

WEEKLY FLASH



Board of Directors Gather at NASA Ames Research Center

Both the agenda and room were full as the Board of Directors met yesterday to review the year's accomplishments and discuss and approve key changes to strengthen the organization. Several members asked that we share the top accomplishments again. Here are the top four:



When the proposed Prop 1B highway funding shortchanged the Bay Area, we generated a deafening 300-story media campaign, coupled with political pressure, that eventually **increased the Bay Area's share by \$1 billion**, from \$686 million to \$1.69 billion. The editorial boards of the *SJ Mercury News*, the *SF Chronicle*, the *Contra Costa Times*, and the *Oakland Tribune* all specifically credited and thanked the Bay Area Council for its work.

Created and signed the **first region-to-region economic development agreement, ever**—signing it with the Yangtze-Shanghai, China region. The agreement establishes economic collaboration among Bay Area and Yangtze region companies in several key areas including information technology, biotech, green technology, digital arts, urban development, goods movement and financial services.



Drove a **vast increase in ferry service** to help our region after the Big One, as well as relieve day-to-day traffic congestion, by creating the Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) with Senate Bill 976. Called the most significant legislation of the year by some, SB 976 consolidates existing service, locks in \$250 million to start building the system, and permits WETA to access a host of additional public transit and homeland security funding pots.

Operating at the nucleus of the negotiations on massive changes to the state's main water system, the Delta. Seen as an influential and honest broker in these negotiations, the Council got nearly all of the players to agree to data-driven decision making, instead of political maneuvering, for the first time ever, **creating an exit strategy from one of California's worst water crises.**



Article of the Week

The [Associated Press](#) covers the significant progress healthcare negotiations in Sacramento made this week. The Council is putting out a statement supporting the negotiations.

Quote of the Week

"We've known that things were going to get bad, and they are." – Senator Perata on a predicted shortfall in the state budget next year of [as much as \\$11 billion](#).

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