Fresno COG May Monthly Report From California Consulting, LLC

- ***SB 325 Update:*** The first policy committee hearing for SB 325 (Rubio's short haul rail bill co-sponsored by Fresno COG) was held on April 12, 2011 at the State Capitol. The Senate Transportation and Housing Committee heard SB 325 at 1:30pm in Capitol Room 112. In preparation for the hearing California Consulting and Kern COG staff met with several Legislators, legislative staff, and both Republican and Democrat Committee Consultants. California Consulting and Kern COG staff also organized a list of key individuals to testify in support of the bill including private sector leaders, representatives from cities, school district, and others. California Consulting's Steve Samuelian testified in support of SB 325 at the hearing. After much discussion SB 325 passed the Committee with a bi-partisan 9-0 vote. In the weeks and days before the hearing, California Consulting kept in daily communication with Senator Rubio's capitol staff and organized a variety of meetings and conference calls to line up support for the bill. We also organized letters of support and council resolutions in support from various organizations. In May, our team focused on the Senate Appropriations Committee and if the Committee will place SB 325 on "suspense calendar." This important designation would have meant that the bill would be held in Committee. Fortunately, SB 325 avoided suspense calendar designation and was moved out of Senate Appropriations Committee. As for this writing (May 16, 2011) SB 325 is on the Senate floor and Senator Rubio will take up the bill as soon as possible. We worked closely with Senator Rubio personally as well as his staff. Senator Rubio has again distinguished himself as a champion for Kern County, Kern COG, and the San Joaquin Valley region. He should be commended for his leadership on this and other important issues. Once SB 325 is passed by the Senate, the bill will go to the Assembly to start the process over again in Assembly Transportation and Housing Committee.
- ***Governor Brown's May Revise Budget Proposal*** On May 16, 2011 California Consulting, LLC sent out a summary of Governor Brown's May Revise state budget proposal. The Governor's revised budget proposal acknowledges a $6.6 billion increase in tax revenues over the next 13 months. Gov. Brown also reiterated his proposal to extend tax increases in order to avoid an "all cuts" budget. Brown approximates the state budget deficit at $9.6 billion through June 30, 2012 and his plan would eliminate 5,500 state jobs and 43 boards and commissions. Brown's plan assumes the state will take in $3.6 billion more in the next fiscal year. Brown's plan envisions schools getting about $3 billion more next year than in the next fiscal year. Brown is still calling for the elimination of RDA's which he believes will save the state $1.7 billion. In his January budget Brown called the elimination of Enterprise Zones. In the May Revise, Brown calls for limiting the credits to new hires but not eliminating the EZ program.
- ***Assembly Republican Caucus Releases Budget Proposal*** The Assembly Republican Caucus released a budget proposal to close the state's budget deficit. The plan would cut spending without raising taxes. The proposal protects local public safety funding, protects Enterprise Zone funding, and recognizes the RDA

proposal proposed by the California Redevelopment Association as a viable option. The GOP proposal adds to the $14.3 billion in cuts and other solutions that the Legislature already adopted. The Republican proposal counts on $5 billion in revenue ($2.5 billion in higher tax revenues into the State for the current year and a projected $2.5 billion for next fiscal year). Other elements of the Republican proposal include saving $1.1 billion by cutting state employees by 10 percent; agreeing to another $1.3 billion in cuts originally proposed by the Governor; obtaining $2.4 billion by transferring all remaining Prop. 10 (First 5) and Prop. 63 (tax on millionaires for mental health) funds; and accepting more than $1 billion in cuts and other proposed solutions recommended by the LAO and the Bureau of State Audits.

- ***VLF Extension:*** There is new language in the budget trailer bill that would give the state more time to extend the VLF increase of 0.15 percent that is set to expire on June 30, 2011. This revenue funds Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS), booking fee remediation, and other law enforcement grants that are critical to local police departments. The budget trailer bill (SB 94) was recently amended to include language to delay expired vehicle registration notification, collection, and delinquent payment penalties by approximately two months for vehicle with registration expiring on or after July 1. This gives the Administration and Legislature additional time to attempt to achieve the two thirds vote that is necessary to keep the programs funded.

- ***HSR Depots AB 31***: California Consulting has met personally with Assemblyman Beall at his Sacramento office to discuss AB 31. We are discussing amendments to this bill that would remove the mandate on cities with HSR depots. Mr. Beall has been receptive to our ideas and we continue to work with his him and his staff.

- ***RDA's***: We are continuing to work with League of Cities and California Redevelopment Association and others in an attempt to save RDA's. The vote to eliminate RDA's fell one vote short in the Assembly. In April we have met with several State Assemblymember, State Senators and key staff lobbying them in support of preserving RDA funding. We have also held numerous meetings with the Department of Finance and the Governor's Office regarding this issue. Senator Rubio and Senator Wright also have a bill that we have been involved with that would bring back RDA's in a different form in the event that there is a vote to eliminate them. We recently sent out the "fact sheet" that summarizes the Wright/Rubio RDA bill. Juan Garza, II from California Consulting has taken the lead in working with the League of Cities and CRA on this issue. Steve has taken the lead working with the Legislature, Department of Finance, and the Governor's Office.

- ***Enterprise Zones:*** Liz Gomez from California Consulting continues to participate in the weekly EZ conference calls as part of the EZ statewide coalition. In addition, during the month of April Steve met with several State

Assemblymembers, Senators, and key staff lobbying in support of EZ's. Steve has met with Department of Finance and the Governor's Office in April regarding this important issue. Steve has worked as part of the EZ working group on AB 231, the reform package for EZ's. A summary of the highlights of AB 231 is attached to this report. We encourage all cities, counties, and others to pass resolutions and send letters in support of AB 231. AB 231 is a fair and reasonable compromise that preserves EZ funding but makes some needed reforms to the program. We are working closely with Assemblyman Perez's Committee staff on AB 231.

- ***AB 892***: California Consulting has been communicating with Cal-TRANS regarding AB 892 (Carter) a bill that deals with NEPA requirements. This bill is worthy of support and we have attached a summary of the bill.

- ***AB 890***: Assemblyman Perea has a bill that streamlines CEQA and NEPA requirements. We recently sent out a summary of AB 890. A few days ago we were notified that Assemblyman Perea has decided to make this a two year bill so the bill will not be heard or considered this year.

Subject: State Budget Law Enforcement Update for Cities
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Tue, 19 Apr 2011 19:50:05 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

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California Consulting's

Capitol Update

Edition #1 **April 2011**

LAW ENFORCEMENT



COPS/SLEF

Citizens Option for Public Safety ("COPS") is funding, if provided for in the state budget, that is allocated by the State Controller's office to counties. The County Auditor deposits this money into the Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF), which is an established fund in each county. A per capita allocation to cities, counties, and five police protection districts with a minimum allocation of $100,000 per agency is provided for by the "Front Line Law

Enforcement" portion of the COPS program.

COPS program provides funding for front-line law enforcement, district attorneys, juvenile justice programs, and county jails. The COPS/SLESF program will terminate after June 2011 unless the VLF tax is extended or another funding source is provided in the state budget. Local budgets, based on current law, should budget for no funding for these programs after FY 2011.

Booking Fees

The 0.15% VLF also funds grants for jail detention facilities to county sheriffs. It is set to expire after June 2011. If the funds do expire, state law allows sheriff's to again begin imposing booking fees. If the counties assess these fees, there will be no state reimbursement to the city. Government Code Section 29552 provides counties with the power to adopt and charge fees to "arresting agencies" for reimbursement of the expenses associated with the booking of a person into a county detention facility. These fees are limited to one-half the actual administrative costs (including applicable overhead). Additionally, any fee increase charged by the county must be adopted prior to the beginning of its fiscal year and only after a 45 day written notice has been provided to the city and the county has conducted a public meeting.

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Subject: Williamson Act Update
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Mon, 25 Apr 2011 11:20:04 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

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California Consulting's

Capitol Update

Edition #2 **April 2011**

Williamson Act Update

Due to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (the "Williamson Act"), over 16 million of the State's 29 million acres of agricultural land is protected. This is accomplished through 10 to 20-year contracts, which restrict land to agricultural and open space uses. As reciprocation, property taxes on the restricted parcels are assessed at rates consistent with their actual use, instead of the potential market value, which is how property taxes are usually assessed. Through this program, the State partially reimburses cities and counties for their property tax losses and over the last 10 years, the State has returned roughly $39 million yearly under the Williamson Act Subventions. However, that funding was

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condensed to $10 million in the 2010-11 Fiscal Years and, regretably, during the 2011-12 Fiscal Year, the State budget forced the entire termination of this funding act.

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Subject: State Superintendent Keynotes Education Roundtable
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2011 18:55:03 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

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State Superintendent Keynotes Education Roundtable

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson was the keynote speaker and guest of honor at an Education Roundtable meeting with community leaders today in Fresno. The event was organized by California Consulting, LLC and attended by more than 50 community leaders from as far North as Solano County and as far South as Kern County. The morning event was held at the Grand Ballroom in downtown Fresno. Attendees included representatives from more than 15 school districts as well as several local elected officials from various cities. Special guests in attendance included Fresno State University President John Welty, Representatives from the Offices of Congressman Jim Costa, State Senator Michael Rubio, and Assemblyman Henry T. Perea, as well as several other dignitaries.

Torlakson was introduced by California Consulting, LLC Owner Steve Samuelian who spoke of the State

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Superintendent's longtime commitment to students and raising academic achievement. Torlakson briefed the audience members on the "state of the state" of Education and the current state budget crisis. During his presentation Torlakson presented a Resolution honoring the Southwest Transportation Agency to Southwest CEO Kirk Hunter for all of their excellent work for small rural school districts throughout the western part of Fresno County. Torlakson also presented a Resolution to Samuelian, for all of his work representing the rural school districts of the Central Valley and making their voices heard in Sacramento.

California Consulting represents 22 school districts, as well as Agape Corporation Charter School, San Jose Conservation Corps & Charter School, and Fresno Pacific University. Last month, California Consulting, LLC announced that we have retained one of the State's most prolific education grant writing experts Mr. Roger Fahr, to serve as the firm's Senior Grants Consultant. Mr. Fahr has submitted over 375 competitive grant applications and holds a 65% grant award approval rate (over 245 grants awarded), during a grant writing career spanning 20 years. Mr. Fahr spent 16 years as the Director of Grants for the West Contra Costa Unified School District, which is located in Contra Costa County and has a student population of over 30,000. He has personally written grant applications that have resulted in over $75 million in funding. Roger will also serve as the firm's Bay Area representative and staff California Consulting's new Northern California satellite office in Richmond, CA. Mr. Fahr joins California Consulting with a wealth of experience and will serve as a specialist in the field of grants for education institutions. Mr. Fahr is a leader in his field and will provide a hugely valuable service to the California Consultant's clients.

Subject: Successful Education Roundtable Held with Assemblyman Perea
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2011 16:45:05 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

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Successful Education Roundtable Held with Assemblyman Henry T. Perea

California Consulting, LLC organized an education roundtable meeting with special guest State Assemblyman Henry T. Perea. The event was held on Friday, April 8, 2011 at the Downtown Club in Fresno and attended by several leaders from various San Joaquin Valley School Districts. Representatives from Central Unified, West Park Elementary, Kings Canyon Unified, Kingsburg Elementary, Selma Unified and others participated in the roundtable. Assemblyman Perea provided an update on the state budget as well as education issues. A list of key issues was discussed and Superintendents Mike Berg of Central and Mark Ford of Kingsburg Elementary were chosen to follow up with Assemblyman Perea regarding the major issues. Attendees expressed their gratitude to Assemblyman Perea for attending the meeting and listening to the concerns of school districts throughout the 31st Assembly District. The roundtable meeting was organized and moderated by California Consulting, LLC.

Subject: California Consulting Newsletter - April 2011
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Fri, 29 Apr 2011 12:40:13 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

California Consulting Newsletter

April 2011



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GRANT AWARDS KEEP FLOWING

California Consulting has written 250 competitive federal, state, and private foundation grant applications that have been awarded to our clients since 2004. In the past 30 days, the following grants written by California consulting grant writers have been funded:

1. Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) - City of Kingsburg ($21,494)
2. CAL FIRE Green Trees for the Golden State - Caruthers USD ($3,300)
3. CAL FIRE Green Trees for the Golden State - City of Newman ($32,038)
4. CAL FIRE Green Trees for the Golden State - City of Avenal ($3,824)
5. Early Intervention for School Success - Salinas City Elementary School District

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($50,000)

LOBBYING ACTIVITY

· ***Senator Rubio's SB 325 - Update:*** The first policy committee hearing for SB 325 (Senator Rubio's short haul rail bill that Kern COG has sponsored) was held on April 12, 2011 at the State Capitol. The Senate Transportation and Housing Committee heard SB 325 at 1:30pm in Capitol Room 112. In preparation for the hearing California Consulting met with several Legislators, legislative staff, and both Republican and Democrat Committee Consultants. California Consulting also organized a list of key individuals to testify in support of the bill including private sector leaders, representatives from cities, school district, and others. California Consulting's Steve Samuelian testified in support of SB 325 at the hearing. After much discussion SB 325 passed the Committee with a bi-partisan 9-0 vote. The bill now heads to Senate Appropriations Committee. In the weeks and days before the hearing, California Consulting kept in daily communication with Senator Rubio's capitol staff and organized a variety of meetings and conference calls to line up support for the bill. We also organized letters of support and council resolutions in support from various organizations. We are now focused on the Senate Appropriations Committee and if the Committee will place SB 325 on "suspense calendar." We are working closely with Senator Rubio personally as well as his staff. Senator Rubio has again distinguished himself as a champion for Kern County, Kern COG, and the San Joaquin Valley region. He should be commended for his leadership on this and other important issues. Once through Senate

Appropriations Committee SB 325 will go the Senate floor and then go to the Assembly to start the process over again in Assembly Transportation and Housing Committee.

· ***HSR Depots AB 31***: California Consulting has met personally with Assemblyman Beall at his Sacramento office to discuss AB 31. We are discussing amendments to this bill that would remove the mandate on cities with HSR depots. Mr. Beall has been receptive to our ideas and we continue to work with his him and his staff.

· ***RDAs***: We are continuing to work with League of Cities and California Redevelopment Association and others in an attempt to save RDA's. The vote to eliminate RDA's fell one vote short in the Assembly. In April we have met with several State Assemblymembers, State Senators and key staff lobbying them in support of preserving RDA funding. We have also held numerous meetings with the Department of Finance and the Governor's Office regarding this issue. Senator Rubio and Senator Wright also have a bill that we have been involved with that would bring back RDA's in a different form in the event that there is a vote to eliminate them. Juan Garza II from California Consulting has taken the lead in working with the League of Cities and CRA on this issue. He has been keeping in contact weekly with the CRA. Juan has been providing clients with regular updates at their Council meetings, Board meetings, and other events. Steve has taken the lead working with the Legislature, Department of Finance, and the Governor's Office.

· ***Enterprise Zones:*** Liz Gomez from California Consulting continues to participate

in the weekly EZ conference calls as part of the EZ statewide coalition. Liz has been visiting with clients throughout California updating them on the latest EZ news. She has also had several meetings at the Capitol in the past few weeks to lobby on behalf of this important funding. In addition, during the month of April Steve met with several State Assemblymembers, Senators, and key staff lobbying in support of EZ's. Steve has met with Department of Finance and the Governor's Office in April regarding this important issue. Steve has worked as part of the EZ working group on AB 231, the reform package for EZ's. We encourage all cities, counties, and others to pass resolutions and send letters in support of AB 231. AB 231 is a fair and reasonable compromise that preserves EZ funding but makes some needed reforms to the program. We are working closely with Assemblyman Perez's Committee staff on AB 231. In an effort to preserve funding for the EZ program and combat complete elimination of the EZ program (as proposed by the Governor) supporters of the EZ program have crafted a "compromise" that reforms EZ's but preserves the program and some funding. California Consulting has been very involved with this compromise proposal and although it is not perfect it was incumbent upon EZ supporters to come up with an alternative to "elimination." The agreed upon alternative is outlined in the attached documents. Some opponents of EZ's are still calling for total elimination of the program and will not be willing to support this compromise legislation.

· ***AB 892***: California Consulting has been communicating with Cal-TRANS regarding AB 892 (Carter) a bill that deals with NEPA requirements. This bill is worthy of support

and we have attached a summary of the bill. This measure is a key element of continuing efforts to streamline the environmental review process for critical transportation projects. The 2005 federal transportation bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), establishes a Pilot Program through which Caltrans was delegated the U.S. Secretary of Transportation's responsibilities under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal environmental laws. To assume these federal responsibilities, Caltrans is required to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts, necessitating that they waive sovereign immunity on a limited basis for this purpose. AB 892 would make the waiver permanent.

· ***AB 890***: Assemblyman Perea has been a leader in the Assembly on issues important to cities and others in the Central Valley, as is shown through his authorship of this bill that streamlines CEQA and NEPA requirements. We will continue to keep you updated on this legislation as it works its way through the Legislative process. We are grateful for Assemblyman Perea's leadership on this issue.

ACTION ALERT

Now is a critical time to make your voices heard at the State Capitol. Please send in letters and resolutions in support of AB 231, AB 890, AB 892, and SB 325 to:

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate President Pro Tem Darrel Steinberg

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State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker of the Assembly John Perez
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0046

Please send California Consulting a copy of your letters so we may use them in our lobbying efforts.

TESTIMONIAL

"I have worked closely with California Consulting, LLC for several years since my tenure on the Kern County Board of Supervisors and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Kern Council of Governments. I have always found California Consulting to be well respected throughout the Valley and highly regarded by key policymakers and legislative staff."
Michael Rubio, State Senator, CA 16th District

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following grant applications for Cities and School Districts have been released and are currently available. If you are a California Consulting client and are interested in any of the grants listed below, please contact our office. If you are not a California Consulting client, but would like us to draft and submit any of the following grant applications for your city or school district, please contact Juan Garza II at juan@californiaconsulting.org or (559) 244-0801. Please click on the links below to find out more information on each individual grant opportunity:

1. Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program - Due: 5/3/11

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2. Carol M. White Physical Education Program - Due: 5/13/11

3. Advanced Placement Incentives - Due: 5/16/11

4. COPS Secure Our Schools - Due: 5/25/11

5. Planning and Technical Assistance - Due: 5/25/11

6. Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Grants - Due: Mid-June

7. Prop. 84 Parks Grant - Due: 7/1/11

FRESNO COG SACRAMENTO "ONE VOICE" SUCCESSFUL

Approximately 30 leaders from Fresno County attended the annual Fresno COG "One Voice" trip at the State Capitol organized by California Consulting, LLC. The trip took place on Tuesday, April 5th and Wednesday, April 6th 2011. Several local elected officials from cities within Fresno County were joined by city managers, representatives from the Fresno Workforce Investment Board, the Fresno Economic Development Corporation, private sector leaders, and others on the productive venture to Sacramento.

Several important topics were discussed during the meetings at the State Capitol including (partial list): Preserving Transportation Funding, State and Federal Funding for Highway 99 projects, High-Speed Rail, Short-Haul Rail, Senate Bill 325, Sustainable Communities Strategies, Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlining Environmental Permitting), Economic Development, Preserving RDA Funding, and Preserving Enterprise Zones.

Throughout the two day trip, meetings were held with several State Senators and Assembly Members, Senior Officials from the Governor's Office, Cal-TRANS, the Air Resources Board, and key Legislative Committee staff.

Tuesday evening was highlighted by a dinner with keynote speaker Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani, who is a member of the Assembly Committee on Transportation and has been a leader on the High Speed Rail issue.

Based on the meetings, California Consulting and Fresno COG will be organizing and implementing a follow-up strategy over the next few weeks to aggressively pursue the Fresno COG's advocacy agenda.

Please Click Here to View the 2-Day Schedule and List of Delegation Participants

SPOTLIGHT ON TRISTAN SHAMP



Tristan Shamp has been a Project Manager at California Consulting since June of 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2005, Summa Cum Laude, and completed his Master of Arts degree in History at California State University Fresno in 2009, also Summa Cum Laude. He has written over 100 federal, state and private foundation grant applications. Tristan has taught credited courses at CSU Fresno, as well as working as a writing tutor and supplemental history instructor at Fresno City College. He completed the Grant Writing & Management Program through CSU Fresno in October 2010 and holds a professional certification in grant

writing and program management. In just the past 30 days, the following six grants written and submitted by Tristan were awarded to clients: Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) - **City of Kingsburg** ($21,494); CAL FIRE Green Trees for the Golden State - **Caruthers USD** ($3,300), **City of Newman** ($32,038), **City of Avenal** ($3,824), **City of Lemoore** ($100,000); and the Early Intervention for School Success - **Salinas City Elementary School District** ($50,000). Great job Tristan!

Successful Education Roundtable Held with Assemblyman Henry T. Perea

California Consulting, LLC organized an education roundtable meeting with special guest State Assemblyman Henry T. Perea. The event was held on Friday, April 8, 2011 at the Downtown Club in Fresno and attended by several leaders from various San Joaquin Valley School Districts. Representatives from Central Unified, West Park Elementary, Kings Canyon Unified, Kingsburg Elementary, Selma Unified and others participated in the roundtable. Assemblyman Perea provided an update on the state budget as well as education issues. A list of key issues was discussed and Superintendents Mike Berg of Central and Mark Ford of Kingsburg Elementary were chosen to follow up with Assemblyman Perea regarding the major issues. Attendees expressed their gratitude to Assemblyman Perea for attending the meeting and listening to the concerns of school districts throughout the 31st Assembly District. The roundtable meeting was organized and moderated by California Consulting, LLC.

GRANTS!

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

Affordable Care Act--Grants for School-Based Health Center Capital (SBHCC) Program
Department of Education Talent Search Grants
Economic Development Administration Grants
HCD Planning and Technical Assistance Grant
National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Awards
BJA Justice & Mental Health Grant
EDD Workforce Investment Board CalGrip
D.O.E. Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT)
Clean Water Grants
Cal-Fire Urban Greening
Cal-Fire Urban Forestry-Leafing
IBM Creating Smarter Cities
Teacher Based Reform (T-Bar) Grant
D.O.E. Public Charter School Grant
Hearst Foundation
Wachovia Grant
State Revolving Fund Loan
United States Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grant
Hearst Foundation
SG Foundation
Mott Foundation
Office Depot
CVS
Alternative Fuels Grant
SB856 Special Distribution Fund
California Safe-Supportive Schools
Housing Related Parks Bond
HUD Planning Grant
Wal-Mart
Met-Life
Lowe's Large Toolbox
Laura Bush Foundation
Baseball Tomorrow

CALIFORNIA CONSULTING ADDS TWO FULL-TIME PROJECT MANAGERS

To continue to ensure that California Consulting is providing the highest level of service to our clients, we

are happy to announce that Danielle Sotelo and Lance Tullis have been promoted to full time Project Managers at the firm. Danielle earned a B.A. in International Relations, emphasis in Political Science and minor in Philosophy, from Pepperdine University. She has worked in the office of a U.S. Congressman and has taught at San Joaquin Valley College. She also worked in Washington D.C. for the Guatemala Human Rights Commission. Danielle has written approximately 55 competitive federal, state and private foundation applications. Lance earned his B.A. in English and M.A. in Education from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He has served as a school principal for 13 years. He has written several dozen grants for educational programs ranging from marine biology to agriculture. Welcome Danielle and Lance.

NEW CLIENTS

The cities of Gustine (Merced County) and Rancho Cordova (Sacramento County) recently signed contracts with California Consulting. Also, the Semitropic School District (Kern County) has signed a contract with California Consulting. Welcome aboard!

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Subject: Oppose AB 18
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Tue, 3 May 2011 16:00:02 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

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Education Legislation Update

Oppose AB 18

AB 18



AB 18 by Assembly Member Brownley is a major school finance reform bill. AB 18 would basically do away with regular home to school transportation - see page 1 of the attachment. It would include the current allocation as an add-on to the revenue limit. There would be no future increases, only the potential of decreases due to inflation and potential equalization. This bill is harmful to school districts. The bill will be heard in Assembly Education on Wednesday afternoon, May 4. The bill does treat special education transportation and the small school bus program as separate programs.

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CLICK HERE TO VIEW A SUMMARY OF AB 18

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CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF AB 18 (Brownley)

AB 18 is a vehicle for comprehensively reforming the state's public school finance system. The first step in this reform process is to simplify the number of funding streams provided to school districts and to provide continuing flexibility in the expenditure of those funds. This bill, commencing at the end of the current budget flexibility provisions, treats current categorical funding streams in one of four ways:

1) Categorical funding and current revenue limit add-ons that are provided in a broad-based manner for programs that are part of the base educational or operational program of the district are consolidated into an add-on to revenue limit funding for school districts and thus provided on a per ADA basis; this funding becomes discretionary for the school district and provides a greater level of base funding.
2) Categorical funding currently targeted to English learner or economically disadvantaged pupils is consolidated into the Target Pupil Equity Grant and is provided on the basis of the number of EL and economically disadvantaged pupils; this funding is required to be expended on services to support learning and improved academic performance for those students. The bill states Legislative intent to provide for future cost of living and equalization adjustments to this funding, as funds are available in future years, and establishes this grant as the weighted targeted funding in what can be viewed as a weighted student funding approach.
3) Categorical funding currently provided for class-size reduction and professional development is consolidated into the Quality Instruction Grant and is provided on the basis of ADA; this funding is required to be expended on class-size reduction, professional development, or in support of leadership coaching and individualized support, teacher/administrator/staff mentoring or coaching, teacher recruitment programs, intern programs, or support and assessment for beginning teachers. The bill states Legislative intent to provide for future cost of living and equalization adjustments to this funding, as funds are available in future years.
4) Funding that, for various reasons, remains outside of this proposal at this time. Primarily this includes funding for special education, funding that has interactions programs operated by entities outside of the traditional educational system (e.g., Indian Education Centers), county offices of education, career technical education, and funding for capital purchases.

The bill also makes proposals regarding school-level financial reporting. The tables below provided more detail on how the school finance reform proposal treats various funding streams.

Added to Base Funding	
Budget Item	**Program**
	Unemployment Insurance RL Add-on – 15 year avg.
	PERS Adjustment Add-on – 15 year avg.
6110-108-0001	Supplemental School Counseling Program
6110-111-0001	Home to School Transportation (except Special Ed)
6110-122-0001	Specialized Secondary Program Grants
6110-124-0001	Gifted and Talented Program
6110-181-0001	Educational Technology - CTAP
6110-187-0001	Emergency Repair Program
6110-188-0001	Deferred Maintenance
6110-189-0001	Instructional Materials Block Grant

Added to Base Funding (cont)	
Budget Item	**Program**
6110-190-0001	Community Day Schools
6110-195-0001	National Board Certification Incentives
6110-198-0001	California School Age Families Education (CalSAFE)
6110-204-0001	California High School Exit Exam-Instructional Support and Services
6110-208-0001	Civic Education
6110-209-0001	Teacher Dismissal Apportionment
6110-228-0001	School Safety Block Grant (8-12)
6110-232-0001	Class Size Reduction (9th Grade)
6110-240-0001	Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs
6110-243-0001	Pupil Retention Block Grant
6110-247-0001	School and Library Improvement Block Grant
6110-248-0001	School Safety Consolidated Competitive Grants
6110-265-0001	Arts and Music Block Grant
6110-268-0001	Child Oral Health Assessments
6110-156-0001	Adult Education - Schedule (1)

Targeted Pupil Equity Grant	
Budget Item	**Program**
6110-104-0001	Supplemental Instruction (Summer School)
6110-128-0001	Economic Impact Aid
6110-150-0001	American Indian Early Childhood Education Centers
6110-156-0001	Adult Education Schedule (2) & (3)
6110-211-0001	Charter School Categorical Block Grant (Targeted programs proportion)
6110-212-0001	New School Categorical Funding (Targeted programs proportion)
6110-227-0001	Community-Based English Tutoring Program
6110-246-0001	Targeted Instructional Improvement Block Grant

Quality Instruction Grant	
Budget Item	**Program**
6110-137-0001	Mathematics and Reading Professional Development Program
6110-144-0001	Administrator Training Program
6110-193-0001	Bilingual Teacher Training Assistance Program - Schedule (1)
6110-193-0001	Teacher Peer Review - Schedule (2)
6110-234-0001	Class Size Reduction (K-3)
6110-244-0001	Teacher Credentialing Block Grant
6110-245-0001	Professional Development Block Grant
6110-260-0001	Physical Education Teacher Incentive Grants
6110-267-0001	Certificated Staff Mentoring

Funding Streams Not Consolidated in AB 18		
	Budget Item	**Program**
Spec Ed	6110-111-0001	Home to School Transportation - Special Education
	6110-161-0001	Special Education
	6110-193-0001	Reader Services for Blind Teachers
Funding	6110-119-0001	Foster Youth Programs
Interactions	6110-201-0001	Child Nutrition Breakfast Startup
	6110-203-0001	Child Nutrition
	6110-649-0001	After School Programs
COE	6110-107-0001	County Offices of Education Fiscal Oversight
	6110-107-0349	County Offices of Education Fiscal Oversight
	6110-140-0349	California School Information Services Project
	6110-266-0001	County Office of Education: Williams Audits
Funds	6110-113-0001	Student Assessment Testing
to Other	6110-151-0001	American Indian Education Centers
Entities	6110-158-0001	Adults in Correctional Facilities
	6110-182-0001	K-12 Internet Access
	6110-196-0001	Child Development
	6110-242-0001	California Association of Student Councils
CTE	6110-103-0001	Apprentice Program
	6110-105-0001	Regional Occupational Centers and Programs
	6110-166-0001	Partnership Academies
	6110-167-0001	Agricultural Vocational Education
Capital	6110-220-0001	Charter School Facility Grant Program
Funding	6110-111-0001	Small School District Bus Replacement

Subject: California Consulting Announces Affiliation with Zumwalt Construction, Inc.
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Wed, 4 May 2011 18:10:07 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

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California Consulting, LLC Announces Affiliation with Zumwalt Construction, Inc.

California Consulting, LLC today announced that Zumwalt Construction, Inc. will be one of their preferred school construction vendors. The agreement is in response to the growing demand from California Consulting school district clients to find a highly reputable firm to construct their new education buildings, which comprise a large part of their district-wide projects. The joint effort is a natural partnership between two highly respected firms with long track records of success in helping school districts.

Kurt Zumwalt, President of Zumwalt Construction, stated, "I look forward to working with such a highly regarded company like California Consulting as we work together to provide quality service to our clients." Zumwalt Construction is an award winning firm, which has built several state-of-the art and innovative buildings in the greater San Joaquin Valley, including Fresno High School (restoration), Woodward Park Regional Library, Webster Elementary School, Rowell Elementary School, Tuolumne-Madson Elementary School, University High School - CSU Campus, Mendota New Junior High School, Fresno County Employees Retirement Association, Downing Planetarium at CSU Campus, and the Clovis Memorial District - Theatre/Conference Center.

Liz Gomez, Senior Director of California Consulting, stated, "Many of our clients ask us to recommend a construction company to complete their projects once the financing has been secured. After performing much due diligence, Zumwalt Construction will now be one of our preferred vendors that we recommend for school construction. We look forward to this endeavor with a firm as well respected as Zumwalt Construction. California Consulting is growing in the education area across the State and as we add new school district clients, we are getting asked about who we recommend to build school facilities."

California Consulting represents 25 school districts across California as well as 20 cities, Fresno COG, Kern COG, the County of Fresno, and Fresno Pacific University among others. California Consulting has written 250 competitive federal, state, and private foundation grants that have been awarded to our clients. Just recently, California Consulting signed contracts with Alum Rock Elementary School District, the City of Rancho Cordova, the City of Gustine, and the Semitropic School District. For more information please visit www.californiaconsulting.org and www.zumwaltconstruction.com.

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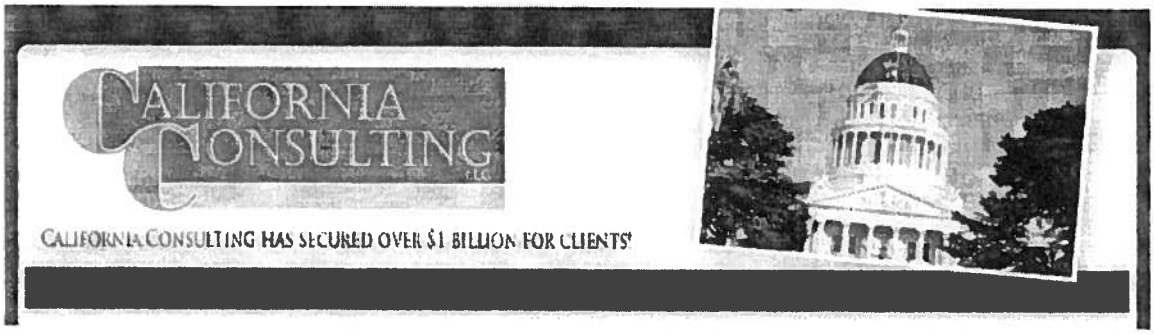
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California Consulting | 1530 East Shaw Ave, #114 | Fresno | CA | 93710

Subject: Support AB 890
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Fri, 6 May 2011 18:35:02 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

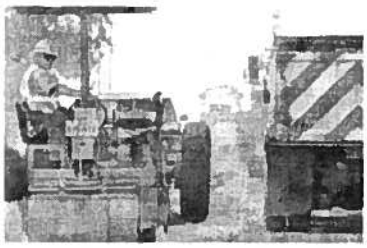
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Legislation Update

Support AB 890

AB 890



We thank Assemblyman Perea for his strong leadership on AB 890. California Consulting is working closely with Assemblyman Perea to gather support for this important piece of legislation.

In recent years, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has held up many public works projects. AB 890, co-authored by Assembly Members Henry T. Perea and Kristin Olsen, would create a statutory exemption from CEQA for roadway improvements within existing road right-of-way. This measure would include but not be limited to guardrails, shoulder widening, minor drainage improvements, culvert replacements, traffic signal modifications, and minor

realignments. This bill offers much needed flexibility to meet the requirements of CEQA when making modest improvements to existing roadways. AB 890 will allow cities and counties to quickly deliver projects that address public safety concerns. Cities and counties will benefit from this state mandated exemption because it will minimize project costs, safety, and delivery timeline concerns for minor roadway improvements.

Please click on the link below to view a sample letter of support for AB 890. Please draft a similar letter and send it to Assemblyman Perea, with a copy to California Consulting.

Click to View Sample Letter of Support for AB 890

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Fresno Council of Governments

2035 Tulare St., Ste. 201 tel 559-233-4148
Fresno, California 93721 fax 559-233-9645

www.fresnocog.org

May 3, 2011

The Honorable Henry Perea
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 890** (Olsen and Perea) – As Amended March 29, 2011 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Perea:

The Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) is pleased to support AB 890, which proposes to exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a roadway improvement project or activity that is undertaken by a city, county, or city and county within an *"existing road right-of-way"* for the purposes of minor roadway improvements. This bill offers much needed flexibility to meet the requirements of CEQA when making modest improvements to existing roadways. This bill will also allow timely and maximum use of resources on actual roadway improvements while still protecting the environment.

Fresno COG supports the goals of CEQA to inform elected officials, decision-makers, and the public at large about potential environmental impacts that may result from public works projects. However, in recent years, CEQA has slowed or halted many minor public and private projects due to unnecessary environmental review processes that impact project delivery times and hinder the safety of our community. It is definitely important to understand the environmental impacts of all public works projects, but to unnecessarily delay or halt a public roadway project that improves public safety is irrational and irresponsible.

City of Clovis
City of Coalinga
City of Firebaugh
City of Fowler
City of Fresno
City of Huron
City of Kerman
City of Kingsburg
City of Mendota
City of Orange Cove
City of Parlier
City of Reedley
City of San Joaquin
City of Sanger
City of Selma
County of Fresno

AB 890 will allow cities and counties to quickly deliver projects that address public safety concerns. This bill proposes an exemption to projects that do not have significant environmental impacts but that do address maintenance and safety concerns on a local street or road, within the existing right-of-way. Cities and counties will benefit from this state mandated exemption because it will minimize project costs, safety, and delivery timeline concerns for minor roadway improvements. It is in the best interest of the Fresno COG to support CEQA streamlining efforts that reduce unnecessary and costly processes that affect important infrastructure safety improvements. Efficient delivery of safety projects is an important and necessary priority in order to protect the lives of all Fresno County residents.

As you know, the current fiscal climate throughout California has severely impacted revenues that would be used for transportation infrastructure improvements, resulting in inadequate streets and roads that pose safety concerns in our community. It is important, now more than ever before, to maximize all revenue dollars for the greatest amount of benefit. Savings from unnecessary environmental reviews will result in more funds for additional and continuous safety improvements to our transportation infrastructure.

For these reasons, the Fresno Council of Governments is pleased to support AB 890. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Boren, Executive Director at (559) 233-4148, Ext. 204.

Sincerely,

Amarpreet Dhaliwal
Board Chairman, Fresno Council of Governments

Subject: Grant Awards Keep on Flowing
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Mon, 9 May 2011 15:35:06 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org

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CALIFORNIA CONSULTING

CALIFORNIA CONSULTING HAS SECURED OVER $1 BILLION FOR CLIENTS!



Certificate of Achievement

GRANT AWARDS KEEP ON FLOWING

$352,951 in Grant Awards in the Past 30 Days

California Consulting continues to get grants awarded for our clients. In just the past 30 days, we were notified that the following 11 grants written by California Consulting grant writers were awarded to California Consulting clients:

AFG for Firefighters PPE Equipment
City of Kingsburg's Fire Department
$21,494

CAL FIRE Green Trees for the Gold State Grant Program
City of Lemoore
$100,000

CAL FIRE Green Trees for the Gold State Grant Program
Caruthers Unified School District
$3,300

30

CAL FIRE Green Trees for the Gold State Grant Program
City of Newman
$32,038

CAL FIRE Green Trees for the Gold State Grant Program
City of Avenal
$3,824

Early Intervention for School Success
Salinas City Elementary School District
$50,000

ABC GAP Grant Assistance Program
City of Lemoore
$16,164

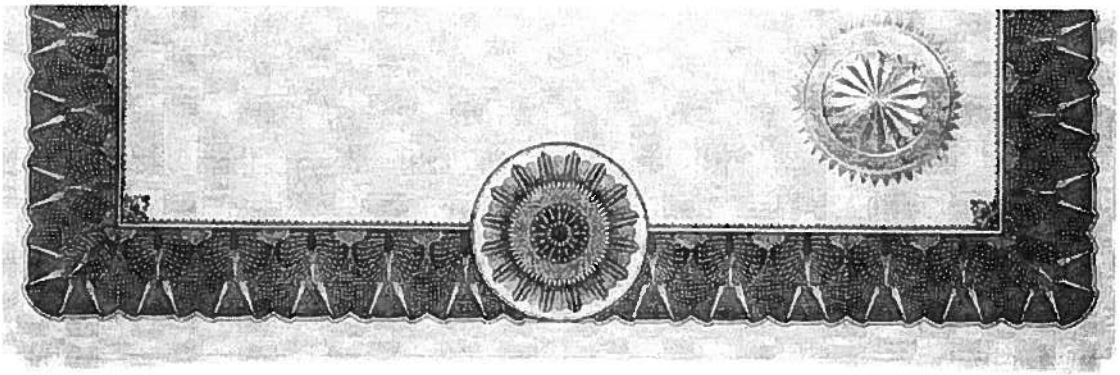
JAG (Justice Assistance Grant)
City of Arvin
$10,783

JAG (Justice Assistance Grant)
City of Delano
$31,442

JAG (Justice Assistance Grant)
City of Reedley
$13,906

CSBG Targeted Initiatives & Innovative Projects
Fresno Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC)
$70,000

Congratulations to all of the award recipients. We look forward to continuing to secure grant funds for your priority projects.



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Subject: Grants Currently Available
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Thu, 12 May 2011 21:00:11 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

The following grant applications for Cities and School Districts have been released and are currently available. If you are a California Consulting client and are interested in any of the grants listed below, please contact our office. If you are not a California Consulting client, but would like us to draft and submit any of the following grant applications for your city or school district, please contact Juan Garza II at juan@californiaconsulting.org or (559) 244-0801. Please click on the links below to find out more information on each individual grant opportunity:

1. COPS - Secure Our Schools - Due: 5/25/11
2. COPS - Hiring Program - Due: 5/25/11
3. Enhancing Education Through Technology Part D - Due: 5/31/11
4. Carl D. Perkins Career & Tech Ed - Due: 6/1/11
5. Stewardship Council - Impact Fund - Due: 6/10/11
6. SGC Urban Greening - Projects - Due: 6/17/11
7. SGC Urban Greening - Planning - Due: 7/1/11
8. Prop. 84 Parks Grant - Due: 7/1/11
9. Safe Routes to Schools - Due: 7/15/11
10. Stewardship Council - Infrastructure Fund - Due: 7/29/11
11. Baseball Tomorrow Fund - Due: Rolling

Subject: Governor Brown Releases May Revise
From: Steve Samuelian <steve@californiaconsulting.org>
Date: Mon, 16 May 2011 15:10:17 -0400 (EDT)
To: carrol@californiaconsulting.org



GOVERNOR BROWN RELEASES MAY REVISE

Governor Brown has released his May Revise to his proposed budget. Please click on the link below to view the full Revised Budget Summary.

Click to View Governor Brown's May Revised Budget Summary

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