



Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

November 25, 2009

State Advocacy Principles for 2010

Issue: What advocacy principles should SACOG pursue at the state level in 2010?

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that the Board adopt the attached principles.

Discussion: Staff gathered input from senior staff, SACOG's state advocate, CALCOG, and other statewide experts about where SACOG should focus its state advocacy in 2010. These principles reflect that input and are based on the best information about key issues for 2010. The draft principles are based on SACOG's advocacy principles for 2009, but have been revised and expanded to reflect new issues anticipated for 2010, and areas that staff recommends SACOG stay active.

Changes Between 2009 and 2010 Advocacy Principles

The draft principles include an explicit statement that funding is key to implementing any of these principles, and staff and SACOG's state advocate will seek sufficient funding along with any legislation or regulations.

Economic Recovery Funding and Infrastructure Bonds have been removed, as state decisions on implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the infrastructure bonds of 2006 have been made.

Project Financing has been expanded to Financing & Funding to cover formula flexibility, funding reliability and new revenue needs of local governments, in rural and urban areas. It also contains a statement of support for fully funding State Transit Assistance.

SB 375 Implementation and Climate Change/AB 32 Implementation were combined into Blueprint Implementation. Staff intends to focus more on ensuring that SACOG and local governments receive funding to implement the Blueprint and continue planning work, which will include implementation of SB 375.

Goods Movement has been expanded to explicitly advocate for rural farm-to-market road funding as an essential part of the regional goods movement network.

Williamson Act has been expanded to Land Conservation & Natural Resources to include other areas where the state could support the types of innovations needed to support the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:RS:EJ:sb

Attachment

Key Staff: Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs & Member Services, (916) 340-6224
Erik Johnson, Public Information Coordinator, (916) 340-6247

DRAFT

SACOG 2010 State Advocacy Principles

The principles outlined below help support SACOG's work in linking transportation, air quality, and land use. SACOG will actively participate in the development of state legislation and regulations to advance the interests of the Sacramento region. In order to accomplish these principles, SACOG will advocate for sufficient funding to effectively plan for and deliver projects that meet these principles.

Financing & Funding — Support additional local revenue options and protections, including transferring legal control of state funds to local governments for transportation. Provide local governments more flexibility and options, particularly for transit operations/capital and road maintenance/rehabilitation in both rural and urban areas. Support full funding of State Transit Assistance in the state budget, as well as expedited repayment of illegally diverted funds. Support state budget structural reforms to ultimately help stabilize transportation funding.

Blueprint Implementation — Advocate for implementation and performance-based funding for cities and regions. Seek to influence implementation of AB 32 and SB 375. Encourage Blueprint and Metropolitan Transportation Plan objectives that support CEQA benefits and greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures.

Complete Streets & Safe Routes — Seek to influence legislation that supports planning and funding streets designed to accommodate cars, transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians including education, encouragement and infrastructure for Safe Routes to School.

Flood Management & Water Resources — Seek to influence legislation or administrative actions addressing flood management and water resources, including those that guide implementation of the water legislation package enacted in 2009. Continue to monitor legislation on property tax mitigation, water conservation, and water rights. Work to ensure that public safety is improved and additional funding for local flood protection efforts is secured.

Land Conservation & Natural Resources — Support legislation to strengthen the Williamson Act through increased local enforcement authority and resources, increased education efforts, and requiring proof of productivity. Support legislation to restore Williamson Act subvention funding. Seek to influence legislation and work to acquire funds to support Rural-Urban Connections Strategy-identified innovations that link natural resource mitigation and habitat valuation on agricultural lands.

Goods Movement — Seek to influence legislation to improve goods movement in the Sacramento region. Advocate for funding for rail freight improvements and regional air quality programs, including rural farm-to-market roads in a broad category of goods movement improvements.

Project Delivery — Seek to influence legislation to eliminate or reduce restrictions on project delivery for Caltrans and local agencies, remove limits on design-build contracting and public-private partnerships, streamline environmental review consistent with environmental protection objectives and increase cost savings.