



County of Yolo

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Fifth District – **Duane Chamberlain**

County Administrator – Patrick S. Blacklock

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

January 12, 2010

These priorities will guide the work of the Intergovernmental Affairs Division at the regional level in 2010.

Secure Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and other funding for the Road 98 Safety Improvement Project. SACOG's Transportation Committee has recommended \$6 million for construction of the Road 98 Safety Improvement Project. The full SACOG Board will vote to adopt the recommendations in early 2010. Yolo County needs an additional \$8 million to complete the project and staff would prefer to construct it in two phases. In addition to ensuring SACOG awards the \$6 million, staff will develop a strategy to secure full funding for completing the project in two phases. The strategy will include requesting financial or other assistance from the City of Davis, the City of Woodland, and the University of California at Davis.

Work with SACOG to pursue changes to state and federal transportation funding programs consistent with the Rural Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS). Only 200 miles of Yolo County's almost 800 miles of roads are eligible for federal funding, yet Yolo County is responsible for maintaining these roads for agricultural, industrial (e.g. gravel mining), and residential use. As a result of Yolo County's responsible land use planning, the County does not have sufficient funding to adequately maintain the County's eligible roads, much less important ineligible roads. Staff will work with SACOG to explore opportunities to change federal funding formulas for existing grant programs (e.g. High Risk Rural Roads Program) and expand or create categories of funding consistent with RUCS during the upcoming federal transportation bill reauthorization.

Work with the Yolo County Transportation District to establish countywide transportation priorities for all major funding sources. Depending on the size and type of transportation project, there are different funding options available. In addition, projects supported by multiple jurisdictions tend to fare better in competitive funding processes. Yolo County (including the cities, Unitrans, YoloBus, and UC Davis), could increase funding awarded to projects from SACOG, the state, and the federal government by prioritizing projects for all major funding sources.

Coordinate with the cities and Yolo County Housing to identify the conditions that must be in place to support and develop affordable housing projects. Various organizations in Yolo County address issues associated in the availability of affordable housing. Yolo County is eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other funds for the construction of affordable housing. However, Yolo County needs to establish a required list of conditions within the county blue print before obtaining funding for the development of affordable housing projects. Staff will coordinate with Yolo County Housing, the cities, and other interested parties to determine the need of developing a countywide plan to construct affordable housing and pooling resources to advance construction of affordable housing throughout the county.

Work with the Delta Counties Coalition to develop a five-county list of water supply, flood control, and habitat conservation projects and further other efforts necessary to protect local interests in the Delta. Staff will work with cities, reclamation districts, and other interested parties to develop a list of Yolo County water supply, flood control projects, and habitat conservation projects in the Delta. Staff will use this information to coordinate with the five Delta counties on requests for funding. Staff also will continue to support Yolo County's involvement in the Delta Counties Coalition.

Explore possible local revenue raising options, including an increase in the vehicle license registration fee and a countywide sales tax. The recession and the state's fiscal crisis are forcing local governments to significantly cut programs and services, change the ways in which services are delivered, and develop creative ways to generate new revenue at the local level. Legislation enacted in 2003 allows local governments to raise the sales tax at the local level to pay for government services, subject to voter approval. Legislation enacted in 2009 allows congestion management agencies (e.g. the Yolo County Transportation District) to raise the vehicle license registration fee to fund specific transportation projects, subject to voter approval. Staff will work with city and other partners to research these and other opportunities to raise additional revenue.

Finalize agreement with the City of Davis to enhance habitat at Grasslands Park. Staff is working on a two-year \$100,000 agreement with the City of Davis to fund a wetlands delineation study and other work necessary to identify additional habitat enhancement opportunities at Grasslands Park.

Work with the City of West Sacramento to improve access to Helvetia Park. Staff is working with the City of West Sacramento to secure funding necessary to provide access to Helvetia Park, located off of County Road 22 (Old River Road). The County does not possess the property or easement necessary to provide the public with access to the park.