



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

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2013 State Legislative and Agency Priorities

Adopted January 29, 2013

LEGISLATIVE

#1 Advocate for funding for Yolo County priorities, including the Davis-Woodland Clean Water Supply Project, via a state water bond. Legislators have already introduced two proposed bills to modify the scope and/or reduce the amount of bonds that would be issued under the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act. In addition, Senator Wolk has introduced a new bond measure, The California Clean, Secure Water Supply and Delta Recovery Act of 2014. The County will advocate for funding for priority local projects in any water bond measure that is referred to the voters.

#2: Secure funding for the development and implementation of community choice aggregation in Yolo County: Yolo County's climate action plan relies on community choice aggregation to achieve approximately 40% of the County's emissions reduction goals. Absent the implementation of community choice aggregation, many of the voluntary measures of the plan would have to become mandatory in order to meet emissions goals. Costs for initial studies and related activities are estimated at between \$150,000 and \$500,000. The County will advocate for funding from cap and trade auction revenues or other state funding to offset the costs of developing and implementing a community choice aggregation program.

#3: Ensure adequate funding for Yolo County's implementation of AB 109 and advocate for the inclusion of performance measures in the allocation formulas. Yolo County supports maintaining the current method of allocating of funding for the implementation of AB 109 criminal justice realignment. The County will advocate for any growth in the sales tax revenue dedicated to AB 109 implementation to be allocated to counties based on performance outcomes. Counties should have maximum flexibility to manage this funding.

#4: Advocate for maintaining funding for Delta Habitat Conservation Plans/Natural Communities Conservation Plans: The Governor's budget proposed a reduction of funding available for Delta HCP/NCCPs from \$19.5 million to \$5.5 million. The County will advocate for maintaining the original level of funding. Funds are available for the development and implementation of HCP/NCCPs in the Delta, including the Yolo Natural Heritage Program.

#5: Support legislation to exclude the adoption and implementation of Natural Communities Conservation Plans and Habitat Conservation Plans from the definition of a covered action under the Delta Plan. Yolo County and its partners in the Habitat Joint Powers Agency are

currently continuing to develop an HCP/NCCP via the Yolo Natural Heritage Program. The legislation authorizing the development of the Delta Plan requires local governments to make findings of consistency with the Delta Plan for covered actions, including the adoption and implementation of an HCP/NCCP. These findings of consistency can be challenged. The County will actively support legislation to eliminate this requirement for the adoption and implementation of HCPs and NCCPs.

#6: Support and ensure that Yolo County will be a beneficiary of any proposal to lower the two-thirds vote threshold for local special taxes, especially in the case of local transportation projects. The California Constitution requires majority voter approval for general taxes and two-thirds majority approval for special taxes where revenues are restricted to a specific purpose. Legislators have introduced constitutional amendments to reduce the vote threshold for local transportation special taxes, local school parcel taxes and local library parcel taxes. The County, cities and transportation district are examining the possibility of becoming a “self-help county” with regard to transportation funding. The County will support measures to reduce the vote threshold required for a special tax and ensure that the County is able to benefit from any legislative proposal referred to the voters.

#7: Pursue legislation or budget legislation to property tax inequity as opportunities arise. Yolo County has one of the lowest allocations of property in the state, yet is required to provide the same mandated services as other counties. Yolo County receives 8.7 cents of every property tax dollar, while counties on average receive 17 cents. When the City of West Sacramento incorporated, all of the sales tax and most of the property tax revenues were transferred to the city. When the state calculated the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), an error in the base year used to determine shift amounts included West Sacramento’s property tax in Yolo County’s shift amount (new cities were exempt from ERAF shifts). Yolo County seeks to fix this error, or otherwise make up the property tax revenue difference.

STATE AGENCIES

#1: Oppose widening of the Fremont Weir, Yolo Bypass, and Sacramento Bypass at least until alternatives to increase flood capacity within the existing footprints are exhausted. Ensure a continued role for Yolo County in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and Regional Flood Management Plan: The County will advocate for priorities related to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, including funding for studies with local government participation to evaluate alternatives to bypass expansions in Yolo County and examine the institutional capacity of flood management agencies in the County. The County will also advocate for return of the Huff’s Corner levee to state responsibility for maintenance.

#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: Advocate for cost-effective stormwater runoff regulations through the State Water Resources Control Board's statewide small municipal separate storm sewer system general permit and the statewide industrial general permit. The County will continue to participate in a statewide coalition of local governments and other stakeholders advocating for cost-effective stormwater runoff regulations that focus on improvements to water quality rather than expensive reporting and administrative tasks. The coalition is also coordinating with businesses and municipalities affected by the industrial general permit. Transportation and drainage facilities owned by Yolo County are affected by the small municipal separate storm sewer system, while the Yolo County landfill comes under the jurisdiction of the industrial general permit.