

# CALIFORNIA REBUILD AMERICA COALITION

ANNUAL REPORT 2003



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

California is at a vital juncture in determining the future viability of its physical infrastructure. The infrastructure facilities and systems built by our predecessors are approaching or have exceeded their life and design capacity. With funds allocated far below what's necessary, Californians will continue to suffer as infrastructure maintenance is deferred year after year. At the same time, the state population is growing at a net rate of 600,000 people per year.

As the incoming Chairman for the California Rebuild America Coalition (CalRAC), I look forward to continuing our efforts to build consensus and take action on several critical infrastructure issues facing California.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, members and staff, it's my pleasure to provide you with CalRAC's 2003 Annual Report.

The past year has been a pivotal one for CalRAC. With a growing membership and expanding services, we continue to be the leading voice on California infrastructure issues. Here's a brief sample of what we've accomplished in 2003 toward more investment into infrastructure:

- Promoting and building statewide support for the California 21st Century Infrastructure Investment Fund (ACA 11/Proposition 53)
- Issuing three brochures as part of our Focus on California Infrastructure series: Public Buildings, School Facilities and Water Supply
- Sponsoring regional infrastructure evaluations and generating regional consensus building through the Regional Report Cards process in Los Angeles and Orange Counties

In May, CalRAC hired its first full-service public affairs and association management firm - Barnes Mosher Whitehurst Lauter & Partners (BMW & Partners). With offices in San Francisco and Sacramento, BMW & Partners now gives CalRAC a permanent home in the Capital along with broader regional and statewide reach. Working together with Sarah Layton Wallace, whose hard work and vision allowed CalRAC to make great strides over the past three years, BMW's John Whitehurst, Beth Miller and Mark Capitolo round out our new CalRAC team. You can reach them at our new Sacramento headquarters: 1121 L Street, Suite 401, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916/442-5000 phone, 916/443-5150 fax.

We can still be found on the web at [www.calrac.org](http://www.calrac.org) and by email at [info@calrac.org](mailto:info@calrac.org).

In addition, we've updated CalRAC's organizational structure to be more responsive to the needs of our membership, amended our bylaws and restructured the Board of Directors to reflect our recent growth. Now, an executive committee of the Board, on which members representing each sector and region of CalRAC members will serve, will make the day-to-day decisions necessary for a more effective and efficient statewide organization.

We've also expanded the Board to 25 members in order to boost member participation and discussion on issues CalRAC should be focusing on at the state and local levels.

The successes chronicled within this 2003 Annual Report would not have been achieved without your participation. We are depending on your continued involvement and renewed commitment as a CalRAC member to advocate for increased dollars directed at our growing infrastructure needs.

With an increase in membership comes an increase in resources that are essential to the continued development and effectiveness of the California Rebuild America Coalition. This is why we remain focused on outreach to include even greater numbers of non-profit organizations, regional organizations and financial and business communities.

We know 2004 will present many challenges and important opportunities for California and CalRAC. We look forward to tackling these issues together.

Best regards,



Chris McKenzie  
Chairman, CalRAC  
*Executive Director, League of California Cities*

## CALIFORNIA REBUILD AMERICA COALITION

California's physical infrastructure facilities and systems are public assets, intricately tied to our quality of life and economic vitality. The California Rebuild America Coalition (CalRAC) understands that it will take more than one-time expenditures during good economic cycles to achieve infrastructure facilities and systems capable of meeting California's current and future needs.

Today more than ever, it is paramount for California to invest in its infrastructure. In the three years since its incorporation, CalRAC has been the catalyst in developing and driving this public policy debate and public voice for action. Last year, CalRAC's long-established mission — to build support for dedicated and consistent sources of funding for infrastructure facilities and systems at levels sufficient to sustain them — was more clearly defined. We focused on five areas within the current infrastructure dialogue:

- Safeguarding existing infrastructure funds
- Dedicating a percentage of the general fund to infrastructure
- Supporting the repair and upgrade of water resources infrastructure
- Supporting the repair and upgrade of public facilities
- Fostering an asset management approach to infrastructure planning

CalRAC has emerged as a key player in shaping the debate on infrastructure, with solid results. This Annual Report chronicles the strides CalRAC has made this year and the efforts underway for the year ahead.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Creating a Dedicated Source of Funding for Infrastructure

#### California 21st Century Infrastructure Investment Fund

One of CalRAC's highest priorities and chief successes was our efforts to win legislative approval of ACA11, which would create the California 21st Century Infrastructure Investment Fund. From its conception, ACA 11 was a high priority for CalRAC members, who showed their support through grassroots communications including letter writing, testifying at the state Capitol, and calling members of the Legislature. CalRAC went to work educating as many stakeholders as possible through article placement and one-on-one meetings. Thanks to CalRAC members' efforts, ACA 11 overcame extreme legislative obstacles and will go before the voters at the special statewide election on October 7, 2003, as Proposition 53. If approved, Proposition 53 will provide a dedicated financing source for state and local infrastructure projects from a committed portion of the state's general fund.

## Communicating California's Infrastructure Investment Needs

CalRAC has utilized a variety of communications methods and tools over the past year to involve California's leaders and residents in the long and difficult task of rebuilding, upgrading and expanding our infrastructure facilities and systems.

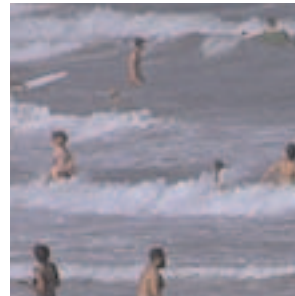
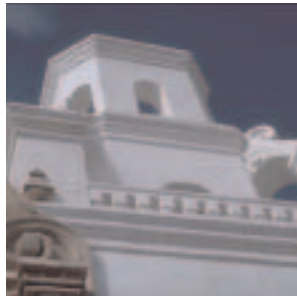
### *Focus On California Infrastructure Brochures*

As part of our efforts to closely examine and communicate the particular investment needs and challenges of individual components of the state's infrastructure, this year CalRAC produced the following three brochures as part of our *Focus on California* series:

**Public Buildings:** "The current stock of public buildings in California — schools, police and fire stations, courthouses — is deficient and will become more so without increased investment."

**School Facilities:** "Even the most innovative educational reforms can't work unless children have decent places to learn. Unless more is done to help districts build and repair schools, the growing facilities crisis will undermine the state's ambitious reform agenda."

**Water Supply:** "Decades of under-investment have left California's water system outdated and struggling to meet demands...stringent new standards for safe drinking water and clean water are placing more pressure on the system. Meeting those standards will be an enormous challenge, requiring significant new investments in our infrastructure and advanced technology."



The *Focus* brochures, issued quarterly, were sponsored this year by Harris & Associates, California School Boards Association and Association of California Water Agencies, respectively.

LOS ANGELES  
EDITION

### Daily News

#### State needs to spend the money to rebuild itself

by Sarah Layton Wallace

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2003 —The emphasis on rebuilding infrastructure in the reconstruction of Iraq is a somber reminder that a working infrastructure is essential to the economy and livability of a country—or a state.

Yet California's infrastructure—which is vital to the daily lives of 35 million Californians—has been allowed to steadily decline, despite the state's enormous population growth.

While infrastructure needed to rebuild Iraq will no doubt be portrayed as a long-term investment, multibillion-dollar infrastructure projects in California have in large part been seen as budgetbusting, one-time expenditures.

This view has led to a haphazard approach to funding needed to build sewer systems, roads, transit, water delivery systems, parks and other vital projects.

Avoiding maintenance to save money ultimately costs taxpayers more and reduces the value of public assets.

The need is pressing on all fronts. [...]

#### National Public Works Week Resolution and Opinion Editorial

The week of May 18 – 24 commemorated our nation's public works efforts, allowing CalRAC to seize the opportunity to highlight the important role of infrastructure in California's economy. The result was Legislative resolution, ACR 78, ensuring the Legislature's commitment to finding and implementing solutions to the infrastructure funding challenges, while recognizing the important work that CalRAC and its member organizations have contributed.

To raise awareness beyond the State Capitol, CalRAC authored an opinion editorial in the *Los Angeles Daily News* that was printed during National Public Works Week drawing much-needed attention to California's steadily-declining infrastructure facilities.

## Media Relations: State and Local

The quarterly release of quality materials on infrastructure continues to establish CalRAC as a credible, interesting media resource for reporters covering infrastructure issues. CalRAC's increased ability to provide local sources to news outlets makes it more likely that CalRAC will be successful in generating the coverage necessary to raise awareness of California's infrastructure challenges.

The increased media coverage has also positively impacted our dialogues with elected officials, public policy makers and other opinion leaders in the State Capitol and across the state.

In addition, CalRAC-authored fact sheets, articles and presentations that outline and convey a series of key messages that allow our voices to be heard. This is most evident in the member-sponsored *Focus* brochure series. Once a *Focus* brochure is produced, CalRAC works with the member-sponsor to articulate to a wide variety of audiences the particular investment needs and challenges presented. For example, to support the release of the *Focus: School Facilities* brochure, CalRAC worked with the California School Boards Association to identify local school board members who could speak with the media and provide a local perspective on the issue.

## CalRAC Infrastructure Brief

The twice-weekly CalRAC's Infrastructure Brief, e-mailed to more than 2200 subscribers, has become the vehicle of choice for delivery of up-to-date infrastructure news and events. Also featured on the CalRAC website, the Infrastructure Brief directs traffic to the CalRAC home page, which continues to serve as a gateway to California infrastructure information.



## Assessing California's Regional Infrastructure Needs

This year the CalRAC leadership made regional consensus-building a major priority for Coalition activities, dedicating substantial staff time to working with CalRAC members to use the regional infrastructure report card process to bring together key stakeholders in major regions of the state to begin to work collaboratively in pursuit of infrastructure funding.

### Regional Infrastructure Report Cards

What began with the Southern California chapter of CalRAC, working in collaboration with a wide range of other organizations and stakeholders to craft infrastructure report cards for Orange County and Los Angeles County, has taken hold across the state. The report cards, similar to the one done on a national scale by the American Society of Civil Engineers, encouraged cities, counties, business organizations, universities and engineering organizations to come together to highlight infrastructure needs in Southern California.

CalRAC staff provided guidance, feedback and support. Coalition members were very active in leading the efforts through the development of methodologies, organization of data gathering and evaluation of the data for the report card. Equally important, CalRAC members have been facilitating communication efforts aimed at getting the word out to the public and the press.

Building on the success of the Orange and Los Angeles Counties' report cards, regular working sessions are in progress in San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area. These regional report cards, slated for release in 2004, will result in a quality product and newly-forged relationships and alliances.

## Promoting Asset Management

In 2001, CalRAC produced *Protecting the Public Infrastructure: GASB Statement 34* to explain to policymakers and infrastructure practitioners at the state and local levels the value of an asset management approach to maintaining state, regional and local infrastructure. This year, CalRAC continued to drive this key dialogue through meetings with state and local elected officials and during asset management seminars regarding state compliance with GASB 34 and the potential for a five-year capital facilities plan.

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE CALIFORNIA REBUILD AMERICA COALITION

CalRAC made important progress during its third year by adding to the number of local governments involved in the work of the Coalition as well as the firms who assist them in planning, financing, building, managing and maintaining infrastructure assets.

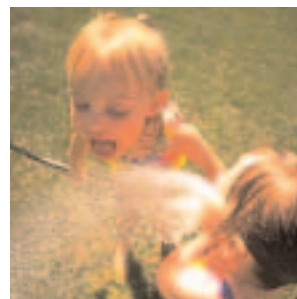
This spring the Coalition stepped up its efforts to inform, grow and activate its network of infrastructure advocates around the state to foster and impact public policy debates centered on a renewed commitment to maintaining and building quality California infrastructure. CalRAC membership includes California cities, counties, corporations, special districts, regional organizations and non-profit organizations that represent those impacted by infrastructure investment policy.

You can become involved in building support for adequate infrastructure funding by joining CalRAC. Your membership enables CalRAC to create, share and use the communication tools necessary to build support for infrastructure investment.

As a member, we encourage you to get involved in CalRAC activities at the regional level to bring the infrastructure message to decision makers, media and the public in your region as well as deliver your region's perspective to state-level decision makers.

Members benefit from current, comprehensive infrastructure news, influence the Coalition's agenda, are the first to receive the public information tools created by CalRAC and are recognized in CalRAC correspondence and activities with the public, policymakers and the media.

Take action and communicate the need to the stakeholders and policymakers who decide infrastructure investment in your region and across the state as a respected member of the California Rebuild America Coalition.



## LOOKING AHEAD

**A**s California continues to struggle with its severe fiscal and budget crises, it is clear that our work as CalRAC members is more imperative than ever. CalRAC will continue to raise awareness about the dangerous state of our infrastructure and the urgent need for investment for its maintenance, upgrades and construction – even in tough budgetary times.

Perhaps no other measure strikes as close to the heart of CalRAC's mission than the creation of the California 21st Century Infrastructure Investment Fund (ACA 11/Proposition 53). CalRAC will dedicate our efforts to building support and winning approval for Proposition 53. We will also focus on impacting public policy debates through the regional report card process, complementing our statewide efforts. CalRAC will continue to develop unique and effective communications tools to help define the multi-dimensional issue of infrastructure, for our stakeholders as well as the general public.

Look for additional fact sheets, briefings and news articles on key infrastructure issues as well as new brochures in our *Focus on California Infrastructure* series, with the next one to focus on transportation infrastructure.

CalRAC's support for developing regional report cards in San Diego, Sacramento and the Bay Area will continue, including our efforts to identify regional opportunities to use the evolving report cards in support of specific funding proposals or to generate debate among candidates for state and local offices. In each instance a summit will be held at the time the report cards are issued later in 2004. As a result of the collaborative process, new and lasting working relationships are being forged among business, local governments, labor, engineering and other regional stakeholders all working toward a common vision of safe, efficient infrastructure that's supportive of their region's quality of life.

CalRAC is committed to becoming the preeminent source on California's infrastructure issues for elected officials, the media and the public. Working at the state level, we will continue the dialogue with the Legislative and Executive branches, public policy makers and opinion leaders. Through our regional efforts, we will generate support and the need for action directed at moving public opinion and influencing policy decisions at both the state and local levels.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to improve the economic vitality and quality of life for all Californians.



## OUR MEMBERS

- \*League of California Cities
- \*California State Association of Counties
- \*California Business Roundtable
- Association of California Water Agencies
- California School Boards Association
- \*American Public Works Assoc., California Chapters
- \*American Society of Civil Engineers, California Sections
- California Special Districts Association
- \*Engineering Contractors' Association
- \*City of Anaheim
- City of Arcadia
- City of Burbank
- City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
- \*City of Carson
- City of Culver City
- City of Eureka
- City of Fontana
- \*City of Glendale
- City of Huntington Beach
- City of Laguna Niguel
- City of La Quinta
- \*City of Long Beach
- \*City of Los Angeles
- \*City of Mission Viejo
- City of Monrovia
- \*City of Monterey
- \*City of Sacramento
- \*City of San Diego
- \*City of San Fernando
- \*City of San Juan Capistrano
- \*City of Santa Ana
- \*City of Santa Fe Springs
- \*City of Santa Rosa
- City of Torrance
- \*City of Tustin
- \*City of Vacaville
- \*City of Ventura
- \*City of West Hollywood
- \*City of Westminster
- \*City and County of San Francisco
- \*Alameda County
- \*Los Angeles County
- \*Orange County Sanitation District
- Brown and Caldwell
- Carollo Engineers
- \*Carter-Burgess
- David Evans & Associates, Inc.
- Dokken Engineering
- E.J. De La Rosa & Co., Inc.
- Geo-Environmental, Inc.
- \*Harris & Associates
- \*Lamont Financial Services
- \*Mark Thomas & Company
- Montgomery Watson Harza
- \*Parsons Corporation, California Operations
- \*Psomas
- \*RBF Consulting
- R.W. Beck
- Sierra West Group
- \*Stone & Youngberg LLC
- \*Tetra Tech ASL
- TRS Consultants
- \*URS Corporation
- \*Willdan
- \*Charter member



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