

MEMORANDUM
Office of the
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
County of Placer

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By Mary Herdegen, Senior Management Analyst *MMH*
DATE: December 11, 2007
SUBJECT: Request Approval of Placer County's 2008 Legislative/Regulatory Platform

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt the 2008 Legislative/Regulatory Platform (Attachment 1) for Placer County, 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 2008 platform.

BACKGROUND:

The Congress and State Legislature will reconvene in January 2008, 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 again composed of three parts. Part One outlines the County's overall legislative principles for 2008. 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 2007. At the federal level, pending House appropriations include: \$1.2 million in continued funding for the Sheriff's Department's law enforcement communications upgrades; \$1 million in continued funding for the Regional Wastewater and Treatment Facility, and \$500,000 for the County's biomass utilization program.

In mid-November, the House failed to override the veto on the Labor-HHS bill, which is the source of funding for the Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter, resulting in the loss of a \$400,000 earmark for the project. It is unclear how Congressional leadership will proceed with the Labor-HHS bill going forward, it will likely be attached to a larger omnibus bill that moves in mid to late December. Staff will continue to work with our federal advocates to secure continued funding for this Board priority.

Several other appropriations bills have yet to be signed into law. Congressional Democrats have been working to pare back the domestic spending proposals in an effort to break an impasse with the President over the appropriations bills. It's likely this will result in reduced overall appropriations this year.

At the State level, the County successfully advocated its position on several legislative and budgetary proposals related to state bond implementation, law enforcement, health care, affordable housing, Williamson Act, and public contracting.

For 2008, staff is recommending 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, methamphetamine treatment services, and wildfire protection and biomass utilization. 2008 state advocacy efforts will focus on ensuring the County's fair-share of state infrastructure and resource bond funding, the Truckee River alcohol ban (during specified periods), biomass facility project funding, regulatory relief, and adequate state funding for mandated programs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are annual contract advocacy costs of approximately \$287,000 and additional costs for associated staff time. Federal advocacy costs total \$186,000 and state advocacy costs of approximately \$101,000. As in past years, the potential for significant 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 2007-08 Final Budget and will be included in its FY 2008-09 budget.

TMM/MH

Attachment 1: Placer County 2008 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

County of Placer 2008 Legislative/Regulatory Platform

Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Rocky Rockholm, District 1

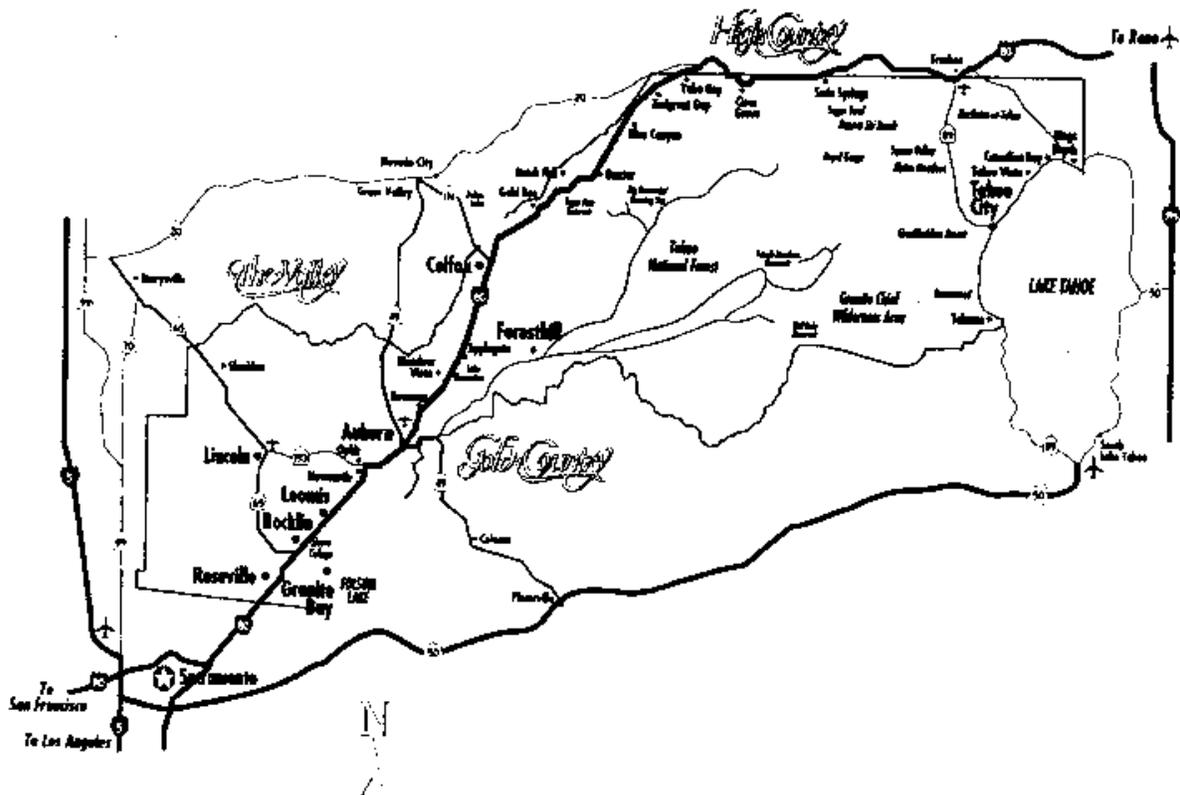
Supervisor Robert Weygandt, District 2

Supervisor Jim Holmes, District 3

Supervisor Kirk Uhler, District 4

Supervisor Bruce Kranz, District 5

Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer



PLACER COUNTY
2008 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM

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PLACER COUNTY
2008 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM
Part One
General Principles

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 Platform contains broad goals and specific legislative proposals of interest and benefit to the County of Placer and its citizens.

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, including capital acquisition costs.
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
2008 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM
Part Two
State Proposals

Agricultural Commissioner

Proposal: Continued Support for the Williamson Act State Subvention.

Passed in 1971, the Williamson Act is a property tax exemption designed to keep agricultural and open space land free of development and give local governments a tool to use in implementing land use planning goals. The Act provides financial recovery to local jurisdictions that approve Williamson Act contracts. Also, support increased county enforcement of the Williamson Act by providing for civil penalties for those who violate the Act's requirements.

Problem: There is continued concern that the State may attempt to discontinue the Williamson Act Program and the local government reimbursement that is currently used to supplement the property tax exemption for contracted Williamson Act lands. Placer County's FY 2006-07 Williamson Act subventions, from the State, was approximately \$54,000.

Proposal: Watershed Funding for Non-point Source Pollution Monitoring for Agricultural Discharges

State funding should be appropriated to develop a science-based water quality-monitoring program based upon a watershed approach. The overall water quality within a watershed is directly related to the activities of all parties within the watershed, not farmers and ranchers exclusively.

Problem: The State's Regional Water Quality Control Board has eliminated the exemption for agricultural discharges and is requiring farmers and ranchers to file for individual discharge permits or be included under the permit of a watershed group. The added regulatory burden for agriculture users is an increased financial burden and ignores the relatively minor effect of many agricultural operations.

Agricultural Commissioner, Cont.

Proposal: Increased Funding for Pesticide Detection and Enforcement, Noxious Weed Management and Wildlife Services Programs

Support legislation or budget proposals that continue to provide increased state funding for County pesticide use enforcement, high—risk pest exclusion, pesticide detection, Pierce’s Disease/Glassy—Winged Sharpshooter, noxious weed management, and wildlife services programs.

Problem: These programs are all critical to the County’s agricultural industry. In order to maintain the quality of the pesticide regulatory system, it is essential to preserve funding for these programs that are experiencing critical financial shortfalls.

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 seek a distribution of those funds that will assure its fair share.

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

Proposal: Truckee River Alcohol Ban

Sponsor legislation and support regulatory action that provides the Placer County Board of Supervisors the authority to impose an alcohol ban on, and along, the Truckee River (between the Lake Tahoe Dam and River Ranch Lodge) during specified holiday periods. The majority (60–70%) of the banks of the Truckee River is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service and will require a Forest Order, or similar action, to impose an alcohol ban.

Problem: State law currently allows alcohol use on navigable waterways throughout the state, unless specifically prohibited by statute. Alcohol bans on nearby rivers have doubled pressure on the Truckee River during peak holiday periods, especially the July 4th holiday period when thousands of rafters embark down the river. Irresponsible alcohol use, along the Truckee River during peak holiday periods, has created a public safety hazard, degradation of the tourism experience, and a negative impact on the environment.

County Executive Office. Cont.

Proposal: Extend Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002

Support urgency legislation that would (without penalty) extend the transfer date of all trial court facilities, from counties to the State, to at least December 31, 2008 or longer if necessary.

Problem: The County is in the process of negotiating the transfer of the financial responsibility and obligation of providing all trial court facilities to the State as provided for in the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002. However, the authority to complete these transfers has expired under the sunset date established by the Act. If urgency legislation is not adopted, counties in the State –including Placer County– will remain obligated to provide necessary and suitable court facilities for those courts not transferred to the State. This will also create a disjointed system of dual court facilities responsibility within the County and State Judicial Council, wherein some court facilities have transferred to the State and yet other transfers have not been completed.

Proposal: Economic Stimulus Package

Support state tax reforms that include: revisions to the corporate income tax rules to remove the burden placed on major capital expenditures resulting in new production facilities and job growth; that stem the exodus of TV and film production to other states that offer production incentives and subsidies; and partially conform the state research and development (R&D) credit to align with the federal R&D credit.

Problem: California needs to eliminate existing barriers to job growth and investment in order to compete with other states.

Proposal: Retirement Plan Flexibility

Support legislation that allows counties continued maximum flexibility in establishing and maintaining soundly-funded public employee retirement systems and oppose legislation that would limit local authority.

Problem: Over the last several years, changes have been proposed for the public employee retirement system in California. As part of these proposals, restrictions on the options available to local governments have also been suggested. In other words, counties might be precluded from offering tiered

County Executive Office. Cont.

retirement plans or establishing specific benefit plans purposely fitted to a particular county. These proposed amendments might also prevent a county from fulfilling locally adopted long range contract obligations and/or funding options for retirement plans. Placer County's flexibility needs to be protected.

Proposal: Biomass Facility Project Funding

Continue seeking legislation and/or budgetary proposals to fund biomass facility demonstration projects within Placer County. The State's Bio-Energy Action Plan states that a renewable energy facility should be located in the Sierra Nevada's by 2010. The County seeks to develop a demonstration woody biomass-to-energy facility in the Tahoe Basin.

Problem: In order to implement the Board of Supervisors' biomass utilization goals, the County will need to secure funding from a variety of sources, including state and federal agencies.

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: As a result of 2003 legislation, inmates on work release, work furlough, minimum security and trustees; 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 now entitled to the minimum temporary disability rate of \$132 dollars (1/07) per week.

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 retraining benefits (Supplemental Job Displacement Voucher) 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.

County Executive Office. Cont.

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: Oppose Proposed Changes to Permanent Disability Rating Schedule

Oppose efforts that would increase permanent disability benefits until the State's Division of Workers' Compensation completes a statutory required study that includes reliable numeric data pertaining to payment of permanent disability and return to work status. Once the study is completed, necessary adjustments to the rating schedule can then be determined through the regulatory process at the administrative level.

Problem: Proposed legislation would more than double payment of permanent disability benefits by increasing the number of weeks permanent disability payments are due. This proposed increase does not address the rate at which awards would be paid.

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: 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 business. The employer can object to choice of venue and request application be filed in one of the other allowable venues. Proposed legislation will eliminate an employer's ability to object to venue, thus allowing an injured worker to pursue a venue that may be known for more liberal findings.

County Executive Office. Cont.

Proposal: Tort Liability, Design Professional Limited Liability & Indemnification

Oppose efforts that would allow contractors and other licensed professionals, in agreements with public agencies, to limit their indemnification exposure.

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.

Facility Services

Proposal: Funding for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

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

Problem: The amount of available state and federal funding for wastewater programs and infrastructure is insufficient to fund necessary facility upgrades. 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/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

Facility Services, Con't.

will be forced to continue to implement costly, short-term remedies, or face significant regulatory penalties.

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, a funding mechanism other than tipping fees or garbage rates, and manufacturer and retail responsibility.

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: Adequate Funding for Adult Protective Services

Support legislation or budget proposals that will provide for increased funding for Adult Protective Services and that allows for additional flexibility for counties to implement innovative programs.

Problem: In 2000, the State established law regulating a statewide response to elderly and disabled persons suspected of being victims of abuse or neglect. Current funding for these programs is inadequate. In Placer County, referrals have increased 75% since program inception, yet state and federal funding has not increased. A 2005 change in the law also requires financial institutions to become mandatory reporters of suspected elder abuse, which is further expected to increase county caseloads.

Proposal: Adequate Funding for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Support legislation or budget proposals that will provide adequate funding for the IHSS program, and oppose efforts to impose salary standards on counties or reduce state program funding.

Problem: As required by state law, Placer County established an IHSS program and a Public Authority that provides a registry service for the program that provides critical in-home care for elderly and disabled persons to remain safe and independent in their homes. Placer County's Public Authority negotiated a reasonable wage for county IHSS providers, based on an existing state-

Health and Human Services, Cont.

federal-county funding formula. There is a concern that the state may not provide adequate for this mandated program resulting in service reductions or an increase in unbudgeted county costs. Placer County currently has an IHSS program caseload of 1,600.

Proposal: Support Mental Health Services for Students with Emotional Disturbances

Support legislation or budget proposals that provide adequate funding for Mental Health Services for students with emotional disturbances, requiring Individual Educational Plans.

Problem: The State and Federal governments, in order to provide mental health assessment and treatment services for this population, mandates county mental health programs. Counties are required to advance funding for these services and recoup funding through the State's mandate reimbursement process. Placer County currently budgets approximately \$2.0 million annually for these services with significant delays and deferrals in state reimbursement.

Proposal: Adequate Funding for Child Welfare Services

Support adequate state funding for the Child Welfare Services system (foster care revenue) in order to meet the federal and state mandates of this program and to provide for social worker caseload reductions. The increased funding should provide for more local flexibility to determine appropriate priorities, expenditures and innovative programs.

Problem: In 2004, counties were required to implement program/system redesign and improvements to meet federal and state requirements. These requirements have been implemented with an inadequate increase in funding. In FY 2006-07, the State provided additional funding for the Child Welfare Services system improvements, but the program continues to be under-funded.

Proposal: Increased Substance Abuse Funding to Address Critical Local Issues

Support legislation or budget initiatives that increase funding to substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

Problem: Placer County receives a state and federal allocation to provide substance abuse treatment and prevention programs to local residents. This funding has not kept pace with the cost of, or demand for, these services.

Health and Human Services. Cont.

Additionally, current substance abuse funding methodologies limit flexibility at the local level. In particular, alcohol and methamphetamine abuse are a growing and significant concern in Placer County. Adequately funding substance abuse treatment for adults and adolescents, as well as funding prevention services would eliminate or reduce other local, state, and federal costs in the areas of health care, social services, and criminal justice.

Proposal: Realignment Funding (Vehicle License Fees and State Sales Tax Revenue)

Support legislation or budget initiatives that maintains or increases realignment funding to allow counties to provide required mental health programs, and support initiatives that hold counties harmless in their provision of required and necessary services for mental health, and that protects discretion of realignment dollars.

Problem: Realignment was designed as a cost-sharing structure between the county, state and federal governments. The realignment funding structure created a growth fund, for a variety of county programs that worked for 10 years. Maintaining the realignment base funding, with an appropriate growth formula must be considered.

Proposal: Catastrophic California Children's Services (CCS) Case Relief

Advocate for full state reimbursement for CSS care. Explore concepts/options of developing a "Risk Pool", or other health insurance options, for CCS underinsured cases (or other underinsured cases) to relieve counties of unknown and unpredictable fiscal burdens.

Problem: Counties are mandated to participate in the CSS program, both administratively and fiscally. CCS authorizes medical services for children with special health care needs who meet both financial and medical eligibility requirements. The State matches 50% of treatment costs up to available funds, after which the County becomes responsible for 100% of these charges. An unexpected, and non-reimbursed but mandated catastrophic CCS case could pose a significant financial burden to the County.

Health and Human Services. Cont.

Proposal: Medically Indigent Adults (MIA) Health Care

Support legislation that increases state funding for MIA health care, or that would hold counties harmless in their provision of required medical and dental care to medically indigent adults as the population increases.

Problem: The State instituted the MIA program in 1983. It was realigned as a county responsibility in 1991. Realignment funds have not kept pace with the increased cost of providing medical and dental services to MIA patients, creating an increased burden on county general funds.

Proposal: MediCal Managed Care

Support legislation that requires contracting MediCal Managed Care health plans to be directed to pay a safety-net facilities fee, whether or not the facility is listed as the primary care physician, and to reimburse increased administrative costs resulting from the Managed Care process.

Problem: The State mandates MediCal Managed Care (MMC) within Placer County. MMC patients are required to choose a primary care physician. As the safety net facility in Placer County, it is expected that some MMC patients who are assigned a medical provider –other than the County Clinic– will present at the clinic for care. When the County Clinic is not the assigned primary care physician, the care rendered is not reimbursed by MediCal. Significant county administrative time is anticipated due to the need to ascertain the MCC patient's assigned primary care provider, and then to assist those who present at the clinic to receive care at their newly assigned facility.

Proposal: Adequate Health Care Reform Funding

To maintain or enhance current service and funding levels, support efforts augmenting funding to local health departments as a result of proposed health care reform. Encourage the state to pursue additional federal funds for health care.

Problem: Recent legislative efforts have focused on health care reform. Various initiatives promote a health care plan which is available to all regardless of preexisting conditions, is affordable, allows choice of providers, and eliminates the insurance industry from determining personal health care. The possible fiscal impact, of health care reform, on Placer County is unknown. Increased county liability from unexpected and unintended consequences of health reform initiatives could occur.

Library

Proposal: Restore Reductions in Public Library Resource Sharing Funding
Support legislation or budget proposals to restore reductions in Public Library Resource Sharing Funding. This funding, in place since 1976, allows resource sharing for public libraries through state reimbursement for costs related to library loan and direct loans between public library jurisdictions.

Problem: The 2007-08 State Budget reduced public library resource sharing funding by 38% (from \$1.8M to \$1.1M). Reductions in state library funding adversely impact ongoing operating expenses at the Placer County Library.

Proposal: Continued Public Library Foundation Funding

Support legislation or budget proposals that maintain or increase the FY 2007-08 level of Public Library Foundation (PLF) funding in the State Budget. This funding is provided to public libraries on a per capita matching basis that is adjusted annually.

Problem: For several years, PLF has been used as a "budget-balancer" for the State. At its highest level of funding (early 2000's), Placer County received approximately \$250,000 annually in PLF funding. In FY 2007-08, Placer County will receive approximately \$69,000 in PLF funding. This is a decrease from the \$102,000 the County received in FY 2006-07. Loss or reduction in PLF funding will result in a direct loss in Placer County Library's operating revenue, adversely impacting the Library's materials budget, equipment, and facilities maintenance.

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 employee and retiree health insurance premium contribution. Depending upon the option chosen to

Personnel, Con't.

pay for the health insurance, this can cause an economic hardship to the agency providing benefits and impact the agency's OPEB obligation.

Planning

Proposal: CEQA Modification Related to Oak Woodlands

Support legislation to clarify a number of provisions of the Public Resources Code related to oak woodland impacts. Emphasis should be on providing clarification of levels of significance thresholds, definitions, and mitigation/conservation standards. Additional clarification will assist the County in meeting the State's goal of oak woodland conservation resulting in additional 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.

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*

Support legislation that advances the objectives of the *Placer Legacy* program and the *Placer County Conservation Plan* (PCCP) to protect open space and agricultural land in the County and to comply with the myriad of state and federal law that applies 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.

Public Safety

Proposal: Continued Support for Law Enforcement Funding

Support the continued full funding of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), juvenile Justice Crime Prevention (JJCPA), Standards in Training for Corrections (STC), the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction grant, (MIOCR) and the Rural Law Enforcement programs.

Problem: Placer County benefits from State appropriations for these programs. Each year, continued funding for these programs remains at risk.

Proposal: Continued State juvenile Camps and Probation Funding (JCPF)

Support legislation and/or budget proposals to maintain and increase State Juvenile Camps and Probation Funding (JCPF). This funding was formerly referred to as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The funding, approximately \$450,000 for Placer County, provides for probation services to minors and their families.

Problem: JCPF funding has been assigned as a State General Fund based revenue with no guarantee of annual funding levels. Loss of this funding may result in the reduction of non-mandated services provided.

Proposal: Continued Department of Juvenile Justice Realignment Funding

Support legislation and budget proposals to increase or maintain state juvenile justice funding provided to counties.

Problem: The State, in realigning the Department of Juvenile Justice, has shifted responsibility for the supervision and rehabilitation of certain adjudicated minors from the State to individual counties. Though some state funds are being provided, and more are proposed, a dedicated revenue stream has not been identified.

Public Works

Proposal: 2006 State Bond (Prop. 1B) Transportation Funding-Eligible Matching Funds

Seek bond implementation legislation for the State Local Transportation Partnership Program (SLTPP) to assist local jurisdictions in funding local projects. Specifically, implementation legislation should allow uniform traffic impact fee funded projects to be eligible for SLTPP match funding.

Public Works, Con't.

Problem: State bond implementation legislation is pending on how the SLTPP Program will be administered. Various jurisdictions utilize different techniques for funding needed transportation infrastructure. "Self-help Counties" are traditionally defined as those counties who have passed a local voter-approved transportation sales tax. These "self-help counties" only want transportation sales tax revenues to qualify for SLTPP match funding.

PLACER COUNTY
2008 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM
Part Three
Federal Proposals

Proposal: 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 and operation & 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. The regional project was authorized in the 2003 Reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act.

Proposal: 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 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: Funding for Mandated Wastewater Treatment Upgrades

Problem: Placer County provides wastewater services to a small number of rate payers in an unincorporated area of south Placer. This area is served by a 40-year old treatment plant that cannot meet current discharge requirements, and upgrades to comply with these requirements will require a new treatment plant. Federal funding would be utilized to decommission the existing treatment plant and to construct a new pipeline and pump station to ultimately convey flows to a treatment plant in the City of Roseville for treatment and disposal.

Proposal: 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. The County's new shelter, Phase I is scheduled for opening in 2008. This first phase includes a mental health/behavioral health housing area. On-site medical facilities will be utilized to conduct primary health screenings and examinations for the emergency shelter population as well as selected minor cases that require more sensitive handling will be included. A multi-disciplinary interview center for forensic investigations and a supervised visitation/parent education center are also included. Funding is needed to complete Phase II, construction of a multi-purpose building and permanent classrooms, to provide recreational and enrichment programs for shelter residents who have experienced abuse or neglect. These programs will include nutritional and substance abuse classes.

Proposal: Funding for Placer County Methamphetamine Treatment Services

Problem: Placer County, like most communities across the country, has been beset by significant increases in abuse and dependence of methamphetamine. In Placer County, methamphetamine is amount the substances most abused by individuals admitted into treatment programs, this challenge is particularly present in the county's rural communities. Federal funding is needed to expand the County's current treatment and support to additional families affected by methamphetamine use.

Proposal: Additional Funding for Public Safety Radio Infrastructure & Upgrade

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). Continued federal funding is critical to implement 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: 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 major arterial route connecting northern Sacramento County and Folsom with South Placer County, Roseville and Rocklin. 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 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 construct the proposed improvements to meet regional growth demands.

Proposal: 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 funding programs, such as HBRR–Highway Bridge Replacement, do not recognize flooding as a reason to support replacement.

Proposal: Lake Tahoe Federal Transit Operating Assistance

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 funds which are provided to jurisdictions with populations less than 50,000. Due to the high level of visitation of 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: Funding for Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Corridor

Problem: The Kings Beach commercial area is located at the northerly entrance to the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe basin is a national treasure that is threatened by its popularity and the effects of the built environment, particularly its famed water clarity. 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.

Proposal: Transportation Reauthorization Project Priorities

Problem: The federal surface transportation bill (SAFETEA–LU) expires in 2009. Rapid growth within the Placer County region, as well as its major highways/roadways being a route across the United States or to recreation areas for non-County citizens have fueled the need for additional investment in the County's traffic circulation system. Funding is needed for transportation improvements including: Interstate-80 continued improvements; Auburn–

Folsom Road widening; Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project; and Walerga Road Bridge Replacement.

Proposal: Funding for 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.

Proposal: Continue Support for Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000

Problem: The Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act (HR 2389) was enacted in 2000 to provide rural counties with a predictable level of funding for schools and roads for federal fiscal years 2001 through 2006, in order to offset the effect of decreased revenues to counties from declining timber harvests and other income generating activities on federal lands. An additional year of federal funding was approved in 2007. New enabling legislation is required to continue this program in 2008 and beyond.

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

Problem: Wildfires and urban wild fires are an on-going concern for Placer County. Federal lands, particularly those in the Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe regions present extreme fire conditions arising from a combination of topography, weather and accumulations of flammable vegetation. Catastrophic fire threatens human life and property and the ability of the forest to regenerate and sustain itself. Federal funding, and regulatory relief, to reduce hazardous

fuels, expedite salvaging fire-killed trees and replanting of burned areas on national forests, will increase protection to communities from devastating wildfires and will increase and expedite the healthy restoration of our forests. Additionally, federal resources to enhance, expand and promote biomass, as an economic development tool in forest fuel load reduction would further augment fire mitigation efforts. Also, regulatory flexibility relative to Air Pollution Control emission requirements is needed in this area. 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 our vast renewable biomass load. The strategic plan envisions the future operation of a woody biomass facility within the County.

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 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. The County's *Placer Legacy* program and the *Placer County Conservation Plan* (PCCP) will protect open space and agricultural land in the County, and will assist the County in complying with the myriad of state and federal law that applies to wetlands and sensitive species while streamlining regulatory procedures.