

ACTION ITEM 4A

TO: Members, Legislative Committee
County of Santa Barbara

FROM: Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate
Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate

RE: June Update

DATE: June 18, 2010

It is getting hot in Sacramento and you know what that means...The budget fight begins and everyone becomes very grumpy. Having said this, June 15th has come and gone and there is no budget deal in place, as a matter of fact we are only in the middle of the budget conference committee process, which has normally concluded its business or is at least is close by this time.

The budget conference committee has run through about all of what we term the “binder”, specifically what this means is that the departments are broken out and then the issues are broken out where each house either did not deal with the item in the budget subcommittee process or where each house had a different outcome. It isn’t necessarily a bad thing to be “in conference” but not always a good thing either. While this is open to the public, most decisions are made behind closed doors and the committee does not take public testimony.

While many of the items remain “open” when we met with some of the budget conferees, they commented that both houses and each party was continuing to work out the general frame work of what they want the conference report to look like and the dollar amounts, until this process is completed, the conference committee can not complete it’s work. We will continue to monitor the committee and keep you posted on the details as they pertain to county specific issues.

There continue to be some critical bills to the county which we would like to update the committee on. The first one is AB 46 by Assembly Member Bill Monning from Santa Cruz. We discussed this bill at the last committee meeting, however at that time Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee had planned to introduce it for us. In any event, the measure will allow the affected counties of the SD 15 special election to do a manual count, should they chose to do so. Monterey County is the only county that opted out; there is a timing issue so the manual count does not work for them at this time. The bill was heard in Senate Elections Committee on June 17 and then was immediately heard on the Senate floor, the bill had no opposition and received unanimous support, AB 46 will now go to the Assembly for concurrence, where we anticipate the same outcome.

With the special election being held on June 22, we are continuing to work with the legislature to get the counties reimbursed from the state for the costs. Assembly Member

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Monning has also agreed to carry that measure for us, we will keep you updated as that discussion unfolds.

Another bill of concern to the County is AB 761 by Assembly Member Chuck Calderon, which is opposed by the County, and continues to sit in Senate Judiciary Committee. This measure is related to mobile home park conversions and the protection of the residents. The county is very supportive of our residents and knows that this bill could displace many of our citizens. Again, the bill has not been set, the deadline for this bill to be heard is July 2, 2010, and we will keep the Board posted on the status of this bill moving forward.

Just a quick update on AB 50 by Assembly Member Pedro Nava, which is supported by the county. The bill continues to sit on the Senate Floor still on the inactive file allowing us time to work out any outstanding issues with committee staff. This also allows the bill to continue to be alive with all of the deadlines we have to comply with and all of the procedures on the Senate floor. You may recall that this bill will allow various counties, Santa Barbara being one, to get some property tax relief as a result of the devastating fires the county has experienced in the last few years.

AB 1640 by Assembly Member Noreen Evans and Assembly Member Pedro Nava, which seeks to overturn a decision made by the California Department of Public Health in late December 2009 that disenrolled low-income, medi-cal woman ages 40-49 from the breast and cervical cancer screening program under the Every Woman Counts program. The Department cited fiscal constraints as the reason for this new mandate. You may recall that the Governor signed our County sponsored bill, AB 359, last year allowing providers, on a voluntary basis, to provide a digital screening but be reimbursed at the analogue rate. The idea was to allow more women to get their screenings, not less; therefore we are supporting this bill. The measure has received bi-partisan support and is currently sitting on the Senate floor awaiting a committee assignment. We will keep the committee updated as the bill moves forward.

We also wanted to update the County on the Special Distribution Fund (SDF) bill, AB 2198 by Assembly Member Paul Cook. You may recall that the Governor is holding this money and will not release it to the locals. This measure would have released these funds to the locals, and was supported by the County. The measure was held on the Assembly Appropriations suspense file, essentially, the bill is dead for now. We anticipate that this discussion will now move into the budget arena, which is usually the case. Keep in mind, the legislature can not allocate these funds to anything except the SDF; however, it is listed as part of the state's assets when entities look at our financials.

The County is also supporting AB 1919 by Assembly Member Mike Davis; this measure is sponsored by the City of Los Angeles. The bill would expand the circumstances under which fees are collected so as to provide additional funds for the survey monument preservation fund. This measure was brought to us by your Public Works Department, the bill is opposed by the Realtors, and died on the Assembly Floor, however reconsideration was granted. When the author took the bill up under reconsideration, the

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bill had the votes to get out of the Assembly; it is now in the Senate and will be heard on June 30 in Senate Local Government Committee.

On another note, the legislature just wrapped up two major deadlines, the “house of origin” deadline and the fiscal committee deadline. There were many casualties due to the fiscal constraints on the state, but we will still see hundreds of bills move ahead in each house. The budget is expected to take up most of the summer and possibly into the fall. There were some close calls in the election and it has made many electeds move over to the left or right of their usual stance given the outcomes of some races.

Finally, on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, California had a very significant primary election. There will be 1/3rd new Assembly Members elected in November due to term-limits and half of the Senate will be subject to an election battle. There are still a few races that have yet to be called; the deadline for this is July 9, 2010, once these races are called it will provide us with a better snapshot of what next year could potentially look like. We will keep you updated on this and the outcome of the SD 15 special election to fill the Maldonado seat.