



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Governor Signs Bill to Update County Fees

(Woodland, CA) – Late Sunday, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 676, authored by Senator Wolk and sponsored by Yolo County. SB 676 allows counties to increase 12 existing fees, set by the state, that do not currently cover the cost of providing services. The state has not raised these fees in 15 to 25 years. All counties, and therefore all taxpayers, subsidize services for individuals as a result. Subsidies in Yolo County amount to approximately \$300,000 annually.

“We are grateful to Senator Wolk and her legislative staff for their work on this bill,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan. “The ability to charge individuals receiving these specific services directly will free up scarce resources for law enforcement, libraries, public health and many other important county services for which all benefit.”

SB 676 addresses fees for services provided by the Clerk-Recorder, the Probation Department and the Public Defender. These services include recording documents, collecting court-ordered restitution for crime victims and sealing criminal records.

Senator Wolk’s office and Yolo County developed SB 676 in an effort to proactively address the budget crisis facing all counties in California. Due to state cuts and declines in property and sales tax revenue, most counties have had to cut programs significantly. While SB 676 does not make up for the difficult cuts most counties have already had to make, it will help.

SB 676 retains all existing requirements that fees not exceed the cost of service, as well as provisions ensuring that counties only charge people who have the ability to pay.

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