



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

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** David Boesch, County Executive Officer  
By: Allison Carlos, Principal Management Analyst  
Joel Joyce, Management Analyst

**DATE:** December 9, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Placer County 2015 Legislative Advocacy

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**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. Approve the Placer County 2015 Legislative Platform and authorize staff to pursue actions and to coordinate the advocacy program consistent with that document.
2. Authorize members of the Board of Supervisors to travel to Washington, DC in February and early summer 2015 to meet with elected or appointed officials of the United States to advocate for legislative and regulatory interests of the County.

**BACKGROUND**

**Legislative Platform**

The Annual Legislative Platform (Platform) serves as the basis for the County's advocacy efforts with executive and legislative branches of state and federal government. The Platform continues to be streamlined to allow for targeted advocacy efforts for key issues and specific proposals while providing flexibility through the general principles. Staff works with your Board, the County advocacy consultants, and departments to: (1) sponsor, support, or oppose legislation; (2) address policy, rules, and laws; and (3) defend County local authority and resources. Implementation plans are being developed to guide structured advocacy steps for significant issues that affect the County.

*Federal Advocacy*

The federal government concerns in 2015 are expected to include: passage of a budget, transportation and infrastructure funding (such as Highway Trust Fund and TIGER grant), and immigration and tax reform. Prior to the end of this year, seven appropriation bills may be passed with an Omnibus bill as an interim funding measure. Priority legislative and policy interests of the County include:

- Economic Development infrastructure funding for Sunset Industrial Area and Tahoe Basin
- Slaughterhouse facility funding in western Placer County
- Water resources supply and protection
- Woody biomass facility funding and regulatory support
- Placer County Conservation Plan funding and regulatory support
- Secure Rural School and Community Self Determination Act Funding reauthorization
- Transportation funding through reauthorization and financing mechanism(s)
- Placer Parkway and other priority infrastructure projects funding
- Forest management

It is important that the County strategically prepare and compete for existing near-term funding opportunities (e.g. transportation, economic development) while developing longer term priorities for the next transportation reauthorization bill. When seeking federal funding, the following approaches remain important to be as competitive as possible:

- Maintain local elected official and agency relationships with key decision makers
- Develop regional approaches when seeking project and program funding
- Ensure projects are ready for construction or entitlement processing, depending upon the funding source
- Ensure grants are well written with supporting letters and information.

#### State Advocacy

The 2015 legislative year for state issues is expected to be eventful with a number of Placer County legislative interests or administrative actions pertaining to:

- California economic development initiatives,
- Groundwater law implementation and regulation development (AB 1739, SB 1168 and SB 1319),
- Water resources supply and protection,
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan,
- Forest Management,
- Labor relations and California Public Retirement System (CalPERS) implementation of pension reform, and
- Public Safety Realignment continued implementation, accountability, and funding.

The 2014 legislative year ended with surface and ground water being a significant focal point. The \$7.5 billion Water Bond passed as well as historic groundwater regulation bills that will have implications for Placer County and local agencies throughout the State. Staff will bring an item to your Board in January to introduce the provisions of the new ground water law and discuss potential future implications and decisions. Implementation plans for Platform issues will incorporate proactive steps as relates to groundwater, forest management, labor-relations and CalPERS pension reform, economic development proposals, and regulatory issues that have material implications to Placer County. The proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is still anticipated to have adverse implications to water supply for portions of Placer County. While strategies are being developed to ensure the County is responding to the environmental document, specific effort will be needed with regional coalitions, elected officials, and the Placer County Water Agency.

#### Washington DC Advocacy Travel

Typically, Board members travel to Washington DC to meet with Federal officials to advocate for the County priorities in February, and as part of the Cap-to-Cap contingent of local agencies for the region in early summer. Holland and Knight emphasizes the importance of County leadership speaking directly with legislators and agencies' staff. In recent years, your Board has authorized two to four Board members to participate in each of these annual trips. Meetings with Congressional members and agencies' staff are scheduled based upon the County priorities, with Board members 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 authorization for these trips for a total amount not to exceed \$1,800 per participant. Subsequent to your approval, required paperwork and forms will be completed for travel.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

As pertains to the annual legislative trips to Washington DC, the total estimated travel, lodging, and related incidental cost is approximately \$1,400 to \$1,800 per participant. Exact costs will be dependent upon the total number of participants and confirmation of travel details. This cost is included in the County's approved FY 2014-15 Final Budget.

**Attachment:**

Placer County 2015 Legislative Platform

The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the official seal of Placer County, California. The seal is circular and contains the text "COUNTY OF PLACER" at the top and "CALIFORNIA" at the bottom. In the center, there is a depiction of a landscape with a mountain, a river, and a building.

**PLACER  
COUNTY**

**2015**

**ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

**Board of Supervisors**

Jack Duran, District 1

Robert Weygandt, District 2

Jim Holmes, District 3

Kirk Uhler, District 4

Jennifer Montgomery, District 5



**Placer County  
2015 Legislative Platform**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Placer County's Legislative Platform is a summary of the 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 regarding legislation and regulation.

The annual Platform contains general principles, key issues, and specific proposals of interest for the legislative year. Implementation of the Platform throughout the legislative year is structured to proactively frame sponsorship, support, and advocacy regarding key legislative and regulatory priorities while also monitoring numerous bills. Actions are taken through collaboration with subject matter experts in departments, engagement of elected-officials and other interested parties

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**GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- A. Seek or support legislation to restore local control and oppose efforts that will hinder or limit the County's ability to self-govern and to maintain land use control.
- B. Seek or support legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and growth, and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
- C. Seek or 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.
- D. Seek or support equitable levels of state and federal funding for County mandated programs. Oppose federal or state legislation for new, transferred, or realigned mandated programs that do not contain their own sufficient revenue source.
- E. 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.
- F. Seek or support legislation that assures the County's authority to negotiate mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation, incorporation and redevelopment that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its constituents.
- G. Seek or support legislation that protects the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and continued preservation of agricultural lands, wildlife habitat and open space.
- H. Seek or support 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.
- I. Encourage and engage with local agencies and governments to cooperate for the betterment of the community, and expand voluntary regional solutions to regional problems.
- J. Seek or support legislation and regulations that provide local agencies program and operational flexibility and allow staff to perform their duties in the most efficient manner.

**Placer County  
2015 Legislative Platform**

**KEY ISSUES**

Key issues typically are connected to primary initiatives for the County or are countywide concerns that span multiple program areas. These usually involve multiple years of legislative activity, are major infrastructure initiatives, or will require teams of individuals for comprehensive advocacy implementation.

**1. Economic Development**

Seek or support legislation and regulation as determined to be beneficial for Placer County projects and economic development initiatives.

a. Infrastructure

Seek Federal Economic Development Administration funding and financing for capital improvements with targeted focus on improvements within the Sunset Industrial Area and the Tahoe Basin.

b. Development funding for USDA Slaughter and Processing Facility

Seek funding to aid in the facility planning, design, business planning and construction of a new USDA-inspected slaughter and processing facility in Placer County.

**2. Regional Water Strategy**

Seek or support federal, state, regional, and local efforts to ensure a sustainable water supply plan that protects Placer County. Support the efforts of the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), regional partners and coalitions where advocacy is consistent with interests of Placer County 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 and businesses.

**3. Groundwater Sustainability**

Implement new groundwater legislation enacted in 2014, including but not limited to: affirming and implementing Board policy and interests for the County; engaging with partners and stakeholders; seeking regulatory or legislative amendments to existing law as needed; and evaluate modifications that emerge for potential action.

**4. Public Safety Realignment**

Seek or support legislation to achieve stable and adequate revenue and flexibility leading to best outcomes for Placer County. The State of California provided dedicated implementation funding for public safety programs, services and facility capacity in prior years. Future allocations will be increasingly formula-driven based on workload and performance data and will include incentives tied to use of programs shown to improve offender outcomes. Success at the local level requires: sufficient and reliable state revenue and programmatic flexibility; dedicated federal and state funding to ensure criminal justice facility needs are adequately met (Jail, Placer Re-Entry Program, crime lab, and transitional housing); and sufficient capacity and sustainable funding for a continuum of substance use services to maximize public safety while reducing recidivism of offenders.

**5. Employee Relations**

Oppose legislation and regulation that would reduce local control as pertains to employee relations and collective bargaining, mandated benefits, or that may otherwise create adverse fiscal outcomes with implementation of the Public Employees Retirement Board, Meyers-Milias, and other labor related laws and regulations. Seek or support legislation and initiatives for regulatory change in order to meet objectives.

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2015 Legislative Platform**

**KEY ISSUES**

**6. Forest Management**

Seek or support programs, regulation, legislation and funding at the state and federal levels to mitigate fire danger with fuel load reduction in critical forests and watersheds, and enhance programs for funding recovery when fires occur. Coordinate with agencies, conservancies and other stakeholders to improve the health of Sierra Nevada forests.

a. Biomass

Seek, support, or oppose legislation, as appropriate, in support of the Placer County woody biomass facility and to ensure woody biomass from all forest ownership (public and private) is eligible as fuel for renewable energy and acknowledged as being carbon neutral. Support initiatives for the renewal of incentive programs such as the Production Tax Credit and Investment Tax Credit.

b. Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

Seek funding for restoration efforts to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe, including but not limited to the risks from large quantities of combustible fire fuels.

**7. Transportation and Transit**

Seek and support legislation, regulations, and grant funding for local and regional transit and transportation.

a. Funding - Seek grant funding and financing, as appropriate, for priority infrastructure such as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA).

b. Transportation Impact Analysis update - Pursue revised language to guidelines and regulations for current California Environmental Quality Act transportation impact analysis that recognizes need for flexibility in fulfilling transportation needs within jurisdictions and does not limit or infringe upon local land use decision-making.

c. Placer Parkway Project - Seek and support federal funding and financing for the Placer Parkway Project as shown in the approved Placer Parkway Corridor Preservation EIR.

d. Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project – Seek and support funding and financial assistance from federal and state agencies for construction of the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project.

**8. Open Space**

a. Placer County Conservation Plan Funding and Support

Seek and support legislation and programs that advance the objectives of the PCCP to protect open space and agricultural land in the County and to comply with state and federal laws that apply to wetlands and sensitive species while streamlining regulatory procedures. Seek clarification on levels-of-significance thresholds, definitions, and mitigation/conservation standards as implemented by proposed or adopted Natural Communities Conservation Plans/Habitat Conservation Plans. Seek to resolve potential statutory conflicts between fuel load reduction needs and activities and impacts to oak woodlands as necessary.

b. Placer Legacy Programs

Support legislation and programs that advance the objectives of the Placer Legacy Program to protect open space and agricultural land in the County and to comply with the myriad of state and federal laws.

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2015 Legislative Platform  
**SPECIFIC PROPOSALS**

Specific proposals generally pertain to one program area or system or have a focus on funding requests.

**Health and Human Services**

**9. General Health and Human Services Program**

Seek or support adequate, stable, and flexible funding to best meet federal and state Health and Human Services program requirements including Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Services, Substance Use Disorder Services, Human Services, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services, California Children Services, Public Health, Health Reform, and opportunities to reduce homelessness. This includes programs funded by the 1991, 2011, and 2013 state and county Realignments where county risk must be aligned to the level of authority, funding, and flexibility. In addition, the County supports new innovation through the Placer County Integrated Health and Human Services Pilot Program by maximizing flexibility in program design, increasing federal and state funding leveraging opportunities, and streamlining State program requirements and regulations.

**10. Child Welfare Services and Foster Care Program Mandates**

Seek or support restoration of state funding to adequately fund and support Child Welfare Services and Foster Care program mandates.

**11. Non-minor Dependent Care**

Seek or support state efforts to evaluate and augment funding to counties for newly mandated services for young adults exiting the foster care system. CDSS should work with CWDA and other partners to identify impacts to counties and identify funding solutions to allow counties to fully recoup all associated costs.

**12. Laura's Law Sunset Extension/Renewal**

Seek or support extension or remove the sunset date for counties to implement Assisted Outpatient Treatment.

**13. Communicable Disease Control**

- a. Seek or support increased state and federal funding for vaccinations and communicable disease control programs.
- b. Support incentives for prevention of communicable disease, rather than identification of it.

**14. Commercially Sexually Exploited Minors**

Seek additional resources to provide specific risk screening, timely treatment and partnering with group home, residential providers and school districts, to prevent sexual exploitation in group homes and other settings. Support state efforts to increase training and employment standards for group home providers to maximize the protection of abused and neglected children.

**Tahoe**

**15. Lake Tahoe Restoration Act**

Seek or support funding for restoration efforts to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe.

**16. Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation (TMDL)**

Seek or support legislation to: (1) minimize further water quality regulation and unfunded mandates, with

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**SPECIFIC PROPOSALS**

an emphasis on minimizing administrative, monitoring and inspection requirements that do not directly lead to cleaner storm water; (2) facilitate implementation of local fee programs to support storm water quality program implementation and; (3) continue and increase state and federal funding assistance for TMDL compliance and storm water program implementation.

**17. Lake Tahoe Transit Federal Operating Assistance**

Seek or support the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization's efforts to have the Tahoe Basin receive a special designation\* as an urbanized area for the purpose of receiving funds.

\*Population of 190,000 in 37 square miles

**18. HR 2389 - Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act**

Seek and support approval of long-term reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

**Other**

**19. Williamson Act**

Support legislation and state funding for the Williamson Act program.

**20. United States Forest Service (USFS) NEPA Funding for Noxious Weed Eradication**

Support long term funding for NEPA preparation and specific noxious weeds in the Integrated Resource and Restoration (IRR) USDA budget line item.

**21. Child Support Arrearages**

Seek and support legislation that includes mechanisms that promote collection of child support arrearages.

**22. Sustainable Communities Program**

Seek and support Sustainable Communities Program funding to promote economic competitiveness, protect healthy environments, and enhance quality of life.

**23. Farm Bill Funding**

Seek funding appropriated by Congress to Section 10007 in accordance with the provisions established in the 2014 Farm Bill.

**24. Weights and Measures Device Registration Fee Sunset**

Seek or support the extension of the current authority for the County Sealer of Weights and Measures to charge annual registration fees for all commercial weighing and measuring devices.

**25. Wildlife-Oriented Outdoor Recreation Opportunities**

Support legislation that promotes wildlife-oriented outdoor tourism and recreation opportunities in Placer County.

**26. Fund County Veterans Service Officers**

Seek or support permanent funding for County Veteran Service Officers who participate in the Subvention Program.

Placer County  
2015 Legislative Platform  
**SPECIFIC PROPOSALS**

**27. Funding and Economic Incentives for Cultural Organizations and Arts Programs**

Seek or support development and implementation of statewide public policy that supports strong and vibrant arts, cultural and creative industries. Support legislation or programs that would facilitate broad areas of investment in arts programs beneficial to Placer County, as well as prudent financing and funding options to sustain cultural organizations.

**28. California State Water Resources Control Board National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 2 Regulations**

Support NPDES Phase 2 permit requirements that are reasonable and implementable by municipalities. Support federal funding assistance and legislation to make it easier to implement local fee programs for storm water quality program implementation.

**29. Modify Laws that Limit CalPERS Retirement Options Affecting New Hires**

Support or sponsor legislation and policy as may be required to allow Placer County to discontinue enrollment of new employees into the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) to create a "soft freeze" on the retirement plan.

**30. Parcel Fees for Fire Planning in State Responsibility Areas (SRA)**

Support legislation and advocacy efforts to modify the requirements of AB29 X1 that affect Placer County residents, and at a minimum, replace it with a more equitable statewide solution.

**Risk Management**

**31. Workers' Compensation Act**

Monitor legislation and regulation and take a support or oppose position, as necessary, as it relates to indemnity benefits (including temporary total, temporary partial, wage loss and permanent partial, permanent total disability benefits and death benefits.)

**32. General Liability**

Monitor legislation or initiative and take a support or oppose position, as necessary, related to Tort Reform, Medical Malpractice Reform Act, (MICRA) Ballot initiative, changes to indemnification language on government code for contracts and professional liability.

**Solid Waste and Waste Water**

**33. Protection of the landfills and wastewater facilities within Placer County**

Support legislation and regulation that protect Placer County interests pertaining to landfills and wastewater facilities as essential public services and supports operating flexibility, viable waste conversion technology, green technology, and Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation which shifts financial burden to producers. Oppose infeasible performance standards, fee increases unless substantiated with data, and unreasonable operations restrictions.

