

TO: Members, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Committee

FROM: Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate
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RE: 2021 January Update

DATE: January 25, 2021

The California State Legislature resumed the legislative session on January 11th, 2021. Due to COVID, both the Senate and the Assembly came back a week after they were supposed to be back in Sacramento. Meanwhile, Governor Newsom submitted his \$227.2 billion State Budget on January 8th, and unprecedentedly urged the Legislature to immediately approve an \$11 billion package to address COVID-19 in order to jumpstart California's recovery.

The LAO has stated that the budget situation has improved considerably relative to the June budget act, with an estimated \$26 billion windfall in 2021-22. However, they also stated that California faces an operating deficit beginning in 2021-22 and throughout the outlook period, growing to \$17 billion by 2024-25.

Governor's top priorities in the budget were actions related to COVID-19 response. The budget proposes \$372 million to speed up the administration of vaccines across all of California's 58 counties, \$14 billion investment in our economic recovery - including advancing direct cash payments of \$600 to millions of Californians through the Golden State Stimulus, extending new protections and funding to help keep people in their homes and investing in relief grants for small businesses. The State Budget also includes \$777.5 million for the California Jobs Initiative, which focuses on job creation and retention, regional development, small businesses and climate innovation.

The Governor's budget includes funding to address wildfires and the climate crisis, including a \$1 billion, one-time General Fund investment for wildfire resiliency and emergency response that both the County and CSAC is in support of.

A coalition of CSAC, the Urban Counties of California, RCRC, CHEAC and HOAC have sent a letter to the Administration stating that while roughly \$2 billion has been made available to California through the recent Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, details on how that funding will be allocated in California are not yet available. Local health departments are asking that the Legislature and Administration take immediate action in the current budget year to provide the following funding to local health departments to support continued COVID-19 response efforts for the next six months, including \$400 million to Prioritize COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration, \$280 million for COVID-19 Testing, \$440 million for Contact Tracing, Disease Investigation and Supports for the Most Vulnerable, \$50 million ongoing General Fund for Public Health Infrastructure and Equity and \$3.45 million General Fund for Public Health Infrastructure Study. In a separate letter, the coalition is also recommending for the state to address vaccine data transparency and timely reporting. Additional challenges include the lack of transparency regarding allocations among all entities, a slow federal-pharmacy partnership, and a severe shortage of available doses. The coalition's recommendations include:

Timely Reporting

- Provide state staff to support the CAIR2 system 24/7.

- Audit providers that are reporting low numbers of vaccine being administered to identify whether the challenges are related to system deficiencies and deploy a team to support any additional workload being created.
- Provide additional training to vaccinating entities on the reporting system.
- Institute state level enforcement strategies on providers that do not report after state level intervention. Can include a state public health order to enter data within 24 hours (similar to the testing directive) and coordination with local health departments on enforcement.

Data Transparency

Extract the following data from CAIR2 and grant access to local health jurisdictions:

- Doses allocated to, received by, and administered by the federal pharmacy partnership statewide and by jurisdiction.
- Doses allocated to, received by, and administered by MCEs, both statewide and by local health jurisdiction. This should be separated by doses provided to MCEs by the state and doses provided to MCEs by local health departments.
- Doses allocated to, received by, and administered by local health care partners.
- Doses allocated to, received by, and administered by local health departments.

Vaccine Allocations

- Request that the federal government provide allocation amounts one month in advance and that the state provide those allocations to the local health departments.

Accountability for all Partners

- Support the redirection of vaccines from the Federal Pharmacy Partnership to local health departments in jurisdictions where the implementation is delayed and local health departments are supporting the vaccination in those settings.
- Hold CVS/Walgreens and MCEs accountable to timely reporting at the local health jurisdiction level.

The County has begun the process of establishing legislative and budget priorities for the legislative session. We are meeting with our Delegation in February to discuss our platform and our main priorities. Per our invitation, both Senator Monique Limon and Assemblymember Steve Bennett have also committed to our virtual legislative meeting on March 1, 2021 to discuss our priorities and listen to their input for the new legislative year.

State Budget

Governor Newsom submitted his 2021-22 budget proposal to the Legislature on January 8th which proposed \$227.2 billion in spending.

Immediate Spending

In recognition of the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on low-income Californians and small businesses, the Budget proposes \$3 billion of pandemic relief for immediate action in January. This package includes:

- \$2.4 billion for the Golden State Stimulus—a \$600 state payment to low-income workers who were eligible to receive the earned income tax credit in 2019.
- An additional \$575 million for grants to small businesses and small non-profit cultural institutions disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, bringing total relief this year for small businesses to over \$1 billion.
- Immediate and targeted fee relief for impacted industries, including restaurants and personal services.

The Budget also proposes immediate action in January to provide \$2 billion for the safe reopening of schools beginning in February, with a priority for returning the youngest children (transitional kindergarten through 2nd grade) and those with the greatest needs first, then returning other grade levels to in-person instruction through the spring.

The Budget also includes \$4.6 billion Proposition 98 General Fund for extending learning time, including summer school programs and other strategies to address the pandemic's impacts on student learning. To provide time to plan for these interventions, the Budget proposes early action by the Legislature this spring to approve these funds.

Continued Homekey Acquisitions

The Governor's January budget proposal looks to build off the \$846 million allocated for Project Homekey acquisitions and operations to-date. This includes \$750 million one-time General Fund for the Department of Housing and Community Development to continue providing competitive grants for local governments to purchase and rehabilitate housing, including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings, and other buildings, and convert them into interim or permanent long-term housing. The Administration is also asking the Legislature for early action on \$250 million one-time General Fund in the current fiscal year to continue funding Project Homekey projects. The proposal also includes the same streamlining as last year's program.

COVID-19 Relief – Federal Funding – Transportation

The recently passed federal spending and COVID-19 relief bill includes \$10 billion in supplemental funding allocated to state departments of transportation. California will receive approximately \$900 million from the bill. This funding will have slightly broader eligible uses than typical federal transportation funds.

The Governor's budget did not include a specific proposal for the use of this recently-passed funding, but it did highlight the significant fuel tax revenue losses to the state and local governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CSAC confirmed that they are pushing for a share of the funding to go out to local agencies via the local bridge program, HSIP, and potentially ATP, and that they have been in communication with the Administration, Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission (CTC), and other transportation stakeholders to understand the process for allocating these funds. California Transportation Commission is likely to receive an update on this funding at its January 27-28 meeting.

At the state level, CSAC stated that they expect to see proposed budget trailer bill language from the Department of Finance related to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local revenues and the SB 1 maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement. Caltrans, DOF and CTC have all stated that they are waiting for FHWA guidance before they proceed.

Wildfire and Forest Resilience

Over the past two years, local government leaders and other stakeholders have met regularly with the Administration under the Forest Management Task Force to provide input into the Forest Resilience Action Plan. This plan has been released in conjunction with the January budget proposal and includes a \$1 billion, one-time General Fund investment for forest resilience efforts. The proposal includes \$323 million in the current year with the remaining funds allocated in the following budget year. Funding is focused on regional approaches to forest resilience. The January budget also includes an extension of \$200 million for forest health and fire prevention programs funded through the Cap-and-Trade program. These funds would have expired in 2023-24.

The County is a part of a coalition supporting the proposed appropriations for Resilient Forests & Landscapes, Wildfire Fuel Breaks, and Community Hardening, specifically allocations to the following programs:

1. \$70 million to CAL FIRE for the Forest Health Program.
2. \$65 million to CAL FIRE to provide additional funding for prescribed fire projects via the Fire Prevention Grants and Prescribed & Hand Crews.
3. \$10 million to CAL FIRE for vegetation management and forest health improvement, with a focus on small landowners, through the California Forest Improvement Program.
4. \$25 million to Cal OES and CAL FIRE for home hardening projects to reduce fire risk.
5. \$25 million to the Department of Conservation for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to develop new regional coverage areas and continue developing capacity and implement projects in existing regional coverage areas.
6. \$1 million to CAL FIRE for tribal engagement.
7. \$6 million to CAL FIRE UC Cooperative Extension, California Conservation Corps, and California Community Colleges to fund fire advisors and a prescribed fire workforce development pipeline.

Zero Emission Vehicles

The Administration has proposed securitizing approximately \$1 billion of vehicle registration fees, which were set to expire in 2024, to support the expansion of the California Energy Commission's Clean Transportation Program. The budget also includes \$50 million General Fund (one-time) to support the installation of charging stations at state-owned facilities. An additional \$465 million from Cap-and-Trade funds is proposed to improve access to new and used zero-emission vehicles, including passenger cars, trucks, medium, and heavy duty vehicles.

Flood Management

\$183 million (mainly bonds funds) for ongoing flood management programs including flood risk management, emergency flood response in the Delta, and state- federal flood projects.

Coastal Protection

\$6.5 million (plus an additional \$10 million in out-years, bond funds) to support projects that improve biodiversity and climate resilience by increasing coastal and marine ecosystem health.

Water Efficiency and Sustainable Groundwater Management

The Governor's January budget includes a one-time General Fund allocation of \$60 million for Sustainable Groundwater Management grants to support economic mitigation planning and groundwater implementation projects in critically over-drafted basins. The January budget also includes a one-time General Fund allocation of \$40 million to provide incentives that help farmers reduce irrigation water use and greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture pumping. These funds are to be split equally between the 2020-21 and 2021-22 budget years.

Cap & Trade Expenditure Plan

The Governor's proposed January budget includes the allocation of \$1.37 billion in cap and trade expenditures. The program was suspended briefly in 2020 due to revenue forecast concerns related to the pandemic. The annually appropriated revenues from cap and trade are focused on several existing program areas, including CAL Fires' forest health and fuels reduction program, support for the AB 617 Air Quality Program, and investments in low carbon transportation, such as the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program. Notably, the plan does not include funding for waste diversion to CAL Recycle to help implement our organic waste diversion requirements.

Climate Catalyst Fund

The Governor's January budget includes \$50 million one-time General Fund to the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) to support Climate Smart Agriculture loans to advance climate-related on-farm programs.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Governor's proposed budget expands investments to CAL Fire, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and to local agencies to prepare for ongoing threats. The proposal also acknowledges the growing redirection of staff from existing programs to emergencies and proposes a review of this practice. In addition to budget-year proposals, the Governor proposes \$25 million (General Fund) to Cal OES and CAL Fire as an early budget action in the current year to support implementation of a home hardening pilot grant program.

California Disaster Assistance Act

The Governor's January budget includes \$256 million one-time General Fund to assist local governments during and after emergency events. Funding will be used for repair, restoration, or replacement of public property damaged or destroyed during disaster events, and to reimburse local governments for emergency activities under a declared state of emergency.

CAL Fire Additional Fire Crews

As part of the comprehensive forest and fire response package, the Governor's January budget includes \$143 million one-time and \$124 million ongoing General Fund to support 30 additional fire crews, 16 seasonal firefighter crews, and 14 California Conservation Corps fire crews. This is complemented by a \$24 million General Fund allocation for related capital outlay costs.

Natural Resources

The Governor's January budget proposes spending \$7.4 billion for programs in the California Natural Resources Agency. Funding is focused on climate resilience, equitable access to parks and wildlands, restoration and emergency response.

Deferred Maintenance for Levees, Parks and Wildlife Areas

In addition to climate funding, the Governor's January budget includes \$75 million one-time General Fund for critical levee repair projects to enhance the state's resilience to catastrophic flooding. An additional \$20 million one-time General Fund is allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation for critical deferred maintenance projects to enable improved access and enhanced visitor experiences. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is allocated \$6 million one-time General Fund to address the increased recreational use at state-owned properties that lack visitor amenities and basic signage.

Boating and Waterways Fiscal Stability

In order to address an ongoing structural deficit at the Department of Boating and Waterways, the Governor's January budget includes both funding shifts and statutory fee increases. The budget shifts an ongoing allocation of Harbors and Watercraft Funds to the State Water Project, to the General Fund, to continue the state's commitment to the Davis-Dolwig Act. In addition, the budget proposes increases to the vessel registration fee resulting in an anticipated \$20 million of additional ongoing revenues.

Cannabis

The 2020 Governor's January budget includes a proposal to consolidate state cannabis operations into one entity. This proposal was put on hold due to the pandemic but has been re-introduced this year. The January budget proposes to consolidate the three cannabis licensing entities into a single Department of Cannabis Control by July 2021. Currently, the Bureau of Cannabis Control, the Department of Food Agriculture, and the Department of Public Health all share unique responsibilities in licensing various parts of the cannabis industry. The Administration's proposal would centralize and align regulatory functions in a new stand-alone department that would create a single point of contact for cannabis licensees and local governments.

The budget also proposes statutory changes to establish permanent funding authority for a \$15 million local equity grant program to be administered by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). The funding will be directed to facilitating greater equity in business ownership and employment in the cannabis market.

Under Proposition 64, expenditures from the Cannabis Tax Fund are prioritized for regulatory and administrative workload necessary to implement, administer, and enforce the Cannabis Act. This is followed by research and activities related to the legalization of cannabis and the past effects of its criminalization. Once these priorities have been met, the remaining funds are allocated to youth education, prevention, early intervention, and treatment; environmental protection; and public safety-related activities. The Governor's January budget estimates \$443 million will be available for these purposes in 2021-22. The proposed allocation for the fund is as follows:

- Education, prevention, and treatment of youth substance use disorders and school retention – 60 percent (\$265.9 million);

- Clean-up, remediation, and enforcement of environmental impacts created by illegal cannabis cultivation – 20 percent (\$88.6 million);
- Public safety related activities – 20 percent (\$88.6 million).
- Administration of Justice

Local Public Safety

Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment

The Governor’s January budget proposal notes the pending implementation of the DJJ realignment outlined in Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020 (SB 823). As a reminder, SB 823 included General Fund resources for counties of \$46.5 million in 2021-22, \$122.9 million in 2022-23, \$195.9 million in 2023-24, and \$212.7 million ongoing, beginning in 2024-25. The legislation also includes a growth factor upon full implementation. Additionally, the Board of State and Community Corrections is currently working to allocate a \$9.6 million grant program for implementation efforts. Lastly, the Governor’s January Budget indicates DJJ will close on June 30, 2023, which is a new development.

The Administration will soon release a technical trailer bill on DJJ realignment. CSAC will be supporting a number of items in the trailer bill, including some protections for counties but is also pushing to receive the annual payments upfront.

Investments in County Probation Departments

The Governor’s January budget proposal includes an early action investment of \$50 million one-time General Fund to county probation departments. These funds are meant to build off of county probation success with major prior reforms like Chapter 608, Statutes of 2009 (SB 678), 2011 Realignment, and earlier juvenile justice reforms as county probation departments prepare to implement new reforms like Chapter 328, Statutes of 2020 (AB 1950) and DJJ realignment (SB 823). These new funds may be used for a broad range of services with an emphasis on keeping juveniles and adults out of the criminal justice system, moving them quickly and successfully through the system, and keeping them from reentering the system.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of AB 1950 have both impacted the data being utilized for the SB 678 (Community Corrections Performance Incentive Grant) calculation, the Governor’s January Budget proposal also includes \$122.9 million ongoing to county probation departments for SB 678. This allocation is based on the highest payment to the individual counties over the prior three fiscal years and would be in lieu of the current statutory formula.

The Governor’s January budget proposal also includes \$19.5 million in 2021-22 for county probation departments to supervise the temporary increase in the average daily population of offenders on Post-Release Community Supervision as a result of the implementation of Proposition 57.

2011 Public Safety Realignment

The Governor’s January Budget proposal updates revenue assumptions for 2011 Public Safety Realignment programs. As a reminder, 2019-20 was the first year that 2011 Realignment did not receive growth funding so the 2020-21 Community Corrections Subaccount base remains \$1.366 billion. The updated January revenue projections estimate Community Corrections growth of \$75.9 million in 2020-21. This would create a new base of \$1.442 billion for 2021-22. However, January estimates show

revenue will not reach that level in 2021-22 and will only total \$1.408 billion, resulting in no growth for 2021-22. CSAC will provide individual county estimates in the coming weeks for the 2020-21 growth.

Judicial Branch

Reducing Criminal Fines and Fees for Low Income Californians

Chapter 92, Statutes of 2020 (AB 1869) eliminated the ability of state and local agencies to impose certain administrative fees for criminal offenses, such as fees imposed to recover costs related to providing public defense and probation supervision, commencing July 1, 2021.

Additionally, the Governor's January budget proposal includes \$12.3 million General Fund in 2021-22, increasing to \$58.4 million ongoing General Fund by 2024-25, to expand statewide a current eight-court pilot program that allows indigent and low-income individuals to apply online to have their fines and fees from infractions reduced in accordance with their ability to pay. This proposed funding level includes a backfill of lost trial court revenue at the state level but does not include funding to backfill local revenue impacts.

Trial courts

On January 22nd, the Judicial Council approved a plan to distribute \$25 million to help trial courts address case delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the remainder of \$50 million included in the 2020 Budget Act. The council will allocate the \$25 million based on each court's workload not disposed of during the pandemic period compared to the same period in 2019. The council also voted to require trial courts to report at least quarterly on their progress in reducing their COVID-19 backlogs and on how they spend the funding.

Health and Human Services

Realignment

The Governor's January budget proposal includes revenue assumptions for 1991 Realignment and 2011 Realignment. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, realignment revenues decreased and failed to reach base for both 1991 Realignment and 2011 Realignment in 2019-20. The Department of Finance projections for the current 2020-21 year are that revenues will increase, by about 5.6 percent above the 2019-20 levels. This would result in \$341.3 million in 1991 growth, including \$68.9 million for caseload growth, and \$188 million in 2011 growth in the Support Services Subaccount. However, revenues are then projected to decrease again in 2021-22 by 1.9 percent. We will continue to watch the Realignment revenues, especially as we get further along in the year and know more about actual revenues, rather than projections.

Local COVID-19 Assistance

The Governor included a placeholder amount of roughly \$372 million in current year emergency funds for COVID-19 vaccination distribution, logistics, and a public awareness campaign to boost vaccine uptake. Department of Finance Director Keely Bosler indicated that this amount is a placeholder and that Governor Newsom would be working with the Legislature to determine the needs and spending levels for COVID-19 vaccination activities.

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM)

Governor Newsom included investments in the ambitious proposal to streamline and improve the state's Medi-Cal program which was previously delayed due to COVID-19 impacts. He proposes investing \$1.1 billion (\$531.9 million General Fund) in 2021-22, growing to \$1.5 billion (\$755.5 million General Fund) in 2023-24, to implement CalAIM initiatives proposed to begin January 1, 2022. The Governor anticipates phasing out infrastructure funding, which will be used to increase coordination between counties and health plans and implement behavioral health payment reform, in 2024-25, resulting in the ongoing funding decreasing to \$846.4 million (\$423 million General Fund) per year.

Please note that the Governor also specifies that the \$750 million one-time General Fund investments to acquire real estate assets for behavioral health treatment will complement the CalAIM efforts and investments.

Food Banks

The Governor's January budget proposal includes \$30 million one-time General Fund for the Department of Social Services to fund food banks and existing Emergency Food Assistance Program providers. This funding would be used to mitigate increases in nutrition assistance needs of Californians.

Federal Rent Assistance and Eviction Protections

The Governor is requesting the Legislature's speedy passage of COVID-19 eviction protection legislation, as well as early budget action to deploy all of the \$2.6 billion in federal rent assistance allocated to California and local governments—\$1.4 billion of which is allocated to the state and \$1.2 billion of which is directly allocated to local governments with populations over 200,000. It is unclear how the Governor proposes to link the funding directly allocated to counties and cities from the United States Treasury to the state budget proposal. In his budget press conference, however, the Governor referenced the federal rental assistance funding in the context of the ongoing debate on extension of the statewide COVID-19 eviction protections.

Key tenant and landlord protections from Chapter 37, Statutes of 2020 (AB 3088) would have expired on February 1, 2021. On January 25th, it was announced that the Governor and Legislative Leadership would extend the eviction ban through June. The extension would be part of the state's 2021-2022 budget plan.

California Master Plan for Aging

On January 6th, the Governor released the California Master Plan for Aging, framework that will prepare the state for significant demographic changes including the growth of the 60-and-over population to 10.8 million people by 2030.

In June of 2019, the Governor issued an executive order that called for a California Master Plan for Aging. The release was the culmination of more than a year of stakeholder input and recommendation development led by the California Health and Human Services Agency and California Department of Aging.

The Master Plan for Aging's Five Goals for 2030 include:

1. *Housing for All Ages and Stages.* We will live where we choose as we age in communities that are age-, disability-, and dementia-friendly and climate- and disaster-ready. *Target:* Millions of New Housing Options to Age Well.
2. *Health Reimagined.* We will have access to the services we need to live at home in our communities and to optimize our health and quality of life. *Target:* Close the Equity Gap in and Increase Life Expectancy.
3. *Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation.* We will have lifelong opportunities for work, volunteering, engagement, and leadership and will be protected from isolation, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. *Target:* Keep Increasing Life Satisfaction as We Age.
4. *Caregiving That Works.* We will be prepared for and supported through the rewards and challenges of caring for aging loved ones. *Target:* One Million High-Quality Caregiving Jobs.
5. *Affording Aging.* We will have economic security for as long as we live. *Target:* Close the Equity Gap in and Increase Elder Economic Sufficiency.

The Master Plan identifies 132 actionable initiatives for the first two years. Many of these initiatives are specific to county aging programs or otherwise related to policy areas where counties play a key role including housing, transportation, emergency preparedness, and broadband. Listed below are five specific recommendations closely tied to county aging programs.

- Initiative #95 – Assess Adult Protective Services capacity, age of people served, and services provided, especially for complex cases, given growing and changing needs.
- Initiative #96 – Assess needs and capacities of local Public Guardians, Public Conservators and Public Advocates, given growing and changing needs.
- Initiative #101 – Revisit California’s Area Agency on Aging local leadership structures – including local area map, funding formulas, and designations – via California’s Federal Older Americans Act State Plan 2021-2024, to meet growing and changing needs and continue to advance equity.
- Initiative #118 – Expand older homelessness programs, such as Home Safe (APS) and Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP/SSI), to meet needs as funds allow.
- Initiative #130 – Map and identify opportunities – at federal, state, and local level – to address older Californians’ needs for nutrition.

County Coroners Budget Request

Santa Barbara County is supporting the Sacramento County’s state budget request for the training and equipment needed to support the work of county coroners. The \$1 million budget request would be for interested counties to participate in training in how to use the rapid DNA tests and to help coroners have a more coordinated response to mass fatalities.

Law enforcement and fire personnel routinely train for how to respond to a mass casualty event, but when it comes to mass fatality scenarios, training opportunities for the coroner team are virtually non-existent. Coroner personnel are periodically invited to participate in scenarios with law enforcement and fire agencies, but the training is stopped when it is determined that the live casualties are appropriately

addressed. This leaves coroner personnel unprepared for mass fatality events, and ultimately, these agencies are responsible for their own in-house training. Funding for statewide or regional training would greatly improve the ability of coroner personnel to respond to these tragic events. We will keep you updated on this budget request.

340B Program

Last year's State Budget restored, by rejecting the withdrawal of the January 2020 budget proposal, \$52.5 million (\$26.3 million General Fund and \$26.3 million federal funds) to provide supplemental payments to nonhospital 340B clinics.

We have confirmed with the Department of Finance that the 340B supplemental payments are included in the Governor's 2021-22 Budget on an ongoing basis. This proposal is part of Medi-Cal Rx, the pharmacy carveout from managed care, so fiscal year 2020-21 costs reflect the April 1, 2021 transition of Medi-Cal Rx.

The County has been a part of the stakeholder process and has been in contact with the Administration, CA Department of Finance, our local Delegation, Legislative budget staff, the California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of Health Care Services to insist that the County gets a correct share of the funds.

Due in part to our efforts, the implementation of Medi-Cal Rx was delayed by three months, while DHCS is looking seriously at our suggestion to carve-out the available 340B backfill dollars into two pools: one for qualifying private, non-profit entities; and one for qualifying public, governmental entities. Although nothing is concrete and we don't have any final details, this plan would afford the State more flexibility in looking at scenarios that may provide for more dollars that would flow to the County of Santa Barbara that would provide a backfill pool distribution that is much closer to our savings share loss that was reported in our state survey. This will assist greatly to afford the County the ongoing funding to provide our important specialty and other services which these funds have supported.

CDA A expansion request to all local food programs for COVID-19 response

The County has sent letters to the Administration, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the Department of Finance and our local Delegation that requests that the State should expand reimbursement under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDA A) for all local food programs that also qualify for FEMA Category B reimbursement for COVID-19 response. We have a meeting set with the California Department of Finance in early February to discuss this issue.

Currently, FEMA has approved Category B - Emergency Protective Measures for all food/feeding programs associated with community need due to COVID-19. The County recently learned that the State has approved CDA A for only the Great Plates program, while providing no reason for why they have only approved one food program and not all local food programs.

On April 24, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the "Great Plates Delivered" program, a meal delivery service for California's older adults. The program is designed to provide in-home meals to qualifying older adults and provide economic stimulus to the food and restaurant industries. The County chose not to participate in the Great Plates, due to our local Non-Profits already meeting our community's needs while working with local restaurants at a lower cost than the Great Plates.

The County has additional concerns that local Non-Profits and community-based organizations are indicating continued increased food insecurity due to COVID-19 and diminishing fiscal and in-kind resources to provide those services. Due to this need and regardless of funding, the County is evaluating funding support for additional local non-profits while following the FEMA eligibility guidance.

Currently, CalOES is working with Department of Finance on the appropriate utilization of CDAA for similar programs like the one in the County. Although they also stated that there are multiple programs and jurisdictions asking CalOES for CDAA funding including funds for COVID and wildfires, and CalOES still needs to figure out how to allocate all those funds. CalOES could not give the County a timeline on this decision-making process. The County is working on setting up a virtual meeting with CalOES to follow up on this issue.

As stated earlier, the budget proposal includes \$30 million one-time General Fund for the Department of Social Services to fund food banks and existing Emergency Food Assistance Program providers.

2021 Executive Orders and Actions

Governor Gavin Newsom has issued a number of executive orders addressing a variety of issues in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Executive Orders and Actions Timeline

January 20, California State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan issued a statement advising providers that they can immediately resume the administration of lot 41L20A of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which was temporarily paused on Sunday due to possible allergic reactions.

January 17, California State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica S. Pan issued a statement recommending providers pause the administration of lot 41L20A of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine due to possible allergic reactions that are under investigation.

January 14, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the launch of transparency, accountability and assistance measures related to the Safe Schools for All Plan. The Safe Schools for All Hub – schools.covid19.ca.gov – was launched as a one stop shop for information about safe in-person instruction, and will be updated frequently.

January 13, The Governor announced a new system to let people know if they are eligible to receive a vaccine, and if not yet eligible, to register for a notification via email or text when they are eligible. That system is expected to launch next week. This comes on the heels of the CDC's decision to expand the pool of those eligible to receive the vaccine to individuals 65 and older.

January 11, Governor Gavin Newsom submitted his 2021-22 State Budget proposal to the Legislature – a \$227.2 billion fiscal blueprint that provides funding for immediate COVID-19 response and relief efforts where Californians need it most while making investments for an equitable, inclusive and broad-based economic recovery.

January 6, Governor Newsom Announces Golden State Stimulus, a budget proposal to help low-income Californians through \$600 rapid cash payments, and calls for extension of eviction moratorium.

January 5, Governor Gavin Newsom previewed his Equitable Recovery for California's Businesses and Jobs plan, the business and workforce recovery elements of his 2021-22 State Budget that will help

California through the COVID19 pandemic and advance an equitable, broad-based recovery. The state issued a public health order ensuring distribution of health care resources across the state to ensure patients get life-saving care as ICU capacity is strained.

January 1, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services began collaborating with the United States Army Corps of Engineers in the Los Angeles area hospitals to assess and upgrade oxygen delivery systems.

Public Banking, IBank and Banking Issues

Last November, the Senate Governance & Finance and Banking and Financial Institutions Committees held an informational hearing titled “A State Bank? There Is Interest, But Does It Make Cents?” which followed the Governance & Finance Committee’s consideration of AB 310 (Santiago, 2020). At the hearing, the Committees heard from public banking advocates regarding potential benefits and options for implementation, then from the two state Constitutional officers, the Controller and the Treasurer, charged with state fiscal management regarding how a state public bank could affect their duties, while the third panel was comprised of leaders of other state agencies with potential roles regulating or implementing a state public bank.

AB 310 (Santiago), which would have established the Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank Commission and place the I-Bank under the supervision of the commission. The bill failed last year, and although we are expecting a bill on the I-Bank to come up again this year, it has not been introduced yet.

Senator Ben Allen introduced SB 83 (Allen), which would create a Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Program within the I-Bank to provide low-interest loans to local jurisdictions for the purchase of coastal properties in their jurisdictions identified as vulnerable coastal property. The bill would require the California Coastal Commission, before January 1, 2023, in consultation with the California Coastal Commission, the State Lands Commission, and any other applicable state, federal, and local entities with relevant jurisdiction and expertise, to determine criteria and guidelines for the identification of vulnerable coastal properties eligible for participation in the program. The bill would authorize specified local jurisdictions to apply for, and be awarded, a low-interest loan under the program if the local jurisdiction develops and submits to the bank a vulnerable coastal property plan.

Tenant Relief Legislation

AB 15 (Chiu) The bill would extend the definition of “COVID-19 rental debt” as unpaid rent or any other unpaid financial obligation of a tenant that came due between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021. The bill would also extend the repeal date of the act to January 1, 2026. The bill would make other conforming changes to align with these extended dates. By extending the repeal date of the act, the bill would expand the crime of perjury and create a state-mandated local program.

AB 16 (Chiu) The bill would establish the Tenant, Small Landlord, and Affordable Housing Provider Stabilization Program. The bill would authorize the Director of Housing and Community Development to direct an existing office or program within the Department of Housing and Community Development to implement the program. The bill would establish in the State Treasury the COVID-19 Tenant, Small Landlord, and Affordable Housing Provider Stabilization Fund, and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, distribute all moneys in the fund to the department to carry out the purposes of the program.

SB 3 (Caballero) The COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act of 2020 establishes certain procedural requirements and limitations on evictions for nonpayment of rent due to COVID-19 rental debt, as defined. Existing law defines COVID-19 rental debt as unpaid rent or any other unpaid financial obligation of a tenant that came due during the covered time period, defined as the period between March 1, 2020, and January 31, 2021. The act also requires a notice that demands payment of rent that came due during the transition time period, defined as the period between September 30, 2020, and January 31, 2021, to comply with additional specified requirements. This bill would extend the covered time period and transition time period for purposes of the act to March 31, 2021.

Request to Continue Critical 1115 Federal Waiver

On September 16, 2020, DHCS submitted a request to extend the Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 waiver for twelve months to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). If approved, the extension would delay expiration from December 31, 2020, until December 31, 2021. DHCS will continue to work with CMS on the 1115 and 1915(b) waiver renewal requests that would become effective January 1, 2022.

DHCS and stakeholders worked to have California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), replace the current waiver set to end December 31, 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, CSAC and county partners requested a delay in the termination of our current waivers, and the implementation of numerous CalAIM proposals.

In December, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the request from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), for a 12-month extension to the current Section 1115(a) Medicaid Waiver. California's Section 1115(a) Medicaid waiver was scheduled to end December 31, 2020. DHCS will submit the request to CMS in the summer of 2020 to ensure that important programs authorized through Medi-Cal 2020 continue and are eventually transition under CalAIM. CMS approved the Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 demonstration, through December 31, 2021. CSAC has stated that they will engage with DHCS to ensure the demonstration waivers are utilized to the fullest extent permitted.

Other Bills that may be of Interest to the County

AB 9 (Wood) Wildfires

Current law establishes various programs for the prevention and reduction of wildfires. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would increase California's capacity to prevent and reduce the impact of wildfires, and would make related findings and declarations. This will become the wildfire omnibus bill.

AB 21 (Bauer-Kahan) Forestry: electrical transmission and distribution lines: clearance: penalties.

Current law requires a person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line upon any mountainous land or forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land to maintain around and adjacent to any pole or tower that supports a specified. Current law requires a person that owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line upon any mountainous land or in forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land to maintain a clearance between all vegetation and all conductors that are carrying electric current, as specified. This bill would impose a civil penalty of up to \$100,000 for each violation of the above-described provisions.

The bill would impose an additional civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each acre burned by a fire resulting from a violation of the above-described provisions.

AB 50 (Boerner-Horvath) Climate change: Climate Adaptation Center and Regional Support Network: sea level rise.

Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with the Ocean Protection Council, to create, and update biannually, a Planning for Sea Level Rise Database describing steps being taken throughout the state to prepare for, and adapt to, sea level rise. This bill would establish the Climate Adaptation Center and Regional Support Network in the Ocean Protection Council to provide local governments facing sea level rise challenges with information and scientific expertise necessary to proceed with sea level rise mitigation.

AB 51 (Quirk) Climate change: adaptation: regional climate adaptation planning groups: regional climate adaptation plans.

Would require the Strategic Growth Council, by July 1, 2022, to establish guidelines for the formation of regional climate adaptation planning groups. The bill would require the council, by July 1, 2023, and in consultation with certain state entities, to develop criteria for the development of regional climate adaptation plans.

AB 52 (Frazier) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: scoping plan updates: wildfires.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 authorizes the State Air Resources Board to include in its regulation of emissions of greenhouse gases the use of market-based compliance mechanisms. Current law requires all moneys, except for fines and penalties, collected by the state board from a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (fund) and to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature. Current law continuously appropriates 35% of the annual proceeds of the fund for transit, affordable housing, and sustainable communities programs and 25% of the annual proceeds of the fund for certain components of a specified high-speed rail project. This bill would require the state board, in each scoping plan update prepared by the state board after January 1, 2022, to include, consistent with the act, recommendations for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions of emissions of greenhouse gases and black carbon from wildfires.

AB 55 (Boerner Horvath) Employment: telecommuting

Current law promotes and develops the welfare of workers in California to improve working conditions and advance opportunities for profitable employment. Current law regulates the wages, hours, and working conditions of any worker employed in any occupation, trade, or industry. This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation to ensure certain rights and benefits for telecommuting employees.

AB 63 (Petrie-Norris) Marine resources: Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act: restoration activities.

Under the MMAIA, in a state marine conservation area, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial or recreational purposes, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes, that the designating entity or managing agency determines would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat, or geological features. The MMAIA authorizes the designating entity or managing agency to permit, among

other things, research, education, and recreational activities. This bill would authorize the designating entity or managing agency to also permit restoration activities.

AB 64 (Quirk) Electricity: renewable energy and zero-carbon resources: state policy: strategy

Current requires the PUC, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission), and the State Air Resources Board (state board) to, in consultation with all California balancing authorities, issue a joint report to the Legislature by January 1, 2021, and at least every 4 years thereafter, that includes specified matters. The bill would require the PUC, Energy Commission, and state board, in consultation with all balancing authorities, to additionally develop a strategy, by an unspecified date, on how to achieve the above-described state policy in a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial manner. The bill would require the strategy to include, among other things, a plan to promote the development of technologies that can help achieve that state policy.

AB 67 (Petrie-Norris) Sea level rise: working group: economic analysis

Would require a state agency to take into account the current and future impacts of sea level rise when planning, designing, building, operating, maintaining, and investing in infrastructure located in the coastal zone or otherwise vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise or storm surges, or when otherwise approving the allocation of state funds for those purposes. The bill would require, by March 1, 2022, the Ocean Protection Council, in consultation with the Office of Planning and Research, to establish a multiagency working group, consisting of specified individuals, on sea level rise to provide recommended policies, resolutions, projects, and other actions to address sea level rise, the breadth of its impact, and the severity of its anticipated harm. The bill would require the council, in consultation with the working group to, among other things, develop a standardized methodology and template for conducting economic analyses of risks and adaptation strategies associated with sea level rise, as provided.

AB 72 (Petrie-Norris) Environmental protection: Natural Resources Agency: coastal adaptation projects: sea level rise: regulatory review and permitting: report.

Would enact the Coastal Adaptation Permitting Act of 2021. The bill would require the agency to explore, and authorize it to implement, options within the agency's jurisdiction to establish a more coordinated and efficient regulatory review and permitting process for coastal adaptation projects, as defined. The bill would require the agency to submit, by July 1, 2023, a report to the Legislature with suggestions and recommendations for improving and expediting the regulatory review and permitting process for coastal adaptation projects.

AB 99 (Irwin) Statewide longitudinal data system: California Cradle-to-Career Data System.

Current law establishes the California Cradle-to-Career Data System Workgroup to assess, recommend, and advise about statewide data infrastructure that integrates data from state entities responsible for elementary and secondary education data, entities responsible for early learning data, segments of public higher education, private colleges and universities, state entities responsible for student financial aid, childcare providers, state labor and workforce development agencies, and state departments administering health and human services programs. Existing law requires the Office of Planning and Research to contract with entities with expertise in managing data for specified purposes relating to the workgroup's activities. Current law requires those contracted entities to submit reports to the Department of Finance and the Legislature concerning the establishment of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System, as specified. This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would

codify recommendations in the California Cradle-to-Career Data System Legislative Report published in December 2020.

AB 106 (Salas) Regions Rise Grant Program.

Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would establish the Regions Rise Grant Program in order to close the equity gap and spur economic growth.

AB 115 (Bloom) Planning and zoning: commercial zoning: housing development.

Would, notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of a city's or county's general plan, specific plan, zoning ordinance, or regulation, would require that a housing development be an authorized use on a site designated in any local agency's zoning code or maps for commercial uses if certain conditions apply. Among these conditions, the bill would require that the housing development be subject to a recorded deed restriction requiring that at least 20% of the units have an affordable housing cost or affordable rent for lower income households, as those terms are defined, and located on a site that satisfies specified criteria.

AB 118 (Kamlager) Emergency services: community response: grant program

Would, until January 1, 2026, enact the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Act or the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act for the purpose of creating, implementing, and evaluating the 3-year C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program, which the act would establish. The bill would require the office to establish rules and regulations for the program with the goal of making grants to community organizations, over 3 years, for the purpose of expanding the participation of community organizations in emergency response for specified vulnerable populations. The bill would require that grantees receive a minimum award of \$250,000 per year. The bill would require a community organization receiving funds pursuant to the program to use the grant to stimulate and support involvement in emergency response activities that do not require a law enforcement officer, as specified. The bill would require the Director of Emergency Services (director) to assemble staff and resources to carry out certain duties in support of the program.

AB 119 (Salas) County assessors: direct levies

Current law requires each county to have a county assessor who is designated to perform the duty of assessing property for a local taxing jurisdiction. Current law requires the county assessor to perform certain duties and defines certain responsibilities of the county assessor. Current law defines tax rate areas for the purpose of property tax allocation. This bill would require county assessors to make publicly available on their internet websites information about direct levies, as defined, applicable to each tax rate area within the county.

AB 252 (Rivas) Department of Conservation: Multibenefit Land Repurposing Incentive Program: administration.

Would require the Department of Conservation to establish and administer a program named the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Incentive Program for purposes of providing grants to groundwater sustainability agencies or counties, or other specified entities designated by groundwater sustainability agencies or counties, for the development or implementation of local programs supporting or facilitating multibenefit land repurposing at the basin scale. The bill would establish procedures for the department's

administration of the program and would require the department to develop guidelines to implement the program and to exercise its expertise and discretion in awarding program funds to eligible applicants.

ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.

The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements.

SB 1 (Aktins) Coastal resources: sea level rise

The California Coastal Act of 1976 establishes the California Coastal Commission and provides for planning and regulation of development in the coastal zone, as defined. The act requires the commission, within 90 days after January 1, 1977, to adopt, after public hearing, procedures for the preparation, submission, approval, appeal, certification, and amendment of a local coastal program, including a common methodology for the preparation of, and the determination of the scope of, the local coastal programs, as provided. This bill would also include, as part of the procedures the commission is required to adopt, recommendations and guidelines for the identification, assessment, minimization, and mitigation of sea level rise within each local coastal program, as provided. The bill would delete the timeframe specified above by which the commission is required to adopt these procedures.

SB 5 (Atkins) Housing: bond act.

Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would authorize the issuance of bonds and would require the proceeds from the sale of those bonds to be used to finance housing-related programs that serve the homeless and extremely low income and very low income Californians.

SB 7 (Atkins) Environmental quality: Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report (EIR) on a project that the lead agency proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA authorizes the preparation of a master EIR and authorizes the use of the master EIR to limit the environmental review of subsequent projects that are described in the master EIR, as specified. This bill would require a lead agency to prepare a master EIR for a general plan, plan amendment, plan element, or specific plan for housing projects where the state has provided funding for the preparation of the master EIR.

SB 8 (Skinner) Density Bonus Law.

Would make a nonsubstantive change to the definition of “development standard” for purposes of the Density Bonus Law.

SB 9 (Atkins) Housing development: approvals.

Would require a proposed housing development containing 2 residential units within a single-family residential zone to be considered ministerially, without discretionary review or hearing, if the proposed housing development meets certain requirements, including, but not limited to, that the proposed housing development would not require demolition or alteration of housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of moderate, low, or very low income, that the proposed housing development does not allow for the demolition of more than 25% of the existing exterior structural walls, except as provided, and that the development is not located within a historic district, is not included on the State Historic Resources Inventory, or is not within a site that is legally designated or listed as a city or county landmark or historic property or district.

SB 10 (Wiener) Planning and zoning: housing development: density.

Would, notwithstanding any local restrictions on adopting zoning ordinances, authorize a local government to pass an ordinance to zone any parcel for up to 10 units of residential density per parcel, at a height specified in the ordinance, if the parcel is located in a transit-rich area, a jobs-rich area, or an urban infill site, as those terms are defined. In this regard, the bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with the Office of Planning and Research, to determine jobs-rich areas and publish a map of those areas every 5 years, commencing January 1, 2022, based on specified criteria. The bill would specify that an ordinance adopted under these provisions is not a project for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act. The bill would prohibit a residential or mixed-use residential project consisting of 10 or more units that is located on a parcel rezoned pursuant to these provisions from being approved ministerially or by right.

SB 12 (McGuire) Local government: planning and zoning: wildfires

Current law requires that the Office of Planning and Research, among other things, coordinate with appropriate entities, including state, regional, or local agencies, to establish a clearinghouse for climate adaptation information for use by state, regional, and local entities, as provided. This bill would require the safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element or the hazard mitigation plan, on or after July 1, 2024, whichever occurs first, to be reviewed and updated as necessary to include a comprehensive retrofit strategy to reduce the risk of property loss and damage during wildfires, as specified, and would require the planning agency to submit the adopted strategy to the Office of Planning and Research for inclusion into the above-described clearinghouse.

SB 15 (Portantino) Housing development: incentives: rezoning of idle retail sites.

Current law establishes, among other housing programs, the Workforce Housing Reward Program, which requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to make local assistance grants to cities, counties, and cities and counties that provide land use approval to housing developments that are affordable to very low and low-income households. This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act or other statute, would require the department to administer a program to provide incentives in the form of grants allocated as provided to local governments that rezone idle sites used for a big box retailer or a commercial shopping center to instead allow the development of workforce housing.

SB 19 (Glazer) Wine growers: tasting rooms.

Current law prohibits a winegrower or brandy manufacturer from selling wine or brandy to consumers, or engaging in winetasting activities, at more than one licensed branch premise. Current law limits the effect of this prohibition in connection with other premises, as specified. Current law generally provides that a violation of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act is a misdemeanor. This bill would revise the prohibition described above to allow a winegrower or brandy manufacturer to sell wine or brandy to consumers, or to engage in winetasting activities, at up to 2 licensed branch premises. By broadening the definition of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

SB 27 (Skinner) Carbon sequestration: state goals: natural and working lands: registry of projects.

Would require, no later than July 1, 2022, the Natural Resources Agency, in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, to establish carbon sequestration goals for natural and working lands, as provided. The bill would require the state board, as part of its scoping plan, to establish specified carbon dioxide removal targets for 2030 and beyond.

SB 47 (Limon) Oil and gas: orphan wells.

Would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to orphaned oil and gas wells.

SB 52 (Dodd) State of emergency: local emergency: sudden and severe energy shortage: planned power outage.

Current law defines the terms “state of emergency” and “local emergency” to mean a duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state or the territorial limits of a local government caused by, among other things, a sudden and severe energy shortage. Current law defines a “sudden and severe energy shortage” as a rapid, unforeseen shortage of energy, resulting from, but not limited to, events such as an embargo, sabotage, or natural disasters, and that has statewide, regional, or local impact. This bill would expand the definition of “sudden and severe energy shortage” to include a “deenergization event,” defined as a planned power outage, as specified, and would make a deenergization event one of those conditions constituting a state of emergency and a local emergency.

SB 55 (Stern) Very high fire hazard severity zone: state responsibility area: development prohibition.

Would, in furtherance of specified state housing production and wildfire mitigation goals, prohibit the creation or approval of a new development, as defined, in a very high fire hazard severity zone or a state responsibility area. By imposing new duties on local governments with respect to the approval of new developments in very high fire hazard severity zones and state responsibility areas, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

SB 59 (Caballero) Cannabis licenses

MAUCRSA, until January 1, 2022, authorizes a licensing authority, in its sole discretion, to issue a provisional license if the applicant has submitted a completed license application to the licensing authority, including evidence that compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or local cannabis ordinances is underway, if applicable, as specified. This bill would extend the repeal date of these provisional license provisions to July 1, 2028. By extending provisional licensure, the

applications for which are required to be signed under penalty of perjury, the bill would expand the scope of the crime of perjury, and would thereby impose a state-mandated local program.

SB 63 (Stern) Fire prevention: vegetation management: public education: grants: defensible space: fire hazard severity zones: forest management.

Would, among other things, require the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify areas of the state as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones and would require a local agency to make this information available for public review and comment, as provided. By expanding the responsibility of a local agency, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

SB 84 (Hurtado) Oil and gas wells: hazardous or idle-deserted wells and facilities.

Under current law, the operator, or the previous operator, as provided, as determined by the records of the State Oil and Gas Supervisor, of a deserted well that produced oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons or was used for injection is responsible for the proper plugging and abandonment of the well or the decommissioning of deserted production facilities. If the supervisor determines that the current operator does not have the financial resources to fully cover the cost of plugging and abandoning the well or the decommissioning of deserted production facilities, current law requires the immediately preceding operator to be responsible for the cost of plugging and abandoning the well or the decommissioning of deserted production facilities. This bill would require the supervisor to make reasonable efforts to cover the cost of plugging and abandoning the well or decommissioning deserted production facilities from the current operator before seeking to cover the cost of plugging and abandoning the well or decommissioning deserted production facilities from a previous operator.

SB 99 (Dodd) Community Energy Resilience Act of 2021.

Would set forth guiding principles for plan development, including equitable access to reliable energy, as provided, and integration with other existing local planning documents. The bill would require a plan to, among other things, ensure that a reliable electricity supply is maintained at critical facilities and identify areas most likely to experience a loss of electrical service. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 213 (Cortese) Workers' compensation: hospital employees

Would define "injury," for a hospital employee who provides direct patient care in an acute care hospital, to include infectious diseases, cancer, musculoskeletal injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and respiratory diseases. The bill would create rebuttable presumptions that these injuries that develop or manifest in a hospital employee who provides direct patient care in an acute care hospital arose out of and in the course of the employment. The bill would extend these presumptions for specified time periods after the hospital employee's termination of employment. The bill would also make related findings and declarations.

SB 219 (McGuire) Property taxation: delinquent penalties and costs: cancellation: public health orders

Current property tax law requires the county tax collector to collect all property taxes and provides for the payment of taxes on the secured roll in 2 installments, which are due and payable on November 1 and February 1, respectively. This bill would authorize the auditor or the tax collector to cancel any penalty, costs, or other charges resulting from tax delinquency upon a finding that failure to make a timely payment is due to a documented hardship, as determined by the tax collector, arising from a shelter-in-

place order, as defined, if the principal payment for the proper amount of tax due is paid no later than June 30 of the fiscal year in which the payment first became delinquent. By increasing the duties of local agencies, this bill would impose a state- mandated local program.

SB 222 (Dodd) Water Affordability Assistance Program.

Would establish the Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low- income ratepayers and ratepayers experiencing economic hardship in California. The bill would make moneys in the fund available upon appropriation by the Legislature to the state board to provide, as part of the Water Affordability Assistance Program established by the bill, direct water bill assistance, water bill credits, water crisis assistance, affordability assistance, and short-term assistance to public water systems to administer program components.

Conclusion

The Legislature reconvened on January 11, 2021. The last day to submit bill request to the Office of Legislative Counsel was on January 22nd, while the last day for bills to be introduced is February 19th. Most bills will be introduced on deadline week and must be in print for 30 days before being heard in policy committees. The Legislature has also already began holding several hearings on the early budget items in their subcommittees, as well as informational hearings on multiple issues.

We look forward to discussing future priorities in the 2021-22 Legislative Session and will continue to work with staff and keep the committee and Board updated. As always, should you or your staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.