



**TO:** Monterey County Legislative Committee

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

**DATE:** September 9, 2024

**RE:** Legislative Program: Advocacy Update

**a. Status of the Legislature:** During the first couple weeks of August, the Appropriations committees met to take up bills with a fiscal impact to the State. The suspense process blocked more than 270 bills, more than usual this year, which is attributed to the budget shortfall. The County had positions on several bills that were ultimately held on suspense due to the cost.

The Legislature officially adjourned at 12:05 am September 1st. It was an exciting end to the two-year legislative cycle. The November elections will bring many new Members to Sacramento. There will be changes to committee membership as well. On swearing-in day in December, Members can introduce new bills for the 2025-26 Legislative Session. The official start of the new two-year legislative cycle will begin in early January 2025.

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

Measure	Author	Topic	Position	Status
AB 1168	Bennett	Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS	Oppose	On the Governor's Desk
AB 2022	Addis	Mobilehome parks: emergency preparedness	Support	On the Governor's Desk
AB 2902	Wood	Solid waste: reduction and recycling	Support	On the Governor's Desk
SB 227	Durazo	Unemployment: Excluded Workers Program	Support	On the Governor's Desk
SB 1390	Caballero	Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion	Support	Failed
SB 1400	Stern	Criminal Procedure: competence to stand trial	Oppose Unless Amended	On the Governor's Desk

**c. Legislation:**

- i. **SB 1400 (Stern): Criminal procedure: competence to stand trial – Report Only:** On August 26, with only five days remaining in the 2023-24 legislative session, considerable amendments to SB 1400 were introduced, impacting Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court. These latest revisions are of particular concern given that the County of Monterey is primarily responsible for implementing the Act's provisions. Specific concerns are as follows:
- Expanded tracking and reporting of all active and former CARE participants for an unspecified time period;
  - "Potentially eligible" terms undefined;
  - New requirements to track outreach and engagement / services for those voluntarily engaged.

In our August 27<sup>th</sup> position letter, we recommended the bill be amended to require the Department of Health Care Services to convene a working group, inclusive of county associates, to develop recommendations for additional CARE Act data collection and reporting elements to be added to the CARE Court annual report, with final recommendations submitted to the Legislature by January 10, 2025.

This bill passed the floor and has moved to the Governor's office. We filed a "Request for Veto" letter with the Governor on September 3rd.

*Current Position: Oppose Unless Amended.*

- d. **San Lucas Drinking Water Project:** Nossaman continues to discuss solutions for the community of San Lucas with our Legislative Delegation. We most recently met with Senator Laird to discuss the State Water Resources Control Board "Technical Memo" and "Feasibility Study." We are working on submitting comments to the State Board on these documents.

As the Committee is aware, we 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.

- e. **Property Tax Apportionment Reform:** Santa Cruz County Supervisor Manú Koenig requested that Supervisor Luis Alejo consider engaging in efforts to request that local State Legislators evaluate state property tax apportionment laws for particular counties that have a lower percentage than other counties, such as Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito. Santa Cruz County passed a resolution requesting local Legislators "do everything possible to change state property tax apportionment law." Supervisor Alejo requested this topic be presented to the Legislative Committee for discussion.

Attached find Santa Cruz County's Resolution in Support of California Property Tax Apportionment Reform; and Property Tax Reform presentation.

**f. 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.

- **August 27** – Governor Newsom announces new milestone in transformation of San Quentin Rehabilitation Center with the demolition of the former warehouse now complete clearing the way for a new educational complex.
- **August 26** – Governor Newsom spearheaded efforts to acquire and retrofit C-130 Hercules aircraft to be used in CAL FIRE's feet.
- **August 23** – Governor Newsom awards more than \$789 million to build thousands of sustainable homes for Californians. 24 projects in 20 communities will receive cap-and-trade funds to build housing and sustainable projects, such as public transit and bike and walking paths. (Cities include: Berkeley, El Cerrito, Healdsburg, Hemet, Inglewood, King City, Livingston, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Oceanside, Oxnard, Red Bluff, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Walnut Creek, and the county of Los Angeles).
- **August 16** – Governor Gavin Newsom announced the launch of a methane-detecting satellite by a coalition including the State of California and several philanthropic organizations.
- **August 13** – Cal OES announced that in partnership with Tehama County it will open a Local Assistance Center (LAC) at Red Bluff Community Center on Saturday August 10.
- **August 9** – Cal OES announced that in partnership with Kern County it will open a Local Assistance Center (LAC) at the Senior Center in Lake Isabella on Saturday August 10.
- **August 5** – As Tropical Storm Debby makes its way toward Georgia, Governor Gavin Newsom today announced the deployment of a specialized team from California to assist in staffing a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Support Team.

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

**Attachments:**

- Santa Cruz County Resolution in Support of California Property Tax Apportionment Reform
- Property Tax Reform presentation.
- State Bill/Issues Track