The following Minute Order of the Board of Supervisors is being sent to you for information or possible action. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call the Board's office.

**Minute Order of the Board of Supervisors**
**October 2, 2007 Regular Meeting**
**County of Glenn, State of California**

18. **2007 Farm Bill/Regional Water Enhancement**

**Matter:** Recommendation of Agricultural Commissioner Mark Black to execute letter of support to Senators Feinstein and Boxer supporting Congressional Representatives Wally Herger and Doris Matsui's efforts to include the Sacramento River as a priority area in the House version of the 2007 Farm Bill, in hopes of having the same language included in the Senate version of the bill.

**Proceedings:** Supervisor Amaro spoke regarding concerns with funding for a conservation area, which would place an easement on the Sacramento River to protect the Sacramento area, being included in the 2007 Farm Bill, whereby the Chairman directed that the matter be rescheduled to the October 16, 2007 Board of Supervisors Meeting in order to bring the positions of Regional Council of Rural Counties and the Agricultural Commissioner to the Board.
COUNTY OF GLENN
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

MEETING DATE: October 2, 2007

BRIEF SUBJECT/ISSUE DESCRIPTION:
California Congressional Representatives Wally Herger and Doris Matsui have worked to get the Sacramento River listed in the house version of the 2007 Farm Bill as a priority area for Regional Water Enhancement. At this time, a letter of support from Glenn County to Senators Feinstein and Boxer to include this language in the Senate version of the 2007 Farm Bill would show our commitment to this important issue.

AGENDA PLACEMENT

ATTACHMENTS
X Board Report
X Letter
☐ Minute Order
☐ Contract
☐ Transfer
☐ Grant App.
☐ Resolution

LEGAL/PERSOENNEL/FISCAL
☐ County Counsel
☐ Personnel
☐ Finance
☐ County Administrative Office

CLERK INSTRUCTIONS
☐ Return Minute Order
☐ Return Certified Copy Of: Approved Contract
☐ Other: Amendment

Required ______ Minutes

X Business – No Consent
☐ Correspondence  ☐ Reports & Notices

AFFECTED DEPARTMENT(S)

☐ Receive Concurrence

PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMITTEE VACANCIES

☐ State ☐ Federal

LEGISLATION

☐ General Fund Impact
☐ Other: ______
☐ Budgeted
☐ Transfer Attached
☐ 4/5ths Vote Required
☐ Contingency Request

FUNDING SOURCE/IMPACT

☐ New ☐ Renewal
☐ Amendment
☐ Insurance Certificate
☐ Contract Report

CONTRACTS, LEASES & AGREEMENTS

Date of Original
Contract:
Contract No.:
Fiscal Year:

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:

Request the Board of Supervisors:

1) Provide letters of support to Senators Feinstein and Boxer supporting Congressional Representatives Wally Herger and Doris Matsui's efforts to include the Sacramento River as a priority area in the House version of the 2007 Farm Bill in hopes of having the same language included in the Senate version of the bill.

Reviewed By (if applicable):

Personnel Director

Department of Finance

County Administrative Officer

Mark Black

Department Head

cc:
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California Congressional Representatives Wally Herger and Doris Matsui have worked to get the Sacramento River listed in the house version of the 2007 Farm Bill as a priority area for Regional Water Enhancement. At this time, it is requested that a letter that supports inclusion of this language in the Senate version of the 2007 Farm Bill be sent to California Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Provide a letter supporting the House version of the 2007 Farm bill to be included in the Senate version of the 2007 Farm Bill.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:

See attached language, Section 2106 of HR 2419.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT(S):

There are no fiscal or personnel impacts anticipated to the County.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION

See attached language, Section 2106 of HR 2419.
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
331 Senate Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
112 Senate Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: 2007 Farm Bill, Regional Water Enhancement Program – Sacramento River Watershed

Dear Senators Feinstein and Boxer:

The County of Glenn would like to ask for your support of the Regional Water Enhancement Program in the Senate version of the 2007 Farm Bill. We specifically ask that you support language included in the House version of the bill at the request of Congresswoman Doris Matsui designating the “Sacramento River Watershed as a national priority” within the Program.

This provision will direct funding to address many of the water and working land conservation issues in the region. As an organization that represents landowners and water users in the Sacramento River Watershed we can tell you firsthand that this program can help fund efforts, such as the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, to improve regional water supply reliability and water quantity, water quality, and working farm lands programs. By providing resources to enable land owners to enhance water quality and quantity, improve water use efficiency and further advance environmental stewardship efforts, we all benefit.

Thank you for your consideration of this important provision.

Sincerely,
Re: Regional Water Enhancement Program, Section 2106 of H.R.2419 (2007 Farm Bill)
Date: August 8, 2007

H.R.2419

Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007 (Engrossed as Agreed to or Passed by House)

SEC. 2106. REGIONAL WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) Purpose and Goals- The purpose of this section is to authorize a regional water enhancement program, within the environmental quality incentives program, to enhance performance-based, cost-effective conservation carried out through cooperative agreements entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture with producers, governmental entities, and Indian tribes. The goal of the program is to improve water quality or ground and surface water quantity through coordinated program activities on agricultural lands. The Secretary will develop goals and provide coordinated program assistance for water quality or water quantity improvement projects.
(b) Establishment of Program- Section 12401 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-9) is amended to read as follows:

'SEC. 12401. REGIONAL WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) Definitions- In this section:

'(1) REGIONAL WATER ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES- The term 'regional water enhancement activities' includes resource condition assessment and modeling, water quality, water quantity or water conservation plan development, management system and environmental monitoring and evaluation, cost-share of restoration or enhancement projects, incentive payments for land management practices, easement purchases, conservation contracts with landowners, improved irrigation systems, water banking and other forms of water transactions, groundwater recharge and other conservation related activities that the Secretary determines will help to achieve the water quality or water quantity benefits on agricultural lands identified in a partnership agreement.

'(2) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT- The term 'partnership agreement' means an agreement between the Secretary and a partner under subsection (d).

'(3) PARTNER- The term 'partner' means an entity that enters into a partnership agreement with the Secretary to carry out regional water enhancement activities. The term includes–

'(A) an agricultural producer, agricultural or silvicultural producer association, or other group of such producers;

'(B) a State or unit of local government, including an irrigation or water district; or

www.fergusongroup.us
'(b) Establishment of Program-
'(1) ESTABLISHMENT- The Secretary shall establish a regional water enhancement program in accordance with this section to improve water quality or water quantity on a regional scale to benefit working agricultural land and other lands surrounding agricultural land.

'(2) IDENTIFICATION OF WATER QUALITY AND WATER QUANTITY PRIORITY AREAS- The Secretary shall identify areas where protecting or improving water quality, water quantity, or both is a priority. In identifying these areas, the Secretary shall prioritize the Chesapeake Bay, the Upper Mississippi River basin, the Everglades, the Sacramento River watershed, and the Klamath River basin. Not more than 50 percent of the funds made available for the regional water enhancement program shall be reserved for priority areas identified in this paragraph.

'(c) Selection of Partners-
'(1) SOLICITATION OF PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS- Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, the Secretary shall invite prospective partners to submit competitive grant proposals for regional water enhancement partnerships.

'(2) ELEMENTS- To be eligible for consideration for participation in the program, a proposal submitted by a partner shall contain the following elements:

'(A) Identification of the exact geographic area for which the partnership is proposed, which may be based on--

'(i) a watershed (or portion thereof);

'(ii) an irrigation, water, drainage district, including service area; or

'(iii) some other geographic area with characteristics making it suitable for landscape-wide program implementation, as may be determined by the Secretary.

'(B) Identification of the water quality or water quantity issues that are of concern in the area.

'(C) A method for determining a baseline assessment of water quality, water quantity, and other resource conditions in the region.

'(D) A detailed description of the proposed regional water enhancement activities to be undertaken in the area, including an estimated timeline and budget for each activity.

'(E) A description of the performance measures to be used to gauge the effectiveness of the regional water enhancement activities.

'(F) A description of other regional water enhancement activities carried out by the Secretary.

'(G) A description of regional water enhancement activities carried out by partners through other means.

'(3) SELECTION OF PROPOSALS- The Secretary shall award grants competitively, based on the following criteria applied by the Secretary:

'(A) Proposals that will result in the inclusion of the highest percentage of agricultural lands and producers in the area.

'(B) Proposals that will result in the highest percentage of on-the-ground activities versus administrative costs.

'(C) Proposals that will provide the greatest contribution to sustaining or enhancing agricultural production in the area or rural economic development.

'(D) Proposals that include performance measures that will allow post-activity conditions to be satisfactorily measured to gauge overall effectiveness.
(E) Proposals that will capture surface-water runoff on farms through the construction, improvement, or maintenance of irrigation ponds.

(F) Proposals that have the highest likelihood of improving issues of concern for the area through the participation of multiple interested persons.

(G) Proposals that will assist producers in meeting a regulatory requirement imposed on lands in agriculture production that reduces the economic scope of the producer's operation.

(4) DURATION- Grants under this subsection shall be made on a multi-year basis, not to exceed 5 years total, except that the Secretary may terminate a grant earlier if the performance measures are not being met.

(d) Partnership Agreements-

(1) GENERALLY- Not later than 30 days after the award of a grant to a partner under subsection (c), the Secretary shall enter into a partnership agreement with the grant recipient. At a minimum, the agreement shall contain--

(A) a description of the respective duties and responsibilities of the Secretary and the partner in carrying out regional water enhancement activities; and

(B) the criteria that the Secretary will use to measure the overall effectiveness of the regional water enhancement activities funded by the grant in improving the water quality or quantity conditions of the region relative to the performance measures in the grant proposal.

(2) ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS- The Secretary may accept and use contributions of non-Federal funds to administer the program under this section.

(3) WAIVER AUTHORITY- The Secretary shall waive the limitation in section 1001D of this Act if the Secretary determines that doing so is necessary to fulfill the objectives of the regional water enhancement program.

(e) Modification of Secretarial Authority- To the extent that the Secretary will be carrying out regional water enhancement activities in an area, the Secretary may use the General Services provided in this subtitle to ensure that all producers and landowners in the region have the opportunity to participate in such activities.

(f) Relationship With Other Programs- The Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent producers and landowners are individually participating in other programs under this subtitle in a region where the regional water enhancement program is in effect, any improvements to water quality or water quantity attributable to such individual participation is included in the evaluation criteria developed under subparagraph (d)(1)(B).

(g) Consistency With State Law- Any regional water enhancement activity conducted under this section shall be consistent with State water laws.

(h) Funding-

(1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS- In addition to funds made available to carry out this chapter under section 1241(a)(6), the Secretary shall use funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this section in the amount of, to the maximum extent practicable, $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES- Not more than 3 percent of the funds made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year may be used for administrative expenses of the Secretary.'
October 2, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Constitution Ave. & 2nd St., N.E.
Washington, DC 20510-0505

RE: 2007 FARM BILL, REGIONAL WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM – SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED

Dear Senator Boxer:

The County of Glenn would like to ask for your support of the Regional Water Enhancement Program in the Senate version of the 2007 Farm Bill. We specifically ask that you support language included in the House version of the bill at the request of Congresswoman Doris Matsui designating the "Sacramento River Watershed as a national priority" within the Program.

This provision will direct funding to address many of the water and working land conservation issues in the region. As an government entity that represents landowners and water users in the Sacramento River Watershed we can tell you firsthand that this program can help fund efforts, such as the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, to improve regional water supply reliability and water quantity, water quality, and working farm lands programs. By providing resources to enable land owners to enhance water quality and quantity, improve water use efficiency and further advance environmental stewardship efforts, we all benefit.

Thank you for your consideration of this important provision.

Sincerely,

GLENN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

[Signature]

TOM MCGOWAN, CHAIRMAN
October 2, 2007

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Constitution Ave. & 2nd St., N.E.
Washington, DC 20510-0505

RE: 2007 FARM BILL, REGIONAL WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM – SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The County of Glenn would like to ask for your support of the Regional Water Enhancement Program in the Senate version of the 2007 Farm Bill. We specifically ask that you support language included in the House version of the bill at the request of Congresswoman Doris Matsui designating the "Sacramento River Watershed as a national priority" within the Program.

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GLENN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

[Signature]
TOM MCGOWAN, CHAIRMAN