

1 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - COUNTY OF MARIPOSA

2 RESOLUTION NO. 75-154

3
4 WHEREAS: (a) The inception of California counties in
5 1850 was in recognition of the need for divisions of government
6 functioning at the level of the citizens served with policy-making
7 officials selected by their fellow citizens at the ballot-box and
8 ready accessibility of government operations to the people; and

9 (b) In the first fifty years of California Statehood the
10 state law gave to the counties practically all the functions of
11 government that directly concerned the citizens and the local
12 government system worked effectively to meet the needs of the people
13 of this great State during the early years of its formative growth
14 and on into the modern era with the flexibility to meet the changing
15 needs of our citizens and the challenges of these times except as
16 limited and eroded by State and Federal intrusions into responsi-
17 bilities historically exercised by the division of local government
18 closest to the people; and

19 (c) Despite the outstanding performance of county govern-
20 ment over the years the myth has been circulated that government is
21 best administered when it is farther removed from the citizens it
22 serves and that policy-making government administrators should be
23 selected for the people rather than by the people and that they
24 should administer governmental functions practically immune from
25 effective accountability to the people; and

26 (d) These myths have been without support in fact but have
27 permeated the thinking of those seeking greater centralizations of
28 government power at eschelons so far removed from the people served
as to be practically inaccessible and unresponsive to the

1 local citizens, the latest manifestation of such unwanted
2 government restructuring being the State and Federal imposition of
3 more government by more remote boards, committees and commissions
4 composed of more non-elected policy-making administrators armed
5 with veto power over decisions made by locally-elected
6 representatives of the people; and

7 (e) Not only is "regional government" inherently
8 destructive to the effective functioning of the historic American
9 system of representative government but it is without legal basis
10 in our Federal and State Constitutions and conflicts with our
11 traditional concepts of local control and accountability of our
12 public servants; and

13 (f) The trend to "regionalism" in American government
14 is stifling our citizens' traditional right and opportunity to
15 directly participate in decision-making at the local level, is
16 thwarting the citizens' right to know what government is deciding
17 for him, is casting on our citizens burdens of financing services
18 over which his elected representatives have no control, and is
19 subverting the traditional American system of constitutional
20 government by elected representation; and

21 (g) There can be no justification for such damage to our
22 system in light of the recently published "Report of the (Governor's)
23 Task Force on Local Government Reform" which examined the myths
24 which have been advanced to justify the erosion of local government
25 and said Task Force found in truth and fact that the myths are
26 false and that instead of fomenting the dissipation of local
27 control we should take action to preserve its concept and strengthen
28 services which can be provided with a minimum of interference in

1 the lives and freedom of the people we serve; and

2 (h) The Governor's Task Force lays to rest the usual
3 excuse advanced to justify regionalism by noting in its Report as
4 follows:

5 "The proliferation of regional units (especially
6 by the state and federal governments) prompted the
7 Task Force to examine the citizens' need for
8 regional decision-making systems . . . There is
9 no evidence to support the contention that
10 regional organizations would be more efficient or
11 effective than existing local governments acting
12 cooperatively . . . It is highly likely that . . .
13 regional governments will be less responsive than
14 present local governments."

15 " These findings led us to conclude that:
16 a. There will be a loss of local authority
17 and responsibility, decreasing the vi-
18 ability of existing local governments,
19 if regional organizations are established,
20 b. There will also be a loss of citizen control
21 over policies, plans and programs.
22 c. Any regional organization will ultimately
23 become another layer of government."

24 "Therefore, we do not believe that there is a
25 need for regional governments or that there must be an
26 integrated plan for an entire region. Instead, we
27 find a need for more effective areawide decision-making
28 mechanisms... (and) that such mechanisms must be tied
to the principles of citizen control and local home
rule."; and

(i) The Task Force concluded that local representative
government is the best system to mee the challenges of our times
and a restructuring of local government through imposition of
"regional government" would be based on false assumptions and,
while a continuing effort must always be made to improve efficiency
and economy in our government, the traditional American system can
best be preserved by solving multi-county problems through
voluntary mutual action by the elected representatives of our units
of government and thus avoid the irreparable damage to our freedoms
and rights guaranteed by the Constitution which will result from
any further involuntary imposition of non-elected regional units

1 authorities into our system;

2 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Supervisors of the
3 County of Mariposa, State of California, as follows:

4 1. This Board hereby expresses its absolute opposition
5 to the erosion of local representative government by unwanted State
6 and Federal imposition of regional non-elected boards, commissions
7 and committees.

8 2. The clarion call of El Dorado County in 1973 for
9 counties in California to join together in investigating means
10 of effective action to stop the inroads of "regionalism " should
11 forthwith be implemented by counties meeting together their elected
12 representatives, the Members of the respective Board of Supervisors,
13 to lay down a united program for effective resistance to the inroads
14 of "regional government: and to strengthen local government's
15 ability to handle multi-county problems through voluntary mutual
16 approaches.

17 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the
18 County of Mariposa, by the following vote:

19 AYES: Clark, Long, Moffitt, Richardson

20 NOES: None


21 ABSENT: Dalton

22 NOT VOTING: None

23

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TOM R. RICHARDSON, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

26 ATTEST:

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ELLEN BRONSON, County Clerk and ex
officio Clerk of the Board