


**NOSSAMAN** LLP | Memorandum

**TO:** Monterey County Legislative Committee

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

**DATE:** March 9, 2026

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

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**State Report - Presenters: Ashley Walker (Nossaman LLP)**

1. Receive reports, provide direction, and consider positions and/or recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on:

- a. **Status of the Legislature:** The legislature passed its introduction deadline on February 20<sup>th</sup> and has now introduced 1,798 bills this session. Roughly one-third of these are spot bills, which we will be monitoring for substantive amendments.

The legislature continues to grapple with the impacts from federal actions. These developments have prompted legislative hearings to assess which programs will be affected by federal decisions and to what extent, while the legislature has also taken its first budget action, a \$90 million allocation to backfill funding for Planned Parenthood.

- b. **Update on the State Budget:** The legislature dove into budget deliberations this month, as Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees began scrutinizing the impacts of the governor's proposed budget on their respective policy portfolios.

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Budget revenues are running billions above estimates, and spending is a few hundred million dollars below estimates in the governor's January budget.

- i. **Proposition 4 – AB 107:** The legislature this month passed AB 107, which was signed by the governor on February 19<sup>th</sup>. This bill provided an Administrative Procedure Act (APA) exemption for all programs distributing Proposition 4 funds allocated in the 2025 budget.
- ii. **Governor's January Budget Proposal to Eliminate the Statewide Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Benefit:** We are suggesting the County oppose the proposed change to the Medi-Cal Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services benefit (referred to as the Mobile Crisis Benefit), included in the Governor's 2026-27 January Budget. The proposal to shift this benefit from a statewide mandatory Medi-Cal benefit to a county-optional benefit poses significant risks to maintaining California's progress in ensuring all Californians have access to a comprehensive behavioral health crisis response system.

- c. **Legislation:** Below are suggested positions for the Legislative Committee's consideration.
- i. **SB 973 (Becker): Wildfire County Coordinator Program:** This bill would codify and expand California's wildfire resilience infrastructure by requiring California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish wildfire risk modeling standards, develop county-level risk assessment tools and resilience plans, and formally authorize the Wildfire County Coordinator Program through an agreement with the California Fire Safe Council to coordinate local mitigation, prevention, preparedness, and recovery efforts statewide.  
*Suggested Position: Support*  
*CSAC Position: Support*
  - ii. **AB 1881 (Ramos) California Indian Freedom Act of 2026:** This bill prohibits governmental agencies from substantially burdening a California tribes' religious practices and sacred site access without a compelling interest, requires early government-to-government consultation and free, prior, and informed consent before approving projects impacting sacred sites, and mandates confidentiality of sacred site information exempt from public records laws.  
*Suggested Position: Watch*  
*CSAC Position: Oppose*
  - iii. **AB 1900 (Kalra): Guaranteed Health Care for All.** This bill, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act, would create the California Guaranteed Health Care for All program, or CalCare, to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state.  
*Suggested Position: Support*  
*CSAC Position: No Position*
  - iv. **SB 922 (Laird) Vehicles: Local agency changes: use of streets or highways:** This bill narrows the existing prohibition on local agency road charges to apply only to weight-based fees, and explicitly clarifies that local agencies may impose fees or surcharges to recover street maintenance, repair, and related public service costs without those charges being considered prohibited taxes or permit fees under the Vehicle Code.  
*Suggested Position: Support*  
*CSAC Position: Sponsor*
- d. **Governor's Actions and Executive Orders:** The following actions have been taken by the state since the last report. This list is compiled from CalOES, California Health and Human Services, California Department of Public Health, and FEMA.
- March 3 – Governor Newsom proclaims Peace Corps Week.
- e. **State Bill/Issues Track:** See attached.