

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 90-257

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION
TO THE COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES/AB 8 PROGRAM REDUCTION
PROPOSED IN THE STATE BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Governor's 1990/91 State budget proposes severe cuts in health care funds, specifically the reduction of \$150 million from the County Health Services/AB 8 Program and the repeal of the statutory annual AB 8 cost-of-living adjustment of \$23 million General Fund to the counties; and

WHEREAS, the stated reason for the \$150 million reduction in AB 8 funding is the "availability of Medi-Cal OBRA services for persons who were previously provided services under the County Health Services Program"; and

WHEREAS, the County Health Services Program was established in AB 8 in 1979 as part of a permanent system of fiscal relief for local governments to provide block grants to counties for funding for a broad spectrum of public health services; and

WHEREAS, the Federal OBRA Act of 1986 made available limited Medi-Cal coverage of emergency services and pregnancy-related services, including labor and delivery costs, to undocumented persons and persons with visas, provided they meet income and resource requirements. The State legislation implementing these OBRA changes, SB 175 (Chapter 1441, Statutes of 1988) added prenatal and postnatal care as an additional Medi-Cal benefit for this population. The SB 175 agreement that was reached after lengthy negotiations between the Administration, the Legislature and the counties, specifically did not include an offsetting reduction in any State-funded local assistance, AB 8 included; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has been incurring costs for this service population for years under the Medi-Cal program and many counties did not pay for these services out of funding provided for the County Health Services/AB 8 Program; and

WHEREAS, State and local AB 8 funds are used to support the entire scope of health services. Many of these services are not eligible and are not related in any way to the Medi-Cal program funded in part by the Federal OBRA Act of 1986. Counties have the latitude to use these funds for a broad array of services, including in-patient and out-patient indigent care, environmental health services, jail health, animal control, immunizations, juvenile court health services, public health for sexually transmitted diseases, dental care, public health nursing, and California Children's Services; and

WHEREAS, counties across the State have "over-matched" the AB 8 program in order to keep pace with local program requirements and service demands. Over-matched funds are provided out of county general purpose revenues -- and are made in the face of compelling local needs to spend county funds on other high priority programs, such as law enforcement, park services, and road improvements; and

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WHEREAS, counties have NOT seen a local offset in cost of providing health services due to OBRA revenues -- in fact, counties have nearly doubled the over-match expenditures in the last fiscal year; and

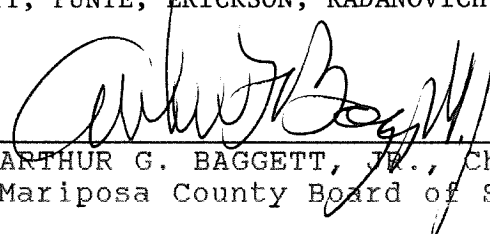
WHEREAS, under the provisions of AB 75 (Chapter 1331, Statutes of 1989), counties are strictly required to "maintain a level of financial support of county funds for health services at least equal to its county match and any overmatch of county funds in the 1988/89 fiscal year." Since counties are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar match on a portion of AB 8 funds received, a reduction in State funds would inevitably result in a statutory reduction in county funds. Counties will not be able to sustain the financial maintenance of effort requirements of AB 75 if the AB 8 dollars are reduced and the Proposition 99 appropriations to counties for health services slated for FY 1990/91 will be jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, any reduction in County Health Services/AB 8 funds will mean massive reductions in critical public health and indigent health care services and an acceleration of the fiscal crisis facing counties;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors opposes any reduction in State General Fund dollars from the County Health Services/AB 8 Program.

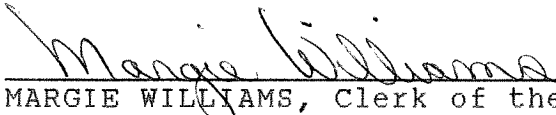
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of California, this 22nd day of May, 1990, by the following vote:

AYES:	BAGGETT, PUNTE, ERICKSON, RADANOVICH, TABER
NOES:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAINED:	NONE




ARTHUR G. BAGGETT, JR., Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFFREY G. GREEN, County Counsel