

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

**Monday, September 29, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

**Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Wilma Chan**

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

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update

The House and Senate stand adjourned until November 12, 2014, after the midterm elections. The week prior to recess the House and Senate debated over the Continuing Resolution (CR) and an amendment to the CR to fund, arm and train the Syrian rebels. There were also numerous messaging bills designed to appeal to voters before the midterm elections on November 4, 2014. When Congress returns for the lame-duck session, leaders may call for a debate on the authorization of use of military force against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Continuing Resolution

Congress approved a Continuing Resolution (CR) prior to leaving Washington that will fund the federal government into the new fiscal year until December 11, 2014. Representatives Lee and Swalwell voted against the CR because of the funding included to arm and train the Syrian rebels. The amendment to arm and train the Syrian rebels in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant also passed in the House.

Child Care Development Block Grant

Leaders of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and House Education and the Workforce Committee announced an agreement on the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in early September. The compromise bill is based on the CCDBG reauthorization legislation that the Senate passed last spring to reauthorize the federal government's program to provide funding to states for the child care costs of low-income families. The proposal would authorize \$15 billion over six years for the CCDBG program. The House passed the legislation by a voice vote. The Senate will take up the legislation when it returns in November. The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program has not been reauthorized since 1996 and this measure would fund the program through FY 2020. It requires child care providers receiving grants to undergo annual inspections and comply with local health, safety, and fire standards. The bipartisan, bicameral agreement includes reforms to:

- Enhance parental choice by providing information about available care options from all providers, including faith-based and community-based providers, and allowing parents to choose the child care provider that best suits their family's needs.
- Strengthen safety in child care settings by requiring all providers to comply with state health, safety, and fire standards and undergo annual inspections.
- Promote high quality child care by reserving funds at the state level to improve the quality of care provided to children, enhancing states' ability to train providers and develop safer and more effective child care services.

Purpose:

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

II. State Legislative Update

Governor Brown has until midnight September 30, 2014 to sign or veto the bills sent to his desk during the final week of session. Of the 1,075 measures sent to his desk, the Governor, as of Sunday evening, has acted on 819 measures, leaving 256 to go before Tuesday's deadline.

The Governor took action on several bills sponsored by Alameda County. AB 1883 (Skinner) was signed into law. This bill, which was co-sponsored by Alameda County, makes several changes to the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program that will substantially reduce the financing costs for energy efficiency improvements made to homes and commercial properties.

The Governor also signed into law AB 2396 (Bonta). This Alameda County sponsored bill would prohibit boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs from denying a professional license based solely on a criminal conviction that has been withdrawn, or a guilty verdict that has been set aside. This bill is a major step forward in removing employment barriers for individuals with criminal records.

The Governor signed several bills aimed at better protecting victims of human trafficking and enhancing the fight against human trafficking, Governor Brown vetoed SB 473 (Block), which was sponsored by the County. In his veto message the Governor pointed to existing law that already provides substantial enhancements for sex trafficking crimes. He stated, "*These sentences are more than three times the punishment that existed two years ago. SB 473 would add yet another set of enhancements, the third in nine years. No evidence has been presented to support these new penalties.*" The package of human trafficking bills signed by the Governor includes AB 1610 (Bonta), which Alameda County supported. This bill allows for a conditional examination when a witness is a victim of, or witness to, a crime involving human trafficking, commercial sex acts, or forced labor or services.

Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Guidelines

Last week the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) released its draft guidelines for the Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program, as well as draft guidelines for the Sustainable Agriculture and Land Conservation Program. A series of workshops has been set for October 24, 2014 in Oakland and October 27, 2014 Sacramento. Additional workshops will be held in Merced and Los Angeles. The time and location of these workshops has not been announced. Comments on the draft guidelines may be submitted anytime between now and October 31st.

For the 2014-15 fiscal year there is \$130 million available for these programs. For the Sustainable Agriculture Program, \$1 million is available, with individual grants capped at \$100,000. The balance is dedicated to the Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program. Under the AHSC program grants are capped at \$15 million for a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project, with the minimum award being \$1 million, and for an Integrated Connectivity Project (ICP) the maximum award is \$8 million, with a minimum award of \$500,000. Applications must be submitted by the public entity that has jurisdiction over the project area, but the application can be in partnership with other public or private entities.

County staff are encourage to review the draft guidelines and submit comments if necessary.

Interim Guidance to Agencies Administering Greenhouse Gas Monies

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved staff's proposed "Interim Guidance to Agencies Administering Greenhouse Gas Monies." This document provides direction to those state agencies administering cap & trade funds as well as local entities expending these funds on issues of accountability and determining if a project benefits a disadvantaged community. The adopted motion approved the Guidance document along with additional changes requested by Board members. The motion also included direction to submit comments to CalEPA stating that the CalEnviroScreen process needs additional refinements to address issues on adequately identifying disadvantage communities (DAC).

Since this is guidance and not guidelines, the Board was not required to take action on this item. However, the Board added it to its agenda and unanimously approved the document with additional direction to staff. The next steps are for CARB staff to complete additional revisions by next week, which is when CalEPA is expected to finalize its identification of disadvantage communities.

Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County, proposed several changes to the Guidance document, which the Board approved. The changes include: 1) providing greater clarity and specifics on the reporting and accountability requirements; 2) specify in each of the tables in the appendix the need to maximize benefits to disadvantage communities; 3) strikeout the use of "whenever feasible/possible" under Item 3 on page 18 and insert "To the maximum extent feasible/possible,"; 4) add anti-displacement language to the table for Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Projects.

Supervisor Gioia also raised questions about the need to clarify the link between a disadvantaged community and a transit project. CARB staff explained that improvements to a transit corridor that include a stop in a disadvantaged community, or the stop is within ½ mile of a disadvantaged community then it would count as a benefit to that community. CARB staff will reexamine to determine if changes are needed.

A copy of the guidance document can be found at the following link, but this document does not yet reflect the changes mentioned above: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/workshops/arb-sb-535-interim-guidance-08-22-2014.pdf>

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PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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