

Mike Reagan REFLECTIONS

MARCH 7, 2008

YOUR ADVOCATE FOR SOLANO COUNTY'S 5TH DISTRICT

VOL. 4, NO. 1



"All of our efforts over the last three years are just starting to bear fruit. Most of us can sense and are excited about this momentum and what it means for improving the quality of life in this county."

Contact Info

Supervisor Mike Reagan
Solano County 5th District
675 Texas St., Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533

www.mikereagan.net

707.784-6130
FAX: 707.784-6665
Toll Free: 1-866-7SOLANO

mjreagan@solanocounty.com

Fred Zaragoza
Field Representative

707.784-6131

fczaragoza@solanocounty.com

It's all about growing jobs, and our efforts are paying off

Genentech's announcement that it will build a research and development facility in Dixon is just one of a parade of companies in the pipeline with plans to expand in or relocate to Solano County. The next announcement should be a multimillion dollar food processing business expansion that will be a local market for Solano-grown crops and more local jobs. All of this activity is because we have changed the tone of business in Solano County. Our collective efforts are making Solano County a place where companies feel they can do business, and provide the local quality jobs we need to reduce traffic congestion. We are not done yet, and I'm looking forward to continuing working hard for you to make it happen.

Getting useful data for policymakers, business developers

The Board of Supervisors approved last week some first-of-its-kind studies for Solano County that will give us the information we need to manage – by data versus wishful thinking. We are going to get a Solano Economic Indicator Index – a tool the Silicon Valley and Sacramento areas have had for decades – to forecast and proactively respond to positive and negative trends. By the end of the year, you will see a Land Inventory and Absorption Study of all of the developable parcels across the county. This will give the business community a clearer picture on how and where they can expand or relocate job opportunities to Solano County. And lastly, we are going to do a cluster analysis of five key industries – that's an in-depth analysis on par with what we've spent the last 18 months doing for the agriculture industry – which will help us grow some other industries, such as biosciences, food processing and energy. Keep in touch with the Solano EDC on these studies as they will be managing them for the County.

Squeaky wheel making our roads safer, less congested

Solano County has squeaked to the tune of \$531 million, which the State is using to move ahead projects that will make our roads safer and reducing traffic congestion on Highway 12, Highway 113, I-80/680 – in the next 3 years! The barriers dividing Highway 12 are keeping folks safer, but we still need to push forward on getting the road widened and divided. CalTrans is finally saying that a divided Highway 12 is the only real option. That's a huge change. In the meantime, CalTrans is also cooperating with our local businesses that depend on Highway 12 to move their big equipment and cargo. On I-80, it is going to get inconvenient before it gets better – but from Red Top Road in Fairfield to Leisure Town Road in Vacaville you are going to see new HOV lanes and a repaved road. Hurray! And that's two years ahead of schedule. It is still in the study stages, but we are also working to get Highway 113 shifted out of downtown Dixon.

Report calls for more ways to get local crops to market

When you boil down the comprehensive Agriculture Futures Studies that the County commissioned, you get a clear message: We need to find more ways to bring more processing plants here so our local farmers have places to sell their crops. The report points out that in order for the "city folks" to continue enjoying the "viewshed" that makes our county an attractive place to live, we have to get out of the way of our farmers and let them be successful businesses. Policies at the County are changing in that direction, our highly citizen-vetted General Plan is incorporating those tenets, and exciting announcements of a food-processing plant expansion are moving us toward a vibrant and resilient ag industry.

Thank you for stepping up and serving Solano County

There are so many of you I need to thank for stepping up to serve on boards and commissions. Go to www.mikereagan.net for a complete list of my appointees.

Serving You on These Committees

Board of Supervisors

- *Chair Protem*
- *Personnel Committee*
- *Legislation Committee*
- *Military and Veteran Affairs Committee*
- *Senior Issues Committee*
- *Economic Development & Tourism Committee*

Association of Bay Area Governments

- *Bay Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee*
- *Bay Area Coalition of Counties*

California State Association of Counties

- *Board of Directors*
- *Housing, Land Use and Transportation Committee*
- *Economic Development Policy Committee*
- *Water and Flood Control Task Force*

City-County Coordinating Council

Delta Protection Commission Delta Long-Term Management Strategy for Dredging

- *Executive Committee*

East Vallejo Fire Protection Board

Fouts Springs Youth Facility Joint Powers Board of Directors

- *Chairman*

In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority

Local Agency Formation Commission (Alternate)

- *Fire District Consolidation Committee*

Remote Access Network Board

San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (Alternate)

Solano County Water Agency Board of Directors

- *Executive Committee*

Solano Economic Development Corp. Board of Directors

- *Executive Committee*

Solano County Transportation Authority (Alternate)

Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee

Travis Community Consortium

Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Advisory Board

Winters Branch Library Financing Authority

Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management Board

- *Budget and Audit Committee (Chair)*
- *Legislative Committee*
- *Technical Rules Committee*

County General Plan update reflects city and citizen input

First, let me say **thank you** to the Citizen Advisory Committee members for putting in countless hours on updating the County General Plan. This project has involved more than 50 public meetings and input from hundreds of residents. The material often wasn't the most interesting, but everyone involved certainly understands how vital this document is to guide our county for the next generation. The County was negligent for not refreshing this document for the last 25 years. But that is history and so is the practice of "protecting" our farmers into bankruptcy. Go to www.solanocounty.com to see all the work being done on the General Plan. Most of the changes reflect development already on the ground, requests made by the cities, and an incorporation of Ag Study recommendations to give our farmers the flexibility they need to survive.

We've won wars in less time than its taken to fix a Vets Hall

The kitchen at the Dixon Veterans Hall is getting some repairs and so is the roof. This will keep the hall usable while we get a permanent solution to this community asset that has suffered decades of neglect. Fixing the existing building looks to be a costly way to have less building, so Jackson Square and Hometown Market options are being considered. I'm as frustrated as all of my fellow veterans that we haven't already had our ribbon-cutting ceremony, but the clock is already ticking to the final decision. In December, we gave staff six months to give the Board a workable option. I will hold them to that. This isn't rocket science; there are only a few options out there and we need to pick one and get it done.

Water Battle lines are being drawn - Solano is ground zero

The next six months are going to be critical in the debate over how to solve the Southern California-created water shortage and maintain the integrity of the Delta. Before they steal any more of our water, we have to be ensured our landowners, businesses, and communities are not harmed by this "taking," or the environmental mitigations desired to "restore" the Delta. What is not making the headlines enough is that one proposed solution is to tidally flood tens of thousands of prime ag acres on the eastern edge of Solano County and nearly a quarter of the levied areas of the Suisun Marsh. I'm not willing to trade what makes Solano County a great place to live for more urban sprawl in Los Angeles.

Roundup of issues

- **Senior Report Card coming:** The Senior Coalition of Solano County is down to tweaking the final draft of its assessment on the issues facing seniors in the county. I'm looking forward to seeing the insight this report promises. But I'm equally excited about what this report represents: we're treating our seniors and their concerns with the respect they deserve.
- **Nut Tree Airport:** It looks like we are finally getting the FAA to pay for the airfield master plan next fiscal year. In the meantime, we are forging ahead and developing the basic supporting documents so our partners in the master planning of the airport have as many tools as possible ready to go. This airfield can be a vital economic engine for both the county and Vacaville. I look forward to the city's collaboration in making this project blossom.
- **County Budget In Better Shape than the State:** Unlike the State, the County has added to its reserves for the last 15 years so it can weather the consequences of the bursting housing bubble. As the State budget crisis continues to unfold, don't be confused with the inevitable media reports of cuts to local programs. We plan to shrink State programs to match the funding the State gives us to manage them on their behalf. Our resources will be used for long-term projects that benefit all of us in Solano County.
- **100 Best Communities Again:** It may seem like a broken record, but I love hearing that America's Promise Alliance again rated us one of the 100 Best Communities in America for Young People. We are the only community in California to get that distinction for the last three years running. Our commitment to work together to solve issues of shared importance is what impressed the judges. In fact, they now want Solano County to teach other communities our secret to success. Now that's an even bigger testament to what we have going on here in Solano County.