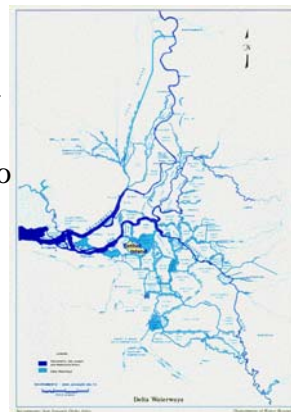


WEEKLY FLASH

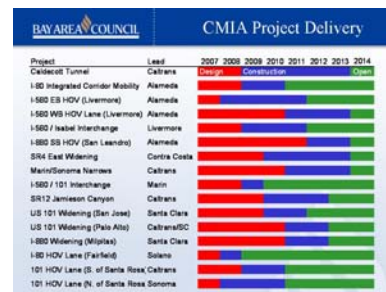
2-Year Council Water Effort With S. Calif. Nears Endgame

“It’s not surprising how white-hot the emotions can get, how dirty the politics played, or how high the stakes are over water battles; for at their core these are fights about survival. There is no life without water.” So begins an upcoming opinion editorial about the Bay Area Council’s work to bring a solution to the state’s water crisis. The Delta ecosystem is the largest estuary in North America, a key stop for migratory birds on the Pacific flyway and a home or passageway for many endangered fish. In terms of water supply, 25 million Californians turn on the kitchen sink or shower and Delta water pours out. Likewise a vast amount of the California produce is grown with Delta water. Unfortunately, the Delta is collapsing, and is environmentally unsustainable and an unreliable source of water. That’s why the Bay Area Council, the Southern California Water Committee and key environmental stakeholders have been working together for the past two years to build trust and lay the groundwork for a significant alliance on a Delta solution. The discussion has now settled on essentially three-options that our coalition hopes to make a final decision on soon. In a private meeting with [Governor Schwarzenegger](#) last week, he said he plans to have the situation resolved by the end of the year, in time for a February 2008 ballot measure. The endgame is near.



Thanks In Part to Council, It’s Raining Transportation Money

After decades of drought, the Bay Area is finally experiencing a transportation spending boom. It started with [\\$1.7 billion](#) wrestled out of the Proposition 1B highway funds. The Council worked to generate a deafening 300 media stories about what we felt should be our fair share of highway funding (the editorial boards of the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Contra Costa Times*, and the *Oakland Tribune* all specifically credited and thanked the Bay Area Council for its work). Next up was \$1.3 billion coming for Bay Area public transit improvements, followed by another \$809 million flowing to the region for highways and local roads. There are still struggles ahead for money for “goods movement,” but the Council is ready to fight.



Article of the Week

The Council and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group partnered on [this op ed](#) in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Wednesday regarding healthcare reform.

Quote of the Week

“We can’t solve all their (unions’) problems... It’s fundamentally wrong for unions to expect us to be 100 percent.... They’re not the only constituency we have.” – Speaker Fabian Núñez in a [Sacramento Bee](#) article that finds this the most pro-union legislature in California history.

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