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CALAVERAS COUNCIL
of GOVERNMENTS

TO: Council Members
FROM: Executive Director
DATE: January 31, 2006
SUBJECT: **Appointment of Delegate to CalCOG**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council appoint a regular delegate and an alternate in the event they wish to send a delegate to the Annual Regional Issues Forum in April 2006.

BACKGROUND

Each year the California Association of Councils of Governments (CalCOG) holds a Regional Issues Forum. This is a 1-1/2 day event where delegates from member agencies across the state convene to discuss problems of a regional nature, generally focused on transportation, housing, land use and other growth-related issues. The 2006 forum will be in Monterey on April 27th and 28th (date may change).

This year, the focus will be on the bond measures likely to be selected for the June ballot and the pending issues for consideration in November.

Calaveras COG may appoint a delegate for participation in future regional issues forums. The cost to send a delegate to the last forum would have approximated \$950.00, including mileage, meals, registration and hotel room. Under the bylaws of CalCOG, regional delegates must be members of the local COG board and may be elected or non-elected individuals. On occasion, CalCOG may take a position on an issue of statewide interest. In that case, the delegates cast the deciding votes. This, however happens rarely. The primary function of the Annual Regional Issues Forum is educational in nature and allows delegates a chance to interact with peers from other regions and delve into specific funding and planning issues in the transportation arena.

At the June meeting, the Council directed staff to provide more information on what existing delegates feel about the value of time spent at the Annual Regional Issues Forum. Staff solicited responses from numerous COGs around the State asking for impressions from their CalCOG delegates. To date, we have received the following responses:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County reports that Board members are interested but simply have difficulty finding time to attend the meetings.

El Dorado Transportation Commission reports they do not have CalCOG delegates. They may pursue this in the future, but to date have not.

Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency sent the following report: John Mathena, Councilman, City of Redding and served as Mayor in 2005. Since 2002 he has served as the CalCOG delegate and has attended all of the regional conferences. John reports that he has found them “to be most informative and productive. Speakers at the conferences are always outstanding on such issues as housing, transportation and ‘where is the money?’ The conferences give us a chance to tell CalCOG what we want and give direction on the lobbying efforts in Sacramento. Bottom line: I think they are worthwhile, also for the exchange of ideas with other participants. I have been so impressed with what some of the COGs have accomplished that I am spearheading an effort to form a Shasta COG.”

Clearly not all COGs in the State have delegates, but those who participate do seem to find value in the experience. Since there is a Regional Issues Forum coming up soon, this would be an appropriate time for CCOG to appoint a delegate if the Council wishes to do so.