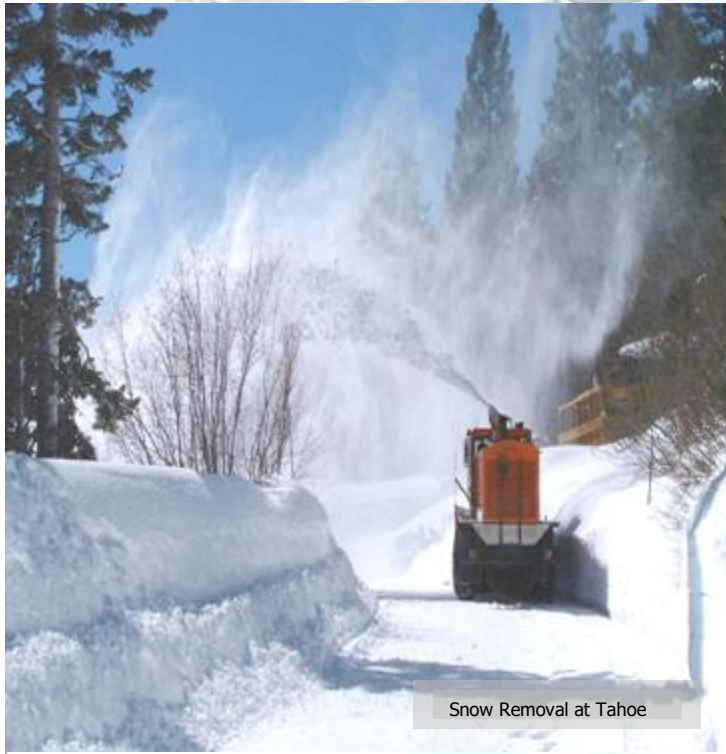


# PLACER COUNTY 2006 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM



Sub Regional Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility (under construction)



Snow Removal at Tahoe



"Placer Legacy" - Spears Ranch

**Prepared by the County Executive Office**

Approved by the Board of Supervisors

December 13, 2005

**PLACER COUNTY**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM**  
**Part One**  
**General Principles**

Placer County's Legislative/Regulatory Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government and the State of California. The Platform contains broad goals and specific legislative proposals of interest and benefit to the County of Placer and its citizens.

1. Support legislation to restore local control and oppose efforts that will hinder or limit the County's ability to self govern.
2. Encourage and seek legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and growth, and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
3. Support State/Local government fiscal restructuring efforts that align program responsibility and revenue sources to assure Placer County the financial independence necessary to provide services to its residents and meet its mandated responsibilities.
4. Oppose federal or state legislation for new or transferred mandated programs that do not contain their own revenue source.
5. Support current or increased levels of state and federal funding for County mandated programs, including capital acquisition costs.
6. Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict or eliminate County revenue sources.
7. Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation, incorporation and redevelopment that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its constituents.
8. Encourage and seek legislation that protects the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and continued preservation of agricultural lands, wildlife habitat and open space.
9. Seek cooperation with the federal and state government, on regulatory and administrative issues affecting the County, to ensure the protection and well being of its citizens.
10. Continue to encourage local agencies and governments to cooperate for the betterment of the community, and encourage and expand voluntary regional solutions to regional problems.

**PLACER COUNTY**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM**  
**Part Two**  
**State Proposals**

**Agricultural Commissioner**

**Proposal: Continued Support for Williamson Act**

Passed in 1971, the Williamson Act is a property tax exemption designed to keep agricultural and open space land free of development and give local governments a tool to use in implementing land use planning goals. The Act provides financial recovery to local jurisdictions that approve Williamson Act contracts.

**Problem:** There is great concern that the State may attempt to discontinue the Williamson Act Program and the local government reimbursement that is currently used to supplement the property tax exemption for contracted Williamson Act lands. Placer County's Williamson Act subvention, from the State, is approximately \$70,000.

**Proposal: Watershed Funding for Nonpoint Source Pollution Monitoring for Agricultural Discharges**

State funding should be appropriated to develop a science-based water quality-monitoring program based upon a watershed approach. The overall water quality within a watershed is directly related to the activities of all parties within the watershed, not farmers and ranchers exclusively.

**Problem:** The State's Regional Water Quality Control Board has eliminated the exemption for agricultural discharges and is requiring farmers and ranchers to file for individual discharge permits or be included under the permit of a watershed group. The added regulatory burden for agriculture users ignores the relatively minor effect of many agricultural operations.

**Proposal: Continuation of Funding for Pesticide Use Enforcement, High-Risk Pest Exclusion, and Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Programs**

Support legislation or budget proposals that continue to provide state funding for County pesticide use enforcement, high-risk pest exclusion, and Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter programs.

**Problem:** These programs are all critical to the County's agricultural industry. In order to maintain the quality of the pesticide regulatory system, it is essential to preserve funding for these programs that are experiencing critical financial shortfalls.

**Assessor**

**Proposal: Restore Funding for Property Tax Administration Program**

Restore funding in the State Budget for the issuance of Property Tax Administration Program grants.

**Problem:** The FY 2005-06 State Budget eliminated funding for the Property Tax Administration Program (PTAP) grants. Funded since FY1994-95, these grants have been utilized over the past 10 years to help counties offset a portion of the costs associated with administering property tax assessments. The elimination of PTAP grants in the FY 2005-06 State Budget represents a funding loss of nearly \$630,000.

### **Assessor, Cont.**

#### **Proposal: Revise State Board of Equalization Public Meeting Practices**

Support legislation requiring the State Board of Equalization (BOE) to publicly disclose items set for discussion and decision in such detail as to allow participation, and to provide reasonable deadlines for written input. Provide standing for counties and County Assessors at the BOE and in related legal proceedings.

**Problem:** The current practices of the State BOE include agenda listings and public notice requirements that do not provide either enough information or enough time for interested parties, such as counties, to respond. The BOE has denied standing to counties and County Assessors in its proceedings.

### **Child Support Services**

#### **Proposal: Oppose State Efforts to Impose Federal Automation Penalties on Counties**

Continue to oppose any attempt by the State to pass on federal automation penalties, imposed on the state, to the counties.

**Problem:** Federal fiscal penalties were levied against California totaling \$220 million for 2004-05. Counties are not responsible for the State's failure to implement a single, statewide-automated child support collection system (by Oct. 1, 1997) as required in the federal guidelines of the 1988 Family Support Act. Monetary penalties imposed by the federal government will continue until California is in full compliance. Placer County's share of the statewide penalties for FY 03-04 exceeded \$450,000.

### **County Clerk**

#### **Proposal: Support Special Election Reimbursement to Counties**

Support legislation or budget requests that provide for reimbursement of county special election costs incurred as a result of the Governor's November 8, 2005 statewide election.

**Problem:** In June 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a proclamation calling for a statewide election. California counties are charged with the responsibility to conduct free and fair elections on behalf of the State of California. The Governor's proclamation stated in part, "The funds necessary to pay the claims from local agencies arising from their costs...shall be included in the State Budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year." Placer County's special election costs are estimated at approximately \$770,000.

### **County Executive Office**

#### **Proposal: Support Legislation to Reconcile "Triple Flip" Estimates**

Support legislation to require the State to reconcile in a timely fashion the reallocation of the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) to counties as authorized in the 2004 legislation shifting ERAF money to local agencies ("Triple Flip").

**Problem:** Currently, the practice by the State in estimating and shifting funds to the counties in fulfillment of the "Triple Flip" provides the funding information to counties out of sync with the required county budget adoption calendar. This creates problems for counties that need this information to accurately compute annual revenue. Legislation is needed to require a timely and accurate computation and transfer of funds.

**County Executive Office, Cont.**

**Proposal: Support Motion Picture Industry**

Support legislative or regulatory efforts that will assist in retaining film and television production in California, specifically those types of productions that traditionally have been shot on location in Placer County.

**Problem:** Film production in California has dramatically declined over the last 8 years (a \$10 billion loss in 2001 according to the Directors Guild of America) due to effective incentive programs offered by other states and countries. This has resulted in a decrease of economic impact countywide of approximately 50% of production dollars to our area. Approximately, three years ago, Placer County averaged \$2 to \$3 million dollars a year in local economic impact from productions shooting here. Since the introduction of incentive programs in other states and countries, the county has seen a reduction in revenues, a statewide trend. Presently, there is no state program or regulation in place to allow California to compete against filming incentives offered elsewhere.

**Proposal: Retirement Plans**

Support legislation that allows counties continued maximum flexibility in establishing and maintaining soundly funded public employee retirement systems and oppose legislation that would limit local authority.

**Problem:** Several changes have been proposed for public employee retirement system in California. As part of these proposals, restrictions on the options available to local governments have also been suggested. In other words, counties might be precluded from offering tiered retirement plans or establishing specific benefit plans purposely fitted to a particular county. These proposed amendments might also prevent a county from fulfilling locally adopted long range contract obligations and/or funding options for retirement plans. Placer County's flexibility needs to be protected.

**Proposal: Support Incentive-Based Measures to Address Placer County's Housing Needs**

Continue to support incentive-based legislation that meets Placer County's housing needs: recognizing the unique characteristics of the region, providing for local land use control and flexibility, and the funding options required to provide the housing.

**Problem:** In 2004, the Governor vetoed Voluntary, incentive-based legislation (AB 1426) that would have provided \$1 million in grants to the SACOG region for affordable housing.

## **County Executive Office, Cont.**

### **Proposal: Community Development/Rural Housing Assistance**

Seek to amend state statutes related to allocation of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and rural housing programs to reflect the unique characteristics in Placer County. Initiate action with relevant state agencies, as well the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), to ease restrictions that hinder efforts to meet the demands for employee housing and affordable housing goals, in general.

**Problem:** Various state and federal statutes and implementation policies inhibit the ability of Placer County to maximize the use of monies designated to expand affordable housing in rural areas. In particular, due to the unique circumstances that exist in Lake Tahoe (bi-state, multi-jurisdictional resort area), these statutes and implementation policies are particularly challenging to meet and they create obstacles to providing employee and other affordable housing in Placer County, particularly in the Tahoe area.

### **Proposal: Continue to Support Workers' Compensation Reform**

Support Workers' Compensation Reform legislation that requires a pre-injury wage for inmates to be eligible for temporary disability under the State Workers' Compensation labor code.

**Problem:** As a result of new legislation, effective January 1, 2003, inmates on work release, work furlough, minimum security and trustees; as well as volunteers, jurors, and community service workers, who are not paid by the County and did not have paid employment prior to an injury, are now entitled to the minimum temporary disability rate of \$126 per week.

### **Proposal: Support New Workers' Compensation Drug Reimbursement Formula**

Support legislation that expands the current Workers' Compensation fee schedule to include all pharmaceuticals prescribed as a result of a work-related injury and establishes a new reimbursement formula for certain drugs dispensed in the workers' compensation system. Placer County anticipates an annual saving of approximately \$100,000 in reduced pharmaceutical costs.

**Problem:** Employers are required to pay 100% of all medical expenses associated with a work-related injury. Currently, medications provided from a medical provider or clinic, on a workers' compensation claim, are not subject to review per the Official Medical Fee Schedule and pharmaceutical reimbursement costs are significantly higher.

## **Facilities**

### **Proposal: Extend Proposition 40 Deadline for North Fork American River Trail Grant Funds**

Sponsor legislation to extend the grant liquidation deadline, for the North Fork American River Trail project, to three years after the certification of the Environmental Impact Report.

**Problem:** Placer County has an agreement with the State Resources Agency for \$1.5 million from the "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002" (Proposition 40) for the North Fork American River Trail project. The State Budget Act requires expenditure of these funds within 5 years of the initial appropriation that was in FY 2001-02. The project has experienced some delays, which will preclude the County from expending the funds prior to the current deadline.

## **Health & Human Services**

### **Proposal: Consolidated Contract Pilot Extension**

Sponsor "Urgency" legislation that will renew Placer County's existing consolidated health contract pilot program for an additional 5 years, or remove the existing program sunset date.

**Problem:** Legislation authorizing HHS' consolidated health contract pilot program becomes inoperative July 1, 2006. This method of contracting with the State, for various health programs, has been highlighted in both the Little Hoover Commission Report and the California Performance Review (CPR) as a model for reducing state and local administrative costs. Without the enabling legislation, the state organizational structure will not continue to support this promising framework.

### **Proposal: Support a Public Health Laboratory Directors Subsidized Training Program**

Support efforts to develop a subsidized training program for Public Health Laboratory (PHL) Directors that would provide for grant stipends. Graduates, who receive financial support during training, would be required to serve as PHL Directors for a specified period of time.

**Problem:** California is currently experiencing a critical shortage of qualified PHL Directors. County PHLs are critical in the control of infectious diseases, a core function of Public Health Departments. Private laboratories do not fill the void since they generally perform tests that are financially rewarding. PHLs are essential for the management of West Nile Virus, Tuberculosis, influenza, food borne illnesses, and are also vital to preparedness for bioterrorism events.

### **Proposal: Statewide Nurse-Family Partnership**

Support efforts to fund a statewide Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program that would allocate grants to counties to provide voluntary registered nurse home visiting services to first-time, low-income mothers, their children, and their families.

**Problem:** In October, the Governor vetoed legislation that would create the statewide NFP Act. Several California counties have established a NFP program on a small scale. Support and funding is needed to implement statewide. NFP data shows extensive evidence that family participants experience a dramatic reduction in child abuse and neglect, welfare dependency, and involvement in the criminal justice system.

### **Proposal: Adequate Funding for Adult Protective Services**

Support legislation that will provide for increased funding for Adult Protective Services and that allows for additional flexibility for counties to implement innovative programs.

**Problem:** In 2000, the State established law regulating a statewide response to elderly and disabled persons suspected of being victims of abuse or neglect. Current funding for these programs is inadequate. Referrals have increased 72% between 2000 and 2005 in Placer County. Additionally, in 2005 the Governor approved legislation that requires financial institutions to also become mandatory reporters of suspected abuse, further expected to increase county caseloads.

## **Health and Human Services, Cont.**

### **Proposal: Adequate Funding for In-Home Supportive Services**

Support legislation or budget proposals that will maintain or increase funding for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS).

**Problem:** As required by state law, Placer County established an IHSS program and a Public Authority that provides a registry service for the program that provides critical in-home care for elderly and disabled persons. Placer County's Public Authority negotiated, in good faith, a reasonable wage for county IHSS providers, based on an existing state-county reimbursement formula. State funding reductions will reduce the care available for eligible disabled and elderly persons who need assistance to remain in their homes independently, or will increase unbudgeted county costs. Placer County currently has a program caseload of 1,500.

### **Proposal: Continued Funding for the "Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act" of 2000 (Proposition 36)**

Support continued state funding for the "Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (SACPA)" of 2000. The program provides, in lieu of incarceration, treatment and supervision for persons with addiction problems that have committed drug-related crimes. Placer County's program allocation totals approximately \$900,000.

**Problem:** Proposition 36, approved by California voters, enacted the SACPA program. Funding for the program sunsets in FY 2005-06. Placer's SACPA program serves approximately 250 persons per year in programs that are an alternative to incarceration.

### **Proposal: Medicaid Waiver**

Support legislation that protects Placer County's ability to provide for health care for Medi-Cal patients, but does not increase the County's share of costs in doing so.

**Problem:** The State and Federal governments have signed a new Medicaid waiver agreement that establishes different payment procedures for providers who provide care for California's Medicaid (Medi-Cal) patients. In the process, it appears that (overall) State financial support of the program will be reduced and counties will bear a larger financial burden. This could be potentially a multi-million dollar increase in county costs.

### **Proposal: Support Mental Health Services for Students with Emotional Disturbances**

Support initiatives and/or legislation to provide adequate funding for Mental Health Services for students with emotional disturbances, requiring Individual Educational Plans.

**Problem:** The State and Federal government, in order to provide mental health assessment and treatment services for this population, mandates these county mental health programs. Counties are required to advance funding for these services and recoup funding through the State's mandate reimbursement process. Placer County currently expends approximately \$2.4 million annually for these services with significant delays and deferrals in state reimbursement. Program expansion to meet the existing unmet need as well as overall population growth in the county, will require additional funding.



## **Health and Human Services, Cont.**

### **Proposal: Adequate Funding for Child Welfare Services**

Support adequate state funding for the Child Welfare Services system in order to meet the federal and state requirements of this program. The increased funding should provide for more local flexibility to determine appropriate priorities, expenditures and innovative programs.

**Problem:** In 2004, counties were required to implement program/system redesign and improvements to meet federal and state requirements. These requirements have been implemented with an inadequate increase in funding. The Child Welfare Services system continues to be significantly under funded. It is estimated that each county is currently under funded by 30-40%.

## **Library**

### **Proposal: Continued Public Library Foundation Funding**

Support legislation or budget proposals that maintain or increase the FY 2005-06 level of Public Library Foundation (PLF) funding in the State Budget. In FY 2005-06, Placer County will receive approximately \$70,000 in PLF funding.

**Problem:** In the last 5 years, the State has reduced PLF funding by more than \$40 million. The funding is provided to public libraries on a per capita matching basis that is adjusted annually. Loss of PLF funding would result in a direct loss in Placer County Library's operating revenue, adversely impacting the Library's materials budget, equipment, and facilities maintenance.

## **Personnel**

### **Proposal: Contracting Agency Contribution Requirements**

Allow Placer County to maintain local control to contract with their bargaining groups for County employees and retirees, regarding premium contribution formulas. Allow Placer County to construct a tiered system that could apply to both current employees as well as future employees.

**Problem:** Current law limits public agencies, which contract with CalPERS for health insurance under the Public Employees Medical Care and Hospital Act (PEMCHA), to a limited number of options to pay for the retiree premium contribution. Depending upon the option chosen to pay for the retiree insurance, this can cause an economic hardship to the agency providing benefits and/or creates a two-tier system for employee/retiree benefits. Current law limits the options to a local agency.

## **Planning**

### **Proposal: Funding and Support to Preserve and Enhance Agricultural Lands and Open Space, Restore and Protect Natural Communities and Implement Watershed Protection Efforts**

Support legislation that advances the objectives of the *Placer Legacy* program to protect open space in the County and to sustain agriculture as a key industry.

**Problem:** The pressures of urban development have an effect on the amount of land dedicated to open space and agriculture. With an increase in urbanization, more agricultural lands and natural communities will be lost resulting in a decrease in biological diversity, agricultural production, scenic landscapes, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the general open character of the County's landscape. To counterbalance these impacts, the *Placer Legacy* program was established as a proactive, long range, comprehensive strategy for protecting open space and agricultural lands in the County in order to enhance the quality of life and sustain agriculture as a viable part of our area's economy.

## **Public Safety**

### **Proposal: Appropriations for COPS, Juvenile Justice, and Rural Law Enforcement**

Support the continued full funding of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention (JJCPA), Standards in Training for Corrections (STC), the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction grant, (MIOCR) and the Rural Law Enforcement programs.

**Problem:** Placer County benefits greatly from State appropriations for these programs. Each year, the Legislative Analyst has recommended that these programs be discontinued.

### **Proposal: Continuation of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

Support legislation and/or budget proposals to maintain and increase TANF funding for Probation services to minors and their families.

**Problem:** Probation departments throughout the State increased California's block grant from federal TANF funds by filing claims for emergency services to minors through Title IV-A of the Social Security Act (CYSA). The Governor's 2004-05 Proposed Budget recommended a \$134 million reduction in TANF funding to Probation (approximately two-thirds of the TANF allocation), effectively phasing out the programs by October 31, 2004. The 2004-05 State adopted budget replaced the \$134 million federal TANF funding with General Fund monies. It is unclear how these vital local services will be funded in 2005-06.

### **Proposal: Reprioritize Reimbursement of Probation Costs**

Support legislation to amend the statute passed in AB 3000 to reprioritize the reimbursement of probation costs by offenders to a higher priority.

**Problem:** AB 3000, passed in 2002, established a priority order for payments made by defendants relative to their criminal case. The first three priorities are payment of:

- 1) Restitution to the victim
- 2) 20% state surcharge to fund trial courts
- 3) Fines and penalty assessments

The last priority is payment of other reimbursable costs, which include probation costs.

**PLACER COUNTY**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM**  
**Part Three**  
**Federal Proposals**

**Proposal: Continued Funding for a Sub Regional Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility**

**Problem:** Currently, seven wastewater agencies serve Placer County. These agencies indicate that the population they serve will increase substantially over the next 15 years. Each existing facility faces: 1) Major expansion needs; 2) Increasing stringent federal pollutant permit conditions; and 3) Cost constraints (both capital and operation & maintenance). The regional design will accommodate projected growth well into the future and provide significant environmental benefits to receiving waters throughout the region, including the Bay-Delta ecosystem. This project was authorized in the 2003 Reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act.

**Proposal: Additional Funding for Law Enforcement Technology and Telecommunication Needs**

**Problem:** Communications equipment currently used by law enforcement and other public safety officials in the County is outdated, unreliable, has limited functionality and interoperability, and is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to maintain. In addition, the current system does not comply with Project 25 (Federal Communications Commission equipment standards providing greater public safety interoperability). Continued federal funding is critical to implement a countywide, multi-site, VHF, Project 25 compliant, digital trunking network solution to effectively respond to an emergency or terrorist activity that crosses multi-jurisdictional boundaries.

**Proposal: Continued Funding for a Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter**

**Problem:** A Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter is needed in the County for children who are removed from their families for protection from abuse or neglect, or for children who have failed other placements ranging from foster care to intensive high-level group homes. It is, also, planned to include a mental health/behavioral health housing area. Continued funding is needed for development and construction of the facility. In addition to emergency shelter care, on-site medical facilities to conduct primary health screenings and examinations for the emergency shelter population as well as selected minor cases that require more sensitive handling will be included. A multi-disciplinary interview center for forensic investigations and a supervised visitation/parent education center are also envisioned.

### **Proposal: Funding for Auburn-Folsom Road Widening**

**Problem:** The construction of Auburn-Folsom Road was a part of the original Federal Folsom Dam Project and was designed as a rural two-lane road. Due to regional growth in the counties of Placer, Sacramento and El Dorado, today it serves as a major arterial route connecting northern Sacramento County and Folsom with South Placer County, Roseville and Rocklin, The current traffic volumes are exceeding the capacity of the road in Placer County. The construction of the new Folsom Dam Bridge and reopening of the relocated Dam Road will also fuel this increase in traffic. The two-mile project section is adjacent to United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) land and will restore trail connectivity to the USBR property and associated trails systems currently hampered due to increasing traffic on Auburn-Folsom Road. Funding, through USBR, is needed to construct the proposed improvements to meet regional growth demands.

### **Proposal: Continued Funding for Walerga Road at Dry Creek Bridge Replacement**

**Problem:** The bridge is located on Walerga Road in western Placer County. Walerga Road is a critical arterial roadway that connects Sacramento County to the City of Roseville. Traffic levels are expected to double in the next 10 years. The existing bridge (126 ft./span) was constructed in 1973 and is frequently covered by floodwaters resulting in road closures. These closures have adverse effects on emergency response and traffic patterns. The proposed project, constructed above the flood plain, would provide for four vehicle lanes and shoulders/bike lanes. In 2002, the County received a Federal Transportation and Community and Systems Preservation (TCSP) Grant to begin the planning and environmental studies necessary to design and upgrade the bridge. This work is in progress. Additional funding, to supplemental local resources, is now needed for the design and construction of the bridge and roadway approaches.

### **Proposal: Funding for Hazardous Materials Clean Up at DeWitt Center**

**Problem:** The DeWitt Center was constructed in 1943 as a military hospital during World War II. Construction practices at that time included the use of materials such as asbestos and lead paint, and utilized underground tanks for heating and fuel oil. The 200-acre DeWitt property is now owned by the County and has served as a critical resource for county agencies for many years. The property's redevelopment potential to house government, commercial, and light industrial activity is promising. However, extensive renovation activity, including hazardous material cleanup of asbestos and lead paint, would be required before successful redevelopment could be undertaken. Federal assistance would initially be used to abate and/or remediate the hazardous materials currently on site. The FFY05 House Department of Defense Appropriations Report made note of the important environmental cleanup activities at the DeWitt Center and said that it "expects the Army to provide adequate funding to complete cleanup requirements at this site in a timely manner."

**Proposal: Funding and Support to Preserve and Enhance Agricultural Lands and Open Space, Restore and Protect Natural Communities, and Implement Watershed Protection Efforts**

**Problem:** Placer County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in California. The pressures of urban development have an effect on the amount of land dedicated to open space and agriculture production. With an increase in urbanization, more open space and agricultural land will be lost resulting in a decrease in biological diversity, agricultural production, scenic landscapes, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the general open character of the County's landscape. To counterbalance these impacts, the *Placer Legacy* program was established in 2000 as a proactive, long range, comprehensive strategy for protecting open space and agricultural lands in the County. Federal assistance would be used to expand public outreach, education, and to complete land acquisitions and easements from willing sellers. Federal funding would, also, be used to continue the development of a clearinghouse of local land use and natural resources data into a computer-based geographic information system (GIS) for use by a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders.

**Proposal: Increase Advocacy Efforts Related to Community Development/Rural Housing**

**Problem:** Various federal and state statutes and implementation policies inhibit the ability of Placer County to maximize the use of monies designated to expand affordable housing in rural areas. In particular, due to the unique circumstances that exist in Lake Tahoe (bi-state, multi-jurisdictional resort area), these policies are particularly challenging to meet. An easing of restrictions relative to the statutes and policies of Community Development Block Grants and Rural Housing implementation monies would reduce obstacles to providing employees and others affordable housing in Placer County, particularly in the Tahoe area.

**Proposal: Sponsor and/or Support Legislation to Enhance Wildfire Protection/Restoration Efforts and Biomass for Forest Fuel Management**

**Problem:** Wildfires and urban wild fires are an on-going concern for Placer County. Federal lands, particularly those in the Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe regions present extreme fire conditions arising from a combination of topography, weather and accumulations of flammable vegetation. Catastrophic fire threatens human life and property and the ability of the forest to regenerate and sustain itself. Federal funding, and regulatory relief, to reduce hazardous fuels, expedite salvaging fire-killed trees, and replanting of burned areas on national forests, will increase protection to communities from devastating wildfires and will increase and expedite the healthy restoration of our forests. Additionally, federal resources to enhance, expand and promote biomass, as an economic development tool in forest fuel load reduction would further enhance fire mitigation efforts.

**Proposal: Funding for Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Corridor**

**Problem:** The Kings Beach commercial area is located at the northerly entrance to the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe basin is a national treasure that is threatened by its popularity and the effects of the built environment, particularly its famed water clarity. Federal financial assistance, in conjunction with state and local funding, is needed to provide water quality treatment facilities, pedestrian/bicycle paths and other streetscape amenities to improve the water quality of Lake Tahoe and revitalize the historical commercial core of Kings Beach.