I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are in session this week. The House will consider a variety of non-controversial bills under suspension. The Senate plans to vote on the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to be the next Associate Justice to the Supreme Court. The House and Senate will adjourn on Friday for a two-week district work period.

FY17 Appropriations

House and Senate appropriators are working to finalize the FY17 bills. The House overwhelmingly passed the FY17 Defense Appropriations bill on March 8, 2017. The bill is currently awaiting Senate action. Leadership is trying to close out the remaining FY17 bills and attach them to the Defense bill. Republican and Democrat Appropriators have said they will not include any of the $18 billion in proposed cuts the Administration sent to Congress with the skinny budget. It is likely that the House and Senate will pass the appropriations package the week after returning from the Spring recess before the current continuing resolution (CR) expires on April 28, 2017, or they may need to pass one more week-long CR in order to give themselves enough time to finish negotiations. Regardless, we anticipate Congress finalizing FY17 in late April or early May.

Supreme Court: Neil Gorsuch

This week, the full Senate will vote on the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to be an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court. Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the Gorsuch nomination on a party-line vote.

Senator Chris Coons also announced today that he will oppose President Trump's nominee and will not be voting to end debate. Gorsuch will need the support of eight Democrats to cross a 60-vote threshold to end debate, but Coons became the 41st Democrat to back the filibuster. Democrats have enough support to block Gorsuch's nomination on the floor and will force Republicans to invoke the "nuclear" option. The nuclear option is a last-resort way for the majority party in the Senate to overcome obstruction by the minority. The process involves the changing of the rules of the Senate so that a nominee like Gorsuch can be confirmed with a simple majority of 51 votes. Under current rules, 60 votes are needed to prevent any attempt by the minority party to block a vote by using the filibuster. Only four Democratic senators have said they will support President Trump's pick on the initial vote to end debate: Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Donnelly, Joe Manchin and Michael Bennet.

Senate Republicans are expected to confirm Gorsuch to the Supreme Court prior to adjourning for the Spring recess.
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

The Legislature is a few days away from Spring Recess, they will adjourn on April 6th and return on April 17, 2017. They will continue to hear bills in policy committees, the highest profile being the transportation funding package deal reached between the Governor and Legislative Leaders last week.

Update on County Sponsored Bills

AB 333 (Quirk), Alameda County’s sponsored bill to transfer ownership of a portion of State Route 185 at East 14th Street and Mission Boulevard within unincorporated Alameda County, will be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on Wednesday. Advocates are still awaiting the amendments to AB 435 (Thurmond) to include the changes to Alameda’s Child Care Pilot Program but expect the bill, as amended, to be heard in Assembly Human Services on April 25.

Coordinated Care Initiative Update

On March 29, 2017, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services brought the Speaker/Assembly proposal, to mitigate the cost to counties from the repeal of the CCI, up for a vote, where it passed 4 to 0, with bipartisan support, and Assemblymember Harper abstaining. The negotiations between the Department of Finance (DOF) and CSAC continue. The goal is to find a workable solution prior to the release of the Governor’s May Revise. Representatives from CSAC met with the DOF and had a positive conversation outlining the proposed framework, but not yet putting a number on the table. A few points of contention surrounding the proposed inflation rate and provider hour growth were discussed and are likely to come up in future negotiations. CSAC has another meeting with the DOF scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2017. They hope to reach a deal within the next two weeks to meet the deadline to include this in the Governor’s May Revise.

Transportation Funding Update

Last week, the Governor and Legislative Leaders reached a deal on a transportation funding package. The transportation proposal will raise about $5.2 billion per year in new revenues and allocates $3 billion per year to be split evenly between state and local governments for highway and road maintenance. The contents of the deal have been amended into SB 1 (Beall) and were in print on Friday. The constitutional amendments to accompany this package were amended into SCA 2 (Newman) and the newly-introduced ACA 12 (Frazier/Newman). SB 1 and SCA 2 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday morning and then there will be an informational hearing on SB 1 in the Assembly Transportation Committee on Monday afternoon. Floor votes are expected this week to secure passage before the Legislature leaves for Spring Recess on Thursday.

The Governor, along with members of the Legislature, held press conferences last week to put pressure on some Democratic legislators who have not yet committed to supporting the funding package. Due to the tax increases in the package, SB 1 requires a 2/3 vote of both houses, currently Republican support is unknown but is not expected. 2

No Place Like Home Advisory Committee

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) recently announced it’s No Place Like Home Advisory Committee, which will assist and advise HCD in the implementation of the program, review and make recommendations on program guidelines, and review the progress in distributing awards.
On March 27, 2017, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon named his appointee, Murtaza Baxamusa, as a Representative of an Affordable Housing Organization on the No Place Like Home Advisory Committee. Baxamusa is the Director of Planning & Development for the San Diego Building Trades Family Housing Corporation. He is also an adjunct instructor at USC, a board member of Housing California, and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. There is still one vacant spot on the advisory committee, a Resident of Supportive Housing, which will be appointed by the Governor.

Sanctuary Cities

Since the election of President Donald Trump, and the scrutiny surrounding his pick for United States Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, there has been troubling uncertainty among California Legislators regarding forthcoming federal immigration laws and what it might mean for the state. Following Attorney General Session’s announcement last week to withhold Department of Justice grants from “sanctuary cities,” Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León released a statement denouncing this action, stating that sanctuary jurisdictions are safer and better off economically than non-sanctuary jurisdictions. Further, de León asserted that Trump’s immigration stance is unconstitutional.

SB 54 (de León), regarding the role of law enforcement in immigration proceedings, was amended last week to remove the urgency clause – thus, only requiring a majority vote to pass – and would become effective January 1, 2018, if enacted. The bill is expected to be voted on this afternoon in the Senate.

California Attorney General Defends Clean Power Plan

On March 28, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order which threatens the future of the Clean Power Plan and rescinds the moratorium on coal mining on federal lands. The executive order reverses much of the action taken during former President Obama’s Administration to curb climate change. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra responded to President Trump’s executive order in strong opposition, stating that California, along with the numerous other states in opposition, will be aggressively fighting the order in court.

Department of Water Resources Drought Webinar

On May 9, 2016, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-37-16 that aims to bolster California’s climate and drought resilience. The Executive Order builds on the temporary statewide emergency water restrictions, and directs five state agencies to establish a long-term water conservation framework that will enhance California’s resiliency against climate and drought. This Thursday, April 6, the Department of Water Resources will hold a webinar on County Drought Contingency Planning – an effort to implement Directive 10 in the executive order related to counties.

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.

Request for Legislation position – Action Items

i. AB 391 (Chiu) Medi-Cal: asthma preventive services
   Recommendation: Support: Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director, Health Care Services Agency

ii. SB 598 (Hueso) Public utilities: gas and electric service disconnections
   Recommendation: Support: Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director, Health Care Services Agency
Purpose:
- ☒ Report progress
- ☐ Advocacy or Education
- ☒ Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- ☐ Other:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

Board of Supervisors’ Committees agendas are available via Internet at: http://www.acgov.org/