

WEEKLY FLASH

Council's Education Reform Effort Gets Rolling

California's sub-par public education system has been called our most intractable problem, but a bipartisan-commissioned set of studies led by Stanford University has cracked open a genuine opportunity for real changes next year. Indeed, the crisis has gotten so bad that all of the key players, from the unions, to the administrators, to the business community, to the school boards have come to the table, and the [Stanford "Getting Down to Facts"](#) studies are serving as an agreed upon foundation of facts. The Bay Area Council is already working on most of the categories of reform identified by the Stanford studies, but we have taken an early and acknowledged statewide lead on "data system reform." This is a natural fit for our members who know the mantra "What gets measured, gets managed." At a recent Education Committee meeting led by committee Chair Andy Ball, President & CEO of Webcor Builders, about 60 members and stakeholders heard that California is, in essence, blindly spending \$66 billion a year because we don't know what works or doesn't work in the education system. The Bay Area Council is therefore working with the Governor's administration, legislators and others to bring some of the best parts of [Florida's education data system](#) – considered the best in the country – to California, which has the 48th worst system. NASA Ames has graciously lent us a senior advisor named Patty Jones who studied the topic. Florida's system tracks students beyond K-12 and instead uses "P-20" to see how students perform from preschool all the way into the workforce, or end up in the prison system or on social services, such as welfare. We will continue the work on data reform with the goal to introduce legislation next session in what Governor Schwarzenegger has deemed "The Year of Education Reform." Contact Education Vice President [Linda Galliher](#) at 415-946-8708 if you would like to be involved.



Office Flooded With Emergency Water Transit Support

An astonishing number of members responded to an Action Alert yesterday to register their official support for Senate Bill 976 with Assemblymember Mark Desaulnier. Assemblymember Desaulnier intends to submit a series of Council-backed amendments today, via the Local Government Committee. If successful, as expected, the bill will then head to the Assembly Floor and then to the Senate for concurrence.



Article of the Week

This [Sacramento Bee](#) story covers the California Hospital Association's decision to back a 4% hospital revenue fee, giving the Governor's health reform effort critical momentum.

Quote of the Week

"With this change, commercial building tenants will have a new opportunity to control their energy costs and help protect the environment." – PUC Commissioner Rachelle Chong on a decision to [allow electricity meters](#) for individual commercial tenants in the PG&E territory.

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