

# County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only

Meeting Date

Held Until

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Agenda Item No:

Agenda Item No:

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**Department:**

County of Sonoma Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector  
and Sonoma County Water Agency

**4/5 Vote Not Required**

**Contact:**

Amy Bolten  
Jim Leddy

**Phone:**

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(707) 565-2190

**Board Date:**

9/1/2009

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**

Resolution in support of House Resolution 3525 (HR 3525) Tax Exempt Private Activity Bond (PAB)

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

Concurrent Resolution in support of House Resolution 3525 (HR 3525) Tax Exempt Private Activity Bond (PAB) use for renewable energy generation and energy and water efficiency projects.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT - None.**

**Explanation (if required):** None.

**Prior Board Action:**

3/25/09 Adoption of Sonoma County Energy Independence Program.

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:** None.

**Background:**

On March 25, 2009, the Board of Supervisors approved the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) to finance energy and water efficiency, and renewable energy retrofits on private property in Sonoma County. The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) has been actively involved in development of SCEIP, assisting in retention of necessary outside counsel and consultants, contributing funding, marketing materials, and office space, and providing staff expertise with respect to public outreach and recommended technologies.

Currently, bond financing for this program is considered taxable debt. During the early research of SCEIP, it became evident that there was a need for access to tax exempt bonds for long term sustainability of SCEIP. The Board's Ad Hoc AB 811 sub-committee members, Supervisors Brown and Kelley, led an effort with the support of the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, County Counsel, the County Administrator's Office and the Agency to define legislative language for tax-exempt financing. This language was proposed to Congressman Thompson in the spring of 2009 and on July 31, 2009 the bill was introduced as House Resolution 3525 (HR 3525). HR 3525 contains language to make such financing tax-exempt, which is expected to decrease interest rates charged to Sonoma County citizens for SCEIP financing.

Further, thanks to the efforts of Supervisor Brown, the National Association of Counties adopted language that would support this type of legislation.

Although the Board has already sent a letter of support on August 6, 2009, generating additional support for this legislation from other public entities is in order. It is now requested that a formal concurrent resolution be adopted by the Board and that such resolution be forwarded to other counties to encourage them to support HR 3525 and adopt similar resolutions.

**Requested Board Action:**

Concurrent Resolution in support of House Resolution 3525 Tax Exempt Private Activity Bond (PAB) use for renewable energy generation and energy and water efficiency projects.

**Attachments:** Resolution (R1)

**On File With Clerk:**

1) Copy of August 6, 2009 letter of support for HR3525; 2) Copy of HR 3525 Tax Exempt Private Activity Bond (PAB)

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**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**