposal 19: Retaining the Film Industry in California

Advocate for retention and promotion of film production in California, specifically those types of productions traditionally shot on location in Placer County.

Problem: The first two years of the California Film and Tax Credit Program have resulted in modest economic gains statewide but the program sunsets in 2013-14. Placer County is just beginning to enjoy some of the benefits of qualified productions. These gains will disappear if the five year program extension is not executed. Production companies will, again, take advantage of more attractive out-of-state-incentives. Prior to the Tax Credit Program, incentive programs in other states and countries, in addition to the economic downturn, created a 50% decrease in production dollars expended countywide.

Proposal 20: 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 21: 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 some others who are not paid by the County and did not have paid employment prior to an injury are entitled to the minimum temporary disability. In 2009, Assemblyman Niello introduced AB 516 on behalf of Placer County. This bill, if it had passed, would have ensured that those who had no earnings prior to an injury would not be eligible to receive minimum temporary disability benefits.

Proposal 22: The Medicare/Medicaid Extension Act

The Medicare/Medicaid Extension Act created an obligation for all Self-insured employers to set aside financial accounts for qualified employees receiving Worker's Compensation, Employee's Health benefits, and third parties receiving Liability settlements. Support changes to statute that: 1) resolve delays, 2) establish a better process, and 3) remove penalties (\$1,000/day for

non-compliance). Propose amending statute to provide a fair and equitable process for reimbursement of Medicare Set Aside (MSA) or Medicare Reimbursement Accounts (MRA).

Problem: Current statute requires set aside accounts for Medicare reimbursements from Worker's Compensation and Liability claim settlements for those receiving Medi-Cal/Medicaid benefits or those eligible to receive benefits with reporting and approval to CMS on all settlements, judgments, and awards. The process delays resolution of claims and increases costs to employers. Settlement of claims take into consideration potential exposure for liability of medical costs whereas CMS does not have an established practice of approving fair and equitable settlements and provides no insight as to how they arrive at a given settlement amount. The result is delay in claim resolution which increases cost to the County Worker's Compensation and General Liability funds.

Proposal 23: Permitting and Regulatory Flexibility for Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs

Support legislation and/or permitting that would provide local agencies more control and flexibility to modify operations to best meet regulatory requirements. Oppose increased or more stringent regulatory requirements without use of scientific evidence. Optimally, regulations and permits should authorize agencies and operators to implement and/or modify operations or programs without the need to prepare, submit, and obtain permitting authority approval, as long as the changes comply with applicable regulations and are protective of water quality. Such flexibility could include the ability for wastewater operators to choose the best methods to meet effluent requirements and regulate what goes into the sewers, discretion for regulatory agencies to use science-based approaches in permitting facilities, and streamlining the existing permit process.

Problem: Current regulations and permits do not provide local agencies and operators opportunities for operational flexibility. Facility permits often include requirements that are not based on scientific evidence and do not allow for site-specific factors to be considered. Increased flexibility would enable local agencies to manage its Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs in smarter and more efficient ways, meet mandates using a variety of methods, and implement operational changes without permit revisions. Without flexibility, agencies could face increased capital and operating costs that do not protect human health and the environment. Current proposed legislation, which includes revisions to the Sanitary Sewer System Waste Discharge Requirements, would 1) further limit operational flexibility, 2) be unnecessarily overly-burdensome and complex and 3) would increase public responsibility for private infrastructure.

Proposal 24: Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation

Support legislation and advocacy efforts to: (1) minimize further water quality regulation and unfunded mandates, (2) that will make it easier to implement local fee programs to support storm water quality program implementation and (3) continuing and increasing State and Federal funding assistance for TMDL compliance and storm water program implementation. TMDL implementation requirements are in addition to existing NPDES permit requirements in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Program expansion should not be considered until economic conditions improve and new program funding opportunities are available to implementers. Permit requirements should be cost-effective and reasonable and should have direct water quality benefit.

Problem: In November 2010, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). These amendments establish the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to halt Lake Tahoe's transparency decline and restore transparency to meet the established clarity standard for the lake. While these proposed Basin Plan changes appear positive for protecting Lake Tahoe,

it places additional financial burden on local governments in the Lake Tahoe Basin to comply with the proposed pollutant standards. Failure to comply with NPDES permit requirements, including compliance with TMDL load reduction milestones would a violation, subject to enforcement actions and penalties. The proposed NPDES Phase 1 storm water permit implementing TMDL requirements were set for LRWQCB approval in November, 2011, however, the decision was deferred to another date.

Proposal 25: California State Water Resources Control Board National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 2 Regulations

Support NPDES Phase 2 permit requirements that are reasonable and implementable by municipalities. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) should continue to implement the minimum Federal Clean Water Act requirements without expanding permit conditions that will be logistically or financially impossible to meet. Support federal funding assistance and legislation to make it easier to implement local fee programs for storm water quality program implementation.

Problem: The SWRCB plans to adopt their proposed revisions to its Phase 2 General Permit in January 2012. If implemented, this revised General Permit will impose requirements on Phase 2 municipalities that greatly exceed those of the larger, NPDES Phase 1 municipalities. The six minimum control measures identified in the Federal Clean Water Act for the NPDES Phase 2 program would be supplemented with six additional permit elements, all with extensive data collection, management and reporting requirements, and increased cost. The revision is far more prescriptive than the existing version and includes many new implementation requirements, duplicates actions required under other State permitting programs, and eliminates local implementation flexibility. Many of the proposed requirements have questionable benefit to water quality. No additional funding is proposed for the expansion of the Phase 2 General Permit. This imposes an unreasonable burden on local government in a time of severe economic distress. The current water quality program for the County is funded at approximately \$800,000 per year. Projections are that the new permit requirements will, at minimum, triple the program cost.

Proposal 26: Unwanted Dogs and Cats Destroyed in Shelters

Support legislation that seeks to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats destroyed in shelters each year without increasing the cost to the County. Advocate for legislation that requires owners to spay or neuter their dogs and/or cats if the owners are repeatedly cited for their dogs and cats being unlicensed or repeatedly impounded or cited for being at large.

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 27: Laws and Penalties against Illegal Dog Fighting and Cock Fighting

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

Problem: Although dog fighting and cock fighting are illegal in California, illicit animal fighting is on the rise in both rural and urban areas. Dog fighting and cock fighting inflict cruelty on animals. In the past two years, Placer County Animal Services has identified and abated several premises raising cocks for fighting, and these are likely only a small percentage of the problem.

Proposal 28: Health and Human Services Programs

Support adequate, flexible, and stable funding to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements including Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Services, Human Services, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services, Health Care to Low-Income Adults including the indigent and California Children Services, and Health Reform. In addition, support continuation of the Placer County Integrated Health & Human Services Pilot Program to maximize flexibility in program design as well as increase Federal/State funding leveraging opportunities.

Problem: Funding to meet Federal/State mandated program requirements is often inadequate, prescriptive, and inflexible. This proposal seeks to reduce existing County costs while leveraging Federal and State revenues and fostering program innovation. Adequate and stable funding is critical to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements. Doing so will enable the County to continue to provide critical services for health and human service programs which are known to reduce homelessness, criminal behavior, substance abuse, and unemployment resulting in healthier more productive residents while reducing overall county expenditures.

Proposal 29: Child Welfare Services and Foster Care Program Mandates

Support restoration of State funding, as well as efforts to adequately fund and support Child Welfare Services and Foster Care program mandates. Child Welfare Services protects children from abuse and neglect and has been woefully underfunded for years. Child Welfare Services protects the safety of our most vulnerable residents and research has shown that failing to serve abused children and youth results in increased crime, domestic violence, drug abuse, homelessness, and a host of other adverse and costly outcomes.

Problem: Funding for Child Welfare Services remains significantly below County costs to meet Federal and State program requirements and outcome measures and requirements are often overly prescriptive and inflexible. The State has continued to reduce funding this year. This reduced funding threatens the health and safety of the 3,200 children and families touched by the County's Child Welfare Services system. Greater leveraging of Federal/State funding streams will assure that Placer is prepared to best meet the safety and welfare needs of at-risk and abused children. The County's population of minor children has increased more than 30 percent since 1999. This proposal seeks to reduce County General Fund costs through increased State or Federal funding for mandated Child Welfare and Foster Care services.

Proposal 30a: Modify CalPERS Health Insurance Vesting

Support legislation that will 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 use the employee's retirement membership date for the health eligibility vesting date, not the first date of hire. Allow Placer County to construct a tiered system that could apply to both current employees and future employees/retirees eliminating the requirement to be tied to the State annuitant formula, 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 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. Dependent on the

negotiated benefit with bargaining units, Placer County and Deputy Sheriff Association have reached agreement on a new Placer County 'service credit only' vesting formula and are pursuing legislation for implementation.

Proposal 30b: Modify laws that limit CalPERS retirement options affecting new hires

Support or sponsor legislation and policy as may be required to allow Placer County to discontinue enrollment of new employees into the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) to create a "soft freeze" on the retirement plan; thereby allowing existing employees to continue to accrue service credit and pension benefits within the current CalPERS retirement system. Legislation may also be needed to allow public agencies to amend their CalPERS contract to reduce or eliminate retirement benefits sooner than the current three (3) year requirement. Finally, there may be additional changes needed under Public Employees Hospital and Medical Care Act to allow new hires, not in the CalPERS retirement plan, to have access to the same medical plans as current employees.

Problem: Current law limits contracting agencies, such as Placer County, from being able to control long term pension costs. Essentially, contracting agencies are limited to reducing pension benefits for "new hires" only once every three years and that must be to an established CalPERS formula. Existing law does not allow a contracting agency to establish an alternative retirement benefit for new hires, while maintaining the existing plan participants in the defined benefit plan. The changing dynamics of the workforce, as well as rising pension costs, requires agencies to reassess their current benefit platforms and look at other viable options for retirement benefits for new employees. Modifying existing law to include a "soft close" option would allow contracting agencies another option to use to manage their pension costs and still provide services to constituents.

Proposal 31: State Funding for Public Libraries

Restore full funding of State support of public libraries for all programs. The reduction or elimination of State Library funding will continue to impact library services and programs throughout the state. Restoration of full funding will enable public libraries to provide necessary services and materials.

Problem: State funding for public libraries has been severely reduced in the approved 2011-2012 State Budget. The State Budget reduces State funding for public libraries in half, to \$15.2M. This includes \$3M for the Public Library Fund, \$3.7M for the California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Service, and \$8.5M for the California Library Services Act. A "trigger" amendment attached to the budget would eliminate all state funding for public libraries, at midyear, if the State's revenue projections are not met. Funding for the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and the California Newspaper Project administered, by the state library, would also be eliminated, which would bring the total midyear cut to \$15.9 million.

Proposal 32: PACE Support for mPOWER Placer

Support initiatives and financial opportunities that help implement a successful mPOWER Placer program. Support efforts to secure additional funding resources, and positively influence administrative and regulatory policies that impact mPOWER Placer. Placer County has made a significant investment in the development, implementation and administration of its PACE Program, mPOWER Placer. Avoiding burdensome and costly regulations allows the program to be more effective. Efforts to support initiatives and assist in securing financial opportunities that increase the economic, financial and social impacts of mPOWER Placer are of benefit to business, property owners and other citizens.

Problem: AB811 became effective in July of 2008. Since that time there have been financial, administrative and regulatory efforts aimed at PACE. Various state agencies have and continue to adopt policies affecting PACE. Some regulations and administrative requirements that have been adopted or proposed are so burdensome that they negatively affect the feasibility of the program.

PLACER COUNTY
2012 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Part Three
FEDERAL PROPOSALS

Proposal 33: Placer Parkway Project

Seek and support federal funding for the Placer Parkway Project as shown in the approved Placer Parkway Corridor Preservation EIR. Placer Parkway is a planned 14.2 mile high speed transportation facility of regional benefit that will connect State Route 65 in western Placer County to State Route 99 in South Sutter County. This facility will link existing and planned development in a region that has seen some of the fastest growing communities in California—Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, and the Sunset Industrial Area. The Placer Parkway will provide a new east/west connection which adds significant needed capacity and support economic development. A key piece is completion of preliminary design and obtaining environmentally clearance so the project can be construction ready.

Problem: Placer County has seen a significant amount of development in the past decade and the regional transportation facilities are at or near capacity. In addition, the County projects a significant amount of growth in the future. One of these future projections completed by Sacramento Area Council of Government (SACOG) estimates that the population in southwestern Placer County will nearly double between the years 2000 and 2025. The anticipated development to support this increased population and employment will dramatically increase travel demand on the regions roadways over the next 20 years and beyond. The County and cities have been adding new roadways to their network, but a need still exists for additional facilities. One of the areas in greatest need of capacity enhancement is for east/west travelers. Currently, the roadway system provides one major east/west link within this region; Baseline Road in Placer County that turns into Riego Road in Sutter County. Even with future improvements to this roadway, the east/west roadway network is over capacity with the future projected growth. The additional east/west roadway capacity for this fast growing region will reduce congestion on the local and regional transportation system and advance economic development goals in southwestern Placer County and South Sutter County.

Proposal 34: 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, rules, and funding that advance 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 federal laws that apply to wetlands and sensitive species while streamlining regulatory procedures. Emphasis should be on clarification of levels-of-significance thresholds, definitions, and mitigation/conservation standards, as implemented by proposed or adopted NCCPs/HCPs. Resolving potential statutory conflicts between fuel load reduction needs and activities and impacts to oak woodlands is also necessary.

Problem: Even with the slowing of the housing market, landowners are continuing their efforts for large-scale entitlements that have the potential to convert over 50,000 acres of county land over the next 50 years. 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 35: Biomass Utilization Strategy for Federal Lands and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Support, oppose, or propose legislation and rules to ensure that woody biomass from all forest ownerships (public and private) is potentially eligible as fuel for renewable energy, and to acknowledge such use as being carbon neutral. The County engages in partnerships and coalitions within the region, state and nationally. Changing legislation to allow federal lands to qualify for credits would, also, increase national forest ability to implement projects that sequester carbon and help meet goals for GHG reduction.

Problem: Several on-going federal climate change and renewable energy related legislation and rules contain language that does not consider energy from biomass removed from federal lands as renewable, and does not include biomass conversion as being carbon neutral. At the same time, the State is in the process of developing climate change regulations that will define the role of biomass as a renewable energy source. The current uncertainty and potential for biomass to be excluded as renewable, will severely limit the feasibility of biomass power generation in Placer County and elsewhere. Supporting legislation that allows biomass to be included in GHG emissions reductions credits, support legislation that allows biomass from federal lands to qualify for credits and defines biomass as carbon neutral. Support legislation that will create funding sources that, in turn, support sustainable removal of biomass from the forestlands for use in the generation of renewable energy.

Proposal 36: Pest Detection Funding for Farm Bill Appropriations to California

Ensure that the 2012 Farm Bill continues to provide funding for “Plant Pest and Disease Management” at a level, at least, equivalent to the 2008 Farm Bill. And, support efforts to secure funds for “Early Pest Detection and Surveillance” activities. Continued funding will ensure that the Placer County Agriculture Department is able to continue providing current service levels during a time of reduced County General Fund support.

Problem: The Placer County Agriculture Department currently receives funding in the form of state contracts from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for pest detection and exclusion activities. Placer County also benefits from the services of the regional pest detection canine team that is funded by CDFA. CDFA’s funding comes from the USDA via appropriations contained in the Federal Farm Bill. A reduction in this funding stream would directly impact the Placer County Agriculture Department’s revenues and ability to prevent harmful pest infestations from becoming established in Placer County. Loss of funding would reduce the department’s revenues, reduce pest detection activities, and potentially increase the number of harmful pests threatening or damaging Placer County and California’s agricultural industries. Potential revenue loss of approximately \$100,000 is anticipated, if funding is reduced.

Proposal 37: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Funding for California Wildlife Services

Support legislative and regulation that restores or enhance funding to the USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services Program in California to enhance service and reduce costs to counties. The Placer County Agricultural Commissioner has an MOU with the USDA Wildlife Services to provide training and equipment to county staff. USDA Wildlife Services provides thousands of dollars for staff support and equipment. Continued funding will ensure Placer County continues to receive at least the same level of support currently needed.

Problem: Recent cost increases to the federal program have caused the county share of program costs to increase as local USDA staff has no mechanism to increase funding themselves. Instead, they pass along cost increases to their partners. In Placer County, these cost increases have resulted in one Federal Wildlife Specialist being reassigned to another county, a loss in support of

Placer County programs and services to residents and businesses. In addition to reductions in county staff support, loss of funding would impact essential training and the use of specialized equipment the county would not otherwise have available.

Proposal 38: Permit Relief for Regional Wastewater Facilities

Support legislation and regulations that would allow governmental agencies to provide some incentives and/or relief from permit timelines and penalties to enable agencies the time needed to form regional solutions. Permits are valid for a period of five years and allow agencies time to come into compliance within that fixed timeframe; however wastewater agencies cannot form regional partnerships, design, fund, and construct regional conveyance and treatment facilities in that timeframe.

Problem: Regionalization of wastewater facilities may be an effective solution to aging wastewater infrastructure. However, regionalization projects cannot be completed in the fixed timelines set forth in the permits for each facility. The County will be precluded from participating in regional solutions without relief from permit timelines and penalties. Without this relief, regulatory fines and lawsuits could cost Placer County over a million dollars.

Proposal 39: Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Support increased funding for water and wastewater programs and infrastructure, particularly for those facilities required to meet new discharge standards. Support revisions to EPA and State Revolving Fund loan requirements to allow loans of up to 40 years for wastewater regionalization projects.

Problem: Existing aged wastewater treatment plants in the County require significant upgrades to meet stringent regulatory requirements. Each existing facility faces: 1) major expansion needs; 2) increasing stringent federal pollutant permit conditions; and 3) cost constraints (both capital and operation & maintenance). Costs to meet regulatory requirements exceed individual districts' ability to fund mandated improvements. Agencies that cannot fund improvements to maintain compliance are faced with fines, third-party lawsuits and strict enforcement actions. In addition, if facility upgrades cannot be completed, agencies will ultimately be unable to accommodate growth in their communities. 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 40: The Placer County Regional Wastewater Project

Support funding and assistance in closing the Applegate, Sewer Maintenance District No. 1 and Auburn treatment plants and construct a pipeline connecting these systems to a new treatment plant located in the City of Lincoln. Also, close the SMD 3 treatment plant and connect that system to Roseville. Consolidate treatment operations and provide water reclamation opportunities for agricultural and industrial uses near Lincoln.

Problem: Placer County must upgrade or replace several small aging wastewater treatment plants in order to meet discharge requirements enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Rate payers in Applegate, SMD No. 1 and Auburn fund all sewer operations. While more expensive from a capital perspective in the near term, regionalizing wastewater operations will be less expensive in the long term due to economies of scale.

Proposal 41: Economic Incentives for Green Technology Legislation

Support efforts to provide financial and other incentives to assist in implementing compliance programs using green technology including, but not limited to diversion credits for new technologies designed to convert waste materials into usable energy, renewable energy credits, tax credits, and greenhouse gas reduction credits.

Problem: State and federal mandates require local jurisdictions to increase waste diversion and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. New, green technology can be highly effective in helping jurisdictions achieve the mandates, but are often infeasible without economic and other incentives. Currently, it is not feasible to implement some new, green technologies either due to their cost or their inability to qualify for financial incentives or as compliance programs. For example, conversion of solid waste to energy reduces dependence on landfills and creates a fuel source for renewable energy; however, such technology does not currently qualify for AB 939 diversion credits or renewable energy credits, making it infeasible to implement. For agencies to be able to help meet emission mandates and energy goals, and to continue to reduce dependence on landfills and fossil fuels, they must receive the tools and incentives needed to implement new and greener technology. The provision of financial and other incentives, such as tradable credits, could encourage and enable use of new, green technology at our facilities by providing a revenue stream, associated with environmental attributes, that is not currently available. Without incentives, such as diversion credits, renewable energy credits, and greenhouse gas emission credits, many green technologies will remain financially infeasible.

Proposal 42: Permitting and Regulatory Flexibility for Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs

Support legislation and/or permitting that would provide local agencies more control and flexibility to modify operations to best meet regulatory requirements. Oppose increased/more stringent regulatory requirements without use of scientific evidence. Optimally, regulations and permits should authorize agencies and operators to implement and/or modify operations or programs without the need to prepare, submit, and obtain permitting authority approval, as long as the changes comply with applicable regulations and are protective of water quality. Such flexibility could include the ability for wastewater operators to choose the best methods to meet effluent requirements and regulate what goes into the sewers, discretion for regulatory agencies to use science-based approaches in permitting facilities, and streamlining the existing permit process.

Problem: Current regulations and permits do not provide local agencies and operators opportunities for operational flexibility. Facility permits often include requirements that are not based on scientific evidence and do not allow for site-specific factors to be considered. Increased flexibility would enable local agencies to manage its Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs in smarter and more efficient ways, meet mandates using a variety of methods, and implement operational changes without permit revisions. Without flexibility, agencies could face increased capital and operating costs that do not protect human health and the environment. Proposed legislation, revisions to the Sanitary Sewer System Waste Discharge Requirements, would further limit operational flexibility, be unnecessarily overly-burdensome and complex and would increase public responsibility for private infrastructure.

Proposal 43: Funding for Regional Public Safety Communications Network

Advocate for funding to continue implementation of a countywide Project 25 compliant communications system. This will provide increased public safety and disaster response by increasing communication across and between multi-jurisdictional boundaries with other mutual aid agencies. We are seeking to complete this project prior to the January 1, 2013 FCC narrow banding deadline.

Problem: 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). Maintaining public safety is one of the most important roles of government.

Proposal 44: Regional Criminal Justice Data Integration System

Advocate for funding by Placer County Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) along with the local Superior Court and the State of California Department of Justice (DOJ) for implementation of a comprehensive, multi-faceted data integration solution, referred to as “Apollo”. Apollo will connect the disparate computer systems at various agencies via an “integration hub” located in the County seat, the existing common connection point. This “hub” will centrally house the business rules, automated workflows, interfaces, and pathways to each partnering system to provide the foundation for a secure, tightly integrated and more efficient criminal justice process. Connecting to an integration hub would provide countywide, city dispatch centers, and front-line officer enforcement the ability to 1) view Probation Terms and Conditions for probationers 2) enable an electronic version of a Case Disposition Form to be processed and routed between partnering LEAs, the DA, Superior Courts, and the DOJ 3) facilitate real-time bench warrant entry and data update exchange between Placer County and Superior Courts and 4) provide all Placer County LEAs the ability to view and update warrant records from the field with “attempt to serve” information including dates and address changes.

Problem: Regional criminal justice agencies currently use numerous, autonomous case or records management systems which allow only minimal data sharing and require manual and redundant tasks be performed in order to complete many processes. Combined, these issues cause added costs, outdated information complications, and compromised situational awareness in the field. The Apollo system would provide significant cost and time savings, as well as, quickly arm officers in the field with critical, decision making information. Funding, in the amount of, \$650,000 has already been secured for this project. An additional \$1.75M is requested to complete the project.

Proposal 45: Regional Public Safety System (RPSS)

Advocate for funding for this regionally based public safety system. Placer County Sheriff’s Office and the cities of Roseville, Auburn, and Citrus Heights are collaborating to purchase and implement a fully integrated, multi-jurisdictional RPSS that will be the authoritative data source for all dispatch call information, criminal records, jail inmate information, and other critical business data. This data would, also, be shared with external partners: Placer County Revenue Services, District Attorney, Social Security Administration, Sacramento County, and the State of California Department of Justice. The new RPSS will enable divisions at each law enforcement agency to utilize the latest technology available for data entry and sharing, move information through the system efficiently, conduct operations across agencies, as well as utilize, fully-integrated CAD, Mobile, CMS, and RMS modules. The RPSS will increase overall system access, performance, and reliability and economically support and scale system architecture to meet growing demands.

Problem: The Placer County Sheriff’s Office along with the City of Roseville and Auburn Police Departments are currently using a RPSS that supports law enforcement, fire, and emergency dispatch using a wide array of tools and data. Over the last decade, this system has undergone disruptive internal changes and exhibited increasingly prohibitive maintenance costs, as system functionality and reliability have simultaneously decreased. The County and Cities have

successfully secured \$1.25M, as well as, a federal appropriation (\$383,000) awarded in 2009 to the City of Roseville. A remaining balance of \$1.25M is being requested for this regional project.

Proposal 46: Reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Bill

Problem: The federal surface transportation bill, referred to as SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act) expired September 2009. The Federal government has passed a series of extensions while contemplating a new Federal Transportation Bill. Placer County receives over 85% of eligible transportation project costs from programs funded through SAFETEA-LU. Rapid growth within the region has fueled the need for additional investment in the County's traffic circulation system. County federal transportation funding needs include: continued Interstate 80 (a major cross-country interstate highway) improvements, the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project; county bridge replacement projects, and the future proposed Placer Parkway.

Proposal 47: Federal Funding for Lake Tahoe Transit Operations

Problem: The Lake Tahoe Basin is not eligible for annual urbanized (5307) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operating assistance. Instead, public transit operators in the basin receive the annual non-urbanized funds which amount to approximately 10% of the urbanized funds. However, due to the high level of visitors to public lands in Tahoe, along with the permanent resident population and seasonal population, the demands of the Lake Tahoe Basin warrant service similar to an urban area than a rural area. These high demands place a larger burden on the Basin's transit systems than most non-urbanized areas. Placer County is seeking federal recognition of the Lake Tahoe Basin as an urbanized area for the purposes of receiving FTA funding for transit operations.

Proposal 48: Federal Funding for the 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. The Kings Beach improvement project is identified in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) as one of the projects around the Lake Tahoe Basin to facilitate attainment of nine environmental thresholds, including water quality, to protect the natural environment of the Basin.

Proposal 49: Walerga Road at Dry Creek Bridge Replacement

Support actions leading to modification of the Federal Highway Bridge Program to Recognize Flooding as Justifiable Authorization for the 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 ten 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. The bridge does not functionally serve its intended purpose and needs to address the increase in traffic level. However, existing federal transportation funding programs do not recognize flooding as justifiable authorization for bridge 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 50: Reauthorization and Funding of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

Problem: Approved in 2000, the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) authorized \$300M in federal funding, over 10 years, to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe from continued environmental deterioration. The LTRA was renewed in 2011, but no funding was made available during the renewal process. Federal funding supports the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) –a \$900M federal, state, and local partnership to improve the water clarity of the lake and restore Lake Tahoe’s environmental health, and maintain the lake’s status as an “Outstanding National Resource Water” as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To date, nearly 300 environmental projects and restoration activities have occurred as a result of this funding. Placer County has received a significant part of this federal funding to plan, design, permit, and construct a number of water quality improvement projects throughout the north and west shore areas of Lake Tahoe in Placer County. Additional federal funding will be needed, after 2011, to complete future restoration efforts in Placer County and other Lake Tahoe project-implementing jurisdictions.

Proposal 51: California State Water Resources Control Board National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 2 Regulations

Support NPDES Phase 2 permit requirements that are reasonable and implementable by municipalities. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) should continue to implement the minimum Federal Clean Water Act requirements without expanding permit conditions that will be impossible to meet. Support federal funding assistance and legislation to make it easier to implement local fee programs for stormwater quality program implementation.

Problem: The SWRCB plans to adopt their proposed revisions to its Phase 2 General Permit in January 2012. If implemented, this revised General Permit will impose requirements on Phase 2 municipalities that greatly exceed those of the larger, NPDES Phase 1 municipalities. The six minimum control measures identified in the Federal Clean Water Act for the NPDES Phase 2 program would be supplemented with six additional permit elements, all with extensive data collection, management and reporting requirements, and increased cost. The revision is far more prescriptive than the existing version and includes many new implementation requirements, duplicates actions required under other State permitting programs, and eliminates local implementation flexibility. Many of the proposed requirements have questionable benefit to water quality. No additional funding is proposed for the expansion of the Phase 2 General Permit. This imposes an unreasonable burden on local government in a time of severe economic distress. The current water quality program for the County is funded at approximately \$800,000 per year. Projections are that the new permit requirements will, at minimum, triple the program cost.

Proposal 52: HR 2599 – PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011

HR 2599 would prevent FNMA & FHLMC and FHFA as their conservator, or any other mortgage regulators, from taking actions that would inhibit the implementation of residential and non-residential PACE programs at the national level. Placer County has made a significant investment in the development, implementation and administration of its PACE Program, mPOWER Placer. This legislation would allow the County to pursue both its residential and non-residential PACE program unimpeded.

Problem: The FHFA has issued statements to the FNMA and FHLMC directing them to take certain measures on all mortgage financings and re-financings in jurisdictions where PACE

assessment districts have been established regardless if a PACE lien has been placed on the subject property or not. This has effectively stopped all PACE implementation nationwide. Specifically in Placer County, the County's residential PACE program has been suspended. With a \$33 million commitment to PACE Financing, the mPOWER Placer program brings jobs, economic return in energy savings and energy independence to the property owners of Placer County.

Proposal 53: Health and Human Services Programs

Support adequate, flexible, and stable funding to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements including Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Services, Human Services, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services, Health Care to Low-Income Adults including the indigent and California Children Services, and Health Reform. In addition, support continuation of the Placer County Integrated Health & Human Services Pilot Program (Placer Waiver- State Welfare and Institutions Code 18986.62) to maximize flexibility in program design as well as increase Federal/State funding leveraging opportunities.

Problem: Funding to meet Federal/State mandated program requirements is often inadequate, prescriptive, and inflexible. Greater leveraging of Federal/State funding streams and enhanced opportunity for innovative service delivery models to facilitate meeting mandated program requirements. This proposal seeks to reduce existing County costs while leveraging Federal and State revenues and fostering program innovation. Adequate and stable funding is critical to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements. Doing so will enable the County to continue to provide critical services for health and human service programs which are known to reduce homelessness, criminal behavior, substance abuse, and unemployment resulting in healthier more productive residents while reducing overall county expenditures.

Proposal 54: Child Welfare Services and Foster Care Program Mandates

Support restoration of State funding reduction as well as efforts to adequately fund and support Child Welfare Services and Foster Care program mandates. Child Welfare Services protects children from abuse and neglect and has been woefully underfunded for years. Child Welfare Services protects the safety of our most vulnerable residents and research has shown that failing to serve abused children and youth results in increased crime, domestic violence, drug abuse, homelessness, and a host of other adverse and costly outcomes.

Problem: Funding for Child Welfare Services remains significantly below County costs to meet Federal and State program requirements and outcome measures and requirements are often overly prescriptive and inflexible. The State has continued to reduce funding this year. This reduced funding threatens the health and safety of the 3,200 children and families touched by the County's Child Welfare Services system. Greater leveraging of Federal/State funding streams will assure that Placer is prepared to best meet the safety and welfare needs of at-risk and abused children. The County's population of minor children has increased more than 30 percent since 1999. This proposal seeks to reduce County General Fund costs through increased State or Federal funding for mandated Child Welfare and Foster Care services.

Proposal 55: Support for Federal CDBG and HOME Programs

Advocate for continued Federal funding support for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). Placer County has used CDBG and HOME funds many times in recent years for economic development job creation projects, community revitalization and infrastructure improvements and affordable housing.

Problem: Federal debt reduction efforts may include the reduction or elimination of CDBG and HOME. The County anticipates the need to financially assist future economic development,

community revitalization, public facilities and infrastructure, and affordable housing projects and programs. The loss of CDBG and HOME available funds would significantly diminish the County's ability to carry out needed projects and programs. Over the past five years Placer County has received and used more than \$10M in CDBG and HOME funds. A similar level of funding need is anticipated in the future.

Proposal 56: Federal Support for Low Income Housing Tax Credits

Advocate for continued support for Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Tax credits are one of the most important financing tools currently used for the development of affordable housing. In 2010, the Placer County Redevelopment Agency, in partnership with its private development partner, received a tax credits award of approximately \$23M for the Kings Beach Scattered Sites Housing Project. A significant portion of this successful project has already been completed. The Agency, in partnership with a different private developer, is seeking award of tax credits for the Quartz Ridge Family Housing Project in Bowman.

Problem: Federal debt reduction efforts may include the reduction or elimination of Low Income Housing Tax Credits. This program is extensively used and is an important financing tools for the development of new affordable housing. Tax credits are currently awarded through a highly competitive application and review process. In a typical year, several applications are submitted for every award that is given. A reduction in this program would seriously hinder the County's ability to successfully finance new affordable housing projects. A typical tax credits award for one multi-family project would be approximately \$20M. Furthermore, many proposed projects are considered financially feasible only with the inclusion of tax credits.

Proposal 57: HR 2389 - Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (PL 11-343) at FFY 2008 Levels through FFY 2015.

This proposal seeks re-authorization of the SRS Act at Federal FY 2008 levels through FFY 2015. The loss of stable payments as originally authorized in the SRS Act are not replaceable with State or local revenues as the current economy challenges police departments, fire departments and schools to simply stay open and available in rural communities.

Problem: The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act) as amended in PL 110-343 is scheduled to sunset at the end of FFY 2011. Following Federal FY 2011, Counties will no longer be able to rely on stable revenue streams that provide increasingly critical funding for schools and roads, and make additional investments in projects that protect fire-sensitive ecosystems. The cost to the County with loss of SRS Act revenue would be \$962,000 per year, that was the Federal FY 2008 funding level.