

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

Monday, March 3, 2014  
1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair  
Supervisor Wilma Chan

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5<sup>th</sup> floor*  
County Administration Building  
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

**Summary/Action Minutes**

Supervisor Keith Carson called the meeting to order.

**I. Federal Legislative Update**

The House and Senate are both in session this week, but have delayed votes until tomorrow due to weather conditions. Tomorrow President Obama will submit his Fiscal Year 2015 (FY 15) budget request to Congress. Both the House and Senate will hold hearings on the budget request later this week. The House will likely take up legislation to delay increases to flood insurance premiums, while the Senate will take up competing bills to combat military sexual assaults.

**Tax Reform**

Dave Camp, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman released his blueprint for reforming the tax code last week. Although the Committee will not take up the bill, he wanted to lay the groundwork for what could happen in 2015. The blueprint did not include any changes to cap or eliminate the deduction for municipal bond interest.

**House Report on Poverty**

Paul Ryan, Budget Committee Chairman released a report Monday that he says "takes stock" of the government's antipoverty efforts--launching a House Republican fiscal focus year on reforming welfare and social programs. The report states that the government spent \$799 billion in 2012 on some 92 antipoverty programs. It says these programs form a "duplicative" and complex web that is both difficult to navigate and counterproductive.

The report discusses eight (8) areas of federal policy: cash aid, education and job training, energy, food aid, health care, housing, social services, and veterans affairs. Despite these efforts, the report says poverty is widespread. The report states that in 1965 the poverty rate was 17.3 %, while in 2012 it was fifteen (15%) percent.

**FY15 Budget**

The Administration will deliver its FY15 budget request to Congress tomorrow. It will include a request for \$56 billion in new spending; \$28 billion to go towards domestic programs to be financed with tax increases from closing tax breaks and revamping some spending programs.

The budget request will include proposed changes in the tax code, many of them similar to those proposed last week by Representative David Camp, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Some of the commonalities are in areas ending tax advantages for companies doing business overseas, taxing the share of private-equity managers' profits at ordinary income rates, ending or phasing out some deductions for high-wage earners and capping the mortgage interest deduction on home loans at \$500,000.

**Purpose:**

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

## II. State Legislative Update

On Thursday, Governor Brown officially announced his intention to run for a fourth term as the Governor of California. He has been fundraising and currently has about \$17 million on hand to use for reelection. Running against him is a conservative Assemblyman Tim Donnelly from San Bernardino County. Also challenging the Governor is Neel Kashkari, a former U.S. Treasury Department official. Neither challenger has produced more than \$400,000 in campaign funding to date.

Senator Ron Calderon from Los Angeles County announced his intention to take a leave of absence from the State Senate pending resolution of a federal indictment on charges of political corruption. He faced the prospect of his colleagues voting to relieve him of his duties if he continued to serve. He was relieved of his committee memberships last summer but had continued to vote on legislation coming before the full Senate.

Senator Rod Wright, from Los Angeles County, began his leave from the Senate last week. At the end of January, he was convicted of eight counts of voter fraud and perjury and will be sentenced May. The Senate has been under pressure to vote to remove the senators but will allow them to take leave for now as an alternative.

The loss of two Democratic Senators means that the water bond, the Governor's budget reserve proposal to be placed on the ballot, and any other legislation requiring a supermajority will need at least one Republican vote for passage. The State budget should not be affected since it requires only a majority vote.

### **Drought Relief Legislation**

Governor Brown signed SB 103 and SB 104, a \$687 million bi-partisan drought relief package. The package includes:

- \$549 million for infrastructure grants for projects that are already underway to conserve water.
- \$30 million in grants to state and local agencies for efficiencies related to water use, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- \$21 million in housing assistance.
- \$25.3 million in food assistance.
- \$13 million to augment the conservation corps water efficiency, conservation, and fire prevention efforts.
- \$15 million to the Emergency Drinking Water Fund.
- \$10 million for irrigation and water pumping systems that reduce water use, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- \$14 million for groundwater contamination management.

### **SB 1014 Safe Medication Disposal**

Alameda County-sponsored SB 1014, modeled after the County's drug disposal ordinance will be heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on March 26, 2014. It was also assigned to the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee due to the Board of Pharmacy being under the Committee's jurisdiction. The assignment will likely present a challenge as the make-up of the committee is more moderate than that of the Environmental Quality Committee.

### **Modernizing Caltrans**

The Assembly Committee on Transportation held an informational hearing today reviewing the findings of the State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI) report on Caltrans. The report found that the culture and focus of Caltrans has not kept pace with the shift toward mobility management and greenhouse gas reductions. It points out Caltrans' diminishing role in the decision making process with the rise of Self-Help Counties and the emphasis on regional planning.

One of the specific findings in the report was the lack of true local partnerships. According to the reports co-author, Joel Rogers, local partnership issues are a two-way street in that Caltrans does not operate with the flexibility needed to participate as a partner in local decision making processes. The report also found that locals do not take into consideration the lifecycle costs of improvements to the state highway system when making investment decisions. Legislation has not been introduced to implement the findings of this report however the Transportation Agency is expected to make specific legislative recommendations in the next couple of weeks.

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### **Request for Legislation Position – Action Items**

**i. Adult Protective Services Training Funding – California Welfare Directors Association sponsored budget proposal**

*Recommendation: Support:* Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

**ii. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children – California Welfare Directors Association sponsored budget proposal**

*Recommendation: Support:* Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

**iii. Foster Parent and Kinship Recruitment, Retention and Support Fund – California Welfare Directors Association sponsored budget proposal**

*Recommendation: Support:* Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency

**Purpose:**

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- Other:

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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