



**TO:** Monterey County Legislative Committee

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

**DATE:** August 12, 2024

**RE:** Legislative Program: Advocacy Update

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- a. Status of the Legislature:** The Legislature reconvened from summer recess on August 5. The Legislature will have until August 16 to meet and act on bills that have a fiscal impact to the state. During the last two weeks of August, both the Senate and Assembly will hold floor session, where they will focus on passing bills over to the Governor’s office for action. All bills must be in print for 72 hours prior to the Legislature being able to take any action, so it is very likely that we will continue to see new legislative proposals pop up during the final month of session. The last day of session is August 31. The Governor has 30 days to take action on bills that are presented to him. Following the November 2024 election, new Members will be sworn in to both the Assembly and Senate. On swearing-in day, Members can introduce new bills for the 2025-26 Legislative Session. This will take place sometime in December. The official start of the new legislative cycle will begin in early January.
- b. State Budget:** On June 22, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire and Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas announced that they had reached an agreement on the FY 2024-5 State Budget. The agreement maintains the multi-year fiscal structure proposed by the Governor in the May Revision to balance the budget in both 2024-25 and 2025-26, based on current revenue and spending projections. The agreement solves a \$46.8 billion deficit for the current budget year through a mix of broad-based solutions. There may be budget trailer bills moved during the final month of session, and Nossaman will monitor those potential impacts to the County. There were no Member Requests included in the budget.
- c. Climate Bond Update:** Proposition 4 (SB 867, Allen) was passed by the Legislature on Wednesday, July 3, on the last day that the Legislature could place a measure on the November ballot. The bill was signed by Acting Governor, Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire, as the Governor and Lt. Governor were out of state. The bond will now go to the voters in November 2024. The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 would have the state borrow \$10 billion to pay for climate and environmental projects, including some that were removed from the budget because of an unprecedented deficit.

The bond is broken down into the following “chapters” of funding:

- \$3,800,000,000 for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience programs
- \$1,500,000,000 for wildfire and forest resilience programs
- \$1,200,000,000 for coastal resilience programs
- \$450,000,000 for extreme heat mitigation programs
- \$1,200,000,000 for biodiversity protection and nature-based climate solution programs

- \$300,000,000 for climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands programs
- \$700,000,000 for park creation and outdoor access programs
- \$850,000,000 for clean air programs

The Association of California Water Agencies and the California Special Districts Association both have watch positions on the measure. Agencies with a watch (or neutral) position on the climate resiliency bond see it falling short on funding dedicated to water-related projects or water infrastructure.

Nossaman will work with the County to identify all the areas of funding opportunities that the County could apply for, should Proposition 4 be passed by the voters.

- d. **Dam Safety:** Nossaman participated as a lead agency in the Dam Safety Coalition, advocating for significant funding to be included in the Climate Bond. Ultimately, \$480 million was included in the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 for dam infrastructure.
- e. **San Lucas:** Nossaman advocated with our legislative delegation and bond authors to include language in the Climate bond that would allow San Lucas to apply for grants for safe, clean drinking water even though there has been a responsible party identified for the nitrate issues the water system has experienced. Nossaman will work closely with the County to apply for funding, should Proposition 4 be passed by the voters.
- f. **November Statewide Ballot Measures:** Nossaman has provided summaries of all statewide ballot measures that have qualified for the November election. We have included CSAC's position as well as a recommended position for the County.
  - **Proposition 2 – Education Bond:** Proposition 2 is a bond measure that would allow the state to borrow \$10 billion to help fund repairs and upgrades at thousands of public elementary, middle and high schools and community colleges across California. Proposition 2 would provide \$8.5 billion in facility renovations and new construction for TK-12 schools, with 10% of the funds dedicated to small school districts. Community colleges would receive \$1.5 billion.  
CSAC Position: No Position.  
Recommended Position: Support.
  - **Proposition 3 – Marriage Equality:** The California Constitution provides that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California, and federal law permanently enjoins the state from enforcing this constitutional provision. This measure would repeal this unenforceable constitutional provision and would instead provide that the right to marry is a fundamental right, as specified. This measure, if approved by the voters, would repeal language in the California Constitution stating marriage is only between a man and woman.  
CSAC Position: No Position.  
Recommended Position: Support.
  - **Proposition 4 – Safe Water Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness And Clean Air Bond Act:** The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and

Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 would have the state borrow \$10 billion to pay for climate and environmental projects.

CSAC Position: Support Motion sent to Executive Committee for vote.

Recommended Position: Support.

- **Proposition 5 – Affordable Housing And Public Infrastructure: Voter Approval:** Initially moved through the Legislature as Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 and amended through passage of ACA 10. This constitutional amendment would reduce the voter approval threshold from two-thirds to 55% for general obligation bonds that fund public infrastructure, affordable housing projects, and permanent supportive housing for persons at risk of chronic homelessness—and any associated ad valorem taxes needed to pay the interest and redemption charges on bonded indebtedness.

CSAC Position: Support Motion sent to Executive Committee for vote.

Recommended Position: Support.

- **Proposition 6 – Involuntary Servitude: Slavery:** The Proposition would repeal language prohibiting involuntary servitude except to punish crime and replace it with language prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude absolutely. It also would prohibit the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from disciplining any incarcerated person for refusing a work assignment but authorize the department to award credits to incarcerated persons who voluntarily participate in work assignments.

CSAC Position: No Position.

Recommended Position: Support.

- **Proposition 32 - Raises Minimum Wage. Initiative Statute:** Existing law requires annual increases to California’s minimum wage until it has reached \$15.00 per hour for all businesses on January 1, 2023. This measure extends these annual increases (\$1.00 per year) until minimum wage—currently, \$15.00 per hour for businesses with 26 or more employees, and \$14.00 per hour for smaller businesses—reaches \$18.00 per hour. Thereafter, as existing law requires, the minimum wage will annually adjust for inflation. In periods of decreased economic activity, or General Fund deficit, the Governor may suspend annual increase up to two times, thereby extending timeline for reaching \$18.00 per hour.

CSAC Position: No Position.

Recommended Position: No Position.

- **Proposition 33 - Expands Local Governments’ Authority To Enact Rent Control On Residential Property. Initiative Statute:** Current state law (the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995) generally prevents cities and counties from limiting the initial rental rate that landlords may charge to new tenants in all types of housing, and from limiting rent increases for existing tenants in (1) residential properties that were first occupied after February 1, 1995; (2) single-family homes; and (3) condominiums. This measure would repeal that state law and would prohibit the state from limiting the right of cities and counties to maintain, enact, or expand residential rent-control ordinances.

CSAC Position: No Position.

Recommended Position: No Position.

- **Proposition 34 - Restricts Spending By Health Care Providers Meeting Specified Criteria. Initiative Statute:** Requires certain health care providers to spend 98% of revenues from federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care. Applies only to health care providers that: spent over \$100,000,000 in any ten-year period on anything other than direct patient care; and operated multifamily housing with over 500 high-severity health and safety violations. Penalizes noncompliance by revoking health care licenses and tax-exempt status. Permanently authorizes state to negotiate Medi-Cal drug prices on statewide basis.  
CSAC Position: No Position.  
Recommended Position: No Position.
  
- **Proposition 35 - Provides Permanent Funding For Medi-Cal Health Care Services. Initiative Statute:** Makes permanent the existing tax on managed health care insurance plans, currently set to expire in 2026, which the state uses to pay for health care services for low-income families with children, seniors, people with disabilities, and other groups covered by the Medi-Cal program. Requires revenues to be used only for specified Medi-Cal services, including primary and specialty care, emergency care, family planning, mental health, and prescription drugs. Prohibits revenues from being used to replace other existing Medi-Cal funding. Caps administrative expenses and requires independent audits of programs receiving funding.  
CSAC Position: Support Motion sent to Executive Committee for vote.  
Recommended Position: No Position
  
- **Proposition 36 - ALLOWS FELONY CHARGES AND INCREASES SENTENCES FOR CERTAIN DRUG AND THEFT CRIMES. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**  
Allows felony charges for possessing certain drugs, including fentanyl, and for thefts under \$950—both currently chargeable only as misdemeanors—with two prior drug or two prior theft convictions, as applicable. Defendants who plead guilty to felony drug possession and complete treatment can have charges dismissed. Increases sentences for other specified drug and theft crimes. Increased prison sentences may reduce savings that currently fund mental health and drug treatment programs, K-12 schools, and crime victims; any remaining savings may be used for new felony treatment program.  
CSAC Position: Support Motion sent to Executive Committee for vote.  
Recommended Position: Support.

- g. Other advocacy: MST Surf Project:** MST has asked the County for a support letter to the California Coastal Commission for a project they have outlined below. The Commission Coastal is scheduled to review the project's permit application in September.

The SURF! Project is the latest project in Monterey-Salinas Transit's (MST) ongoing effort to improve and modernize our regional transit network. The Project includes two components.

1. A five-mile, bus-only roadway parallel to the heavily congested segment of Highway 1, from Marina to Sand City/Seaside. New bus stations and amenities are included with an extension of the popular Beach Range Road trail in Sand City and Marina. The SURF! busway and stations will be built along the publicly owned rail line and within MST property.
2. Transit Service. Bus service on the bus-only lane will allow passengers using Line 20 Salinas-Monterey (MST's second most used transit line) and all other bus service traveling between Salinas, Marina, Seaside, Sand City, and Monterey to quickly travel past Highway 1 traffic.

Riders traveling by bus on the new busway and other transit services that connect to Line 20 will have better access to California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), the VA Department of Defense Clinic, beach access to Fort Ord Dunes State Park, the Dunes, and military neighborhoods.

A more extensive description of the project can be found here [230110 Appendix 03 MST Busway Proj Desc clean Tracked LR \(SLG Rev\)1-9-2023 \(00750941\).DOCX](#)

A draft support letter is attached.

**h. 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.

- July 31 – Governor Newsom provides \$94 million for infill housing projects, signs executive order to streamline development.
- July 30 – Visiting communities impacted by the Borel Fire in Kern County, Governor Gavin Newsom today met with fire and emergency management officials and proclaimed a state of emergency in Kern County to support the response to the Borel Fire. Today's action follows the Governor's announcement this weekend that the state has secured federal assistance for the Borel Fire response.
- July 30 – California Governor Gavin Newsom today announced that California is expediting the deployment of funds and is now accepting applications for \$76 million in grant funding available to bolster safety and security for nonprofits — including synagogues, mosques, and Black and LGBTQ+ organizations — that are at higher risk of hate-based crimes.
- July 27 – Governor announced that the state secured federal assistance for Tehama County to suppress the Park Fire. This is in addition to the federal assistance secured for Butte County.
- July 27 – Working quickly to bring in additional funding and resources to help fight the rapidly burning Borel Fire, Governor Gavin Newsom today announced that California has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help ensure the availability of vital resources to suppress the fire burning in Kern County.
- July 26 – Governor Gavin Newsom today proclaimed a state of emergency in Plumas County due to the Gold Complex Fire and in Butte and Tehama counties due to the Park Fire. The fires have together burned more than 181,000 acres, forcing the evacuation of thousands of residents, destroying homes and threatening critical infrastructure.
- July 25 – Governor Newsom orders state agencies to address encampments in their communities with urgency and dignity
- July 25 – Governor Newsom announced that California secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help ensure the availability of vital resources to suppress the Park Fire.
- July 22 – Governor Newsom announced that California secured a FMAG from FEMA to support resources for the ongoing Hawarden Fire in Riverside County.
- July 18 – Governor Newsom announced the deployment of firefighting personnel and equipment from local fire agencies to Oregon assist in fighting multiple large wildfires.

- July 15 – Governor Newsom has deployed 61 law enforcement officers to Wisconsin through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) in support of local, state and federal law enforcement partners at the Republican National Convention.
- July 6 - Governor Gavin Newsom today issued a proclamation declaring July 2024, as “Disability Pride Month.”
- July 5 - Governor Newsom announces deployment of Incident Support Team to Texas amid Tropical Storm Beryl. As Tropical Storm Beryl makes its way toward Southern Texas, Governor Gavin Newsom today announced the deployment of California firefighters to assist in staffing a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Support Team which will provide assistance for two FEMA Type 3 Urban Search and Rescue Teams.
- July 5 - Governor Gavin Newsom today announced that California has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help ensure the availability of vital resources to suppress the French Fire in Mariposa County. The French Fire ignited yesterday evening and has burned 843 acres, forcing the evacuation of 1,100 people.
- July 3 – Governor Gavin Newsom today proclaimed a state of emergency in Butte County to support the response to the Thompson Fire, which has burned approximately 4,000 acres and forced the evacuation of thousands of residents. A copy of the proclamation can be found [here](#).
- July 2 - Moving swiftly to support the state’s response to the Thompson Fire, Governor Gavin Newsom today announced that California has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help ensure the availability of vital resources to suppress the fire burning in Butte County.

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