

Staff Report

TO: Chair and Board Members
Yolo County Habitat JPA

FROM: Maria Wong
Executive Director

DATE: May 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Authorize staff to 1) review and respond to pending legislation related to NCCPs, and 2) return with a draft legislative platform for the Board's approval.

Requested Action:

Authorize staff to 1) review and respond to pending legislation in this session related to NCCPs, and 2) direct staff to return with a draft legislative platform proposal for the Board's approval.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

A number of bills that have the potential to affect NCCPs, including the YNHP, were introduced in this legislative session. The Board has no policy in place at this time that would guide staff's involvement in the legislative process.

BACKGROUND:

The JPA has had minimal involvement in the legislative process to date. However, several bills were introduced in this legislative session that either propose to amend the NCCP Act or to affect NCCPs in other ways, including where and how bond funding is allocated. Staff's current involvement is limited to reviewing pending legislation and fielding questions from other interested parties. An adopted legislative platform and process would enhance the JPA's ability to effectively participate in the process and more directly shape outcomes.

ANALYSIS:

Staff is currently tracking the following bills:

- SB 1446 (Correa), proposes to amend the California Endangered Species Act to allow local governments to budget for mitigation obligations instead of locking up funds in long term financial instruments.
- SB 1334 (Wolk), proposes to amend the NCCP Act to require NCCP applicants to add an additional finding of cooperation with all local agencies that have land use permit authority over activities proposed to be addressed in the [conservation] plan.

Staff recommends that these bills be placed on "watch" status. If the need arises to comment formally, staff proposes to work with in house legal counsel and the Board

Agenda Item 5 (b)

Chairwoman until staff returns to the Board in June with recommendations regarding a Legislative Platform.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal impacts will be limited to staff costs not currently expended for legislative analysis.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Staff will continue to consult with the state-wide HCP Coalition and the County's Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs on pending legislation.

Attachment: None