



NOSSAMAN LLP

Memorandum

TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

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

DATE: November 15, 2024

RE: Legislative Program: Advocacy Update

- a. **Status of the Legislature:** The governor’s special session related to inflating gas prices, officially adjourned on October 14, 2024, with the governor’s signature on ABx2-1, a measure requiring refinery operators to maintain minimum fuel reserves. The governor called another special session on November 7, when it was clear Donald Trump would become the next United States President. This special session was called to “protect California values,” and will run concurrently with the regular session beginning next month. The legislature will return to swear in new members on December 2. Members can begin introducing bills on that day and then again on January 6, 2025, when they reconvene for the start of the next two-year session.

The California State Constitution requires that the governor submit a budget to the legislature annually by January 10. Therefore, discussions are already ensuing. A budget deficit is expected again in 2025.

b. **Election Recap:**

Member Update: On November 5th, half of the California State Senate and all the Assembly seats were up for election. 24 Assembly Members and 12 State Senators did not run for re-election due to term limits or personal choice. Therefore, there will be many changes to both houses. Following redistricting enacted after the 2020 census, Senator Caballero’s district in 2025 will not include portions of Monterey County. Therefore, the County of Monterey Member’s are Senator Laird, and Assemblymembers Addis, and Rivas.

The changes in both houses will provide changes in committee leadership and makeup. We will monitor new leadership announcements that may influence voting on the County of Monterey’s initiatives and will promptly establish relationships.

Proposition Update: The County of Monterey supported several California State Propositions. Below is an update on the outcome for each:

- **Proposition 2 – Education Bond:** Proposition 2 is a bond measure allowing 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.

County Position: Support.

Outcome: PASSED.

- **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 instead of providing that the right to marry is a fundamental right, as specified. If approved by the voters, this measure would repeal language in the California Constitution stating that marriage is only between a man and woman.

CSAC Position: No Position.

County Position: Support.

Outcome: PASSED.

- **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.

County Position: Support.

Outcome: PASSED.

- **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.

County Position: Support.

Outcome: FAILED.

- **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.

County Position: Support.

Outcome: FAILED.

- **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: No Position.

County Position: Support.

Outcome: PASSED.

- **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.

County Position: Support.

Outcome: PASSED.

c. **San Lucas Drinking Water Project:** Nossaman continues to discuss solutions for the community of San Lucas with our Legislative Delegation. We submitted comments to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the “Technical Memo” and “Feasibility Study” that outlined potential project alternatives for providing safe, clean drinking water to the community. The County continues to support a pipeline intertie to the Kings City water system operated and managed by CalWater.

d. **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.

- October 28 – Governor Newsom visited wastewater treatment facilities on both sides of the California – Mexico border to assess rehabilitation efforts and the ongoing sewage crisis.
- October 21 - Governor Newsom announced the start of an ambitious new service year for the California Service Corps, with 10,000 service members expected to provide over five million service hours in 2025.
- October 14 – Governor Newsom today issued a proclamation declaring October 14, 2024, as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.”
- October 9 - Governor Newsom announced the deployment of an additional 70 California-based firefighters to Florida to assist with search and rescue efforts following Hurricane Milton.
- October 7 - Governor Newsom announced the deployment of emergency personnel to Florida in advance of Hurricane Milton. The deployed personnel include 144 firefighters and ground support personnel from three California Urban Search and Rescue Task Force teams and will assist with incident management, emergency operations, and search and rescue efforts response efforts.
- October 4 – Governor Newsom signed an executive order to support ongoing response and recovery efforts for the Thompson Fire in Butte County; the Park Fire in Butte and Tehama counties; the Borel Fire in Kern County; the Line Fire in San Bernardino County; the Bridge Fire in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties; and the Airport Fire in Orange and Riverside counties.
- September 29 – Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency in Lake County to support communities recovering from the Boyles Fire.
- September 29 – Governor Newsom and Director Nancy Ward expressed heartfelt condolences and support for the members of the California/FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 8 injured while en route to support rescue efforts to Hurricane Helene. The firefighters are currently receiving medical care.

e. State Bill/Issues Track: See attached.