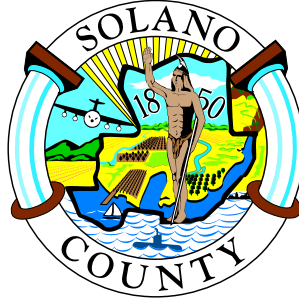


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### SOLANO COUNTY 2011 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

#### PRIORITY ISSUES

**Adopt a federal spending plan that provides sustainable, reliable funding for key County priorities, including programs that support state and local job creation. Solano County supports investment in the following areas:**

- a. **PUBLIC SAFETY – Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Funding.** Support efforts to maintain existing COPS funding, which supports community partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.
  - Support Solano County's efforts to secure \$1.8 million for Public Safety Radio Infrastructure Improvements under the COPS Technology Program. Funding for this project would provide upgrades to the County's radio tower infrastructure and would help local officials better prepare for and respond to a homeland security or natural disaster.
  - Support the Solano County Sheriff's Office in securing COPS Methamphetamine grant funding in order to expand its multi-jurisdictional Narcotics Enforcement Team. The role of the team is to identify, investigate, arrest and dismantle criminal enterprise and assist in the prosecution of individuals who are involved in methamphetamine and/or gang-related crimes.
- b. **HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION – Highway Bridge Program Funding.** Support efforts to preserve the Highway Bridge Program, which provides funding to improve the condition of bridges through replacement, rehabilitation, and systematic preventive maintenance. In addition, support the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, with increased funding for transportation infrastructure.
  - Support the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) in seeking \$2 million in federal funding for Fairfield/Vacaville Train Station Improvements.
  - Support STA is seeking \$2 million in federal funding for Dixon Train Station: West B Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Undercrossing Project.

**Community Development Block Grant Funding.** Support efforts to retain CDBG program funding, which supports the County’s housing rehabilitation program for low income residents to improve the health and safety of their homes and permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

**Federal Aviation Administration.** Support efforts to reauthorize the federal airport and aviation programs, including providing for a well-funded Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and guaranteed funding from the aviation trust fund. Seek funding through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and/or Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) to carry out Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans at Nut Tree Airport, Rio Vista Airport and Travis Air Force Base.

- Assist Solano County in efforts to secure federal funding for the reimbursement/acquisition of two parcels of land at the Nut Tree Airport totaling 108 acres that protect the north end and the northwest side of the airport property from encroachment. The primary purpose of acquiring the land is to ensure land use compatibility between the airport’s most critical arrival corridor and non-aviation uses encroaching on all sides.

c. **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

**Reauthorization.** Support the reauthorization of TANF in 2011. Such a reauthorization should maintain the overall work focus of the program. Support a permanent authorization and appropriation of funding for subsidized employment. Restore and enhance state and county flexibility to tailor work and family stabilization activities to families’ individual needs.

- Support Solano County in efforts to secure funding to enhance efforts to blend family resource center and school readiness services to actively engage children ages 0-5 and their families in evidence-based early literacy activities. The program would provide for collaboration between preschool and kindergarten teachers and incorporate parent involvement, education, and support.
- Assist Solano County in securing funding for a pilot program integrating Baby Coach into the volunteer base of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for pregnant teenage mothers. Cross-training of CASA advocates would support young teenage women with pre-natal, pregnancy, and post-partum issues by building relationships with other experienced women from their same cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

**BACKGROUND:** For the past several years, the economic story for Solano County has been a convergence of high unemployment, waning property values, and sluggish retail sales activity. This collision has meant an increased demand for services at a time when revenues have continued to decline. In June of 2010, the Solano Board of Supervisors adopted a balanced budget and took proactive steps to address a \$20 million General Fund structural deficit. Since that time, the Board has approved additional cost cutting measures to further align revenues with expenses, including the approval of an additional \$4 million in current year budget reductions. The County’s structural deficit projections assume ongoing Federal funding at currently approved levels, which is just over \$114 million. Consequently, any corrective actions required to address Federal impacts will further undermine the County’s fiscal health.

**Support efforts to remove regulatory barriers and mandates that hinder the County's ability to effectively deliver services to its residents.**

- a. **Medicaid and Foster Care Funding and Program Flexibility.** Direct federal investments in health and human service programs, including Medicaid and foster care funding, and allow for maximum flexibility in funding decisions. Decrease regulatory mandates that hinder the ability of the County's Health and Social Services Department from providing optimal service delivery to its residents.
- b. **Child Support Protection Act.** Support federal legislation to permanently restore the authority of states and counties to use as additional federal match their earned performance incentive funds to invest further in child support efforts.

**BACKGROUND:** The County provides health and human services support to low-income and at-risk populations and is a partner with the federal and state government in administering the Medicaid, foster care and child support entitlements mentioned above. Given the federal budget deficit, the County recognizes that additional new investments in these programs are unlikely, even though there is an increased demand for services. Increased flexibility in financing and/or administering federal health and human services entitlements will give the County additional tools to address the needs of its residents.

**Delta & Water Resources – Representation & Funding**

- a. **Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area.** Support legislation to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area. Introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Representative John Garamendi (D-CA), the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Heritage Area Act (S 29/HR 486) would authorize up to \$1 million annually over a ten-year period to protect, commemorate, and promote the natural, cultural, historic and recreational significance of the Delta.
- b. **Army Corps of Engineers Vegetation Guidelines.** Support efforts to amend the Army Corps of Engineers vegetation guidelines, which require the removal of all trees and vegetation on Delta levees. Support efforts to include language in any Water Resources Development Act reauthorization to develop levee maintenance protocols that account for regional differences, project authorities, and stakeholder involvement. Support efforts to delay crafting final Corps vegetation policy until an adequate scientific analysis is completed and accepted.
- c. **WRDA Reauthorization.** Seek authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for (1) the Delta Levee Modification/Habitat Development Project for flood control improvements and habitat protection measures within the north Delta-Cache Slough/Yolo Bypass complex; and, (2) for maintenance dredging of the channels through the San Francisco Bay, along the Carquinez Strait and into the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta. Continued maintenance is essential for safe transport of crude oil and other bulk materials through these waterways.

- d. **Disaster Prevention & Training: flood and levee funding.** Support the creation of a new emergency funding category involving flooding and levee disasters to finance prevention and training efforts in the event of a levee breach and/or flooding in these areas.
- e. **Disaster Response.** Support the financing of additional joint incident response training exercises between regional first responders (fire, law enforcement, HAZMAT, DOD, etc.) and State/Federal disaster response agencies.

**BACKGROUND:** The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a critical part of Solano County's economic lifeblood and heritage. Moreover, the Delta is of state and national significance, and therefore must be protected and managed effectively for the future well being of the people and the environment. To address the significant and complex challenges currently facing the Delta and its communities, Solano County believes that a truly comprehensive plan must be developed that provides not just a secure, sustainable water supply, but includes support for flood control and the maintenance of levees in the Delta, provides for the restoration of the Delta's ecosystem, and sustains the communities and economies of the Delta – most notably agriculture and recreation.

#### **SPONSORED LEGISLATION**

**Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act.** Support federal legislation to direct a land exchange between the National Forest Service and Solano County to help ensure the continued operation of the Fouts Springs Youth Facility while adding nearly 80 acres of wilderness quality land to the Mendocino National Forest.

**Background:** Solano County's Probation Department has operated Fouts Springs Youth Facility under a Joint Powers Authority with Colusa County since 1959. The facility is located on 82 acres of land in the Mendocino National Forest and is an alternative to traditional youth detention facilities. The facility houses troubled youth from counties throughout California through a structured program involving education, counseling, work and exercise. Solano County leases the land on which it operates the facility from the National Forest Service under a special use permit. Since 1987, the County and the National Forest Service have been in discussions about the exchange of the Fouts Springs property and Deafy Glade, 160 acres of County-owned land in the Mendocino Forest. Such an exchange will ensure that Solano County can continue to operate a first class youth detention and rehabilitation facility and serve as a model program to deter juvenile delinquency.