

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Holmes, Supervisor, District 3

DATE: April 21, 2009

SUBJECT: REVENUE SHARING – Approve appropriation of \$750 in Revenue Sharing monies to the Placer Nature Center to assist students with educational field trip scholarships, as requested by Supervisor Holmes (\$750).

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve appropriation of \$750 in Revenue Sharing monies to the Placer Nature Center to assist students with educational field trip scholarships, as requested by Supervisor Holmes (\$750).

BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS: In approving the following contributions, the Placer County Board of Supervisors finds that each and every approved contribution serves a public purpose by promoting the general welfare of the County and its inhabitants therefore a benefit results to the County.

The Board of Supervisors is being asked to approve appropriations to help fund the Placer Nature Center to assist students with field trip scholarships to the Placer Nature Center. The Placer Nature Center is staffed by volunteers who donate their time to lead school children through science learning and nature hikes as a part of their school field trips. The Nature Center serves over 10,000 community members annually from all Supervisory Districts. Due to budget cuts, several enrichment programs are being cut including field trips for students to the Placer Nature Center. The funds designated towards this organization will be used to support the cost of the school field trips.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are available in the Revenue Sharing budget.

PLACER NATURE CENTER

March 30, 2009

Supervisor Jim Holmes
Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiller Ave
Auburn, CA 95602

Dear Jim:

It is a beautiful spring time; but a challenging time for Placer Nature Center and students of the County. As you well know, public schools in California have taken an \$8 billion hit with budget crisis. Over 26,000 teachers will receive "pink slips" because of the State's financial meltdown. Enrichment programs - that feature so critically in a child's development are being cut....among those cuts - field trips for students to Placer Nature Center. We would like you to dedicate Revenue Sharing Funds to a project that will ensure that 8,000 children (annually) will continue to receive quality science enrichment lessons at Placer Nature Center. For 18 years students and teachers have depended on Placer Nature Center for opportunities to be active science and environmental learners. Let's not let the budget crisis deny children this *essential educational experience!*

Here is the challenge. Will you help us raise \$5,000 (\$1,000 from each Board member's Revenue Sharing Fund) to provide scholarships to students for visits to Placer Nature Center on school field trips? Where the State takes away - you/we will give - so that *no child is left behind or left inside* when nature is here - ready to open the child's eyes to curiosity, wonder and joy for learning.

We herein request that you make the "No Child Left Inside" pledge to PNC and make a \$1,000 one time gift of Revenue Sharing Funds to enable a child to participate in a school field trip to Placer Nature Center. If you wish, we can target the funds to students in schools within your Supervisorial District. 100% of the Revenue Sharing grant will be used to support the cost of school field trips. \$5,000 will pay the tour fees for 830 children. For every grant of \$180, a classroom of 30 children @\$6.00 per child (PNC field trip fee for a 3 hour thematic program) will have the opportunity to come to PNC! A \$1,000 grant from your Revenue Sharing Fund will enable 167 children or 5-6 classrooms of children to visit Placer Nature Center.

What a wonderful investment in children, education and our future!

As you well know, Placer Nature Center is a nonprofit organization with a simple mission: to give children the opportunity to learn in their environment and

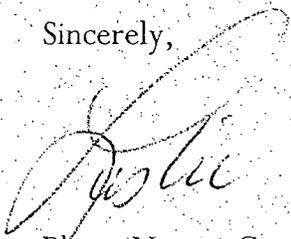
experience nature **first-hand**. We serve children from throughout Placer County. Placer Nature Center was founded in response to significant research findings: Studies show that there is a *single factor* that strongly determines a person's interest in adopting behaviors to protect the environment. That single factor is *contact with nature as a child*. Let's keep nature learning experiences alive for children who must grow up in our increasingly urbanized and electronically driven society.

Since 1992, Placer Nature Center has connected over 200,000 children with the out-of-doors where they learn science, enjoy nature, experience teamwork, and develop curiosity. It is also where the seeds of stewardship are planted. We celebrate your partnership with Placer Nature Center and schools throughout our County. Thank you for making a pledge to give every child access to academic enrichment and nature.

Please generously share your District's Revenue Sharing Funds with the children of Placer County. We teach science, physics and environmental awareness. Our programs contribute to enhanced academic performance in science and across the academic curricula,

We are grateful for all the support you have provided to Placer Nature Center in the past. During this particularly challenging time, we hope that you will be able to continue to provide support for the educational needs of our young citizens.

Sincerely,



Thank you
Susan!

Placer Nature Center Board of Directors
By Leslie Warren, Executive Director

R E C E I V E D			
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS			
5 BCSS Rec'd	_____	AMB	_____
Other	_____	TS	_____
APR 1 2003			
Sup D1	_____	Sup D4	X
Sup D2	X	Sup D5	_____
Sup D3	X	Aide D1	_____
		Aide D2	_____
		Aide D3	X
		Aide D4	_____
		Aide D5	_____
		Aide D6	X

