

Mike Reagan REFLECTIONS

OCTOBER 15, 2006

YOUR ADVOCATE FOR SOLANO COUNTY'S 5TH DISTRICT

VOL. 2, NO. 4



"Mark Twain said it best. 'Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

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

Stephen Pierce
Field Representative

707.784-6131

spierce@solanocounty.com

No on Measure J - really let voters decide how we grow

I can't help but laugh at the irony when I see signs supporting the poorly crafted Orderly Growth Initiative. These proponents argued the Board should adopt the OGI because the land use issues it covered are too complicated to let the voters make the decision. Did they get easy all of sudden? Maybe it would be easier to understand if the OGI wasn't penned by a handful of folks in isolation trying to further their narrow, doctrinaire vision of Solano County. They must be afraid the very public General Plan process will result in a vision that actually represents the public's desires on how we should grow. **Vote No on Measure J** - 30 years is too long, it restricts job creation, and it harms agriculture and property rights.

Saving our farms will mean expanding our ag economy

Some of the preliminary reports on our ag sustainability study will be coming in January. I hope the end result is a clear understanding of how we can get more aspects of the agriculture economy active in Solano County. Ag isn't just farmers, it is a vertical integration that if one company owned it, we would have anti-trust law suits on our hands. The ag economy includes input producers (seed, chemical and machinery manufacturers and sellers), producers (farmers/growers), commodity wholesalers and shippers, commodity processors, food wholesalers, food retailers (supermarkets), and consumers (people buying locally produced products). The diversity and numbers in all of these categories need to grow.

Economic summit to define County's role in creating jobs

What should be the County's role in creating jobs for the 42% of the people who commute out of the county or the 100,000-plus jobs we need to create in the next 20 years? That's what city, business and County folks will try to map out on Feb. 15. I have my own ideas of what the County should do, but I'll reserve comment now to hear what everyone else has to contribute. One thing for sure is the County has an obligation to help generate jobs, and we haven't made any serious commitment to that task in years (another consequence of "orderly growth"). With your help, I'm going to try and fix that erroneous way of thinking.

Eighty ideas for a better Solano in the next 5 years

Hopefully you've heard of the new website www.80on80.com that allows you to find fun things to do in our communities straddling I-80. I've got my own version of that smart marketing idea - **80-in-5** - eighty ideas we need to get done in the next five years. I sat down and made a list of all the ideas I've got rolling around in my head that will bring jobs, improve public safety, make government more responsive and ensure we retain our wonderful quality of life by preparing for the future. When I reached 80, I decided to stop. I guess I could have used Hwy 113 instead, but that didn't roll off the tongue as well. Some of the ideas - culled from County staff, smart people throughout the county and a few of my own - are close to fruition, some are in the works, and a few more are new additions to the mix. Over the next few weeks I'll polish up this list, going back to those folks helped generate the ideas, and unveil them as my New Year's resolutions.

Thank you for stepping up and serving Solano County

Thanks to the following people who were reappointed: **Jeff Kauffman** of Walnut Grove to the Ryer Fire Protection District, **Kay Buchanan** to the Vacaville-Elmira Cemetery District, and **Jean Rubier** to the Rio Vista-Montezuma Cemetery District. **Tom Monk** was appointed to the Dixon Fire Protection District. **MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:** A current list of appointment opportunities are on www.mikereagan.net.

Serving You on These Committees

Board of Supervisors

- *Personnel Committee*
- *Military and Veteran Affairs Committee*
- *Economic Development & Tourism Committee*
- *Senior Issues Committee*
- *Strategic Planning Committee*
- *Transportation Land Use Committee*

Delta Protection Commission

California State Association of Counties

- *Housing, Land Use and Transportation Committee*
- *Economic Development Committee*
- *Water and Flood Control Task Force*
- *Bay Area Coalition of Counties*

Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management Board

ABAG Bay Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee

Fouts Springs Youth Facility Board of Directors

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

Solano County Water Agency Board of Directors

Remote Access Network Board

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

Winters Branch Library Financing Authority

Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Advisory Board

BRAC 2012? Get Travis AFB on the list for expanded mission

In the last round of the Base Realignment and Closure process, we committed ourselves to get Travis AFB through untouched. We were 100% successful – nothing taken away, nothing added. Pentagon officials are telling me that the next round is likely around 2012. This time, we need to get Travis on the list – with expanded missions. To convince the Department of Defense to expand Travis, we need to lower the cost of doing business at the base, increase their ability to accept new missions and expand its strategic value from both a military and homeland defense stance. Here are a few ideas I've been pushing:

- ✓ House a joint civilian-military-Veterans Administration teaching practicum at David Grant Medical Center to address a shortage of nurses, doctors and techs
- ✓ Build a regional commercial air cargo hub on an additional runway
- ✓ Establish a regional Homeland Security Joint Aviation Operations Center
- ✓ Create "Super Base-Travis" by linking the base to Concord Naval Weapons Station, Camp Parks and the San Joaquin depot

Block grant partnership may help renovate Dixon Vets Hall

The partnership between the City of Dixon and the County to renovate the vets hall looks to add a new dimension. Both the Board of Supervisors and the City Council are to consider this month to apply for a Federal Community Development Block Grant to bring another \$1 million to the table. A detailed analysis of the renovation plan puts the cost at \$2.4 to \$3 million for the roof replacement, seismic upgrades, ADA improvements and other general modernization issues. I've already got \$1.3 million set aside for the hall and Dixon has put up \$300,000, so the CDBG will make closing the gap much easier. On a related note, I am pushing for legislation that allows veteran memorial halls to be eligible for State Parks bond funding to help preserve these cultural, historical community assets.

Work crews putting Nut Tree Airport plans into action

Work crews are now doing the much needed repairs to the parking apron at the Nut Tree Airport. The crews will be improving the water lines so we can install the wash rack, new entrance gates and resurface Airport Road. Behind the scenes, we are advocating for extending the runway, upgrading some of the hangars, and if I get what I want, the ability for corporate jets to be housed on the opposite side of the runway from the current general aviation uses. This economic engine has been in the shop for repairs, but it's getting prepped for takeoff.

Battle over realistic mitigation rates coming to a boil

The proposed mitigation rates for the Habitat Conservation Plan for Solano County are misguided at best and down right ridiculous at worst. The strategy proposed to the Solano County Water Agency were as high as 9-to-1 mitigation rates in some areas and would have done little to improve species sustainability. The proposal impacts our ability to attract jobs and keeps Hwy 12 as a dangerous road with no hope of being made safer. I will continue to advocate for sanity.

Added role for me on the Delta Protection Commission

The DPC just appointed me to serve on the Executive Committee for the Delta Long Term Management Strategy, a Federal/State committee with the charge of developing the plan to streamline permitting processes to restart dredging in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and to put the spoils to work reinforcing levees. I look forward to working on actually fixing California's biggest vulnerability.

U.S. Constitution controls my actions in marijuana debate

I've been asked why I voted against telling the County to issue Medical Marijuana ID cards. It's basically because decades of training as a military officer engrained into me to never direct subordinates to commit or enable an illegal act. The Federal government – through the FDA - has retained the exclusive authority to regulate what is medicine under authority of the trade and commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld this authority. The Feds say marijuana is illegal – even for medicinal uses. I will not direct staff to enable commission of a crime by issuing medical marijuana ID cards.