

Staff Report

TO: Chair and Board Members
Yolo County Habitat JPA

FROM: Maria Wong Executive Director Susan Garbini Graduate Fellow

DATE: July 19, 2010

SUBJECT: Discussion and approval of FY 2010-11 federal and state legislative policy and priorities

Requested Action:

1. Appoint a Legislative Subcommittee of the JPA; and
 2. Approve a protocol for formulating legislative positions; and
 3. Authorize staff to review pending legislation in this session related to HCP/NCCPs and return with a draft legislative platform proposal for the Board's approval.
-

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

BACKGROUND

On May 3rd the Board authorized staff to review and respond to pending legislation in this session related to NCCPs and directed staff to return turn with recommended federal and state legislative policy and priorities.

ANALYSIS

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached protocol to serve as guidance to monitor, track, and take positions, as appropriate, on federal and state legislation and policies, based on an approved list of "categories and priorities". The intent is to authorize staff to monitor and advise the Board when pending legislation has the potential to affect the Yolo NHP. Completing the Yolo NHP on schedule is the priority during Y 2010-11; consequently, staff expects that the level of effort associated with monitoring legislative priorities will be minimal this fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT

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

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Staff will continue to coordinate with the California HCP Coalition and JPA member agency staff on pending legislation.

Attachment: Draft "Protocol" and "Categories and Priorities"

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING

PROTOCOL FOR FORMULATING LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS (YNHP JPA)

- Appoint Legislative Subcommittee of the JPA, to include the JPA Board Chair and one JPA Board member.
- The Executive Director will bring pending legislation before the Legislative Subcommittee which are relevant to the “CATEGORIES” list (*see below*) for consideration for formulating a position.
- The Legislative Subcommittee will determine whether a draft recommended position should be developed consistent the “PRIORITIES” policy (*see below*) to bring before the Legislative Subcommittee.
- The Executive Director may not discuss the draft recommended position with any other Board member to avoid violation of the Brown Act, but may use information provided by other Board members to prepare the recommended position, as long as the information is not attributed to a particular Board member.
- The Executive Director may propose the draft recommended position to the Legislative Subcommittee through e-mail, phone to all members of the subcommittee or in-person meetings of all members of the subcommittee. The Executive Director must also provide a summary of the recommended action and the section of “PRIORITIES” policy with which the recommended position is consistent.
- If the Legislative Subcommittee approves the position, the Executive Director drafts a position letter on behalf of the full Board for signature by the JPA Board Chair. Once the letter is signed by the JPA Board Chair, the staff sends a hard copy to the appropriate recipient and sends a pdf copy to the full Board with a copy for JPA files.

CATEGORIES RELEVANT TO YNHP JPA INTERESTS

Federal Legislation and Policies

Habitat and Natural Resources/HCPs
Agriculture
Parks and Resources
Climate Change (i.e. carbon sequestration, carbon markets)
Funding and Budget (related to HCPs)

State Legislation and Policies

Habitat and Natural Resources/NCCPs
Agriculture
Parks and Resources
Planning (i.e. CEQA)
Climate Change (i.e. carbon sequestration, carbon markets)
Water Issues

***CURRENT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR YNHP JPA
(Federal, State, and Regional)***

- Increase nationwide HCP funding.
- Increase statewide NCCP funding.
- Support passage of bills to reform the Williamson Act; restore Williamson Act subventions.
- Support efforts to protect the JPA's interests during implementation of water and Delta legislation, including BDCP
- Advocate for the use of local fee money to match federal Section 6 grants
- Advocate for the use HCP/NCCPs to fulfill the requirements of SB375
- Advocate that HCP/NCCPs be designated suitable programs to spend fees generated from future climate change legislation