

STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

As of Tuesday, November 11, 2008, the State's Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) released information that the State's budget shortfall is real and is said to be \$28 billion over the current and upcoming budget years combined. In his press conference newly appointed Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor said "The state will need to make major ongoing reductions to current service levels and impose major increases in revenues in order to achieve fiscal balance." It is an observable truth that the need for County services is in inverse proportion to the health of the economy. As times get bad, the County's workload, from the Sheriff to the Library, increases.

Legislative Goals

As a result of this significant State budget deficit, Humboldt County's primary, overarching goal for 2009 is the protection and preservation of the County's ability to fund County programs. This includes:

- Support State appropriations for public infrastructure projects.
- Supporting legislation that advocates for maximum local control and flexibility in the allocation of resources and the administration of county programs.
- Supporting relief from State mandates and/or elimination of statutory barriers such as:
 - Broadening and extending the current Welfare & Institutions Code that gives authority to waive regulations and statutes regarding the County's ability to provide cooperative services in a more cost-efficient manner.
- Opposing attempts to delegate costs from the State to counties for mandated and/or non-mandated programs. For example:
 - The diversion of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to be used for other programs authorized as part of the 2008-09 Budget. The budget authorizes the diversion of these funds through borrowing.
- Opposing any attempt by the State to borrow funds from county specific funding sources such as property taxes or transportation bonds.
- Opposing reductions to the current level of State funding for county programs. For example:
 - Protecting public safety funding as well as Proposition 36 and other drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs.
 - Protecting Williamson Act subventions.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

SMART-GROWTH LAND USE POLICIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The carbon storage capacity of Humboldt County's forests will play an important part in meeting the County's AB 32 (2006) carbon dioxide emission reduction requirements. The County supports policies that provide economic incentives to forest land owners to maintain their land for forest production and manage the forests to maximize carbon storage. The County anticipates follow-up legislation to address implementation of SB 375 (2008), which will include policy changes in land use and climate change.

The County supports legislation related to land use planning and growth policies that assist in achieving vehicle emissions reduction targets; protect critical lands (such as natural resources, wildlife habitat, open space, and agricultural lands) when it comes to development; promote regional planning, cooperation between cities and counties, and which provide new fiscal incentives for the development of countywide plans addressing growth; and build incentive-based green building programs.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Humboldt County recently declared a State of Emergency due to the structural instability of the Martins Ferry Bridge. The bridge is on Bald Hills Road, which serves as the primary access to the Yurok Indian Reservation, as well as numerous rural residences and businesses. The Yurok Reservation was effectively cut in half, impacting school attendance, tribal services, and critical needs such as water and propane deliveries. Using other roads required a trip of 100 miles from one side of the bridge to another.

In the case of Martins Ferry Bridge, extending the time period for a state of emergency declaration from 14 to 30 days would have eased the administrative burden on local governments without causing any significant consequences at the state level. The County supports legislation that allows state of emergency declarations be in effect for more than 14 days.

ELECTIONS TRANSPARENCY MEASURE

Many citizens are distrustful of electronic election systems. One way to rebuild the trust of voters in elections would be to scan the images of each ballot onto electronic media, and then provide compact discs or internet access to the ballot images. This would allow interested groups to determine for themselves that the ballot count was

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accurate. However, current law requires the ballots to be sealed except for recounts and destruction. A statutory change would be needed to allow the ballots to remain unsealed.

The County supports legislation that would allow the Registrar of Voters to unseal ballots for the purpose of creating an electronic image of each ballot and making that image available for re-count purposes.

BIG LAGOON TRIBAL COMPACT

The Big Lagoon Tribe of Humboldt County proposed in 2005 to join the Los Coyotes Tribe for the purpose of building a casino in Barstow next to Interstate 15, the main route from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. The proposal would allow the Big Lagoon tribe to improve its finances through the operation of a casino, but preserve the pristine beauty of the environmentally-sensitive Big Lagoon area. The Los Coyotes Tribe and the City of Barstow approve of the proposal. Both tribes have agreed to give California a bigger share of casino revenues if a casino is built. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the compacts with the two tribes in September 2005. This compact must be ratified by the Legislature. Legislative efforts to authorize the Barstow casino failed in 2007-2008.

The County supports legislation to ratify the compact and allow the Big Lagoon Tribe to join the Los Coyotes Tribe to build a casino in Barstow.

STREAMLINED SALES TAX AGREEMENT

Internet sales have largely been tax-free to encourage the development of the internet commerce medium, and because of differing tax laws in each of several thousand different taxing jurisdictions. Sales taxes generate 33% of all state revenue and 12% of all revenue to local governments. However, this revenue is rapidly eroding as an increasing number of consumers make purchases on-line. Sales taxes are not collected on almost two-thirds of business-to-consumer transactions over the internet. States can only require retailers located within their borders to collect sales tax on their behalf. The U.S. Supreme Court, in the *Quill* decision, has ruled that it is a violation of the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution for a state to require a retailer that is not physically located within a state to comply with a state's tax laws.

Proposed federal legislation (HR 3396) would overturn the *Quill* decision and require out-of-state retailers to collect sales taxes – but only for states that become members in the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement. California is not yet a member of the Agreement.

The County supports the State of California's participation in the national Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement to receive sales taxes from internet sales.

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INTEGRATED HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

Currently, Placer County, Solano County, Humboldt County, Mendocino County, Alameda County, and any additional county, as determined by the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, with the assistance and participation of the appropriate state departments, within the existing resources of those departments, may implement a program, upon approval of the county board of supervisors for the funding and delivery of services and benefits through an integrated and comprehensive county health and human services system. This approach is authorized by statute.

The County strongly supports legislation that extends current statute to waive regulations under Section 118986.86(k) of the Welfare & Institutions Code.

PUBLIC WORKS

REDUCTION IN VOTE THRESHHOLD REQUIRED TO PASS LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SALES AND GASOLINE TAX INITIATIVES

Over the last several years, a number of jurisdictions have seen special tax initiatives receive a “yes” vote from the majority of the electorate, but fall short of the two-thirds vote requirement. Because roads are used by virtually every citizen on a daily basis, and a majority has shown that they are willing to tax themselves to support transportation projects, the current two-thirds vote requirement is unfair in a political system based on the concept of majority rule.

The County supports a constitutional amendment that would reduce the vote threshold required to pass local transportation initiatives from a two-thirds majority to majority rule.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

FUNDING FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Public infrastructure in Humboldt County is in need of \$200 million in upgrades to bring existing systems up to public works and regulatory standards, and needs to be expanded to meet current and anticipated population needs. There are numerous sewer, water, and drainage systems in the County that currently pose serious health risks to the public, hamper development, and degrade the community due to their inadequacy such as the Arcata Water Storage Reservoir, and Orick Waste Water System. Infrastructure is critical to maintaining the local economy. These projects require state and federal financial assistance due to their high costs.

The County strongly supports legislation that maintains or increases state funding for public infrastructure (sewer, water, drainage) projects.

FUNDING FOR REDUNDANT BROADBAND LINK

Humboldt County has one fiber optic cable line that runs along U.S. Highway 101 from Ukiah to Eureka. Humboldt County has had four fiber optic outages over the last several years. As a result of these outages, internet service was cut off, many businesses were unable to process debit cards and retail gift cards, ATM machines were down, and some cellular phone service was interrupted. These outages affected Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties.

AT&T, Suddenlink and Charter Communications are interested in developing backhaul broadband capacity to the north, through Orick up to Crescent City. The estimated cost is between \$4 and \$5 million dollars. Up to forty percent of these costs may be covered by the California Advanced Services Fund.

The County strongly supports legislation to support funding for a fiber optic link from the north to provide broadband redundancy and funding or business incentives to assist companies in bringing broadband service to unserved and underserved areas of the country. In addition, the County supports legislation to support funding for a fiber optic link over Highway 299 Redding.

FUNDING TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Humboldt County is obligated to provide 378 low income and 581 very low income newly constructed affordable housing units. Due to high land and building costs in California, the private sector alone cannot meet these goals.

The County strongly supports legislation that provides incentives, such as tax credits or grants to public jurisdictions, to encourage the development of affordable housing.

GRANT FUNDING FOR HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PLAN PILOT PROJECT

Humboldt County has been working with the Housing and Community Development Department and the California State Association of Counties on a pilot project to demonstrate an alternative approach to the preparation of General Plan Housing Elements. The first phase of the project preparing a community wide Infrastructure and Services Technical Report, is complete. Funds are necessary for implementation, including environmental review and zoning changes.

The pilot project would create a 20-year land supply for housing and zone for 10-year housing production, with a five-year action plan and a five-year supply of “by right” housing.

The County strongly supports legislation that would provide grant funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for a Housing Opportunity Plan pilot project; and provides incentives to jurisdictions that adopt the Housing Opportunity Plan approach.

BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION AND LIABILITY

Rural areas of Humboldt County include large unused vacant industrial sites, particularly former mill sites. Clean-up of these apparent toxic brownfield sites is the single largest hindrance to redevelopment of these areas. These sites can cost tens of thousands into the millions depending upon the amount of toxins found. The County has received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the past to assess the number of brownfield sites in redevelopment areas. The County’s goal is to expand this work to other unincorporated areas of the County.

The County strongly supports legislation and developing bond grant guidelines that includes brownfield remediation funding.

EDUCATION

RESTORATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND (PLF)

The State Library PLF has in the past has provided a dependable source of funding to statewide public libraries. However, today this fund has become an easy expenditure for legislators to cut from the budget without angering voters. The PLF has been cut by 75% since 2000. For Humboldt County, this meant a reduction from \$211,000 in 2000 to \$50,691 in FY 2007-08. This severe reduction in PLF has reduced the County’s ability to purchase new library materials for our public users. When the Governor signed the budget at the end of September 2008, he further cut funding for

PLF by 10 percent. Due to the 10 percent reduction, funding support from PLF for FY 2008-09 is estimated at only \$45,622.

The County supports legislation which would restore and increase funding for the PLF.

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

California voters passed the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000 in the November 2000 election. This measure provided \$350 million for construction and renovation of public library facilities. Humboldt County did not receive any funding from the 2000 Bond Act. The State was forced to deny 75% of the grant requests received under the 2000 Bond Act due to inadequate funding.

The County supports legislation placing a state bond act for library construction projects on the November 2010 ballot. Further, the County supports legislation that lowers the minimum voter threshold to approve library bond measures from a two-thirds majority to 55%.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

In 1992, the State enacted the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), which shifted property tax revenues from local governments to the State. Although counties assess property values, act as a hearing board for property tax appeals, and collect property tax payments, the State receives more than 65% of every property tax dollar collected in Humboldt County. The State recognized that it was in its own best interests to ensure that properties were being assessed to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, in 1994, the State established the Property Tax Administration Program (PTAP). PTAP provided funds to each county to support the work of the Assessor's Office and the rest of the property tax administration system. Humboldt County received \$210,806 in PTAP funding in FY 2004-05, the last year the program was funded.

The County supports legislation that re-establishes and restores funding for collecting the school's share of property tax administration.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PROTECTION OF DEDICATED HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING

Rural counties such as Humboldt rely heavily on dedicated funding to provide critically-needed Health and Human Services programs to the County's most vulnerable residents. Counties are legislatively mandated to administer numerous human services programs, while funding has been frozen at 2001 levels. As inflationary increases occur, this puts counties in the untenable position of backfilling the gap with their own limited resources or cutting the services that the state expects counties to deliver. Therefore, further erosion of dedicated funding puts counties in financially unstable and precarious situations. Some of these dedicated funding programs include:

- Proposition 36 Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act (SACPA) Services and Treatment Diversion
- Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
- Proposition 10 California Children and Families Act (First 5)
- Mentally Ill Homeless AB 2034

The County strongly supports legislation and budget language which strengthens the preservation and protections for these funding sources. Furthermore, the County adamantly opposes any legislative or administrative proposal to reduce or borrow from these funds in order to achieve a balanced state budget.

NATURAL RESOURCES

FUNDING FOR HIGH-RISK PEST EXCLUSION PROGRAMS

Humboldt County conducts high-risk pest exclusion inspections at distribution points for packages containing plant material. These inspections are extremely important for ensuring that the County and the State are kept free from the introduction of foreign pests on commercial plant shipments, which could seriously impact our environment and agricultural industries. The California Department of Food and Agriculture only reimburses for costs associated with inspections conducted at points of entry that receive Hawaiian origin plant material. The cost of providing these inspections in FY 2007-08 was approximately \$28,856. The County only received \$5,550 or 20% of the actual costs.

The County supports legislation that would restore full funding for state-mandated High-Risk Pest Exclusion Programs.

FUNDING FOR WEED MANAGEMENT GROUPS

Weed Management Groups (WMG) are local organizations that bring together managers (private, city, county, State and Federal) and landowners in a county or geographical area to coordinate efforts and expertise against common invasive and noxious weed species. Currently \$1.5 million is allocated in California Department of Food and Agriculture's budget for funding local WMG projects. Without a secure and stable source of funding, local Weed Management Groups will likely cease to function in an effective manner.

The County supports legislation or budgetary proposals that would continue State general fund support of local Weed Management Groups.

FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM

The Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently share costs to maintain the Humboldt County's Wildlife Services Program. In prior years, this program was funded one-third by the USDA, one-third by the California Department of Food & Agriculture, and one-third by the County. However, State funding was eliminated some years ago. The program responds to public needs in handling conflicts with wildlife, to reduce losses to livestock producers by predatory animals, and to protect urban areas and respond to nuisance complaints. Due to the proximity of urban areas to wildlife areas in Humboldt County, it is inevitable that conflicts arise between humans and wild animals. In these cases, it is crucial to have trained Wildlife Service professionals available to respond to complaints and/or concerns.

Humboldt County's portion of the cost is \$63,253, or 61% of the total cost of approximately \$103,693 annually.

The County supports legislation or budget language that would provide an adequate state contribution to the cost of the Wildlife Services Program.

WILLIAMSON ACT FUNDING AND ENFORCEMENT

The Williamson Act (California Land Conservation Act) is a state/county partnership to preserve and prevent the loss of farmland. When land is enrolled in a Williamson Act agreement, the landowner is taxed at a rate based on the actual use of the land for agricultural purposes, as opposed to its Proposition 13 or unrestricted market value. The program is estimated to save agricultural landowners from 20 to 99% in property tax liability each year. In return, the landowner commits to restricting the use of his/her land to agricultural and open space for at least ten years. The written agreements are

automatically renewed each year. Williamson Act subvention funding was cut by 10 percent in the FY 2008-09 State budget.

The County strongly supports the continuation of Williamson Act and the state subventions counties receive for its implementation. Furthermore, the County adamantly opposes any legislative or budget language which proposes to weaken, lessen or eliminate the Act and/or the subventions.

REDUCING DISEASE IN KLAMATH RIVER SALMON

Severe infection by the myxozoan parasite *Ceratomyxa shasta* has been a primary contributor to the declining numbers of juvenile Klamath River salmon and subsequent negative impacts on later adult returns. Research conducted by Oregon State University and the US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified a stretch of the river in which high parasite densities and large numbers of infected invertebrate hosts for the parasite result in severe disease and high mortality, thus providing a target for management actions.

The County supports legislation to fund the management of the disease in Klamath River salmon.

PUBLIC SAFETY

PROTECTION OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

The County receives approximately two million dollars annually from a variety of State funds. These funds protect and serve 132,000 residents sparsed over 2.3 million acres or 3,572 square miles; and provide local law enforcement, juvenile justice crime prevention, substance abuse treatment, reduce the use and sale of methamphetamine, support the operations of our juvenile hall and regional juvenile facility, and provide training to Correctional Officers and Juvenile Correctional Officers.

Some of the most important programs to Humboldt County are listed below:

- ☑ Rural County Law Enforcement Grant – provides \$500,000 annually to assist front-line law enforcement in 16 small rural counties, including Humboldt.
- ☑ Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)– For FY 2008-09, this program provides Humboldt County with \$358,438. In FY 2007-08 JJCPA funding served 364 youth.
- ☑ Juvenile Probation and Camps Funding – The Humboldt County Probation Department currently receives approximately \$260,000 annually.

- ☑ Cal-MMET “War on Methamphetamine” Funding –Humboldt County received approximately \$609,447 in FY 2007-08, but program funding has been cut by 34% in FY 2008-09.
- ☑ Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act – Authorized by Proposition 36 in 2000, this program provides approximately \$170,000 for drug treatment and monitoring.
- ☑ Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) –Humboldt County expects to receive approximately \$127,000 in STC training reimbursement funds in FY 2008-09.

The County strongly supports protecting and preserving these vital public safety funding sources.

CONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR PROPOSITION 36 (SACPA)

Voters approved Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, which refers drug offenders to treatment rather than incarceration with the hope of stopping the cycle of continuous drug use and re-arrest. The Act required that the State continuously appropriate \$120 million in funding to implement the Act beginning in FY 2001-02 through FY 2005-06. As part of the FY 2006-07 and FY 2007-08 State Budgets, the Legislature appropriated “one time” continuation funding to support mandated SACPA activities. In FY 2008-09 State Budget, SACPA funding was cut by 10%.

The only State funding that has been made available for adult probation services in California is the portion of SACPA funding that local coordinating committees allocate to probation departments to supervise the probationers receiving treatment under the act.

The County strongly supports protecting and preserving Proposition 36 or some equal funding source for substance abuse and crime prevention.

FUNDING FOR BEACH PATROL

Humboldt County borders the Pacific Ocean and therefore has 110 miles of coastline. Since FY 2000-01, the Sheriff’s Office has received funding through the State’s Off-Highway Vehicle Commission grants to fund a Deputy Sheriff to perform beach patrol duties. This Deputy Sheriff’s primary responsibility is to patrol local coastal beaches to ensure that members of the public who utilize the beaches for recreational purposes are doing so in a safe and proper manner.

The County strongly supports continuing Beach Patrol funding due to the County’s extensive coastline geography and recreational sports activities associated with the beach and ocean.

ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT FUNDING

The Humboldt County Abandoned Vehicle Authority, consisting of the County and the cities of Arcata, Eureka, Fortuna, Blue Lake, and Rio Dell, spends over \$225,000 annually to dispose of an approximately 3,400 abandoned vehicles. The current level of revenue, approximately \$129,000 from vehicle registration, is insufficient to handle the volume of abandoned vehicles and illegal dumping. Abandoned vehicles have become a safety hazard as well as an eyesore – an abandoned trailer resulted in the death of two teens in December 2004.

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 1225 in 2006 and Assembly Bill 878 in 2007 to authorize local jurisdictions to increase the fee from \$1 to \$2 per vehicle registration. However, the Governor vetoed both bills, stating his belief that fees like these should be approved by the voters. Counties do not currently have the authority to place an item like this on the ballot.

The County strongly supports increased Abandoned Vehicle Abatement funding.

ADULT PROBATION SERVICES FUNDING

California is one of only two states where primary funding for adult probation services comes exclusively from county funds and offender fees. The only State funding that has been made available for adult probation services in California is the portion of Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act funding that local coordinating committees allocate to probation departments to supervise the probationers receiving treatment under the act.

The State FY 2008-09 budget includes no designated funding for adult probation services. It is imperative that the State commit to an investment in funding for adult probation, which would in turn cut crime and prison costs. The County currently spends over 2.4 million on 1,284 adult probationers.

The County strongly supports inclusion of Adult Probation funding in the 2009-10 state budget.

LOCAL DETENTION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

Local detention facilities – adult jails and juvenile halls and camps – are the crucial front-end of California's correctional system. They are a vital part of every community's effort to protect itself. Without them, law enforcement, probation and parole lose a deterrent to illegal behavior. In California's local adult system, jail facilities are bursting at the seams. Dangerous crowding is a daily fact of life in many of the state's 460 jails. California does not have enough local detention capacity or adequate program space to meet its current and future public safety demands.

There are a number of small counties that need to replace old, outmoded facilities and others that will continue to face chronic crowding problems in their juvenile and adult facilities. Humboldt County is one such county.

The County strongly supports Local Detention Construction funding.

MEDI-CAL DRUG TREATMENT SERVICES FOR YOUTH

In California and within Humboldt County, very few resources exist for youth drug treatment, specifically residential or inpatient care. Even the state's Drug Medi-Cal program neglects many of the drug treatment needs of youths. In addition, youths suffering from substance abuse disorders are restricted from access to SACPA-Proposition 36 funds. The increasing trend of both youth substance abuse disorders and juvenile drug arrests is compounded by the lack of drug treatment in the juvenile institutional setting. There is clearly a huge youth treatment gap that needs to be addressed.

The County strongly supports legislation that would support Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Services for Youth.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR MINORS TRANSITIONING TO ADULT LIVING

When a minor has been placed out of the home and turns 18, there are few, if any, local resources to help him/her transition to independent adult living. A cost-effective solution would be the local development of programs with a multiple assistance center or co-housing center for young adults that provides a somewhat structured setting or assistance in living for 18-25-year-olds who are former Welfare and Institution Code dependent (300) or delinquent youth (600).

The County strongly supports additional funding for Minors Transitioning to Adult Living.

OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR OFFENDERS TRANSFERRED FROM STATE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM

The County strongly supports legislation that provides state funding for housing any adult or juvenile offenders at the local level who would normally have been housed in the State Department of Corrections System should those offenders be transferred.

PUBLIC WORKS

BUCKHORN GRADE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Buckhorn Grade Improvement Project is of critical importance to the economic stability and development of Humboldt County and adjoining counties. Humboldt is one of only two counties in California that is entirely inaccessible to the size of truck that carries most goods in the state. The Buckhorn Grade on State Route 299 between Eureka (U.S. Highway 101) and Redding (Interstate 5) is a 7.2-mile stretch of highway consisting of narrow roads, hairpin curves and steep inclines, making it inaccessible to the majority of long-haul trucks. Although \$8 million in federal funds have been appropriated for the revised project description (for a less-costly on-alignment alternative) and environmental impact report, up to \$150 million is estimated to be needed for construction of the complete project.

The County supports legislation and/or the development of grant criteria that provides funding for further development of the Buckhorn Grade Improvement Project on State Route 299.

STORM WATER WASTE DISCHARGE IN AREAS OF SPECIAL BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The California State Water Resources Control Board revised the Ocean Plan, which included various prohibitions against stormwater waste discharge in Areas of Special Biological Significance. The State has not provided any funding to implement this mandate. State-designated ASBS's in Humboldt County include the Shelter Cover area in southern Humboldt County. The topography of these areas make it economically infeasible and environmentally destructive to relocate drainage from these areas of the County.

Humboldt County is currently seeking an exemption from the stormwater discharge requirement. However, the application costs for the exemption alone are estimated to cost the county approximately \$100,000. Carrying out the provisions of the mandate would cost far more.

The County strongly supports legislation or regulations which will result in the postponement of these regulations until such time as funding to carry out this mandate is provided by the State. Further, the County supports legislation or budget language which provides funding for implementation of these requirements, as well as legislation that requires future regulations to be based on best management practices as established by scientific panels.

FUNDING AND REGULATORY RELIEF FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF REDWOOD CREEK LEVEE SYSTEM

The Humboldt County Public Works Department maintains the flood control system at Redwood Creek. Due to limited funding and extensive permit requirements, maintenance usually consists of gravel and minor vegetation removal on an annual basis. However, due to design flaws, more intensive vegetation and gravel removal is needed to restore levee capacity and provide an acceptable level of flood protection to the community of Orick. The work needed to reclaim the design capacity of this flood control system would require a variety of permits and/or regulatory relief from state and federal agencies. Rural flood control systems would benefit from streamlined permitting when local agencies need to maintain or repair levees.

With the recent signing of several flood control bills by the governor, new building behind levees that do not protect against a 200 year flood may be severely restricted or lead to increased local government liability.

The County is seeking legislation to allow Proposition 84 (Flood Control, Natural Resources, and Parks Bond Act) or other State funding to be used for rehabilitation, repairs, and/or maintenance to the Redwood Creek levee system near Orick; and legislation that would allow for streamlined permitting from State agencies for levee system rehabilitation, repairs, and maintenance.

TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Existing law generally provides for allocation of transportation funds pursuant to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process. Existing law provides for 75% of funds available for transportation capital improvement projects to be made available for regional projects, and 25% for interregional projects. Existing law describes the types of projects that may be funded with the regional share of funds, and includes local road projects as a category of eligible projects.

The County strongly supports legislation or grant criteria that specifically states that local road rehabilitation projects are eligible for STIP funds is necessary to protect the ability of local agencies to prioritize the regional project share to the needs of the local agency.

DIESEL EMISSION MANDATES

The County is committed to improving the environment and is in support of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) efforts to reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. The CARB has mandated diesel emission rules requiring counties to either decommission, retrofit or replace diesel equipment. These rules are categorized as the Public Fleet On Road Rule, the Off Road Equipment Rule, the

Portable Equipment Rule and the Stationary Equipment Rule. The cost to Humboldt County in 2010 will exceed \$500,000 which is approximately 40% of the road division material budget. These requirements are unfunded; funding is only available through county operating budgets. Normal funding is uncertain due to State budget issues. This places a severe financial burden on departments such as Public Works and it's ability to maintain county roads.

The County strongly supports legislation or budget action which would provide funding for the decommission, retrofit, or replacement of diesel operated county equipment.