

WEEKLY FLASH

Senator Steinberg Meets with Council

Today the next President Pro Tem of the California State Senate, [Darrell Steinberg](#), broke bread with more than 50 Council members at our Leadership Forum luncheon. Senator Steinberg paid great respect to the Bay Area Council and praised the civic activists in its membership. He outlined his two top priorities – public education reform and enforcing regionalism – plus touched on other issues important to the Bay Area.



Connecting the state’s high dropout rate with curriculum irrelevant to the future careers of many students, Senator Steinberg proposes to tie secondary school education more firmly to career pathways. This would keep students more interested in their coursework and lower the dropout rate. He promised big benefits to businesses – either bond funds or tax credits – that teach in schools or otherwise participate in this career pathway program. Senator Steinberg also endorsed an education data management system that the Council is aggressively supporting that would track students from the time they start school through workforce entry. Such a system could serve as a flashlight to illuminate where things go wrong - or right – in a child’s education. Preaching to the eager choir, Senator Steinberg named regionalism as his second top priority, since “significant problems know no geographical boundaries.” The Senator proposes using the infrastructure bonds passed in November of 2006 as a carrot to motivate local cities and counties to embrace regionalism. When asked about water, the Senator said that a water deal could take place this year, and if it does not, it would be a top priority for him next year. To encourage an agreement he proposes to set aside funds for non-specific “water storage” and allow storage plans to be vetted based on “public benefit” and “cost-effectiveness.” This would achieve the needed compromise between Republicans and Democrats. He asked Bay Area Council members to meet with him frequently and President Jim Wunderman promised the organizations full support as Senator Steinberg tackles the state’s biggest problems.



Article of the Week

[This Article](#) in the Mercury News covers the results of the *Bay Area Economic Profile* released this week, which analyzes the region’s changing economy and global competitiveness.

Quote of the Week

"Random hunters aren't being spied on by their government." – Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey [about aerial drones hunting](#) California pot growers in national forests.