



**TO:** Monterey County Legislative Committee

**FROM:** Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor

**DATE:** January 11, 2020

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## STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### a. 2021-22 Legislative Session

The 2021-22 Legislative Session was scheduled to begin on January 4, but was delayed until January 11 due to COVID case levels in Sacramento County and across the State. We anticipate needing to be flexible with the legislative calendar, as we were last year, in the event that there are extended or unplanned recesses due to the pandemic. According to Capitol Public Radio, more than a dozen Capitol staff have tested positive for COVID-19 since Members were sworn in on December 7, 2020.

### b. FY 2021-22 State Budget

The Governor's 2020-21 January Budget proposal was released on Friday, January 10. Nossaman will provide a verbal update to the Committee, as the budget summary was not released at the time of writing this report.

- i. **California's Safe Schools for All Plan:** The Governor announced a four step plan aimed at restoring safe in-person instruction for K-12 students. The announcement came with a promise of a \$2 Billion state budget allocation for schools on a per pupil funding formula. In addition to funding, the plan focuses on: Safety & Mitigation, including testing, PPE, contract tracing, and vaccinations, Oversight & Assistance, and Transparency & Accountability.

### c. Legislation

- i. **Senate Housing Package:** The Senate announced a package of bills focused on addressing the housing crisis in California. The package includes six bills outlined below.
  - [SB 5 \(Atkins\)](#): Senate Bill 5 establishes the initial framework for a statewide housing bond that would fund the creation of new, affordable housing for homeless and low-income families.
  - [SB 6 \(Caballero\)](#): Senate Bill 6 authorizes residential development on existing lots currently zoned for commercial office and retail space such as strip malls or large "big box" retail spaces. The bill requires the development of residential units be at a minimum density to accommodate affordable housing and abide by existing local planning and development ordinances.
  - [SB 7 \(Atkins\)](#): Senate Bill 7 seeks to improve the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process by extending and expanding provisions of AB 900, which streamlined paperwork and expedited legal challenges to large, multi-benefit housing, energy, and manufacturing projects. SB 7 would extend

the 2021 'sunset' of AB 900, which created jobs and investment in the state, through 2025.

- [SB 8 \(Skinner\)](#): California is in an extreme housing shortage. We now rank 49th in the number of housing units per capita and are home to 33 of the 50 US cities with the highest rents. SB 8 will address our housing crisis by focusing on opportunities to ensure housing production can continue to move forward in the state.
- [SB 9 \(Atkins\)](#): Senate Bill 9 promotes small-scale neighborhood residential development by streamlining the process for a homeowner to create a duplex or subdivide an existing lot in residential areas. This bill builds on the successful approach of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and expands options for homeowners who wish to be part of the solution in solving California's housing crisis.
- [SB 10 \(Wiener\)](#): SB 10 allows cities to upzone areas close to job centers, transit, and existing urbanized areas to allow up to ten units without having to go through the lengthy CEQA process. SB 10 will make it easier for cities to build housing affordable to young people and working families.

- ii. [SB 59 \(Caballero\)](#) Cannabis licenses - *recommend support*. The Legislative Committee directed staff to bring this bill back for consideration at the January meeting.

**Summary of the bill:** MAUCRSA, until January 1, 2022, authorizes a licensing authority, in its sole discretion, to issue a provisional license if the applicant has submitted a completed license application to the licensing authority, including evidence that compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or local cannabis ordinances is underway, if applicable, as specified. This bill would extend the repeal date of these provisional license provisions to July 1, 2028. By extending provisional licensure, the applications for which are required to be signed under penalty of perjury, the bill would expand the scope of the crime of perjury, and would thereby impose a state-mandated local program.

- d. **Governor's Executive Orders that Impact Monterey County:** The following actions have been taken by the Governor since the last Legislative Committee meeting. This list was provided by CSAC to all County officials. We are happy to provide the details of any item listed below, should the Committee desire.

- December 19 Governor Gavin Newsom announced that the Western State's Scientific Safety Review Workgroup completed their concurrent and thorough review of the federal process and confirmed the Moderna vaccine was safe and efficacious. The workgroup is comprised of nationally acclaimed scientists with expertise in immunization and public health from California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.
- December 17 the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Launched "Mothers" Advertising Campaign to encourage Californians to pause plans to gather with extended family and friends for the holidays and shine a light on the catastrophic effect family gatherings can have as COVID-19 continues to spread.

- December 14 Governor Newsom launched “Vaccinate All 58”, the state’s vaccine distribution campaign based on safety and equity as first vaccines arrive to California. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updated guidance for youth and recreational adult sports. The guidance applies to all organized youth and adult sports, including school and community sponsored programs, and privately-organized clubs and leagues. Learn more [here](#).
- e. **State Advocacy Activities:** The attached memo provides updates on advocacy items that fall outside of bills we are working on. These items could include budget requests and/or COVID-19 related issues.
- i. **Housing for the Harvest:** The Board of Supervisors sent a letter to the County’s legislative delegation requesting assistance getting local hotels and motels contracted with the state to be providers under the Housing for the Harvest program. The County currently does not have an active program, as there have been no hotels or motels contracted to be providers. We are meeting with our delegation to discuss the details and next steps.

Additionally, Senator Caballero sent a letter to the Governor requesting that wage replacement be added as a component to the Housing for the Harvest Program.

- f. **State Bill Track:** The attached tracking list of bills represents positions of the Board of Supervisors. This is not an all-inclusive list of bills Nossaman tracks and monitors for the County, rather solely represents positions the County has taken. Nossaman tracks hundreds of other bills that may affect the County and monitors them closely for potential impacts.

A support position means the County has taken an official support position on the bill and Nossaman is actively advocating to advance the legislation in Committees and with the Administration. This includes meetings with the author, sponsors, and staff, meetings with members, staff and consultants of relevant committees, drafting letters of support, and drafting supportive talking points and any necessary background information, and testifying in hearings.

An oppose position means the County has taken an official oppose position on the bill and that Nossaman is actively advocating against the legislation moving any further in the legislative process. This includes meetings with the author, sponsors, and staff, meetings with members, staff and consultants of relevant committees, drafting letters of opposition, drafting talking points and any necessary background information, and testifying in hearings.

A support if amended or oppose unless amended position the County has concerns on the bill and Nossaman is actively advocating for a change to the language of a bill in order to gain the County’s support, or to remove the County’s opposition.

A watch position means that the County is not advocating in support or opposition of a bill but may be gathering more information and/or meeting with the author and relevant committees to evaluate potential impacts of the legislation.

**ATTACHMENT: DRAFT SUPPORT LETTER**

- SB 59 (Caballero) Cannabis licenses.