



Strategic Planning Committee

January 5, 2009

State Advocacy Strategy for 2009

Issue: What advocacy principles should SACOG pursue at the state level in 2009?

Recommendation: That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend that the Board approve support for seven policy areas outlined below as direction for staff and SACOG's lobbyist to advocate on the Board's behalf in 2009.

Discussion: Staff gathered input from key legislative and committee staff at the State Capitol, Caltrans staff, and all four SACOG policy committees about where SACOG should focus its state advocacy in 2009. These principles reflect that input and are based on the best information about key issues for 2009.

Economic Recovery Funding – Seek to ensure the Sacramento region is competitive for any infrastructure funding, whether from the state or federal government. The federal economic recovery bill proposed by President-elect Obama will most likely rely on a combination of additional funding for existing formula-base programs as well as direct aid to states. Funds that flow directly to the state will be distributed by the California Transportation Commission and Caltrans. Look for opportunities to influence state legislation related to federal economic recovery bill to ensure regional and local governments get sufficient share of federal funds likely to be distributed by formula.

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.

Project Financing – Seek legislation that opens up local options to improve transportation funding, particularly for road maintenance and rehabilitation and transit operation and capital flexibility. Also look for opportunities to address rural transportation challenges through a variety of funding mechanisms.

Climate Change/AB 32 Implementation – In 2009, the Air Resources Board will be implementing its Scoping Plan for AB 32. Seek to influence air quality and greenhouse gas targets set forth by the ARB legislation or administrative rules that guide implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), especially those dealing with linkages between transportation, land use, and air quality. Encourage reduction measures that support Blueprint and Metropolitan Transportation Plan objectives.

SB 375 Implementation – Appointments to the Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC) created by SB 375 will take place in 2009. Seek to influence the target recommended by RTAC to ARB. SACOG may also be looked to for leadership in coordination and education with the major MPOs in California. Seek funding for educating the state and other regions about the Blueprint preferred growth scenario. Work with the author on any SB 375 clean-up language to ensure that any changes do not negatively impact the region.

Infrastructure Bonds – Seek to influence legislation or administrative rules that guide implementation of Proposition 1B, and support local applications for Proposition 1C programs. Seek to influence future bonds for water or other regional infrastructure needs.

Goods Movement – Seek legislation to improve goods movement in the Sacramento region. Work with Senator Lowenthal to reintroduce container fee legislation, which could generate several million dollars annually for rail freight improvements and regional air quality.

Williamson Act – Seek legislation to improve Williamson Act to increase local enforcement authority, provide local resources for enforcement, increase education efforts, and require proof of productivity for agricultural lands contracted for Williamson Act.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:RS:gg

Key Staff: Rebecca Sloan, Manager of Public & Government Affairs, (916) 340-6224
 Erik Johnson, Public Information Coordinator, (916) 340-6247