

Fresno COG

February 2011 Report
California Consulting, LLC

- **Fresno COG “One Voice” Sacramento Trip:** California Consulting has set the annual Fresno COG “One Voice” trip for early April. We are in the process of working with Fresno COG staff to develop a comprehensive list of issues to discuss on this lobbying trip. We will also be scheduling several meetings with Senators, Assemblymembers, key staff and others as we have done in past years.
- **Legislation Submitted:** We are working closely with Sen. Rubio’s Office on the Short Haul Rail bill that COG staff requested. The bill has been introduced and we are lining up support letters for the upcoming committee hearings (no dates yet). This bill will be a major part of our work for Fresno COG in this legislative session.
- **Bill Opposition:** On behalf of Fresno COG, California Consulting will oppose the bill by Assemblyman Beall which targets and hurts San Joaquin Valley COG's, including Kern COG for the High Speed Rail issue. We have secured a meeting with Assemblyman Beall’s Chief of Staff in Sacramento to discuss our opposition to the bill and we are working on generating opposition from valley cities, cogs, and others.
- **SJV Regional Policy Council Sacramento Trip:** On Feb. 2-3 California Consulting organized the 8 Valley COG lobbying trip to Sacramento. Supervisor Case and Chairman Dhaliwal attended on behalf of Fresno COG. Approximately 34 local elected and appointed officials attended including kern cog representatives. Several meetings were held with Legislators, Staff, the Governor’s Office and others on a variety of issue.
- **Meetings in Sacramento:** Steve has continued weekly meetings in Sacramento regarding transportation issues that impact Fresno COG. Most recently Steve met with Cal-TRANS Chief Deputy Malcolm Dougherty, Assemblywoman Kristen Olsen, Senator Berryhill’s Staff, and others. Additionally, Steve has had two meetings with Michael Cohen, the Chief Deputy Director of the Governor’s Department of Finance regarding Enterprise Zone and RDA issues in February.
- **Enterprise Zone:** Juan Garza from California Consulting testified earlier this month in front of the Joint Senate and Assembly Committee regarding the preservation of EZ’s.

- **Feb. 14 Meeting with Governor's Staff:** California Consulting convened a meeting with the Governor's Director and Deputy Director of External Affairs on Monday Feb. 14 in the Governor's Office. The meeting was attended by 16 Valley elected and appointed officials including representatives from Fresno County-Orange Cove Mayor Pro-Tem Glenda Hill, Fowler City Manager David Elias, and others including State League of Cities President Modesto Mayor Ridenhour. The delegation discussed the preservation of funding for RDA's and EZ's. Future meetings are planned.
- **RDA's:** Steve testified earlier this month in front of a Senate Budget Sub-Committee in support of RDA funding.
- **Gas Tax Swap Support:** We are working on the gas tax swap issue with various legislators and staff from both parties. The ratification of this item is very important to transportation funding statewide. We are organizing a valley wide coalition of cities, counties, school districts and other to support the gas tax proposal.