



**TO:** Monterey County Legislative Committee  
**FROM:** Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor  
**DATE:** February 8, 2021

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**STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**a. 2021-22 Legislative Session**

The 2021-22 Legislative Session continues to focus on the Governor's proposed immediate and early action budget items, and COVID-19 related impacts. Members continue to introduce bills outside of the pandemic; however it is yet to be determined how much they will be able to accomplish this year. Policy committee hearings will start to ramp up in March.

**b. FY 2021-22 State Budget**

The Governor's 2020-21 January Budget proposal was released on Friday, January 10. The budget calls for the legislature to act on \$12.8 billion in immediate and early budget proposals in the current fiscal year, as well as proposes a fiscal year 21-22 spending plan. The Legislature has been most focused on immediate and early action proposals, as outlined below.

**i. Immediate Action Items:**

- Safe re-opening of K-12 schools
- Low-income tax refund
- Small business aid
- Fee waivers for heavily impacted services industries

**ii. Early Action Items:**

- Student Support:
  - K-12 Extended Learning Time
  - Higher Education Emergency Financial Assistance
  - Community College Retention Rates and Enrollment
- Jobs and Workforce Training:
  - Jobs and Regional Development – Cal Competes
  - Wildfire and Forest Resilience
  - Jobs through Jump Starting Housing Development Locally
  - Small Businesses – California Dream Start-up Grants
  - Workforce Development – High Roads Apprenticeship Program
- Environmental Sustainability
  - Cap & Trade Expenditure Plan
  - Sustainable Agriculture
  - Bottle Bill
- Housing and Homelessness
  - Homekey Housing
  - Trial Court Workload for Eviction Protections

- Other Items
  - County Probation Departments
  - California Creative Corps
  - Go-Biz Staffing Resources

**c. Legislation**

- i. **AB 34 (Muratsuchi) Communications: Broadband for All Act of 2022:** Would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would enact the Broadband for All Act of 2022, to become operative only if approved by the voters at the November 8, 2022, statewide general election, to authorize the issuance of state general obligation bonds to fund increased access to broadband services to rural, urban, suburban, and tribal unserved and underserved communities.
  - *Recommended position: County is supporting this legislation.*
- ii. **AB 101 (Medina) Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: ethnic studies:** Would add the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies, meeting specified requirements, to the high school graduation requirements commencing with pupils graduating in the 2029–30 school year, including for pupils enrolled in a charter school. The bill would expressly authorize local educational agencies, including charter schools, to require a full-year course in ethnic studies at their discretion. The bill would require local educational agencies, including charter schools, to offer an ethnic studies course commencing with the 2025–26 school year, as specified.
  - *Recommended position: Support.*
- iii. **AB 125 (Rivas) Food and agriculture: climate crisis: COVID-19 recovery:** Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to issue a bond to support solutions to the climate crisis and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that would create a more equitable and resilient food and farming system.
  - *Recommended position: Watch.*
- iv. **SB 74 (Borgeas) Keep California Working Act:** Current law establishes the Office of Small Business Advocate within the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development for the purpose of advocating for the causes of small business and to provide small businesses with the information they need to survive in the marketplace. This bill, the Keep California Working Act, would establish the Keep California Working Grant Program. The act would require the Small Business Advocate to administer the program and award grants, as specified, to small businesses and nonprofit entities that meet specified criteria, including that the entity has experienced economic hardship resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - *Recommended position: Support.*
- v. **SB 219 (McGuire) Property taxation: delinquent penalties and costs: cancellation: public health orders:** Current property tax law requires the county tax collector to collect all property taxes and provides for the payment of taxes on the secured roll in 2 installments, which are due and payable on November 1 and February 1, respectively. This bill would authorize the auditor or the tax collector to cancel any penalty, costs, or other charges resulting from tax delinquency upon a finding that failure to make a timely payment is due to a documented hardship, as determined by the tax collector, arising from a shelter-in-place order, as defined, if the principal payment for the proper amount of tax due is paid no later than June 30

of the fiscal year in which the payment first became delinquent. By increasing the duties of local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

- *Recommended position: Support.*

**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.

- January 30 Governor Newsom Declared State of Emergency in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties Due to Winter Storms.
- January 29 Governor Gavin Newsom signed legislation to extend the state's landmark eviction moratorium through June 30, 2021, protecting millions of Californians struggling as a result of the economic hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- January 27 Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order to bolster the state's efforts to vaccinate as many Californians as possible, as quickly as possible.
- January 26 The Newsom Administration announces creation of a statewide vaccine delivery network to simplify and standardize the vaccination process with equity as a core focus.
- January 25 Officials with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) ended the Regional Stay at Home Order, lifting the order for all regions statewide, including the three regions that had still been under the order. Additionally, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a series of improvements to the state's vaccination plan. Incorporating lessons learned from efforts to increase the pace of vaccination. Finally, he along with legislative leadership issued a joint statement on the extension of the eviction moratorium to protect Californians impacted by COVID-19.
- January 20 California State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan issued a statement advising providers that they can immediately resume the administration of lot 41L20A of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which was temporarily paused on Sunday due to possible allergic reactions.
- January 17 California State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica S. Pan issued a statement recommending providers pause the administration of lot 41L20A of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine due to possible allergic reactions that are under investigation.
- January 14 Governor Gavin Newsom announced the launch of transparency, accountability and assistance measures related to the Safe Schools for All Plan. The Safe Schools for All Hub – [schools.covid19.ca.gov](https://schools.covid19.ca.gov) – was launched as a one-stop shop for information about safe in-person instruction and will be updated frequently.
- January 13 The Governor announced a new system to let people know if they are eligible to receive a vaccine, and if not yet eligible, to register for a notification via email or text when they are eligible. That system is expected to launch next week. This comes on the heels of the CDC's decision to expand the pool of those eligible to receive the vaccine to individuals 65 and older.
- January 11 Governor Gavin Newsom submitted his 2021-22 State Budget proposal to the Legislature – a \$227.2 billion fiscal blueprint that provides funding for immediate COVID-19 response and relief efforts where Californians need it most while making investments for an equitable, inclusive and broad-based economic recovery.

- January 6 Governor Newsom Announces Golden State Stimulus, a budget proposal to help low-income Californians through \$600 rapid cash payments, and calls for extension of eviction moratorium.
  - January 5 Governor Gavin Newsom previewed his Equitable Recovery for California's Businesses and Jobs plan, the business and workforce recovery elements of his 2021-22 State Budget that will help California through the COVID-19 pandemic and advance an equitable, broad-based recovery. The state issued a public health order ensuring distribution of health care resources across the state to ensure patients get life-saving care as ICU capacity is strained.
- 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. **Board letter on vaccine, transparency, equity letter:** On January 28, the Board sent a letter to the Governor requesting several actions related to the COVID-19 vaccine. The letter made requests related to the County's agricultural workers, discussed the impacts on the local economy, expressed the need for equity when distributing the vaccine and on vaccine allocations, requested additional data and transparency from the State, expressed the County readiness with capacity levels and partnerships, expressed local support and the desire to partner with the State.
  - ii. **Delegation legislative efforts related to vaccines:** On January 29, Assemblymember Rivas, along with Assemblymember E. Garcia, sent a letter to the Governor expressing the need for additional vaccines for farmworkers and cited the Board's letter related to vaccines.  
  
Additionally, on January 14 Senator Caballero along with several other Members, sent a letter to the Governor requesting a pilot program focused on distributing the COVID-19 vaccine to farmworkers.
  - iii. **Housing for the Harvest Program:** Nossaman has been in regular communication with the County's legislative delegation about the need to expand the Housing for the Harvest Program in the County. Assemblymember Rivas and his staff have been consistently checking in on our progress and ways they could be of assistance. Since the Board sent a letter to the State requesting assistance in contracting local hotels/motels to administer the program, two sites have been secured and are under contract. The County is working diligently to get those sites up and running, including training staff, working on the official communication and announcements, and updating the County website with current information.
- f. **Legislative Workshop – Delegation Priorities:** The Board of Supervisors hosted a legislative workshop on Friday, January 29 for the County's state and federal legislative delegation. The workshop provided an opportunity for the County to present legislative priorities for the year, while hearing from our delegation about what they hope to assist us with and accomplish in the coming year. Below is a brief summary of the priorities discussed by our state elected officials at the workshop. This is not an all-inclusive list of their priorities for the year.

- Senator Caballero's Priorities:
    - Broadband access
    - Affordable housing development
    - Small business grants and economic recovery
    - Farmworker COVID-19 vaccine prioritization
    - Increased vaccine doses to rural California
  
  - Senator Laird's Priorities:
    - K-12 schools re-opening plan
    - Providing COVID-19 vaccinations based on where the cases are
    - Tenant and landlord impacts and relief
    - Emergency assistance locally for fire and storm impacts
    - Conservation efforts on natural lands
    - Making local level connections as a new Senator
  
  - Assemblymember Stone's Priorities:
    - Tenant and landlord impacts and relief
    - COVID-19 vaccine equity
    - State budget immediate action and early action items
    - Employment Development Department unemployment issues and fraud
    - Broadband access
    - Juvenile Justice system – providing youth broad services
  
  - Assemblymember Rivas' Priorities:
    - Equity focus for communities most impacted by the pandemic
    - Housing for the Harvest Program investment
    - COVID-19 vaccine distribution - increased supply and equity
    - Farmworkers
    - AB 73 – agricultural workers
    - AB 125 - a food resiliency bond
- g. 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.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Draft Support Letters
  - AB 101 (Medina) Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: ethnic studies.
  - SB 74 (Borgeas) Keep California Working Act.
  - SB 219 (McGuire) Property taxation: delinquent penalties and costs: cancellation: public health orders.
- State Advocacy Activities List
- State Bill Track