



# COUNTY OF YOLO

## Board of Supervisors

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County Administrator, **Patrick S. Blacklock**  
Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

## 2011 REGIONAL PRIORITIES

*Amended March 1, 2011*

**#1: *Secure full funding for the Road 98 Safety Improvement Project.*** In 2009, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments awarded \$6 million for construction of the Road 98 Safety Improvement Project. Yolo County needs an additional \$8 million to complete the project. 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.

**#2: *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.

**#3: *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, including funding for during the upcoming federal transportation bill reauthorization.

**#5: *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.

**#6: *Incorporate Climate Action Plan into regional emission reduction plan.*** Yolo County is nearing completion of its Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan. The County will advocate for inclusion of this plan into a regional plan. The regional plan should strive towards a minimum 80 percent reduction in regional greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

**#7: *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 ecosystem restoration and ongoing management needs at Grasslands Park.

**#8: *Continue collaborative efforts with the cities, Yolo County Housing, and non-profit developers on the construction of affordable housing projects.*** Various organizations in Yolo County address issues associated with the availability of affordable housing. Yolo County is eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other funds for the construction of affordable housing. Although Yolo County lacks sufficient funding for pre-development costs, staff has assertively sought out new or untapped funding programs and bolstered collaborations with non-profit developers to identify and further potential projects. The County now has one new housing development project that is moving forward as a result of these efforts. Yolo County Housing has committed to develop a countywide housing plan which should improve coordination between the cities and various agencies. Yolo County will continue to coordinate with Yolo County Housing and non-profit developers to move affordable housing projects forward.

**#9: *Explore opportunities to coordinate with the cities and Yolo County Housing on construction of affordable housing projects.*** Various organizations in Yolo County address issues associated with the availability of affordable housing. Yolo County is eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other funds for the construction of affordable housing. Yolo County lacks, however, sufficient funding for the pre-development costs associated with developing eligible projects and sufficient staff to aggressively further projects. Yolo County Housing is in the process of developing a JPA that includes the cities, as well as developing a countywide housing plan. Yolo County will continue to coordinate with Yolo County Housing to move affordable housing projects forward.

**#10: *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.

**#11: *City of Davis Multi-Modal Transit Station.*** Support the City of Davis' efforts to secure \$750,000 for a feasibility study to construct infrastructure improvements to enhance transit, bike, pedestrian, and vehicular access to the Davis Multi-Modal Transit Station. The improvements include adding additional parking capacity for motor vehicles, bicyclists, and buses, improving circulation for all modes, and enhancing safety.