

COUNTY OF  
**Placer**  
Board of Supervisors

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COMMENDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Bill Santucci  
Chairman

Robert M. Weygandt  
Supervisor, District 2

Vacant  
Supervisor, District 4

Jim Holmes  
Supervisor, District 3

Bruce Kranz  
Supervisor, District 5



