

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

Monday, February 3, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Lena Tam, Chair
Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas

Location: **Board of Supervisors Chamber – 5th Floor**
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

Schedule

Both chambers of Congress are in session this week. The House has votes scheduled Tuesday through Thursday, and the Senate is scheduled to hold votes Monday through Friday, with the goal of confirming several of President Trump's nominees.

Confirmation Hearings

This week, Senate Republicans will resume their work to confirm President Donald Trump's Cabinet nominees. They could confirm at least five nominees by this time next week. Votes are expected on the following nominees this week, with the first votes starting tonight:

- Department of Energy: Chris Wright - final passage scheduled for tonight
- Department of Veterans' Affairs: Doug Collins - final passage likely scheduled for Tuesday
- Department of Housing and Urban Development: Eric Turner - final passage likely scheduled for Wednesday
- White House Office of Management and Budget: Russell Vought - final passage likely late this week or early next week

On February 4, 2025, the Senate Finance Committee will hold a vote on the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy to be Secretary of HHS and the Senate Intelligence Committee will vote on the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard to be Director of National Intelligence.

Reconciliation

The House Budget Committee has pushed back their consideration of a budget resolution, which would establish the parameters for a reconciliation bill. The House was tentatively scheduled to start that process this week and to pass the resolution next week, but they are still negotiating the exact spending cuts to pay for the bill as the House Freedom Caucus is demanding steeper cuts than Speaker Johnson and leadership originally planned.

Tariffs

On Saturday, February 1, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order that imposed 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico and added a 10% levy on goods from China. Canada responded hours later that it would impose retaliatory tariffs on American goods, and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said she was planning to issue tariffs on the U.S. as well. The tariffs take effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday.

Earlier this morning, President Trump and Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum announced a one-month pause to the implementation of any tariffs as negotiations between the two nations continue to show progress.

Shortly after 4:00 pm on Monday, President Trump and PM Trudeau announced an agreement to postpone the 25% tariffs for 30 days. The agreement would reaffirm Canada's commitment to dedicate 10,000 frontline personnel to the U.S.-Canada border. Canada would also make new commitments to appoint a "Fentanyl Czar", list cartels as terrorists, maintain 24/7 eyes on the border, and launch a Canada- U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organized crime, fentanyl, and money laundering. PM Trudeau also signed a new intelligence directive on organized crime and fentanyl and would dedicate \$200 million to the Task Force.

TPS Rescinded for Venezuela

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem will terminate temporary removal protections for several hundred thousand Venezuelans in the US.

A Temporary Protected Status designation covering nearly 350,000 immigrants from the country was set to expire April 2 after Noem rescinded an extension issued by the Biden administration in January. The order determined that it is not in the national interest of the US to allow nearly 348,202 Venezuelans covered by the 2023 protections to remain in the country.

Executive Branch Shakeup

Over the weekend, Elon Musk's associates succeeded in gaining access to the physical headquarters and sensitive IT infrastructure of the independent agency, USAID. The agency, which is responsible for delivering billions of dollars to U.S. foreign aid, has long been a target of Republicans and Elon Musk. Agency staff were told yesterday that the USAID was closed and not to report for work on Monday.

In response to this crisis, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that he would assume the position of acting director of USAID and that it would continue to disburse US aid. Major questions remain about whether the administration is allowed to do this. Democrats have argued that it's illegal to fold USAID into the State Department without Congress and have sent a letter to the State Department demanding answers on the hostile takeover by Musk and his allies.

Several House Democrats rushed to the USAID headquarters in Washington DC to demand answers from the Trump Administration and show support to the federal employees who were placed on administrative leave. The aggressive takeover by Musk shows a potential future for other federal agencies if he is successful in wiping the agency away without the consent of Congress.

Last week, President Trump also fired Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Commissioners Charlotte A. Burrows and Jocelyn Samuels, an unprecedented firing of two commissioners of an independent agency. With the departure of Burrows and Samuels, the EEOC will not have a quorum to address claims of illegal workplace discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, and genetic information.

Their firings came on the heels of President Trump firing National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Gwynne Wilcox. The NLRB is also an independent agency whose members are prohibited from being fired without cause, such as malfeasance, neglect of duty, or misconduct. Without Member Wilcox, the Board is without a quorum. This means the Board cannot issue decisions to hold companies accountable for anti-union activities and provide resources and decisions to affirm union participation.

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

Federal Funding and State Budget

State policymakers are working to understand the Federal Office of Management and Budget memo which froze funding and the potential impacts on the State. Attorney General Bonta filed suit along with other democratic State Attorney Generals. The Speaker released a statement condemning the action. State budget experts noted the State received \$168 billion in federal funding in 2024-25 of which \$108 billion is at the Department of Health Care Services in large measure to support Medi-Cal.

The announcement of tariffs by the Trump Administration will have impacts on the California economy and in turn the Budget.

The Senate passed two special session bills on January 23, 2025. SBx1-1 provides funding to the Department of Justice to address litigation costs arising from the Trump Administration. SBx1-2 provides funding for immigrant legal services. The Assembly passed both measures on February 3, 2025, and they are heading to the Governor's desk.

The California State Senate held an overview hearing of the Governor's 2025-26 Budget on Thursday, January 30th, 2025. The LAO presented and as noted previously they highlighted the out-year budget deficits. The committee rescheduled a second portion of the agenda on the California Air Resources Board Implementation Updates of Climate Disclosure Legislation which will be heard this week. Budget Trailer Bills On Saturday, February 1st, the Department of Finance released proposed trailer bills for the 2025-26 Budget on their website. This spreadsheet is updated weekly as new language is released and provides a comprehensive list of all proposed trailer bills.

Upcoming Hearings

- The California State Assembly will host their budget overview hearing of the Governor's 2025-26 Budget on Monday, February 10, 2025.
- The Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee will host their informational hearing on State Housing Production Legislation: Actions, Outcomes, and Opportunities on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.
- The California State Senate is hosting a series of informational hearings in budget and policy committees.
- Budget Committee, Thursday, Feb 6, 2025 @ 10am
- Transit in California, Tuesday, Feb 19, 2025 @ 9am
- Part A - Effectiveness of Consumer Protections in California's Commercial Health Insurance Market
- Part B - CalRx Current Initiatives & Future Opportunities to Lower Healthcare Costs for all Californians
- Health Committee, Wednesday, Feb 26, 2025 @ 1:30pm - California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal
- (CalAIM): Enhanced Care Management, Community Supports, and Justice Involved Reentry Initiatives Alameda County Sponsored Bill, author, Senator Jesse Arreguin (Senate District 7) has agreed to author the following proposal with Alameda County as the bill sponsor. The bill number is forthcoming.

The legislative bill introduction deadline is Friday, February 21, 2025.

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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