



SACOG Board of Directors

**Item #12-3-10
Action**

March 8, 2012

State Advocacy Principles for 2012

Issue: What issues should SACOG pursue at the state level in 2012?

Recommendation: The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the Board adopt the State Advocacy Principles and Community Revitalization Guiding Principles.

Committee Action/Discussion:

The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee amended the Community Revitalization Guiding Principles (Attachment A) to provide more clarity about direction for staff. The committee did not make any changes to the State Advocacy Principles (Attachment B). Changes from the February Board meeting are noted in underline and strikethrough.

Introduced Legislation

The deadline for legislation to be introduced was February 24. Staff is reviewing legislation in all of the policy areas covered by the advocacy principles and will report more next month. The legislature is currently focused on the state budget and the post-redevelopment era.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:EJ:ef

Attachments

Key Staff: Kirk Trost, Chief Operating Officer/General Counsel, (916) 340-6210
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Community Revitalization Guiding Principles

Expanding on the State Advocacy Principle listed below, the SACOG Board and staff will use the following guiding principles in working with the legislature and stakeholders in developing alternative tools for community revitalization, and will not support proposals that conflict with these principles.

State Advocacy Principle: Offer regions and local governments tools for community revitalization and infrastructure, and provide them with additional financing options.

Redevelopment Dissolution

- Provide for dissolution of existing redevelopment agency assets ~~to maximize value~~ in a manner that protects the best interests of the public.
- Preserve existing affordable housing funding sources and create new funding sources for a broad base of uses. For example, affordable housing requires infrastructure and complete communities to be successful.

Community Revitalization

- Maximize tax-increment benefits to existing plans, including general plans and specific plans, and metropolitan transportation plans and sustainable communities strategies.
- Encourage multijurisdictional coordination, but without restrictions or other conditions on tax-increment benefits ~~(e.g., regional tax sharing).~~
- Provide financing and other tools for communities of all sizes to promote economic development and public infrastructure.
- Offer CEQA streamlining to community revitalization plans and projects to accelerate projects.
- Continue to provide a dedicated source of affordable housing for local governments to meet state requirements and community needs.

SACOG State Advocacy Principles

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

Financial Stewardship

A transportation system that delivers cost-effective results that are feasible to construct and maintain.

- Give regions and local governments additional revenue options and protections, including transferring legal control of state funds to local governments for transportation.
- Maximize Offer regions and local governments tools for community revitalization and infrastructure, and provide them with additional financing options.
- Provide local governments more flexibility and options, particularly for transit operations/capital and road maintenance/rehabilitation, in both rural and urban areas.
- Restructure the state budget to help stabilize transportation funding.
- Restructure state government to be more efficient, but do not silo the important integration of transportation, land use and air quality planning.

Economic Vitality

Efficiently connect people to jobs and get goods to market.

- Fund goods movement improvements in the Sacramento region.
- Fund rail freight improvements and regional air quality programs, and coordinate state passenger rail planning.
- Fund improvements on rural farm-to-market roads.
- Modify representation on state boards and commissions to provide equitable representation for those entities that directly impact SACOG or its members, and where appropriate, a dedicated Sacramento region representative, such as on the Air Resources Board.

Smart Land Use

Design a transportation system to support good growth patterns, including increased housing and transportation options, focusing more growth inward and improving the economic viability of rural areas.

- Protect redevelopment funds and related tools that help existing communities of all sizes and support smart growth, Senate Bill 375 implementation, and Assembly Bill 32 implementation.
- Amend housing element law and/or administrative procedures to give jurisdictions flexibility to provide affordable housing that is appropriate for their community, and remove disincentives and regulatory obstacles to providing affordable housing, including devolution of decision making from HCD to regions and local governments.
- Create performance-based funding for local governments and regions to implement Senate Bill 375.
- Help local governments and regions use CEQA benefits from Senate Bill 375.
- Fund Williamson Act subventions.

Environmental Quality & Sustainability

Minimize direct and indirect transportation impacts on the environment for cleaner air and natural resource protection.

- Strengthen the Williamson Act, and provide additional resources and tools for local governments to preserve farmland and open space through public or private programs.
- Reform regulations to streamline review and approval of transportation and smart land use projects with low environmental impacts and positive benefits to state regional, and local goals.
- Involve regional and local governments in flood management and water resources.
- Support local flood protection efforts with funding and administrative support.
- Fund innovations that link natural resource mitigation and habitat valuation on agricultural lands.

Access & Mobility

Improve opportunities for businesses and citizens to easily access goods, jobs, services and housing.

Support complete streets designed to accommodate cars, transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians including education, encouragement, and infrastructure for Safe Routes to School.