I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

Congress is in session this week. The House and Senate will continue negotiations to determine the length of the next continuing resolution (CR) that needs to be addressed prior to December 9, 2016.

Lame Duck & Continuing Resolution

Congress will continue negotiations on various legislative items prior to adjourning the 114th Congress. This week, Congress will address the Continuing Resolution as well as the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), the 21st Century Cures Act, and the National Defense Authorization Act.

Congress will have to address the current CR that runs through December 9, 2016. House and Senate Republican leaders agreed to extend the current CR in order to give the 115th Congress and incoming Trump administration time to address FY17 spending levels. It is now more likely that the CR will extend through April 28, 2017, but negotiations are ongoing and there is a possibility that the continuing resolution could be extended into May 2017.

Transition

Since last week, President-elect Donald Trump has selected the following persons for appointments in his administration as he continues to transition to the White House.

Transportation Secretary - Mr. Trump has picked former Labor Secretary Elaine Chao to serve as secretary of transportation. Ms. Chao served as Deputy Secretary of Transportation under President George H.W. Bush and is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Treasury Secretary - Steven Mnuchin, a 17-year-veteran of Goldman Sachs, is President-elect Trump’s pick for Treasury Secretary.

Health and Human Services Secretary- Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.), the chairman of the House Budget Committee, was chosen to lead the Department of Health and Human Services.

Commerce Secretary - Billionaire investor Wilbur Ross, a Trump economic adviser, is Mr. Trump’s pick for Commerce Secretary.

Deputy Commerce Secretary - Mr. Trump tapped Todd Ricketts, the co-owner of the Chicago Cubs and a member of the powerful conservative Ricketts family, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.
Secretary of Defense- Mr. Trump picked retired Marine General James Mattis as his Defense Secretary

Housing and Urban Development Secretary - President-elect Trump tapped retired neurosurgeon and former Republican primary rival Dr. Ben Carson to serve as HUD Secretary.

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. State Legislative Update – Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Today marks the beginning of the 2017-18 Legislative Session. All Legislators elected or re-elected in the November 8 General Election were sworn in at noon. The Legislature will convene on January 4 to begin the year’s work. Democrats now have a supermajority in both the Senate and the Assembly. They may use the power to pursue long-sought after affordable housing, transportation infrastructure and climate change efforts coming into the new legislative session. The Secretary of the Senate released the 2017 Legislative Calendar.

Governor Brown names new Attorney General

In the November 8 General Election, Kamala Harris was elected to represent California in the U.S. Senate – a transition from her current role as Attorney General. Last week, the Governor announced that he will nominate Xavier Becerra (D), currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the 34th Congressional District, as Harris’ successor. Becerra was an unexpected nomination by Governor Brown and is subject to confirmation by both the California Senate and Assembly. In his announcement, the Governor stated that he is "confident he [Becerra] will be a champion for all Californians and help our state aggressively combat climate change.” Becerra will be the first Latino to serve as California Attorney General.

California Air Resources Board – 2030 Target Scoping Plan Discussion Draft

On December 2, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released a draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan Discussion Draft which updates the previous scoping plan to account for the new target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, as established by SB 32 (Pavley). The draft builds on the state’s efforts to reach its current greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and outlines ways the state can reach the new 2030 goals, including continuing California’s successful Cap and Trade program. The draft also explores alternative strategies for achieving the same outcome.

Purpose:
- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: State legislative update

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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