

SF Mayor to Join Council's China Green Energy Conference

In a speech at yesterday's joint Board of Directors and Executive Committee meeting, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom confirmed he will be joining the Council's groundbreaking two-day conference on green energy in Shanghai, China on November 13-14. While she has not yet confirmed, Senator Dianne Feinstein has also expressed strong interest in joining the event. The high-level interest is likely due to the participants – the top CEOs, academics and government leaders from both sides of the Pacific – and the sheer importance of the issue. Both the U.S. and China face major challenges in the areas of security, long-term economic competitiveness, and global warming. Energy is at the center of all three, making it arguably the most important problem that we must solve in the coming decades. While there are no magic bullets, the answer clearly lies in increasing energy efficiency in the short term and developing sustainable, carbon-neutral energy sources over the longer term. Our Shanghai event is the first major program in China to bring together leading renewable energy and clean technology specialists from the business sector in China and California, as well as nationwide participants from China and the U.S. representing business, government, and academia. The Bay Area and Shanghai in particular are rapidly emerging as global centers for clean energy technology development and investment, offering enormous potential for collaboration. More information will be coming, but contact Kristen Durham or John Grubb at the Council with questions in the meantime.



State Water Controversy Boils Over

In a series of body blow punches to the status quo on water issues, the past seven days have witnessed nearly nonstop large-scale political action. Last Friday, Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Feinstein released a [\\$9.3 billion water bond proposal](#). Speaker Bass and Senate Pro Tem Perata responded early this week with a [proposal to spend more than \\$800 million](#) of existing bond money on potentially different projects. Yesterday, an influential [group released a report](#) backing a new Peripheral Canal. The Bay Area Council's Water Committee is moving quickly to process the information and stake our position with our allies and partners.

Articles of the Week

Local voters will get a chance in November to approve a quarter-cent sales tax to fund a [Sonoma-Marine commuter train](#), and, likely, a sales tax to [bring BART to San Jose](#).

Quote of the Week

[On state budget negotiations](#): "I can only get the horse to the water," Governor Schwarzenegger said, "but I can't make it drink." Senate Republican leader Dave Cogdill replied: "We're not going to drink any tax increases."

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