

Mike Reagan REFLECTION

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YOUR ADVOCATE FOR SOLANO COUNTY'S 5TH DISTRICT

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"We can no longer deny the size of the challenge facing us. Now we must reach consensus and find the resolve to achieve real solutions."

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Promises made, results delivered

Wow! The pace for the last 10 months has been hectic, but it is still a lot of fun. I thought I would focus this issue on how I've been working toward fulfilling my campaign promises. The big three were to protect Travis Air Force Base from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, to get county salaries under control, and to prevent industrial mega-dairies from negatively impacting our quality of life and our water supply. A lot else has been going on, so I'll try to touch as many of them as I can fit into these two pages.

✓ Protect Travis AFB – done; now on to the next challenge

The reason we dodged the bullet during this round of the BRAC was a concerted effort to protect and enhance the base's missions and to increase the availability of housing. As inevitable as taxes, BRAC or something similar will come back in five to 10 years. We need to remain vigilant so we can survive the next round. Lowering the cost of doing business at the base, increasing their ability to accept new missions and expanding its strategic value from a military and homeland defense stance are what must lie ahead for us.

✓ Get County employee salaries under control – in progress

In the next few weeks the Board of Supervisors will hear the results of a study that I fought hard for which reviews our compensation methodology. I've argued that we should pay a wage that is competitive in the markets where we actually get our employees. The existing seven-county comparables has caused a vicious upward spiral in salaries, and doesn't reflect the actual cost of attracting high-quality employees. This compensation study will, hopefully, result in radical changes for government employers by adopting standard operating procedures used in the business community. It will finally give us a good business and good government approach to calculating salaries for every county employee – including the county administrator and county counsel. There is a lot at stake in this debate, so I will ask for your attention and support on our long-term objectives.

✓ Highest standards for mega-dairies in California – done

If a large dairy operation wants to locate in Solano County, they will be away from our homes and more than 3 miles from our cities. They also will receive a long list of rules and require a thorough Environmental Impact Review, to ensure the dairy operation is a safe and responsible neighbor. We also ensured no large dairy operations will be adjacent to our national veterans' cemetery.

Thank you for stepping up and serving Solano County

- Reappointment of three folks from Rio Vista: **Ronald Heinrich** to the Library Advisory Board, **David Hamilton** to the Solano County Fair Association, and **Alice Cole** to the Rio Vista-Montezuma Cemetery District.
- Appointed **Richard Hoar** to the Dixon Fire Protection District, **John Cronin** of Rio Vista to the Solano County Fair Association, **George Dana** of Birds Landing to the Montezuma Fire Protection District and **Maria Moses** of Suisun City to the Child Abuse Prevention Council.
- **MORE APPOINTMENTS:** Seeking volunteers for the Local Mental Health Board, Solano Partnership Against Violence, Area Agency on Aging, Dixon Fire Protection District (3 openings), Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Advisory Board (2 openings), 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

Launched www.mikereagan.net to increase my accessibility

I am constantly surprised by remarks that people are amazed how accessible they feel I am. Office hours in every community, promptly returning phone calls and emails, and an open calendar to meet with people should be standard operating procedure for elected officials. Now I've launched a web site filled with info about what I'm working on and ways to get your feedback. For example, there's a survey question on the site asking about internet filters. Give me your thoughts.

Solano Senior Coalition will happen, grant or no grant

Solano County is down to the finals on a grant application that will help us put together a Solano Senior Coalition, but if that grant falls through we will push forward with the idea. We need an organization that takes advantage of the lessons learned by the Vacaville Senior Roundtable. Solano County was just recognized as "One of the Top 100 Communities for Young People," and we need to make the same commitment to seniors. Grant confirmation comes in January.

Veterans' Halls at last getting the attention they deserve

Dixon's Veterans Memorial Hall got a temporary roof repair just in time to avert more damage by the winter rains. Vacaville's elevator was repaired. Staff will give us a report in a few weeks on what it will take to undo years of neglect at all County veterans' facilities. Not only do we have to fix the facilities, but create the process for keeping them whole. That will take a partnership between the County and the using veterans' organizations.

Studies filling in last pieces before Nut Tree Airport fix

Consultants are now working on an updated Airport Land Use Plan and Property Map Preparation. This process will also include an extensive public comment process that will essentially give us as near a master plan as the Federal Aviation Administration will fund. At the same time, we are doing an Environmental Assessment to remove the tree obstructions and a report on apron rehabilitation and fencing. This information will help us partner with local developers and the City of Vacaville to make the Nut Tree an economic asset for everyone.

A 'Green Industry' park in Collinsville is a good jobs idea

The folks at One Vision Park have an idea – divert all that green waste from area landfills into a power generation plant making 50 megawatts of electricity. It would also serve as an incubator for other renewable energy businesses, maybe even a campus of the California State University system that takes advantage of the deep water port and the creative engineering environment. This is really out-of-the-box thinking, and I look forward to seeing this opportunity unfold. Now, let's come up with more innovate ideas so we can make the goal of "75% of the labor force in Solano County actually works in the County" a reality.

Lawsuit forces critical habitat designation burden on county

The jury is still out on how gravely the Fish and Wildlife Service's recent flip-flop on a critical habitat designation for fairy shrimp will hurt us. We now have 13,415 acres muddled by a bureaucracy that does nothing to help protect the species. My concern is it will interfere with some potential expansion opportunities at Travis AFB, the widening of Highway 12 and Jepson Parkway. The affected agencies are coordinating a response, and I've asked our Federal representatives to weigh in.

General Plan Update will help define the County for decades

The daunting task of updating and reconciling the County General Plan will take three years and probably will conflict with efforts to extend Measure A before it sunsets in 2010. Our population growth – 400,000-plus new people by the time my kids are my age – should guide this debate. Each community will grow, but in my estimation we don't have a plan to accommodate anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000 people. This may spark the debate about where we locate new towns. We also need a plan that will provide jobs to get residents out of the commute.