

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

**Monday, March 22, 2021
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 – CJ Lake

Schedule

The House and Senate are in session this week. The House is holding hearings, and the Senate will focus on confirmations as well as various committee activity and a PPP extension vote.

Infrastructure and Surface Transportation

On Thursday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing with Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. It is expected that Secretary Buttigieg will lay out the Biden administration's priorities on transportation infrastructure. As there are a lot of moving pieces on transportation in the 117th Congress, we wanted to provide a status update of where things stand.

Last year, the House passed the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2). This bill included not only a 5-year reauthorization of transportation policy and transportation infrastructure, but also broader infrastructure-based bills including water, communications, electrification, power generation, and decarbonization. As the Senate did not consider transportation or broader infrastructure last year, the entire effort must start again in the 117th Congress.

In addition, it also means that the House and Senate can write new transportation and infrastructure bills that are friendlier to Democrat interests. As mentioned above, the plan is for the House to consider individual bills and over the next few months (by the summer) the House is expected to pass a bill similar to last year's H.R. 2. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has announced that it will consider a bill in May and, while the other committees of jurisdiction in the Senate have not announced formal plans, it is expected that they will follow suit and produce a bill (or series of bills) similar to the House's effort and work to get something enacted into law as the Biden Administration is also keen on his subject.

Nominations and Confirmations

The Senate voted to confirm the following nominees last week:

- Deb Haaland to be Interior Secretary (50-41)
- Isabel Guzman to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration (81-17)
- Katherine Tai to be U.S. trade representative (98-0)
- Xavier Becerra to be HHS Secretary (50-49, Collins (R))

The Senate votes today on the confirmation of Marty Walsh to lead the Department of Labor.

Shalanda Young is expected to be voted in as deputy director of the White House Office of Management and Budget and Vivek H. Murthy to be surgeon general of the Public Health Service, Rachel Levine to be an assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services; David Turk to be deputy secretary of energy; and Adewale O. Adeyemo to be deputy secretary of the Treasury Department.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing Thursday on the nomination of Deanne Criswell to be administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Last Week's Votes

Immigration: H.R. 6, Dream and Promise Act (228-197) & H.R. 1603, Farm Workforce Modernization Act (247-174) - The House passed the Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act. Negotiations are ongoing, and both of the bills received notable Republican support. There is not currently a timeline for consideration in the Senate.

H.R. 1280, Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization - The reauthorization bill passed last week. There are still negotiations ongoing in the Senate, with many Republicans concerned about the firearm restrictions included in the House version of the bill. 29 House Republicans in favor of the bill.

H.R. 1799, PPP Extension Act of 2021 - The House approved the bill last week by a vote of 415-3. Small businesses would have two additional months (until the end of May) to seek loans through the Paycheck Protection Program under the bill. Senate Leader Schumer has indicated that the Senate will consider the bill this week. It is expected to pass.

The American Rescue Plan added over \$7 billion to the PPP and expanded access for the smallest businesses, sole proprietors, independent contractors, and the self-employed. The bill did not extend the application and approval deadlines.

H.R. 1863, Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act - The House approved a bill by a vote of 246 to 175 that would delay impending Medicare sequester payment cuts until the end of the year and exempts the budgetary effects of the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill from the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go. Without Congressional action, health providers could see an immediate 2% cut in Medicare reimbursements on April 1. The bill is subject to the 60-vote threshold in the Senate to pass before it reaches the President's desk.

State and Local Allocations Update

On Friday, the Treasury Department held a conference call with House Democratic offices to provide a short overview of the status of state and local funding allocations and guidance and to collect input from member offices. Member offices raised several questions about how the Department is approaching complicated local financing concerns, and considerations the Department is making to maximize how allocations are used by governments. There are still more questions than answers at this phase but Treasury staff seem to understand that providing clarity to allocated jurisdictions will be key to the ARP's success.

The Treasury Department is currently seeking input from state and local stakeholders before final guidance is issued. If you would like to engage with the Department, please let us know and we can pass along your concerns

The Department expects to issue guidance on the allocations concurrently with the allocations made to states, counties, cities, territories, and tribes by the 60-day statutory deadline.

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
☐ Advocacy or Education
☐ Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
☒ **Other: Federal Update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

Capitol Update

Policy committee hearings continue in the Senate, while the Assembly really takes starts to ramp up after Spring Recess. After the Legislature closes out business this Thursday, March 25. They return on Monday, April 5.

Monday, March 22, 2021

- The Senate Appropriations Committee met today to discuss the following legislation:
 - o SB 19 (Glazer)v Wine growers: tasting rooms.
 - ☐ Outcome: Moved to Suspense File
 - o SB 56 (Durazo) Medi-Cal: eligibility.
 - ☐ Outcome: Moved to Suspense File
 - o SB 61 (Hurtado) Workforce training programs: supportive services.
 - ☐ Outcome: Moved to Suspense File

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

- The Assembly Health Committee will be meeting to hear the following legislation:
 - o AB 112 (Holden) Medi-Cal eligibility.
- The Assembly Public Safety Committee will be meeting to hear the following legislation:
 - o AB 26 (Holden) Peace officers: use of force.
 - o AB 48 (Gonzalez) Law enforcement: kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents.

Thursday, March 25, 2021

- The Assembly has scheduled a joint hearing with the Health and Budget Subcommittee No 1 on Health and Human Services on: Medi-Cal Managed Care Accreditation, Rate-Setting, and Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans Provisions and County Oversight Components of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal.
- The Senate Governance and Finance Committee will be meeting to hear the following legislation:
 - SB 12 (McGuire) Local government: planning and zoning: wildfires.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- Spring Recess– March 25 - April 6, 2021
- Special Primary Election for AD-79/Weber Seat – April 6, 2021
- Special Election – June 8, 2021
- Policy Committee Deadline for fiscal bills – April 30, 2021

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
☐ Advocacy or Education
☐ Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
☒ **Other: State update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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