

# Mike Reagan REFLECTIONS

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YOUR ADVOCATE FOR SOLANO COUNTY'S 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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*"We must make the strategic investments – public and private – that boldly communicate to the world that Solano County is a place where innovation is not just welcomed, but expected."*

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## My focus as Board Chair will be to create jobs

This month marks the start of my third year serving the 5<sup>th</sup> District and Solano County, and I have the privilege to be the Board Chair for 2007. It has been a whirl wind of activity so far, and the vision I laid out at the Jan. 9 Board meeting promises even more. The entire text of my remarks are available on my web site, but the crux of the message was we need to make strategic investments that lead to job creation to retain and improve the quality of life here in Solano. The General Plan, safer neighborhoods and more accommodative government are all inextricably linked to our ability to create jobs. I'll need your help to move these ideas forward, but I'm confident Solano is up to the challenge.

## Economic Summit to define our joint efforts at job creation

In my opening remarks as Chair, I said the County has an obligation to play a role in creating jobs and I wanted the Board to clarify that role this year. The Economic Summit on Feb. 15 will play a vital role in that task. Over 150 smart folks are being invited to help craft a vision of how the county (meaning the geographical area) can work together strategically for a dramatic, positive outcome on our local economy. Once we figure out what the destination is, an appropriate role for the County (meaning the political entity) will emerge. This information will guide the Board as they make policy and financial decisions to help the county realize our vision.

## General Plan must stay on track to help attract quality jobs

Keeping our General Plan on track for a vote of the people before the Orderly Growth Initiative expires is critical to attracting quality jobs. Delays will leave the cities and potential investors in the county in limbo on how we plan to provide for industrial and commercial employment centers. I've already added quarterly course correction reviews by the Board. On Tuesday, Jan. 26, we will consider recommendations to accelerate the process by doubling the number of Citizen Advisory Committee meetings. The Board will also consider reconstituting the committee membership to reflect all stakeholders. The window of opportunity to apply is short; applications will be due Feb. 9. The personal commitment will be intense, but the objective of the process is to orchestrate land use decisions that ensure our quality of life is available to our grandchildren. But our grandchildren won't be able to stick around if they can't afford to live here due to the high cost of housing and the lack of quality jobs.

## Investing in safer neighborhoods will attract employers

Designing and financing the expansion of our County jail to keep society's predators off the streets is high on my priorities this year. We are on track for a 500-plus bed facility to house our criminals, but we have the footprint to be a part of the solution to the State's prison overcrowding if the legislature will pay their share to house over 1,000 inmates. At the same time, I am calling for stepped up gang intelligence gathering so the Sheriff, in partnership with local and regional law enforcement, can proactively sweep our neighborhoods clean. On the other end of the criminal justice system, we also need to invest in training and pre-release programs that shut the revolving door into our jails.

## Thank you for stepping up and serving Solano County

Thanks to **Dana Foss**, **James Bound** and **Scott de Bie** who were reappointed to the Silveyville Cemetery District, and **Tom Monk** and **John Rotteveel** who were appointed to the Dixon Fire Protection District. **MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:** A current list of appointment opportunities are on [www.mikereagan.net](http://www.mikereagan.net).

## **Serving You on These Committees**

### **Board of Supervisors**

- Executive Committee which includes Agenda Review, Strategic Planning, Personnel and Legislation
- Military and Veteran Affairs Committee
- Economic Development & Tourism Committee
- Senior Issues Committee

### *Delta Protection Commission*

*Federal/State Executive Committee for the Long-Term Management Strategy for Dredging in the Delta*

### *California State Association of Counties*

- Housing, Land Use and Transportation Committee
- Economic Development Committee
- Water and Flood Control Task Force

### *Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management Board*

- Budget & Audit Committee
- Technical Rules Committee

### *ABAG Bay Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee*

### *Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Advisory Board*

### *Fouts Springs Youth Facility Board of Directors, Chairman*

### *Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)*

- Fire District Consolidation Committee

### *Solano County Water Agency Board of Directors*

### *Remote Access Network Board*

### *Solano Economic Development Corp. Executive Committee & Board of Directors*

### *Solano City-County Coordinating Committee, Chairman*

### *Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee*

### *Travis Community Consortium*

## **80-in-5: 80 ideas I will work on in the next 5 years**

Last quarter I promised this issue would bring forth the 80 ideas I have on my radar for the next five years. These thoughts – culled from County staff, some really smart people around the county and quite a few of my own – are all listed on [www.mikereagan.net](http://www.mikereagan.net). They represent ideas that could help us create jobs, improve public safety, refine County processes and plan for the future. Some of the ideas may sound familiar – pushing for public-private partnerships (toll roads) to expand our inter-regional mobility as well as finding the funding to make the short section of Peabody Road in the county consistent with the four-lane arterials in Vacaville and Fairfield. Others are getting heard for the first time, such as lobbying the State to amend the California Building Code to allow exemptions for temporary structures used for growing agriculture and nursery crops. I'd welcome your ideas and suggestions on how we can make them happen.

## **More resuscitation efforts, new voices for Nut Tree Airport**

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the Board of Supervisors will consider appointing **Dave Aronson** (Pilot Association Member), **Woody Harris** (Recreational Pilot) and **Rob Wood** (Business Representative) to the Nut Tree Airport Advisory Committee. I'm looking forward to their confirmation, because they will bring the enthusiasm and proper perspectives we need to move forward. Their first task should be to help develop the Request for Proposal for a fixed based operator that can help us achieve our vision. We will also need their input as we make Master Plan updates for the airfield and develop the 15 acres of adjacent property the County purchased between Monte Vista Avenue and the runway.

## **Stepping up our State & Federal legislative advocacy role**

Solano County's nexus location between the Bay Area, Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley should mean our viewpoints carry weight with State and Federal policymakers. I've lobbied for, and won, stepped up emphasis of our lobbying efforts in D.C. I fully expect this investment of time and money will enhance our competitiveness during a climate of Federal deficit fighting and earmark avoidance. We also have a full agenda of legislative issues for State lawmakers, including making our Claybank jail expansion a visible part of the State's solution for prison overcrowding ... at the State's expense. We are also trying to get our veterans halls eligible for "historic building" bond funding.

## **Progress on flooding issues in the Delta, but not in County**

We've got our Office of Emergency Services working with the four Delta counties to improve our planning to take care of the Delta residents in an emergency. We are also training our County employees to perform their mandated disaster response roles. At the same time, I am still frustrated by the Solano County Water Agency's reluctance to fill the role of a county-wide flood management agency, and in our ability to secure funding for annual hands-on disaster preparedness exercises, like last year's very successful military aircraft accident exercise.

## **Coordinator hired to move Senior Report Card forward**

The Senior Coalition of Solano County, which I've been working with for the last two years, has hired a coordinator to facilitate the group and produce a base line "Senior Report Card" by the year's end. This report should give a comprehensive view of what the strengths and weaknesses are in our senior community. The next step will be formulating strategies to capitalize on the talents and energies of our incredible senior population and how best to meet their needs.

## **Collinsville: Port future is clean energy and levee repairs**

As we continue down the General Plan process the Collinsville Specific Plan area will continue to be debated. Back in 1979, the County crafted a vision for the Collinsville area centered on a water-related industrial area and a deep water port. Developers over the years have come up with different ways to make use of this area, but the current focus is on a mixed-use "green" energy generation and research complex. I think this area would also be an ideal location for a construction lay down area for the reconstruction of our levees protecting Delta islands. Learn more about my thoughts on Collinsville at [www.mikereagan.net](http://www.mikereagan.net).