

REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY RTPA

SUBJECT	MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
Report of Activities of California Council of Governments (CALCOG)	10/21/03	7

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for Agency information only; no action is requested.

DISCUSSION

Shasta County RTPA has been a member of CALCOG for many years. CALCOG is an association of regional agencies, throughout California, who promote the interests and address issues unique to regional agencies. It could be considered akin to the League of California Cities or the California State Association of Counties.

Attached to this staff report is a letter from Rusty Selix, Executive Director of CALCOG. In the letter he indicates that, Judy Mikels, Ventura County Supervisor, and current president of CALCOG, would like to see all regional agencies presented updates of what CALCOG is doing. Therefore, CALCOG staff has committed to producing summaries of CALCOG activities. These summaries will recap delegate and director meetings.

Also attached is a summary of the Western COG conference held in August and a recap of the "COG Directors" meeting held in September.

Unless directed otherwise by the Agency, this item will become a standing consent calendar item.

ALTERNATIVES

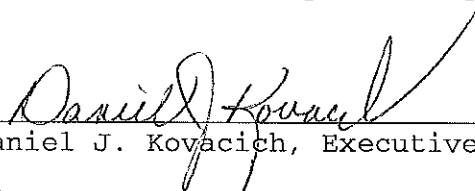
The Agency could choose to not receive CALCOG updates, or could direct staff to place future updates on the regular calendar for presentation to the Agency.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

This item has been discussed at the October 7, 2003 TAC meeting.

FINANCING

This item has no impact on Agency finances.



Daniel J. Kovacich, Executive Officer

/jac

Attachments: Letter from Rusty Selix
CALCOG Monthly Report - August 2003
CALCOG Monthly Report - September 2003



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

MEMBER AGENCIES

Association of Bay Area Governments
 Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
 Butte County Association of Governments
 Calaveras Council of Governments
 Contra Costa Transportation Authority
 Council of Fresno County Governments
 Council of San Benito County Governments
 El Dorado County Transportation Commission
 Humboldt County Association of Governments
 Kern Council of Governments
 King County Association of Governments
 Madera County Transportation Commission
 Mendocino Council of Governments
 Merced County Association of Governments
 Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles
 Orange County Council of Governments
 Orange County Transportation Authority
 Placer County Transportation Planning Agency
 Riverside County Transportation Commission
 Sacramento Area Council of Governments
 San Bernardino Associated Governments
 San Diego Association of Governments
 San Joaquin Council of Governments
 San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
 Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
 Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency
 Southern California Association of Governments
 Stanislaus Area Association of Governments
 Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 Tulare County Association of Governments
 Ventura County Transportation Commission
 Western Riverside Council of Governments

CONSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

California State Association of Counties
 League of California Cities

MEMORANDUM VIA E-MAIL

DATE: September 3, 2003
TO: Executive Directors, Delegates and Alternates
FROM: Rusty Selix, Executive Director
RE: Summary of meeting of CALCOG Delegates - Friday, August 15, 2003 - new format - report to present to entire board

Nearly every month there is a meeting of CALCOG Delegates or Executive Directors of CALCOG member agencies. In the past, we have provided highlights of these meetings to the Executive Directors and CALCOG Delegates. However, we have never distributed these to the full governing board of member agencies. While some CALCOG members do pass this on to their member agencies, it has never been an express CALCOG policy.

CALCOG President, Judy Mikels, Ventura County Supervisor, serving on the governing board of Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), believes it is important that all officials serving on regional agencies be versed in important state issues affecting regional agencies and the activities of CALCOG.

Accordingly, we are now providing these highlights as a report to member agencies. In the future, we will be distributing these electronically directly to all governing board members, based upon each member agency providing us with the email addresses of all of their governing board members. For now, we will simply be distributing it to Executive Directors and Delegates and asking that you: 1) transmit it electronically to all of your board members 2) place it on the agenda for your next monthly governing board meeting as an information item presumably part of the consent calendar but one that anyone could ask questions about so that it is part of the agenda packets that board members receive (even though they have would received it previously electronically) to facilitate discussion and awareness of these issues and activities of CALCOG.



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

CALCOG MONTHLY REPORT - AUGUST 2003

MEMBER AGENCIES

Association of Bay Area Governments
 Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
 Butte County Association of Governments
 Calaveras Council of Governments
 Contra Costa Transportation Authority
 Council of Fresno County Governments
 Council of San Benito County Governments
 Dorado County Transportation Commission
 Humboldt County Association of Governments
 Kern Council of Governments
 King County Association of Governments
 Medera County Transportation Commission
 Mendocino Council of Governments
 Merced County Association of Governments
 Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles
 Orange County Council of Governments
 Orange County Transportation Authority
 Placer County Transportation Planning Agency
 Riverside County Transportation Commission
 Sacramento Area Council of Governments
 San Bernardino Associated Governments
 San Diego Association of Governments
 San Joaquin Council of Governments
 San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
 Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
 Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency
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CALCOG Delegates met on Friday, August 15th in Bend, Oregon, as part of the Western COG Conference, joining regional leaders from Oregon and Washington and representatives of national organizations.

Major issues discussed include:

- **Recently passed state budget with the so-called triple-flip shifting of property tax revenues to local government substitute for sales tax** - There was speculation about the affect this would have on fiscalization of land use and everyone concluded it would be a few years before we would know, as the permanence of this policy would have to be settled before there would likely be any changes in local government land use decisions to seek property tax generating projects instead of sales tax projects.
- **Truck Weight Fees** - Still unsettled in state legislation, and not enacted as part of the budget, is a proposal to reinstate truck weight fee revenues to what they were before 2000. A so-called technical revision in 2000 turned out to reduce state revenues by \$160 million or \$1 billion over a six-year transportation improvement programming cycle. Legislation to enact this AB 1767 is still pending in the Legislature. Its passage is essential to having any reasonable amount of funding for new projects in the new 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- **Reauthorization of Federal Transportation Program** - it's becoming increasingly clear that there will not be legislation enacted to reauthorize federal transportation programs (TEA 21) for another six-year period this year. There is an emerging consensus that the revenue increases necessary to develop a bill that could be broadly supported is not politically achievable this year and probably not until 2005. The real challenge thus will be the appropriations provided under legislation that will continue the existing law over the next two years.
- **Regional Agency Authority Over Transportation Funds** - In comparing notes between the states, California won "hands-down" in having the biggest state fiscal problems. However, in another way, California wins "hands-down" in terms of transportation funds that are controlled by regional officials as compared to state officials. Not only do we have SB 45, which no other state has, giving regional agencies control over State Transportation Improvement Programming funds, but in many other states federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds are

- controlled by the state rather than regional agency Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Moreover, in a few states, regional planning funds under the combined planning grants in federal highways and federal transit, which can only be used by regional agencies, have been held up as state officials try to steal such funds to balance state budgets. So, whatever difficulties we feel we may have, in terms of our relationship with state officials, we should recognize that things could be a lot worse.
- **Transportation Development Act - unmet transit needs determinations** - In any county, which in 1970 had a population under 500,000, there is authority to use Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for local streets and roads if a regional agency finds there are no "unmet transit needs." Recently, Caltrans officials have been proposing different ways of making such calculations and withholding approvals for regional agencies' determinations. CALCOG member agencies and CALCOG staff have been discussing this with state officials, who sent out mixed signals as to whether they are still pursuing changes in this well-established policy.
- **Continued flow of federal transportation planning funds when the state budget is delayed** - SCAG has sponsored legislation supported by CALCOG to ensure that federal transportation planning grant funds can continue to flow to regional agencies if the state budget is significantly delayed. CALCOG delegates agreed that this legislation should be supported statewide, as even though other agencies were not as close to not meeting payroll as SCAG had been in 2002, there is no way of knowing who might be affected in future years. Since these funds can only be used for regional agency purposes, CALCOG should continue to pursue legislation to allow these funds to flow, since the state cannot use them for any other purpose.
- **Implementation of AB 857 (Wiggins) 2002 - State infrastructure investment policies** - CALCOG Delegates expressed an interest in having regional agencies work closely with state officials in implementing the new state legislation to guide state investments to accomplish three policy objectives - invest in infill, protect resources, and have more efficient development along the urban fringe. Delegates and staff urge that CALCOG staff continue to participate in discussions with state officials to ensure that state agencies seek regional input as to regional priorities in making investments to accomplish these objectives. The Office of Planning and Research, charged with implementing this law will be invited to discuss it at a meeting of COG Directors.
- **CALCOG Public Policy Program for 2004** - Also at the August meeting, Delegates began the process of developing CALCOG's priority actions for 2004. This is the annual CALCOG policy document that will be adopted at the Fall Delegates Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th in Monterey.

At the August meeting, the only action is to suggest ideas that are not highlighted in the previous year's policies. Delegates urge that CALCOG provide greater attention to the need to protect the existing allocations, not just for the State Transportation Improvement Program, but also for transportation enhancement funds, whereby 75% of these funds are allocated by regions and 25% by the state.

**MINUTES
COG DIRECTORS MEETING
September 15, 2003**

1. The meeting was called to order by Norm King, Chair, SANBAG, at 12:30 pm.

2. Present at the meeting were:

Bob Andosca, President CAATS - Guest
Andrew Chesley, Deputy Executive Director, San Joaquin COG
Ron DeCarli, Executive Director, SLOCOG
Peter DeHaan, Alternate, VCTC
Gary Dickson, Executive Director, StanCOG
George Dondero, Executive Director, Calaveras COG
Frank Flores, Deputy Executive Office, LACMTA
Ginger Gherardi, Executive Director, VCTC
Barbara Goodwin, Executive Director, Fresno COG
Don Rhodes, Deputy Executive Director, SCAG
Peter Hathaway, Deputy Executive Director, SACOG
Steve Heminger, Executive Director, MTC
Jim Kemp, Executive Director SBCAG
Norm King, Executive Director, SANBAG
Dan J. Kovacich, Executive Director, Shasta CO RTPT
Eugene Leong, Executive Director, ABAG
Kathryn Mathews Executive Director, El Dorado Cnty Transportation Commission
Celia McAdam, Executive Director, PCTPA
Bob McCleary, Contra Costa TA
Nick Papadakis, Executive Director, AMBAG
Tom Quigley, Executive Director, San Benito Cnty Cog
Bill Reichmuth, Executive Director, TAMC
Craig Scott, SANDAG
Rusty Selix, Executive Director, CALCOG
Bob Stocker, Asst. Executive Sec, Tulare
Martin Tuttle, Executive Director, SACOG
David Yale, Director, LACMTA
Stephanie Welch, CALCOG
Pat Dellin, Deputy Director, SCCRTC
Sue Zuhlke, Government Relations Manager, OCTA

3. Minutes approved from the May 2003 meeting

4. Caltrans Layoffs

Caltrans Layoffs Directors expressed concern about the effect on project development and delivery from recently announced 16% layoffs at Caltrans. The layoffs are part of an across the board policy adopted by the Legislature as part of the 2003-04 state budget that had not been proposed by the Governor. Since these were not General Fund positions but come from the Highway Account there is less General Fund benefit. How can we protect against this in the future?

Two strategies were adopted: Work locally with Caltrans districts to publicize the impact on projects and translate that into impact upon local economies and the adverse effect that would have on state recovery and revenues.

Second work with Legislators and interests on the feasibility of a constitutional amendment either to prohibit loans from the Highway Account or to require a specific constitutionally protected payback plan with interest that transportation programs can rely upon as a revenue source.

5. STIP Cash Flow Crisis

Concerns: PP&M funds (Planning Programming and Monitoring) are not available when there is no funding for STIP projects yet these activities need to continue on existing projects and to develop future projects. Not all agencies are affected as many-particularly larger agencies have other funds for these activities.

ACTION The RTPA group will conduct a Survey- document who needs \$\$ and how much, what each agency needs to continue what it needs to do – results will be tabulated – results out by Oct. 29

It was noted that AB3090 allows agencies to borrow from their future allocations for this purpose and that is a partial solution. In addition legislation was considered a future option that could include renaming this program as the “planning” term is misleading and also so that this is a “protected activity” outside the STIP and not subject to programming level fluctuations in the same way that Caltrans operations are protected.

6. California Alliance for Advanced Transportation Systems CA

ACTION: Letter to support continuance of existence -approved

7. Transportation Development Act - Unmet transit needs -

Directors expressed concerns about Caltrans recent statements and documents questioning a longstanding policy for determining Unmet Transit Needs which must be done before counties which in 1970 had populations under 500,000 can allocate TDA funds for local streets and roads.

Directors asked CalcoG staff to contact Caltrans and discuss reestablishing a committee on this issue and to get commitments that no policy changes would be made and that local determinations would be upheld until any proposal had been considered in the committee. It was requested that this item also be on the agenda for the next meeting

8. Scheduling of November Regional Caltrans Coordination and COG Directors Association in California meetings -

CalcoG Delegate Meeting will be November 18 in Monterey in conjunction with the CSAC conference.

We would invite guest speakers to discuss ways of protecting transportation funds and increasing transportation revenues. Suggested invitees were Senator Torlakson and McPherson as well as a representative of the Silicon Valley Manufacturers Group which is sponsoring an initiative to change the vote requirements for local sales taxes from 2/3 to 55% for “special taxes” and increase it to 2/3 for general taxes.

The meeting should also include an update on housing reform discussions.

9. Proposition 53 - (5 minutes)

ACTION: No Position

10. Increasing Transportation Revenues - (15 minutes)

SR 8 report too old – unknown to current legislators

Make a case and develop a report so that members can have ready at start of January 2004

Legislative Session – collectively take analysis

If CTC say no STIP, that may make our case for us

Pulling info together is good

Need to format – make it a handout ready for start of Legislation

Reduce need to spend gas tax dollars on maintenance and rehab to free tax dollars for major projects by having an automatically increased user fee

Need local data that illustrates the crisis

11. Development of CALCOG Action Plan for 2004 - (10 minutes)

- The implementation of AB 857 - the Environmental Goals and Policy Report.
- Transportation revenue-raising strategies.
- Protecting the process by which regional agencies allocate 75% of State Transportation Improvement Program and Transportation Enhancement Activity (TEA) projects.
- West Coast Corridor Coalition activities.
- Other steps to re-establish adequate cash-flow of transportation.

COG Directors support these issues and add the need to focus on getting a 1 and ½ year extension to TEA 21 and working with a new administration if the Recall is successful.

12. Providing CALCOG Reports to all members of governing boards

Directors agreed that the reports would be good for members to give to boards but Calcog should send just to each Delegate and Executive Director and leave it to them to distribute to full boards.

13. Adjournment 2:35pm

Next meeting November 3rd