DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors  
BY: Supervisor Balmain  
PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Discussion and Direction Relative to Letter from Madera County Supervisor John V. Silva Requesting Governor Schwarzenegger’s Consideration of Returning All Property Tax Revenues to Local Government.

The letter from John V. Silva is attached for review.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Public safety services may remain threatened and budgets of local service providers, sheriff, police, fire and emergency services may be in peril.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No  Current FY 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

List Attachments, number pages consecutively  
Letter to Governor Schwarzenegger from John Silva

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.
Date:  
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
December 16, 2003

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Schwarzenegger:

As a voice for my constituents in Madera County I want to urge you to consider returning all property tax revenues to local government. On December 10th, the County Tax Collector/Treasurer collected the first installment of property taxes. Most property taxpayers have the misconception that their property taxes are paying for the services provided by local government. In Madera County only 14.70 cents on the dollar is retained. The development of financing local services has been a complicated process that has created a separation between the taxpayer and local service providers.

As a result of this separation, public safety services are now threatened. With the VLF backfill issue the State is putting the budgets of our local service providers, sheriff, police, fire and emergency services in peril.

If counties, cities and districts were allowed to use local collected property tax to fund basic general services this would simplify the transfer of dollars for localities to the State and back to local government. Various fees and taxes that are currently collected could be consolidated at the state level to meet the State obligations for other programs. This would provide a base funding for local services and eliminate the unnecessary expense to administer a complex finance and accounting system by the State. Eliminating the current financial apportionment system would provide substantial savings for the State and in turn local government.
It is my hope that you will consider returning all property tax revenues to local government. If I can be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact me.

John V. Silva
Madera County
Supervisor, District 4

JVS/tgb

cc: Senate President Pro Tem John Burton
    Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson
    Senator Jeff Denham
    Senator Charles Poochigian
    Assemblyman Steve Samuelian
    Assemblyman Dave Cogdill
    Chairman of all Boards of Supervisors
    CSAC
    RCRC
MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: SUPERVISOR BALMAIN

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: RETURN OF ALL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Resolution No. 04-44

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on February 3, 2004

ACTION AND VOTE:

Discussion and Direction Relative to Letter from Madera County Supervisor John V. Silva, Requesting Governor Schwarzenegger’s Consideration of Returning All Property Tax Revenues to Local Government (Supervisor Balmain)

BOARD ACTION: Supervisor Balmain initiated discussion relative to the request. (M)Bibby, (S)Balmain, Res. 04-44 was adopted supporting the return of all property tax revenues to local governments/Ayes: Unanimous. Chairman Parker asked Supervisors Balmain and Bibby to work with the County Administrative Officer to prepare a letter on this matter.

cc: Rich Inman, County Administrative Officer
Janet Bibby, Supervisor District III
John V. Silva, Madera County Board of Supervisors
File