

TO: Members, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Committee

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

RE: March 2012 State Update

DATE: March 29, 2012

### **2012-2013 Budget update**

The legislature has begun their subcommittee process which will continue until the May Revise is released on May 15, 2012. At this point, the leadership plan is to focus on the big picture, which entails many oversight hearings related to budget items without a formal action being taken. We are working closely with your department directors at this time to ensure their items are covered and we explain to the legislature our position. This will continue to be a very fluid process, however we will continue to work both with legislative budget staff and your staff to ensure our position is known and we are able to provide our delegation with the potential direct county hits.

### **Specific Legislation of interest to Santa Barbara County**

**AB 537 (Williams)** This bill co-sponsored with SBCAG and is related to the highway 154 issue. The bill was a two year bill as the County continued to work with CHP and others to gather the necessary data to substantiate our claims. We have talked with Assembly Member Williams staff and the SBCAG lobbyist and after many meetings it was determined that a resolution is the best course of action at this time, this will be introduced this spring.

**AB 765 (Achadjian)** This bill was introduced at our request by Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian on behalf of our DA, Joyce Dudley and is part of the Board of Supervisor's platform. The bill had bi-partisan support but was held in the Senate Public Safety Committee on June 28, 2011 due to concerns that the bill would create a new crime. This measure will allow the penal code to catch up with modern day life related to sexually violent crimes and allow for DA's to properly prosecute offenders. We are continuing to work with the Senate Public Safety Committee in an effort to get this bill moved out of policy and into the fiscal committee in the Senate.

**AB 1998 (Achadjian)** This bill was introduced at our request on February 23, 2012 which was introduced as part of our 2012 legislative platform. This bill would allow a Board of Supervisors to locally opt-in to amend their surplus property plan to include the ability to surplus computer property directly to CalFresh, CalWorks, Medi-Cal, and General relief recipients. We have actively worked to secure additional support and are scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 18, 2012.

**AB 2443 (Williams)** This bill was introduced at our request by Assembly Member Das Williams. The bill has been a work in progress for the last year; we have pulled together a stakeholder group and have worked with Assembly Member Williams' office in an effort to get the bill introduced. We have finally developed appropriate language to allow us to move the bill into policy committee. Our stakeholder group continues to meet and will work towards getting this bill out of policy committee. At the moment we are double referred to two different committees; Assembly Transportation and Housing and Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife. We believe with this latest round of amendments we will only go to the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee. We will continue to keep you updated.

### **Wrap-up**

The legislature has begun their spring recess as of today. They will return on April 9, 2012. Once they return, they will begin the many policy hearings that lay ahead to try to race against the policy clock that has begun ticking. As you read above, our sponsored bills are currently awaiting their policy committee hearings. There are many bills to be reviewed in order to take a position based on our legislative platform.

We will continue to keep the Board and your staff apprised of any new updates, in the meantime, should you or your staff has any questions, please let us know.