

County Joins Fight to Save Payment in Lieu Funding

Corning Observer

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Tehama County joined Rural County Representatives of California and 29 other counties in a statewide effort to raise awareness on the importance of Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes funding for the state's rural counties.

Earlier this year, the Tehama County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution urging Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. Program funding mitigates the impact to county governments when the federal government acquires private lands that had been subject to local property tax. Once these lands are placed into public ownership, local property tax is not applicable.

Unless Congress acts before Oct. 1, Federal PILT payments will be placed in jeopardy. The lack of authorization impacts rural counties' ability to adequately and appropriately fund basic and vital local services.

"Federal PILT funding is critical to Tehama County's ability to provide essential services such as law enforcement, firefighting, search-and-rescue operations, construction and maintenance of roads, and more" said Bob Williams, Tehama County supervisor and Rural County Representatives of California delegate. "Absent reauthorization, Tehama County is set to lose over \$500,000 this year alone."

For nearly 40 years, the federal government has provided county reimbursements under the Federal PILT program, however, these payments are subject to the discretion of Congress.

Tehama County and others that contain National Forests, National Parks, lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, lands dedicated for federal water use, National Wildlife Reserves, and inactive or semi-inactive U.S. Army installations, are eligible for Federal PILT payments.

http://www.appeal-democrat.com/corning_observer/county-joins-fight-to-save-payment-in-lieu-funding/article_364c6d78-5ce5-11e5-8608-e38092964b5d.html