



Council's Exec Comm on AB 32, Cal Forward and Amer.'s Cup

This week the Bay Area Council Executive Committee met to take action on a variety of issues impacting our region and state. The Executive Committee has already taken positions on [key ballot measures](#) on the June and November ballots, and at the meeting passed three resolutions:

Continue Support – AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (as long as positions laid out by Governor Schwarzenegger in a March 24, 2010, letter to the California Air Resources Board, regarding implementation were followed).

Support – California Forward reform proposals (as long as the legislative language remains clear that a majority vote on the budget will not permit majority votes on tax increases or fee increases).

Support – A resolution encouraging Larry Ellison to choose the Bay Area as the site to defend the America's Cup.

Our position on AB 32 was noticed and quickly [picked up by the media](#). AB 32 was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2006. The Executive Committee took action to solidify their support in response to a possible initiative on the November 2010 ballot postponing AB 32. The California Air Resources Board is currently working on the details of the law and the Bay Area Council has [joined with Governor Schwarzenegger](#) to fight for implementation in a way that would allow California businesses to remain competitive. The potential November ballot measure is a threat to this work. “The notion of repealing AB 32 presents a false choice to the people of California,” said Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council. “We don’t have to choose between a strong economy and combating climate change. These two critically important goals can mutually reinforce each other. In fact, postponing AB 32 would send a signal to the world that California is hot and cold on climate change – a view that will crimp investment in our future economy.”

In 2006, the Bay Area Council was the first business group in California to support AB 32 and successfully negotiated language that made the bill business friendly. The Bay Area Council recognized then the threat of climate change to the economy and quality of life, and also saw an opportunity for California to become a global leader in clean technology and related fields. “The threats that existed in 2006, when AB 32 was first adopted, still exist today,” said Wunderman. “But so do the opportunities.”