



**Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One

CONNIE CONWAY
District Two

PHILLIP A. COX
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: January 15, 2008

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resolution, Ordinance or Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
CONTACT PERSON: Jeff Forbes PHONE: (559) 733-6271						

SUBJECT: Establishing a University of California School of Medicine in the San Joaquin Valley.

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:
Approve a resolution encouraging the University of California Board of Regents to support University of California Merced's efforts to establish a School of Medicine in the San Joaquin Valley.

SUMMARY:
In May of 1995 the University of California Regents selected Merced County as the location for the 10th campus in the University of California system. The campus first opened to students in the Fall of 2005. University of California (UC) Merced is currently developing health sciences research programs and planning medical education programs in anticipation of a School of Medicine.

The San Joaquin Valley has a critical shortage of medical professionals. Access to health care is significantly lower in the Valley than in the rest of California. This shortage of physicians, coupled with high levels of future growth puts the San Joaquin Valley at a significant disadvantage.

Another goal of the University is to bring biomedical research to the Valley through the establishment of a school of medicine. The Valley would gain all of the associated benefits that have occurred in communities adjacent to UC medical

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schools. The proposed model for medical education is based on partnerships with sister UC campuses and existing health care resources in the Valley.

The first two years of the student program will be based in Merced and the final two years will take place in existing regional health care facilities at clinical campuses. The first clinical campus is slated to be in Fresno where the infrastructure exists to offer core rotations and electives to medical students through the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program. Additional clinical campuses in the north and south Valley are planned for the future.

A UC Merced School of Medicine will have a positive economic impact on the region. The school of medicine will expand educational opportunities for community members. With the development of the UC Merced School of Medicine, physicians are likely to remain in the communities where they performed their residency. Over time, this will greatly improve the access to health care in Tulare County and all of the San Joaquin Valley.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No net County cost.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Supporting a local University of California School of Medicine is tied to three initiatives of the County of Tulare Strategic Business Plan: Safety and Security, Economic Well-Being and Quality of Life.


ALTERNATIVES:

The Board of Supervisors could choose to not adopt the resolution. This is not recommended because the San Joaquin Valley is in great need of a local medical school program.

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES:

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Jeff Forbes
Board Representative II

Cc: Auditor/Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING A)
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA)
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN THE SAN)
JOAQUIN VALLEY)

RESOLUTION NO. _____
AGREEMENT NO. _____

WHEREAS, assessments of California's health care work force point to a shortage of up to 17,000 physicians in the State of California by 2015; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley currently has 24 percent fewer primary care physicians and approximately 50 percent fewer specialists per capita than the rest of California as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Valley, which is already medically underserved, will be disproportionately impacted by a statewide shortage of physicians; and

WHEREAS, the Valley's growing population and high incidence of health problems point to an overwhelming need to address access to health care in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Valley loses millions of dollars from the economy each year as local residents with health insurance coverage seek medical care outside of the region; and

WHEREAS, one of University of California Merced's goals is to be a leader in a health care alliance aimed at improving the well being of San Joaquin Valley residents; and

WHEREAS, an expert task force charged with beginning planning for UC health sciences and medical education in the San Joaquin Valley recommends a model that leverages existing health care resources in the Valley, thereby bypassing the \$2-4 million per bed price tag associated with constructing a new and university-owned teaching hospital; and

WHEREAS, the recommended model for medical education at UC Merced trains students at clinical sites throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the recommended model for medical education at UC Merced aims to increase the number of health care professionals practicing in the Valley, particularly those that are competent in multi-cultural medicine; and

WHEREAS, a University of California school of medicine in the Valley will raise the level of care across the Valley through access to the latest advances and treatments associated with UC health sciences research programs, change perceptions about

health care quality, keep health care dollars in the region and serve as an economic engine for the San Joaquin Valley; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley must be united in its efforts to develop a medical education program that serves the health needs of its residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors strongly encourages the University of California Board of Regents to support UC Merced's efforts to plan and establish a School of Medicine in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition to training physicians to meet regional and state needs, a UC Merced School of Medicine will extend biomedical and environmental sciences research programs throughout the regions, which will help improve the economic well being of the Valley and the quality of life of its diverse residents.

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk