

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By Allison Carlos, Principal Management Analyst
DATE: January 11, 2011
SUBJECT: Placer County Legislative Program – Approval of Placer County’s 2011
Legislative Platform and Travel Authorization

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Adopt the Placer County 2011 Legislative Platform and direct staff to pursue action items, support, oppose or sponsor legislation, and coordinate the advocacy program in accordance with the 2011 Legislative Platform.
2. Designate and authorize members of the Board of Supervisors and County Executive Officer to travel to Washington, DC February 14-17, 2011 to meet with elected or appointed officials of the United States to discuss legislative and regulatory issues affecting the County.

BACKGROUND

Legislative Platform

Annually, a proposed Legislative Platform (Platform) is prepared for consideration and adoption by your Board. The Platform establishes the basis for the County’s advocacy efforts with executive and legislative branches of State and Federal government and outlines proposals of interest to Placer County. Development of the Platform is a collaborative process with an invitation to participate being extended to all departments given their program expertise.

The proposed Platform is composed of three parts. Part One outlines the County’s overall legislative principles for 2011. Parts Two and Three list specific State and Federal proposals, all of which are consistent with the County’s general principles.

Over the last several years, through the leadership and efforts of your Board and department heads, Placer County has been very successful in securing over \$105 million of Federal funds, and has effectively engaged with legislators and administrators to address issues important to the County. This next year, we will continue to work through our advocates to: (1) defend the County resources as the State and Federal government address large budget deficits, and (2) support, oppose, or potentially sponsor legislation to effect necessary policy clarification, and rule and regulation modifications. It will be important to be nimble in order to forecast and respond to actions that may be adverse to the County, such as potential increases in local service delivery responsibilities without sufficient accompanying revenues. Further, given the more limited availability of funding opportunities anticipated from traditional sources,

staff is increasing efforts with your Board's support for working within our region to demonstrate cooperative partnerships that have a broader range of area benefit.

For 2011, staff is recommending that proactive advocacy continue for Federal funding for several County and regional priorities including: (a) the Regional Wastewater Treatment Project, (b) Placer Parkway and other transportation projects and programs, (c) Placer Legacy and the Placer County Conservation Plan, (d) regional Law Enforcement Communications Upgrades, and (e) management of the Auburn State Recreation Area.

2011 State advocacy efforts recommended focus on a number of key fiscal, policy and regulatory interests on behalf of the County. This would include, but not be limited to, (a) opposing any proposed reductions or elimination of revenue sources, (b) support increased dollars to facilitate quality program delivery, county self sufficiency, and economic growth and infrastructure improvements, (c) clarification and/or regulatory relief from new permitting requirements and action thresholds (fire suppression requirements in all homes, wastewater compliance timelines, increases in solid waste diversion requirements), and (d) support flexibility and stable funding to best meet mandated program requirements, such as in our Health and Human Services programs.

Staff requests approval of the attached 2011 Legislative Platform.

Federal Priorities trip to Washington DC

In February after approval of the Legislative Platform, Board members usually travel to Washington DC and meet with Federal officials to discuss the County priorities. Our legislative advocates, Holland and Knight continue to emphasize the material importance of our leadership speaking directly with legislators and agencies' staff, particularly as funding tightens. To put a fine point on the benefit to the County of these trips, over the past 10 years \$105 million in funding has been secured for key regional projects, such as: Interstate 80 (over \$71 million), Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$10 million), Law Enforcement Communications Upgrades (\$5 million), and the Lincoln/Hwy 65 bypass (\$4 million). Examples of priorities to be discussed for FY 2011 include:

- The Regional Wastewater Treatment Projects and Facilities
- The Regional public Safety Communications Network Upgrade
- Transportation Funding Reauthorization
- Transportation Projects (e.g., Placer Parkway, Kings Beach, Auburn-Folsom Rd)
- Biomass Utilization
- Placer Legacy program and the Placer County Conservation Plan
- Auburn State Recreation Area management

In recent years, your Board has authorized two to four board members and the County Executive Officer to participate in this annual trip. Meetings with Congressional members and agencies' staff are scheduled based upon the County priorities, with a Board member designated for lead within that setting. Typically, the lead has been one

that is familiar with the policy or program which the meeting is addressing, and can effectively represent the County's interests.

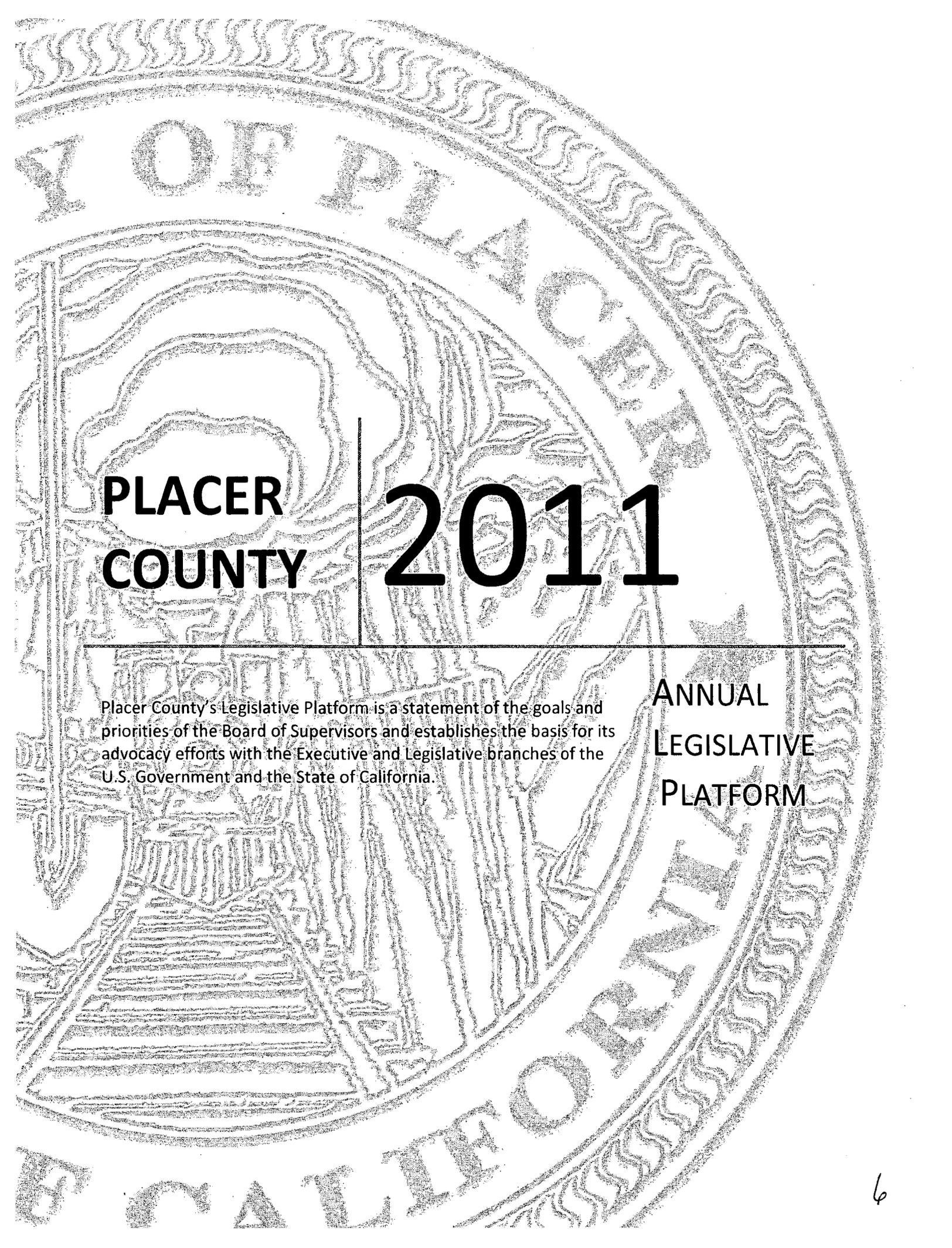
Staff requests designation of participating board members and authorization for this trip for a total amount, not to exceed \$6,000. Subsequent to your approval, required paperwork and forms will be completed for travel.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As in past years, the potential for cost reductions and or increased revenue to the County may occur if all, or a portion of, the Legislative Platform is enacted. Funding for this effort is included in the County's FY 2010-11 Final Budget and will be proposed in the FY 2011-12 Budget.

As pertains to the annual legislation trip to Washington DC, the total estimated travel, lodging and related incidental cost is approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 per Supervisor. Exact costs will be dependent upon the total number of participants and solidification of travel details. However the cost is estimated to be no more than \$6,000. This cost is included in the County's approved budget FY 2010-11.

Attachment: Placer County 2011 Legislative Platform

The background of the page is a large, faint, circular seal of Placer County, California. The seal features a central figure holding a scale and a sword, surrounded by a wreath. The words "PLACER COUNTY" are visible at the top and "CALIFORNIA" at the bottom of the seal's border.

**PLACER
COUNTY**

2011

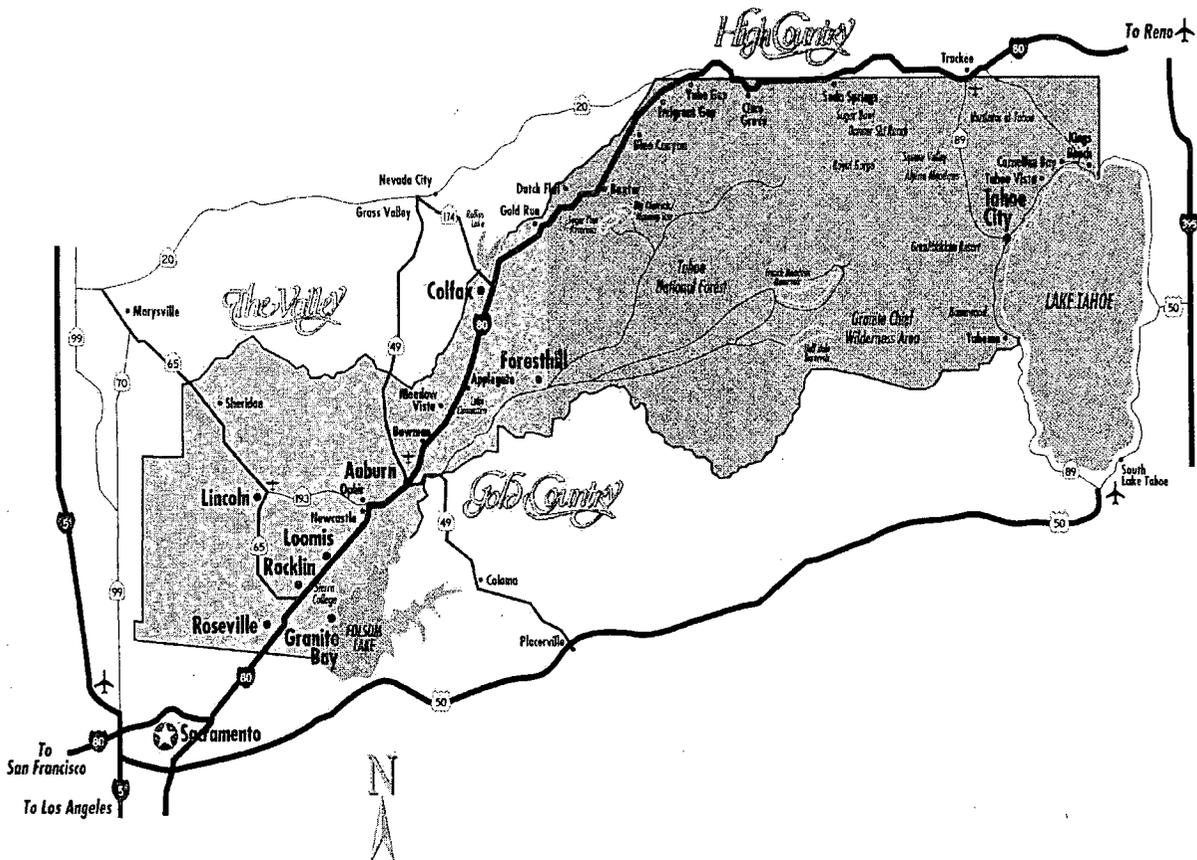
Placer County's Legislative Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government and the State of California.

**ANNUAL
LEGISLATIVE
PLATFORM**

Placer County
2011 Legislative/Regulatory Platform

Board of Supervisors

- Supervisor Jack Duran, District 1
 - Supervisor Robert Weygandt, District 2
 - Supervisor Jim Holmes, District 3
 - Supervisor Kirk Uhler, District 4
 - Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery, District 5
- Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer



**PLACER COUNTY
2011 Legislative/Regulatory Platform**

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PLACER COUNTY
2011 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The Legislative/Regulatory Platform is composed of three parts. Part One outlines the County's overall legislative principles for 2011. Parts Two and Three list specific state and federal proposals, all of which are consistent with the County's general principles.

PLACER COUNTY
2011 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Part One
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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 sufficient 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, sufficient revenue source.
5. Support current or increased levels of state and federal funding for County mandated programs.
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
2011 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Part Two
STATE PROPOSALS

Proposal 1: Department Inclusion in Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

Oppose any new legislation that seeks to force direct regulatory enforcement by the Agricultural Commissioner of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. While The ILRP creates an additional unnecessary and redundant layer of regulation for Placer County's agricultural community, the primary reason for opposition is that this would be an unfunded mandate that would strain staff resource.

Problem: The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) currently operates the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) under the authority of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. This program requires commercial agriculturalists who irrigate to join a water quality coalition, and pay for water quality monitoring. As evidenced by AB 2595 (Huffman), the Regional Board and a portion of the state legislature seek to require the local county Agricultural Commissioner to assume a regulatory role within the ILRP by prohibiting the Agricultural Commissioner from issuing pesticide use permits to growers until the Agricultural Commissioner has verified that each grower is currently participating in the ILRP. This would create an unfunded mandate for the Agricultural Commissioner by adding an estimated minimum of one hour of staff time to each of the several hundred permits issued in Placer County each year. Current state law prohibits counties from charging a fee for the issuance of pesticide permits.

Proposal 2: Ensure Continued State Funding for the Williamson Act

Support legislation for continued state funding for the Williamson Act.

Problem: Although AB 2530 (Nielsen) has restored some funding to the Williamson Act, it is important to continue monitoring this issue throughout the next legislative cycle. Elimination of Williamson Act subventions to counties poses a threat to the continued viability of family farms and ranches in Placer County and California if their property taxes are raised to development land value levels. Established in 1971, the Williamson Act Program provides 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 program also provides limited financial recovery to local jurisdictions that approve Williamson Act contracts to help protect California's vanishing farmland. The reduced tax base on farmland can be a critical determining factor as to whether land is sold and developed or it remains in agricultural production.

Proposal 3: 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 (PCCP)

Support legislation that advances the objectives of the Placer Legacy program and the PCCP to protect open space and agricultural land in the county and to comply with the myriad of state and federal laws that apply to wetlands and sensitive species while streamlining regulatory procedures.

Problem: Even with the slowing of the housing market, landowners are continuing their efforts for large-scale entitlements that have the potential to convert over 50,000 acres of county land over the next 50 years. 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.

Proposal 4: Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance AB 1881

Allow for flexibility in ordinance development. Due to budget constraints and resources, the requirement to conduct periodic site inspections to verify compliance will be a challenge. The Planning Department will be responsible for ensuring that construction plans comply with requirements, consistent with the intent of State law. The Building Department will be responsible for verifying general compliance during single-family residential inspections, as the Planning Department does not inspect single family dwellings.

Problem: The Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance is not viewed by Placer County as a good model or effective ordinance. The ordinance is considered burdensome on the regulated public and local agency resources. AB 1881 contains provisions that statutorily require local agencies to monitor landscape water use and ensure compliance with the water efficient landscape ordinance. A significant cost burden to small development projects, individual residential landscape plans and small businesses is envisioned. Additional County staff resources will be allocated to develop ordinance, program conditions, and enforce new standards. Further, fundamentally, AB 1881 goes beyond prescribing policy and creates implementation standards that are considered difficult to interpret and administer. The new law is complicated, onerous, and its impact is uncertain.

Proposal 5: Support Development of a State Wetlands and Riparian Areas Protection Policy

Support legislation or policy initiatives that direct the State Water Quality Control Board to prepare a Wetlands and Riparian Areas Protection Policy that takes advantage of the science-based planning and programmatic regulatory opportunities provided by programs such as the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP).

Problem: Presently, the State Water Quality Control Board is drafting a statewide regulation regarding wetlands. The State Board should coordinate any new state-wide wetlands regulation with the numerous landscape-level conservation efforts being developed to insure that a new project-by-project regulatory scheme is not developed when all other resource management issues have been addressed at the landscape-scale through an adopted conservation strategy. This lack of coordination, without any regional context, will result in fragmented mitigation activities, bureaucratic redundancy, and a lack of certainty for regulatory outcomes for the public and private sector.

Proposal 6: Modify CA Public Resources Code Related to Oak Woodlands

Support legislation to clarify a number of provisions of the Public Resources Code (PRC) related to oak woodlands. Emphasis should be on providing clarification of levels of significance thresholds, definitions, and mitigation and conservation standards. Resolving potential statutory conflicts between fuel load reduction needs and activities and impacts to oak woodlands is also necessary. Legislation is needed to insure that local government efforts to comply with CEQA requirements for oak woodlands meet the requirements of state law and can pass judicial review.

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 and that most of these areas are designated for suburban and rural residential development, the current statute has a profound impact on land development activities in Placer County. Section 21083.4 of the PRC mandates that counties must review impacts to oak woodlands under CEQA; however, existing law fails to provide satisfactory definitions and/or needs clarification in a number of areas. Current efforts by the State to provide guidelines to counties have been inadequate.

Proposal 7: Support Clarification Regarding the Residential Fire Sprinkler Requirement for one- and two-family dwellings in the 2010 California Building Standards Code (2010 California Residential Code, Part 2.5)

Support legislation that will provide local agencies, particularly in rural areas of the state, additional clarification regarding the fire suppression requirement for new one- and two- family residential construction. Clarification of the fire suppression requirement would enable rural areas (defined by public/private water system resources/population/density) relief from these fire sprinkler standards until the area classification either adjusts to an urban category, or a proposal to increase density from rural to urban is processed by the local jurisdiction.

Problem: The 2010 California Building Standards Codes (2010 California Residential Code, Part 2.5) includes a fire sprinkler requirement for one- and two- family dwellings without structure size qualification. This means each new residence constructed after January 1, 2011 will be required to install a fire sprinkler system regardless of structure size. This requirement may prove to be difficult to implement in some areas of the County. Fire sprinkler systems typically consume/require a significant amount of water and water pressure to operate. Many properties within rural settings in County of Placer receive water from a groundwater well or private water system, and may be incapable of meeting the demands of a sprinkler system. As a result, alternate components or systems may be necessary to ensure the system operates as intended and these type alternate systems come with an added expense to property owners. Further, it is also possible water purveyors may restrict fire sprinkler access to the public or private potable water system. The restriction may present itself through concerns of contaminating the potable water supply, or may be related to inadequate water supply/pressure of the public/private system. These restrictions may cause the need for alternate fire sprinkler components, split water service systems (two meters), and other mitigating amenities such as water storage facilities or dry chemical applications.

Proposal 8: Placer County Regional Water Strategy

Support the efforts of the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and the regional water purveyor team (the Sacramento Water Alliance) to protect our water resources and prevent increases in fees and/or changes in our infrastructure that is dedicated to conveying and distributing water to Placer County residents.

Problem: Over the past couple of years there has been a significant increase in legislative activity intended to solve California's water delivery problems. In Placer County, upstream from the delta and valley, the County and its partner PCWA see the problem as an export water contractor problem. Inevitably, however, the proposed solutions require upstream of the delta and valley water right holders and water purveyors to contribute water and money. There are several venues where these proposals take shape but, ultimately, there must be state legislative implementation to resolve the issues. County staff would work with PCWA to coordinate the interests of the County. Cooperation with PCWA and its partners to coordinate each of our State lobbyist's for support of legislation, plans and potential fees or rights would be accomplished.

Proposal 9: Protect Local Redevelopment Revenues

Prevent State taking or reduction of local Redevelopment Agency revenue. The State took approximately \$3.2 million of Placer County Redevelopment Agency tax increment funds in FY 2009-2010 and another \$672,000 in FY 2010-2011. These takings, the same as several years of ERAF takings previously, were not in the form of loans and the funds will not be recovered by the Agency unless litigation against the taking prevails in the courts. Moving forward, Placer County should be positioned to not only take action to protect existing funds, but also reduce or eliminate redevelopment program funding altogether.

Problem: Revenue losses significantly reduce the ability of the Agency to implement critically important projects and programs. Further, the unpredictable nature of the takings has made it impossible for the Agency to do financial planning. Past loss of revenue has required the Agency to reduce current and future expenditures, resulting in the reduction or suspension of vital economic revitalization programs, such as the Commercial Improvement and Façade Loan Program, removal of blight, upgrade deficient infrastructure, clean up toxic contamination, leverage private investment, create jobs and improve needy communities.

Proposal 10: Retain Film and Television Production Industry in California

Advocate for retention of film and television production in California, specifically those types of productions traditionally shot on location in Placer County.

Problem: In spite of the current California film tax credit, overall film production in California and Placer County continues to suffer due to successful incentive programs offered elsewhere. Incentive programs in other states and countries, in addition to the economic downturn, have created a 50% decrease in production dollars expended countywide over the last few years. In 2001-2002, California offered a very successful trial incentive program to the industry which saw a dramatic increase in Placer County productions. The short-lived California program was eliminated when the state budget was drastically cut at the end of that year. Until 2003, Placer County averaged \$2-3 million dollars a year in local economic impact from production shootings. Thereafter, Placer County has seen a reduction in feature film and TV movie revenues, reflecting a statewide trend.

Proposal 11: Preserve the Original Intent of Workers' Compensation Act

Preserve the original intent of the Workers' Compensation Act in delivering prompt and fair benefits to employees injured on the job.

Problem: Each year, legislation is proposed that attempts to erode the original intent of the Workers' Compensation Act. Existing provisions related to medical treatment, indemnity benefits, and apportionment (among others) need to be protected or the State's Workers' Compensation system will be faced with spiraling costs and result in the loss of employment opportunities in California.

Proposal 12: Modify Employer-Required Retraining Noticing

Support legislation to amend the Labor Code to delay employer noticing (to an employee who has sustained a work-related injury) of employee retraining benefits until the employee's actual work restrictions are known.

Problem: The intent of the employer noticing is to advise employees of retraining benefits when they are unable to return to their usual work with their employer. 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.

Proposal 13: 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: Based on current law, inmates on work release, work furlough, and minimum security, as well as some others who are not paid by the County and did not have paid employment prior to an injury, are entitled to the minimum temporary disability. Last year, Assemblyman Niello introduced AB 516 on behalf of Placer County. This bill, if passed, would have ensured that those who had no earnings prior to an injury would not be eligible to receive minimum temporary disability benefits. AB 516 is a two-year bill and the County will continue to advocate its passage in 2010.

Proposal 14: Modify Employer Disability Credit for Employees Returned to Work

Support legislation to 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: Most of the obligation for payment of permanent disability is fully advanced prior to permanent disability being finalized; therefore the employer is not afforded the opportunity to realize the 15% savings for payment of permanent disability when returning an employee to work.

Proposal 15: Tort Liability, Design Professional Limited Liability & Indemnification

Support efforts that would allow the County to broaden its indemnification agreements or waive current statutory limitations for specified licensed professional groups.

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. The negligent party should be held accountable for full exposure of indemnification without the ability to put responsibility on entities with lesser exposure.

Proposal 16: Worker's Compensation

Support legislation that reduces costs for Worker's Compensation pursuant to California Labor Code. A key element would consider development and implementation of a fee schedule to be put in place to reduce the current cost of vocational experts who are utilized in defending or proving claims as relates to future earnings capacity following work related injury and determination of permanent disability award.

Problem: Currently determinations to increase or decrease permanent disability awards as a result of future earnings capacity are provided by vocational experts without any oversight as to their expertise or consideration of fees for services being provided. Presently no fee schedule is in place or regulations governing services provided by vocational experts. This is causing increased costs in litigations, filing of additional lien claims, and cases going unresolved in view of disputes relating to level of impairment and earnings capacity related to permanent disability awards. \$200 per hour to \$10,000+ per claim for vocational experts, in addition to continuing legal costs for unresolved claims. The result is increased cost to the County's Workers Compensation Fund.

Proposal 17: Financial Relief from citations, penalties and assessments by cal/OSHA or DOSH

Support legislation and/or regulatory changes that benefit the County in obtaining financial relief from the issuance of citations, penalties, assessments by Cal/OSHA or DOSH. Support amending policy/regulations to provide the same provisions to include reimbursement of previously assessed penalties to public entities once compliance has been confirmed by the employer that is provided to education entities.

Problem: Public entities are not afforded the same opportunity as education entities to obtain reimbursement of fines/penalties/assessments imposed from serious citations issued by Cal/OSHA or DOSH once a statement of compliance is issued by the employer confirming correction of all violations. Proposal will eliminate expense of fines, penalties, assessed for OSHA citations, and legal and operational costs to defense. Currently serious violation assessments start at \$8,500 for each violation.

Proposal 18: The Medicare/Medicaid Extension Act

The Medicare/Medicaid Extension Act created an obligation for all Self-insured employers to set aside financial accounts for qualified employees receiving Worker's Compensation, Employee's Health benefits, and third parties receiving Liability settlements. Support changes to statute that: 1) resolve delays, 2) establish a process, and 3) remove penalties (\$1,000.00 per day for non-compliance). Propose amending statute to provide a fair and equitable process for reimbursement of Medicare Set Aside (MSA) or Medicare Reimbursement Accounts (MRA).

Problem: Current statute requires set aside accounts for Medicare reimbursements from Worker's Compensation and Liability claim settlements for those receiving Medi-Cal/Medicaid benefits or those eligible to receive benefits with reporting and approval to CMS on all settlements, judgments, and awards. The process delays resolution of claims and increases costs to employers. Settlement of claims take into consideration potential exposure for liability of medical costs whereas CMS does not have an established practice of approving fair and equitable settlements and provides no insight as to how they arrive at a given settlement amount. The

result is delay in claim resolution which increases cost to the County Worker's Compensation and General Liability funds.

Proposal 19: Funding for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

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

Problem: The necessary upgrades needed for the County's wastewater facilities are expected to cost several hundred million dollars. The amount of available state and federal funding for wastewater programs and infrastructure is insufficient to meet the need and grant requirements are too restrictive to qualify for funding necessary for facility upgrades. Likewise, 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 in their communities.

Proposal 20: Permit Relief for Regional Wastewater Facilities

Support legislation and regulations that would allow state and federal agencies to provide some incentives and/or relief from permit timelines and penalties to enable agencies the time needed to form regional solutions. Permits are valid for a period of five years and allow agencies time to come into compliance within that fixed timeframe; however wastewater agencies cannot form regional partnerships, design, fund, and construct regional conveyance and treatment facilities in that timeframe.

Problem: Regionalization of wastewater facilities may be an effective solution to aging wastewater infrastructure. However, regionalization projects cannot be completed in the fixed timelines set forth in the permits for each facility. The County will be precluded from participating in regional solutions without relief from permit timelines and penalties. Without this relief, regulatory fines and lawsuits could cost Placer County over a million dollars.

Proposal 21: Oppose Increase in State-Mandated Solid Waste Diversion Rate

Oppose efforts to increase state-mandated solid waste diversion rates that are not substantiated by cost/benefit studies, and rely on tipping fees or garbage rates to fund diversion.

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.

Proposal 22: Support Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation

Support Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation designed to shift the financial disposal burden of household hazardous waste, universal waste and other problematic products from cities and counties to manufacturers and producers of the products. Oppose landfill bans that are not substantiated by scientific studies showing that land filling the material poses a danger to human or environmental health and oppose bans that do not provide a plan for cost-effective ways to remove the material from the waste stream.

Problem: In recent years, various materials have been designated as hazardous and banned from landfill disposal. Such requirements, along with a lack of producer responsibility, for hazardous and difficult to recycle materials, have resulted in significant financial impacts to local jurisdictions. Without producer responsibility, jurisdictions will continue to be responsible for implementing appropriate diversion programs to keep the wastes out of landfills. Without producer responsibility, the County will continue to pay for diversion programs and operational costs to divert these wastes. Such costs will likely be passed on to garbage ratepayers.

Proposal 23: Generally, oppose Increased Fees Imposed by the State and Local Regulatory Agencies

Oppose efforts to increase fees or other costs of operation unless substantiated by life-cycle and/or cost-benefit analyses, or reasonable demonstrated need. Oppose any new or increased fees designed to help state agencies make up for budget deficits or to fund subsidies or grant programs. Local governments have had to streamline operations in response to the economic climate, and cannot afford continual increased costs of operation. Regulatory agencies should also identify ways to streamline costs before passing on the financial burden to local government, costs which will likely be passed on to ratepayers.

Problem: There have been recent efforts by regulatory agencies to increase or implement new fees including, but not limited to, disposal tipping fees, landfill closure/and corrective action costs, Waste Discharge Requirement fees, AB 32 administrative fees, and landfill closure plan review fees - many designed to subsidize unrelated programs and/or to balance agencies' budgetary shortfalls. Any increased fees will directly impact Placer County operations; increased costs of operation will likely be passed on to ratepayers.

Proposal 24: Support Economic Incentives for Green Technology Legislation

Support efforts to provide financial and other incentives to assist in implementing compliance programs using green technology including, but not limited to diversion credits for new technologies designed to convert waste materials into usable energy, renewable energy credits, tax credits, and greenhouse gas reduction credits.

Problem: State and federal mandates require local jurisdictions to increase waste diversion and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. New, green technology can be highly effective in helping jurisdictions achieve the mandates, but are often infeasible without economic and other incentives. Currently, it is not feasible to implement some new, green technologies either due to their cost or their inability to qualify for financial incentives or as compliance programs. For example, conversion of solid waste to energy reduces dependence on landfills and creates a fuel source for renewable energy; however, such technology does not currently qualify for AB 939 diversion credits or renewable energy credits, making it infeasible to implement. For agencies to be able to help meet emission mandates and energy goals, and to continue to reduce dependence on landfills and fossil fuels, they must receive the tools and incentives needed to implement new and greener technology. The provision of financial and other incentives, such as tradable credits, could encourage and enable use of new, green technology at our facilities by providing a revenue stream, associated with environmental attributes, that is not currently available. Without incentives, such as diversion credits, renewable energy credits, and greenhouse gas emission credits, many green technologies will remain financially infeasible.

Proposal 25: Support Permitting and Regulatory Flexibility for Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs

Support legislation and/or permitting that would provide local agencies more control and flexibility to modify operations to best meet regulatory requirements. Oppose increased or more stringent regulatory requirements without use of scientific evidence. Optimally, regulations and permits should authorize agencies and operators to implement and/or modify operations or programs without the need to prepare, submit, and obtain permitting authority approval, as long as the changes comply with applicable regulations and are protective of water quality. Such flexibility could include the ability for wastewater operators to choose the best methods to meet effluent requirements and regulate what goes into the sewers, discretion for regulatory agencies to use science-based approaches in permitting facilities, and streamlining the existing permit process.

Problem: Current regulations and permits do not provide local agencies and operators opportunities for operational flexibility. Facility permits often include requirements that are not based on scientific evidence and do not allow for site-specific factors to be considered. Increased flexibility would enable local agencies to manage its Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs in smarter and more efficient ways, meet mandates using a variety of methods, and implement operational changes without permit revisions. Without flexibility, agencies could face increased capital and operating costs that do not protect human health and the environment.

Proposal 26: California Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan Requirements – Lahontan Region.

Support legislation and advocacy efforts to minimize further water quality regulation and related additional unfunded mandates. Through legislation and work with appropriate agencies evaluate and modify applicable water quality regulations so they are within County's sustainable resources.

Problem: In July 2010, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan). These amendments relate to the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and recent scientific information that resulted in development of a restoration plan to halt Lake Tahoe's transparency decline and restore transparency to meet the established clarity standard for the lake. While these proposed Basin Plan changes appear positive for protecting Lake Tahoe, it places additional financial burden on local governments in the Lake Tahoe Basin to comply with the proposed pollutant standards. Already existing Basin Plan text requires local governments to protect Lake Tahoe with very stringent effluent standards. The proposed Basin Plan text changes add a new pollutant standard and a timeline that local government will be extremely challenged to meet. Further, the proposed \$1.5 billion in investment estimated as needed to improve water quality to meet "the Tahoe Clarity Challenge" is an investment in only one of many "environmental threshold standards" at Lake Tahoe.

Proposal 27: Reduce the Number of Unwanted Dogs and Cats Destroyed in Shelters

Support legislation that seeks to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats destroyed in shelters each year without increasing the cost to the County. Advocate for legislation that

requires owners to spay or neuter their dogs and/or cats if the owners are repeatedly cited for their dogs and cats being unlicensed or repeatedly impounded or cited for being at large.

Problem: Overpopulation of dogs and cats poses a significant risk to public health and safety, particularly the occurrences of dog bites and the transmission of rabies and other communicable animal diseases. Unaltered dogs are three-times more likely to attack humans and other animals.

Proposal 28: Strengthen Laws and Penalties against Illegal Dog Fighting and Cock Fighting

Support legislation that strengthens laws against illegal dog fighting and cock fighting in California, including increased fines and jail time for any person who is convicted of owning, keeping or training dogs or cocks with the intent to use them in fighting.

Problem: Although dog fighting and cock fighting are illegal in California, illicit animal fighting is on the rise in both rural and urban areas. Dog fighting and cock fighting inflict cruelty on animals. In the past two years, Placer County Animal Services has identified and abated several premises raising cocks for fighting, and these are likely only a small percentage of the problem.

Proposal 29: Support Increased Funding and Flexibility for Health and Human Services Programs

Support adequate, flexible, and stable funding to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements including Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Services, Human Services, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services, Health Care to Low-Income Adults including the indigent and California Children Services, and Health Reform. In addition, support continuation of the Placer County Integrated Health & Human Services Pilot Program to maximize flexibility in program design as well as increase Federal/State funding leveraging opportunities.

Problem: Funding to meet Federal/State mandated program requirements is often inadequate, prescriptive, and inflexible. Greater leveraging of Federal/State funding streams and enhanced opportunity for innovative service delivery models to facilitate meeting mandated program requirements. This proposal seeks to reduce existing County costs while leveraging Federal and State revenues and fostering program innovation. Adequate and stable funding is critical to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements. Doing so will enable the County to continue to provide critical services for health and humans service programs which are known to reduce homelessness, criminal behavior, substance abuse, and unemployment resulting in healthier more productive residents while reducing overall county expenditures.

Proposal 30: Funding Reforms and Supports for Child Welfare Services and Foster Care Program Mandates

Support restoration of State funding reduction as well as efforts to adequately fund Child Welfare Services and Foster Care program mandates. Child Welfare Services is the program to protect children from abuse and neglect and has been woefully underfunded for years. Child Welfare Services protects the safety of our most vulnerable residents and research has shown that failing to serve abused children and youth results in increased crime, domestic violence, drug abuse, homelessness, and a host of other adverse and costly outcomes

Problem: Funding for Child Welfare Services remains significantly below County costs to meet Federal and State program requirements and outcome measures and is often overly prescriptive and inflexible. The State further reduced funding by \$120 million beginning in 2009-10. This cut

directly threatens the health and safety of the 3,100 children and families touched by the County's Child Welfare Services system. Greater leveraging of Federal/State funding streams will assure that Placer is prepared to best meet the safety and welfare needs of at-risk and abused children. The county's population of minor children has increased more than 30 percent since 1999. This proposal seeks to reduce County General Fund costs through increased State or Federal funding for mandated Child Welfare and Foster Care services.

Proposal 31: Support Legislation to Modify CalPERS Health Insurance Vesting

Support legislation that will 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/retirees, 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 retiree premium contribution. Depending upon the option chosen to pay for the health insurance, this can cause an economic hardship to the agency providing benefits and impact the agency's Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligation. The changing dynamics of the workforce, as well as the spiraling health insurance costs, necessitates the consideration of more viable options for health care for active employees and retirees.

Proposal 32: Maintain the FY 10/11 level of funding for the Public Library Foundation (PLF) in the State Budget. Support PLF at its current funding level in the State Budget for FY 10/11. State funding supports vital library services and collections and help to maintain hours of operation. PLF has taken substantial budget reductions over the years and further reductions will continue to impact library services and programs throughout the state.

Problem: PLF has never been fully funded. Full funding would cost approximately \$107 million. The highest funding was in 2000-01 when \$56.8 million was allocated for local libraries. Since then PLF funding has been reduced over the years to a baseline of \$13 million. The Governor's January budget for 2010-11 does not propose additional cuts to PLF. In FY 09/10 the Placer County Library received \$66,295. Those funds are equivalent to the annual salary of a children's librarian or the equivalent of 26% of the current materials budget for all 12 branch libraries. Any additional loss of PLF revenue may further reduce the current materials budget. A loss of approximately \$66,000 in Library operating revenue.

PLACER COUNTY
2011 Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Part Three

FEDERAL PROPOSALS

Proposal 33: Regional Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility

Seek and support funding for the Regional Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility.

Problem: Existing aged wastewater treatment plants in the County require significant upgrades to meet stringent 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. Agencies that cannot fund improvements to maintain compliance are faced with fines, third-party lawsuits and strict enforcement actions. In addition, if facility upgrades cannot be completed, agencies will ultimately be unable to accommodate growth in their communities. 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 as well as long-term cost efficiencies. The regional project was authorized in the 2003 Reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act.

Proposal 34: Placer County Regional Wastewater Project

Support funding and assistance in closing the Applegate Sewer Maintenance District No. 1 and Auburn treatment plants and construct a pipeline connecting these systems to a new treatment plant located in the City of Lincoln. Consolidate treatment operations and provide water reclamation opportunities for agricultural and industrial uses near Lincoln.

Problem: Placer County must upgrade or replace several small aging wastewater treatment plants in order to meet discharge requirements enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Rate payers in Applegate SMD No. 1 and Auburn fund all sewer operations. While more expensive from a capital perspective in the near term, regionalizing wastewater operations will be less expensive in the long term due to economies of scale.

Proposal 35: Support Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation

Support Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation designed to shift the financial disposal burden of household hazardous waste, universal waste and other problematic products from cities and counties to manufacturers and producers of the products. Oppose landfill bans that are not substantiated by scientific studies showing that land filling the material poses a danger to human or environmental health and oppose bans that do not provide a plan for cost-effective ways to remove the material from the waste stream.

Problem: In recent years, various materials have been designated as hazardous and banned from landfill disposal. Such requirements, along with a lack of producer responsibility, for hazardous and difficult to recycle materials, have resulted in significant financial impacts to local jurisdictions. Without producer responsibility, jurisdictions will continue to be responsible for implementing appropriate diversion programs to keep the wastes out of landfills. Without

producer responsibility, the County will continue to pay for diversion programs and operational costs to divert these wastes. Such costs will likely be passed on to garbage ratepayers.

Proposal 36: Oppose Increased Fees Imposed by Federal Government and Agencies

Oppose efforts to increase fees or other costs of operation unless substantiated by life-cycle and/or cost-benefit analyses, or reasonable demonstrated need. Oppose any new or increased fees designed to help governments and agencies make up for budget deficits or to fund subsidies or grant programs. Local governments have had to streamline operations in response to the economic climate, and cannot afford continual increased costs of operation. Regulatory agencies should also identify ways to streamline costs before passing on the financial burden to local government, costs which will likely be passed on to ratepayers.

Problem: There have been recent efforts by regulatory agencies to increase or implement new fees including, but not limited to, disposal tipping fees, landfill closure/and corrective action costs, Waste Discharge Requirement fees, AB 32 administrative fees, and landfill closure plan review fees - many designed to subsidize unrelated programs and/or to balance agencies' budgetary shortfalls. Any increased fees will directly impact Placer County operations; increased costs of operation will likely be passed on to ratepayers.

Proposal 37: Permit Relief for Regional Wastewater Facilities

Support legislation and regulations that would allow governmental agencies to provide some incentives and/or relief from permit timelines and penalties to enable agencies the time needed to form regional solutions. Permits are valid for a period of five years and allow agencies time to come into compliance within that fixed timeframe; however wastewater agencies cannot form regional partnerships, design, fund, and construct regional conveyance and treatment facilities in that timeframe.

Problem: Regionalization of wastewater facilities may be an effective solution to aging wastewater infrastructure. However, regionalization projects cannot be completed in the fixed timelines set forth in the permits for each facility. The County will be precluded from participating in regional solutions without relief from permit timelines and penalties. Without this relief, regulatory fines and lawsuits could cost Placer County over a million dollars.

Proposal 38: Support Economic Incentives for Green Technology Legislation

Support efforts to provide financial and other incentives to assist in implementing compliance programs using green technology including, but not limited to diversion credits for new technologies designed to convert waste materials into usable energy, renewable energy credits, tax credits, and greenhouse gas reduction credits.

Problem: State and federal mandates require local jurisdictions to increase waste diversion and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. New, green technology can be highly effective in helping jurisdictions achieve the mandates, but are often infeasible without economic and other incentives. Currently, it is not feasible to implement some new, green technologies either due to their cost or their inability to qualify for financial incentives or as compliance programs. For example, conversion of solid waste to energy reduces dependence on landfills and creates a fuel source for renewable energy; however, such technology does not currently qualify for AB 939 diversion credits or renewable energy credits, making it infeasible to implement. For agencies to be able to help meet emission mandates and energy goals, and to continue to reduce

dependence on landfills and fossil fuels, they must receive the tools and incentives needed to implement new and greener technology. The provision of financial and other incentives, such as tradable credits, could encourage and enable use of new, green technology at our facilities by providing a revenue stream, associated with environmental attributes, that is not currently available. Without incentives, such as diversion credits, renewable energy credits, and greenhouse gas emission credits, many green technologies will remain financially infeasible.

Proposal 39: Support Permitting and Regulatory Flexibility for Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs

Support legislation and/or permitting that would provide local agencies more control and flexibility to modify operations to best meet regulatory requirements. Oppose increased/more stringent regulatory requirements without use of scientific evidence. Optimally, regulations and permits should authorize agencies and operators to implement and/or modify operations or programs without the need to prepare, submit, and obtain permitting authority approval, as long as the changes comply with applicable regulations and are protective of water quality. Such flexibility could include the ability for wastewater operators to choose the best methods to meet effluent requirements and regulate what goes into the sewers, discretion for regulatory agencies to use science-based approaches in permitting facilities, and streamlining the existing permit process.

Problem: Current regulations and permits do not provide local agencies and operators opportunities for operational flexibility. Facility permits often include requirements that are not based on scientific evidence and do not allow for site-specific factors to be considered. Increased flexibility would enable local agencies to manage its Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater Programs in smarter and more efficient ways, meet mandates using a variety of methods, and implement operational changes without permit revisions. Without flexibility, agencies could face increased capital and operating costs that do not protect human health and the environment.

Proposal 40: Support Additional Funding for Regional Public Safety Communications Network

Federal funding is critical to continue implementation of 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.

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). Maintaining public safety is one of the most important roles of government.

Proposal 41: Re-Authorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (PL 11-343) at FFY 2008 Levels through FFY 2015.

This proposal seeks re-authorization of the SRS Act at Federal FY 2008 levels through FFY 2015. The loss of stable payments as originally authorized in the SRS Act are not replaceable with State

or local revenues as the current economy challenges police departments, fire departments and schools to simply stay open and available in rural communities.

Problem: The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act) as amended in PL 110-343 is scheduled to sunset at the end of FFY 2011. Following Federal FY 2011, Counties will no longer be able to rely on stable revenue streams that provide increasingly critical funding for schools and roads, and make additional investments in projects that protect fire-sensitive ecosystems. The cost to the County with loss of SRS Act revenue would be \$962,000 per year, that was the Federal FY 2008 funding level.

Proposal 42: Support Reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Bill

Problem: The federal surface transportation bill, referred to as SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act) expired September 2009; an extension expired on December 18, 2009. Placer County receives over 85% of eligible transportation project costs from programs funded through SAFETEA-LU. Rapid growth within the region has fueled the need for additional investment in the County's traffic circulation system. County federal transportation funding needs include: continued Interstate 80 (a major cross-country interstate highway) improvements, the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project; county bridge replacement projects, and the future proposed Placer Parkway.

Proposal 43: Support Increased Federal Funding for Lake Tahoe Transit Operations

Problem: The Lake Tahoe Basin is not eligible for annual urbanized (5307) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operating assistance. Instead, public transit operators in the basin receive the annual non-urbanized funds which amount to approximately 10% of the urbanized funds. However, due to the high level of visitors to public lands in Tahoe, along with the permanent resident population and seasonal population, the demands of the Lake Tahoe Basin warrant service similar to an urban area than a rural area. These high demands place a larger burden on the Basin's transit systems than most non-urbanized areas. Placer County is seeking federal recognition of the Lake Tahoe Basin as an urbanized area for the purposes of receiving FTA funding for transit operations.

Proposal 44: Support Federal Funding for the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project

Problem: Lake Tahoe is designated an "Outstanding National Resource Water" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Kings Beach commercial area is located at the northerly entrance to the Lake Tahoe Basin. 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. The Kings Beach improvement project is identified in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) as one of the projects around the Lake Tahoe Basin to facilitate attainment of nine environmental thresholds, including water quality, to protect the natural environment of the Basin.

Proposal 45: Modify the Federal Highway Bridge Program to Recognize Flooding as Justifiable Authorization for the 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 ten 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 dollars are often used to replace bridges that are functionally obsolete. The bridge does not functionally serve its intended purpose and needs to address the increase in traffic level. However, existing federal transportation funding programs do not recognize flooding as justifiable authorization for bridge replacement through the federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP). These regulations need to be modified to allow federal financial assistance through HBP to support the bridge replacement.

Proposal 46: Support Reauthorization of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

Problem: Proposal 48: Support Reauthorization of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act .

Problem: Approved in 2000, the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act authorized \$300 million in federal funding, over 10 years, to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe from continued environmental deterioration. The current Act expired in 2010 and an attempt to reauthorize the bill did not pass during the last session of Congress. The federal funding supports the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) –a \$900 million federal, state, and local partnership to improve the water clarity of the lake and restore Lake Tahoe’s environmental health, and maintain the lake’s status as an “Outstanding National Resource Water” as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To date, nearly 300 environmental projects and restoration activities have occurred as a result of this funding. Placer County has received a significant part of this federal funding to plan, design, permit, and construct a number of water quality improvement projects throughout the north and west shore areas of Lake Tahoe in Placer County. The drafting and passage of similar legislation is supported to continue work in the Lake Tahoe area.

Proposal 47: Seek and support funding for the Placer Parkway Project

Seek and support federal funding for the Placer Parkway Project, a planned 14.2 mile high speed transportation facility of regional benefit that will connect State Route 65 in western Placer County to State Route 99 in South Sutter County. This facility will link existing and planned development in a region that has seen some of the fastest growing communities in California— Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, and the Sunset Industrial Area. The Placer Parkway will provide a new east/west connection which adds significant needed capacity and support economic development. A key piece is completion of preliminary design and obtaining environmentally clearance so the project can be construction ready.

Problem: Placer County has seen a significant amount of development in the past decade and the regional transportation facilities are at or near capacity. In addition, the County projects a significant amount of growth in the future. One of these future projections completed by Sacramento Area Council of Government (SACOG) estimates that the population in southwestern Placer County will nearly double between the years 2000 and 2025. The anticipated development to support this increased population and employment will dramatically increase

travel demand on the regions roadways over the next 20 years and beyond. The County and cities have been adding new roadways to their network, but a need still exists for additional facilities. One of the areas in greatest need of capacity enhancement is for east/west travelers. Currently, the roadway system provides one major east/west link within this region; Baseline Road in Placer County that turns into Riego Road in Sutter County. Even with future improvements to this roadway, the east/west roadway network is over capacity with the future projected growth. The additional east/west roadway capacity for this fast growing region will reduce congestion on the local and regional transportation system and advance economic development goals in southwestern Placer County and South Sutter County.

Proposal 48: 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 (PCCP)

Problem: Even with the slowing of the housing market, landowners are continuing their efforts for large-scale entitlements that have the potential to convert over 50,000 acres of county land over the next 50 years. 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.

Proposal 49: Continued Pest Detection Funding for Farm Bill Appropriations to California.

Ensure that the 2012 Farm Bill continues to provide funding for "Plant Pest and Disease Management" at a level at least equivalent to the 2008 Farm Bill. And, support efforts to secure funds for "Early Pest Detection and Surveillance" activities. Continued funding will ensure that the Agriculture Department is able to continue providing current service levels while reducing General Fund support to the department.

Problem: The Placer County Agriculture Department currently receives funding in the form of state contracts from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for pest detection and exclusion activities. Placer County also benefits from the services of the regional pest detection canine team that is funded by CDFA. CDFA's funding comes from the USDA via appropriations contained in the Federal Farm Bill. A reduction in this funding stream would directly impact the Placer County Agriculture Department's revenues and ability to prevent harmful pest infestations from becoming established in Placer County. Loss of funding would reduce the department's revenues, reduce pest detection activities, and potentially increase the number of harmful pests threatening or damaging Placer County and California's agricultural industries. Potential revenue loss of approximately \$100,000, if funding is reduced.

Proposal 50: AB811 Funding/Authorization

Support legislation that would provide funding incentives or legislative authorization for AB811 "PACE" type programs.

Problem: In 2008, a new California law (AB 811) was approved that allows counties and cities to establish programs for property owners to enter into contractual assessments to finance the installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources or select energy efficiency improvements. Local governments utilize an assessment district financing model to develop programs to provide financing to property owners to make these improvements. An assessment

lien is placed on the owner's property, and an annual assessment is placed on the property tax role for collection of the assessment over an amortization period. Currently, bonds issued by counties and cities to fund AB 811 programs are taxable municipal debt under the IRS Code (i.e. municipal debt issued for the benefit of private activities). Tax exempt debt used to finance AB 811-type programs would allow increased participation in and greater access to financing for property owners, resulting in higher levels of economic stimulation, green house gas reduction and energy independence.

Proposal 51: Biomass Utilization for Federal Lands and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

Support, opposed, or propose legislation and rules to ensure that woody biomass from all forest ownerships (public and private) is potentially eligible as fuel for renewable energy, and to acknowledge such use as being carbon neutral. As determined to be in the County's interest, we engage with partnerships and coalitions with the region, state and nationally. Changing legislation wording to allow federal lands to qualify for credits would also increase national forest' ability to implement projects that sequester carbon and help meet goals for GHG reduction.

Problem: Several on-going federal climate change and renewable energy related legislation and rules contain language that would not consider energy from biomass removed from federal lands as renewable, and would not include biomass conversion as being carbon neutral. At the same time, the State of California is in the process of developing climate change regulations that will define the role of biomass as a renewable energy source. The current uncertainty, and potential for biomass to be excluded as renewable, will severely limit the feasibility of biomass power generation in Placer County and elsewhere. Supporting legislation that allows biomass to be included in GHG emissions reductions credits, allows biomass from federal lands to qualify for credits, and defines biomass as carbon neutral, will help create funding sources that in turn support sustainable removal of biomass from the forestlands for use in the generation of renewable energy.

Proposal 52: Support Increased Funding and Flexibility for Health and Human Services Programs

Support adequate, flexible, and stable funding to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements including Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Services, Human Services, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services, Health Care to Low-Income Adults including the indigent and California Children Services, and Health Reform. In addition, support continuation of the Placer County Integrated Health & Human Services Pilot Program (Placer Waiver- State Welfare and Institutions Code 18986.62) to maximize flexibility in program design as well as increase Federal/State funding leveraging opportunities

Problem: Funding to meet Federal/State mandated program requirements is often inadequate, prescriptive, and inflexible. Greater leveraging of Federal/State funding streams and enhanced opportunity for innovative service delivery models to facilitate meeting mandated program requirements. This proposal seeks to reduce existing County costs while leveraging Federal and State revenues and fostering program innovation. Adequate and stable funding is critical to best meet Federal/State Health and Human Services program requirements. Doing so will enable the County to continue to provide critical services for health and humans service programs which are

known to reduce homelessness, criminal behavior, substance abuse, and unemployment resulting in healthier more productive residents while reducing overall county expenditures.

Proposal 53: Funding Reforms and Supports for Child Welfare Services and Foster Care Program Mandates

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Proposal 54: Funding for Management of the Auburn State Recreation Area

Support legislation, regulations, and permanent Federal funding for the management of the Federal Lands managed as the Auburn State Recreation Area.

Problem: Due to Federal funding constraints, the State of California considered closure of part of the Auburn State Recreation Area, including Lake Clementine the winter of 2009. Auburn State Recreation Area comprises 31,000 acres, mainly under the ownership of the federal Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). This has historically been a popular outdoor activity destination point. Given expressed concerns from the community, the Bureau provided last minute funding of \$10,000 to keep Lower Lake Clementine open. However after September 2012, there is insufficient ongoing funding for this purpose. With respect to fire safety, the Bureau previously contracted with Cal Fire to manage fuels and fight wildfire in the area. Currently there is no funding for fire mitigation. The surrounding communities above the American River Canyons may be at increased risk of fire due to lack of federal funds for the Auburn State Recreation Area.

