



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

District 1, **Michael H. McGowan**
District 2, **Don Saylor**
District 3, **Matt Rexroad**
District 4, **Jim Provenza**
District 5, **Duane Chamberlain**

625 Court Street, Room 204 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8195 • FAX (530) 666-8193
www.yolocounty.org

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

2012 Federal Legislative and Agency Priorities Amended March 13, 2012

FEDERAL AGENCIES

#1: Support funding to provide a reliable water supply and adequate wastewater treatment in the cities of Woodland and Davis. The County supports funding to defray the cost to ratepayers of constructing facilities and implementing programs necessary to provide a reliable water supply and adequate wastewater treatment in the two cities.

#2: Support funding for the Woodland-Davis Water Supply Project. The Woodland-Davis Water Supply project is an estimated \$337 million project to build the necessary facilities to divert, treat and transport surface water to the communities of Woodland and Davis. The Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency is pursuing funding to construct a \$40 million joint intake facility in collaboration with Reclamation District 2035 and to build a \$270 million regional water treatment facility and associated pipelines. The County supports funding to defray the cost to ratepayers of constructing these facilities.

#3: Secure an amendment to Coast Guard regulations to allow changes in Freeport Bridge operations to reduce County costs. Yolo County and Sacramento County have submitted a request to amend Coast Guard regulations to reduce the operating hours of the drawbridge at Freeport. Yolo County could realize approximately \$250,000 in savings per year if the regulations are amended. The County will advocate for completion of the regulatory change in 2012.

#4: Secure \$1.5 million for the required endowment related to the transfer of the Davis Communications Site. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requiring an endowment estimated at approximately \$1.5 million for ongoing management of the Davis Communications Site prior to transfer of the property to Yolo County. Yolo County will request full funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the endowment or permission to build sufficient solar capacity on the site to generate revenue for ongoing management costs. Yolo County also will work with the City of Davis as necessary to cooperatively manage the park and share resources as appropriate.

#5: Advocate for appropriate mitigation of local impacts of the Indian Health Service Youth Regional Treatment Center proposed for Yolo County. The Indian Health Service

has proposed building a treatment center for Native American youth with substance abuse problems on a portion of the D-Q University site. The County will advocate for appropriate mitigation for any local impacts of the project, including, but not limited to, the loss of agricultural land and impacts on local services, while recognizing the job creation and service benefits of the proposed project.

#6: *Change federal requirement to construct all new bridges with a minimum of two lanes.* Federal standards require construction of bridges with a minimum of two lanes, even in rural agricultural areas that do not have the traffic volumes to support the additional 35-40% costs. Yolo County and the federal government are paying higher than necessary costs for bridge projects in the remote areas of the County (i.e., Guinda, Rumsey, and the Cache Creek low-water bridge) all of which could more practically be replaced with new single lane bridges.

#7: *Advocate for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider PM 2.5 partial non-attainment designation.* In December 2007, the California Air Resources Board recommended to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) that the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) be designated as in attainment under the Particulate Matter 2.5 standard. In December 2008, the USEPA included YSAQMD in a larger non-attainment area that encompasses the more urban areas of Sacramento County, El Dorado County and Placer County. This grouping is misleading as the majority of Particulate Matter 2.5 is produced in urban areas. The partial attainment ruling punishes Yolo County for efforts over the years to maintain a high air quality standard. Yolo County and Solano County also have long directed growth to cities and protected agricultural land as part of a larger effort to keep the air clean and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In Yolo County, for example, 88% of the population lives in incorporated cities. YSAQMD cannot administer Clean Air Act measures to improve air quality in the larger non-attainment area. The USEPA should reverse its decision and grant YSAQMD attainment status.

FLOOD CONTROL AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

#1: *Seek modifications to the National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization bill to protect both rural areas and incorporated cities.* The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program expired on November 18, 2011. The House and the Senate are both working on bills to reauthorize and reform the program, since it raised insufficient funds to cover the costs of Katrina. In its current form, the Senate version would significantly increase flood insurance premiums and include additional homeowners in mandatory coverage areas, including homeowners in dam inundation areas (e.g. Monticello Dam). Yolo County supports ensuring that any reform efforts do not unduly punish rural areas, especially in counties that have directed growth away from the floodplain.

#2: Seek modifications to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards for non-residential structures. Work with the State of California to establish regulatory flexibility for agricultural processing facilities, agricultural storage buildings, farm stands, wineries, and other structures necessary for economic development in rural areas. As a result of new maps in Yolo County, FEMA requires construction or expansion of structures in the floodplain to meet certain standards, which are expensive and complex.

#3: Secure funding for Mid-Valley Levee Improvement Project. Work with the state Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to secure \$11,010,000 for construction of the Mid-Valley Project in fiscal year 2013. The Knights Landing Drainage District and Yolo County are jointly supporting this project, already authorized by the Water Resources Development Act, to construct levee improvements that protect the town of Knights Landing. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently working on completing the design for the Yolo County portion of the project.

#4: Funding for Lower Cache Creek Flood Control Feasibility Study. Support the City of Woodland's efforts to work with the state Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to secure between \$300,000 and \$500,000 to further the Lower Cache Creek Flood Control Feasibility Study.

TRANSPORTATION BILL REAUTHORIZATION

#1: Advocate for priority programs in the federal transportation reauthorization bill: The County will advocate for continued funding for "off-system" bridges in the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill and preservation of the Highway Safety Improvement Program. Both of these programs provide revenue to county road projects that might not otherwise be eligible for federal funding. The County will also advocate for the continued availability of approximately \$700,000 in funding left over from a high priority SAFETEA-LU project designed to improve public access to the Vic Fazio Wildlife Area and related facilities.

#2: Funding for Road 98 Safety Improvement Project and other safety improvements to rural-urban connector routes - \$4 million. Yolo County has 4 safety improvement projects on rural-urban connector routes that can be implemented in the next 2-3 years with sufficient funding. The largest project would improve Road 98, a critical commuting corridor and farm-to-market route in Yolo County, benefiting residents in the cities of Woodland and Davis and the agricultural community. The other projects are safety improvements to County Road 31 between Davis and Winters, County Road 22 between Woodland and West Sacramento, and the County's primary east-west goods movement corridor, County Road 27. Yolo County has received \$6 million and is recommended to receive another \$5.54 million from SACOG towards the total Road 98 project cost of \$14 million. Road 98 currently has one of the highest rates of accidents in

the County. The project has federal and state environmental clearance and the County will complete right-of-way acquisition in 2011. Any funding secured in the reauthorization will accelerate completion of these projects and immediately create jobs.

FEDERAL FUNDING PRIORITIES

#1: Support at least \$100 million in funding for nationwide Habitat Conservation Planning. Yolo County supports \$100 million of funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund for Federal Fiscal Year 2013. This funding will provide needed support to regional Habitat Conservation Plans nationally, including the Yolo Natural Heritage Program.