

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By: Jennifer Merchant, Principal Management Analyst *DEC 2008*
Mary Herdegen, Senior Management Analyst

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: The Board will receive a status report on the July Fourth Holiday Truckee River Alcohol Ban.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Board will receive a status report on the July Fourth Holiday Truckee River Alcohol Ban.

BACKGROUND: On February 5, 2008, your board approved Resolution 2008-27, requesting state legislation to authorize a proposed alcohol ban on the Truckee River. The action was taken because 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.

State Senator Dave Cox, R-Fair Oaks, sponsored SB 1159, which authorizes the Placer County Board of Supervisors to impose an alcohol ban on the Truckee River between Fanny Bridge and River Ranch during designated summer holiday periods. Your Board approved a companion ordinance for the banks of the river on April 15, 2008. The waterway ban was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on June 30, 2008 and a Resolution was passed by the Board of Supervisors setting the July 4, 5 and 6, 2008 as the dates for this year's ban.

Arrests on the Truckee River over the three-day period were down from last year. In 2007, Truckee River arrests totaled nine, and this year the total was seven, plus three citations for non-compliance with the alcohol ban. Overall arrests in the area, including those made by Placer County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol were also down slightly this year compared to last year.

Reports from the business community were positive, with some calling it the best Fourth of July holiday in a long time. Most agreed that the alcohol ban was instrumental in bringing back a family feel to the Truckee River and Tahoe City over the holiday period.

FISCAL IMPACT: State and local law enforcement efforts are already broadened over the holiday period throughout the North Lake Tahoe area so costs associated with

law enforcement efforts to enforce the ban were not greater than during previous periods.

SB 1159 required the posting of signs to notify the public. This was accomplished in conjunction with an existing Department of Public Works signage program. Two dumpsters were placed at key raft ingress points for dumping illegal alcohol. Both measures incurred a roughly \$5,000 expense.

RECOMMENDATION: No action is requested. The Board will receive a status report on the July Fourth Holiday Truckee River Alcohol Ban.