

AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL		Agenda Time Estimates: <input type="checkbox"/> Regular or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent	Leave Blank: 105	Date/Time Rec'd: 9/14/09
TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: Name: Steve Wittry, Public Works Administrator Administrator Phone No: 831-636-4170		NUMBER OF CERTIFIED COPIES REQUIRED:	
FROM: Steve Wittry, Public Works Administrator				

MEETING DATE: September 22, 2009	(1) SUBJECT Thank you letter to State Senator Jeff Denham for his support in saving HUTA from FY 2009-10 Budget Revisions
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(2) BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The County of San Benito would like to thank State Senator Jeff Denham for his support in stopping the proposed cuts to the local gas tax, or the Highway User Tax Account (HUTA), contained in ABX4 24 and ABX4 30 during the state budget revisions enacted in July 2009. Retaining these funds for counties saved over 4,000 county public works jobs that would have been lost during the worst economic era this state and our nation has experienced in decades. Moreover, taking HUTA funds from local governments would have also resulted in additional lay-offs in other county departments, cities and the private sector.

(3) SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THIS ITEM: Thank You Letter	(4) PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS ON THIS SPECIFIC ITEM:
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(5) FUNDING SOURCE(S): N/A	(6) CURRENT YEAR COST: \$ N/A	(7) ANNUAL COST: \$ 0	(8) BUDGETED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
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(9) WILL PROPOSAL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL? YES NO If YES, STATE NUMBER: Permanent Limited Term

(10) RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

It is respectfully recommended that your Board of Supervisors:

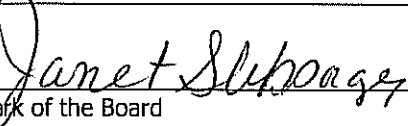
- Approve the letter to State Senator Jeff Denham, recognizing his support in saving HUTA funding from the FY 2009-10 Budget Revisions; and,**
- Authorize the Chair to sign.**

 Steve Wittry, Public Works Administrator Signature of Agency or Department Authorized Representative	September 8, 2009 DATE
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(11) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

CLERK'S USE ONLY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED	<input type="checkbox"/> DENIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED	<input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUED TO _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ACKNOWLEDGED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RESOLUTION NO. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> SET PUBLIC HEARING	<input type="checkbox"/> APPOINTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORDINANCE NO. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> NO ACTION TAKEN _____

BY:  Clerk of the Board	
DATE: 9/22/09	

ENTERED 9/30/09 105-2

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COUNTY OF SAN BENITO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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September 22, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Denham
California State Senator
State Capitol, Room 3076
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Thank You for Helping Save HUTA in the FY 2009-10 Budget Revisions

Dear Senator Denham,

The County of San Benito would like to thank you for your role in stopping the proposed cuts to the local gas tax, or the Highway User Tax Account (HUTA), contained in ABX4 24 and ABX4 30 during the state budget revisions enacted in July 2009. Retaining these funds for counties saved over 4,000 county public works jobs that would have been lost during the worst economic era this state and our nation has experienced in decades. Moreover, taking HUTA funds from local governments would have also resulted in additional lay-offs in other county departments, cities and the private sector.

In San Benito County, HUTA accounts for \$1.135 million to support the road infrastructure network. This is equivalent to almost half of the Road Maintenance Budget. These funds support 11 filled positions in that division. The loss of this personnel would have severely impacted our ability to maintain the over 400 miles of roads within the county. As you are aware, the work that the crews perform is vital to maintain public roads for safe travel. In addition, these maintenance activities include shoulder work to reduce the potential for wildfires generated from motorist travelling through rural areas. Removal of weeds is an essential service in the prevention of wildfires that could not have been accomplished if the funds were lost. The road crew does so much more maintenance on our roadways.

Once again, thank you for your involvement in saving HUTA funds in the FY 2009-10 State Budget. California's counties understand the tough decisions that were facing you in July and will continue to face you in the coming months. Our county and our public works staff and the people we mutually serve are most appreciative of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Anthony Botelho
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of San Benito