



Staff Report

Subject: Summary of 2025 ACC-OC Sacramento Advocacy Trip

Introduction

A delegation of 40 members from across the Orange County region, including elected officials and regional agency leaders, participated in a series of meetings in Sacramento. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss key policy priorities, legislative initiatives, and funding opportunities with state agencies, legislators, and policy experts. The delegation engaged in productive discussions on such as housing, transportation, environmental sustainability, and economic development.

MEETINGS SUMMARY

State Agencies and Boards

- **California State Water Resources Control Board (Joaquin Esquivel, Chair)**
 - Discussed strategies for expanding water storage and supply reliability.
 - Addressed funding opportunities for stormwater capture, groundwater replenishment, and recycled water projects and PFAS.
- **California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) (Donna Berry, Deputy Director)**
 - Outlined funding mechanisms for local transportation improvements.
 - Reviewed efforts to streamline project delivery and regulatory processes.
- **Housing and Community Development (HCD) (Director Gustavo Velasquez & Deputy Director Megan Kirkeby)**
 - Explored approaches to balance state housing mandates with local control.
 - Discussed funding opportunities for affordable housing.
- **California Department of Insurance (Michael Martinez, Chief Deputy)**
 - Addressed concerns over rising insurance premiums and market stability.
 - Discussed the Commissioner's Sustainable Insurance Strategy, which went into effect December 2024.



- **California Air Resources Board (CARB) (Liane Randolph, Chair)**
 - Provided updates on sustainability initiatives and funding opportunities for cities to transition to clean energy.
- **California Department of Aging (CDA) (Ana Acton & Jackie Tompkins, Deputy Directors)**
 - Discussed aging-in-place initiatives and expanded services for seniors.
 - Highlighted the Master Plan for Aging.
- **Commission for Behavioral Health (Tom Orrock, Deputy Director of Operations)**
 - Addressed mental health funding and implementation of Prop 1.
 - Discussed oversight of sober living homes and regulatory improvements.
- **Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, GoBiz (Tyson Eckerle, Senior Advisor for Clean Infrastructure and Mobility)**
 - GoBiz offers online tools for economic development, permitting, and business incentives by connecting local governments and businesses with state and federal funding opportunities.
 - GoBiz is actively working with UC Irvine on a project focused on carbon emissions reduction and sustainability with discussion on how this fits into California's broader climate goals and could serve as a model for other regions.

Legislative Offices

Assemblymembers

- Matt Haney, Chair, Housing and Community Development Committee
- James Gallagher, Assembly Republican Leader
- Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair, Utilities & Energy
- Tri Ta, Vice Chair, Local Government and Revenue & Taxation
- Tom Lackey, Vice Chair, Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Public Employment & Retirement



- Heath Flora, Vice Chair, Budget
- Joe Patterson, Vice Chair, HCD, Utilities and Energy, Health
- Laurie Davies, Vice Chair, Transportation, Military and Veterans Affairs
- Kate Sanchez, Vice Chair, Appropriations

Senators

- Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Vice Chair, Human Services and Energy, Utilities, and Communications
- Steven Choi, Vice Chair, Local Government, Business, Professions, and Economic Development
- Kelly Seyarto, Vice Chair, Appropriations, Housing, Natural Resources & Water, Public Safety
- Dave Cortese, Chair, Transportation
- Brian Jones, Senate Minority Leader
- Anna Caballero, Chair, Appropriations
- Mike McGuire, Senate President Pro Tem

Resources for Follow-Up

CalTrans Progressive Design Build

[The Progressive Design-Build \(PD-B\) Program](#) is an innovative delivery method that is a 2-phase variation of Design-Build. PD-B involves the design-build team during the earliest stages of project development to provide a design up to 100% design then agree to a price for final design and construction.

California Sustainable Insurance Strategy

[California's Sustainable Insurance Strategy](#) represents a proactive and comprehensive approach to safeguarding the interests of Californians in the face of climate change challenges. By taking these decisive actions, Commissioner Lara and Governor Gavin Newsom aim to foster a sustainable insurance market that will benefit consumers and businesses across the state, ensuring a safer and more secure future for all.



California Climate Investments

California has over 110 programs directing billions of dollars into the State's transition to a low-carbon and more equitable future. Resources include:

- **Funding Opportunities:** Available to local governments for sustainability initiatives.
- **Resource Portal:** Provides information for applicants, policymakers, and program administrators.
- **Community Connections Directory:** Connects agencies with local organizations for project collaboration.
- **Newsletter and Listserv:** Stay updated on news, funding opportunities, and policy updates.

Clean Truck & Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP)

HVIP offers point-of-purchase vouchers to help offset the cost of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. Local government entities are eligible to apply. [More information available here.](#)

California Department of Aging & Master Plan for Aging

The delegation received information on the California Master Plan for Aging (MPA), which outlines statewide initiatives for supporting older adults. Available resources include:

1. [Orange County: Older Adult Profile and California Profile](#)
2. [Fourth Master Plan for Aging Annual Report \(PDF\)](#)
3. [2025-26 Master Plan for Aging Initiatives \(PDF\)](#)
4. **Statewide Webinar: California's Commitment to an Age and Ability-Forward State**
 - [Webinar Video Recording](#)
 - [PowerPoint Slide Deck](#)
5. [Master Plan for Aging: Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
6. [Master Plan for Aging: Long-Term Services and Supports System Change \(PDF\)](#)
7. [California Department of Aging: Core Programs Overview \(PDF\)](#)



The [No Wrong Door System](#) ensures that older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers can access services and support regardless of where they seek help. Key aspects include:

- No Wrong Door Access: Individuals can receive assistance from any entry point—whether through healthcare, social services, or community organizations.
- Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC): A statewide network providing person-centered counseling, information, and referrals.
- Streamlined Navigation: Reduces bureaucratic barriers, allowing individuals to find the right services without being turned away or redirected multiple times.
- Cross-Sector Collaboration: Integrates services from healthcare, housing, transportation, and social support systems to ensure holistic care.
- Equity & Inclusion: Ensures that underserved populations have access to culturally competent and linguistically appropriate resources.
- Technology Integration: Uses data-sharing and digital tools to enhance coordination between service providers.
- To stay connected, sign up for the [MPA and CDA e-newsletter](#).

Commission for Behavioral Health

- Youth Drop-In Centers: Expanding early access to mental health care for youth between 12 and 25 years of age and their families
 - Designed by youth for the youth
 - Services offered:
 - Counseling
 - Parenting classes
 - Family support
 - Employment support
 - Example Location: Redondo Beach
 - [Website Link](#)
- Upcoming Grant Opportunities
 - **Maternal Behavioral Health Initiative** (RFA 0-5/MBH-001)
 - **Focus:** Behavioral health support for **pregnant women & children aged 0-5**.
 - [More details on the grant](#)
 - **Advocacy for K-12 Student Population** (RFP K-12-003)
 - **Focus:** Advocacy and mental health support for **K-12 students**.
 - [More details on the grant](#)



CalHFA Resources

- [CalHFA FHA Program](#)
 - Offers 30-year fixed-rate FHA loans for first-time homebuyers
 - Can be combined with down payment assistance programs
- [Multifamily Programs](#)
 - Provides low-interest financing for affordable rental housing development
 - Included programs for new construction, rehabilitation, and preservation
- [California Dream For All Shared Appreciation Loan](#)
 - Helps first-time homebuyers with down payment assistance
 - Borrowers share a portion of home appreciation with the state upon resale
 - Interest rates and repayment terms depend on appreciation
- [California Mortgage Relief Program](#)
 - Provides grants (not loans) to homeowners behind on mortgage payments due to financial hardship
 - Covers delinquent mortgage, property taxes, and insurance

Senate Golden State Commitment Wildfire Package

Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire and a broad coalition of Senators from all corners of the Golden State have announced a sweeping legislative effort to strengthen California's wildfire response and recovery, and to make communities more wildfire safe.

[Click to View Legislative Package Here.](#)

GoBiz Incentives, Grants, and Financing

GoBiz regularly provides information and opportunities for state programs to help local governments attract and retain business. [Click HERE for current initiatives.](#)

Programs include:

- California Competes Tax Credit
- California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA)
- Research & Development Tax Credit
- ZEV (zero-emission vehicles) Funding Opportunities
- Employment Training Panel
- Economic Development Rate Program



Conclusion

The delegation's meetings in Sacramento provided valuable insights into legislative priorities, agency programs, and funding opportunities, offering a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape affecting local governance. These discussions not only shed light on immediate policy concerns but also highlighted long-term strategic opportunities for Orange County. Moving forward, continued engagement with state leaders and agencies will be critical in advancing Orange County's policy goals and ensuring that the region's interests are effectively represented in Sacramento. To deepen this connection and foster collaboration, ACC-OC will host its BOLD Programs (Better Opportunities for Learning and Development) in partnership with several key agencies. These programs will provide an in-depth exploration of policies, programs, and opportunities related to critical issues. By engaging directly with policymakers and stakeholders through these programs, ACC-OC will help shape a more informed and proactive approach to addressing the region's needs, while building lasting relationships that support Orange County's long-term growth and success.

Additional Resources:

- [ACC-OC State Issues Brief](#)
- [ACC-OC 2025 Legislative Bill Positions](#)
- [ACC-OC 2025-2026 Policy Guidelines](#)