

January 9, 2007

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Marin County Civic Center  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Re: 2007 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve, with modifications as may be deemed appropriate by your Board, the proposed 2007 Federal Legislative Program as contained herein.
2. Approve, with modifications as may be deemed appropriate by your Board, the proposed 2007 State Legislative Program as contained herein.
3. Approve, with modifications as may be deemed appropriate by your Board, the proposed 2007 Legislative Policy Guidelines contained in Attachment A.

**DISCUSSION:** Incorporating comments, suggestions and clarifications received during your Board's meeting of December 19<sup>th</sup>, we bring to your Board the recommended legislative plan for 2007 with the following modifications:

- includes language supporting clean fuel technologies (p. 8);
- clarifies language regarding housing and land use issues (p. 13);
- clarifies language regarding sustainable agriculture on national parklands (p. 1);
- adds the Pacific Way Bridge at Redwood Creek project to the "priority federal fiscal requests" section of the Federal Platform (p. 3);
- moves the Marin City Town Center project to the "other federal projects of continued interest" section of the Federal Platform (p. 4);
- adds language in the Guidelines section (Attachment A) to enable staff to support efforts to augment funding for Marin's non-motorized transportation pilot program (p. 7).

Please keep in mind that any member of your Board will have the opportunity to amend the plan at a future date to reflect new or changed legislative priorities. Based upon our review, there are several broad consensus areas of priority among your Board members for 2007. These broad priority areas include, in no particular order:

- **Health care reform**, including the financing, administration and delivery of health care for all California residents;
- **Alternative and clean/renewable energy**, from solar and tidal energy to improved efficiency of county systems and exploration of new avenues made possible by passage of "The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006;"
- **Affordable housing**, including the exploration of avenues for counties to better work with their cities regarding regional housing needs, as well as state funding formulas regarding smaller, non-urban projects in high cost, coastal areas of the state;

- **State infrastructure bond funding**, advocating for the inclusion and/or eligibility of local projects for funding through Propositions 1A-1E approved by voters on the November 7, 2006 statewide ballot; and
- **Transportation**, especially regarding traffic congestion and alternatives to commuter reliance upon single-occupancy vehicles.

On the subject of transportation, it should be noted that the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is anticipated to play, particularly at the state level, a lead role with regard to legislative advocacy for countywide transportation issues. The TAM Board includes representatives from each city and town in Marin County, plus the five members of the Board of Supervisors, and is designated as the Marin Congestion Management Agency. It has contracted with a legislative advocacy firm and will be creating its own legislative platform and agenda for 2007. However, the County's federal and state legislative advocacy resources remain available as appropriate to assist in the implementation of your Board's most critical countywide transportation projects and issues.

### **Federal Platform**

As we have received feedback from our delegation and from our lobbyist that the list of federal fiscal requests from Marin has grown too large in recent years, a challenge in preparing the 2007 Federal Platform was to work with your Board members to agree to fewer high priority federal fiscal requests. These items are detailed in Section B of the attached Federal Platform, "Priority Federal Fiscal Requests."

Although other projects require further funding - identified in Section C as "Other Federal Projects of Continued Interest" - it is recommended that the County *not* actively seek federal funding for these items in 2007. Staff will continue to identify opportunities to seek new funding, i.e. through competitive grant programs, and will otherwise attempt to advance these projects. This strategy is an attempt to better ensure that the County's highest priority federal fiscal requests face improved opportunities for funding given intense competition for limited federal resources and Army Corps of Engineers staff capacity.

At the federal level, the principal focus in 2007 will again be focused on new or continued financial support for programs and projects of importance to Marin. These include, but are not limited to:

- Seeking additional funding for the **Corte Madera Creek** and **Santa Venetia Levee/Las Gallinas Creek Flood Control** projects to address flood control and levee repair issues;
- Seeking an ongoing funding source to sustain the successful **Muir Woods National Monument Shuttle**;
- Seeking additional funding for the **Marin-Sonoma Narrows** project to alleviate congestion on Highway 101 between Marin and Sonoma County;
- Seeking continued funding to support staff and material expenses for research into the above-average rates of **breast cancer** in Marin County;
- Securing additional funding for the **Hamilton Wetlands Restoration** project in Novato and for the **Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration** project.

### **State Platform**

Following a year in which major, primarily one-time revenue increases were allocated to education and other state programs, California policymakers will likely face a much tougher budget in 2007-08. According to an updated forecast by the State Legislative Analyst, the state's budget faces operating shortfalls in excess of \$5 billion in both 2007-08 and 2008-09, which will require significant actions to eliminate. As such, many state-funded county programs remain in jeopardy of further reduction and will require a defensive County position.

In an effort to balance local priorities with available resources and likelihood of effectiveness in Sacramento, the principal goal of the 2007 Legislative Program at the state level will again be to maintain existing revenue sources while focusing on several broad policy initiatives. There are a number of specific policy issues or initiatives that we anticipate will require significant effort in the coming year. These areas are noted below as a general representation of our anticipated work plan for 2007. However, it is important to note that our work plan will not be limited to these areas and is subject to change as the legislative environment and local priorities may evolve. These areas of concentrated effort are anticipated to include the following - in no particular order:

- Continuing efforts to clarify that Marin should not be required to fund **Licensed Children's Institutions**, a state obligation, with local property tax dollars;
- Supporting various state efforts to improve access to **health insurance for residents**, including the development of children's health insurance products;
- Supporting efforts to promote **clean/renewable energy** sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Advocating for the inclusion and/or eligibility of local projects for funding through recently approved **state infrastructure bonds (Propositions 1A-1E)**;
- Seeking additional funding for the **Marin-Sonoma Narrows** project to alleviate congestion on Highway 101 between Marin and Sonoma County;
- Participating in statewide efforts regarding **pension reform**, working with CSAC to incorporate local concerns in legislation or any ballot proposals;
- Monitoring any proposals for the establishment of **Indian gaming** in Marin County or the region, ensuring that Marin has a voice in any such proposals due to the significant adverse impacts associated with Indian gaming casinos;
- Exploring whether legislation would be productive to expedite the **expansion of Medi-Cal managed care** into Marin County through Partnership HealthPlan; and
- Monitoring and participating in efforts at the state level regarding **affordable housing**, including the establishment, as a local option, for counties to better collaborate with their cities regarding regional housing needs.

While both platforms may include some initiatives that are not achievable in the current fiscal environment, they are nevertheless consistent with a longer-term vision for Marin County. This legislative program will be helpful to our lobbyists by expressing your Board's legislative initiatives and concerns.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Hymel  
County Administrator