



## SACOG Board of Directors

## Item #06-3-14 Report

March 9, 2006

### Executive Director's Report

*The following is a brief status report on some of the major issues and projects currently being advanced by SACOG.*

### KEY BOARD ITEMS

**Air Quality Conformity, Restored MTP & MTIP:** It is very important that the Board take final action on items 6, 7 and 8 in March in order for the region to have a fully “restored” MTP in April that allows us to get back in the business of building capacity as well as exempt projects. If the SACOG board takes action in March, I believe the only thing standing in the way of implementing this MTP is final EPA action. We had a momentary scare this week about whether EPA was going to get the notice published in time in the Federal Register, but at this moment it appears that will happen.

**Flood Control Issues:** We will know much more on this by the time the Board meets. Director Silva’s ad hoc Flood Control Committee is meeting jointly with the Board’s Strategic Planning Committee this Friday, March 10; that is the same day the Governor and legislature must decide whether they are going to the ballot with an infrastructure bond measure in June. It is quite possible that this topic will need substantial discussion time at the Board meeting. Most of the rest of the agenda should be fairly brief. I encourage all Board members to keep their calendars free until noon in case we need the time to work on this critical priority.

**State Land Use Reform:** I continue to participate in a working group led by the League of California Cities that is attempting to reach agreement on how to treat Blueprint-style regional planning as a consideration in how some of the infrastructure bond is distributed; the group is also trying to link Blueprint style planning to some kind of CEQA reform. While the discussions have been constructive and productive no final agreement was reached in time to submit for the March 10 infrastructure bond deadline. If that deadline is missed I expect the group to continue working and at least at this point it seems worth SACOG’s time to continue to participate. I will keep the Board posted.

**Infrastructure Bond:** Negotiations continue in full swing among the Governor, Legislative (Democratic) leadership, and Legislative Republicans concerning the amount, contents, and associated reforms that would comprise a state infrastructure bond package to go before the voters at the June primary election. The size of the bond package seems to be narrowing toward the \$40-\$50 billion range; no reports on whether that may include user-fee-backed revenue bonds in addition to general obligation bonds. There seems to be agreement to include transportation (probably a mix of roads, transit, bike facilities, and freight projects), levee repairs, and school facilities in some yet-to-be-reported mix, and hospitals and affordable housing are still in play. Other reforms, including Blueprint-supportive strategies, environmental streamlining, public/private partnerships, and state design-build contracting, are also still in play. The statutory March 10 deadline for the June ballot looms at the end of this week, but could be extended by mutual agreement. Some observers believe agreement is imminent, others believe the reforms may prove too challenging and the package will slide over to the November ballot. Staff will report further at the Board meeting (Item #12).

**ISSUES:**

**SACOG Gateway:** SACOG launched the Regional Gateway Launch - SACOG-hosted website portal, [www.regionalgateway.org](http://www.regionalgateway.org), linking users to a regional calendar of public events and news articles related to transportation, air quality and land use. Also, available on the site will be newsletters, other websites, discussion boards, local development and planning activities, and data related to smart growth and Blueprint. The target audience includes planners, elected officials, planning commissioners, media and the general public. This new electronic regional center will be featured in our next Regional Report as part of SACOG's continued outreach efforts to get more public and private groups to visit it and provide us additional information to post.

**MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES:**

**Federal Lobbying Trip to D.C.:** Chair Fargo and I spent a very full and productive day on March 2 meeting with representatives from our region's five congressional offices and two senators (plus Congresswoman Tauscher's office). Dr. Beverly Scott, Regional Transit General Manager, and their federal advocate Julie Adair, attended the meetings as well. We were fortunate to get a personal audience with Representative Doolittle and Senator Boxer. Everyone seemed receptive to the Inter-modal facility as our #1 priority, while uniformly warning us that this was going to be a difficult year for earmarks. We also had a good reception from Senator Boxer's office regarding our one secondary priority, an additional \$1 million from the same account the \$5 million air quality earmark came from that she delivered to us through SAFETEA-LU. Nearly all of the offices wanted to talk about flood issues at least as much as transportation. Those discussions, too, were productive. It was heartening to hear the strong support our delegation is providing on this issue. Kudos to our federal advocate, Mike Miller, for setting up such a productive visit, and to Chair Fargo for so effectively carrying the Board's message.

**Intergovernmental Meeting:** On February 27, Chair Fargo and Director Thomson met with Tribal Chairman Marshall McKay of the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians in Brooks. The meeting included a tour of the Tribal Administration Building and School and the master-planned residential community. The Tribe's representatives discussed their mission and activities, as well as their transportation concerns, which largely revolve around planned safety and operational improvements to Route 16 to which the Tribe is making significant financial contributions. SACOG staff member Ken Hough briefed the group on SACOG's mission and activities, focusing on the MTP2030.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**FY 2006/07 OWP and Budget:** Each of the committees reviewed the narrative portion of the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Overall Work Program (OWP) for which they have oversight at their March meeting and made comments for staff to include in the draft OWP. The OWP comprises approximately 95% of SACOG's total budget and is the performance budget for our fiscal year. The next step will be for staff to complete the draft OWP, both the narrative and financial sections, and release it for public input. Part of the public input will be to convene a meeting of the Intermodal Planning Group (IPG) on April 17. The IPG is comprised of our funding partners, both Federal and State, as well as the local transit authorities, regional partners and other interested parties. We will present to the Board at their April 20 meeting this draft OWP along with the overall SACOG agency budget for fiscal year 2006-07. After all the public and Board input, we will prepare a final OWP and a final SACOG agency budget and present it for final adoption at the May meeting.

**New Hire:** Lacey Symons has joined the SACOG staff as a Junior Planner assigned to the MTP2030 effort. Previously, Lacey served as an intern at SACOG for eight months.

**CALENDAR:**

Mar 16 @ 6:00 p.m.	El Dorado Hills West MTP Workshop	El Dorado Hills
Mar 23 @ 6:00 p.m.	Yolo East MTP Workshop	West Sacramento
Mar 30 @ 6:00 p.m.	El Dorado East MTP Workshop	Placerville
Apr 5 @ 6:00 p.m.	Arden Arcade/Carmichael MTP Workshop	Sacramento
Apr 6 @ 10:00 a.m.	Legislation & Public Affairs Committee	SACOG
Apr 6 @ 1:30 p.m.	Administration Committee	SACOG
Apr 7 @ 10:30 a.m.	Elk Grove-Rancho Cordova-El Dorado PAC	Rancho Cordova
Apr 7 @ 1:30 p.m.	Air Quality Committee	SACOG
Apr 8 @ 6:00 p.m.	Central Sacramento MTP Workshop	Sacramento
Apr 10 @ 10:00 a.m.	Housing & Land Use Committee	SACOG
Apr 10 @ 1:30 p.m.	Transportation Committee	SACOG
Apr 18 @ 9:00 a.m.	Central Sacramento MTP Workshop	Sacramento
Apr 20 @ 9:00 a.m.	SACOG Board of Directors	SACOG



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