

California Consulting, LLC
Fresno COG February 2009 Report

- **Federal Economic Stimulus Package:** We have worked closely with both federal and state officials regarding the Federal Economic Stimulus package. Numerous e-mail updates have been sent to Fresno COG members regarding the status of the package. California Consulting, LLC has participated in several conference calls and meetings regarding this topic and monitored the transportation element, education element, wastewater element, water quality element, and other parts of the package very closely.
- **One Voice:** Plans for the Fresno COG Sacramento “One Voice” trip continue to proceed. We have held conference calls and meetings with COG staff and trip participants to help develop the list of priority issues as well as plan the visit. We encourage all COG members and supporters to attend this important event March 9 and 10 at the State Capitol. We are in the process of scheduling meetings with key policymakers for March 9 and 10.
- **State Budget:** As of the date of this report (Feb. 16, 2009) the State Legislature has fallen one vote short in the State Senate of approving a budget. Our office has sent our various bulletins outlining the key elements of the budget agreement and how it would impact transportation and local governments. See previous e-mail communications. Steve met several times this month in Sacramento with the Governor’s Office, and the Offices of Senators Florez and Cogdill and as well as Assemblymembers Arambula, Gilmore, and Villines regarding the state budget and Fresno COG concerns.
- **Prop. 84:** Steve met this month in Sacramento with the Staff members at the Department of Parks and Recreation responsible for the Prop. 84 bond money. This \$400 million allocation will be become available in two phases with phase one applications available in April, 2009. See previous e-mail summary update sent after meeting for further details.
- **Childcare:** California Consulting organized and participated in a conference call in early February with the California Department of Education regarding childcare funding for Fresno County centers. COG Chairman Trinidad Rodriguez and others participated in the conference call and several issues were discussed. A follow up meeting with State Superintendent O’Connell is planned. The group

has met with Supt. O'Connell on two occasions recently to discuss this issue and held several discussion with his staff.

- **Water:** Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez has drafted a water bond that is comprehensive and deals with storage, conservation, conveyance, among other items. California Consulting distributed the first summary of the bond "fact sheet" and the language submitted to Legislative Counsel before it was available to the public. See two previous e-mail bulletins sent out regarding the Water Bond. Senator Florez should be commended for tackling this challenging but important issue and attempting to build consensus and common ground to move this issue forward. Steve met with Senator Florez this month in Sacramento regarding the water bond issue. We are working closely with his Office on this key issue.
- **Education Bond:** Our office with the California Department of Education and Superintendent O'Connell's Office this month regarding his proposed State Education Facilities Bond. We sent out an e-mail bulletin with the specifics of this proposed bond and will continue to work with his office on this vitally important issue.
- **Wastewater:** We are working closely with the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the \$280 million California will receive from the federal economic stimulus package for wastewater needs. We have had several discussions and meetings with the State Water Board and sent a summary and details of how the money will be distributed in a previous e-mail bulletin. This is an excellent opportunity for California cities and counties to remedy many of their wastewater needs.
- **Air Quality:** Steve met this month with the Cal-EPA Undersecretary and ARB officials in Sacramento regarding AB 118. AB 118 funding will become available in Spring 2009 and will include money through both the California Energy Commission and the Air Resources Board. Competitive grant dollars will be available for CNG, hybrid vehicles, replacement of heavy-duty vehicles and several other projects. Our staff attended the AB 118 workshop recently held and a report was sent out detailing the criteria and guidelines for the money. See previously sent AB 118 e-mail bulletin.