



Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

Item #13-6-4
Information

June 3, 2013

State Advocacy Update

Issue: Update on state advocacy.

Recommendation: None; this item is informational only.

Discussion: On May 14, the Governor released his Revised 2013-14 Budget. On May 24, the fiscal committees in the Assembly and Senate acted on all bills requiring appropriation of funds. May 31 was the last day to pass bills from the house of origin. Through this process, several bills SACOG was tracking did not advance.

Budget

The Legislature must pass a budget by June 15. On May 30, the legislative leaders announced a conference committee to assemble a final budget. After the May Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee meeting, the Governor released his Revised Budget. The primary impact to SACOG is a proposed \$500 million loan of cap-and-trade revenues to the General Fund. The Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities, which SACOG joined last year, has been advocating for cap-and-trade revenues from the fuels sector to be spent on a range of transportation projects. The Coalition is not opposed to the Governor's proposed loan, but is continuing to advocate for establishing the program outlined in AB 574 (see below) even if no revenues are allocated, because the program will require some time to set up (see Cap-and-Trade update below).

The only other adjustment in the May Revision of interest to SACOG is an increase in funding for intercity passenger rail service. This will cover a change in federal law that eliminated a 30 percent federal share of operating expenses for short-distance routes. Only the Pacific Surfliner service in southern California is concerned a short-distance route; there is no federal share for the San Joaquin and Capitol Corridor services. This change avoids a potentially adverse, indirect impact to the northern California services, but does not provide additional funding to these services.

Legislation

At this time, staff is not recommending taking positions on any additional bills. Attachment A is an update on key legislation staff is tracking. The following discussion only covers new information worth noting.

Cap-and-Trade

The Assembly Appropriations Committee held SACOG-supported AB 574. The Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities is continuing to explore options to advance the framework for how to allocate revenues contained in AB 574.

Financing/Revenue

None of the bills that would have lowered the voter threshold for local sales tax measures advanced.

Natural Resources

AB 551 would allow for the creation of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones. It is intended to create urban-style Williamson Act areas, where landowners could receive lower property tax assessments in exchange for restricting land uses for a minimum of 10 years.

AB 1331 is one of several bills that may be amended to modify the water bond currently on the 2014 general election ballot. As currently written, it calls for several studies that would aid in evaluating the priorities for a revised bond measure. All of the other measures did not pass their house of origin.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:EJ:ef

Attachments

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Issue	Bill	Author	Title	Summary	Position	Location
Air Quality	AB 8	Perea (D)	Alternative Fuel: Vehicle Technologies: Funding Program	Provides the State Air Resources Board has no authority to enforce any element of its existing clean fuels outlet regulation or other regulation that requires or has the effect of requiring any person to construct, operate, or provide funding for the construction or operation of any publicly available hydrogen fueling station. Requires the public disclosure of the number of vehicles sold or lease, and grants and loans for a sufficient hydrogen fueling network. Relates to a registration charge and tire fee.	Support	Senate
Air Quality	SB 11	Pavley (D)	Alternative Fuel: Vehicle Technologies: Funding Program	Provides the State Air Resources Board has no authority to enforce any element of the clean fuels outlet regulation or other regulation that requires the construction, operation, or providing funding for the construction or operation of any publicly available hydrogen fueling station. Requires the public disclosure of the number of vehicles sold or leased. Requires grants and loans for a sufficient hydrogen fueling network. Extends a vehicle registration charge. Increases the state tire fee.	Support	Assembly
CEQA	SB 731	Steinberg (D)	Environment: California Environmental Quality Act	Relates to the state environmental quality act. Provides that aesthetic impacts of a residential, mixed-use residential, or employment center project within a transit priority area shall not be considered significant impacts on the environment. Requires guidelines for thresholds of significance and the transportation and parking impacts to be made available to the public. Requires preparation of environmental impact reports. Extends tolling agreements for judicial actions and mitigation measures.		Assembly
Economic Development	AB 229	Perez J (D)	Infrastructure and Revitalization Financing Districts	Authorizes the creation of an infrastructure and revitalization financing district and the issuance of debt with voter approval. Authorizes the creation of a district for up to 40 years and the issuance of debt with a final maturity date of up to 30 years. Authorizes a district to finance projects in redevelopment project areas and former redevelopment project areas and former military bases.		Senate Governance and Finance Committee - 06/05
Economic Development	AB 243	Dickinson (D)	Local Government: Infrastructure Financing Districts	Authorizes the creation of an infrastructure and revitalization financing district and the issuance of debt with voter approval. Authorizes a district to finance projects in redevelopment project areas and former redevelopment project areas and former military bases if special conditions are met. Authorizes a district to fund various projects, including watershed land used for the collection and treatment of water for urban uses, flood management, open space, habitat restoration and development purposes.	Support	Senate Governance and Finance Committee - 06/12
Economic Development	AB 108C	Alejo (D)	Community Revitalization & Investment Authorities	Authorizes certain public entities of a community revitalization and investment area to form a community revitalization plan within a community revitalization and investment authority to carry out the Community Redevelopment Law in a specified manner. Requires the authority to adopt a community revitalization plan for a community revitalization and investment area and authorizes the authority to include in that plan a provision for the receipt of tax increment funds.		Senate
Economic Development	SB 11	Steinberg (D)	Sustainable Communities Investment Authority	Authorizes certain public entities of a Sustainable Communities Investment Area to form a Sustainable Communities Investment Authority to carry out the Community Redevelopment Law. Provides for tax increment funding receipt under certain economic development and planning criteria. Establishes prequalification requirements for receipt of funding. Requires monitoring and enforcement of prevailing wage requirements within the area.	Support	Assembly
Economic Development	SB 33	Wolk (D)	Infrastructure Financing Districts: Voter Approval	Revises provisions governing infrastructure financing districts. Eliminates the requirement of voter approval for creation of the district and for bond issuance, and authorizes the legislative body to create the district subject to specified procedures. Authorizes the creation of such district subject to specified procedures. Authorizes a district to finance specified actions and project. Prohibits the district from providing financial assistance to a vehicle dealer or big box retailer.	Support	Assembly Local Government Committee - 06/12
Economic Development	SB 142	DeSaulnier (D)	Public Transit	Repeals existing law providing for creation of one or more special benefit districts within a transit or rapid transit district regarding issuance of bonds to be repaid through special assessments levied on property within the special benefit district. Amends district areas. Enacts provisions authorizing a transit district, municipal operator, other other public agency operating or contracting for the operation of transit, commuter rail, or intercity rail service to create one or more special districts.		Assembly
Economic Development	SB 628	Beall (D)	Alternative Fuel: Vehicle Technologies: Funding Program	Eliminates the requirement of voter approval for the adoption of an infrastructure financing plan, the creation of an infrastructure financing district, and the issuance of bonds with respect to a transit priority project. Requires a specified percentage of the revenue for increasing, improving, and preserving the supply of lower and moderate-income housing. Requires a low-income housing replacement ordinance. Requires projects to be consistent with the sustainable communities strategy.		Assembly
Natural Resources	AB 551	Ting (D)	Local Government: Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones	Enacts the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act. Authorizes, under specified conditions, a county or a city and county and a landowner to enter into a contract to enforceably restrict the use of vacant, unimproved or otherwise blighted lands for small-scale production of agricultural crops. Require the county assessor to consider, when valuing real property for property taxation purposes, property that is enforceably restricted by a contract entered into pursuant to the act.		Senate

Issue	Bill	Author	Title	Summary	Position	Location
Natural Resources	AB 1331	Water, Parks and Wildlife Cmt	Water Resources: Assessments of Public Funding	Requires the Department of Water Resources to provide an analysis that assesses currently available public funding and estimates the additional public investment needed to ensure the state meets priority needs related to infrastructure, integrated water management, water supply reliability, water recycling, flood management, and watershed and aquatic ecosystem conservations and protection and for access to safe drinking water. Requires an assessment of needed funds to implement the Delta Plan.		Senate
Transportation Planning	AB 14	Lowenthal B (D)	State Freight Plan	Requires the Transportation Agency to prepare a state freight plan with specified elements to govern the immediate and long-range planning activities and capital investments of the state with respect to the movement of freight. Requires the agency to establish a freight advisory committee.	Support	Senate
Transportation Planning	AB 179	Bocanegra (D)	Electronic Transit Fare Collection Systems	Amends existing law that prohibits a transportation agency from selling or providing personally identifiable information to a person through the person's participation in an electronic toll collection system or use of a toll facility that uses such system and requires the discarding of such information within a specified time period. Makes these and other provisions applicable to an agency that uses such system for payment of transit fares.		Senate
Transportation Planning	AB 129C	Perez J (D)	Transportation Planning	Provides for 2 additional voting members of the State Transportation Commission to be appointed by the Legislature. Provides for the Secretary of the Transportation Agency, the Chairperson of the State Air Resources Board, and the Director of Housing and Community Development to serve as ex officio members without a vote. Requires the Governor to make sure the transportation community is represented on the board with future appointments.		Senate