

2023-2024 Legislative Policy Guidelines

Policy Principles

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Principle</u>	<u>Board Position</u>
Governance	Maintain maximum local flexibility in the areas of land use, housing, energy, mobility, air quality, and water.	Support
Governance	Policies that incentivize local agencies to act collaboratively to achieve regional goals.	Support
Governance	Protecting the authority of local and regional agencies to set local priorities for projects and programs.	Support
Governance	Fair and proportionate representation on countywide and regional boards that protects the autonomy of those governing bodies.	Support
Governance	Improved partnerships with the State that value the expertise, needs, and priorities of local government and the many unique communities throughout the state.	Support
Governance	Policies that make cities more dependent on federal, state and/or county government or agencies for policy direction.	Oppose
Funding	Appropriate funding for local/regional agencies that correspond with state and federal requirements for enhanced planning and land use activities.	Support
Funding	Stable funding through identifiable source(s) and a partnership approach with the state that values local input, helping to support local agencies as they strive to meet the region's land-use, housing, energy, mobility, air quality, water and workforce education needs.	Support
Funding	Efforts to balance the state budget using general fund or special fund revenues traditionally allocated to local or regional agencies.	Oppose
Funding	Efforts to borrow from, redirect, eliminate, or shift locally generated revenues for other purposes.	Oppose
Funding	Any attempts to borrow, redirect, eliminate, shift, or otherwise use state or federal funding currently dedicated for local agencies to meet local housing, transportation, water, or energy needs without specific repayment terms and repayment of all previously borrowed funds.	Oppose
Funding	The correction of Orange County's current status as a "donor" county with regard to federal and state transportation funding.	Support

DRAFT 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Guidelines

Funding	Fair-share Federal and State funding to Orange County based on population, urban nature, and the amount of tax revenue contributed to Federal and State budgets.	Support
Funding	Policies that impose intrusive, unnecessary, or unfunded state mandates or efforts to usurp local authority.	Oppose
Funding	Measures that infringe on the ability of each city to establish or exercise its authority or financing capability.	Oppose
Taxes	The use of private sector investment, rather than governmental taxes and spending, where possible, to accomplish public benefits.	Support
Taxes	Majority vote approval of tax increases for community infrastructure improvements, coupled with oversight and cost-containment.	Support
Taxes	Clear distinctions between taxes and user fees including a direct nexus for fees related to an administrative cost or provision of public service.	Support
Taxes	Extreme caution in considering the modification or elimination of taxpayers' ability to have elected officials, as opposed to appointed staff, resolve California tax disputes;	Support
Water	Adequate rehabilitation and protection of critical levee and waterway systems in the Bay-Delta and other areas of the State that have critical importance to the long-term and sustained movement of water supplies to their points of use.	Support
Water	Adequate investment in surface water impounds, recycle and reuse projects, and groundwater storage systems that protect the State from droughts, earthquakes, and other events that would otherwise cause significant economic dislocations, loss of human lives, or the loss of significant natural resources.	Support
Infrastructure	Adequate and dedicated funding on an annual basis at Federal, State, and County levels for infrastructure maintenance, rebuilding, capacity projects, and system expansion.	Support
Infrastructure	Expanded Design-build authority for infrastructure construction.	Support
Infrastructure	Investment strategies based on sound science and public policy criteria that direct resources into the most needed regional and local infrastructure categories, leverage State and Federal dollars, and	Support

DRAFT 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Guidelines

	maximize the return on existing infrastructure investments.	
Infrastructure	Accelerated project delivery through streamlined environmental delegation and increased authority to local California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Districts and through use of alternative project delivery methods such as design-build, public-private partnerships, etc.	Support
Transportation	A continued strong state role in providing funding for transit operations rather than shifting responsibility to local transportation entities.	Support
Infrastructure	Implementation of Federal Infrastructure Legislation that provides for equitable distribution of funds, maintaining or increasing funding levels for critical programs, prioritizes local discretion in programming and allocation decisions, and rewards regions with local revenue matching abilities.	Support
Transportation	Protect all existing and new transportation funding sources from the imposition of new conditions on the distributions of funds that reprioritize transportation projects.	Support
Transportation	Policies that ensure local flexibility in meeting the goals of the state’s greenhouse gas reduction initiatives, including the creation of incentive-based measures and grant programs.	Support
Transportation	Efforts to reduce or eliminates local control over priority setting or project selection for locally generated sales tax revenues for transportation.	Oppose
Transportation	Efforts to provide secure transit funding for capital and operating expenses.	Support
Transportation	Streamline the Transportation Development Act to create efficiencies and new performance metrics with a reduced focus on farebox recovery.	Support
Transportation	Flexibility should be included in any transit funding source, allowing transit operators to use the funding for both operations and capital expenditures.	Support
Transportation	Policies to divert or reclassify transportation revenue sources, including General Fund and debt service purposes.	Oppose
Transportation	Policies to link or reprioritize local and state transportation funding to support the state’s climate goals.	Oppose

DRAFT 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Guidelines

Transportation	Increased funding for the state’s Active Transportation Program to provide the necessary funding to implement state and local goals in this category.	Support
Housing	Policies that usurp local zoning authority or that favor a “one size fits all” approach to housing development.	Oppose
Housing / Homelessness	Continued flexibility in the use of Mental Health Services Act and SB 2 funds to allocate the most funds to the most competitive local projects.	Support
Housing/ Homeless	Local control of Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RNHA) allocations and site placements.	Support
Housing/ Homeless	State support to provide funding for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and ongoing program costs.	Support
Housing/ Homelessness	Providing local jurisdictions with additional tools and funding while preserving local authority to address housing production, affordability, and homelessness challenges	Support
Housing	Housing attainability initiatives that enable local jurisdictions and the development community to work together to address affordability, provide a mix of housing that is appropriate for their community, and remove disincentives and regulatory obstacles to providing housing.	Support
Housing	Efforts to develop sustainable and ongoing funding sources for the creation of permanent supportive housing and affordable housing in local communities, including tax increment tools.	Support
Housing / Land Use	Growth control policies and “smart” growth initiatives that may result in unintended consequences such as unreasonably higher housing costs, increased commute times that impact individuals and families, limited housing supplies that impact labor supplies, and unreasonably inflated land values that limit economic expansion.	Oppose
Housing /Environment	Increased regulation that may place time and resource burdens on approved housing projects.	Oppose
Housing	CEQA Reforms and streamlining efforts that reduce burdens and hurdles for the implementation of affordable and infill housing projects, including additional flexibility for local agencies.	Support
Housing	Maintaining maximum local authority over housing and land use decisions throughout the CEQA process.	Support

DRAFT 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Guidelines

Housing	Housing policies that incentivize the creation of a mix of housing types that reflect the character and needs of the region and community where they are located.	Support
Housing	Greater flexibility for local housing element updates and improved partnerships with HCD in order to help address housing needs and shared housing goals/priorities.	Support
Housing	Reinstatement of the ability to share or trade RHNA allocations to facilitate effective planning and development.	Support
Housing	Allow cities to receive RHNA credit for Moderate Income Units generated under the CSCDA Workforce Housing Program.	Support
Environment	CEQA lawsuits for purposes other than for legitimate environmental litigation	Oppose
Environment	Support transparency, sufficient allocation, and equitable distribution of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) resources commensurate with the region’s responsibility in meeting the state’s overall greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals.	Support
Environment	CEQA streamlining efforts to help local agencies meet housing, transportation, and other environmental goals.	Support
Environment	Maintaining or increasing Cap and Trade revenues that are allocated to local agencies and improved flexibility in the use of funds.	Support
COVID-19	Direct and flexible funding for state and local governments to backfill lost revenue resulting from the COVID-19 economic downturn, including additional support for transit and rail agencies suffering from reduced ridership.	Support
Brown Act	Support legislative efforts to modernize the Ralph M. Brown Act to increase public participation, keep up with emerging technology, and allow local government agencies flexibility in conducting official meetings through virtual format.	Support