

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATION
COMMITTEE**

Monday, January 6, 2014
1:30 P.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5th floor*
County Administration Building

Supervisor Wilma Chan

1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

Supervisor Wilma Chan called the meeting to order.

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

Emily Bacque and Lynn Jacquez reported that the House and Senate return this week to begin the second session of the 113th Congress. Democrats will focus on economic inequality and the Senate will take up the unemployment insurance extension this week. The Senate also plans to take up legislation later this month to increase the federal minimum wage, which will coincide with the President's State of the Union address scheduled for January 28, 2014.

Unemployment Insurance Extension

The Senate will hold a procedural vote tonight on whether to move forward with debate on the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act (S.1845) that would retroactively extend emergency unemployment benefits from December 28, 2013 for an additional three months. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the legislation would cost \$6.4 billion over 10 years. The legislation does not include offsets.

FY14 Appropriations

The current Continuing Resolution expires on January 15, 2014. House and Senate Appropriations staff worked over the break trying to assemble a 12 bill appropriations omnibus. If the bill is filed later this week or over the weekend, the House would vote early next week with the Senate following suit later in the week.

Farm Bill

Conference Committee members held several meetings on the House and Senate farm bills in November and December (S. 954 and H.R. 2642). One of the main areas of disagreement between the two bills is the level of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding, with the Senate bill cutting \$4 billion over 10 years and the House bill slashing more than \$39 billion over that same period.

In terms of SNAP, the conferees are focusing on the "Heat and Eat Program." The Senate conferees have tentatively agreed to the House proposal that would set a minimum threshold requiring states to at least distribute \$20 in fuel aid to qualify for the utility allowance rather than the \$10 minimum included in the Senate bill.

Immigration

The Senate continues to wait for House action before there can be a conference on a House immigration bill and the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) passed by the Senate 68-32 on June 27, 2013.

The House Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees have voted out a series of topic-specific bills (border security, E-Verify, agricultural non-immigrant visas, and H-1B visas) and may consider a version of the DREAM Act for undocumented immigrants who arrived as children.

The House “Group of Eight” that was working on a bipartisan comprehensive reform proposal with a “pathway to citizenship” has all but dissolved. No progress was made during the August recess, and the Republican members have left the group.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Health Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: Federal legislative update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. State Legislative Update –Platinum Advisors

Steve Wallauch and Nicole Wordelman reported that the Legislature returned to the Capitol this morning prepared to begin building their legislative packages and contemplating the Governor’s Budget Proposal to be released on Friday morning at 9 a.m., and he will deliver his State-of-the-State address at 9 a.m. on January 22nd.

The CSAC Executive Committee will receive a budget briefing from Department of Finance Director Michael Cohen on January 16, 2014 and CSAC is expected to hold a webinar on the Budget on January 17, 2014.

Legislative Budget Proposals: Senate Pro Tem Steinberg is proposing the implementation of universal preschool and the reinstatement of Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grants. The proposed \$50 million would be used to fund programs to reduce recidivism such as mental health courts and substance abuse diversion. Grants would be awarded to counties on a competitive basis.

Assembly Speaker John Pérez released a budget blueprint last month, which includes the building of an \$8 billion reserve, payment of debt, and the elimination of using one-time funds for ongoing programs. It also suggests creating universal transitional kindergarten, providing more funds to CalWORKs, increasing the amount of subsidized child care available, phasing in Medi-Cal rate increases, and restoring the Early Mental Health Initiative, Asthma Public Health Initiative, and the Black Infant Health program.

New Bills: There will be numerous amendments and gut-and-amends that will be in print this week. This includes AB 59 (Bonta). Last year the Board adopted a support position on AB 59, which attempted to overturn the *Borikas v. Alameda Unified* decision prohibiting school districts from assessing parcel taxes pursuant to rational classifications.

AB 59 is being gutted and amended today to address a different court case – McWilliams v. City of Long Beach. This California Supreme Court decision significantly expands local government liability to class actions by finding that a local ordinance is not a “statute” under the Government Claims Act. This essentially makes local claim rules not enforceable, such as limiting liability and precluding class actions.

Cap & Trade Money: The Governor will propose using Cap & Trade auction revenue to fund high-speed rail work in his 2014-15 budget.

Sustainable Communities Planning Grants: The Strategic Growth Council has released a request for proposals for the third round of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program. The deadline to submit an application is February 28th. The SGC has announced a series of January workshops that will be held in Merced, Monterey, Solano, and Los Angeles. The Solano workshop is scheduled for January 28th at the Solano County Events Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Health Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: State legislative update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. 2014 Alameda County Legislative Platform [Attachment](#)

Myrna Lopez, Principal Administrative Analyst, presented a draft of the 2014 Alameda County Legislative Platform, requesting that the Committee approve the item to move to the full Board of Supervisors.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee approval to move to the full Board of Supervisors**
- Other:

Recommendation from the PAL Committee: Approve. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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