TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor

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DATE: August 14, 2025

RE: State Legislative Program: Advocacy Update

State Report

- a. Status of the Legislature: Policy committee deadline was July 18 and marked the start of summer recess. All bills, unless they are 2-year bills or those with an urgency clause, are now in Appropriations Committees or have moved to the floor. The legislature will reconvene for their final month of session on August 18. Once they reconvene, Appropriations Committees will have until August 29 to meet and act on bills that have a fiscal impact to the state. Each House will hold floor sessions as well, moving bills from the Legislature to the Governor for action. September 12 is the final day of the legislative session. The Governor has 30 days to act on bills presented to him. Several of the bills that the County has filed a position letter on were held as 2-year bills. If the bill was held in its first house, then it will have to move right at the beginning of the new legislative year in 2026. However, if a bill was held in the second house, it will have several months to move through the legislative process once the legislature reconvenes in January 2026.
- b. Status of the State Budget: The main FY 2025-26 budget bills have all been passed and signed; however, there may still be budget trailer bills passed at the end of session. Additionally, the current budget bill does not contemplate the extensive federal tax cuts included in the President's One Big Beautiful Bill and recission bill recently signed. Therefore, we expect to see additional trailer bills aimed at addressing the federal cuts, as well as a natural resources related trailer bill. Although the budget bill has been signed for the year, we expect August to be a very active budget session.

c. Legislation:

Legal Remedies Act makes unlawful certain unfair methods of competition and certain unfair or deceptive acts or practices undertaken by a person in a transaction intended to result or that results in the sale or lease of goods or services to a consumer, including charging or receiving an unreasonable fee, as defined, to prepare, aid, or advise any prospective applicant, applicant, or recipient in the procurement, maintenance, or securing of public social services, as defined to include, among other things, veterans pensions. This bill would expand the definition of public social services to also include other veteran's benefits. The bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee but has not been scheduled for a hearing yet.

CSAC Position: No Position Suggested Position: Support

- d. AB 1439 Implementation Support Letter: The County was asked to join a coalition of county supervisors in a letter to the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee supporting the implementation of AB 1439 (Chapter 369, Statues of 2023), which became law on January 2, 2024. AB 1439, authored by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, directs the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) to update the scoring criteria for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. Specifically, it allows CTCAC to:
 - Award maximum points to new construction farmworker housing projects under the housing needs category;
 - Provide an additional five points in the "site amenities" category for those projects.

Because farmworker housing is typically located in rural areas, they often face structural disadvantages in the competitive scoring process. To ensure a more equitable evaluation it is proposed that Section 10325, Item No. 4 be updated to include: "The project is a new construction farmworker housing project – 5 points.

<u>Recommended Action:</u> Sign on to CTCAC Support Implementation Letter to Fiona Ma, State Treasurer.

e. Governor's Actions and Executive Orders:

- July 30 The Governor issued an executive order that will give local government the discretion to limit SB 9 development in very high fire hazard severity zones within rebuilding areas.
- July 30 Governor Newsom issued an executive order to support young men and boys to address rising suicide rates.
- July 29 Governor Newsom announced that all Cal OES Urban Search and Rescue teams have returned home from Texas following catastrophic flooding.
- July 18 Governor Newsom announced the deployment of three additional Urban Search and Rescue Team members to Texas to assist with ongoing response efforts related to severe flooding impacts. A total of forty-two California US&R members are now in Kerr, Texas, supporting the mission.
- July 15 Governor Newsom announced a new initiative, the California Breakthrough Project, connecting state agencies with tech executives to identify new opportunities for efficiency, engagement, and effectiveness throughout the state government to improve services for Californians.
- July 15 Governor Newsom announced the launch of a new public outreach campaign with LA Rises to support Angelenos in the aftermath of the Palisades and Eaton fires.
- July 9 Governor Newsom announced additional deployment of California resources to support New Mexico following Texas and Oregon disaster response efforts.
- July 8 Governor Newsom deployed a firefighter strike team to support the Oregon wildfire response.
- July 8 Governor Newsom announced the deployment of an additional eighteen highly skilled Urban Search and Rescue Team members to Texas to assist with ongoing response efforts related to severe flooding impacts.
- July 7 Governor Newsom announced deployment of urban search and rescue task force teams to Texas.
- July 7 Governor Newsom announced that debris removal for the Los Angeles firestorm is now substantially complete just six months after the fires ignited and has signed a

- new executive order to further fast-track rebuilding homes and schools. The Governor announced a blueprint for recovery in partnership with Los Angeles County leaders.
- June 30 Governor Newsom issued an executive order to extend his emergency order boosting the availability of short-term housing for survivors of the LA area Firestorm to October 1, 2025.
- June 18 Governor Newsom issued emergency proclamation to help the City of Malibu recover from the Franklin Fire.
- June 11 Governor Newsom announced the launch of a new effort to recruit for one of the world's leading firefighting entities, CAL FIRE.
- f. State Bill/Issues Track: See attached.