



S A C O G

## Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

Item #09-10-4  
Information

September 24, 2009

### State Advocacy Update

**Issue:** Recap of the first year of the legislative session.

**Recommendation:** None; this will be an informational report and discussion.

**Discussion:** SACOG's state advocate, Jack Molodanof, prepared the attached memo with updates on the issues mentioned in brief below. More updated information will also be reported orally at the committee meeting.

#### Water Legislation

SACOG entered into the discussions last month about legislation affecting water and Delta policy. A complete update will be covered in a separate agenda item.

#### Legislation Passed in 2009

SACOG took support positions on three bills that passed both houses and are awaiting the governor's signature. AB 729 would extend the sunset date for the existing transit design-build program. SB 575 provides technical cleanup for SB 375 of 2008. SB 279 would help communities create programs for residential energy and water efficiency financing. Staff will report back in November after the Governor's October 11 signing deadline.

#### Legislation to Watch in 2010

In addition to water legislation, which may be the subject of a special session before the end of 2009, SACOG's advocate and staff will continue to follow legislation to reform the Williamson Act, create new options for local project financing, and fund port infrastructure and air quality improvement projects.

#### 2010 Advocacy Principles

SACOG's advocate and staff will bring back recommendations for committee input on advocacy principles in November.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Executive Director

MM:RS:EJ:sb  
Attachment

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# MOLODANOF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## Memorandum

To: Rebecca Sloan  
From: Jack Molodanof  
Re: Legislative Update  
Date: September 21, 2009

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### Regular Legislative Sessions Ends

The regular 2009 legislative session ended on September 11 with quite a few legislators feeling that very little was accomplished. Many of the major policy issues, including the state water supply and Delta remained unfinished.

The session was dominated by the state budget crises and closing a staggering \$60 billion deficit. Unfortunately, with the economy not improving, the state budget deficit will continue to dominate the legislator's time and energy throughout this year (interim) and into next year's legislative session. I fully expect the legislature will continue to look at ways to divert local government and transportation dollars to "backfill" the general fund. We will actively monitor and engage with respect to budget discussions.

The legislature is planning on returning to Sacramento during the interim. The Governor has called special sessions for education and an overhaul of the tax system. However, no word yet whether the Governor will call a third special session on water issues. We, of course, will monitor the water issues whether they are dealt with during special session or next year. We will also work closely with the key legislators, staff and other stakeholders as a comprehensive water package is crafted.

### Legislative Bill Update

SACOG has taken positions or actively monitoring several bills. Below is a brief summary.

- 1) **AB 729 (Evans)-Design Build for Transit. Support Status:** Enrolled and to the Governor.
- 2) **SB 715 (Wolk)-Williamson Act Reform. Support Status:** In Assembly Agriculture Committee-2 year bill.

- 3) **SB 575 (Steinberg)-Local Planning. Support** Housing Element. Status: Enrolled and to the Governor.
- 4) **SB 279 (Hancock)-Energy Efficiency Financing. Support** Status: Enrolled and to the Governor.
- 5) **SB 205 (Hancock)-Local Transportation Funding. Watch** Status: In Assembly Appropriations Committee-2 year bill.
- 6) **SB 632 (Lowenthal)-Port Infrastructure and Air Quality Improvement. Watch** Status: Assembly Floor-Inactive File-2 year bill.
- 7) **SB 716 (Wolk)-Farmworker Transportation. Watch** Status: Enrolled and to the Governor.
- 8) **SB 406 (Desaulnier)-Regional Planning Funding. Watch** Status: Enrolled and to the Governor.