FEDERAL 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 seek out grants to effectively plan for and deliver projects that meet these principles. SACOG will also advocate for innovative financing options, such as subsidized bonds, public-private partnerships, and a national infrastructure bank.

SACOG’S DIRECTORS ARE APPOINTED BY THE ELECTED BOARDS OF ITS MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. IT HAS A STAFF OF ABOUT 60. SACOG IS LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO AT 1415 L STREET, SUITE 300.
ECONOMIC VITALITY

Revenue

• Ensure stable funding sources for all modes of transportation infrastructure investments.
• Advocate for transportation funding reform and a sustainable revenue source for the Highway Trust Fund

Transportation Authorization Implementation

• Implement MAP-21 regulations in a way that support integrated transportation and land use planning.
• Comment on regulations impacting SACOG or its members.

Transportation Authorization

• Reauthorize the transportation bill to provide funding and policy that supports a multi-modal transportation system, including performance-based funding and additional regulatory streamlining.
• Fund data collection and support, including development of open-source tools, that would allow for more performance-based transportation funding and support performance-based decision-making.
• Work with Congress and the Administration on policy ideas for a long-term transportation vision.
• Support funding and policy measure that incentivize land use benefits from implementation of Blueprint and MTP/SCS.

Spending Flexibility

• Adjust funding formulas to support rural roads and other rural infrastructure needs, including farm-to-market roads.
• Advocate for Farm Bill programs that provide funding for rural community infrastructure.

Agricultural Infrastructure

• Fund local and regional agricultural infrastructure to improve food access and national food security, especially to assist with promoting a connection between rural and urban areas of the region, and also to help producers get their products to all markets.
• Advocate for Farm Bill programs that provide funding for agricultural infrastructure.

Emergency Routes

• Fund evacuation planning and supportive transportation infrastructure including bridges, local roads, as well as state and federal highway connections.
• Advocate for funding from federal agencies that would support evacuation planning and infrastructure.

Broadband

• Support economic development in rural communities by funding broadband connectivity.
• Support regional efforts to expand broadband connectivity.

EQUITY AND CHOICE

Complete Streets

• Support planning and fund Complete Streets in rural and urban communities designed to accommodate cars, transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians including education, encouragement, and infrastructure for Safe Routes to School.
• Advocate for such funding in the next transportation authorization bill.
Transit
• Provide discretionary funding for a balanced transit network to support: an integrated rail network that includes funding for light rail car rehabilitation and replacement needs; lifeline and choice bus riders through funding to replace and expand fleets and improve facilities; enhanced passenger rail service on Capitol Corridor; and new streetcar and light rail transit along corridors with supportive land uses.
• Advocate for such funding in the next transportation authorization bill.

SMART LAND USE

Integrated Planning Funding
• Support continued funding for transportation and land use linked planning and formula incentives for high performing projects resulting from integrated planning, support for regional planning tools for modeling and data gathering, and ongoing public education and engagement related to travel behavior.
• Advocate for such funding in the next transportation authorization bill.

Blueprint Implementation
• Fund SACOG to implement the Blueprint preferred growth scenario, and continue technical assistance for cities and counties.
• Advocate for funding Centers of Excellence in the next transportation authorization bill.

Transit-Oriented Development Funding
• Encourage implementation of Blueprint preferred growth scenario with unique funding sources for new and improved infrastructure to support concentrated housing and employment in high frequency transit corridors.
• Advocate for such funding in the next transportation authorization bill.

First-Tier Suburb Revitalization
• Support the revitalization of aging suburban commercial corridors through investing in infrastructure system retrofits and context-sensitive design for infill developments.
• Advocate for such funding in the next transportation authorization bill.

Open Space Conservation
• Support open space conservation efforts, including market-based solution resource lands protections.
• Ask resource agencies to support open space conservation in the region.

Economic Development
• Support regional economic development planning and fund implementation.
• Support local efforts, such as Next Economy, to secure federal economic development funding.

La Valentina is a transit-oriented mixed-income development in downtown Sacramento that puts residents steps away from transit in one of the region’s major employment centers.
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY

Regulatory Relief for Blueprint
- Encourage continued application of regulatory strategy with federal resource agencies that incentivize Blueprint implementation.
- Advocate for aligning regulatory streamlining with regional growth strategies.

Habitat Conservation
- Fund innovations that enhance natural resource services, particularly habitat, on agricultural lands.
- Support local requests for habitat conservation funding.

Energy Conservation
- Incentivize energy conservation, for regional efforts as well as local implementation.
- Support local efforts to use federal funding for energy conservation.

Natural Resources Data
- Fund natural resources data development, including implementation of the Six-County Aquatic Resources Inventory, and overall planning to support habitat conservation plans in the region.
- Advocate for continued support from the Administration for regional natural resources data development and planning.

Flood Protection
- Fund local flood protection efforts for improved public safety, with sensitivity to unique land uses and resource impacts on property owners in designated floodplains. Pursue streamlining and integrated planning opportunities with federal agencies to expedite construction of federally identified levee improvement projects as regional assets.
- Work with flood protection agencies in the region to advocate for federal actions that improve flood protection while not harming the economic viability of existing communities.
- Support regular authorization of the Water Resources Development Act, as well as annual appropriations.

Engine Retrofit
- Continue eligibility for diesel engine replacement/retrofit programs.
- Support federal programs that fund clean goods movement.

Forestry
- Support collaborative efforts to prevent catastrophic fire and to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of private and public forest.

Agriculture and habitat comprise over 70 percent of the region’s lands with agriculture sometimes providing habitat.