



SACOG Board of Directors

December 7, 2006

Development of State Advocacy Priorities for 2007

Issue: SACOG is developing legislative advocacy priorities for 2007. Staff seeks input on policy principles to prioritize regional advocacy efforts in the first year of the 2007-2008 session.

Recommendation: The Legislation & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the Board approve support for policy principles built from those presented below as directions for staff and SACOG's lobbyist to advocate on the Board's behalf at the State Capitol in 2007.

Committee Action/Discussion:

Infrastructure Bond – Seek to influence any follow-up legislation that may be pursued to guide implementation of state infrastructure bond programs in ways favorable for the Sacramento region to take advantage of bond funds to support Blueprint and Metropolitan Transportation Plan objectives and under-funded regional needs.

Land Use & CEQA Reform – Seek legislation to provide local governments with greater flexibility in environmental review when increasing urban development density with supportive transportation infrastructure and accompanying land protections for agricultural lands and open space.

Local Revenue Options & Transit Operating Funds – Seek legislation to provide more options and more flexibility for local governments to increase or reconfigure transportation funding, via local revenue options and private partnerships that can be customized to local conditions, with particular urgency for funds to support expanded transit operations that can be achieved from state infrastructure bond capital investments and a more adequate level of local road maintenance.

Project Delivery – Seek legislation to eliminate or reduce restrictions on project delivery for Caltrans and local agencies, removing limits on design-build contracting and public-private partnerships and taking steps to streamline environmental review consistent with environmental protection objectives.

Flood Management – Seek legislation in partnership with flood protection agencies to ensure that any legislation that is passed improves public safety for our citizens, provides funding to help local flood protection efforts and helps to implement the Blueprint and Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The Committee members also asked staff to look for ways to help state legislation and initiatives deal comprehensively with their impacts on local governments to minimize circumstances in which the purposes of one program would work counter to the purposes of other programs.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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Attachment

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