

NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor
Kasha Hunt, Policy Advisor

DATE: May 12, 2025

RE: State Legislative Program: Advocacy Update

4. State Report

- a. **Status of the Legislature:** April and the beginning of May were packed with policy committee hearings, as we approached the deadline for bills to move to the first house fiscal committees. Those deadlines were May 2 for bills with a fiscal impact, and May 9 for those that do not have a fiscal impact. Appropriations committees are meeting to take up bills and will move the Suspense File prior to the May 23 deadline. June 6 is the last day for each house to pass bills in their house of origin.
- b. **Status of the State Budget:** The Governor's May Revise is due by May 14. We anticipate the revised proposal will report a substantial deficit. We will share a verbal update if the May Revise is released prior to the Legislative Committee meeting. The Legislature will pass and vote on their own budget priorities and enter into negotiations with the Governor. The final budget must be passed by June 15, and signed by June 30.
 - i. **2-1-1 Services Funding:** The County has been asked to consider submitting a letter requesting 2-1-1 services funding in the 2025-26 State Budget. The request is for a \$20 million one-time funding to strengthen and grow California's 2-1-1 systems. The funds allocated under SB 1212 (Hueso, 2016) for 211 implementation officially expired on January 1, 2023, which affects 15 rural counties at risk of having their 211 services shut down. This would allow new money to be allocated to 211 Monterey County. We are recommending the County support this request.
- c. **Legislation:**
 - i. **AB 49 (Muratsuchi) Schoolsites: Immigration enforcement:** Existing law restricts school officials from collecting information on students' or their families' citizenship or immigration status, unless required by law for educational programs. This bill prohibits allowing immigration enforcement officials on school grounds without a valid ID, judicial warrant, court order, or urgent reasons. If these criteria are met, their access should be limited to areas without students. This bill imposes new responsibilities on educational agencies, creating a state-mandated local program. If it results in state-mandated costs, local agencies will be reimbursed following state procedures. The bill is designed to take effect immediately due to its urgency.

The County took a position of Support and submitted a letter on 1/29/25. Since the County took its position on this bill, the language has been amended. Originally, daycare centers were included; however, amendments removed day care centers from the bill, limiting its scope to schoolsites only. In its letter, the County not only took a support position, but also suggested the author expand the definition of day care centers to include small family run day care centers. Given the amendments and limited jurisdiction scope to only schoolsites, the County will still submit a support position, but remove any suggestions related to expanding to family day care centers.

CSAC Position: Watch

Current Position: Support

- ii. **AB 431 (Wilson) Advanced Air Mobility Infrastructure Act:** The State Aeronautics Act governs aviation matters and enables the Department of Transportation to create and enforce regulations for aviation management. This law would establish the Advanced Air Mobility Zero-Emission and Electrification Aviation Advisory Panel, which would evaluate the state's infrastructure feasibility for supporting a vertiport network and create a three-year plan to advance air mobility services, ensuring equitable access. The proposed "Advanced Air Mobility Infrastructure Act" requires the Department to develop a statewide plan addressing advanced air mobility needs, including vertiports and electric aviation charging, and designate an expert in this field. The County supports this bill as it could positively impact two aviation businesses in the County, Joby Aviation and Archer.

CSAC Position: Watch

Recommended Position: Support

- iii. **SB 16 (Blakespear) Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program: housing element: unsheltered and chronic homelessness: assessment and financing plan:** SB 16 would require every city and county to prepare and adopt a general plan, including a housing element, to guide the future growth of a community, require the county to expand the data they provide in the housing element specific to homeless populations and also required counties to fund 50% of the operating costs to city homeless shelters.

The County filed a letter of Opposition on this bill on 4/16/25 which aligned with CSAC's opposition centered on the argument that SB16 required counties to commit to divert funds, and to contribute at least 50% of expected operating costs to city homeless shelters which would reverse course from past practice to incentivize investments into evidence-based housing solutions for homelessness (such as interim and permanent housing and prevention measures) to funding homeless shelters, which have little success in solving homelessness. The Author has subsequently amended the bill removing the areas that the County and CSAC were in opposition on. Therefore, the County will remove its opposition and move to a watch position.

CSAC Position: Watch

Current Position: Watch

- d. **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Letter on Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities:** During the April 29th Board meeting, the Supervisors suggested that a letter be sent to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requesting that the CPUC act expeditiously and

review additional regulatory paths that would strengthen safety protocols and local oversight and coordination for BESS facilities. The letter is being finalized and will be submitted to the CPUC.

e. Governor's Actions and Executive Orders:

- April 24 – Governor Newsom announced the state's second C-130 Hercules (C-130H) airtanker is now ready for firefighting operations.
- April 22 – Governor Newsom welcomed Palisades Charter High School students back to school as they returned to in-person learning at a new school site – a former Sears location in Santa Monica that has now been converted to house the entire student population of more than 2,400 students at a single campus.
- April 15 – Governor Newsom issued an executive order to protect firestorm victims in the Los Angeles area from predatory land speculators making aggressive and unsolicited cash offers to purchase their property.
- April 3 – Ahead of a series of severe storms set to impact Kentucky, Governor Newsom announced the deployment of California firefighters to assist in staffing a Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Support Team, following FEMA's request for support.

f. State Bill/Issues Track: See attached.