

Fresno COG September 2011 Monthly Report
California Consulting, LLC

- SB 325: After much long and hard work since January, SB 325 is now State law. The short haul rail bill by Senator Rubio that was the number one priority legislation for Fresno COG was recently signed into law by Governor Brown. In the weeks and days leading up to the bill signature deadline Steve communicated frequently with the Governor's senior staff in Sacramento answering questions and advocating for the Governor to sign the bill. California Consulting also organized a letter writing campaign that included many cities sending letters and resolutions to the Governor urging him to sign SB 325. Thank you to all of the cities that sent letters and resolutions. We owe Senator Rubio a debt of gratitude for his hard work on this bill and we should all thank Governor Brown for signing the bill. SB 325 was a major under taking for our team and a major victory for the entire San Joaquin Valley.
- Enterprise Zone: California Consulting helped lead the fight once again this year to preserve the EZ program. This vital program assists cities with economic growth and job creation. After much debate and a hard fight the program remains intact. Thank you to all of the cities that helped us fight this important battle.
- MOE Issue: ABx1 16 had language at the end of session that would have forced cities to restore 2020-11 funding levels for their PD's or they would not be eligible for COPS funding. This maintenance of effort (MOE) language was unreasonable and opposed by cities all across the State. SBx1 4 was amended late in the session to change the MOE language in ABx1 16. SBx1 4 is a bill that cities can and should support.
- Legislative Meetings: During the last month of the session Steve continued meetings and communications with Legislators, legislative staff, Malcolm Dougherty from Cal-TRANS, CTC staff and others. C.O.O. Juan Garza, II also spent considerable time in Sacramento including two days earlier this week meeting with State Agencies regarding various issues.

- Meetings During the Break: California Consulting will be coordinating meetings with Valley State Legislators and staff between now and December to review the session and preview the upcoming legislative year. We also will be meeting with Fresno COG staff to determine legislative priorities for January and any bill ideas.
- SB 89 VLF: The legislature (through SB 89) and AB 118 diverted VLF revenues. The diverting of VLF revenues resulted in a loss of city general fund dollars. When the legislature passed the 2011-12 state budget the resulting action was a diversion of \$130 million of local VLF funds to finance state public safety programs previously funded by the no expired special 0.15 percent VLF. This money funded municipal public safety and other vital services. The League of California Cities filed a petition in Sacramento County Superior Court on Sept. 28, 2011 challenging the constitutionality of SB 89.
- Realignment: California's new Corrections realignment program is set to be rolled out on October 1. Cities all over the State are supporting constitutional protection for funding of realignment costs by the state due to concern about further financial burdens on county governments. The realignment funding can be protected by the State or it could provide some sort of alternative funding in its place.