



# NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

**TO:** Monterey County Legislative Committee

**FROM:** Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor  
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**DATE:** October 14, 2024

**RE:** Legislative Program: Advocacy Update

**a. Status of the Legislature:** The 2023-2024 Legislative Session came to an end on September 1 early in the morning. The Governor had until September 30<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto all bills. He addressed 1,206 bills, signing 1,017 into law and vetoing 189, or 15.7 percent, of the bills. Of the bills signed, 668 were from the Assembly and 349 were from the Senate.

The November election will bring changes to both houses and could spark adjustments in committee leadership. We will monitor new leadership announcements that may influence voting on County of Monterey’s initiatives and will promptly establish relationships.

New Members will be sworn in on December 2, and are able to begin introducing bills that day. The new Legislative Session will begin the first full week of January 2025.

**b. Status of Priority Bills:** Below is a chart outlining bills the County had a position on and the final outcome.

Measure	Author	Topic	Position	Governor’s Action
AB 366	Petrie-Norris	County human services agencies: workforce development	Support	Vetoed
AB 1168	Bennett	Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS	Oppose	Vetoed
AB 2022	Addis	Mobilehome parks: emergency preparedness	Support	Vetoed
AB 2902	Wood	Solid waste: reduction and recycling	Support	Signed
SB 227	Durazo	Unemployment: Excluded Workers Program	Support	Vetoed
SB 1400	Stern	Criminal Procedure: competence to stand trial	Oppose Unless Amended	Signed

- c. **Special Session:** The Governor called a special session just hours before lawmakers were supposed to adjourn for the year. His energy bill package failed to pass in the regular session. The Assembly has been fully engaged in the special session as evidenced by the nine bills introduced thus far. Although the Assembly introduced a total of nine bills, only two bills were heard by the Assembly Petroleum and Gas and Appropriations Committees. Both bills passed the committees and were moved to the Assembly floor for a vote. After a vote of 55 – Yes, 18 – No and 6 – Abstains, the Assembly passed both bills to the Senate.

See below for brief descriptions of each bill:

- **ABX2 1 (Hart) Energy: transportation fuels: inventories: turnaround and maintenance.** (This bill would authorize the California Energy Commission (CEC) to increase transportation fuel supply through various actions, including by authorizing the CEC to develop requirements on refiners to maintain resupply plans to cover production loss during maintenance events and to maintain minimum levels of supply inventories, among other things).
- **ABX2 9 (Petrie-Norris) Transportation fuels: specifications: production enhancement strategies.** (A bill that would have directed the state to study increasing the ethanol blend in gasoline and other strategies for expanding supply).

The Senate reconvened this week to address these bills, however, Pro Temp McGuire, shelved AB X2-9, therefore the Senate Fuel Supply and Price Spikes Committee only considered ABX2 1 (Hart) on Monday afternoon and then the Senate Appropriations Committee heard the bill on Tuesday morning. ABX2 1 (Hart) passed both committees and has moved to the Senate floor expecting to be heard on Friday morning.

The fiscal impacts of ABX2 9 are generally unknown at this time, however the following were noted by the Department of Finance:

- Unknown, potentially significant one-time costs for the CEC to make a finding that the likely benefits of any requirements on refiners related to resupply plans or minimum levels of supply inventories would outweigh potential costs for consumers and promulgate regulations establishing such requirements and associated enforcement mechanisms.
- Unknown, potentially significant ongoing costs for the CEC administer, oversee, and enforce these requirements.
- Unknown, potentially significant ongoing costs for the Attorney General to bring enforcement actions against any refiners in violation of these requirements.
- Unknown, potentially significant cost pressure to the state funded trial court system to review and enforce orders imposing administrative civil penalties authorized by this bill.

- To the extent that refiners fail to meet requirements established by the CEC and the civil penalties created by this bill are collected, there would be potential ongoing revenue increases of an unknown amount.
- To the extent that the CEC seeks any form of injunctive or remedial relief to enforce compliance with its regulations authorized by this bill, unknown, potentially moderate workload cost pressures to the courts. Additional cost pressures could result to the extent that CEC seeks a preliminary injunction or any other type of remedial relief that is given calendar precedence over other civil matters on the court's calendar, likely at the expense of other civil cases that have already been calendared.

Should the Senate pass ABX2 1 to the governor on Friday, he would have 12 days to sign or veto the bill.

- d. **San Lucas Drinking Water Project:** Nossaman continues to discuss solutions for the community of San Lucas with our Legislative Delegation. We most recently submitted comments to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the "Technical Memo" and "Feasibility Study" that outlined potential project alternatives for providing safe, clear drinking water to the community.
- e. **Governor's Actions and Executive Orders:** The following actions have been taken by the Governor since the last Legislative Committee meeting. This list is compiled from CalOES, California Health and Human Services, California Department of Public Health, and FEMA. Nossaman can provide additional details of any item listed below, should the Legislative Committee desire.
  - September 24 - Governor Newsom announced the deployment of California firefighters to Florida ahead of Tropical Storm Helene. The team of seven firefighters from California's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Incident Support Team will assist in staffing a Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Support Team to Orlando.
  - September 23 - Governor Newsom announced a new state initiative to mobilize one million Californians to take climate action. The campaign highlights 10 priority actions participants can pledge to take at home and in their neighborhoods to help build resilient communities.
  - September 11 - As the state continues to mobilize personnel and resources in the ongoing response to Southern California wildfires, Governor Newsom traveled to Southern California and proclaimed a state of emergency in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties in response to the Bridge Fire and in Orange and Riverside counties in response to the Airport Fire.
  - September 11 - Governor Newsom announced that California has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help ensure the availability of vital resources to Riverside County to assist with the costs of suppressing the Airport Fire.
  - September 10 - Governor Newsom announced that California has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help

ensure the availability of vital resources to Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties to suppress the Bridge Fire.

- September 9 - Governor Newsom announced that the California National Guard will support the state's ongoing response to the Line Fire in San Bernardino County.
- September 8 - Governor Newsom announced that California has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help ensure the availability of vital resources to suppress the Boyles Fire in Lake County.
- September 7 - Moving quickly to support the state's response to the Line Fire, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency in San Bernardino County and announced that California has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- September 6 – Governor Newsom ended the drought state of emergency in 19 counties where conditions have improved significantly, and maintained it in the remaining 39 counties to address continued impacts to local water supplies and facilitate ongoing recovery. San Diego County is not currently in a drought-related state of emergency. Additional action rolls back certain provisions of prior drought- and flood-related executive orders that are no longer necessary under current conditions.

f. **State Bill/Issues Track:** See attached.