

DEPARTMENT: Administration

BY: Greg Iturria

PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes ___ No X)

Review and approve the 2002 Mariposa County Legislative/Regulatory Platform.

The platform serves as our overall guide for advocacy in Sacramento for the 2002 calendar year. County staff worked with Supervisor Pickard and County Administrative Officer Greg Iturria to develop the proposals in the draft platform with the assistance of Dale Wagerman Associates. In addition to stating General Goals and Priorities, the draft platform includes several specific areas of focus including:

- Continue efforts to secure State financial assistance for the County's co-composting project.
- Seek sufficient state funding for projects within Mariposa County consisting of a regional recreational/sports complex, funding for Phase 3 of the Mariposa Creek Project, funding for a rural performing arts center, trails project, and funding for County Parks and Recreation Programs.
- Seek funding assistance for the Mariposa County General Plan Update.
- Seek a means to provide incentives for HMO's and other organizations to provide rural healthcare on a reasonable basis for Mariposa and other rural jurisdictions.
- Support an action to provide funding and recognition to the severe need of a new courthouse for Mariposa County.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has adopted a Legislative/Regulatory Platform for the past several years.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

A written platform adopted by the Board provides our legislative advocate in Sacramento and County staff with guidelines for actions in Sacramento. Foregoing adopting a platform will require that each individual Advocacy effort will have to be specifically approved by the Board.

COSTS: (x) Not Applicable

- A. Budgeted current FY \$ _____
- B. Total anticipated costs \$ _____
- C. Required additional funding \$ _____
- D. Internal transfers \$ _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:
Proposed Platform

SOURCE: () 4/5ths Vote Required

- A. Unanticipated revenues \$ _____
 - B. Reserve for contingencies \$ _____
 - C. Source description: _____
- Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: \$ _____

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 334 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: _____ Noes: _____
 Absent: _____ Abstained: _____
 Approved Denied
 Minute Order Attached No Action Necessary

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

This item on agenda as:
 Recommended
 Not Recommended
 For Policy Determination
 Submitted with Comment
 Returned for Further Action

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
 ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
 County of Mariposa, State of California
 By: _____
 Deputy

Comment: _____
 C.A.O. Initials: [Signature]



COUNTY OF MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

DOUG BALMAIN, CHAIRMAN

ROBERT C. STEWART, VICE-CHAIRMAN

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MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: GREG ITURRIA, County Administrative Officer
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*
SUBJECT: 2002 Mariposa County Legislative/Regulatory Platform
Resolution No. 01-334

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on November 27, 2001

ACTION AND VOTE:

Review and Approve the 2002 Mariposa County Legislative/Regulatory Platform (County Administrative Officer)

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held. Supervisor Pickard advised of suggested wording changes. (M)Pickard, (S)Reilly, Res. 01-334 adopted approving the Platform with the suggested wording changes/Ayes: Unanimous.

cc: File

4/2/05

Issue: State Park Bond Funds

The legislature adopted AB 1602 (Keeley) to place a \$2.6 billion bond issue before the voters. This is a significant project to Mariposa County that should be recognized in the allocation of these funds. Currently, the bond measure would provide \$1.2 million to each County, including Mariposa, in recognition of at least a base amount to each County. This should, however, be a special recognition of the specific needs of jurisdictions like Mariposa that has an attraction of importance such as Yosemite National Park in it.

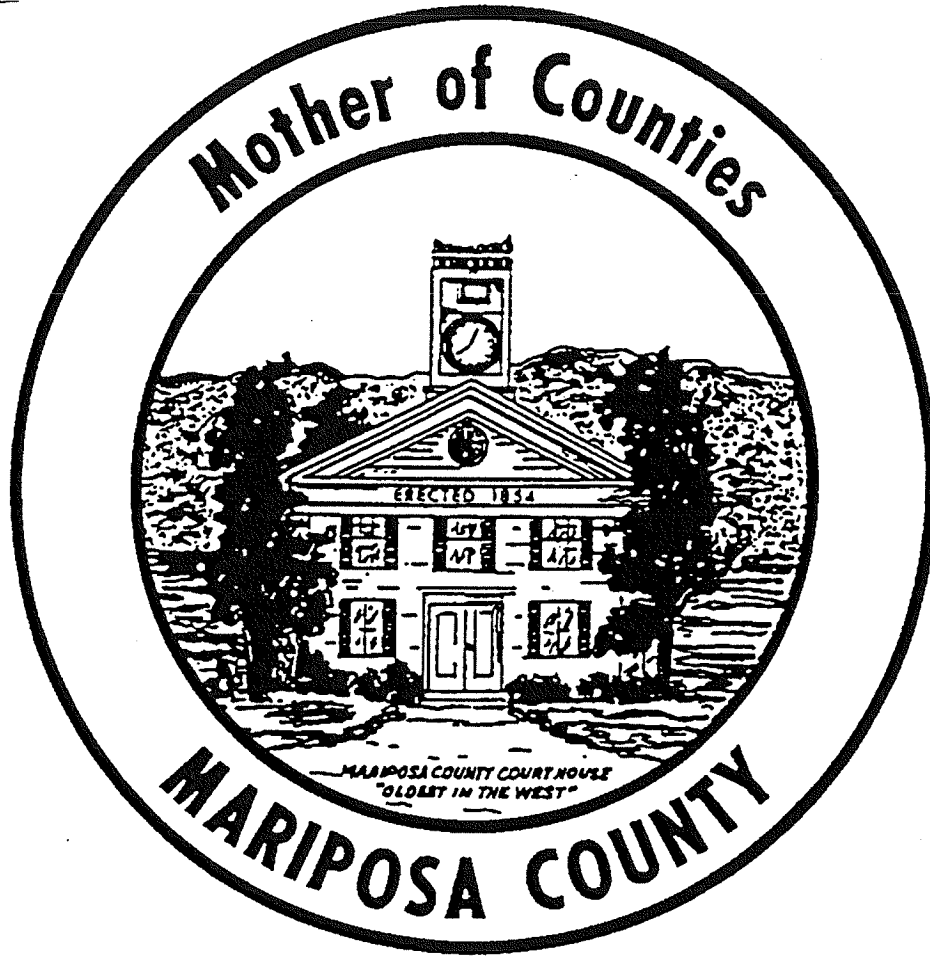
Action: In legislative implementation, ~~if the bond issue is successful~~, seek sufficient State funding for the following projects within Mariposa County:

- 1) A regional sports complex
- 2) Funding for phase 3 of the Mariposa Creek project
- 3) Funding for a rural performing arts center, ^{AND MEDIA ARTS}
- 4) Trails project.
- 5) Funding for County Parks and Recreation Programs.

Issue: County General Plan Update/U.C. Merced

The County is in the process of revising its General Plan and following a methodology that can be a model to be replicated by many counties, particularly rural counties in California; at least a quarter of its General Plan modifications will relate to the implementation of the new University of California campus near

MARIPOSA COUNTY



**2002 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY
PLATFORM
DEVELOPED BY:
WAGERMAN ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**MARIPOSA COUNTY 2002 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY
PLATFORM**

MARIPOSA COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Patti A. Reilly..... District 1
Doug Balmain..... District 2
Robert C. Stewart..... District 3
Garry R. Parker..... District 4
Bob Pickard..... District 5

Gregory G. Iturria, County Administrative Officer

Mariposa County
Post Office Box 784
5100 Bullion Street
Mariposa, California 95338
(209) 966-3222

Wagerman Associates, Inc.
1029 J Street, Suite 340
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 441-1850
wagloby@ix.netcom.com
<http://www.wagerman.com>

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A Brief Overview of the 2001 Legislative Session & Overview of the County's Platform

This session was the first half of the two-year 2001-2002 Legislative Session and was dominated by the severe energy crisis and the very significant downturn in the economy. These factors, and of course a keen interest in the "once a decade waltz" required the reapportionment of legislative districts, provided for a very difficult and challenging legislative session. Based on all of these elements, the overwhelming focus of the session was applied to the 2001-2002 budget and some means to resolve the energy crisis. As to the budget, it was the 11th of 16 budgets that were adopted after the required deadline, specifically on July 22, 2001. Because of the impact of both the economy and the energy crisis, significant cuts had to take place within the budget.

In order to acquire the needed Republican votes on the budget, there were negotiated items adopted to assist small counties, including Mariposa, specifically, a list of items to help rural agriculture counties and a targeted appropriation of \$500,000 to each Sheriff's Department in counties of under 255,000 in population.

Issues of great import to Mariposa County included legislation for continued local road funding, negotiations with the State Controller's Office to assure the full reimbursement of the Staynor trial as obtained last year within Budget Trailer Bill - AB 2866 (Migden) and AB 1400 (Cogdill). This bill will provide funding assistance for the composting project, which was moved from its original house to the Senate, where it can be heard and discussed during the second half of the entire Legislative Session. There were also significant efforts to protect and insulate the County from the budget cuts that took place, as well as efforts to achieve specific assistance for the limited funds that were adopted for what is categorized as "member's requests."

As to the challenges that lie ahead in the second half of the Legislative Session, the following is a general overview of Mariposa County's 2002 Legislative Platform. In recognition of the need for protection of the public's health and safety as a result of the very significant changed atmosphere following the September 11th attack, we will seek to achieve funding and program assistance for the County to achieve such protection.

- Oppose attempts by the legislature and/or executive branch to decrease, restrict or take away any County revenue sources or achieve sufficient mitigation to offset such actions. This would include any efforts to diminish County funding under the VLF back-fill and/or the Realignment Program.
- Maintain close relationships with Mariposa County's Legislative Delegation to foster greater advocacy for understanding Mariposa's issues.
- Build upon and increase the County's relationship with legislators representing the San Joaquin Valley and foster a clear understanding that the San Joaquin Valley region is made up of nine counties, including Mariposa.
- Oppose attempts by the legislature and/or executive branch that restricts or limits the County's land-use authority.

Specific Priorities

Issue: **Solid Waste**

The composting project of Mariposa County, working in conjunction with the National Park Service, is a very unique alliance, which has already been recognized in the form of federal funding assistance. There is a significant need for State assistance in order to complete the project and to establish a model that can be utilized throughout the State. AB 1400 (Cogdill) is seeking \$1.8 million to assist in that regard.

Action: Continue efforts for a successful passage of AB 1400 and efforts with various State agencies, including, but not limited to, the Solid Waste Management Board and others to achieve State funding and regulatory assistance.

Issue: **Unincorporated Counties' Gas Tax Mitigation**

The County was successful in achieving recognition of the underfunding to counties with no incorporated cities in the flow of gas tax funds and achieved an annual appropriation of approximately \$70,000. It is critical that this annual allocation be continued and that a recognition of the full inequity take place.

Action: Contined to assure on-going funding and to seek legislation to increase this funding level in the recognition of the status of other incorporated counties.

Issue: State Park Bond Funds

The legislature adopted AB 1602 (Keeley) to place a \$2.6 billion bond issue before the voters. This is a significant project to Mariposa County that should be recognized in the allocation of these funds. Currently, the bond measure would provide \$1.2 million to each County, including Mariposa, in recognition of at least a base amount to each County. This should, however, be a special recognition of the specific needs of jurisdictions like Mariposa that has an attraction of importance such as Yosemite National Park in it.

Action: In legislative implementation, if the bond issue is successful, seek sufficient State funding for the following projects within Mariposa County:

- 1) A regional sports complex
- 2) Funding for phase 3 of the Mariposa Creek project
- 3) Funding for a rural performing arts center
- 4) Trails project.
- 5) Funding for County Parks and Recreation Programs.

Issue: County General Plan Update/U.C. Merced

The County is in the process of revising its General Plan and following a methodology that can be a model to be replicated by many counties, particularly rural counties in California; at least a quarter of its General Plan modifications will relate to the implementation of the new University of California campus near

Mariposa County. The cost of this General Plan update will approach \$1 million additional dollars on top of the over \$1 million currently expended by the County.

Action: Seek Funding Assistance to Mariposa County for this General Plan activity both in recognition of the model plan that can be utilized by other Counties and of the very significant effect that the UC campus will have on this General Plan.

Issue: Energy Crisis/ Utility Company Divestiture

In the disposal of the assets of various utility companies, it is entirely possible that hydro-electric facilities within Mariposa County could be sold or transferred in terms of operations. This will have a significant effect on the County in terms of revenues and programmatic aspects for the County. It is critical for a close working relationship with MID on this project and that we protect the County's interest.

Action: Closely monitor all legislative and regulatory actions on divestiture to protect the County's interest as it relates to hydro-electric projects.

Issue: Staynor Homicide Trial Costs

Mariposa County was successful in modifying the language in funding for homicide trials to assure 100% State funding after a small economic threshold is reached, but in the context of the budget crisis facing the State, it is critical to

carefully monitor this funding-- particularly after a change of venue takes place for this trial.

Action: Carefully guard and protect the continued funding of 100% of the cost for this trial.

Issue: Rural Health Care Cost

HMO's (health maintenance organizations) have been leaving rural locations throughout California, thereby causing great difficulty for County governments and their employees, and certainly the citizens of each County, including the citizens of Mariposa County. It is critical that some solution be reached by the provision of rural healthcare within rural jurisdictions such as Mariposa.

Action: Seek a means to provide incentives for HMO's and other organizations to provide rural healthcare on a reasonable basis for Mariposa and other rural jurisdictions.

Issue: Telecommunications / Internet / Data Availability

These critical services are difficult to obtain and very expensive within rural areas. It is vital that the nine counties of the San Joaquin Valley region join together to assure provision of these services.

Action: Support action and/or funding assistance to assist in providing these vital telecommunications services in rural areas. A potential source could be a link with the evolving implementation of the U.C. Merced campus.

Issue: **Courthouse Facilities**

Mariposa County has the oldest functioning courthouse in California. There is a significant need for two new courtroom facilities in a modern and vitally-needed, secure setting.

Action: Support an action to provide funding and recognition of the severe need of Mariposa County for courthouse facilities of approximately \$1 million.

Issue: **Fish and Game – Planned Land Management Application Process**

There is a significant flaw in this process relating to informing affected property owners. The Fish and Game Commission has indicated a willingness to modify the statutes in recognition of this need to achieve significant and needed notification of affected individuals.

Action: Seek modification to statutes to change this action and achieve such notification.

Issue: Legislative Modification of Assessment Appeals

A pending bill AB 934 (Hertzberg) is a bill being carried by the current Assembly Speaker that will require a very significant increase of judicial appeals of assessments under a concept called "Trial De Novo." This legislation, which is currently pending in the Senate Local Government Committee, needs to be opposed very strongly to protect the County's interest, particularly in the current economic environment in which we find ourselves.

Action: Strongly oppose this measure, in conjunction with the other Valley Counties.