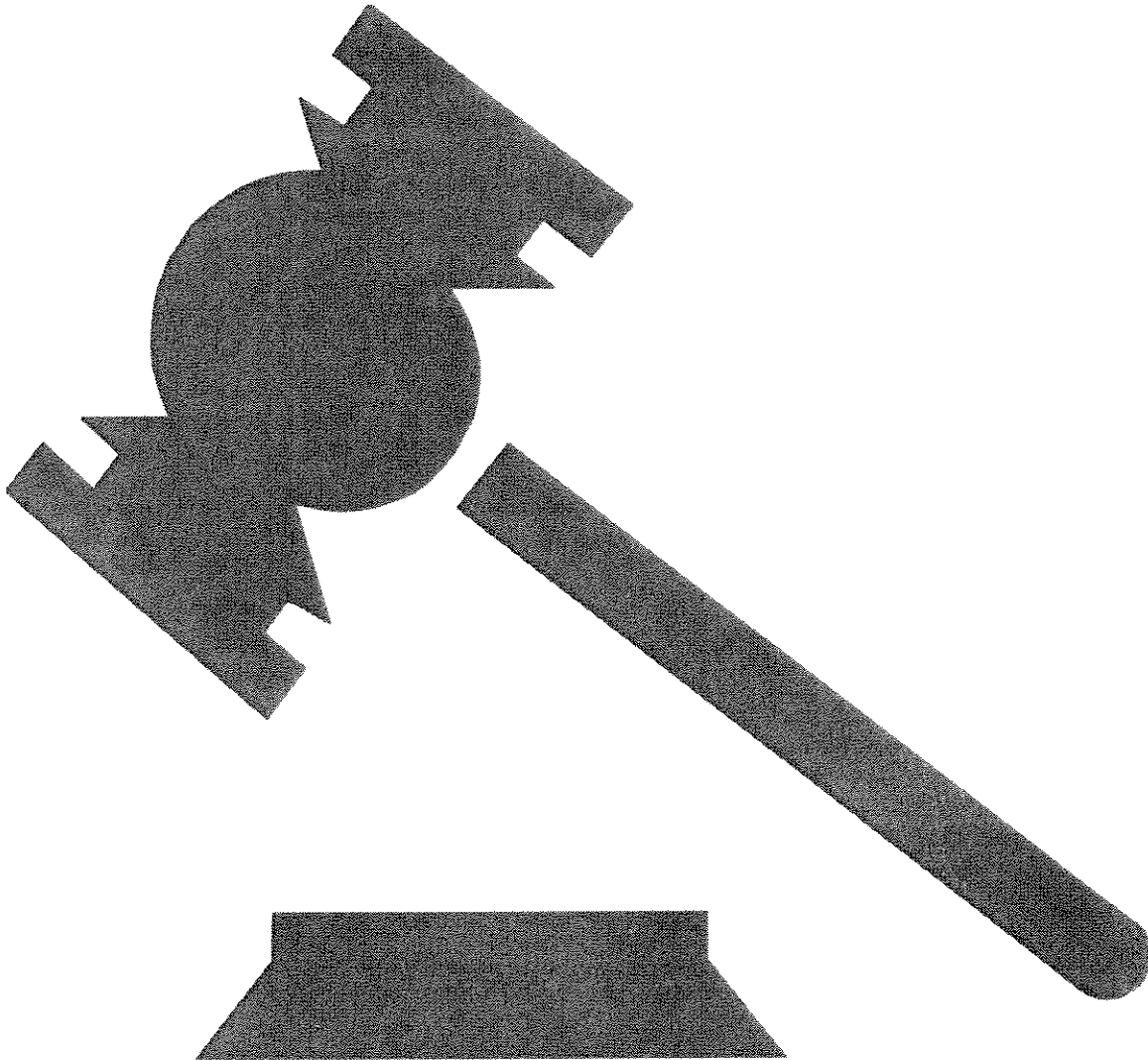




***ADMINISTRATIVE
ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
AGENDA ITEM VI.D.***



2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721

Telephone: (559) 233-4148 • Fax: (559) 233-9645
Website Address: www.fresnocog.org

February 23, 2009

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Public Listening Session:
Council of Fresno County Governments Federal Certification Review

A Public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2009 to receive input on how to improve the region's transportation planning process.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting the certification review and evaluation of the region's transportation planning process carried out by the Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) and its partners. Every four years the FHWA and FTA jointly conduct this review. As part of the review, the public is invited to comment on the transportation planning process at the following public meeting:

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2009
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Council of Fresno County Governments, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California

Oral and written comments may be presented at the meeting. Written comments can also be sent via e-mail to cert.review@fhwa.dot.gov or by regular mail to:

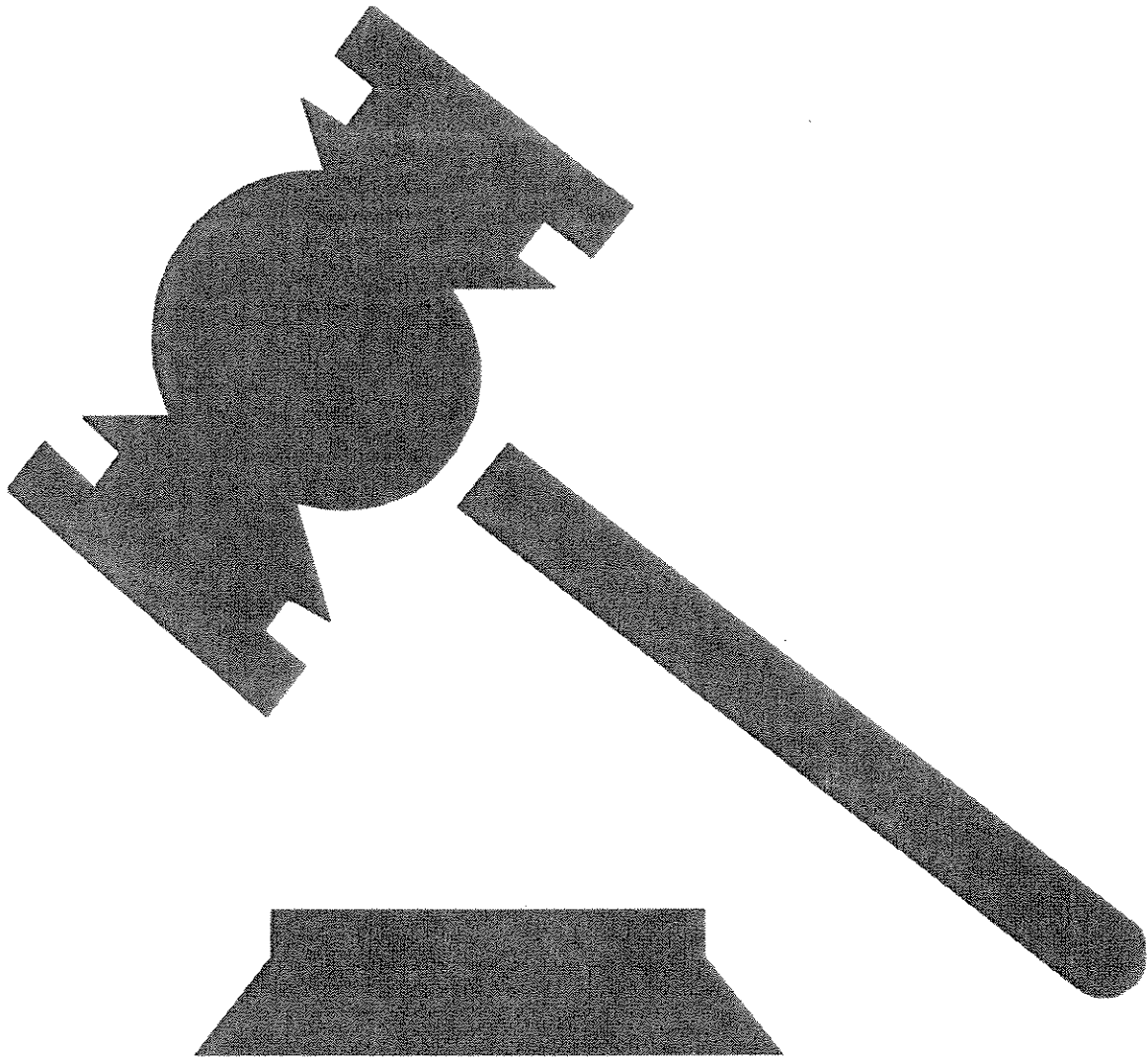
Scott Carson **or**
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Paul Page
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105

Public written comments will be accepted through April 25, 2009.

Any questions regarding these hearings should be directed to Tony Boren, Executive Director at (559) 233-4148.

/s/ TONY BOREN, Executive Director
Council of Fresno County Governments
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***ADMINISTRATIVE
ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
AGENDA ITEM VI.E.***

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Attorney General's Office
California Department of Justice
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Dear Attorney General Brown,

On behalf of the Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG), the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Fresno County, I would like to express our deep concern over the remarks made by your staff member, Deputy Attorney General Lloyd Carter, to a local reporter before a debate on water policy at California State University, Fresno last month. We also respectfully request that you seek Mr. Carter's resignation from his position in the criminal division.

The members of the Fresno COG Policy Board, who are the mayors from each of the 15 incorporated cities within Fresno County and the chairperson from the Board of Supervisors, take issue with Lloyd Carter's disparaging and unfair remarks that were later televised and written in print. They include the following description of farm workers:

"They're not even American citizens for starters. Do you think we should employ illegal aliens? What parent raises their child to be a farm worker? These kids are the least educated people in America or the Southwest corner of this valley. They turn to lives of crime. They go on welfare. They get into drug trafficking and they join gangs."

As you can imagine, we believe these remarks to be insulting and insensitive to hard working farm workers and their families who toil in our fields everyday to help make Fresno County the #1 agricultural county in the U.S. – the breadbasket of the world. Fresno County produces \$5.3 billion in agricultural commodities and the farm workers who support this industry are absolutely essential to its success. In response to Mr. Carter's remarks, Assemblymember Juan Arambula has said, "farm workers are good people who don't deserve to be insulted". We agree.

While Lloyd Carter has been removed from his position with the California Water Impact Network, we do not believe this is enough. As a public servant of our state, in his job he speaks for your office and for Californians, and we expect more from Mr. Carter than a biased viewpoint towards farm workers who are the cornerstone of our agricultural industry.

The Fresno COG urges you to consider taking action and right the wrong Mr. Carter's remarks have had on our farm workers, their families, and our communities and seek Lloyd Carter's resignation from his position as Deputy Attorney General in your office.

Thank you for considering this matter and if you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Executive Director, Tony Boren, at (559) 233-4148.

Sincerely,

TRINIDAD M. RODRIGUEZ, Chairman
Council of Fresno County Governments
Mayor, City of Kerman

Cc: Assemblymember Juan Arambula 31st District; Senator Dean Florez, 16th District; Senator Dave Cogdill, 14th District; Assemblymember Danny Gilmore, 30th District; Assemblymember Mike Villines, 29th District; Steve Samuelian, California Consulting.



February 9, 2009

Coalition Airs Concerns on Environmental Leader's Statements About Farm Workers

The California Latino Water Coalition today is joining many other organizations at a rally outside Fresno City Hall to air its deep concern and feelings of repugnance over a statement made last week by prominent San Joaquin Valley environmental leader Lloyd G. Carter. Mr. Carter, a California Deputy Attorney General, is President of the California Save Our Streams Council, and a director of the California Water Impact Network and Revive the San Joaquin.

On February 4, 2009, at California State University, Fresno's Satellite Student Union, a discussion about water among a panel of agricultural interests and environmentalists turned into a public forum for Mr. Carter to make statements about Central Valley Latino community members, and particularly farm workers, that can only be described as ignorant and racially tinged, a slur against our heritage, an insult to our whole community and an affront to human rights.

Mr. Carter is among the most visible and vocal critics of Central Valley irrigated agriculture and farm water use. His reprehensible statement unfortunately reinforces what our Coalition has long suspected – that too many in California's environmental community care more about fish than people. Sadly, it is the Coalition's belief that many environmentalists are apparently willing to close their eyes toward negative and harmful impacts sustained first and foremost by California's Latino community when environmental mandates and actions curtail water supplies and, inevitably, inflict severe economic and social harm and hardship.

It must be noted that the environmental community has strangely and suspiciously responded mostly with silence rather than disavowing Mr. Carter's comments.

The California Latino Water Coalition proudly represents people who work the fields and strive only to offer opportunities to another generation. It is true, many Latinos are poor and live at the bottom rung of the economy with little security or savings. There are no other industries to compensate for the loss of agricultural work so Latinos fight for these jobs and are proud to have them.

It is against such thoughts sounded by Mr. Carter that figures such as César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, Robert F. Kennedy, Reverend Ralph Abernathy and thousands of unknown names resisted and prevailed. The struggle was not just for benefits and pay but also for human rights, such as dignity and equality before the law and society.

One would think Mr. Carter and his environmental colleagues would have more respect for the agricultural industry and farm worker force that sustains the Central Valley. Hard work, humility, and loyalty to employer and family, are characteristics that define the farm worker and farm worker culture.

Sadly, as the country crosses one racial barrier with the election of a new President, there remains a legacy of ignorance and prejudice that flickers but has not been extinguished.

Activist quits water group's board after farmworker comments

His comments sparked dispute, Fresno protest rally.

Monday, Feb. 09, 2009

By Paula Lloyd / The Fresno Bee

A deputy attorney general and environmental activist whose comments about farmworkers sparked a protest rally Monday has resigned from the board of the California Water Impact Network.

Mike Jackson, who serves on the same board, said Lloyd Carter submitted his resignation during a conference call among board members Monday morning.

"His statement is not us, and he was speaking for us," Jackson said. "We thought we had to take some steps."

Carter's comments were made to a KMPH (Channel 26) reporter before a debate on water policy at California State University, Fresno, on Wednesday.

Carter said farmworkers who would lose jobs if west-side Valley farmers don't receive water from the California Delta this year are "not even American citizens for starters. Do you think we should employ illegal aliens?"

He also said the children of farmworkers are among the least-educated people in the southwest corner of the Valley. "They turn to lives of crime. They go on welfare. They get into drug trafficking and they join gangs."

Carter said Monday afternoon, "I've apologized. I don't know what else people want from me. People who know me know I'm not a racist."

Carter issued a written apology on his Web site, www.lloydgcarter.com.

An apology also was broadcast on Channel 26.

"My comments were directed at the exploitation of farmworkers in the southwest corner of the Valley, which is the poorest place in America," Carter's apology reads in part.

"I now realize I made a terrible mistake in the way I expressed myself and I humbly apologize to all who were offended," he wrote.

The California Water Impact Network has issued apologies for Carter's comments, Jackson said. "We're very, very sorry and are busy apologizing -- as is Lloyd -- to everything that moves."

Jackson said he doesn't know why Carter made the comments.

"There is nothing in Lloyd Carter's career, background or experience that explains what he was trying to say. We don't believe he has any of those feelings," Jackson said.

Carter is a deputy attorney general in the criminal division of the California Attorney General's Office and is a former Fresno Bee reporter.

He serves on the boards of California Save Our Streams Council and Revive The San Joaquin, and he is a director of the Underground Gardens Conservancy, a preservation group for the Forestiere Underground Gardens in Fresno.

About 250 farmworkers, farmers, politicians and community activists attended the rally in front of Fresno City Hall. Some called for Carter's resignation.

"His remarks do not represent our environmental community. He needs to go," said Debbie Reyes of the Central California Environmental Justice Network. The group organized the rally.

Assembly Member Juan Arambula, D-Fresno, told the audience, "I'm not here to attack Lloyd Carter, but I disagree in no uncertain terms with what he said."

Farmworkers are "good people who don't deserve to be insulted," said Arambula, who as a child worked in the fields with his parents.

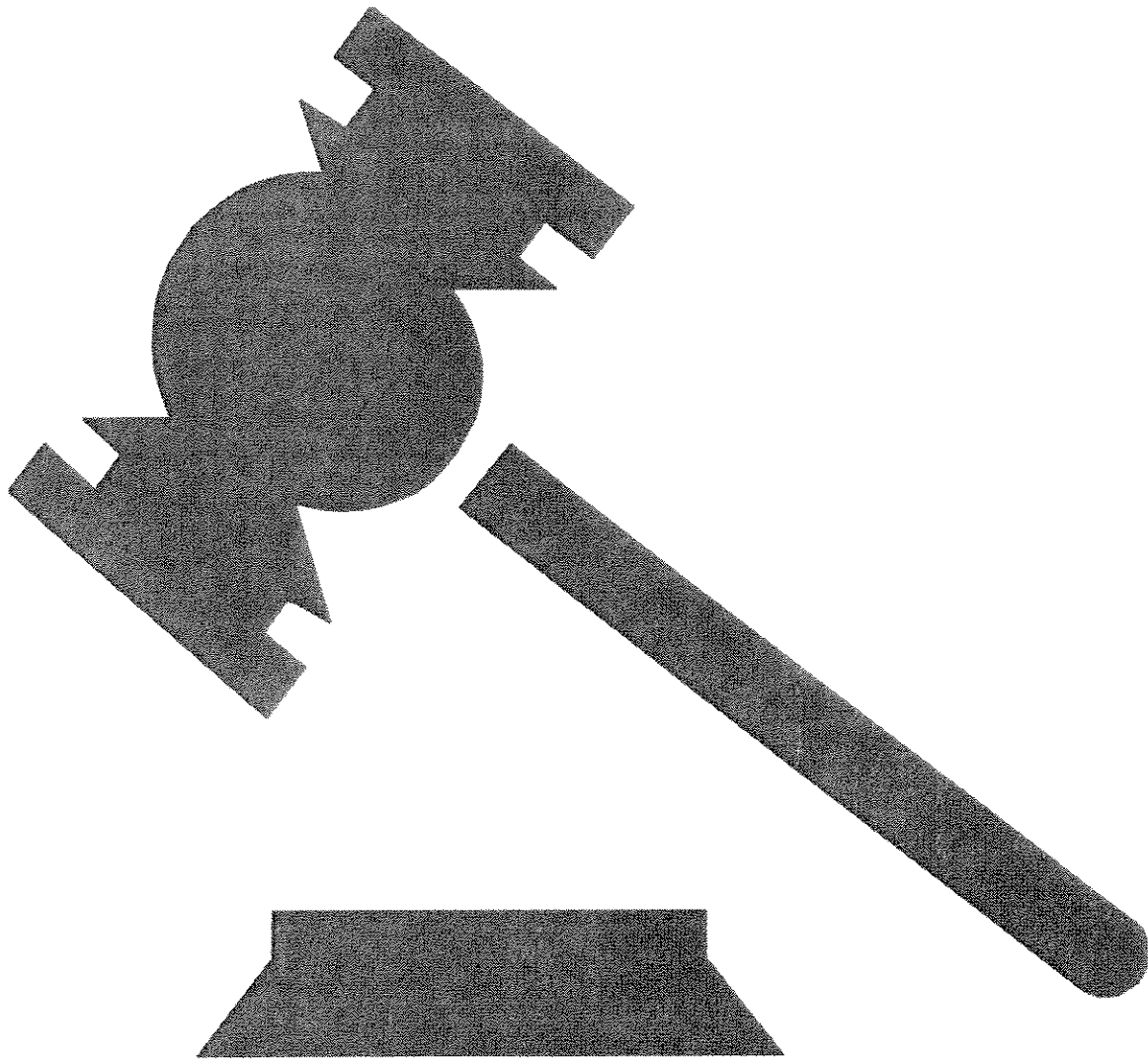
The crowd applauded when Fresno County Supervisor and farmer Phil Larson said, "The most important thing I have on my farm today are those who do the work."

Mendota Mayor Robert Silva said the diverse mix of farmworkers, farmers, government leaders and environmentalists "presents a united front."

Such coalitions are not common, said Don Villarejo of Davis, former executive director of the California Institute for Rural Studies.

"That's broader than is usually thought of," he said of those at the rally. "It takes a major external threat" like the drought of 1982 to bring people with diverse interests together.

The reporter can be reached at plloyd@fresnobee.com or (559) 441-6756.



***ADMINISTRATIVE
ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
AGENDA ITEM VII. F.***

California Consulting, LLC
Fresno COG March 2009 Report

- **One Voice:** The 2009 Sacramento “One Voice” trip was highly successful. The delegation was the largest ever and the meetings were productive and informative. Previous e-mails have been sent outlining the advocacy issues; list of trip participants; and schedule of meetings. Thank you to Jennifer and Marla of the COG staff and also to the trip participants who attended. Mayor Whalen did a great job on Monday and Council President Sterling did a great job on Tuesday of leading the delegation.
- **Federal Stimulus Package:** We continue to work closely with Cal-TRANS, CalCOG and others on the Stimulus state implementing legislation for Transportation. We also have participated in numerous meetings and conference calls over the last month regarding the Stimulus package and how it relates to energy efficiency, water quality, wastewater, public safety, education, and other elements of the Stimulus. See e-mail updates sent throughout the month.
- **Stimulus Workshop:** On March 16, 2009 California Consulting, LLC and the Fresno COG Co-Hosted a Stimulus workshop at the COG Office. The conference included presentations from several speakers about each element of the Stimulus. Welcoming remarks were given by Board of Supervisor Chair Susan Anderson, Council President Sterling, San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Chair Supervisor Michael Rubio, and Fresno COG Chairman Trinidad Rodriguez. Speakers included FCTA Chairman Harry Armstrong, Cal-TRANS District 6 Director Malcolm Dougherty, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Director Mike Dozier, Fresno COG Director Tony Boren, and several others. The conference Agenda and post-conference report were sent earlier via e-mail. Over 130 attendees from throughout the Valley attended the conference. Attendees were present from the northern most part of the Valley all the way down to Kern County. Dozens of Mayors, elected officials, city managers, police chiefs, and others participated in the Conference. Several individuals requested a follow up conference in a few weeks to update everyone on Stimulus progress.
- **Prop. 84:** We continue to meet with State Parks and Rec. in Sacramento regarding this issue. The final guidelines are due out April 1 and the application some time soon after. Deadline for filing applications will likely be in December or January.
- **Childcare:** California Consulting has organized several meetings and conference calls both with State Superintendent Jack O’Connell and with his office regarding this issue. Chairman Rodriguez and other COG Policy Board members have participated in these meetings and conference calls. We will continue to work on this issue diligently.

- **Water:** With the introduction of several water bond proposals in the Legislature our Office has been monitoring the legislation closely. Steve has met personally with Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez regarding this bill several times and also met with Senator Cogdill's staff. The Fresno COG delegation met with the Senator Florez, Senator Cogdill, and the Governor's staff during the One Voice trip to discuss water issues.
- **AB 118:** We have met with and had conference calls this month with Air Resources Board and the California Energy Commission regarding AB 118 funding which is due out in April or May. This grant provides for up to \$120 million per year for the next 7 years for hybrid vehicles, renewable energies, renewable fuels, electric vehicles, CNG, etc. We will continue to work closely with ARB and CEC on this important issue.
- **Wastewater:** We have been in consistent communication with the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the Stimulus money available for wastewater needs. The State will receive \$280 million for wastewater needs and a minimum of \$140 million must be spent for grants. This is an excellent opportunity for cities and counties to remedy many of their wastewater needs. Our office has already filed several applications on behalf of our clients.
- **Drinking Water:** The Department of Public Health received money from the Stimulus for drinking water and ground water clean up. The deadline for the applications was Feb. 27 (as previously reported). Our office filed several applications for this money on behalf of our clients.
- **Economic Development Element of the Stimulus:** Our office has worked closely with BTH Representative Nicole Parra and met with her numerous times over the last month regarding this issue. Additionally, we have been in consistent communication with Mike Dozier at the Partnership related to this issue. We will continue to work with Nicole and Mike as this issue continues to develop.
- **Sacramento Visits:** Throughout the month, Steve continued his regular trips to Sacramento and his regular meetings with Members and Staff at the Offices of Senate Majority Leader Florez, Senator Cogdill, Assembly Republican Leader Villines, Assemblyman Arambula, and Assemblyman Gilmore among other.