



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-66

MEETING: February 26, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rick Benson, County Administrative Officer

MINUTE ORDER ATTACHED

RE: Legislative Platform 2013

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Discussion and Approval of the County's 2013 Legislative Platform. The Legislative Platform is the County Board of Supervisor's declaration of issues and items that are of importance to the citizens of the County. By identifying priorities, the Platform helps guide this office and County departments in recommending legislative positions. The Platform also provides the County Administrative Officer with direction as to the County's position in those instances when a timely response is necessary. This year's Platform addresses the State Responsibility Area (SRA) fee and references the need for adequate funding for newly realigned programs.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board annually develops and approves a legislative platform.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

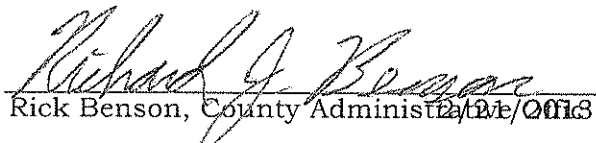
The Board may wish to alter the proposed platform. Without an adopted platform the direction will be lacking to departments regarding the County's position on important legislative actions.

ATTACHMENTS:

Legislative Platform 2013 rev (DOC)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Rick Benson, County Administrative Officer

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Bibby, Cann, Carrier, Jones

2011-01-11 10:00 AM



COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

LEE STETSON, CHAIR
KEVIN CANN, VICE-CHAIR
JANET BIBBY
MERLIN JONES
JOHN CARRIER

DISTRICT I
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT V



MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: RICK BENSON, CAO
FROM: RENE' LaROCHE, Clerk of the Board *RL*
SUBJECT: Discussion and Approval of the County's 2013 Legislative Platform

RES. 13-66

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on February 26, 2013

ACTION AND VOTE:

4. Administration RES-2013-66

Discussion and Approval of the County's 2013 Legislative Platform

Staff presentation by Rick Benson. He gave an overview of the platform, clarifying that it is meant to be general guidance as to the County's position on issues. He noted changes and additions from the Board's last adopted platform, including the addition of language regarding the SRA fee.

Supervisor Bibby commented on information that she has received which indicates that insurance companies may be reluctant to insure rural residences and wondered if language could be added to address that. CAO suggested some language. Supervisor Jones agreed with such a platform issue, but commented that he checked with an insurance broker who felt such a rise in insurance is unlikely. Supervisor Bibby clarified how the legislative platform is utilized by the CAO and Board.

Supervisor Stetson requested that language be included to add "arts" to the "Quality of Life Services" section. Discussion ensued with Supervisor Cann who suggested refining the language to state "local arts." Supervisor Stetson concurred with that change.

Public Comment Opened.

Greg Kittelson commented on his experience with the California Fair Plan which guarantees the ability to get insurance. CAO commented that he can look into that to incorporate into the wording.

Public Comment Closed.

Action was taken to adopt the platform, amended to reflect the following changes:

Amend the language under "Quality of Life Services" on page 4 to read: "We support legislation to provide State funding assistance for local arts programs, local libraries, parks, and museums."

Add language to the effect: "We support State and Federal legislation that provides protections to rural residents and communities for an opportunity to acquire fire insurance at reasonable rates." The CAO is also to investigate the California Fair Plan, and is to use his discretion as to whether to incorporate pertinent language relative to it.

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

AYES: Stetson, Bibby, Cann, Carrier, Jones

Cc: File

COUNTY OF MARIPOSA 2013 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

General Principles

The County of Mariposa supports legislation that provides governmental decision making at the level closest to the people whenever it is likely to produce the most effective and efficient results. We support further reforms in the State-local fiscal relationship that will improve the County's ability to finance and efficiently administer both mandated and discretionary services, while opposing legislation that creates mandates without State or Federal funding sources to carry them out.

It is also our general legislative aim to preserve and build the County's job base and to improve the regulatory climate for private enterprise. We support State investment in local infrastructure; State/local initiatives to provide venture capital; tax and financial incentives that will encourage the growth of new and existing businesses in the County.

State Realignment

Mariposa County believes that the revenues provided for each realigned program must recognize existing levels of funding in relation to program. Revisions in the realignment funding formula should take into consideration the unique circumstances of small counties which have higher per capita costs for realigned services.

There must be a mechanism to protect against entitlement program costs consuming non-entitlement program funding.

Revenues must be levied statewide and should not require a local vote nor should the state divert any federal revenues currently allocated to realigned programs.

Any proposed swap of programs must be revenue neutral.

Mandates must be reimbursed in a timely manner. Counties must have the maximum flexibility to manage the realigned programs and the state must remain responsible for maintenance of effort requirements of the federal government.

State Responsibility Area Fire Fee

The County of Mariposa is opposed to the imposition of any fee on the owners of structures located in State Responsibility Areas (SRA). Said fee has disproportionate effects on rural communities. The SRA fee raises a number of financial, equity, administrative, and logistical issues that will create long-term fiscal concerns that may prove detrimental to all of California's residents.

At its core, this fee is unfair to the rural residents in that CalFIRE's costs to respond to emergencies that occur in highly-urbanized areas are significantly higher than traditional wildfires in the SRA, placing rural residents in the position of subsidizing the most costly of CalFIRE's activities. Furthermore, landowners in Mariposa County have already assessed themselves for fire protection services. Imposing an SRA fee has the effect of double taxation without any additional benefit.

Beyond the fairness issues, the fee billing and implementation process is already causing confusion among fee-payers due to incorrect, inaccurate and unwarranted billings.

Local Control

Land Use: We support legislation that promotes local land use authority and that authorizes, but does not mandate, the formation of regional alliances. We oppose legislation that withholds local transportation funds pending compliance with State-mandated regional land use plans. We support incentives to encourage counties to preserve farmland and open space. The County supports full restoration of Williamson Act subventions to encourage farm land preservation.

Programs: The County supports reforms that will promote accountability in program performance at the State and local level. We require local control over program scope and implementation, including the ability to privatize services when it is more effective and cost-efficient to do so. Legislation and administrative changes are also needed that simplify, consolidate, standardize, reduce or eliminate data-gathering, reporting, and licensing requirements imposed on counties. Administrative burdens should be reduced for local government and those whom we are mandated to regulate.

Mariposa County supports efforts to provide opt out provisions to the sprinkler requirements for private dwellings and supports efforts to equalize requirements for manufactured homes.

Labor Relations and Employee Benefits: State legislation should not intrude into the local collective bargaining process nor interfere with the County's ability to manage and compensate its employees as it sees fit. We support reforms in Civil Service laws to allow counties to rely solely upon the collective bargaining process to establish terms and conditions of employment. We support reforms in disability retirement statutes to remove incentives for abuse of this system.

County Finances

Revenue, Fees and Taxation: The County supports reforms that build upon the enactment of Proposition 1A to provide greater authority to generate local revenues for discretionary services and to protect local revenue streams against State budgetary incursions. Responsible government at all levels – State, Federal and local – dictates that any proposed new or increased fees must represent the actual cost of service delivery. We support State payments to counties in lieu of property taxes for State lands and facilities.

The County supports legislation designed so as not to create a need at the State level to borrow from counties and districts in the future.

State and Federal Mandated Programs: All mandated programs must be fully and equitably funded by the mandating authority as intended by voter enactment of Proposition 1A. Mandated programs that are not fully funded should be made optional at the local level, and counties should have broad management authority of all mandated programs. We support legislation requiring the State to pay interest to

counties on all delayed payments for State mandated programs. We support legislation to provide State constitutional protection exempting counties from incurring any costs to carry out unfunded mandates, in particular new public safety responsibilities imposed on counties by the enactment of AB 109.

We support restoration of full funding for Weights & Measures programs, in particular, the Quality Control program which protects consumers.

Other Post Employment Benefits: We support efforts by the Governor and the Legislature to explore statewide efforts to assist counties in dealing with unfunded liabilities. We support legislation allowing counties flexibility in dealing with other post employment benefits.

County Services

Criminal Justice and Public Protection: Public protection is the most important obligation of counties, which administer the local portion of California's criminal justice system. Corrections realignment must deliver sufficient resources to counties to accompany any added incarceration and treatment responsibilities for adult and juvenile offenders, such as those created by enactment of AB 109 that sent more convicted felons to county jails and probation facilities and shifted a substantial law enforcement and cost burden to counties.

We support enhanced victim compensation requirements for criminal offenders.

We support State and Federal expenditures to help prepare and equip local law enforcement agencies to fulfill their role in preventing and responding to terrorist attacks.

We support strengthening State search and seizure statutes to help combat gang and drug related crimes. We support State expenditures to promote local law enforcement training, to aid in drug and rural crime prevention, to bolster juvenile justice intervention and prevention efforts, and to counteract and prevent gang violence.

We support full State funding for County trial courts as envisioned by the trial court realignment plan, together with the appropriate number of State funded judicial positions and State financing for any State-mandated upgrades of court facilities.

The County supports continued State funding for juvenile probation services.

We support the California FAIR Plan and other State and Federal legislation that assures rural residents and communities the ability to acquire fire insurance at reasonable rates.

Health and Social Services: The County recognizes and supports the continued reform of State and Federal health and welfare entitlement programs, provided that these reforms do not shift additional cost burdens from the State to counties. Counties must have sufficient program flexibility to coordinate and consolidate the

delivery of services to children, adults, senior citizens, and veterans as cost-effectively as possible. We support full Federal funding of the federally mandated child support enforcement program.

We support legislation to provide health care to the indigent which provides full funding to counties in recognition of their vital role in delivering these services.

We support legislation that will enhance and make subsidized employment programs for Welfare-to-Work families and for individuals and families participating solely in the Cal Fresh (Food Stamp) program.

We support legislation that will improve and enhance transitional services to foster youth and other youth who need help to move into an independent adulthood.

We support legislation that will assist local communities to work collaboratively together toward the goals of poverty reduction and capacity building for individuals, families, and communities.

In the event that State funding sources, such as realignment funds, are reduced we support legislation which would relieve counties of their mandate to provide health services to the indigent.

Transportation: We support legislation that provides equitable State and Federal funding for roads, highways, and public transit, and that promotes the timely development of local transportation projects at counties' discretion. We support continued State funding and assistance formulas for grade separation projects, Proposition 42 payments to counties for road maintenance, and Proposition 42 financing for State Traffic Congestion Relief projects.

We support legislation providing equitable gasoline tax distribution to counties without incorporated cities and legislation recognizing local general fund participation in road funding, regardless of source, as self-help. We oppose legislation that shifts taxation from fuel sales taxes, which are constitutionally guaranteed for local transportation, to excise taxes, which are not similarly protected.

We support legislation to provide State and Federal funding to fully repair and maintain the vital corridors providing access to Yosemite National Park in particular the County supports and encourages legislation and State and Federal intervention to enable rapid repairs to State Highway 140 in order to allow full access to all vehicles in and out of Yosemite National Park.

Quality of Life Services: We support legislation to provide State funding assistance for local arts programs, local libraries, parks, and museums.

We believe that County Fairs are a part of the basic fabric of California life and, as such, encourage our legislature to restore funding.

We support the funding of the First 5 programs.

We support efforts to provide high-speed internet access to all areas of California.

Environmental Quality: In carrying out State and Federal mandates for environmental protection and waste disposal, the County must retain the ability to manage programs efficiently, cost-effectively, and without excessive permitting requirements. Toward that aim, we support the streamlining of environmental regulations and consolidation of permitting in order to reduce costs and unnecessary delays.

We support implementation of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts that balances social and economic benefits with species protection and ensures that policies are based on good science.

We support the State's continued, full funding of local Weed Management Areas and encourage restoration of full funding for pest prevention and pesticide enforcement programs.

We encourage the state to fund additional UC Cooperative Extension positions to meet county needs. Through this partnership counties already make significant contributions to support these positions in the form of offices, telecommunication, support staff and transportation.