



COUNTY OF PLACER

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THOMAS M. MILLER, County Executive Officer

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TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By: Mary Herdegen, Senior Management Analyst *MH*
DATE: February 5, 2008
SUBJECT: Approve a Resolution Requesting State Legislation to Authorize a Proposed Alcohol Ban on the Truckee River

Action Requested:

Approve a Resolution requesting that the California State Legislature introduce and support urgency legislation that would authorize the Placer County Board of Supervisors to ban alcohol, during specified periods, on the Truckee River.

Background:

State law currently allows alcohol use on navigable waterways throughout the state, unless expressly prohibited by statute. Alcohol bans on nearby rivers, including the American River in Sacramento County, have doubled pressure on the Truckee River during peak holiday periods - especially the July 4th holiday period when thousands of rafters embark down the river. Irresponsible alcohol use, along the Truckee River during peak holiday periods, has created a public safety hazard, degradation of the tourism experience, and a negative impact on the environment.

The County's 2008 Legislative Platform approved by your Board in December 2007 seeks state legislation that will provide the Board of Supervisors with the authority to impose an alcohol ban on a portion of the Truckee River during summer holiday periods designated by your Board. Specifically, the ban would include an approximate 3.5 mile stretch of the Truckee River from the Highway 89 Bridge in Tahoe City, to the Alpine Meadows Road Bridge.

On behalf of the County, State Senator Dave Cox has expressed an interest in authoring this request and is seeking a Board Resolution formally expressing your legislative request.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct cost in approving this Resolution. Related costs associated with law enforcement efforts, in enforcing the proposed ban, are not expected to be greater than existing.

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

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION Requesting the California State Legislature to introduce and support urgency legislation authorizing the Board of Supervisors to ban alcohol, during specified periods, on the Truckee River.

Resol. No: _____

Ord. No: _____

First Reading: _____

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

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, for decades, the Truckee River has played a central role in the summer recreation experience at North Lake Tahoe; and

WHEREAS, the Truckee River is a navigable waterway within the state of California that draws thousands of rafters during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, alcohol-related misconduct and associated public health, safety and environmental degradation issues on the Truckee River (from the Highway 89 Bridge in Tahoe City, to the Alpine Meadows Road Bridge) over the Fourth of July holiday period have significantly increased; and

WHEREAS, in June 2007 the Governor approved a special statute that allows the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to ban alcohol on certain portions of the Lower American River during the summer holiday periods as specified by their Board; and

WHEREAS, the Truckee River is growing as a significant epicenter for various alcohol-related incidents during certain summer holiday periods; and

WHEREAS, the number of rafts floating the Truckee River, on the 4th of July, doubled from 2006 to 2007 and the associated problems have increased to unprecedented proportions; and

WHEREAS, the Placer County Board of Supervisors seeks a special statute to authorize it to ban alcohol, during specified summer holiday periods, on the Truckee River (from the Highway 89 Bridge in Tahoe City, to the Alpine Meadows Road Bridge) to assist in resolving alcohol-related misconduct and related public health, safety and environmental degradation issues; and

WHEREAS, the limited summer holiday-period alcohol ban is supported by the Placer County Sheriff, the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, and businesses that operate on and around the Truckee River,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PLACER that the County of Placer requests that the California State Legislature introduce and support urgency legislation authorizing the Board of Supervisors to ban alcohol, during specified summer holiday periods, on the Truckee River (from the Highway 89 Bridge in Tahoe City, to the Alpine Meadows Road Bridge) to assist in resolving alcohol-related misconduct and related public health, safety and environmental degradation issues.

