



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

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

2013 Federal Priorities

Adopted January 29, 2013

FEDERAL AGENCIES

#1: 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.

#2: Secure \$1.5 million for the required endowment related to the transfer of the Davis Communications Site. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires 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. The County will also explore shared services opportunities to cooperatively manage the park and share resources as appropriate

#3: Work with the Bureau of Land Management to address maintenance and public access issues on County Road 40: The County will work with the Bureau of Land Management to develop an agreement so that the Bureau can maintain County Road 40, while public access is maintained. An agreement with the Bureau could also include language promoting collaborative efforts to design and fund a replacement of the obsolete low-water bridge that provides access to County Road 40 from State Route 16 in Yolo County. Potential funding sources for bridge replacement include the federal lands access program.

#4: 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, flood impacts, and impacts on local services, while recognizing the job creation and service benefits of the proposed project.

FLOOD CONTROL AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

#1: *Seek modifications to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards for non-residential structures.* The County will continue to participate in the advocacy efforts with the Agricultural Floodplain Management Alliance to advocate for the study and implementation of regulatory flexibility for agricultural processing facilities, agricultural storage buildings, farm stands, wineries, and other structures necessary for the continued economic vibrancy of rural agricultural communities. As a result of new floodplain maps in Yolo County, FEMA requires construction or expansion of structures in the floodplain to meet certain standards, which are costly and complex.

#2: *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 2014. 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.

#3: *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.

CLEAN ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

#1: *Advocate for removal of impediments to Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy:* Federal Housing and Finance Administration (FHFA) issued a guidance letter to mortgage lenders in July 2010 that stated that a senior property assessed clean energy (PACE) lien violated the mortgage contract and that residential mortgages with senior PACE liens on them were considered "non-conforming." U.S. federal court, as part of a lawsuit against the FHFA, determined that the FHFA broke its own formal rule-making process in issuing the July 2010 guidance letter. A new rulemaking that will likely continue the prohibition on senior PACE liens is expected to complete this process in May 2013. The County will advocate for the removal of these mortgage restrictions to allow residents to benefit from the PACE financing tool and install clean energy systems in their homes.

#2: *Support adequate funding for nationwide Habitat Conservation Planning.* Yolo County supports funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund for Federal Fiscal Year 2014. This funding will provide needed support to regional Habitat Conservation Plans nationally, including the Yolo Natural Heritage Program.