



COUNTY OF PLACER
Community Development Resource Agency

John Marin, Agency Director

PLANNING

Michael J. Johnson
Planning Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael J. Johnson, Director
Planning Department, Community Development Resource Agency

DATE: February 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Approve a Resolution In Support of Increased Federal Funding to Support Placer County Conservation Planning (PCCP) Efforts

ACTION REQUESTED: The Planning Department respectfully requests that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Approve a Resolution requesting the United States Congress to increase Federal Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Endangered Species fund.
2. Direct County staff to work with the County's federal advocate to consider opportunities for legislative advocacy and coordination with our Northern California County partners.

The Resolution recognizes Placer County's efforts to develop a Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP), and emphasizes the need for increased federal funding and that northern California counties work extensively with threatened and endangered species and the development and implementation of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and Recovery Plans.

BACKGROUND: With over 80 percent of threatened and endangered species habitat found on non-federal lands, the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) has been one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's most successful grant programs. Authorized under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the CESCF represents a vital tool for ensuring cooperative partnerships exist between the federal government, states and non-federal partners for the protection and conservation of threatened and endangered species.

The CESCF program provides grant funding to states through three sub-accounts – HCP Planning Assistance Grants, HCP Land Acquisition Grants, and Recovery Land Acquisition Grants. The land acquisition programs focus on those lands that have greatest potential to benefit species at risk. Placer County has been the beneficiary of CESCF Planning Assistance Grants that have helped with the preparation of the PCCP. Placer County will seek HCP Land Acquisition Grants if the PCCP moves forward into implementation.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the President's budget included \$80.01 million for the CESCO Program. Since Fiscal Year 2001, when the program reached its highest level of \$104.7 million, funding for the program has decreased. In sharp contrast, there is tremendous demand both in California and across the country for threatened and endangered species grant funding. With the increased utilization of HCPs and enhanced activity in recent years to update and finalize Recovery Plans, the CESCO program is currently receiving requests at two to three times the amount available.

DISCUSSION: In recognition of the tremendous need for a continued federal investment in cooperative partnerships providing funds for threatened and endangered species work by non-federal partners, the Resolution encourages the United States Congress to consider placing special emphasis on the CESCO program in Fiscal Year 2009 by including \$50 million in additional funds over the FY2008 level, for a total of \$125 million in the Fiscal Year 2009 Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The increase reflects the FY 01 funding level approximately increased by the change in the Consumer Price Index from December 2000 to October 2007. By increasing the amount of money available nationally, Placer County would benefit locally.

The Planning Department and County Executive's Office has been coordinating this effort with Holland & Knight, the County's federal advocate. This effort is also consistent with the BOS approved 2008 Legislative Platform related to funding efforts for the PCCP. The counties of Solano, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Yolo and Sacramento are considering similar Resolutions.

FISCAL IMPACT: Approval of the Resolution will have no fiscal impact on the County. Should the Federal Government allow additional monies, the County could benefit from receiving a portion of these monies.

Respectfully Submitted,

MICHAEL J. JOHNSON, AICP
Director of Planning

ATTACHMENT:

Board of Supervisor Resolution Supporting Increased Federal Funding to Support Placer County Conservation Planning (PCCP) Efforts

cc: Rich Gold, Holland & Knight

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Resol. No.: _____

A RESOLUTION In Support of
Increased Federal Funding to Support
Placer County Conservation Planning
(PCCP) Efforts.

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of
Placer at a regular meeting held _____, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Ann Holman

Jim Holmes

WHEREAS, jurisdictions in Placer, Contra Costa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Solano and Yolo Counties have embarked on habitat conservation planning (HCP) or Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) to conserve species and their habitats and aid our economies through efficient permitting; and,

WHEREAS, these planning efforts will provide regulatory relief by streamlining the permitting process, identifying the costs earlier in the process, and providing time for complying with state and federal environmental regulations; and,

WHEREAS, these planning efforts will offer opportunities for landowners to voluntarily participate in the selling of conservation easements, transfer of development rights or sale of land; and,

WHEREAS, these planning efforts will set a national example of how to integrate conservation of biological resources and the protection of an important agricultural industry with rapid growth within the Placer County region; and,

WHEREAS, these planning efforts will aid in the recovery of endangered and threatened wildlife species and enhance their habitats; and,

WHEREAS, regional, landscape level conservation planning efforts will protect a broad diversity of species and habitats; and,

WHEREAS, Placer County has invested \$3.6 million in the Placer County Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, multi-county applications have multiple benefits including better likelihood of success, improved coordination and better integration of planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, federal appropriations for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make grants for Habitat Conservation Plan land acquisition and planning activities have declined since 2001 and do not meet the nation-wide need,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PLACER, that the Board does hereby support working together with agencies from Contra Costa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Solano and Yolo Counties to request the United States Congress to increase Federal Fiscal Year 2009 funding of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Endangered Species Fund by \$50 million over last year, for a total funding request of \$125 million, in the FFY 2009 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.