

RESOLUTION NO. 3189-2008

RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE STATE BUDGET DECISIONS THAT WOULD “BORROW” LOCAL GOVERNMENT, REDEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2008, the state legislature missed its Constitutional budget deadline; and

WHEREAS, both the Governor and the Legislative Budget Conference Committee have recommended balanced budgets without resorting to “loans” or seizures of local government property tax, redevelopment tax increment, and transportation sales tax funds; and

WHEREAS, in 1952 the voters of California approved Article XVI, Section 16 of the California Constitution, providing for tax increment financing for community revitalization – not balancing the state budget, and the voters never authorized the legislature to take or “borrow” community redevelopment funds for state programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, by an 84% margin of approval, the voters of California approved Proposition 1A and sent a loud and unambiguous message to state leaders that they should stop the destructive and irresponsible practice of taking local government funds to finance the state budget and paper over the state deficit; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, by a 77% margin of approval, the voters of California also approved Proposition 1A, providing similar protections to transportation funding for state and local transportation projects, including important street maintenance and public transit programs; and

WHEREAS, both ballot measures allow the Governor to declare a “severe state of fiscal hardship” and “borrow” these funds if they are repaid in three years with interest; however, the Governor believes it would be irresponsible to “borrow” such funds because it would deepen the state’s structural deficit and cripple local government and transportation services; and

WHEREAS, refusal by the legislature to carry out its constitutional obligation to compromise on a balanced budget is not a “severe state of fiscal hardship” and would not justify reductions in critical local services, community revitalization programs, and infrastructure maintenance at a time when cities are struggling to balance their own budgets during this economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, city investments in infrastructure, affordable housing, and basic public safety and other community services will create needed jobs and speed our economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, current estimates for seizures of City of Fort Bragg property tax and transportation funds total \$288,874; and

WHEREAS, the legislature should balance the state budget with state revenues and respect the overwhelming support of voters for not using local property taxes, redevelopment tax increments, and transportation sales tax funds to fund the day-to-day operating cost of state programs; and

WHEREAS, it would be the height of fiscal irresponsibility to paper over the state structural deficit with more borrowing, and Californians deserve state leaders who will tell them honestly what needs to be done to produce a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, it is time for the State of California to cut up its local government credit cards and deal with the budget deficit in a straightforward way. Balance the state budget with state funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby oppose any and all efforts by state government to “borrow” or seize local tax funds, redevelopment tax increment, and transportation sales tax funds to finance state operations. Such a move would be fiscally irresponsible for the state and hamper effective local services and infrastructure investments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Acting City Manager is hereby directed to send this resolution and communicate this Council's strong and unwavering opposition on this matter to our legislators and the Governor, along with an expression of our continued appreciation for the Governor's and any supportive legislators' steadfast opposition to further borrowing or seizure of these funds.


The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember Melo, seconded by Councilmember Courtney, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 28th day of July, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Courtney, Gjerde, Melo, and Vice Mayor Turner.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Mayor Hammerstrom.
ABSTAIN: None.



DAVE TURNER,
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Cynthia M. VanWormer, CMC
City Clerk