



So This Is Washington D.C.?!

The Bay Area Council Delegation got a true taste of Washington D.C. this week – from high powered meetings on Capitol Hill to being caught in a colossal traffic jam thanks to the dueling motorcades of three heads of state. The Delegation heard inside the beltway commentary from *Washington Post* columnist and Pulitzer Prize-winner David Broder and CNN pundit Donna Brazile. They went to Capitol Hill for a meeting with Speaker Pelosi and members of the Bay Area delegation, plus a meeting with Senator Boxer. They squeezed in meetings at the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy and the State Department. They met with President Obama Cabinet member Ron Kirk, who, as the U.S. Trade Representative is responsible for all current and future free trade deals. They had dinner with Senator Dianne Feinstein. They went to the White House Executive Office Building and met with: Larry Summers, Director of the White House's National Economic Council; Christina Romer, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors; Carol Browner, President Obama's global warming czar; Van Jones, President Obama's Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; Vivek Kundra, Federal Chief Information Officer; and Matt Rogers who is in charge of the stimulus funds for the Department of Energy. And they attended a Washington Nationals ball game – all of this in under 48 hours!



We thank the Silicon Valley Leadership Group for partnering with us on some key meetings. We also want to thank the Delegation for their support strengthening our relationships in D.C. and pushing the Bay Area Council agenda. We are sure we will all remember the day – especially those whose clothes are still being dry-cleaned – that we were caught in a security quagmire caused by Afghan President Karzai and Pakistani Prime Minister Zardari and finding shelter from the rain among the columns of the Supreme Court.

Story of the Week

The [Fresno Bee](#) covers Assembly GOP leader Mike Villines resignation over the budget deal he helped negotiate. The new leader is [Sam Blakeslee](#) from San Luis Obispo, one of the two original bi-partisan sponsors of bills calling for a constitutional convention.