

Agenda Item 3a: State Update

TO: Members, Legislative Committee
County of Santa Barbara

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

RE: August Update

DATE: August 20, 2010

As we approach the end of August we also approach the end of the legislative session. We are set to adjourn at midnight on August 31, 2010. We anticipate that this will be without a budget plan in place, as of today we are 50 days out from the fiscal year beginning and no budget deal in sight. The Democrats in both houses did release a “plan” which included several taxes on the middle class, leaving the upper class tax bracket alone and increasing the vehicle license fee, but it did fully fund most of the social service programs and allows for many of the newly assessed state taxes to be federally reimbursed. The plan has still not been fully vetted with the Republican caucus and the Governor said it was dead on arrival. So, we forge ahead.

There is some speculation that they will wait until early October to reach a deal or possibly wait until the new Governor is elected and the new legislature is sworn-in, the idea is that this will help with the passage of the simple majority budget vote if there continues to be a stalemate in the budget discussions. While all of this is speculation, we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you posted.

When we last reported we were working on 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 would have allowed 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. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 22, 2010.

We had anticipated that Assembly Member Monning would also introduce a bill that would have reimbursed the county for the special election, however Assembly Mike Davis (D-Los Angeles) did a “gut and amend” to his AB 496 that would reimburse all counties for special elections beginning in 2011. The measure was held on in the Senate Appropriations Committee due to the potential fiscal impact on the state. We are currently working with Assembly Member Van Tran (R- Orange County) and our delegation to send a joint letter to the Big Five (Legislative Leaders from both houses and

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the Governor) asking for all of these affected counties reimbursement to be considered as part of the budget negotiations, all of our delegation has agreed to sign on to this letter, there are a total of 14 counties and every member affected signed the letter.

The County was also opposing AB 761 by Assembly Member Chuck Calderon. The measure was heard in Senate Judiciary Committee and after much debate the bill died. 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.

AB 50 by Assembly Member Pedro Nava is another bill 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. We are told by the Republican Caucus that they will not support the bill, the Senate Appropriations staff required us to take an amendment that states that the county that is affected must demonstrate that they took every measure to ensure that the land would be protected and has implemented a fire safety program. The caucus believes that this is just too much, however the Appropriations staff will pull the bill back and kill it if we amend out that provision, so for now we are still on inactive file pending further discussions. 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 third reading file, it was voted out of Assembly Suspense file on August 12, 2010.

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. The measure is currently sitting on the Senate Floor Third Reading file waiting to be taken up. It will then return to the Assembly for concurrence and then to the Governor for his action.

The County is also opposing AB 2503 by Speaker John Perez related to the rigs to reefs program. This bill has been attempted in the past and the Governor has repeatedly vetoed the bill. The measure is sitting on the Senate floor waiting for a full vote on the third

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reading file. We anticipate that it will go to the Governor, however we understand that the Governor will veto the bill. We will continue to keep the Committee and Board updated as this bill moves forward.

AB 354 by Assembly Juan Arambula from the Central Valley is supported by our Public Health Department. This bill deletes certain age limits for specified childhood immunizations required for admission to specified schools or child care centers, and requires the Department of Public Health to consider the immunization recommendations of the American Academy of Family Physicians. The bill is currently sitting on the Senate Floor awaiting a vote of the full Senate. We will keep you posted on the outcome of this bill.

Finally, AB 2456 by Assembly Member Alberto Torrico is a bill that we are watching on behalf of the county. This bill requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority to develop and enforce regulations establishing standards for policies and procedures applicable to the functions of emergency medical technicians. This measure is also sitting on the Senate Third Reading file and is expected to be taken up prior to the adjournment of August 31, 2010.

Finally, as you are aware there are several ballot initiatives slated for the November 2010 ballot, below is a snapshot for your information on what those proposed to do if passed by the voters.

Proposition 18

(This measure has been moved to the November 2012 election.) This was the water bond the state passed last November, 2009. The Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010. SBX7 2 (Chapter 3, Statutes of 2009), Cogdill. Bond Measure.

Proposition 19

Changes California Law to Legalize Marijuana and Allow It to Be Regulated and Taxed. Initiative Statute.

Proposition 20

Redistricting of Congressional Districts. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Proposition 21 – “State Access Pass”

Establishes \$18 Annual Vehicle License Surcharge to Help Fund State Parks and Wildlife Programs and Grants Free Admission to All State Parks to Surcharged Vehicles. Initiative Statute.

Proposition 22 – This is the measure that the cities had placed on the ballot.

Prohibits the State From Taking Funds Used for Transportation or Local Government Projects and Services. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

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Proposition 23

Suspends AB 32, the Air Pollution Control Laws Requiring Major Polluters to Report and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions That Cause Global Warming Until Unemployment Drops Below Specified Level for Full Year.

Proposition 24

Repeals Recent Legislation that Would Allow Businesses to Carry Back Losses, Share Tax Credits, and Use a Sales-Based Income Calculation to Lower Taxable Income.

Proposition 25

Changes Legislative Vote Requirement to Pass a Budget From Two Thirds to a Simple Majority. Retains Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Taxes.

Proposition 26

Increases Legislative Vote Requirement to Two-Thirds for State Levies and Charges. Imposes Additional Requirement for Voters to Approve Local Levies and Charges With Limited Exceptions.

Proposition 27

Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting. Consolidates Authority for Redistricting With Elected Representatives.