

## WEEKLY FLASH

### Council Members Talk Competitiveness With Poizner

“There are more people in China studying English than Americans who speak it,” stated State Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner, referring to just one of the competitiveness realities facing the Bay Area, California and the U.S., at the Council’s Leadership Forum event last Friday, generously hosted by Webcor Builders at its office in San Mateo. Commissioner Poizner also reflected on other competitiveness issues, such as the need for an overhaul of our current K-12 school system and the need for a more effective governance structure. The Commissioner also spoke on achievements made during his tenure in the insurance industry, such as workers compensation, but also spoke of the increasing insurance fraud that his organization is heavily focusing on.



### Large Housing Development Proposals Reviewed

The Bay Area Council [Housing Endorsement Committee](#) met this week and reviewed two very impressive development proposals in Walnut Creek and Redwood City. The committee also voted unanimously to support Proposition G in San Francisco, a measure that would give the green light to the development of the Hunters Point Shipyard, and voted to oppose Proposition F, a measure that would effectively halt that same development by imposing a 50% affordable mandate. The committee felt this requirement could have regional implications by spreading to other cities, and needs to be stopped in its tracks.



### Opportunities for Statewide Water Consensus Explored

At Wednesday’s [Water Policy Committee](#) meeting, members heard several expert presentations, including a jarring description of the earthquake/flood vulnerabilities of the Mokelumne Aqueduct which traverses the Delta and serves EBMUD customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Google.org’s Frank Rijsberman presented “[New Thinking about California Water](#),” and agreed to follow-up with a comprehensive proposal that details the necessary steps to achieve the committee’s vision for reliable water supply for California. The committee also heard a [presentation](#) by Randy Raines of RMC Water and Environment, regarding the potential for water recycling projects.

### Article of the Week

[KGO-TV did a pre-story](#) leading up to the Bay Area Council’s [Venture Capital Summit](#) in Shanghai, taking place on May 22-23.

### Quote of the Week

“Our lottery is 28th in the nation when you compare it with other states. And you know, California doesn't like to be 28th in anything, we like to be number one.” - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, as he [unveiled a revised version of his budget](#).

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