



## Annual Local Government Meetings – 2013-14 Policy Summary

### Transportation

#### Bay Area Transit & Rail

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group's current top transportation priorities focus around three main projects designed to improve the overall health of the region's transit and rail systems.

1. Caltrain Electrification: Partner with Caltrain and municipalities to replace diesel trains with electric multiple units (EMUs) and install a new safety system. These efforts will increase revenue while decreasing the costs of the system. In addition, promote smart development around Caltrain stations, work to meet ongoing operating funding needs and engage cities in these modernization efforts.
2. BART to Silicon Valley: Phase I to extend the existing BART system from Warm Springs, Fremont to Berryessa, San Jose is under construction – and running below cost estimates and ahead of schedule. Currently preparing for Phase II of the BART to Silicon Valley project, set to continue through downtown San Jose.
3. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): High-speed bus service with upgraded stations, model integration and frequent, reliable service. We support BRT lines in Silicon Valley on El Camino Real, Santa Clara/Alum Rock, and Stevens Creek Boulevard.

Our aim is to help provide alternatives to traffic congestion and support the environment and sustainable communities. We look forward to working with your city on these high priority transit projects and understanding how they fit in with your transit objectives.

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### Education

#### Educare

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Packard Foundation, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Health Trust and Franklin-McKinley School District are working to build California's first Educare center. Educare of California at Silicon Valley (ECSV) – located on the Santee campus of San Jose's Franklin-McKinley School District – will be part of a national network of early childhood centers and the first of its kind in California.

With nearly all of brain development occurring before age 5, research shows that the achievement gap starts as early as 9 months of age. Educare bridges that gap by offering a proven full-day year-round model of early childhood education to low-income families and serving as a regional and statewide training center for early education and K-12 professionals. With the support of the Gates Foundation and Buffett Early Learning Fund, Educare has become the national model for changing how we prepare our most disadvantaged children for success in school and beyond.

ECSV has launched the public phase of its capital campaign, already matched by \$11 million from its public and private partners, to raise the remaining \$3.2 million needed to build the training institute and school. The center plans to break ground in January, 2014.



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## **Environment**

### **Regional Wetlands Restoration & Flood Protection**

The Bay Area is at high risk from flooding due to its geography and infrastructure. Many of the existing levees were built more than 100 years ago and were not engineered to meet federal flood standards. With valuable development located right along the coastline, a major storm in the Bay Area could put more than hundreds of thousands of people and tens of billions in assets at risk. Such a catastrophe would not only threaten the public and economic safety of the region but also directly impact the innovation economy in Silicon Valley.

To help ensure that the region is adequately prepared, a public-private partnership has formed under the leadership of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Save the Bay, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and other key stakeholders have come together to protect and restore critical Bayside lands and improve flood protection. A public information campaign is set to launch this year, with a ballot measure likely in the near future. We ask for your support and participation in this public-private partnership to help ensure its success in protecting the entire Bay Area.

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## **Energy**

### **Bay Area Climate Collaborative**

The Bay Area Climate Collaborative (BACC) – a project of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group – was launched by the mayors of San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland to support local governments, accelerate the clean energy economy and respond to climate change throughout the region.

BACC's *Next Generation Streetlight Initiative* provides leading-edge education, resources and guidance to local governments to accelerate the move to solid-state lighting (LED). The overarching goal is to catalyze the conversion of 200,000 streetlights in the Bay Area and deliver \$50 million in cost savings and 100,000 metric tons of CO2 avoidance over 5 years.

Since the initiative was launched, BACC has engaged more than 100 leaders from 52 municipalities in workshops, webinars, and roundtables. BACC also provides ongoing guidance to municipalities through the *Next Generation Streetlight Guide*, written in partnership with UC Davis California Lighting and Technology Center. In the next year, BACC will be working to expand LED programming to parking lots and other outdoor lighting opportunities.

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## **Housing & Land Use**

### Affordable Housing

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group's annual CEO Business Climate Survey repeatedly cites the lack of affordable homes as a top impediment to doing business in Silicon Valley. Local governments play an important role in making sure there are enough homes to meet our workforce housing needs. With the loss of redevelopment agencies and the resulting impact on municipalities' ability to support affordable housing, we seek to identify new ways to support housing production.

This year, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to voluntarily set aside 20% of former redevelopment agency money for affordable housing. The County hopes to use this money in partnership with cities to leverage scarce dollars for affordable housing.

The elimination of redevelopment was an unfortunate hardship that left many cities struggling to balance budgets while maintaining commitments to meet our affordable housing needs. As we move forward with the County on implementation, the Leadership Group looks to local governments for support in maximizing this important funding source and ask that cities consider committing 20% of their former redevelopment agency proceeds to help provide affordable housing in the region.

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## **Health**

### State Health Exchange Implementation and Impact on Municipalities

With 7.4 million uninsured residents, California has the largest number of people who lack medical coverage. To implement provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), the state public entity known as Covered California has been created to establish a state-operated health insurance exchange.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group strongly supports Covered California, and has advocated for best practices and ensuring affordable insurance costs and quality on behalf of employers. Through the exchange, individuals and small businesses alike will be able to purchase qualified health plans (QHPs).

The Leadership Group will continue to focus on the statewide implement of Covered California and will work with the California Department of Health Care Services at the state and county level, employers, non-profits, policy groups, and coalitions to streamline and promote eligibility and enrollment in the exchange. We also support the Medi-Cal funding and expansion efforts at the state and county levels. In the coming months, we aim to help local governments with the critical role of achieving enrollment targets by outreach, marketing, and education efforts.

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