



**MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COUNTY OF PLACER**

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Holly Heinzen, Chief Assistant CEO 
By: Jim Durfee, Director of Special Projects

Date: October 8, 2013

Subject: University Travel Approval

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that your Board take the following action:

Approve overseas travel for Supervisor Kirk Uhler, Supervisor Robert Weygandt and County Executive Officer David Boesch to meet with representatives of the University of Warwick in Coventry, United Kingdom. The trip is being sponsored by the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization (SACTO) and will include representatives from SACTO, the City of Roseville and the Regional University Project.

BACKGROUND

In December 2008 the Board of Supervisors approved the Regional University Specific Plan (RUSP), a 1,157.5 acre Plan Area located in unincorporated Placer County directly west of the City of Roseville. The RUSP concept is a mixed use community with two primary components; a 600 acre University campus and an adjacent 557.5 acre mixed use community. The intent of the property owners (now Placer University Project, LLC and Placer University Community Property, LLC, both managed by W.M. Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit) is that the proceeds from developing the mixed use community would fund an endowment that would provide funding to develop the University. At the time of the approval, Drexel University was under contract with the project proponents, AKT Development, to develop a four-year university. In the ensuing years, the recession delayed progress on the project; and in 2011 Drexel notified the County that it no longer intended to develop on the site and has subsequently relinquished its interests in the project. In December of 2012 and March of 2013, the entire 1,157.5 acre property was donated to the property owners identified above. The property owners took the property subject to all previous agreements and are committed to the vision of developing a university on the site.

The property owners have continued the effort to bring a high profile University to the site and have partnered with SACTO to search for and recruit a suitable University. SACTO has long prioritized development of a major University in the region and is in contact with numerous Universities including the University of Warwick in Coventry, U.K. As the property owners' manager, W.M. Corporation has engaged in extensive discussions with Warwick and is now in discussions with hopes of entering into agreements to bring Warwick to the Regional University Project. To that end SACTO has arranged a

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trip to the U.K. to introduce Placer County officials to the University of Warwick and has invited two Board Members and the CEO to attend along with representatives from the City of Roseville and W.M. Corporation. The trip is scheduled for November 17 through November 21, 2013. Travel arrangements and costs will be provided by SACTO. Supervisor Uhler and Supervisor Weygandt have both volunteered to attend and CEO David Boesch will accompany them. In order to proceed, your Board's approval to travel overseas is required in accordance with Section 3.4(C) of the Placer County Meals, Lodging, Travel and Transportation policy.

FISCAL IMPACT

The trip is sponsored and funded by SACTO. There is no anticipated impact to the County beyond incidental travel expenses.

Environmental Review

Approval of overseas travel is not considered a "project" as defined by CEQA (CEQA Guidelines 15378). No further environmental review is required.