

Access Sacramento

June 16-17, 2008



Collaborating Today for a Prosperous Tomorrow

Los Angeles County represents **25 percent** of the state's gross domestic product (GDP) and provides **27 percent** of all jobs in the state — adding more than **500,000 jobs** over the last 30 years. And Los Angeles graduates nearly **30,000 high school students each year** who go on to college and the workforce. As the gateway to the state and nation, more than **\$348 billion** of two-way trade passes through the L.A. Customs District every year. Without collaboration and planning, this important economic engine is at risk.

Now more than ever, bipartisan collaboration is essential to finding a solution to our state's budget. We must work together on improving funding for infrastructure, investing in our water supply, reforming our education system, providing access to health care and more. Collaborating today on long term solutions will lead to a prosperous tomorrow—not just for our region but for all of California.

State Budget

\$15 billion is how much California's state budget deficit could be this year without fiscal reform

With the state in a fiscal crisis, the Legislature must come together to develop a budget that will stop California's financial crisis from worsening.

Education and Workforce Development

19 million is how many skilled jobs will need to be filled in California by 2025

By 2025, two of every five jobs in the state will require a college degree, an increase from less than one-third of all jobs in 2005. California must provide a 21st century school system to ensure that our children are work ready and college prepared.

Transportation

600 million is the number of miles vehicles will travel in 2035 in Southern California—up 28 percent from 2003—increasing the average daily delay for drivers to 10-30 minutes

With more goods movement and traffic than anywhere else in the state, relieving congestion, is one of Southern California's top priorities.

Water

\$40 billion is how much it would cost the state economy if a single flood event or earthquake occurred along the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta

With 25 million people relying on water through the Delta, state and federal investment in our region's water supply will prevent a Katrina-like human and economic disaster in the nation's most populous state.

Statistical Sources: Association of California Water Agencies; California Budget Project; Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation; Occidental College study; Public Policy Institute of California, May 12, 2008; Southern California Association of Governments.

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2008

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Business and Job Growth

Promote Incentives Rather Than Mandates

A strong business climate is essential to creating good paying jobs and growing our state's tax base. Unfortunately, California businesses are often saddled with legislative mandates that hurt our competitiveness and business retention. The Legislature should focus on working with the business community to develop incentives that produce win-win situations for all Californians.

Support Flexible Work Week Scheduling

Individual employees should have the right to negotiate an alternative work week schedule with their employers based on their own personal needs and circumstances. Enact legislation such as AB 2127 to provide that much needed flexibility, and improve California's workforce competitiveness and overall employee quality of life.

Support AB 2127 (Assemblymember John J. Benoit, R-Palm Desert)

Oppose Unnecessary and Burdensome Tax Requirements

Oppose attempts to impose at the state level a withholding requirement currently mandated only at the federal level. This will impose expensive programming and administrative requirements on businesses reducing California's business competitiveness.

Oppose AB 1848 (Assembly Majority Whip Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco)

Oppose Worker's Compensation Rollbacks

Do not return California to the position of having the most expensive worker's compensation system in the nation. Oppose efforts to increase worker's compensation benefits without a full study of SB 899's (2004 reform legislation) ramifications and the potential effect on the state's businesses.

Oppose SB 1717 (Senate President Pro Tempore Don Perata, D-Oakland)

Increase Small Business Procurement Opportunities

Streamline the procurement process and incentivize small business opportunities with the state of California. Support this crucial component of our economy to create jobs and economic growth.

Support AB 2772 (Assemblymember Curren Price, D-Inglewood)

Support AB 2797 (Assemblymember Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate)

Clarify Meal Period Rules to Prevent Costly Litigation

Confusion over California's meal period rules have led to numerous lawsuits that comprise nearly half of all employment-related lawsuits and more than 40 percent of state's class action lawsuits. This confusion is forcing many businesses to close or layoff workers due to large settlements. Support much needed clarifications that provide employee flexibility and reduce the number of unnecessary lawsuits.

Support SB 1539 (Senator Ron S. Calderon, D-Montebello)

CEQA Reform

Strengthen Existing California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) Exemptions

Existing exemptions must be strengthened to ensure continued transit-oriented development and affordable development projects. Current CEQA exemptions are ineffective and routinely ignored by local governments because the "unusual circumstances" exception is too broad.

Oppose Adding Additional Burdens to the CEQA Process

Establishing additional burdens under CEQA will inhibit important project development, increase government costs and hurt California's business climate. CEQA already requires either a supplemental or subsequent EIR to account for changed conditions or project impacts not evaluated in an approved EIR. Imposing a five-year expiration of CEQA documents will lead to a never-ending land use entitlement process. Continue to oppose bills such as SB 1165.

Encourage More Affordable Housing Development

Too often, CEQA is used as a tool to derail much needed housing production for reasons unrelated to the environment. To help address the affordable housing shortage, the state must implement the state density bonus law (SB1818), which will encourage affordable and transit-oriented housing development.

Oppose AB 2280 (Assemblymember Lori Saldaña, D-San Diego)

Education and Workforce Development

Support a Multiple Pathways Agenda for Student Success

Multiple Pathways prepares students for both post-secondary education and careers. Support legislation that creates a plan for statewide implementation of Multiple Pathways, studies teacher credentialing and development practices, and expands work-based learning opportunities for students.

Support AB 2648 (Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles) 

Support AB 2078 (Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes, D-Los Angeles) 

Support SB 1677 (Senator Jack Scott, D-Pasadena) 

Adequately Fund Financial Aid for all Students

Access to post-secondary education opportunities is critical to keep California competitive in a 21st century global economy. This includes supporting outreach programs designed to assist low-income and undocumented students in accessing financial aid for college.

Fund AB 1540 [2007] (Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles) 

Support SB 1301 (Senator Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Support AB 2083 (Assembly Speaker Emeritus Fabian Nuñez, D-Los Angeles)

Oppose budget cuts to Cal Grant A and B Competitive Awards

Advocate for Increased Accountability in Public Schools

Education reform and spending should be accompanied by increased accountability of California's public education systems. This requires the development, funding and implementation of a data system linking student educational attainment in K-12 and post-secondary education with employment status and earnings.

Support SB 1425 (Senate President Pro Tempore Elect Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento)

Support SB 1298 (Senator Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto)

Support SB 325 (Senator Jack Scott, D-Pasadena)

Ensure Bipartisan Support for Public Education

Encourage bi-partisan support for a budget that is fiscally responsible, but does not compromise the quality of instruction for students.

Encourage the use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)

With more than \$500 billion in unfunded infrastructure needs, traditional funding sources are clearly inadequate. PPPs are a powerful tool to provide funding and cost efficiencies for infrastructure projects that could not otherwise be built. The Legislature should remove hurdles and provide resources for local governments to use PPPs to develop infrastructure.

Reconsider AB 2278 (Assemblymember Anna Caballero, D-Salinas)

Prioritize Communities that Provide Matching Local Funding

To maximize the impact of dollars invested in infrastructure, California should prioritize state investment in communities that have already provided local funding streams. Encourage this shared model of public financing by providing self-help communities with generous matching funds from the state.

Allocate Proposition 1B Funds Based on Actual Need

The Southern California region has more goods movement and traffic congestion than anywhere else in the state. Proposition 1B funds, which help fight congestion and provide for environmental mitigation, should largely be awarded to Southern California based on this proportional need.

Provide Financial Tools for Local Infrastructure Projects

Remove onerous requirements for local governments to form an Infrastructure Financing District (IFD). IFDs are a critical tool for local governments to finance small infrastructure projects through the use of bonds. This is essential to meeting many local needs for congestion relief and additional transit opportunities.

Support AB 1836 (Assemblymember Mike Feuer, D-Los Angeles)

Support Targeted L.A. County Transportation Sales Tax

A half-cent sales tax extension for L.A. County would provide funds for high priority transit and congestion mitigation projects. Legislation should require that a ballot measure dedicate funds exclusively for transportation, provide an expenditure plan and include strong public oversight to ensure that funding is spent wisely.

Support AB 2321 (Assemblymember Mike Feuer, D-Los Angeles)

Continue to meet transportation needs in environmentally responsible ways

Responsibility for the environment is an important element of developing and improving infrastructure in California. Legislation should encourage processes that provide effective mitigation with long-term efficiency and timely cost effective delivery of improvements. Avoid legislation that over emphasizes mitigation.

Oppose AB 2546 (Assemblymember Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate)



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