

TAX * TALK

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Global Warming and **YOU!**

Californians will begin to experience the effects of global warming hoopla by January, 2010, just two years away. Legislative Measure AB32, authored by Speaker Nunez and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, is destined to begin implementation by January 1, 2010. AB32 targets greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), establishing rules for their reduction under the Air Resources Board (ARB).

While you, your wallet, and our economy are trying to adjust, along comes Governor's Executive Order S-3-05 whose teeth start to bite by January 1, 2020—also to reduce GHG levels and slow global warming. These laws will raise the cost of nearly everything you eat, wear, your travel, your car, your housing costs (rent, taxes, heat), all in a futile effort to reduce global warming. In the Fall issue of *Tax Talk*, Dr. S. Fred Singer indicated that the

continued on page 2

ELECTION - FEBRUARY 5th - SEE PAGE 3

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LEAGUE OF PLACER COUNTY TAXPAYERS

WINTER 2008

Placer's Katrina Folly

The wind-rain-snow storm that hit the first week in January found Placer County agencies fumbling with uncertainty over jurisdictions that is reminiscent of FEMA and Louisiana and hurricane Katrina. While the crisis in Placer County was minor compared with Katrina, some of the same communication problems (or lack of communication) arose. Fortunately, Placer's storm damage was not life-threatening (mostly), because the coordination

continued on page 6

NEWS FLASH

Placer County Supervisors have just proposed a pay raise at their January meeting to \$100,000! Current rate is \$30,000. Call *Tax Talk* (530) 885-5074 with your opinion.

The Common Good

Some presidential candidates have recently been embracing the rhetorical issue of "the common good" as beneficial to the American body politic. This common good concept reflects an ancient idea with roots in Aristotle and Augustine, and is also somewhat espoused in Roman Catholic teaching. But really, what does "the common good" actually mean? Is it in the eye of the beholder?

Candidate John Edwards progressively advocates "levelling the economic playing field" by backing strong unions and universal healthcare. Illinois Senator Barrack Obama, in a centrist sense, proposes "shared duties and responsibilities among classes and between the two parties (what about the independents?) and to unite the country

continued on page 4

Assessor's Open Door

Assessor Bruce Dear responded to critics of his department during an interview for *Tax Talk*, characterizing operations as sophisticated with use of leading edge processes of appraisal, including some automation where appropriate. To maintain and upgrade staff competence and appraisal methods, staff spend at least 24 study hours a year placing and retrieving advanced assessment methods and procedures, and exchanging ideas on the internet.

Recent, somewhat rapid staff turnover, Mr. Dear characterized as a consequence of demographics, or senior staff reaching retirement age in a same time frame. One senior appraiser who left to become independent has now returned to the department as a result of the housing market downturn.

Appraising mom and pop residential properties is usually fairly simple, but corporate ownership of properties such as the

continued on page 6