

NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt
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Ovitt Leads Effort to Quash Tax Increase on Gasoline

Today at the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) Administrative Committee meeting, Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt was successful in his effort to remove a provision from the SANBAG 2007 State Legislative Program that would have increased the tax on gasoline.

The proposal, which would have indexed the gas tax to an inflationary index or to the price of gasoline, was defeated by the Committee. Ovitt commented, "It's bad enough that gasoline is triple taxed already but to add another in the guise of a confusing use of semantics is disingenuous and would further increase the economic burden on working families who have no choice but to use their cars on a daily basis."

Ovitt went on to say, "The United States Department of Energy yesterday, in their annual summer gas price forecast, predicted that there will be tight gas supplies and high prices in California. California motorists should expect prices to stay above \$3.00 a gallon through the summer." As of yesterday the price of self-serve regular unleaded gas stood at \$3.28 according to AAA.

Ovitt further remarked: "Californian's pay more for gas than residents in any other state. In San Bernardino County, residents are saddled with an even greater share of this burden due to the long commutes many residents have to make. We never want to get into the position that we place onerous spending choices on our citizens."

California currently affixes a sales tax after a gas tax is added to the consumer's bill. San Bernardino residents have to further pay a Measure I half cent sales tax as well, adding up to triple taxation on gasoline.

The SANBAG Administrative Committee discussed some possible options to solidifying a transportation revenue stream including construction costs savings and environmental review streamlining.