Let’s Bond Over Infrastructure

California will have the opportunity to embark on a comprehensive program this fall to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and make new investments for our future growth. We urge California voters to embrace Propositions 1A through 1E and we are proud to be a leader in this effort.

Thanks to a display of bipartisanship leadership, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, and Speaker Fabian Núñez came together to craft this critical set of proposals. They know, as do we, that California’s future depends on finding ways to improve transportation, build schools, strengthen levees, develop housing and improve emergency facilities. Propositions 1A through 1E do just that.

The Chamber has long been an advocate to get the state to embark on such a plan. Last year we convened a special Infrastructure Task Force to study what areas are in the greatest need of investment. We met with the Schwarzenegger administration and state legislators to share the business community’s priorities and objectives throughout the process. And infrastructure was the major theme of this year’s Access Sacramento trip in March, when more than 100 business and civic leaders descended on the State Capitol urging lawmakers to push ahead.

Our lobbying efforts paid off, and the measures will be before the voters on Nov. 7.

- Proposition 1A will permanently dedicate the gasoline sales tax revenue to transportation purposes to prevent raising these funds for general purposes, which has occurred in the past.
- Proposition 1B will fund $19.9 billion to improve local streets, expand public transportation, reduce highway traffic congestion and improve port security.
- Proposition 1C dedicates $2.85 billion for affordable housing funds to build new schools, modernize existing facilities, relieve over crowded schools and invest in workforce development programs.
- Proposition 1D provides $10.4 billion in school construction funds to build new schools, modernize existing facilities, relieve overcrowded schools and invest in workforce development programs.
- Proposition 1E will make $4.09 billion available for emergency preparedness and flood protection, especially among California’s vulnerable levee system.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of a positive vote on Propositions 1A through 1E in November. These infrastructure needs have been growing for 30 years and must be addressed. The result of this ballot will affect the economic vitality of every business and the quality of life for every citizen.

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on Friday, Aug. 18.

It is an investment in our future and your business.

And that’s The Business Perspective.

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The Business Perspective is a weekly opinion piece by Gary Toebben, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, produced with the input of Senior Policy Advisor Rusty Hammer.