

Fresno COG

March 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. Mark **April 5 and 6** on your calendar for this important trip to the State Capitol. Steve has met with Melissa Garza to develop the list of issues that will be discussed on the trip.
- **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. We continue to work closely with Senator Rubio’s Office on this legislation.
- **Bill Regarding HSR Depots:** On behalf of Fresno COG, California Consulting met with Assemblyman Beall at his Sacramento Office. We are discussing amendments to his bill that would ask cities that have HSR depots to pay for plans associated with the depots. Mr. Beall has been receptive to our ideas and we are continuing to work with his staff.
- **RDA’s:** We are continuing to work with League of Cities and others to attempt to bring RDA’s back through a policy bill or some other vehicle after the Budget. Juan Garza from California Consulting has taken the “lead” on the RDA issue across the Valley.
- **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. We are continuing to follow up on all of the issues raised during these meetings.
- **Meetings in Sacramento:** Steve has continued weekly meetings in Sacramento regarding transportation issues that impact Fresno COG. Most recently Steve met with Valley legislative offices, CTC, Cal-TRANS, Governor’s Office, Department of Finance and others.

- **Enterprise Zone:** We continue to participate in the weekly EZ strategy sessions organized by the Statewide EZ Association. Liz Gomez from California Consulting has taken a leadership role organizing cities and others across the State in an attempt to bring EZ's back into existence in some form.
- **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.
- **New Staff Member:** We are pleased to welcome Liz Gomez as a new member of our team at California Consulting, LLC. Liz previously has served as District Representative for Congressman Jim Costa, Public Affairs Rep. and Media Spokesperson for PG& E for the Valley and Director of Grant Research and Writing for Table Mountain Rancheria among other leadership roles she has held during her career.

Subject: GAS TAX SWAP - Sample Letter and Fact Sheet
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2011 12:55:05 -0500 (EST)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org



GAS TAX SWAP

Attached below are two documents related to the California Legislature's "gas tax swap."

The first document is a sample letter that your city, organization, or association can send to Governor Jerry Brown, President Pro-Tem Darrell Steinberg, and Speaker John Perez to show your support of the gas tax swap.

The second document is a gas tax swap fact sheet that will outline the issue addressed by the gas tax swap and the solution the legislation will provide.

Please contact California Consulting with any questions regarding this legislation. Thank you.

[Click to View Gas Tax Swap Sample Letter of Support](#)

[Click to View Gas Tax Swap Fact Sheet](#)

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“Sample Gas Tax Swap Letter”

To: Governor Jerry Brown
Senate President Pro-Tem Darrell Steinberg
Speaker John Perez

Re: Comprehensive Fix to Address Propositions 22 & 26 and the March 2010
Transportation Tax Swap

We strongly urge the Legislature to act to save billions of dollars of transportation investment critical to retain jobs by supporting Governor Brown's budget proposal on the transportation tax swap. This action will prevent the loss of \$2.5 to 3.5 billion in funding essential to the survival of state, regional, and local transportation programs.

Proposition 26 approved by the voters in the November 2010 election will invalidate 17.3-cents of gasoline excise taxes and a 1.75 percent sales tax rate on diesel, both of which were enacted to replace Proposition 42 revenues eliminated in the gas tax swap adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor back in March of 2010. Further, Proposition 22 limits the use of gas taxes or Highway User Tax Account (HUTA) funds for bond debt and general fund relief as agreed to in the swap.

California's transportation stakeholders are in unanimous agreement on a comprehensive solution that will retain these replacement revenues of \$2.5 billion annually and also provide nearly \$1 billion in state and general fund relief.

Passage of these two elements together is critical, not only to maintain the parameters of the agreement in the transportation swap, but to preserve a bare bones revenue stream that is already meeting less than half of annual state and local maintenance and safety improvement project needs.

We support the proposal to provide at least \$1 billion of general fund relief by paying the transportation related bond debt from truck weight fees. However, separating this measure from the re-validation of the replacement 17.3-cent gasoline excise tax and 1.75 percent sales tax rate on diesel could potentially leave the transportation program \$3.5 billion in the hole.

This scenario would eviscerate 63,000 jobs and severely impact the State's economic recovery. We urge you to support this comprehensive fix, which includes validating the replacement taxes at no additional cost to the taxpayer and shifting the truck weigh fees for general fund relief.

cc: California Consulting, LLC
1530 E. Shaw Ave., #114
Fresno, CA 93710

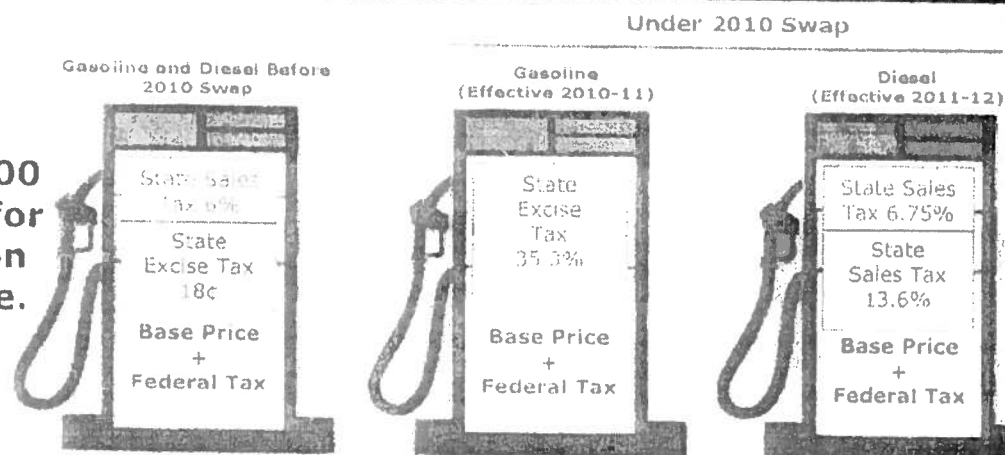
ISSUE: Gas Tax Swap

Recently, the Legislature enacted a package of changes known as the "fuel tax swap" to achieve General Fund relief. However, the passage of ballot measures (Proposition 22 and Proposition 26) in November 2010 potentially undoes portions of the tax swap package.

In response to these ballot measures, the Governor's January 2011-12 budget proposes statutory changes to recapture the use of transportation funds to help balance the state's budget. Absent legislative action to reenact the tax swap, the excise tax increase would be repealed by Prop 26 in November 2011, but the sales tax it replaced—which supports local streets and roads and STIP funding—would not necessarily be reinstated. In addition, absent legislative action to address the passage of these two measures, a large portion of the \$1.6 billion in General Fund relief assumed in the *2010-11 Budget Act* will probably be undone. Similarly, General Fund relief anticipated in 2011-12 and future years would also not occur.

The Impact of the Fuel Tax Swap on State Gasoline *

At Risk—18,000 jobs per \$1B for transportation infrastructure.



*Revenue Neutral—The Gas Tax Swap is NOT a new tax

SOLUTION: Governor's Proposal

Proposal Would Reenact the Provisions of the Tax Swap. The Governor's January 2011-12 Budget proposes statutory changes to ensure that the General Fund receives about the same level of benefit from transportation as was planned for the current and budget years from the tax swap and the *2010-11 Budget Act*. Specifically, the Governor proposes to reenact the fuel tax swap provisions with a two-thirds vote to prevent the swap from being repealed under Proposition 26 in November 2011. His proposal also maintains about the same level of funding for transit programs, including providing \$330 million to STA in 2011-12 by directing new diesel sales tax revenues from the tax swap to this program.

Tax Swap Maintained Funding Levels for Local Roads and Highway Projects. In addition to providing General Fund relief, the new excise tax revenues from the swap also provided funding to "backfill" gasoline sales tax revenues that would have been provided under the old funding system to local agencies for their streets and roads programs. Funding for the State Transportation Improvement Program, which previously came from the sales tax, was also maintained at approximately the same levels that had previously been provided.

Supported by:

California State Association of Counties
Regional Council of Rural Counties

Rural Counties Task Force
California Alliance for Jobs
League of California Cities

California Transit Association
Transportation California
Associated General Contractors

Subject: Five Grant Funding Opportunities
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Fri, 18 Feb 2011 19:50:06 -0500 (EST)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org



FIVE GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Caltrans Planning Grant

Caltrans has announced that it will be awarding Transportation Planning Grants for:

- Environmental Justice
- Community Based Transportation Planning
- Partnership Planning
- Transit Planning
- Statewide or Urban Transportation Planning Studies
- Rural or Small Urban Transportation Planning Studies

The grant application is due March 31, 2011.

Please click on the following link to read additional information on the Transportation Planning Grants:

[Click to View the Transportation Planning Grant Application](#)

2. ABC- GAP Grant

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is anticipating offering grants to law enforcement agencies, subject to funding appropriation. The Department will award grants up to \$100,000 to local law enforcement agencies. These grants will enable the selected agencies to expand their present efforts in addressing alcohol-related problems through a comprehensive ABC program that will encompass a wide range of strategies. If your agency is selected, your sworn officers assigned to the project will work closely with ABC investigators and receive training in ABC law, alcohol enforcement strategies, and community resources. There is no match requirement for this grant. This application is due March 28, 2011.

Please click on the following link to read additional information on the ABC - GAP grant:

[Click to View the ABC- GAP Grant Application](#)

3. TUPE

The focus of the California Department of Education's (CDE) Coordinated School Health and Safety Office (CSHSO) is to provide students with the knowledge and skills that enable them to be tobacco-free. Implementing a tobacco-free school policy and tracking the prevalence of tobacco-use behaviors are fundamental to this effort. The CDE will fund Tobacco-Use Prevention Education Program (TUPE) Tier 1 grants for three years from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2014. The level of funding appropriated by the Legislature, the number of qualified applications, and the total amount requested by qualified applications will determine the number of grants awarded. The TUPE funds are intended for tobacco-use prevention, intervention, and cessation programs only. The TUPE grant application is due June 11, 2011.

Please click on the following link to read additional information on the TUPE grant:

[Click to View the TUPE Grant Application](#)

4. Urban Greening Grant

SGC Planning Grants:

- **Purpose:** *Creating* urban greening plans that will serve as the master document guiding and coordinating greening projects in the applicant's jurisdiction.
- Plan updates are not eligible. Climate Action Plans or comprehensive General Plan updates are also not eligible for grant funding.
- **Deadline:** Applications will be accepted April 1, 2011 through May 15, 2011.
- **Award Amount:** No minimum award amount; maximum is \$250,000
- **Match:** None
- **Additional Requirements:** Project locations must meet a threshold of approximately 10 dwelling units per acre. Applicants need to demonstrate that their project is located in (or adjacent to) an area with existing or planned-for density of at least 3,500 dwelling units within an area equivalent to 500 acres.

SGC Project Grants:

- **Purpose:** Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Program (Program) provides funds to preserve, enhance, increase or establish community green areas such as urban forests, open spaces, wetlands and community spaces (e.g., community gardens). The goal is for these greening projects to incrementally create more viable and sustainable communities throughout the State.
- **Concept Proposal:** NEW THIS FUNDING ROUND, applicants are REQUIRED to mail or submit electronically a written concept proposal form for review regarding eligibility and possible weaknesses for their proposed project. Concept proposals will be accepted from April 1 through April 30, 2011. The concept proposal form is now available in hard copy and will be available electronically March 31, 2011.
- **Deadline:** Invitations to submit full applications are anticipated to be issued in the summer of 2011, with applications due late summer or early fall of 2011. Invitations will be sent to those who 1) submit a concept proposal on or before April 30, 2011, 2) meet minimum eligibility requirements, and 3) demonstrate the proposed project could be competitive for urban greening funds. An invitation to apply does not guarantee the project would compete successfully for a grant.
- **Award Amount:** No minimum or maximum award amount have been established
- **Match:** None
- **Additional Requirements:** Project locations must meet a threshold of approximately 10 dwelling units per acre. Applicants need to demonstrate that their project is located in (or adjacent to) an area with existing or planned-for density of at least 3,500 dwelling units within an area equivalent to 500 acres.

Please click on the following link to read additional information on the Urban Greening grants:

[Click to View Urban Greening Grant Application](#)

5. Summer Food Service Program

Five Grant Funding Opportunities

The California Department of Education has announced its Summer Food Service Program. The Program offers meals to children from low-income areas during vacation and off-track periods.

Funding provides reimbursement for meals served to children who are on school vacation in areas where 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-priced school meals. Camp sites may receive reimbursement for serving meals to children who are income eligible. Non-school agencies may be reimbursed for snacks in after-school settings.

Sponsors receive reimbursement based on the number and types of meals served multiplied by the operational and administrative rate. There is \$32,450,000 million in federal funds available for the Summer Food Service Program. There is no matching requirement for the grant. The application is due April 1, 2011.

[Click to View Information on the Summer Food Program Grant](#)

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California Consulting | 1530 East Shaw Ave, #114 | Fresno | CA | 93710

Subject: Analysis of K-12 Education Funding in Governor's Proposed Budget

From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>

Date: Tue, 22 Feb 2011 18:45:03 -0500 (EST)

To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org



ANALYSIS OF K-12 EDUCATION FUNDING IN GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Attached below is a four page analysis and summary of K-12 Education funding in the Governor's proposed budget.

[Click to View an Analysis of K-12 Funding in the Governor's Proposed Budget](#)

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Talking Points on School Finance

Major Points

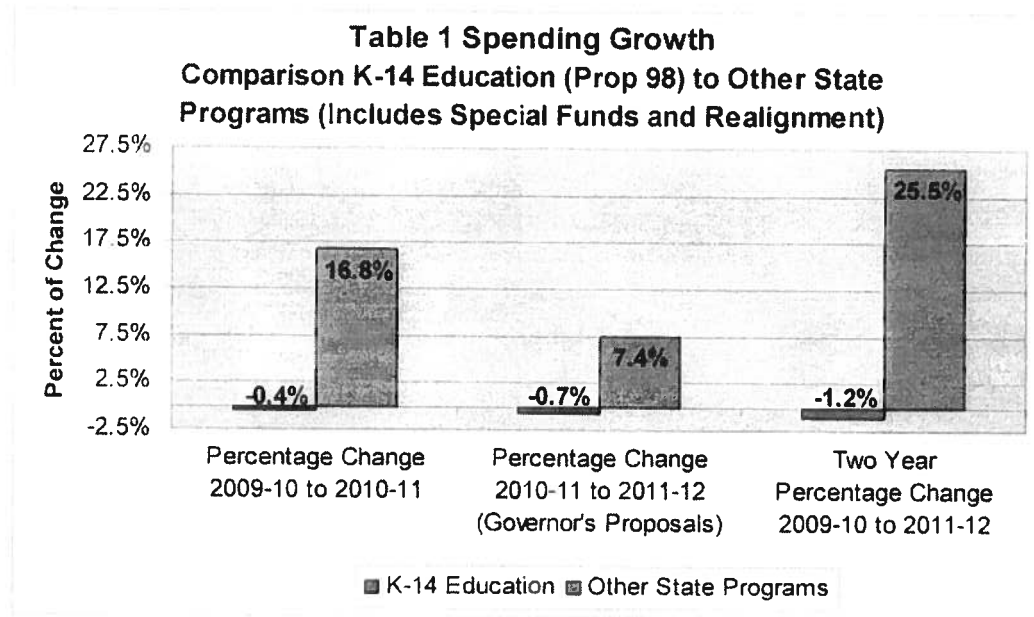
The year 2007-08 was the year right before the current fiscal crisis. It is the year with the State's highest revenues and expenditures.

The following are four of the most important talking points:

1. The 2011-12 Level of Funding Compared to 2007-08:

- K-14 education (Prop. 98) will be cut by \$7.3 billion or -13%. All the other state programs will actually increase by \$5.5 billion or 6.3%
- Our schools, our school children, our child development centers, and our community colleges have been substantially cut. Other state programs have actually increased.
- In addition, K-14 education will be having revenue deferrals of \$10.5 billion (the deferrals started in 2003-04). The state's cash flow problems are transferred to our students.

Table 1 compares the funding increase for K-14 education to the other state programs:



2. Increase from 2009-10 to 2010-11:

As we stated in our original talking points, the percentage change between 2009-10 and 2010-11, the current year, was striking because **K-14 education decreased by -.4%** compared to an **increase of almost 17% for the other state programs**.

Within K-14 education the 2010-11 increase for K-12 education was -.6% and the increase for the Community Colleges was 1%.

Because of the use of special funds to support the general fund, it was necessary to use both the state's General Funds and the state's Special funds in the above calculations. The growth in the Special Funds for 2010-11 was 32%. In prior years, the funding levels were almost constant at the 2009-10 levels.

3. Increase from 2010-11 to 2011-12:

The Governor's proposed budget is both ambitious and complicated. To show his support for education, he increased the funding for Proposition 98 by \$2 billion, which will provide K-12 education with the same funding level as this year. The proposed Proposition 98 funding level for the community colleges shows a reduction of -6.3%. **The increase for the total K-14 Proposition 98 funding is -.7%.**

The proposed change of the state's General Fund is -8.2%. However, that overstates the actual change because of the following interacting factors: 1) special fund increase of 13%, 2) Phase 1 Realignment of \$5.9 billion, 3) Unemployment Compensation Disability loan of \$362 million, 4) the use of the Proposition 10 reserves for Medi-Cal coverage for children (\$1 billion), 5) the use of Redevelopment funds for both state Medi-Cal funding (\$840 million) and for state trial court funding (\$860 million), and 6) the use of \$861 million of Proposition 63 funds to fund state mental health programs.

When the above factors are considered, the in 'state' programs or the change in the state and the state realignment programs between 2010-11 and 2011-12 is 5.1%.

Since the change in K-14 Proposition 98 funding is -.7%, **the change in the non-K-14 state and the state realignment programs between 2010-11 and 2011-12 is 7.4%.**

4. Increase from 2009-10 to 2011-12 (two year impact):

The two year increase for the state and the proposed state realignment programs is **17.7%**

The two year change for the K-14 Proposition 98 funding level is **-1.2%**. The two year change for K-12 education is **-.6%** and the two year change for the community colleges is **-5.4%**.

The two year change for the non K-14 state and proposed state realignment programs or for the other non K-14 programs is **25.5%**

- 5. Conclusion:** K-14 Education (Prop 98) has not even been close to being the Number One Priority of the past Legislature or of the past Governor.

2010-11 Budget:

1. "We estimate that well over two-thirds of the 2010-11 budget solutions are one-time or temporary in nature." -LAO
2. The state will be unable to secure \$3.5 billion of federal funds.
3. Higher prison cost and other programs.

4. The passage of Proposition 22 will cost the state at least \$800 million.
5. The 2010-11 budget is already projecting an \$8 billion deficit that will be carried into 2011-12.
6. That means when the LAO produced their 2010 State Plan, the 2010-11 (current year) General Fund Expenditures were estimated to be \$86.6 billion. Now in their Fiscal Outlook, the 2010 General Fund Expenditures have increased to \$92.5 billion in less than a month or two.
7. The 2011-12 deficit is \$17 billion. The total deficit is \$25 billion.
8. According to the LAO, the 2011-12 deficit of \$17 billion is \$2 billion less than they projected a year ago. **Education cuts are that major contributor to this decline (read improvement) of \$2 billion** – Why aren't we surprised! Evidently, no one else got cut.
9. According to Governor Brown's Budget Summary
 - a. "Baseline revenues will not return to the 2007-08 level until 2013-14 and, even then, projected revenues will be insufficient to pay for program services that the state has committed to provide."
 - b. In total, \$103.6 billion in budgetary actions were adopted between 2008 and 2010. But most budgetary actions, about **85 percent of them** in 2010-11, were temporary or failed because of court challenges or faulty assumptions."

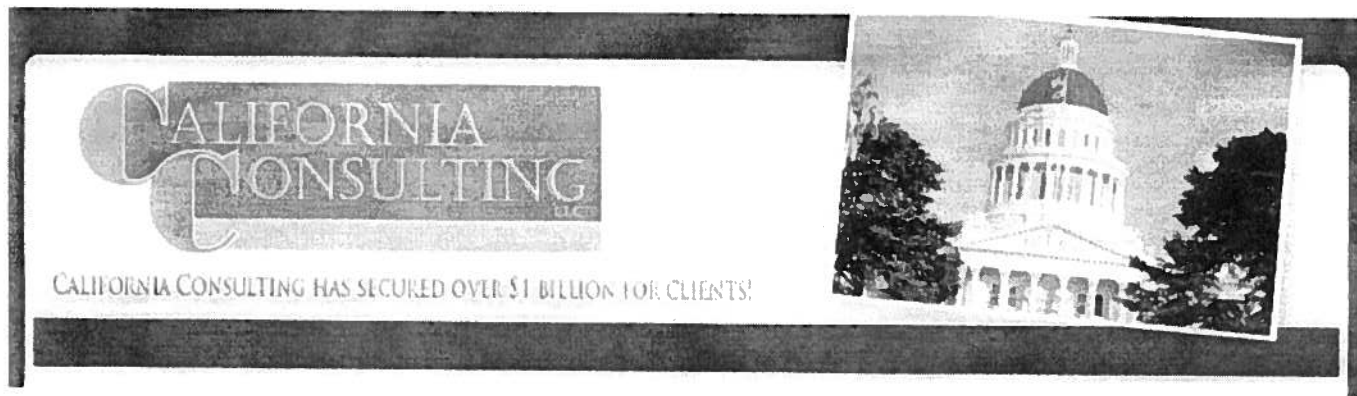
Education Funding:

1. The 2011-12 (Governor's proposed budget) level of funding for **Proposition 98** is equal to the level of funding **seven years ago** in 2004-5
2. The highest level of funding was in 2007-08, just prior to this latest fiscal crisis. Under the Governor's proposed budget for 2011-12, the level of K-12 education funding has dropped by **\$6.5 billion** or **13%** compared to 2007-08. The K-14 total Proposition 98 funding level has dropped by \$7.3 billion or 13%.
3. That is equivalent to cutting the funding for every K-12 child by \$1,100.
4. The LAO is estimating that we **may** just barely reach our 2007-08 level of funding in 2014-15, four years from now and seven years from 2007-08.
5. Our educational funds for our K-12 needy students (categorical programs) were cut by **20%** compared to a general aid cut of **10%**
6. In 2008-09 the K-12 cut from 2007-08 was \$6.6 billion. In 2009-10 the cut was \$6.3 compared to 2007-08. In 2010-11, the cut from the 2007-08 funding levels was \$6.5 billion. Under the Governor's proposed budget, the cut will be \$6.5 compared to the 2007-08 level.
7. The **total four year K-12 cut** will be **\$26 billion** from the 2007-08 funding levels (please note, this is not a cumulative cut). That is how much will be taken away from us over those four years to

fund other programs. This is equivalent to a cut of \$4,320 per student. Our students will not receive \$4,320 per student during the four year time period. This does not include the statutory increases to keep up with inflation from 2007-08 that we should have received.

8. This does not include **\$9.4 billion of deferrals for K-12 education and \$960 million of deferrals for the Community Colleges**. The total deferrals are \$10.4 billion. The state is transferring its cash flow problems to our children!
 9. This year the **FIRST \$10.4 billion or 21% of our Proposition 98 state funds** must be used to pay for services that we have already provided in the prior year.
 10. For K-12 education, the first \$9.4 billion or 21% of their Proposition 98 funds must be used to pay for services in the prior year. For the California Community Colleges, the corresponding percent is 16%.
-

Subject: Short Haul Rail Authority Bill Letter of Support
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Fri, 25 Feb 2011 21:10:06 -0500 (EST)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org



Short Haul Rail Authority Bill Letter of Support

Attached below is a sample letter of support for SB 325, the legislation introduced by Senator Michael Rubio which would create the Central California Rail Authority. The Authority would focus on protecting short-haul rail lines from abandonment. Please draft your letters of support and send them to Senator Rubio and copy Senate Transportation and Housing Committee members Senator Mark DeSaulnier (Chair), Senator Ted Gaines (Vice Chair), Senator Tom Harman, Senator Robert Huff, Senator Christine Kehoe, Senator Alan Lowenthal, Senator Fran Pavley, Senator Joe Simitian, with a courtesy copy to California Consulting. This important and beneficial piece of legislation will be diligently monitored by California Consulting. We are making SB 325 a top priority during this legislative session. California Consulting worked closely with our clients, Kern COG, to request that Senator Rubio author and introduce this legislation. Please contact our office with any questions. Thank you.

[Click to View Short Haul Rail Authority Bill Letter of Support](#)

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The Hon. Michael Rubio, Senator

16th District

State Capitol, Room 2066
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Rubio:

Kern Council of Governments strongly supports developing a structure through which short-haul rail lines can be protected from abandonment and short-sighted interests. SB 325 accomplishes that goal for Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties.

Short-haul rail lines are an essential part of the greater freight rail system. Today, we are faced with short-haul operators abandoning usable section of rail lines, while not being held to California Environmental Quality Act requirements or to notify metropolitan planning organizations of the intent to abandon a rail segment.

Short-haul railroads hold monopolies over rail shippers and receivers, and are constantly increasing rates, forcing them to ship by truck. These actions are contrary to the intent of the 1980 Staggers Act that deregulated railroads in order to increase competition. Central California rail shippers & receivers have seen fees, charges and rates increase as much as 2,000 percent in one year for handling the same volume of railcars as the previous year. As rail traffic decreases on the short-haul lines, they are abandoned, removed from operations and the track sold for scrap. Already, a 30-mile segment of short-haul rail has been completely abandoned, with the track removed, from Jovista in northern Kern County to Exeter in Tulare County.

The systematic removal of short-haul rail segments has significant environmental and economic impacts to Central California. Environmentally, removing a rail option increases the number of goods shipped by truck, impacting local air quality. Economic impacts include reduced options for shippers and receivers and increased maintenance costs for both local roads and state highways due to increased truck traffic. In contrast, highways that are abandoned or relocated require environmental documents to be made available for public review and comment.

SB 325 is intended to provide a structure and mechanism of last resort to prevent additional short-haul rail abandonments in Kern, Tulare, Kings and Fresno counties. Otherwise, the reversion of land ownership rights and subsequent environmental review processes create an insurmountable obstacle to reintroducing rail.

The Authority intends to use local funding sources to purchase short lines in the identified counties before further abandonments can take place and then lease the line to operators who have an interest in maintaining the track for profit. The Authority will be administered through a joint powers agreement among the Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern Councils of Government.

Ideally, the Central California Rail Authority will eventually play a key role in establishing a short-haul network through the entire San Joaquin Valley, stretching from Kern County to the Port of Oakland, largely for agricultural and petroleum-based goods. In theory, this line could also eventually provide commuter connection service to high-speed rail stations in Central California.

Kern Council of Governments thanks you for sponsoring this bill and urges your continued support for SB 325.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Brummett
Executive Director

CC:

The Hon. Senator Mark DeSaulnier
The Hon. Senator Ted Gaines (Vice Chair)
The Hon. Senator Tom Harman
The Hon. Senator Robert Huff
The Hon. Senator Christine Kehoe
The Hon. Senator Alan Lowenthal
The Hon. Senator Fran Pavley
The Hon. Senator Joe Simitian

Subject: California Consulting Newsletter

From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>

Date: Thu, 3 Mar 2011 16:05:10 -0500 (EST)

To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

California Consulting Newsletter



Grant Awards

California Consulting recently wrote a Sustainable Communities grant for the City of Arvin, which was recommended for funding in the amount of \$150,000. Also, California Consulting wrote the Greenfield Union School District Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Program Grant which was awarded in the amount of \$23,741. Great job team!

Lobbying Activity

- **Short Haul Rail Authority Legislation**

Submitted: This bill will create a Central Valley Short Haul Rail Authority that will (among other things) help Valley air quality. We are working closely with Sen. Rubio's Office on the Short Haul Rail bill that Kern COG staff requested. The bill has been introduced and we are lining up support letters for the upcoming committee hearings (no dates yet). California Consulting has met with Senator Rubio personally and with his staff at the Capitol numerous times regarding this bill.



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- **Bill Opposition:** California Consulting recently met personally with Assemblyman Beall regarding his legislation which originally targeted and hurt San Joaquin Valley COG's, for the High Speed Rail issue. Assemblyman Beall has amended his legislation. He is also considering adding language to provide incentives for the cities which have a high speed rail station. We will keep you posted on the progress on this bill.
- **SJV Regional Policy Council Sacramento Trip:** On Feb. 2-3 California Consulting organized the 8 Valley COG lobbying trip to Sacramento. We organized this trip on behalf of Kern COG (this year's host cog). Approximately 34 local elected and appointed officials attended including COG representatives. Several meetings were held with Legislators, Staff, the Governor's Office and others on a variety of issues.
- **Meetings in Sacramento:** Steve has continued weekly meetings in Sacramento regarding issues important to the Valley. Most recently Steve met with Cal-TRANS Chief Deputy Malcolm Dougherty, Assemblywoman Kristen Olsen, Senator Berryhill's Staff, Assemblyman Perea, Senator Rubio, Assemblyman Beall, 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 Delano Councilman Sam Ramirez, McFarland Councilman Dennis

Martin, Arvin City Manager Alan Christensen, Shafter City Manager John Guinn, and others including State League of Cities President Modesto Mayor Ridenour. 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. We have also been meeting regularly with legislators and the Governor's office, urging that RDA funding is preserved.
- **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.
- **Enterprise Zone Alert!** Please pass and submit resolutions asking Governor Brown not to eliminate Enterprise Zones. See attached sample resolution at the link below:

[Enterprise Zone Sample Resolution](#)

Testimonial

-
"When you hire California Consulting you know you are in the best hands possible. California Consulting has earned a reputation for writing the finest quality grant applications. As well, the firm is well respected by state legislators and others at the Capitol. I give California Consulting my highest recommendation."

Danny Parra, Councilman City of Fowler

Five Grant Funding Opportunities

1. CalTrans Planning Grant

CalTrans has announced that it will be awarding Transportation Planning Grants for:

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- Community-Based Transportation Planning
- Partnership Planning
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The grant application is due March 30, 2011.

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Transportation Planning Grant

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Please click on the following link to read additional information on the ABC - GAP grant:

ABC - GAP Grant

3. TUPE

The focus of the California Department of Education's (CDE) Coordinated School Health and Safety Office (CSHSO) is to provide students with the knowledge and skills that enable them to be tobacco-free. Implementing a tobacco-free school policy and tracking the prevalence of tobacco-use behaviors are fundamental to this effort. The CDE will fund Tobacco-Use Prevention Education Program (TUPE) Tier 1 grants for three years from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2014. The level of

funding appropriated by the Legislature, the number of qualified applications, and the total amount requested by qualified applications will determine the number of grants awarded. The TUPE funds are intended for tobacco-use prevention, intervention, and cessation programs only. The TUPE grant application is due June 11, 2011.

Please click on the following link to read additional information on the TUPE grant:

[TUPE Grant](#)

4. Urban Greening Grant

SGC Planning Grants:

- **Purpose:** Creating urban greening plans that will serve as the master document guiding and coordinating greening projects in the applicant's jurisdiction.
- Plan updates are not eligible. Climate Action Plans or comprehensive General Plan updates are also not eligible for grant funding.
- **Deadline:** Applications will be accepted April 1, 2011 through May 15, 2011.
- **Award Amount:** No minimum award amount; maximum is \$250,000
- **Match:** None
- **Additional Requirements:** Project locations must meet a threshold of approximately 10 dwelling units per acre. Applicants need to demonstrate that their project is located in (or adjacent to) an area with existing or planned-for density of at least 3,500 dwelling units within an area equivalent to 500 acres.

SGC Project Grants:

- **Purpose:** Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Program (Program) provides funds to preserve, enhance, increase or establish community green areas such as urban forests, open spaces, wetlands and community spaces (e.g., community gardens). The goal is for these greening projects to incrementally create more viable and sustainable communities throughout the State.
- **Concept Proposal:** NEW THIS FUNDING ROUND, applicants are REQUIRED to mail or submit electronically a written concept proposal form for review regarding eligibility and possible weaknesses for their proposed project. Concept proposals will be accepted from April 1 through April 30, 2011. The concept

proposal form is now available in hard copy and will be available electronically March 31, 2011.

- **Deadline:** Invitations to submit full applications are anticipated to be issued in the summer of 2011, with applications due late summer or early fall of 2011. Invitations will be sent to those who 1) submit a concept proposal on or before April 30, 2011, 2) meet minimum eligibility requirements, and 3) demonstrate the proposed project could be competitive for urban greening funds. An invitation to apply does not guarantee the project would compete successfully for a grant.
- **Award Amount:** No minimum or maximum award amount have been established
- **Match:** None
- **Additional Requirements:** Project locations must meet a threshold of approximately 10 dwelling units per acre. Applicants need to demonstrate that their project is located in (or adjacent to) an area with existing or planned-for density of at least 3,500 dwelling units within an area equivalent to 500 acres.

Please click on the following link to read additional information on the Urban Greening grants:

[Urban Greening Grant](#)

5. Summer Food Service Program

The California Department of Education has announced its Summer Food Service Program. The Program offers meals to children from low-income areas during vacation and off-track periods.

Funding provides reimbursement for meals served to children who are on school vacation in areas where 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-priced school meals. Camp sites may receive reimbursement for serving meals to children who are income eligible. Non-school agencies may be reimbursed for snacks in after-school settings.

Sponsors receive reimbursement based on the number and types of meals served multiplied by the operational and administrative rate. There is \$32,450,000 million in federal funds available for the Summer Food Service Program. There is no matching requirement for the grant. The application is due April 1, 2011.

Please click on the following link to read additional information

on the Summer Food Service Grant:

Summer Food Service Grant

GRANTS!

The California Consulting grant writing team has recently submitted or are currently working on the following grant applications for our clients:

Economic Development Administration Grants
Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Grant
California Partnership Academies Grant
BJA Justice & Mental Health Grant
EDD Workforce Investment Board CalGrip
Clean Water Grants
Office on Violence Against Women: Legal Assistance
To Victims
Office on Violence Against Women: Enforcing Arrest Policies
Department of Corrections: PCBA
Office of Traffic Safety
Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants
Caltrans Bicycle Planning Grants
Hearst Foundation
Wachovia Grant
State Revolving Fund Loan
Office of Traffic Safety
United States Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grant
Hearst Foundation
SG Foundation
Mott Foundation
Office Depot
CVS
Tire Derived Product
Alternative Fuels Grant
SB856 Special Distribution Fund
California Safe-Supportive Schools
Highway Safety Improvement Program

HUD Planning Grant
Wal-Mart
Met-Life
Baseball Tomorrow

Additional Grant Writers

To accommodate our recent expansion, we are happy to welcome Gary Rogers as a full-time grant writer to the California Consulting staff. Gary earned a Master of Arts degree in English Language Teaching from San José State University in 1997. He has also completed the Grant Writing and Management Certificate program at CSU Fresno in 2010. Gary taught English and Linguistics for the State Center Community College District for 10 years.

Also, a special welcome to Lance Tullis, California Consulting's newest Project Manager. Lance earned his BA in English and MA in Education from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He has served as a school principal for 13 years. Lance has written several grants for educational programs ranging from marine biology to agriculture.

Welcome Gary and Lance.

Recent Additions

We are pleased to announce that Fresno Pacific University, Alum Rock Elementary School District, and San Jose Conservation Corps & Charter School have all signed grant writing contracts with California Consulting. Alum Rock and San Jose Conservation Corps are California Consulting's first clients in Santa Clara County; Fresno Pacific University is California Consulting's first University client. In January we announced that the City of Lancaster hired California Consulting, marking our first client in Los Angeles County. Welcome aboard!

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