



Health & Human Services
Agency
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

PHILLIP A. COX
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: June 29, 2010

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|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |

CONTACT PERSON: Karishma Fazalbhoy PHONE: 624-8000

SUBJECT: Letter of support for the \$8.4 million increase allocated for the County Veterans Service Offices.

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the letter of support for the \$8.4 million increase to \$11 million allocated for the County Veterans Service Offices.
2. Authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign three (3) copies of the letter of support.

SUMMARY:

Tulare County Veterans Office has been established since 1944 and continues to assist veterans in filing benefit claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the State of California.

The Tulare County Veterans Service Office is extensively involved with community outreach events in Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia. Also, the Tulare County Veterans Service Officer is a member of the Tulare County Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Veteran's Court Board, and the Veterans Opportunity Day Committee.

SUBJECT: Letter of support for the \$8.4 million increase allocated for the County Veterans Service Offices.
DATE: June 29, 2010

California has over 2 million veterans and 30,000 new veterans are discharging out of the service each year in California. County Veterans Service Offices have been helping veterans obtain their benefits, thereby bringing new monies into the State and diverting veterans from State and local programs. Governor Schwarzenegger proposed in his May Budget to revise an \$8.4 million increase in the money allocated for the County Veterans Service Offices. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee for State Administration voted unanimously in favor of this increase. We are requesting the Board's support of this increase through your approval of the Chairman of the Board signing the attached Letter of Support.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

None.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life Initiative that encourages innovative provision of quality supportive services for at-risk adults, youth and children in state and federally mandated programs. The funding of County Veterans Service Offices increases the ability to fulfill that obligation.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could choose not to approve this request, but this is not recommended as this may prevent County Veterans Service Offices from expanding their ability to help veterans obtain their benefits.

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES:

Tulare County Veterans Office.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:


David Crawford
Director of Human Services

Cc: Auditor/Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (3)

Letter of Support

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
Letter of support for the \$8.4 million)
increase allocated for the County)
Veterans Service Offices.)

RESOLUTION NO. _____
AGREEMENT NO. _____

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 M. ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

1. Approved the letter of support for the \$8.4 million increase to \$11 million allocated for the County Veterans Service Offices.
2. Authorized the Chairman of the Board to sign three (3) copies of the letter of support.

June 2, 2010

California State Legislature
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support County Veterans Service Offices State Budget Increase

Dear Legislators:

We strongly urge you to approve the \$8.4 million increase in the money allocated for the County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO's) that Governor Schwarzenegger proposed in his May Budget Revise. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee for State Administration voted in favor of this increase unanimously.

The Governor has initiated Operation Welcome Home which seeks to connect our young men and women returning home from the current conflicts with jobs, benefits, and re-integration assistance. County Veterans Service Offices need these funds to outreach to and assist our state's veterans.

The proposed \$8.4 million increase would raise the total money to be allocated for CVSO's to \$11 million. This is in accordance with SB 419 (Chaptered 2009) which raised the allocation ceiling to \$11 million. The proposed budget increase will update the funding formula that left the counties picking up 85% of the CVSO's costs.

For every dollar spent by the state on CVSO's, \$100 is brought into the state in new federal monies. Many veterans and their dependants, by virtue of their military service, are entitled to pension, disability, health care, educational, and burial benefits. For over 60 years, CVSO's have been helping veterans obtain their benefits, thereby bringing new monies into the state and diverting veterans from state and local programs. On average over \$200 million in federal funds are brought into the state's local economies annually.

Tulare County Veterans Office has been established since 1944 and continues to assist veterans in filing benefit claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the State of California. Last year their efforts brought about \$4.5 Million into the County economy.

The Tulare County Veterans Service Office is extensively involved with community outreach events in Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia. Also, the Tulare County Veterans Service Officer is a member of the Tulare County Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Veteran's Court Board and the Veterans Opportunity Day Committee.

California has over 2 million veterans and 30,000 new veterans are discharging out of the service each year in California. We urge you and your colleagues to support the Governor's efforts to help our veterans.

Sincerely,

J. Steven Worthley
Chair, Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Honorable Members, California Legislature
Pete Conaty & Associates