



S A C O G

SACOG Board of Directors

Item #13-1-13
Action

January 10, 2013

State Advocacy Principles

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

Recommendation: The Strategic Planning Committee recommends one minor amendment to the State Advocacy Principles; otherwise, staff believes the existing principles cover the issues of interest to SACOG and its members that staff anticipates in 2013.

Committee Action/Discussion: Many issues from 2012 will carry forward to the next legislative session. The Strategic Planning Committee accepted staff's existing State Advocacy Principles 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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Sacramento Area
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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.
- 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 assets and 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.