



TO: Legislative Committee **DATE:** August 14, 2017
FROM: Jennifer Capitolo, Senior Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP
Ashley Walker, Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP
RE: Legislative Program: Advocacy Updates

Background:

Nossaman was selected to represent the County on State legislative issues as of August 1, 2017. We look forward to working with the County in this expanded role. Nossaman has meetings scheduled with the Legislative Committee, Department Heads, and Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs Division staff to discuss management of the County's Legislative Program. We hope to finalize a new reporting and communications protocol as we enter the 2nd year of the 2017-2018 session. We encourage your feedback. Below please find an update on the County's priority bills and the first draft of a bill tracking report.

Status of 2017-2018 Legislative Session:

The Legislature is currently on Summer Recess and will return from the break on Monday, August 21. Upon return, they will have until Friday, September 1 to pass all bills out of the Appropriations Committees. The final two weeks of session will be Floor Session only. All bills must be passed by the Legislature by Friday, September 15, which marks the last day of Session. Proposition 54 was passed by the voters in November 2016 and requires all bills to be in print for at least 72 hours before final votes in both houses. This will be the first end of session with this law in place. The Governor has 30 days to act on bills. He can sign or veto bills, or if he chooses not to take any action, they automatically become law. This year marks the end of the first year, in the two-year Legislative Session. If bills are not passed this year, they become "2-year" bills and can be heard in 2018.

Legislative Advocacy Highlights:

SCR 57 (Cannella): Memorial Highways. Nossaman is working with Supervisor Alejo and Senator Cannella to finalize the bill language for SCA 57. Supervisor Alejo's staff members have provided Senator Cannella's staff with information for 4 of the 5 veterans and are waiting for the information on the final veteran. Once we receive this information, we will work with Senator Cannella's office to have legislative counsel draft the language, as quickly as possible. The Assembly Transportation Committee is not yet scheduled to meet to hear the bill. Nossaman is working with Senator Cannella and his staff to request a hearing for the bill and we have been in touch with the consultants at the Assembly Transportation Committee.

SB 54 (de León): Law Enforcement: Data Sharing. This bill would, among other things, prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies, including school police and security departments, from using resources to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes. Over the weekend, Governor Brown indicated he would not sign this bill as currently drafted, however he did not state he was opposed to the policy goals. We anticipate Senator de León will be working with the Administration over the next few weeks to amend the bill.

SB 623 (Monning) – Water Quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund: SB 623 would create the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund for grants, loans, contracts, or

services to assist those without access to safe and affordable drinking water. Nossaman has engaged in regular communications with staff for Senator Monning regarding progress towards a statewide compromise between agriculture interests and the environmental justice groups. SB 623 was amended on July 3, 2017 to provide immunity from State Board enforcement action, if the mitigation requirements are met. According to Senator Monning's office, the bill is not yet in its final format.

Trailer Bill - Nitrate Mitigation: The Salinas Basin Agricultural Stewardship Group is sponsoring a bill to provide funds for a replacement drinking water plan for Salinas Valley communities whose groundwater supplies are contaminated with unsafe levels of nitrates. The budget trailer bill allows the County of Monterey to impose a nitrogen fertilizer application tax to fund the temporary program. If the budget trailer bill is successful, the local measure would then require a 2/3 vote of approval by County voters. The proponents of the bill have informed us that they have had several positive conversations with key Administration officials on the proposed budget trailer bill language, as well as laying out the reasons for the urgency for the Legislature/Governor passing/enacting the proposed trailer bill language as soon as possible to meet the suggested timeline for the implementation of the tax initiative. The County has taken a support position on the trailer bill.

SB 5 (de Leon) and AB 18 (Garcia) – Park Bonds: The Senate and Assembly bond bills for parks include funding opportunities that would benefit several of the County's projects, as well as the cities within the County. Some examples include: \$800 million in competitive funding for the creation and expansion of neighborhood parks, \$200 million in per capita grants for local park rehabilitation and improvements, and \$100 million for ocean, bay and coastal protection projects. The County took a support position on both SB 5 and AB 18. Nossaman has drafted support letters that include amendments to better position the County's projects for funding. Nossaman will be meeting with the County's legislative delegation in the final weeks of session to express our support and request amendments.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transfer: The County's EMS Bureau Chief, Michael Petrie, recently alerted us of fire chiefs' efforts to change the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act and Government Code, which if successful, would strip counties and their EMS agencies of the authority to coordinate, regulate, assure clinical quality, and control costs of EMS systems; essentially undermining county-based EMS systems throughout California. The League of California Cities (League) is holding a conference in mid-September, and will consider adoption of a resolution proposed by the City of Tracy in concurrence with the cities of Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Stockton, and the Elk Grove and Galt fire departments. The resolution requests that the League sponsor legislation to amend the EMS code to allow cities to control EMS services within their jurisdictions. Additionally, several cities have passed resolutions urging the League to pursue this legislation to allow cities to contract or run their own EMS. The City of Salinas is in support of these efforts. Staff at the League has informed Nossaman that if the resolution is passed, they may pursue legislation on this next year.