



May 31, 2012

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To: CSAC Board of Directors

From: Efren Carrillo, Chair, Housing, Land Use, and Transportation Policy Committee  
Supervisor, Sonoma County  
Matt Rexroad, Vice Chair, Housing, Land Use & Transportation Policy Committee  
Supervisor, Yolo County

Re: **Housing, Land Use, and Transportation Policy Committee Action Items**

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**Background.** The HLT Committee had two action items on the agenda this morning. The first was related to recommendations for new transportation revenues. The second was in regards to CSAC's existing policy on the California High-Speed Rail project. The memos to the HLT Committee members from CSAC staff on both issues are included in your board packet.

New Revenues for Transportation Infrastructure

During the November 2011 HLT Committee meeting, staff was directed to develop a list of revenue options for the HLT Committee to consider in order to address California's transportation funding shortfall. CSAC staff worked with the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) to develop a list of possible revenue sources for new transportation funding.

The HLT Committee had a lengthy and through discussion of several potential revenue options. Notably, many members expressed strong reservations with the Vehicle Miles Traveled fee option.

Therefore, the HLT Committee took action reaffirming CSAC's existing policy related to transportation revenues, supporting the CEAC recommendation that policy direction be broad enough to support a revenue stream that meets CSAC's policy goals, but also expressing strong concerns with a VMT based fee approach. Existing CSAC policy that was reaffirmed is provided below:

*Although significant transportation revenues are raised at the local level through the imposition of sales taxes, additional state and federal revenue sources are needed such as additional gas and sales taxes, congestion pricing, public-private partnerships, and user or transaction fees to provide a diverse financing strategy. Further, additional revenue raising authority at the local and regional level is needed as well as other strategies as determined by individual jurisdictions and regions.*

**Recommendation.** Approve the motion/recommendation from the CSAC Housing, Land Use, and Transportation Policy Committee (HLT Committee) reaffirming existing CSAC policy on new transportation revenues, supporting flexible options for new transportation options in the future, but expressing clear concerns regarding a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fee.

California's High-Speed Rail Project

At the Board of Directors meeting in November 2011 a request was made to revisit CSAC's current position of support for the High-Speed Rail Project. The HLT Committee heard from the California High-Speed Rail Authority on the status of the project and revised business plan. Committee members raised concerns with the project and specifically called out the fact that while they did not

outright oppose the idea of high-speed rail, they have significant issues and reservations about how the Authority works with individual counties that will experience direct impacts from the project and their overall ability to see the project to completion.

Rather than make a motion/recommendation to the Board today however, the HLT Committee called for the creation of a Task Force to dive into more specific details of the project and the issues counties are facing. The Task Force will report back to the Board at their next meeting regarding the outcome of the new Task Forces effort.

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