

RESOLUTION NO. 2855-2005

RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING SUSPENSION OF PROPOSITION 42 FUNDS BY THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, Proposition 42 was overwhelmingly approved (70%) by the voters in 2002, whereby said Proposition effected a constitutional permanent shift of the sales tax on motor vehicle fuels from the State General Fund to the Transportation Investment Fund for transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS, these funds in the Transportation Investment Fund are to be divided as follows: (1) 40% to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), (2) 20% to cities for street maintenance and rehabilitation, (3) 20% to counties for road maintenance and rehabilitation, and (4) 20% to the Public Transit Account (PTA) for a variety of transit programs; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 42 helps make our roads safer and reduces congestion without higher taxes by requiring that gasoline taxes we already pay be used to maintain and improve mass transit, highways, and local streets and roads; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 42 provides a stable and ongoing source of transportation funding that makes it possible to address existing and future transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 42 guarantees funds to every city and county to help fix potholes, repair dangerous road conditions, and improve the safety of children walking or biking to school; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties put these dollars to work immediately, thereby saving taxpayers four to five times the cost of deferring maintenance; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties have an impeccable record of spending these types of dollars, expending 98% of monies directly on an annual basis over the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 42 helps speed up highway safety and traffic congestion relief projects, and expand and improve mass transit systems; and

WHEREAS, by accelerating transportation projects, thousands of new construction and related jobs are created, our economy is stimulated, and every dollar invested in our highways results in almost six times that in overall economic benefit; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 42 is based on the principle that taxes paid at the pump should be used for transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has suspended the allocation of Proposition 42 funds to their intended purposes which has violated the public trust, ignored the will of the people on this issue, and violates the contract between voters and their elected State representatives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Bragg lost approximately \$25,000 in funding in FY 2003/04, is losing another \$27,000 this year, and stands to lose another \$29,000 in rehabilitation funding in FY 2005/06 if Proposition 42 is again suspended; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 42 suspensions to date have rendered \$1.8 million unavailable to the Mendocino Council of Governments for programming State Transportation Improvement Program projects in Mendocino County, with an additional \$1.2 million becoming unavailable if Proposition 42 is suspended in FY 2005/06; and

WHEREAS, without Proposition 42 monies being available for California transportation, the current 12-cent gas tax that goes to the state and the 6-cent gas tax dedicated to cities and counties is insufficient to even maintain the existing street, road, and freeway system; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 42 monies are critical to city street and county road systems, that together represent 82% of all publicly maintained miles in California, providing a critical component in a seamless transportation system for the public, commerce, transit operations, and farm-to-market trips throughout California; and

WHEREAS, today over \$5.5 billion in transportation funds have been diverted to offset the State's General Fund deficits over the past 3 years, with this figure growing by another \$1.3 billion should Proposition 42 funds be borrowed again in FY 2005/06; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal to repay Proposition 42 funds, with no interest, over a 15-year period starting in FY. 2007/08 will ensure that restored funding will be only a fraction as effective as it would if available now.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby support the intended purpose of Proposition 42, which puts transportation dollars to work, saves taxpayers money, and improves the efficiency of the state's transportation system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby declare its opposition to diversion, suspension, or borrowing of Proposition 42 funds from transportation to the State General Fund.

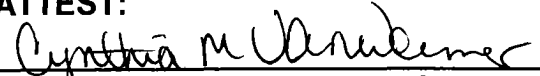
The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember Hammerstrom, seconded by Councilmember Melo, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 28th day of March, 2005, by the following vote:

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



DAVE TURNER,
Mayor

ATTEST:



Cynthia M. VanWormer, CMC
City Clerk