

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



**FROM:** Supervisor John J. Benoit

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** March 12, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Resolution 2013-066, Support of Riverside County Rural Communities to Remain Eligible for United States Department of Agriculture Funding

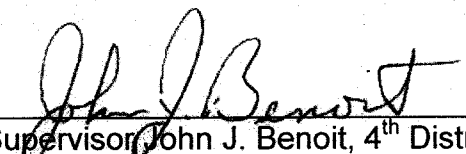
**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors Adopt Resolution No. 2013-066, Support of Riverside County Rural Communities to Remain Eligible for United States Department of Agriculture Funding

**BACKGROUND:** USDA funding has provided more than \$200 million for various community facilities, infrastructure, farmworker and non-farmworker affordable family and migrant housing for rural Riverside County communities, particularly in the eastern Coachella Valley. These areas have historically qualified under a definition by USDA of a rural community.

The United States Department of Agriculture is considering a change in the definition of "rural" which could have a detrimental impact on many of Riverside County's communities. On March 27, these communities, which are spread throughout Riverside County, will no longer be eligible for USDA funding. Among them is the city of Coachella which has received more than \$28 million in housing funds for farmworker self-help home ownership programs in the last five years.

The USDA change would require that a community, to qualify as rural, must have a population of less than 20,000 and not be located in a metropolitan area. Half of the entire rural population lives in a metropolitan area and the cap of 20,000 would preclude many communities, which are still rural in nature but over the 20,000 cap, from applying for USDA funds.


This resolution requests that our federal representatives and the USDA work together to expand the definition of "rural" to ensure that communities that are rural in nature but over the population cap remain eligible for USDA financing.

  
Supervisor John J. Benoit, 4<sup>th</sup> District

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Benoit, seconded by Supervisor Ashley and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: March 19, 2013  
xc: Supvr. Benoit, Fed./State Rep's.

Kecia Harper-Ihem  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

**3-3**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-066**

4 **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY RURAL COMMUNITIES TO REMAIN**  
5 **ELIGIBLE FOR UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided more than \$200 million in  
8 funding for community facilities, water and wastewater systems and affordable housing opportunities for rural  
9 communities in Riverside County, California; and  
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11 **WHEREAS**, USDA has provided more than \$28 million in rural housing funds to the city of Coachella in the  
12 last five years for various affordable housing projects; and  
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14 **WHEREAS**, USDA is considering a change to the definition of "rural" which would reduce the number of  
15 eligible communities under its funding programs; and  
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17 **WHEREAS**, after March 27, 2013, the proposed change in the definition of "rural" will disqualify  
18 900 communities nationwide and 12 communities in Riverside County, including the city of Coachella, from  
19 eligibility for USDA grants or loans, and  
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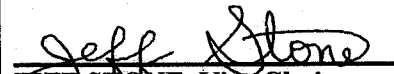
21 **WHEREAS**, the proposed change in the definition of "rural" would put the county and its rural communities at  
22 risk of losing millions of dollars of potential funding; and  
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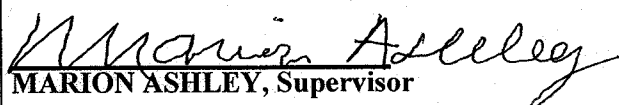
24 **WHEREAS**, expanding the definition of "rural" is appropriate to capture the distinctive nature of "rural areas"  
25 and that the USDA rural definition should not be focused solely on population numbers; and  
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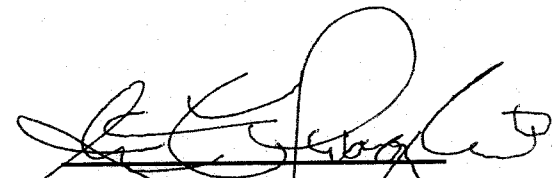
1 **WHEREAS**, the definition of rural should take into consideration factors such as agricultural character of a  
2 community and its population, income levels of those families earning less than 50 percent of the area median  
3 income, unemployment, overcrowding, and other related criteria;

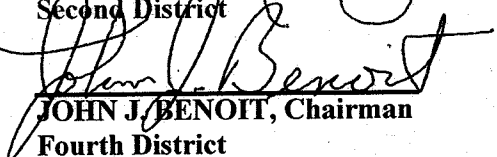
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5 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, that we call upon  
6 our federal representatives and the USDA to pursue any and all efforts to maintain the county's rural  
7 communities' eligibility under the United States Department of Agriculture programs, specifically in the city of  
8 Coachella due to its many rural characteristics.

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12 **KEVIN JEFFRIES, Supervisor**  
13 **Frist District**

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16 **JEFF STONE, Vice Chairman**  
17 **Third District**

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20 **MARION ASHLEY, Supervisor**  
21 **Fifth District**

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24 **JOHN TAVAGLIONE, Supervisor**  
25 **Second District**

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**JOHN J. BENOIT, Chairman**  
**Fourth District**

28 **ROLL CALL:**  
29 **Ayes:** Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley  
30 **Nays:** None  
31 **Absent:** None

32 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly  
33 adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

34 **KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board**  
35  
36 **By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
37 **Deputy**