

TO: Members, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Committee

FROM: Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate  
Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate  
County of Santa Barbara

RE: April 2011 Legislative Update

DATE: April 28, 2011

In an effort to keep you updated we wanted to start with a budget update. As you know, the legislature successfully passed all of the “cut” budget trailer bills, except the Redevelopment Agencies (RDA) piece, they also passed the main budget bill, SB 64. The Governor signed the budget package minus the main budget bill and due to the lack of votes; the legislature has yet to pass the other proposals related to the tax extensions. There has been a total stalemate ever since, the May revise is expected on May 13<sup>th</sup>; we are hearing that the Governor will release two versions of his May Revise. We anticipate one will be based on bringing in new revenues, such as the tax extensions, the other will be an all cuts budget. The Administration today halted any DMV renewal notifications being mailed out for those who have a VLF renewal due July 2011 and beyond in hopes of being able to broker a deal. We have also heard that they have the votes in the Assembly but the Senate has yet to break. Tensions are high and many are very frustrated, but we will continue to forge ahead and will keep you updated.

With the budget at a complete stalemate, we are now focused on the bills that will need to move out of the policy committees and into the fiscal committees. The deadline for policy bills with fiscal implications is May 6, 2011, and bills without fiscal implications is May 13, 2011. This is always crunch time; however this year they really waited until the last two weeks to hear all of the bills given they were so focused on trying to bridge the deficit.

One of our sponsored bills is AB 765 introduced by Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian on behalf of our DA, Joyce Dudley. This measure will allow the penal code to catch up with modern day life related to sexually violent crimes and properly prosecute offenders. This bill was placed on the Assembly Public Safety Consent file in early April and sailed out of committee, it was then assigned to the Assembly Appropriations committee where it received bi-partisan support with a vote of 15-0, it will now go to the full Assembly to be taken up soon. Then it goes to the Senate. We anticipate the road might be a bit bumpy there, but are already meeting with staff to anticipate any potential problems we may encounter. Additionally, the DA’s office successfully secured the support of the California District Attorney’s Association, which is very difficult to get.

We also introduced AB 537 authored by Assembly Member Das Williams and co-sponsored with SBCAG; this is related to the highway 154 issue. The bill will continue to be parked for this year while we continue to work with CHP and others to gather the necessary data to substantiate our claims.

Another bill introduced by the County is AB 1356 by Assembly Member Mike Eng (D-LA); this bill is an attempt to address the local issues related to wine tasting rooms and better regulation of them in our local communities. We have had several stakeholder meetings on this bill with ABC, The Family Wine Makers, the Wine Institute and various vintners' associations throughout California. In an effort to get the best outcomes we have decided to park this bill for this year to allow further discussion on this issue to ensure we have a strong and successful bill to move forward. Therefore this bill is now a two-year bill.

We have also successfully moved AB 412 by Assembly Member Das Williams through the Assembly Health Committee. The bill received bi-partisan support and 15 yes votes in Committee on April 26, 2011. Nancy Lapolla, from our Public Health Department, has been very involved along with Dr. Angelo Salvucci. The bill will now move to the Assembly Local Government Committee where it will be heard on May 3, 2011. We understand that the chair is supportive, there may be some amendments taken to help move the bill along, but nothing concrete at this time. We will continue to keep you updated on this bill as it moves along.

We have also worked with Senator Sam Blakeslee's office to get SB 106 introduced; this bill seeks to reimburse counties for the cost of special elections. The bill was successful in the policy committee, however now it faces a tough battle in the Senate Appropriations committee, it is scheduled to be heard on May 2, 2011, but it will go straight to the suspense file, which is where many bills go due to the fiscal impact on the state, then later in May leadership works out the deals on what bills will continue to move. Fortunately, Senator Blakeslee is well positioned given his interest in working out a budget deal and this could potentially be part of that deal.

Other bills of interest to the county include SB 444 by Senator Noreen Evans; this measure permits a local government to subject an application to convert a mobilehome park to resident ownership to all relevant state and local laws, including all provisions of the Subdivision Map Act. The County is supporting this bill, it was scheduled to be heard earlier this month, however the author pulled the bill the day of the committee, and it is now scheduled to be heard on May 3, 2011, in the Senate Housing and Transportation Committee.

While we are in the thick of the legislative session, there is still many months left of heated debates on both bills and the budget. We will continue to keep you apprised of any and all new details. As always, should you or your staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.