

C/CAG Legislative Committee Functional Description

The mission of the Legislative Committee is to review legislative actions at the State level that impact the whole of San Mateo County. Each year, the Committee outlines to C/CAG staff which issues are of primary importance. However, members of the committee, or legislative delegates may request C/CAG to take a position on any bill.

Staff, with the aid of a lobbyist in Sacramento, reviews, researches, analyzes, and brings to the attention of the committee legislative actions relevant to those issues. Staff may offer recommendations to the committee but the committee provides the final decision to the C/CAG board as to what form of action the board should take.

On existing legislative bills that have countywide significance, the committee may choose to take the following action: to watch, to support, support with amendments, oppose, or remain neutral. Staff will then track the bill and alert the committee or board if any additional action is required. In many instances, a letter of support or opposition to the legislative delegate may be all that is required.

On issues that arise, such as changes in the interpretation of an existing statute, the committee may ask the lobbyist to determine if any legislative action is required. The lobbyist may recommend a review by the legislative counsel. The counsel may offer its own interpretation, or may recommend that further action be taken such as authorizing a bill to clarify the intent of the statute.

On issues of highest priority, the committee may direct staff to seek one or more legislative delegates to sponsor the bill. Staff will then work with the lobbyist under the direction of the legislative delegate, Assembly Committee staff, Senate Committee staff, and or Governor's Legislative Staff to craft a bill that will pass. Legislative issues that encompass areas outside of San Mateo County may require staff to discuss, negotiate, and collaborate with the other jurisdictions on the details of the bill.

Staff has been directed by the committee to research the potential of using a lobbyist at the Federal level. So far, staff has contacted the County to investigate the possibility of sharing the County's federal lobbyist to determine if there are any federal issues that may impact C/CAG. No further action has been taken on this front.