RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Ratify approval of letter to Senator Cogdill supporting Senate Bill 277 which attempts to secure vehicle license fees, gas taxes and diesel fuel taxes funding for Alpine, Mariposa and Trinity Counties.

Because Alpine, Mariposa and Trinity Counties have no incorporated cities within their jurisdictions, they are eligible to receive monies from only the county portion and monies are not available for the city portion of these revenues.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

This issue is included in the legislative platform that the Board adopted for this year. The County has continued to support a permanent legislative remedy.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No  Current FY Cost: $  Annual Recurring Cost: $
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget:  $
Additional Funding Needed:  $
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue  4/5’s vote
Transfer Between Funds  4/5’s vote
Contingency  4/5’s vote
( ) General ( ) Other

Clerk’s Use Only:
Res. No.:  Ord. No.
Vote – Ayes:  Noes:  
Absent:  

Approved
( ) Minute Order Attached  ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By:
Deputy

County Administrative Officer:
✓ Requested Action Recommended
No Opinion
Comments:

CAO:

Revised Dec. 2002
March 13, 2007

The Honorable Dave Cogdill  
California Senator  
State Capital, Room 5087  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Cogdill:

On behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 277 which attempts to secure funding for Alpine, Mariposa and Trinity Counties. Because there are no incorporated cities within these counties, provision of municipal type services to the residents is provided by the respective county government.

Under current law, cities and counties receive revenues through various statutory subvention formulas. Cities and counties receive proceeds from vehicle license fees (VLF), gas taxes and diesel fuel taxes. These funding sources are split into two pools (one for cities and one for counties) and allocated based on the population of the respective county/city. Local governments use these funds to provide a variety of services within their jurisdiction.

The mere presence of a city within the jurisdiction of a county allows a county to receive funding from both pools. Because Alpine, Mariposa and Trinity Counties have no incorporated cities within their jurisdictions, they are eligible to receive monies from only one fund – the county portion of the funds. Monies are not available from the city portion.

SB 277 addresses this inequity by providing monies from the State’s General Fund to make-up for what our counties would receive if they had a minimal number of residents located in an incorporated area. This minimal funding should be allocated to these three counties as a way to provide equity for the costs of providing services since the demand for services in these counties is no less than in any other area of the state.

This issue is of major concern to the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County. As such we are asking for a permanent legislative remedy. Our county urges your support and looks forward to the successful passage, signature and implementation of SB 277.

Sincerely,

JANET BIBBY  
Chairman

RB/mj

Attachment
March 13, 2007

Senate Local Government Committee
State Capital, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee:

I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 277 which attempts to secure funding for Alpine, Mariposa and Trinity Counties. Because there are no incorporated cities within these counties, provision of municipal type services to the residents is provided by the respective county government.

Under current law, cities and counties receive revenues through various statutory subvention formulas. Cities and counties receive proceeds from vehicle license fees (VLF), gas taxes and diesel fuel taxes. These funding sources are split into two pools (one for cities and one for counties) and allocated based on the population of the respective county/city. Local governments use these funds to provide a variety of services within their jurisdiction.

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SB 277 addresses this inequity by providing monies from the State’s General Fund to make-up for what our counties would receive if they had a minimal number of residents located in an incorporated area. This minimal funding should be allocated to these three counties as a way to provide equity for the costs of providing services since the demand for services in these counties is no less than in any other area of the state.

This issue is of major concern to the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County. As outlined in the attached letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, an executive action to correct the situation is desirable. However, a permanent legislative remedy is more appropriate. Our county urges your support and looks forward to the successful passage, signature and implementation of SB 277.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

Attachment
February 6, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California  95814

RE:  Equalization Funding for Counties with No Cities

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As one of the three counties with no incorporated cities, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the inclusion of equalization funding in the context of the May Revise. We are disappointed that the $147,000 was not included in the budget you proposed to the Legislature earlier this month.

In 1998, Assembly Bill 473 was passed unanimously on the floors of the Legislature and signed by the Governor to annually appropriate $147,000 to be divided between Alpine, Mariposa and Trinity counties. This funding was intended to be special compensation due to the fact these counties contain no incorporated cities, and hence do not receive any additional Vehicle License Fees (VLF) or fuel tax revenues to compensate for the municipal services they provide to their residents in the absence of cities.

This allocation was intended as a means to equalize funding for these counties without affecting the VLF distributions to the cities statewide.

It is our request that you reinstate this funding in the context of the May Revise. We are committed to pursuing this funding with both your Administration and our legislators. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

JANET BIBBY
Chairman

JB/RB/mbh