

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



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
February 24, 2009

SUBJECT: Agreement with Cline-Duplissea, representing Bill Duplissea, John P. Quimby, Sr. and Robert Presley, to provide State Advocacy Services.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Supervisors: 1) Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign, the attached three year agreement with Cline-Duplissea, representing Bill Duplissea, John P. Quimby, Sr. and Robert Presley, to continue providing State Advocacy Services; and, 2) Receive and file the attached State Lobbyists' Activities Report.

BACKGROUND: For the past five years the County has used the above consultants to provide part of the state lobbying team in Sacramento. The attached agreement continues all services currently provided for three additional years. The annual cost of this contract has been \$147,600 and will remain the same in FY 08/09. This contract has been approved by County Counsel as to form.

At the February 10, 2009 Board meeting, the Board requested the attached report on State Lobbyists' Activities.

Steve Schubert
Principal Management Analyst

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 73,800	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 73,800	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 147,600	For Fiscal Year:	FY 2008/09

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

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY:
Gary M. Christmas

County Executive Office Signature

- Policy
- Consent
- Policy
- Consent

Dep't Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: _____ **District:** _____ **Agenda Number:** _____

ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

3.8

STATE LOBBYISTS' ACTIVITIES

Calendar Years 2008 & 2009

Riverside County's state lobbying team in Sacramento carried out myriad tasks and activities on behalf of the county in 2008; the team continues to work on numerous issues now that the 2009-10 legislative sessions are fully underway.

The team is composed of:

Michael Corbett – Legislative Coordinator
Jim Gross
Bill Duplissea
Alan Fernandes
John Quimby
Robert Presley

As part of advocating for county issues, team members represent the county in Sacramento in a variety of ways. Team members attend a number of regularly scheduled meetings, including the weekly legislative meetings of both the Urban County Caucus and the California State Association of Counties. Team members also represent the county at frequent meetings with the Worker's Compensation Board and other administrative bodies. Finally, team members continually represent county issues at numerous formal and informal meetings with legislators and staff from our State legislative delegation as well as other legislators, staff and state administrators.

The team's efforts on specific legislation are outlined below:

County's Legislative Platform - 2008

The county sponsored four bills during the 2008 legislative session.

AB 1117 (Benoit) would have authorized county service areas within Riverside County to provide open-space and habitat conservation services.

Status: The bill died in the Senate Local Government Committee but its subject matter is contained in SB 1458, a measure sponsored by the Senate Local Government Committee. The latter measure was signed into law. County lobbyists worked to affect this change.

AB 2353 (Garcia) would appropriate \$30 million from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF) to provide for grants to local government agencies that were effectively suspended when the governor vetoed the SDF appropriation in the 2006-07 state budget bill.

Status: The bill was held by the Assembly Appropriations Committee despite the fact that the funds appropriated in the bill would have no impact on the General Fund. The county lobbyists worked to tie the salient points first into AB 1389 and then into AB 158 which was signed into law by the governor.

AB 2585 (Jeffries) would increase the number of times that the legislative body of a local governmental entity may amend a mandatory element of an adopted general plan up to six times during any calendar year. Current law provides for up to four amendments in a calendar year.

Status: Based upon further research and discussions between the lobbyists and County Counsel, the bill was dropped after it was determined that the legislation was unnecessary.

AB 2724 (Benoit) would create a \$100 fine for grand theft of wiring or other metals or related materials of the kind ordinarily used by, or belonging to, any entity that provides transportation or utilities. The fine revenues would be deposited in a local fund to be used for metal theft enforcement efforts by the prosecuting jurisdiction.

Status: The bill failed passage in the Senate Public Safety Committee. However, the lobbyists worked to incorporate the essential elements into AB 844 and SB 691 both of which became law.

Legislation of Direct Interest to Riverside County

The bills cited below were deemed to directly impact Riverside County. County supported bills are denoted with an asterisk (*).

***AB 158 (Torrico)** implements the recommendations of the Bureau of State Audits regarding reforms to the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF) and appropriates \$30 million for local government grants to mitigate the impact of casino gaming.

Status: Signed into law.

***AB 642 (Wolk)** authorizes counties to employ design-build contracting for the construction of no more than 20 regional and local wastewater facilities, solid waste management facilities, or water recycling facilities.

Status: Signed into law.

***AB 844 (Berryhill)** requires junk dealers and recyclers to comply with additional recordkeeping and identification procedures and new payment restrictions when purchasing nonferrous materials.

Status: Signed into law.

***AB 1389 (Torrico)** would provide that Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committees in selecting grants may only select grant applications that mitigate impacts from casinos on local jurisdictions. In addition, the bill would provide that if a local committee approves an expenditure that mitigates an impact from a tribal casino on a local jurisdiction and that grant also provides other benefits to the local jurisdiction, that grant may be used only to finance the proportionate share of the expenditure that mitigates the impact from the casino.

Status: The bill died in the Senate Rules Committee but Mr. Torrico amended the provisions of this bill into his AB 158, a measure that was ultimately signed into law as a part of the budget compromise.

***AB 1491 (Jones)** revives and extends the deadline for the transfer of responsibility for court facilities from the counties to the Judicial Council from June 30, 2007, to December 31, 2009.

Status: Signed into law.

***AB 1759 (DeVore)** as originally introduced, would have provided for the state to financially assist counties, including Riverside County, that suffered property tax losses as a result of wildfires that occurred in 2007. The bill was amended on August 19 into a measure dealing with alcoholic beverage control.

AB 1836 (Feuer) would extend the time that an infrastructure financing district can receive property tax increment revenues from 30 years to 40 years.

Status: The bill died in the Senate Local Government Committee.

***AB 1954 (Jeffries)** authorizes a value pricing and transit program involving HOT lanes to be developed and operated on State Route 15 in Riverside County by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC). The bill would authorize the RCTC to impose tolls and issue revenue bonds for the HOT lane project.

Status: Signed into law.

SB 375 (Steinberg) requires metropolitan planning organizations to include sustainable communities' strategies in their regional transportation plans for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, align planning for transportation and housing, and create specified incentives for the implementation of the strategies.

Status: Signed into law.

***SB 691 (Calderon)** strengthens existing laws that regulate the buying and selling of scrap metals in California. This bill may be dropped now that Senator Calderon and

Assembly Member Berryhill have agreed that AB 844 (Berryhill) will be the primary legislative vehicle to address metal theft issues.

Status: A companion measure to AB 844 (Berryhill) above, this measure was also signed into law.

***SB 1064 (Hollingsworth)** provides for the state to financially assist specified counties, including Riverside County, regarding the loss of property tax revenues due to wildfires and wind storms that occurred in calendar year 2007. The bill contains an urgency clause.

Status: Signed into law.

***SB 1150 (Corbett)** would authorize 50 additional superior court judgeships, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the 2009-10 fiscal year. The judgeships would be allocated to various counties, including Riverside County, pursuant to uniform criteria approved by the Judicial Council. Riverside County would receive an additional six superior court judges under the provisions of SB 1150.

Status: The bill was held by the Senate Appropriations Committee due to its General Fund costs in the 2009-10 fiscal years, clearly a reflection of the state's financial situation. It would appear that we cannot expect authorization for new superior court judgeships until the 2010-11 fiscal years, if then.

***SB 1316 (Correa)** would authorize the Orange County Transportation Authority to eliminate its rights, interests, and obligations in the Riverside County portion of the State Highway Route 91 toll lane by partial assignment to the Riverside County Transportation Commission or by an amendment to the franchise agreement.

Status: Signed into law.

***SB 1407 (Perata)** authorizes the issuance of up to \$5 billion in lease-revenue bonds to finance the construction of critical needs courthouse construction projects, and provide for the debt service for the bonds to be financed by raising various criminal and civil fees and fines.

Status: Signed into law.

***SB 1458 (Senate Local Government Committee)** repeals the existing County Service Area Law and enact a new County Service Area Law with eight detailed articles, including general powers and governance provisions.

This bill would effectively supplant county sponsored AB 1117 (Benoit) because the provisions of SB 1458 would allow counties (including Riverside County) to establish a county service area multi-species and habitat conservation area.

Status: Signed into law.

SB 1500 (Kehoe) would have prohibited a county from approving a proposed project in a state responsibility area if the Board of Forestry determines that structural fire protection is a local responsibility and no fire protection services are provided.

Status: Died on the Assembly Floor.

SB 1617 (Kehoe) would have required the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt emergency regulations to establish a benefit fee for fire-related services to be charged to an owner of a structure within a state responsibility area. The base benefit fee would be based, among other things, on the fire hazard severity zone in which the structure is located, and include an amount sufficient to cover each county's actual and reasonable costs for levying and collecting the benefit fee. The bill would require local governments to collect the benefit fees through annual secured property tax bills.

Status: Died on the Assembly Floor.

Other Activities – 2008

In addition to activities directly related to legislation, Riverside County lobbyists worked tirelessly on behalf of the county on administrative and regulatory issues, including consultation with county staff on the following:

- Issues associated with the state budget.
- Jail Construction issues.
- Health care reform, including the provision of timely information to the county hospital regarding health care reform in general and specific budget issues that would impact health care services.
- Proposition 1C and Proposition 46 Housing Bond funding.
- Special Distribution Fund negotiations.
- Court transfer negotiations and legislation.
- Collaborated with the Riverside County District Attorney and the California District Attorneys Association regarding legislation amending the Bad Check Diversion Program for Riverside County.
- Ongoing discussions with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation regarding potential funding for a parolee reporting center in Riverside County, which could result in a lowering of the crime rate and a decrease the county's jail population.

- Ongoing collaboration with U.C. Riverside regarding violence research projects to decrease crime and violence in the community.

Finally, in addition to advocacy and consulting endeavors, the team coordinated outreach efforts with the county's legislative delegation, including hosting a delegation breakfast where county issues were identified and discussed. The county's Legislative Coordinator submits a monthly report during the legislative session to keep the county fully apprised of activities and developments in the State Capitol.

Current Activities – 2009

It is very early in the year, so the Legislature has not begun to hear bills introduced for the 2009-10 session; thus the team's efforts have been focused on the state budget. In that regard, we have kept the county apprised of issues and developments across a broad range of programs. We have strived to keep the county current with all budget-related developments in Sacramento.

The team also helped coordinate the recent joint Boards of Supervisors meeting in Sacramento to discuss the stalled state budget in general and the proposed county payment deferrals in particular. The team helped brief Board members prior to the meeting.

The team has the County's 2009 Legislative Platform and is working to secure authors for proposed measures the county wishes to sponsor. In addition, Assembly Member Cook, Chair of the Inland Empire Caucus, has agreed to allow the county's lobbyists to appear before the group to discuss the county's issues and legislative priorities for 2009.