MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
By: David Snyder, Director, Economic Development
DATE: May 3, 2016
SUBJECT: Sister County Resolution with Nanping County, China

ACTION REQUESTED
Adopt a resolution supporting a trip to China with the ultimate goal of establishing a sister county relationship with Nanping County in the Fujian Province.

BACKGROUND
A countywide delegation of Placer County elected officials, civic leaders, and business representatives are traveling to Fujian Province on the southeastern coast of China in early June 2016. The delegation will be led by Mike Holmes, former mayor of Auburn who also served in the Beijing Embassy. An opportunity exists to create a sister county relationship between Placer and Nanping counties, and the purpose of the trip is to lay the groundwork such that a long-term cooperative relationship between the two counties is developed through which cultural, educational, business and technical exchanges take place. It will be formalized when the highest elected or appointed officials sign a memorandum of understanding establishing the relationship. Nanping County encompasses 10,146 square miles with a population of 2,645,549 and a GDP of $391 billion. It is located in one of the more affluent provinces (Fujian) with many industries spanning tea production clothing, sporting goods and one of the world’s largest battery plants. Boeing, Dell, GE, Kodak, Seimens and Panasonic have operations there. Rice is the main crop supplemented by sweet potatoes, wheat and barley. Beautiful mountain scenery, historic temples, and quaint villages attract visitors year round.

FISCAL IMPACT
There is no cost to the County to express support for the delegation. Should County employees or officials attend, a travel request will be brought before the Board of Supervisors at a later date.

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment 1 – Resolution
Attachment 2 – Map
Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:
SUPPORTING A TRIP TO CHINA WITH
THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF ESTABLISHING
A SISTER COUNTY RELATIONSHIP WITH
NANPING COUNTY IN THE FUJIAN PROVINCE

Resolution No.: __________

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of
Placer at a regular meeting held May 3, 2016, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

______________________________
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

______________________________
Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, the County of Placer seeks to establish a sister county relationship with Nanping
County, located within the Fujian Province of China; and

Whereas, Fujian Province is located on the southeastern coast of China, situated opposite the
island of Taiwan, bordered by the provinces of Zhejiang to the north, Jiangzi to the west,
Guangdong to the southwest, and the East China Sea to the northeast; and
WHEREAS, Fujian means “Happy Establishment” in Chinese and is known historically as Min, for the “seven Min tribes” that inhabited the area during the Zhou Dynasty (1046 – 256 BC) and was ultimately given its name Fujian during the Song Dynasty (960-1279); and

WHEREAS, Fujian Province is one of the most picturesque in Asia, with wooded hills, plentiful forests, winding streams, orchards, tea gardens, and rice fields on the gentler slopes; and

WHEREAS, Fujian Province encompasses an area of 47,500 square miles with a population of nearly 37 million people; and

WHEREAS, Nanping County contains rich natural resources, seventy species of animals, 400 species of birds, and 1,700 species of plants; and

WHEREAS, building materials, bamboo and wood products, food processing, textiles, and manufacturing are key to the economy of this county; and

WHEREAS, the service sector, tourism and foreign trade are also experiencing rapid growth; and

WHEREAS, this relationship would promote the mutual benefits of business, science and technology, cultural, tourism, and educational exchanges; and

WHEREAS, the County of Placer has a long history with the Chinese people who came from southeastern China during the Gold Rush (1850’s) and construction of the first transcontinental railroad (1860’s); and

WHEREAS, from Placer County a delegation is traveling to Nanping County, and Fuzhou, the commercial hub of southeast China, Xiamen, a colonial gem and education center, and Yongding, a traditional folk village, in early June 2016; and

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California, let it be resolved, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors sanctions and supports this trip, and further, that it endorses furthering a Sister County relationship between Nanping County and the County of Placer.
Nanping