



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor
Kasha Hunt, Policy Advisor

DATE: September 8, 2025

RE: State Legislative Program: Advocacy Update – **AGENDA ITEM #4**

4. State Report

- a. **Status of the Legislature:** The Legislature returned from summer recess on August 18. During the last two weeks of August, the Appropriations Committees met to take up bills with a fiscal impact on the State. The suspense process blocked a significant number of expensive bills due to the budget shortfall; only about 73% of bills were passed to the floor. The County took positions on several bills that were ultimately held in Appropriations. The Legislature will spend this final week of session taking up bills on the floor; the Assembly has about 300 bills to address, and the Senate has about 500. All bills must be in print for 72 hours before the Legislature can take any action, so we will likely continue to see some new proposals pop up during the final two weeks of session. Bills passed off the floor will move to the Governor's desk. He will have thirty days to veto or sign bills presented to him. Any bill, neither vetoed nor signed, will automatically become law. The Governor has until October 12 to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature. September 12th marks the end of the first year of the session. The official start of the second year of this two-year legislative cycle will be January 5.
- b. **Status of the State Budget:** Although the Governor and Legislative passed the FY 2025-26 state budget in June, we expect to see some additional budget trailer bills at the end of session. There are still several issues the Legislature has not addressed this year, including the Delta Conveyance Project, Proposition 4 allocations, a trailer bill in response to HR.1, Cap and Trade Reauthorization, among other issues. As noted above, bills must be in print for 72 hours before there is a vote, so the last day we could see a trailer bill introduced would be September 10. We are expecting some last-minute measures will be proposed, and that the Governor may call a special session to address outstanding budget issues.
- c. **Legislation:** Below is a chart outlining bills the outcome from Appropriations on the bills the County has a position.

Measure	Author	Topic	Position	Status
AB 1	Connolly, D	Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.	Support	PASSED
AB 226	Calderon, D	California FAIR Plan Association.	Support	PASSED

Measure	Author	Topic	Position	Status
AB 726	Ávila Farías, D	Planning and zoning: annual report: rehabilitated units.	Support	PASSED with amendments
AB 1288	Addis, D	Registered environmental health specialists.	Support	PASSED with amendments
AB 1413	Papan, D	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater adjudication.	Oppose Unless Amended	PASSED with amendments
SB 72	Caballero, D	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.	Support	PASSED
SB 74	Seyarto, R	Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation: Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program.	Support	HELD
SB 577	Laird, D	State Government.	Support	PASSED
SB 599	Caballero, D	Atmospheric rivers: research: forecasting methods: experimental tools.	Support	PASSED
SB 601	Allen, D	Water: waste discharge.	Oppose	2-YEAR BILL

d. Proposition 50, Use of Legislative Congressional Redistricting Map Amendment: In response to Texas' mid-decade partisan congressional redistricting, the California legislature passed three measures to temporarily require new congressional district maps be used in California's congressional elections through 2030.

- AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry/Gonzalez) Redistricting: Congressional districts - This bill specified the maps that define the congressional districts for the special election vote.
- ACA 8 (Pellerin) Ballot Initiative - Proposition 50 - Congressional Redistricting: This measure, notwithstanding the authority of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, requires the state to temporarily use the congressional districts reflected in AB 604 of the 2025–26 Regular Session for every congressional election until the new congressional boundary lines are drawn by the commission in 2031.
- SB 280 (Cervantes) Elections: This bill calls for a special election in November.

AB 604, the map amendment, has become Proposition 50, as AB 604 cannot take effect without voter approval. A special election will now be held on November 4 of this year, allowing voters to approve the new congressional maps. The purpose of the Proposition is to nullify redistricting in Texas, which will likely add five additional seats to the Republican Party. By taking this action, California will give the California Democratic Party a greater chance of picking up five more seats currently held by Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 2026 midterm elections. The maps would also help shore up seats barely held by Democrats in five other districts. The largest donor to the support campaign is the House Majority PAC, which has contributed \$3.5 million, and the largest donor to the opposition campaign is Charles T. Munger, Jr., who contributed \$20.1 million.

RECOMMENDATION: Per the County's [Policies Governing Legislative Activities](#), "The Board of Supervisors may consider positions on ballot initiatives once qualified, and upon the review and recommendation of the Legislative Committee." If the Legislative Committee makes a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on Proposition 50, it will go to the Board for approval on September 16, 2025.

- e. **Special Election Funding:** Counties run elections, and the State oversees them. Because most congressional districts in California would change under the new maps if approved by voters in November 2025, County and state elections officials need to update election materials. The LAO reported that, "This would result in one-time costs to counties of up to a few million dollars statewide and one-time costs to the state of roughly \$200 million." The State has pledged to cover this expense. The Department of Finance (DOF) is currently considering the payment amount to each County; however, they have assured CSAC that the money will be provided up front. It has been rumored that the payment would be approximately \$3.2 million per County. If a County does not use all the money, it will be permitted to retain the extra funds for future elections. It is expected that the DOF will announce details later this month, after working with the Secretary of State.
- f. **Governor's Actions and Executive Orders:**
 - August 22 – Governor Newsom pre-deployed firefighting resources in response to fire weather and extreme heat.
 - July 30 - Governor Newsom strengthens local control in Los Angeles burn scar areas.
 - July 30 – Governor Newsom issues an executive order to support young men and boys and address suicide rates.
 - July 29 – Governor Newsom issues emergency proclamations for storm-impacted counties from the February 2025 storms.
- g. **State Bill/Issues Track:** See attached.