



Item #13-1-12 Action

Strategic Planning Committee

December 20, 2012

State Advocacy Principles

Issue: What policy objectives should SACOG pursue at the state level in 2013?

Recommendation: Staff is proposing one minor amendment to the State Advocacy Principles; otherwise, the existing principles cover the issues of interest to SACOG and its members that staff anticipates in 2013.

Discussion: Many issues from 2012 will carry forward to the next legislative session. The existing State Advocacy Principles are attached, with one minor amendment to reflect the region's success in getting a permanent seat for the Sacramento region on the Air Resources Board (Attachment A). For 2013, key legislative issues include CEQA reform, a replacement financing mechanism for community redevelopment, and transportation funding.

In the area of CEQA reform, in late 2012, Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg appointed Senator Michael Rubio as chair of the Environmental Quality Committee, and the two formed a CEQA reform working group. SACOG's Kirk Trost is participating in this working group, which includes public agency, environmental, and business stakeholders. No legislation has been introduced, but staff will regularly brief the Board.

Last year, SACOG supported several bills intended to replace a portion of the tax-increment financing mechanism lost when the Legislature abolished Redevelopment Agencies. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed all of these bills. Senator Steinberg has reintroduced his bill from last session, SB 1156, as SB 1 for the 2013-14 session, and has stated his commitment to making this a top priority. SB 1, as currently written, would allow local governments to create Sustainable Communities Investment Authorities, which would be able to use the powers of Redevelopment Agencies within a more narrow geography. Staff will continue to work with SACOG member jurisdictions to work on legislative strategies for supporting community revitalization that are consistent with the Board-adopted guiding principles in this area (Attachment B).

Transportation stakeholders are discussing various local and statewide financing and funding options to address current funding shortfalls and long-term infrastructure needs. SACOG is working with the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities to ensure cap-and-trade revenues from fuels are dedicated to transportation-related purposes. With the achievement of a two-thirds majority in the Legislature, there is some discussion of lowering the voter threshold for local sales tax measures from two-thirds to 55 percent. Staff will follow these efforts and bring back any specific legislation affecting financing or funding.

Approved by:

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Chief Executive Officer

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