

The County of Yuba



09-123

County Administrator's Office

Yuba County Government Center
915 8th Street, Suite 115
Marysville, CA 95901

Phone (530) 749-7575
Fax (530) 749-7312

DATE: March 17, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Russ Brown, Communications & Legislative Affairs Coordinator *RB*

SUBJECT: Letters of Support for Assembly Bill 268 and Assembly Bill 916

Recommended Action: Approve letters supporting AB 268 and AB 916, which seek to either curb or eliminate over-reaching requirements of AB 885.

Background & Discussion: AB 885 mandates the WRCB to consult with the Department of Health Services, the California Coastal Commission, the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, counties, cities, and other interested parties to adopt specified regulations or standards for the permitting and operation of septic systems. When completed, each regional board would be required to incorporate the state standards.

AB 885 was signed into law September 27, 2000. The initial work to establish regulations and its accompanying Environmental Impact Report was rejected and sent back for improvements. Another report was completed in November 2008, which has generated concerns, especially in rural areas. The resulting draft regulations are now circulating for public comment. They contain elements that impede the County's ability to self-govern.

Two bills (AB 268 and AB 916) introduced during the current legislative session provide solutions acceptable to Yuba County.

AB 268 would repeal AB 885 all together. There has been concern a request to fully repeal the law would meet resistance in the Legislature.

AB 916 offers a reasonable compromise. This bill would alter the requirement contained in AB 885 so that instead of requiring the establishment of regulations and standards the State Water Resources Control Board would only create "recommended standards." The language of AB 916 empowers local jurisdiction to ultimately create standards for the permitting and operation of septic systems.

Committee Recommendation: Due to time constraints, this item is being presented directly to the Board of Supervisors.

Fiscal Impact: None.

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March 17, 2009

The Honorable Dan Logue
1550 Humboldt Road, Suite 4
Chico, CA 95928

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 916

Dear Assemblyman Logue:

This letter will serve to establish the Yuba County Board of Supervisors' support for Assembly Bill 916. The provisions of this bill offer a fair compromise to the over-reaching regulation requirements mandated in AB 885 (chaptered September 27, 2000).

The regulations required by AB 885 would have a detrimental effect on Yuba Counties and all counties throughout the state, in terms of cost to home owners, impact on home buyers, and workload on local jurisdictions. Even if we set aside the fact that this bill should never have been expanded beyond its initial coastal emphasis, some of the resulting alternative regulations would be terribly expensive to enact.

AB 916 by Assemblyman Logue recognizes that cities and counties in California already uphold high standards for the permitting and operation of septic systems. Yuba County holds to very strict requirements for septic systems and employs a highly professional team that monitors those systems to maintain the safety of our citizens. There is no benefit in having the state apply blanket regulations that duplicate our efforts and saddle our residents with unnecessary costs.

Please put Yuba County on record as supporting AB 916.

Sincerely,

John Nicoletti, Chair

Mary Jane Griego, Vice Chair

Roger Abe, District 4

Hal Stocker, District 5

SUPERVISORS

Vacant -- District 1 • John Nicoletti -- District 2 • Mary Jane Griego -- District 3 • Roger Abe -- District 4 • Hal Stocker -- District 5

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March 17, 2009

The Honorable Sam Aanestad
State Capitol, Room 3063
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 916

Dear Senator Aanestad:

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Please put Yuba County on record as supporting AB 916.

Sincerely,

John Nicoletti, Chair

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March 17, 2009

The Honorable Ted Gaines
1700 Eureka Road, Suite 160
Roseville, CA 95661

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 268

Dear Senator Aanestad:

This letter will serve to establish the Yuba County Board of Supervisors' support for Assembly Bill 268. The provisions of this bill rightly repeal AB 885 (chaptered September 27, 2000), which contained over-reaching requirements for regulations of septic systems.

The regulations required by AB 885 would have a detrimental effect on Yuba Counties and all counties throughout the state, in terms of cost to home owners, impact on home buyers, and workload on local jurisdictions. Even if we set aside the fact that this bill should never have been expanded beyond its initial coastal emphasis, some of the resulting alternative regulations would be terribly expensive to enact.

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Please put Yuba County on record as supporting AB 268.

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Please put Yuba County on record as supporting AB 268.

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Please put Yuba County on record as supporting AB 268.

Sincerely,

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March 17, 2009

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro, Chairman
Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 268

Dear Assemblyman Chesbro:

This letter will serve to establish the Yuba County Board of Supervisors' support for Assembly Bill 268. The provisions of this bill rightly repeal AB 885 (chaptered September 27, 2000), which contained over-reaching requirements for regulations of septic systems.

The regulations required by AB 885 would have a detrimental effect on Yuba Counties and all counties throughout the state, in terms of cost to home owners, impact on home buyers, and workload on local jurisdictions. Even if we set aside the fact that this bill should never have been expanded beyond its initial coastal emphasis, some of the resulting alternative regulations would be terribly expensive to enact.

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Please put Yuba County on record as supporting AB 268.

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