



RESOLUTION NO.

of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Support for California Conservation Corps Funding

WHEREAS, California's unemployment rate climbed to 9.3% in December, 2008, according to the Employment Development Department and 8.3% in El Dorado County, with economists predicting a continued rise; and,

WHEREAS, juvenile arrests and convictions for serious crimes continue to rise since many young women and men have poor or no school attendance, a lack of family structure, and few opportunities for work and effective educational experience; and,

WHEREAS, emancipated foster youth have few options once they leave the foster care system and face stiff challenges including homelessness, unemployment and incarceration; and,

WHEREAS, due to budget constraints, local, state, and non-government entities need assistance fulfilling their environmental and infrastructure missions including, fire suppression and forest fuels management, erosion control and revegetation projects, building and maintaining trails, protecting watersheds, transportation enhancement, such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, landscaping, scenic beautification, and restoration and preservation of historic buildings and facilities; and ,

WHEREAS, the **California Conservation Corps** (CCC) is a state agency that brings together youth and the environment for the benefit of both; and,

WHEREAS, the CCC was modeled after the original federal Civilian Conservation Corps created in 1933 by President Franklin Roosevelt, today's CCC is comprised of young women and men 18 to 25 years old working on challenging conservation projects in cities and rural areas; and,

WHEREAS, since its start in 1976, more than 100,000 racially and ethnically diverse young women and men have been a part of the CCC, many of whom are unemployed at the time of hire and lack a high school diploma; and,

WHEREAS, CCC members earn at least the minimum wage and learn basic work readiness, job training, life skills, advance their education, including pursuing a high school diploma and career technical education, and perform community service; and,

WHEREAS, the CCC provides an alternative to youth unemployment, incarceration, substance abuse, and aimlessness; and,

WHEREAS, the CCC is one of California's premier emergency response forces, and in 2008, corpsmembers devoted more than a half-million hours to fire response, and also fought floods and pest infestations; and,



WHEREAS, the CCC has 27 residential and non-residential locations throughout California, including Lake Tahoe Residential Center, to assist with natural resource work and emergency response and has provided more than 9.3 million hours of emergency response on every major natural disaster since 1976; and,

WHEREAS, the CCC is a cost-effective labor force, working for more than 250 local, state and federal agencies each year tackling more than 900 projects and generating more than \$26 million annually for the CCC; and,

WHEREAS, in the last three years, more than 4,000 corpsmembers worked to complete their high school diplomas and utilized scholarships upon leaving the corps; and,

WHEREAS, the Lake Tahoe Center is actively involved with resource projects both inside and outside the Lake Tahoe Basin, including hazardous fuels reduction in partnership with the California Tahoe Conservancy and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; trails construction and maintenance in partnership with the California Department of Parks and Recreation; revegetation working with the California Department of Transportation; park development/construction in partnership with El Dorado County; and,

WHEREAS, the Lake Tahoe Center touches the lives of approximately 230 El Dorado County youth each year and employs approximately 90 corpsmembers and 23 staff at its center; and,

WHEREAS, the Lake Tahoe Center has been a partner with the Tahoe Baikal Institute (TBI) in which corpsmembers are provided the opportunity to study and live with environmentalists from around the world while camping for five weeks at the Mountain Lake Research Center in Lake Tahoe and traveling to Russia for six weeks of living and learning at Lake Baikal in Siberia; and,

WHEREAS, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors appreciates that Governor Schwarzenegger, with the support of the legislature, has approved continued funding of the CCC for the 2009/10 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado does hereby thank the Governor for restoring funding in the 2009/10 budget that will continue to provide General Fund support so that the CCC can:

- **Save taxpayers money each year through its low-cost project contracts with other state and local agencies**
- **Provide employment to the over 3,000 young people who join each year**
- **Provide disaster response to the State**
- **Support the local communities in which the CCC's 27 sites are located, including the Lake Tahoe Center, which provides millions of dollars in expenditures to our community**
- **Devote millions of hours of work on critical environmental projects**
- **Provide volunteer work to local communities**



- **Provide residential facilities for young people from unstable home environments, gang-infested neighborhoods, emancipated foster youth and the homeless**
- **Provide corpsmembers an opportunity to earn their high school diploma and learn work experience and social skills to become productive, respectful citizens who become tax payers contributing to the state's economic growth instead of draining the state through correctional system or welfare system costs .**

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 24th day of February, 2009, by the following vote of said Board:

Attest:

Suzanne Allen de Sanchez
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Chairman, Board of Supervisors