

Mike Reagan REFLECTIONS

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YOUR ADVOCATE FOR SOLANO COUNTY'S 5TH DISTRICT

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"The people of this district didn't elect me to mind the store. They saw a vision for a better future for our children."

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Budget sets stage for putting vision into action

This past quarter's highlight was the \$760 million budget for this fiscal year. I spent weeks scouring the 580-page document and questioning department management to truly understand what they do for the taxpayer. Those efforts paid off. We are now accruing funds to pay off leave balances when people retire instead of holding positions vacant and impacting programs. I raised awareness of our obligation to maintain the public's investment in buildings and roads. These are just two of the forward-looking concepts inserted into the budget. Early in this process it became clear the County was only reacting to yesterday's issues. Nuggets of long-range planning are there, but I sensed a lack of permission to think big, to truly tackle the "big picture." This is a fallacy that we cannot afford. Read on to see how I'm moving forward an ambitious vision.

Job creation is priority No. 1; it will reduce traffic woes

Jobs are the center of every goal set by this Board of Supervisors. At the same time, the words "economic development" get hushed in County corridors. We need to change that mindset and fulfill the County's ambitious goals.

- Parents with jobs will *improve the lives of children and their families*
- A vibrant ag-industrial partnership *will promote agriculture, support responsible land use and economic development*
- Improving the quality of jobs will reduce crime and make it easier to *maintain a safe community*
- Reducing the commute will *improve the health and well being of those who live and work here*
- Employers located here will create the extra County revenue, allowing us to *invest resources in and for the future*
- In order to attract jobs, the County must *increase its organizational effectiveness, efficiency and communication*

Travis AFB spared BRAC hit, but no time to rest on laurels

We all need to give ourselves a little pat on the back for our collective efforts to ensure Travis AFB went untouched in this round of Base Realignment and Closure. The recent additions of several more bases to the list by the BRAC Commission shows we must stay vigilant. The BRAC report is being scrubbed to see where Travis could be vulnerable in the next round of cuts, which will come so we need to start preparing now. A major evaluation factor was the cost of operating the base, and that is something we can help reduce. Ideas, such as an additional joint-use runway for a private sector cargo hub, need to be explored.

Veterans Subcommittee has early earmarks of success

I'm not one to claim victory too early, but it looks like the No. 1 goal of the Military and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee has been met. The veterans' organizations are talking at the same table. The turnout for the first meeting in April was so large that the meeting on Friday, July 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. will be held in the multipurpose room of the County Government Center.

Thank you for stepping up and serving Solano County

- Reappointment of Robert Gildert to the Vacaville Fire Protection District.
- **MORE APPOINTMENTS:** Seeking volunteers for the Area Agency on Aging, Dixon Fire Protection District, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Advisory Board, Solano Arts Council, and the Suisun-Fairfield Cemetery District.

Serving You on These Committees

Board of Supervisors

- BRAC Subcommittee
- Personnel Subcommittee
- Military and Veteran Affairs Subcommittee
- Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee

Delta Protection Commission

Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management Board

ABAG Bay Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee

Fouts Springs Youth Facility Board of Directors

Solano County Water Agency Board of Directors

Remote Access Network Board

Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission

Solano Economic Development Corp. Executive Committee & Board of Directors

City-County Coordinating Committee

Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee

Travis Community Consortium

Children's Policy and Planning Council

Partnership Health Plan of California

Winters Branch Library Financing Authority

Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Advisory Board

Tools of Learning Foundation Board of Directors

Vacaville Sunrise Rotary Board of Directors

LEAD, FOLLOW OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

Pushing ideas that ensure our quality of life improves

I am making progress on many of the ideas I have put forth in the public arena. I wish I could say I have had immediate results, but big ideas take hold slowly. Still state and federal officials are asking for more details – that's a good sign. When considering these ideas, keep in mind they are linked. We need good roads and reliable water supplies to attract the jobs that allow people to live and work here.

New Roads – The local newspapers have carried articles about my ideas on realigning Highway 113 and connecting it to Highway 4. They haven't given much ink on the other part of that proposal that connects Interstate 505 to Highway 99.

Water Storage – We presented the idea of using Prospect and Liberty islands as in-delta water storage to the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee. Our Solano County Water Agency is exploring it, and it was a topic of discussion at the Delta Protection Commission this quarter.

Job Creation – I've laid the groundwork for the stretch goal of getting 75% of the county's labor force working in the county by 2020. Some may dismiss the idea saying it is impossible, but to meet that objective we only need to capture 6% of the 1.6 million new jobs projected to be created in the region.

If you want the rest of the story on any of these ideas, I will be glad to email you short fact sheets on these topics.

Personnel Subcommittee waiting for RFP responses

By the end of July we will select a consultant to answer the overarching question facing the county's compensation process: Is the methodology sound? My gut instinct tells me that our compensation process is out of balance with the rest of Solano County, but it is worth the investment in a consultant for an objective perspective. No future pay raises or bonuses will get my support until this study affirms or reforms our current process. I expect changes and will solicit your input once the study is complete in October.

Checking off some of the wins and near wins

County Parks – Kept the discussion on expanding the county park system on how each new piece will be self-sustaining. We must set the standard by building our own business plans for Lake Solano, Belden's Landing and Sandy Beach.

Nut Tree Airport – You are already seeing dirt move as part of the property transfer that allowed for the realignment of Monte Vista Avenue. We acquired land along Monte Vista that will bring new opportunities, vitality to the airport. Now we must put ink to a business plan that reflects the vision of all stakeholders.

Fixing County Roads – Didn't get the money I lobbied for during the budget hearings to repair the roads this year, but the Public Works department is tasked to present a plan that maintains the taxpayer investment in our rural roads.

Economic Development – Didn't get a financial investment level from the Board, but a newly formed subcommittee will come up with a strategy for the county's role in economic development. We also commissioned a UC Cooperative Extension study on how to increase the viability of our ag industry.

Bio Tech Resolution – My biotech resolution praising the benefits of local companies and research has been adopted as a policy platform by the California State Association of Counties.

North County Building – Talks are moving forward again on the affordable construction of a Health and Social Services building in Vacaville. Adding to that victory is a commitment to match the approach being applied to the Vallejo building to the Vacaville building.

☑ **Hay Road Landfill** – Tightened the rules for doing business so odors and litter won't increase as the landfill expands to meet the regional waste disposal needs.

Picking your brain! Looking for ideas on these topics

- Ways to accelerate the funding of the Adult Detention Facility on Claybank Rd
- Consolidating the Fire Protection Districts and Resource Conservation Districts
- Entrepreneurial ways to maximize the use of County-owned properties