

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

863



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
December 19, 2006

SUBJECT: 2007 Federal Legislative Platform

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve the attached policy positions on selected Federal issues and direct the Executive Office and the Board's Washington, D.C. legislative representatives to further the Board's positions.

BACKGROUND: Annually the Board adopts positions on selected Federal legislative issues to guide advocacy efforts at the Federal level. The major policy issues in this year's Federal Platform are the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act, Sales Tax Withholding on County Contractors and Transitional Housing and Support Services for the Homeless. Although previously adopted Board positions remain in effect, several are briefly mentioned to emphasize the Board's continuing support for these measures. Additional federal issues will be brought to the Board for appropriate action as the need arises.

Attachment

Gary M. Christmas

Gary M. Christmas
Deputy County Executive Officer

Department of: Justice

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE.

County Executive Office Signature

Kenneth M. ...

- Policy
- Consent
- Policy
- Consent

Dept Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.26 1/31/06 | District: | Agenda Number:

3.7

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY
2007
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John Tavaglione
Chairman

Bob Buster
Second District

Jeff Stone
Third District

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Fourth District

Marion V. Ashley
Fifth District

Larry Parrish
County Executive Officer
January 19, 2007



**2007
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS**

ISSUE: **California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act .**

Late in 2006, Congresswoman Bono introduced legislation known as the *California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act*, to designate 125,000 acres of public land in Riverside County as wilderness, as well as identifying three new wild and scenic rivers. It would also include additional lands within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. The bill would give the designated lands a higher level of protection to ensure that they remain completely wild and natural.

The 109th Congress adjourned before action could begin on Congresswoman Bono's legislation. She had indicated that she will re-introduce the proposal when the 110th Congress convenes in January, 2007.

ACTION: Support the *California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act* and other similar legislation that would appropriate public lands in Riverside County as wilderness - include additional lands within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument – to provide a higher level of protection to ensure that these lands remain completely wild and natural.

ISSUE: Sales Tax Withholding on County Contractors.

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, signed into law by President Bush in December 2005, includes provisions that will require State and local government agencies such as the County of Riverside to begin withholding 3% in Federal income tax from payments to County contractors, as of January 1, 2011. A survey being conducted by the National Association of Counties (NACo) indicates that the administrative burden of implementing and processing this provision will be a substantial unfunded mandate on county governments, and NACo is making the rescission of the requirement one of its highest legislative priorities for the 110th Congress.

ACTION: Support legislation that would repeal provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 that require State and local government agencies to withhold Federal income tax from payments to contractors.

ISSUE: **Transitional Housing and Support Services for the Homeless.**

ACTION: Support legislation that would provide funding for the development of transitional housing and support services for the homeless in Riverside County.

ISSUE: Pet Animal Microchip Registry.

ACTION: Support Federal Legislation that requires microchip registration for pets. There are at least three privately held, i.e. corporate business enterprise, databases which provide varying levels of service relative to pet ownership contact information. Oftentimes, the data is not provided in a timely manner, if at all, and results in the inability by animal shelters and rescue groups to return lost pets to their rightful owners. Additionally, the microchips themselves present a technological impediment, because the lack of standardization results in competing formats of varying frequencies and a lack of 'universal scanners', which could be employed by the animal control agencies and shelter operators. The USDA is currently working on a system for production animal identification which could easily include pets as well.

SELECTED EXISTING FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS

Unfunded Mandates:

Support measures that ease the burden of Federal regulations and mandates on local governments by:

- 1) requiring adequate federal funds for new mandates arising from federal law, regulation, or policy; and
- 2) reimbursing local governments for the costs of complying with existing federal mandates.

Public Safety Funding:

Support measures that provide funding opportunities for local public safety efforts, including law enforcement, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, violence against women, domestic terrorism, communications interoperability, and drug court activities.

Public Health Funding:

Support measures that continue or increase critical Federal funding for local public health services, including Medicaid/Medicare, DSH, Ryan White, SAMHSA, and Preventative Health funding.

Social Services Funding:

Support measures that continue or increase critical Federal funding for local social services, including Child Welfare Services programs, the Social Services Block Grant and funding under the Older Americans Act.

Maternal and Child Health Care:

Support funding for Maternal and Child Health Block Grants and legislation to revise the distribution formula for MCH funds to provide a more equitable distribution of funding for jurisdictions that have experienced population growth.

Election Reform:

Support measures that provide support and funding for upgrading and maintaining local voting systems.

Endangered Species Act (ESA):

Support measures consistent with the Board's policy to amend and reauthorize the ESA, including a more systemic approach to implementation of the Act.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes:

Support measures that increase PILT to the amount authorized by the Act in 1994.

Housing, Homeless, and Community Development Funding:

Support measures that address the housing and homeless needs in the county, and increase and fully fund the CDBG program.

Agricultural Pests:

Support measures to provide funding to address agricultural pest issues in the county.

Mental Health:

Support measures that provide funding for mentally ill offenders and other mental health programs.

Habitat Conservation:

Support measures that support and fund:

- 1) habitat conservation and related activities,
- 2) transportation and communication corridors to relieve congestion; and
- 3) planning efforts to establish future land use and housing needs.

Temporary Assistant to Needy Families (TANF):

Support measures that will continue the TANF program.

Desert Communities Empowerment Zone:

Support continued funding for the Desert Communities Empowerment Zone through the annual appropriations process, as well as measures that establish a long-term funding mechanism for Empowerment Zones.

Riverside County Regional Medical Center:

Support legislation that would provide funding for capital improvement projects to improve RCRMC's ability to serve as the region's first responder for health-related incidents, and oppose any attempts to reduce Medicaid payments to public hospitals.