

FRESNO COG SEPTEMBER REPORT

- **TRADE CORRIDOR:** Senator Lowenthal's SB 9 was introduced to set up the guidelines for distribution of the \$2 billion in Trade Corridor funds made available from Prop. 1B. AB 995 by Assemblyman Nava also attempted to set up these guidelines. California Consulting, LLC has been working to ensure the guidelines are fair to the Valley. Proposed amendments were agreed upon by the 8 San Joaquin Valley COG's and California Consulting, LLC pushed for inclusion of those amendments in the above mentioned bills. The amendments asked for language to be changed from "to" the San Joaquin Valley instead to say extending "through the San Joaquin Valley" in reference to the trade corridor. Additionally, we asked that each of the 8 Valley COG's be named by name in the bill. On Friday August 24, 2007 California Consulting, LLC, Fresno COG Executive Director Barbara Goodwin and the San Joaquin COG Director represented the Valley at a Roundtable meeting with the Speaker's Office. Leaders from around the state discussed what criteria should be used to distribute the \$2 billion and the Speaker's staff took notes, asked questions, and engaged in dialogue with the group. Shortly thereafter on Monday August 27, 2007 California Consulting, LLC organized a lobbying trip to Sacramento and took a delegation including Kingsburg Mayor Leland Bergstrom, Fresno COG Executive Director Barbara Goodwin, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley representative Peter Weber, Fresno COG Deputy Executive Director Tony Boren, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJAPD) Director Seyed Sadredin, and SJAPD Staff Member Tom Jordan. The delegation met with Senior representatives from the Governor's Office, Senate Transportation Committee, Senator Lowenthal's Office, Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, Assembly Republican Leader Villines' Office, Assemblyman Arambula's Office, and others. Our office worked closely with the Valley state legislative delegation and thanks to their hard work, letters, and phone calls it appears progress is being made. Senator Dave Cogdill sent a letter to Senator Lowenthal detailing our concerns from the 8 Valley COG's. At this point, we are working closely with the Governor's Deputy Legislative Secretary for Transportation Curt Augustine as he is the point person for the Administration on developing the guidelines for the Trade Corridor money. Over the

next few months working groups and roundtable discussions will occur relative to this issue and we have been assured that Fresno COG and the Valley stakeholders will have a seat at the table. The goal is get our proposed amendments adopted when the legislation comes back to the Legislature in January.

- **WATER:** The Governor has proposed a \$9 billion water bond and called for a special session of the Legislature to act on this issue. Mayor Autry, Mayor Lopez and several others have played key and important roles in leading this effort for the Valley. Assembly Republican Leader Villines and Senator Cogdill are the author's of the Governor's package in the Legislature and Fresno COG through our office has been lobbying for approval of surface level water storage funding. Fresno COG has sent a formal letter of support for the Governor's water bond package as well as participating in several news conferences in Sacramento. The Senate is tentatively scheduled to reconvene the special session on water on Tuesday October 9, 2007.

- **SB 974-CONTAINER FEE BILL**

Senator Lowenthal's SB 974 is a major issue for Fresno COG and other valley stakeholders. Our office organized several conference calls with Senator Lowenthal's staff and also met with Senator Lowenthal to discuss this issue personally. Participants in the conference calls included Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Lujan, Mayor Victor Lopez, Mayor Don Tow, Mayor Mike Montelongo, Barbara Goodwin, Tony Boren, Peter Weber, Bruce Rudd, Seyed Sadredin, and others. Senator Florez's office was instrumental in organizing some of these conference calls and participated as well. Many thanks to his great staff! After lengthy discussion over the course of several months it appears we have agreed upon suggested amendments to SB 974 that would benefit the Valley and gain us much needed money for air quality mitigation. The amendments discussed with Senator Lowenthal's Office would give priority funding to "Projects aimed at mitigating air quality impacts of goods movement in air basins with the dual designation of severe or worse non-attainment for ozone and non-attainment for PM 2.5." The next step is that Deputy Secretary Augustine from the Governor's Office will be organizing a working group along with Senator Lowenthal's Office in an attempt to amend SB 974 to make it satisfactory to all parties. These meetings will occur over the next few months with the goal of bringing back amendments to the Legislature when they reconvene in January. Fresno COG and our office are working closely with the Governor's Office and

Senator Lowenthal's Office on this issue and hope to have our proposed amendment included. The Valley State Legislative delegation has done a tremendous job supporting our efforts and special thanks goes to Senators Cogdill, Denham, and Florez as well as Assemblymembers Aghazarian, Arambula, Galgiani, Maze, Nakanishi, Parra, and Villines.

- **STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIP**

An agreement was not reached by the Assembly and Senate on the distribution of the State and Local Partnership funds. We will continue to work with the Legislature on this issue during the next Legislative session.

- **PROP. 1B AIR QUALITY MITIGATION \$1 BILLION**

Our office worked very closely with the Valley State legislative delegation on this issue for almost the last one year. We organized various trips to Sacramento, conference calls, letters to the legislative leadership, etc. Peter Weber deserved special commendation for his diligent and exemplary work on this issue. In the end after AB 1209, AB 575, SB 19, and others, the guidelines were passed as part of SB 88 in a budget bill. SB 88 allocated \$250 million for fiscal year 07-08 and the guidelines are fair and equitable. ARB has already begun the process of setting up the competitive grant process to access these dollars. Our office is in regular communication with Senior officials at Cal-EPA, ARB, and the Governor's Office regarding this issue. The rest of the \$750 million will presumably be allocated by the Legislature next fiscal year or in following years. Assemblyman Juan Arambula did an outstanding job focusing on this issue and ensuring the Valley received equal treatment on the distribution of this money.

- **NOVEMBER 7, 2007 LUNCH**

California Consulting, LLC and the City of Reedley are organizing a lunch on November 7, 2007 with special guest Curt Augustine, Deputy Legislative Secretary for Transportation and Housing for the Governor. Mr. Augustine is the key figure in the SB 974 (Container Fee bill) and SB 9 (Trade Corridor) discussions. Invitation was sent to you under separate cover.

- **MEETINGS**

Steve has continued his weekly meetings in Sacramento with the Valley State Legislative Offices and the Governor's Office as well as key State Agencies.

- **OTHER ISSUES**

Updates on the

- Local Streets and Roads monies,
- Prop. 84 Park Bond money,
- the Anti-Gang grant monies available, and the

- 1C Housing Bond money

have been sent to each of you under separate cover. If you need those update memo's sent to you again, please let us know.