



**TO:** Monterey County Legislative Committee

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

**DATE:** March 8, 2021

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## STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### a. 2021-22 Legislative Session

February 19, 2021 marked the bill introduction deadline for the year. Nearly 2500 bills were introduced. Policy Committee hearings are starting to be calendared. Nossman will be participating in these hearing, representing the County's positions on legislation being presented.

### b. FY 2021-22 State Budget

The Governor's 2020-21 January 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 and Administration recently announced coming to agreement on several items, including a COVID-19 pandemic relief legislative package, and a K-12 schools reopening incentive plan.

The pandemic relief package that was signed by the Governor includes:

- \$600 cash payments to EITC and ITIN households and individuals.
- \$600 grants to CalWORKS, SSI/SSP and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants individuals.
- \$2.1 billion for small business grants, of which \$50 million will be allocated for non-profits.
- Fee waivers for licensees within industries impacted by the pandemic.
- \$400 million for state-subsidized child care and preschool providers.
- \$24 million for the Housing for the Harvest program.
- \$100 million in emergency grants for community college students.
- \$6 million for CalFresh outreach to higher education students, along with \$12 million for county workload.
- Restoration of previous funding reductions for certain agencies and systems, such as UC and CSU systems, Child Support Services, and the Judicial Branch.

Additionally, the Legislature and Governor have agreed on a \$6.6 billion investment to accelerate in-person instruction at K-12 schools. The package includes \$2 billion for PPE, COVID-19 testing for school staff and teachers, and other protective measures needed to ensure safety on campus. The other \$4.6 billion would be used to incentivize the reopening of schools by the end of March, and to provide funding for expanded learning opportunities like mental health services, summer school, and tutoring.

### c. Legislation

- AB 84 (Ting) Employment: COVID-19: supplemental paid sick leave.** This bill would, beginning January 1, 2021, extend the COVID-19 food sector supplemental

paid sick leave for food sector workers, and the COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for covered workers, if those workers are unable to work or telework due to certain reasons related to COVID-19 and meet specified conditions. The bill would expand the definition of a covered worker for COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave to any employees at any public or private entity and to transportation network company drivers, as defined. The bill would additionally entitle a food sector worker or a covered worker to leave if, among other reasons, the worker is experiencing symptoms related to a COVID-19 vaccine that prevents the worker from being able to work, or is caring for an individual whose school or place of care is closed or otherwise unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19. Recommended position: Watch.

- ii. **SB 314 (Weiner) Alcoholic beverages.** The bill would allow for on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages (for which the licensee has on-sale privileges) on property that is adjacent to the licensed premises. Therefore, businesses that can serve alcohol for consumption on the premise of their business (on-sale privileges) could be allowed to operate outside next to the licensed business (if allowed by County and local jurisdictional regulations). Recommended position: Watch.
- iii. **AB 868 (E. Garcia) Emergency services.** This bill would create a statewide program to provide financial assistance to low-income individuals for the funeral expenses of an individual whose death is related to a state emergency. Recommended position: Support.
- iv. **SB 6 (Caballero) Local planning: housing: commercial zones.** This bill would authorize residential development on existing lots currently zoned for commercial office and retail spaces 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, abide by existing local planning and development ordinances, and establishes financing for public infrastructure. Recommended position: Support.
- v. **SB 95 (Skinner) Employment: COVID-19: supplemental paid sick leave.** Would, beginning January 1, 2021, extend the COVID-19 food sector supplemental paid sick leave for food sector workers, and the COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for covered workers, if those workers are unable to work or telework due to certain reasons related to COVID-19 and meet specified conditions. The bill would expand the definition of a covered worker for COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave to any employees at any public or private entity and to transportation network company drivers, as defined. Recommended position: Watch.
- d. **Dam Safety Funding Coalition:** Nossaman met with the coalition members to continue our advocacy efforts of including funding specifically for dam safety improvements in any potential climate resiliency, resources and/or water bond that may move through the legislature. Nossaman will provide a verbal update on the outcome and next steps from the meeting.
- e. **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.
  - February 26 - Governor Newsom Highlighted New Central Valley Vaccine Initiatives, Expanded Statewide Network of Community-Based Organizations for COVID-19 Education and Outreach in Vulnerable Communities.

- February 25 – Governor Newsom announced Equity-Centered Plan to Accelerate Access to COVID Vaccines for Education Workers.
- February 23 – Governor Newsom signed into law a comprehensive package of immediate actions that will speed needed relief to individuals, families and businesses suffering the most significant economic hardship due to COVID-1.
- February 22 – Governor Newsom announced that the state is partnering with OptumServe and local counties to open up to 11 vaccination sites within the next week to serve some of the hardest-hit or most at-risk communities in the Central Valley, in addition to other steps to bolster vaccination efforts in the region.
- February 19 – CDPH released updated guidance for youth and recreational adult sports. Governor Gavin Newsom announced effective March 1st, 10% of first doses would be set aside for educators and childcare workers.
- February 17 - Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon announced that they reached agreement on a package of immediate actions that will speed needed relief to individuals, families and businesses suffering the most significant economic hardship from the COVID-19 Recession.
- February 16 – California Governor Gavin Newsom and the Biden-Harris Administration today announced the opening of the nation's first community vaccination sites in Oakland and Los Angeles.
- February 12 – The CDC released the Operational Strategy for Reopening Schools. Governor Newsom launched the Safe Schools for All Hub as a one-stop shop for information about safe in-person instruction. For more information on the transparency, accountability and assistance measures related to California's Safe Schools for All plan, visit the Safe Schools for All Hub.
- February 11 – The California Department Consumer Affairs waived restrictions on administering COVID-19 Vaccines: Dental Hygienists, Optometrists, Podiatrists, and Post Graduates. The California Department of Public Health announced that beginning March 15, healthcare providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals aged 16- 64 who are deemed to be at the very highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more of the severe health conditions included in this provider bulletin.
- February 4 - Governor Newsom met virtually with small business owners receiving support through the first round of California's Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program. Learn more about the program [here](#).

f. **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. Nossaman worked with the County's delegation to request a response to the County's letter from the Governor's office and/or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). On February 26, CDPH sent a response letter directed to Chair Askew's office and Nossaman. The letter did not directly address many of the

Board's questions and concerns. We have heard the Governor's office may also provide a response to the County.

- ii. **Delegation legislative efforts related to vaccines:** Nossaman has been working closely with the County's delegation to push for our vaccine requests in the Board letter. Nossaman alerted the County's delegation of the response received from CDPH and the Board's Public Records Request of vaccine data from CDPH. Additionally, we met with Senator Laird's staff to discuss vaccine needs and potential next steps in our advocacy efforts.
  - iii. **Multi-County Entity (MCE) vaccine clinic invitation:** Nossaman assisted the County in drafting a letter to the Bay Area MCEs requesting that they host vaccine clinics for farmworkers. The letter was sent out on February 25, 2021.
  - iv. **Request for FEMA COVID-19 Vaccination Site:** One action item coming out of our meeting with Senator Laird's staff was to request a FEMA COVID-19 vaccination sites in the County. Nossaman assisted the County in drafting a letter to FEMA and CalOES requesting COVID-19 vaccination and mobile vaccine clinics for farmworkers in the County. The letter was sent out on March 2, 2021.
- 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 868 (E. Garcia) Emergency services.
  - SB 6 (Caballero) Local planning: housing: commercial zones.
- State Advocacy Activities List
- State Bill Track