



## SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

### ADMINISTRATION

- Support SEAGO's continued participation in the Arizona State Retirement System. Transferability of ASRS is a significant tool in recruiting and retaining high quality employees who provide essential public services.
- Support legislation or intergovernmental agreements that enable SEAGO as a public agency to participate in insurance pools or trusts pursuant to A.R.S. § 11-952.01. The ability to offer and maintain a competitive benefits package an important tool to recruit and retain high quality employees.
- Support applications to public and private funding sources that can further initiatives and expand services for the SEAGO Region as a whole, and for individual SEAGO member entities.
- Support an increase in the State of Arizona mileage reimbursement rate from 44.5 cents per mile to the current Federal rate of 57.5 cents per mile. The State of Arizona mileage reimbursement rate remains unchanged since November 2006 – more than thirteen years.



### AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- Support reauthorization of the Older Americans Act at sufficient funding levels to ensure the rapidly growing population of older adults and their caregivers continue to have access to programs services that help them age with

health, dignity and independence in their homes and communities.

- Support initiatives to offset rising service delivery costs for AAA providers resulting from automatic increases in Arizona's minimum wage pursuant to the Fair Wages and Healthy Families Act.



### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Support sufficient and sustained funding for proven programs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), such as the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Partnerships Investment Programs that support housing and sustainable community development for rural areas.
- Support the restoration of CDBG program funding to \$3.5 billion as part of a final fiscal year (FY) 2020 Transportation-HUD (T-HUD) Appropriations measure.
- Support SEAGO's vision to increase, enhance or restore the amount of Colonias funding to the SEAGO region.



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support increased funding and flexibility for EDA's Planning, Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs.
- Support efforts for the statewide expansion of the border crossing card zone for holders of B1 and B2 visas from Mexico. A University

of Arizona study projected that the expansion of the border crossing card zone would have a positive annual impact of \$181 million to the state from increased Mexican tourism and business travel.

- Support measures to promote, expand and enhance Arizona's competitiveness in international trade and commerce with Canada and Mexico.
- Support collaboration and data sharing with state agencies, universities, COGs and MPOs to develop and enhance data analytics necessary to advance regional and state economies.



### ENVIRONMENTAL

- Support SEAGO's continued responsibility to maintain the area wide water quality management plan as the designated regional Water Quality Management Planning Agency.



### TRANSPORTATION

- Support legislation to modernize and expand transportation funding mechanisms to include equitable user fees for alternative fuels vehicles, indexing funding mechanisms to inflation, increasing the existing gasoline tax, and exploring alternative funding mechanisms at both the State and Federal levels.
- Support local efforts to form Regional Transportation Authorities.

- Oppose the transfer of Highway User Fund Revenues above the statutory limit of \$20 million.
- Support SEAGO's role as the regional transportation planning agency for the non-urbanized portion of southeastern Arizona.
- Oppose legislation that would lower the Title 34 limitation on use of local forces to construct street, road, bridge, water or sewer projects, or include specific types of maintenance activities and equipment purchases without advertising for bids.
- Support projects and initiatives throughout the State that expand and enhance the movement of freight and international commerce.
- Support transit initiatives that maximize the role of transit within the broader transportation system to improve mobility, enhance system capacity and improve system efficiency.

### ¿ DID YOU KNOW ?

Arizona's 18¢ per gallon gasoline tax has not been increased since 1991. Since that time, the purchasing power of that 18¢ has decreased almost 45%.



While the population of Americans over 60 years old has increased roughly 55%, funding for the Older Americans Act has gone up just 1.1 percent annually, on average, since 2001. To get OAA funding back to 2010 levels would require a 30 percent increase.



### About the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO)

- Established pursuant to Executive Order 70-2, SEAGO is a Council of Governments (COG) and the regional planning agency for Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz Counties.
- SEAGO is the federally designated Area Agency on Aging, the Economic Development District and the agency designated to perform Water Quality Management planning in the four-county region.
- SEAGO performs transportation planning and programming in the non-urbanized areas of the region, and also assists our members with Community Development planning.
- SEAGO's Executive Board includes elected officials from 14 incorporated cities and towns, four counties, one Native American Tribe and five private sector representatives.



## SEAGO POLICY PRINCIPLES



**SouthEastern Arizona  
Governments Organization**

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