

CSAC FEDERAL PRIORITY ISSUES – 2009**REAUTHORIZATION OF SAFETEA-LU**

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- Ensure the long-term financial integrity of the Highway Trust Fund via a stable funding source, including support for an increase and/or index of the federal gasoline tax.
- Strengthen the commitment of the federal transportation program to improve road and traffic safety, including increased funding for the High Risk Rural Roads Program.
- Provide incentives in current programs and/or provide new funding sources for climate change neutral or friendly transportation projects and programs, including local street and road maintenance and preservation programs.
- Designate California as a permanent participant in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program and expand the program beyond FHWA projects to include transit and air quality conformity projects.
- Increase state, regional, and local agency flexibility to respond to needs, including maximizing the use and flexibility of federal funds by not requiring minimum federal matches.

MEDICAID

- Support legislative and/or administrative action(s) to rescind by June 30, 2009 seven Medicaid regulations restricting reimbursement for certain health services.
- Support legislative efforts to expand Medicaid coverage for individuals incarcerated in county jails.
- Involve county government officials when crafting federal health care reform legislation.

STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Increase the appropriation for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to at least \$950 million to help offset the significant costs incurred by county governments for incarcerating undocumented criminals.
- Support legislation (S 168) that would modify SCAAP to allow jurisdictions to be reimbursed for incarcerating convicted *and accused* undocumented offenders. In addition, protect and increase funding for the Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative, which provides federal dollars to over 20 California counties.

FEDERAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

- Provide full funding (\$2 billion) for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to assist local governments in implementing energy efficiency and conservation strategies.
- Provide financial incentives to States that adopt and set greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions targets and programs to accomplish those targets.
- Provide funding to mitigate GHG emissions impacts in addition to air, water, and other environmental impacts.
- Provide financial support for planning processes at the regional and countywide level – such as California’s Regional Blueprint Planning Program – that integrate transportation and land use in ways to reduce projected vehicle miles traveled and fuel consumption, promote jobs/housing proximity, and transit-oriented development.
- Provide assistance for data collection and determining and quantifying GHG emission sources and levels, vehicle miles traveled, and other important data to assist both local governments and regional agencies in addressing climate change in environmental documents for long-range transportation plans.
- Provide funding for retrofitting equipment and for alternate fuel infrastructure.
- Oppose legislation that allows federal standards to supersede California’s ability to adopt stricter vehicle standards.
- Support legislation that would invest proceeds from a market-based carbon trading program into local government actions that reduce GHG emissions.

FOREST FUELS MANAGEMENT/FIRE PREPAREDNESS

- Support increased funding for federal programs that support fuels management, fire preparedness, and state and local fire assistance.
- Support legislative efforts that would provide at-risk communities with incentives to improve fire prevention strategies.
- Support stronger forest management strategies that mitigate the potential of wildfires on federal, state and private lands through fuel reduction, thinning, and fuel breaks.