



## How to Stay Informed and Make Your Point in Sacramento

1. **Know the Legislative Process.** Assign staff to monitor bills important to your agency. CALCOG has posted a number of helpful resources at [www.calcog.org/legresources](http://www.calcog.org/legresources).
2. **Monitor Legislation.** Use CALCOG's [legislative tracking tool](#). Bills are listed in order but can be sorted by subject. Each link will have a summary, supporter and opponent lists, vote histories, and committee analysis, and the language. Use the Calendar function to see the bills organized by committee hearing date. You can then watch most hearings via Assembly and Senate web casts. Links to each are on the front page of their respective websites.
3. **Submit Your Support or Oppose Letters to CALCOG.** We also post position letters to the bill tracker so that (ideally) all of our member letters can be found in one place.
4. **Know Your Representatives.** Get to know your Senate and Assembly representatives and their staff in the district and Capitol offices. Understand what motivates them. Become a resource for them. Educate them on issues. Provide them with regular updates.
5. **Get to Know Key Committee Staff.** The bills of greatest interest often run through the same policy committee. Get to know the consultants for that committee. A good time establish a relationship is after the Legislature adjourns in the fall (when they have more time).
6. **Work Your Local Press.** Get to know your local press. Inform them of the local angles on key legislation. Legislators will pay attention. Voters often care most about local issues.
7. **Build Local Coalitions.** Prospects include business groups, social equity groups, environmentalists, developers, and unions—just to start.
8. **Subscribe to the Morning Report.** The Morning Report provides daily information about Capitol building news, schedules, press, fund raisers, appointments, and more. CALCOG has purchased bulk licenses that are available to our members at more than a 50% discount.
9. **Adopt Legislative Principles.** Adopting principles will enable your staff to take actions that are consistent with the principles quickly. It's helpful when dealing with amendments and other legislative deadlines. CALCOG has several examples on its [Legislative Resource](#) page.
10. **Make Your Lobbyist Aware of Statewide Concerns.** If you have a registered lobbyist, inform them of CALCOG priorities as well as your own. Encourage them to work with CALCOG and other regional lobbyists. It will make the regional voice more effective in Sacramento.
11. **Don't Forget About the Regulatory Process.** Many times, technical regulation updates overlap with legislative concerns. Technical staff providing comments should consult with staff monitoring bills to identify issues that warrant fuller attention.
12. **Use CALCOG as a Resource.** Call us for information and ideas. Let us know how you are willing to help on key bills. Visit the CALCOG's website for updates. CALCOG is here to help!