



Board of Supervisors
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: July 27, 2010

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: Jeff Forbes PHONE: (559) 636-5000

SUBJECT: Letter of support for H.R. 5645 (Nunes).

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve sending a letter of support for H.R. 5645 (Nunes), which would instruct the Director of National Drug Control Policy to submit to Congress a Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy and would enhance penalties for certain drug offenses on Federal lands.

SUMMARY:

The eastern half of Tulare County is primarily composed of the Sequoia National Park, National Forest, and multiple Wilderness areas. Almost half of Tulare County is federally-owned land. Due to the dense vegetation, illegal drug traffickers are able to cultivate, process, and transport illegal drugs in Tulare County without being seen.

National parks and forests in Tulare County are known for their many visitors, who if confronted by illegal drug traffickers, could be placed in considerable danger. Drug traffickers usually carry heavy firearms, which is extremely dangerous to an unsuspecting hiker or tourist.

H.R. 5645 by Congressman Devin Nunes does two important things that will address illegal drug trafficking on Federal lands. First, H.R. 5645 would require the Director of National Drug Control Policy to develop a Federal Lands Counterdrug

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Strategy every two years. This report will be submitted to Congress and will set the strategy for preventing illegal production and trafficking of controlled substances on Federal lands. The plan will also list state roles and responsibilities for implementing the strategy and identify resources needed to allow Federal agencies to successfully complete the plan.

The second component of H.R. 5645 is enhanced penalties for certain drug offenses on Federal lands. Fines for individuals will have a maximum of \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 for organized groups. Imprisonment will be changed from 5 years to no more than 10 years. These penalties will keep the convicted individuals from returning to the lands they were previously using.

In 2008, Tulare County expended approximately \$450,000 for eradication services on Federal Lands. H.R. 5645, if approved, could reduce the amount of illegal drug activity on Federal lands required by the Sheriff's Department.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department expends more than \$450,000 each year on illegal drug eradication efforts on Federal Lands. This legislation, through its study and increased penalties, could reduce the need for law enforcement activity on Federal lands.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Supporting legislation that increases penalties on drug offenses on Federal lands is linked to the Safety and Security Initiative of the Tulare County Strategic Business Plan. This legislation will help Tulare County effectively and fairly investigate, arrest, prosecute and punish individuals who engage in criminal behaviors.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board of Supervisors could choose not to approve the letter of support. This is not recommended because the Board has consistently supported reducing the amount of illegal drug activity taking place on Federal lands within Tulare County.

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES:

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department provided information for the agenda item.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Jeff Forbes

Board Representative III

Cc: Auditor/Controller

County Counsel

County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment – Letter of support for H.R. 5645

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

IN THE MATTER OF LETTER OF) SUPPORT FOR H.R. 5645 (NUNES)))))	RESOLUTION NO. _____ AGREEMENT NO. _____
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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

* * * * *

The Board of Supervisors hereby:

Approved sending a letter of support for H.R. 5645 (Nunes), which would instruct
 the Director of National Drug Control Policy to submit to Congress a Federal Lands
 Counterdrug Strategy and would enhance penalties for certain drug offenses on
 Federal lands.

July 27, 2010

The Honorable Devin Nunes
United States House of Representatives
1013 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Nunes:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors is in strong support of H.R. 5645, the Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy and Enforcement Enhancement Act.

We are pleased to learn that your legislation would require the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop a strategy to combat drug trafficking on public lands. Your bill also increases the penalties available for those caught cultivating or manufacturing drugs on public lands.

Tulare County's public lands are becoming home to criminals competing with tourists and outdoor adventurers for a share of the woods. Tulare County is faced with ecological harm to public lands and violent activity in parks and forests which pose serious threats to public safety. It is with tough laws, governance and ongoing local, state and federal partnerships that we will contain the illegal activity that is taking place on our public lands.

We look forward to working with you and on this legislation. Thank you for your continued support for safety within our public lands.

Sincerely,

J. Steven Worthley, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Mike Ennis, Vice-Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Allen Ishida, District One
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Pete Vander Poel, District Two
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Phillip A. Cox, District Three
Tulare County Board of Supervisors