

SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

DRAFT #2

Purpose

The goal and intent of the SBCCOG is one of voluntary cooperation among cities for the collective benefit of the cities in the South Bay of Los Angeles County. SBCCOG serves as an advocate in representing the members of the SBCCOG at the Regional, State and Federal levels on issues of importance to the South Bay. It also serves as a forum for the review, consideration, study, development and recommendation of public policies and plans with regional and subregional significance.

The Legislative Agenda contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the South Bay Cities. Its primary focus is protecting local government control, maintaining and increasing local government revenue, protecting the environment, and supporting South Bay transportation improvement projects. The Legislative Agenda provides a policy framework for the COG to respond to legislative issues in a timely manner.

Overriding Principles

SBCCOG believes that cities must be able to control matters within their own jurisdictions. Therefore, the SBCCOG will take positions on proposed legislation, rules and/or regulations that affect cities' local control and will oppose preemption of local authority whether by regulation, administration action, legislation or ballot measure. Additionally, the SBCCOG will take positions on issues that directly affect the South Bay. And, when local decisions affect neighboring communities, the SBCCOG supports local governments working collaboratively and regionally to address regional issues.

Issues Of Common Concern and Areas of SBCCOG Commitment

The areas of interest that the SBCCOG will monitor are as follows:

- I. Fiscal Impact - SBCCOG is committed to:
 - A. Promote stable revenue for local governments and redevelopment agencies
 - B. Oppose unfunded mandates and encourage use of incentives
 - C. Support efforts to simplify the collection of sales taxes nationwide and provide an equitable method for collecting sales taxes for Internet and catalog sales.
 - D. Seek funding for regional projects and inter-agency cooperation.
- II. Intergovernmental Cooperation
 - A.. Support programs which encourage sharing best practices between public agencies
 - B. Support collaboration between neighboring cities to resolve policy and project differences that potentially delay or adversely affect regionally significant projects or policies
- III. Transportation & Transit - SBCCOG is committed to:
 - A. Protect and enhance funding sources and the flexible use of all State and Federal transit and transportation revenues and programs
 - B. Seek and support legislative measures that will increase funding for:
 1. Projects on the South Bay Measure R Highway list
 2. Other Street and highway capital improvements, maintenance, and traffic management systems.
 3. Local and regional transit systems for capital and operating purposes
 - C. Support integrated transit systems within the SCAG region making sure that the integrity of the system is maintained and that projects are not constructed in piecemeal fashion with scope sufficient to accommodate the integrated demand for the facilities.
 - D. Support legislation which establishes funding and incentives for programs and amenities (shelters,

passenger information, safe waiting areas, etc.) which encourage walking and biking and other alternative forms of local transportation such as neighborhood vehicles.

- E. Preserve a strong and vital industry of goods movement in the region while:
 - 1. Supporting federal investment since it is of international and national significance
 - 2. Supporting air pollution reduction measures and mitigation of local freight traffic impacts.

III. Aviation - SBCCOG is committed to:

- A. Support a 'regional' approach to airport development and usage
- B. Work with appropriate agencies on the use of Southern California airspace to minimize South Bay commercial aircraft overflights and to increase altitudes of necessary overflights.

IV. Economic Development - SBCCOG is committed to:

- A. Support retention of L.A. Air Force Base
- B. Support legislation and policies that incentivize economic opportunities, including but not limited to enterprise zones, CBDG funding, workforce assistance programs, global logistics and goods movement and other programs

V. Land Use - SBCCOG is committed to:

- A. Support funding and legislation that establishes innovative and flexible approaches to housing creation including the infrastructure that it requires

VI. Environment - SBCCOG is committed to:

- A. Advocate legislation that supports flexibility as well as funding to pursue cost effective sustainable responsible environmental policy and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, conserve energy, and encourage use of potable, reclaimed, waste and storm water as well as solid waste removal and recycling.
- B. Support legislation and policies to lessen the financial impact of state and federal unfunded mandates for compliance requirements.
- C. Work to get better access to data about energy usage in buildings within local government jurisdictions
- D. Support economic development that is coupled with environmental sensitivity
- E. Support infrastructure for both regular and slower speed zero emission vehicles.
- F. Support funding for well maintained environmentally sound landscaping projects along public rights of way as well as traffic calming treatments in neighborhoods.
- G. Support legislation that provides incentives for environmentally responsible green design and construction.
- H. Support the development of a federal action plan for reducing air pollution from those sources solely under federal control such as ships and planes which are increasingly affecting the ability to reach local air quality attainment.
- I. Support legislation to finance and incentivize cost effective conversion of vehicles to alternative fuels or propulsion systems.
- J. Support legislation and regulations that promote renewable energy and ensure adequate energy supplies and system reliability
- K. Support local government involvement in the expenditure of the public goods charge funds that are collected for energy efficiency pursuant to the CPUC on utility bills.
- L. Support maximum flexibility in the funding received by cities for the reduction of mobile source emissions such as AB 2766 funds

VII. Public Safety and Homeland Security - SBCCOG is committed to:

- A. Support legislation and other efforts and strategies that promote and fund emergency preparedness for all hazards as well as recovery efforts at the local level.
- B. Support funding opportunities for local homeland security programs including new technology and equipment that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations.
- C. Support maintenance of existing South Bay health care facilities for emergency response with adequate funding and staffing.
- D. Advocate for the availability of adequate broadcast spectrum and funding for interagency interoperability equipment and operations, currently jurisdictionally organized under the LARICS Joint Powers Authority (Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communication System).