

TO: Members, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Committee

FROM: Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate
Kristina Gallagher

RE: 2017 September Update

DATE: September 26, 2017

The Legislature adjourned their first year of the 2017-18 session on the morning of Saturday, September 16th at approximately 2:30 AM. The Legislators have now returned to their districts for Fall Interim Recess, which means that any legislation that isn't currently enrolling or is before the Governor's desk will become a two-year bill. Meanwhile, the Governor has until October 15th to sign, veto or pass legislation without his signature.

The Assembly and Senate acted on hundreds of pieces of legislation before adjourning for the Fall Interim, which included a package of bills to address the housing crisis in California that the Legislature passed in the final couple days of session. The Housing Package was linked to the parks and water bond and was negotiated behind the scene as part of negotiations during the cap and trade program.

Meanwhile, there was some legislation that didn't move past the floor and were made into two-year bills, which included AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) that was held in the Senate Rules Committee. AB 1250 would have negatively impacted the County of Santa Barbara's ability to exercise local control over the efficient delivery of county services by subjecting a large number of new, existing and renewed contracts for services to significant data collection and financial analysis.

AB 1250 generated over 100 coalition partners in opposition, which included many nonprofits, local governments, public safety officials, businesses and the health and human service groups that were going to be largely affected by this legislation. Governmental Advocates had set up multiple meetings and conference calls on AB 1250 in order to discuss the County's concerns with the Senate Governance and Finance Members, the Governor's office and Senate Leadership. On the last week of session, the Senate adjourned without the necessary Rule Waiver to adopt amendments to the bill, and while the bill was still floor eligible it did not move out of the Senate Rules Committee.

AB 726 (Holden) and AB 813 (Holden) were also held in the Senate Rules Committee and are now two-year bills. These bills would have created a freeze on any new forming Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) organizations and block the one that is being analyzed currently for the Santa Barbara County, as well as restricted the ability to expand existing Community Choice Energy (CCE) programs.

The County opposed these two bills unless they were amended with the California Community Choice Association's (CalCCA) amendments, which proposed to postpone the deadline to file

implementation plans for CCA's, and imminent CCA procurement that achieves stated policy goals should count towards mandates.

The County's sponsored legislation, AB 556 (Limon) passed the Senate Floor and was concurred in the Assembly on September 7th. The bill is now awaiting action at the Governor's desk, and has until October 15th to be acted upon by the Governor.

AB 556 (Limon) generated support from both CSAC and the County of Ventura and would change the current \$100 maximum fine for a single occurrence or \$500 maximum after multiple violations of local zoning codes or permit conditions, to allow the County the option to increase these fines to \$150 for a first time violation and up to \$2,500 per violation after three or more violations, and would allow counties to impose larger administrative fines for professionally organized special events that are held on private property and are commercial in nature.

Housing Package

After the announcement in July by the Governor and Leadership to pass a package of bills to address the housing crisis in California, the Legislature narrowly passed a group of bills in the last days of session.

The major components of a legislative package aimed at addressing California's housing affordability crisis passed the Assembly house vote on the evening of September 14th when the Assembly passed six crucial housing bills. The housing legislation that is awaiting the Governor's action includes:

Senate Bill 2 (Atkins), would impose a \$75 to \$225 fee on real estate transactions and is expected to generate as much as \$258 million per year for low-income housing development and programs to combat homelessness.

Senate Bill 3 (Beall), places a \$4 billion bond on the November 2018 ballot. If approved by voters, \$1 billion would be used to help military veterans purchase homes with low or no down payment at below-market interest rates. The other \$3 billion would pay for housing development programs.

Senate Bill 35 (Wiener), would seek to streamline the approval process for new housing by eliminating environmental and planning reviews for some projects.

Senate Bill 540 (Roth), would allow developers to approve local housing projects under one master plan and environmental review document. Fifty percent of projects would be affordable for low-income households, with an additional 10 percent of low-income housing required in market-rate housing projects.

Senate Bill 166 (Skinner), would require cities to identify enough development sites to meet unmet housing needs.

Senate Bill 167 (Skinner), would prohibit local officials from voting down housing projects that fit within zoning and other land-use designations.

AB 72 (Santiago) would enable the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to refer cities to the Attorney General if they fail to plan accordingly.

73 (Chiu) would encourage cities to allow for higher densities near mass transit by providing incentive payments following area-wide environmental review.

AB 571 (E. Garcia) would make changes to the existing Farmworker Housing Assistance Tax Credit Program to utilize the state's entire private activity tax-exempt bond authority to expand the number of much-needed farmworker housing units, and fully access the 4% low-income housing tax credits.

AB 879 (Grayson) would make a number of changes to housing element law, and directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to complete a study evaluating the reasonableness of local fees charged to new developments.

AB 1397 (Low) makes a number of changes to housing element law by revising what may be included in a locality's inventory of land suitable for residential development. It would place restrictions on the ability of cities and counties to designate non-vacant sites as suitable for housing development and would require all designated sites to have water, sewer, and utilities available and accessible to support housing development.

AB 1515 (Daly) would establish, for purposes of the Housing Accountability Act (HAA), a reasonable person standard for deeming consistency, as specified, for a housing development project or emergency shelter.

AB 1521 (Bloom) would ensure the preservation of assisted affordable housing developments and gives HCD additional enforcement authority.

Cap and Trade

On July 25th and 26th the Governor signed AB 398 (E. Garcia), which extends California's cap and trade through December 2030, and AB 617 (C. Garcia), which creates a new air quality program in California.

On September 16th, the Governor also signed two trailer bills that allocate the greenhouse gas emission funds - AB 109 and AB 134, which create allocation plans for forest health and critical waste diversion, containing a total of \$1.5 Billion in Cap & Trade expenditure funds.

AB 398 (E. Garcia) requires:

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) to set cost containment measures, including a price ceiling, speed bumps, offset credit limits, and industry assistance factors for allowance allocation

- The establishment of a Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to advise CARB on establishing new offset projects that have direct environmental benefits, while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions
- The establishment of an Independent Emissions Market Advisory Committee to report to CARB and the Legislature on the environmental and economic performance of cap and trade
- The California Workforce Development Board to report on the need for increased education and job training to help transition labor-market changes
- CARB to update the Scoping Plan by January 1, 2018
- The establishment of funding priorities for the allocation of cap and trade funds until January 1, 2031, as follows: air toxic and criteria pollutants from stationary and mobile sources; low and zero-carbon transportation; sustainable agricultural practices that promote the transitions to clean technology, water efficiency, and improved air quality; healthy forests and urban greening; short-lived climate pollutants (such as methane); climate adaptation and resiliency; climate and clean energy research
- Prohibit local air districts from adopting additional emissions reduction rules from stationary sources that are subject to cap and trade
- Suspension of the State Responsibility Area (SRA) fee effective July 1, 2017, until January 1, 2031
- Extending the 3.94 percent state current exemption from sales and use taxes (SUT) for certain purchases of property used for generation of electric power until July 1, 2030; exempts city and county sales and use taxes

AB 617 (C.Garcia) requires:

- Stationary sources to report annually emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants
- CARB to prepare a statewide strategy to reduce air emissions in communities with a high cumulative exposure burden and update the strategy every five years, determine high priority locations to deploy community level air monitoring systems, and authorize the local air district in selected locations to require stationary sources to deploy fence-line monitoring systems
- The local air districts to develop and implement plans for the communities that have high cumulative emission burdens to achieve emission reductions from mobile and stationary sources. Plans will be required to have reduction targets, specific reduction measures, and an implementation schedule
- The local air districts that have not attained air pollutant goals under the federal Clean Air Act to expedite retrofits of industrial sources
- An increase the penalty for air pollution violations from \$1,000 per day to \$5,000 per day and increases the maximum penalty annually based on the Consumer Price Index

Tribal Tax Issues

AB 653 (Ridley-Thomas) is legislation sponsored by the Chumash Tribe, which was amended on August 23rd to state that beginning the 2018-19 fiscal year, property owned in fee or held in trust

by a federally recognized Indian Tribe, or owned in fee or held in trust by a charitable nonprofit organization is exempt from taxation if the following conditions are met: The tribe has submitted an initial written request or trust application to the US Department of the Interior and the department has determined that the initial written request trust application is complete, and that the tribe has submitted both of the following to the assessor: documents establishing that the tribe is federally recognized and documents establishing that the initial written request or trust application is under consideration by the US Department of the Interior. The property is used primarily for tribal housing, an essential governmental function, or other charitable purposes including but not limited to, tribal religious, education, museum, hospital, and cemetery facilities or for the preservation of agriculture and open space.

AB 653 was set for hearing in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on August 30th. After lengthy discussions between the sponsors, the County, our legislative delegation, CSAC and the rural counties, the sponsors and author decided to cancel the hearing. The bill is now a two-year bill.

It is our understanding that the sponsors of the bill are planning on working on possible ways to address their issues with the County of Santa Barbara, CSAC and RCRC during the fall interim. Current discussions include looking at broadening the current property tax exemption for affordable tribal housing.

Cannabis

The passage of Prop 64 allowed the recreational use of marijuana in California which created a number of cannabis bills, trailer bill language and regulations by the Bureau of Marijuana Control and CalCannabis, which will shape cannabis cultivation, retail sale, manufacturing, and distribution in California.

In addition to Prop 64 which was approved in 2016, the Governor signed into law the Medical Cannabis and Regulatory Safety Act (MCRSA) in 2015. These two laws contain several differences, therefore in addition to the \$94.6 million appropriated in the budget to implement California's cannabis laws, the budget package included an updated trailer bill, SB 94, that reinforced the medical and adult-use cannabis regulatory frameworks that were established under the Medical Cannabis and Regulatory Safety Act (MCRSA) and Proposition 64, into one single regulatory system for commercial cannabis activity, known as the Medicinal and Adult-Use of Cannabis Regulatory and Safety Act (MAUCRSA).

The new package includes a number of priority items for local governments, including maintaining comprehensive local control and taxation authority while also creating a more streamlined approach for the state-local licensure process.

Although the Department of Food and Agriculture and CalCannabis published their proposed draft regulations for implementing the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA) in April, the 2017-18 state budget passed trailer bill legislation changed current law. In order to be consistent with changes in the law, the Bureau will have to withdraw proposed regulations and propose a set of new regulations. Meanwhile, the CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing

program prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report in accordance to CEQA, which provided information of potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of cannabis cultivation regulations. On September 16th, the Governor passed a cannabis trailer bill that included clean up language to help implement the state's cannabis laws. CalCannabis is anticipating issuing state cannabis cultivation licenses beginning January 1, 2018.

Cannabis Related Legislation

AB 64 (Bonta) contains a variety of provisions. It adds clarity about for-profit and non-profit types of businesses operating under the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA), and makes changes to storefront access requirements and restrictions on advertising. AB 64 also makes changes to trademark laws and certain marks related to cannabis that are lawful under state law, and advances a \$3 million loan from the state's general fund to the California Highway Patrol for adopting protocols to determine driver impairment. The bill was held on suspense, and is now a two-year bill.

Licensing and Testing

AB 171 (Lackey) requires reporting on conditional licenses issued by the state. The bill is on the inactive file.

AB 238 (Steinorth) relates to collective bargaining agreements and employees of licensed distributors. The bill is on the inactive file.

AB 1527 (Cooley) would prohibit a former employee of a state or local licensing authority from being employed by a person or entity licensed under AUMA or MCRSA for at least one year. The author cancelled the hearing; therefore this bill is a two-year bill.

SB 311 (Pan) relates to testing, and would authorize a licensee to perform testing of cannabis or cannabis products obtained from another licensee for the purpose of quality assurance. The bill is now a two-year bill.

Packaging and Advertising

AB 175 (Chau) would require manufacturers of edible cannabis products to submit packaging and labeling to the state for review of compliance with requirements of Prop 64, including child resistant packaging and labels that do not appeal to children. The bill is now a two-year bill.

AB 350 (Salas) specifies that cannabis products are deemed to appeal to children or easily confused with commercial candy if the product is in the shape of a person, animal, insect, fruit, or any other shape associated with candy. The bill is currently getting enrolled, and will be sent to the Governor's Desk.

SB 663 (Nielsen) specifies that a package or label of cannabis or cannabis products is deemed to be attractive to children if the package or label has specific characteristics, including resembling any candy, snack food, baked good, or beverage commercially sold without marijuana. The bill was vetoed by the Governor on September 11th, stating that the current law already prohibits cannabis and cannabis products from being designed to be attractive to children.

AB 420 (Wood) requires advertisements for medical cannabis to identify the responsible licensee. The bill was held on suspense, and is now a two-year bill.

State Requirements

AB 389 (Salas) would require the state to post a consumer guide on the regulation of medical and recreational cannabis online. The bill is now a two-year bill.

AB 1002 (Cooley) would rename the existing California Marijuana Research Program as the Center for Cannabis Research and would expand the purview of the program, including cultivation for research purposes and examining testing methods for detecting harmful contaminants in marijuana, including mold and bacteria. The bill was held on suspense, and is now a two-year bill.

AB 1135 (Wood) relates to public stakeholder input on disbursements to the Department of Health Care Services from the California Marijuana Tax Fund. This bill is now a two-year bill.

AB 1627 (Cooley) transfers the regulation of testing laboratories under AUMA from the State Department of Public Health to the Bureau of Marijuana Control. The bill is now a two-year bill.

Finance and Tax Issues

AB 963 (Gipson) addresses various aspects of taxation related to cannabis. It would require distributors to provide retailers with evidence of prepayment tax amounts collected, and then allow the retailers to credit the prepayments against the amounts due for the same period. AB 963 would authorize a system for prepayment of the excise tax that utilizes stamps or other markings. It also makes changes to taxable sales of medical cannabis products to persons with identification cards, including requiring county health departments to issue identification cards with the capability of storing data, and would limit the sales and use tax exemption for medical purchasers to only sales made with these types of cards. AB 963 would adjust the suspension, revocation, or denial of state permits in some cases related to taxation. Finally, the bill would extend the pilot program for combating criminal tax evasion until January 1, 2020 – with a Cannabis Criminal Enforcement Team to work on these issues specifically. The bill is on the inactive file per the Author's request.

AB 844 (Burke) would change requirements for grantees applying for funding through the California Marijuana Tax Fund. The bill was held on suspense, and is now a two-year bill.

AB 1410 (Wood) relates to taxation and would require licensed distributors to collect cultivation taxes at the time of completion of quality assurance, inspection, and testing. It would require the licensed distributor to file the tax return, instead of the licensed cultivator, and all licensed distributors would need to obtain a separate permit for that work. The bill is enrolled, and is on the Governor's Desk.

Public Safety

SB 698 (Hill) sets standards for driving under the influence, and would make the first violation punishable as an infraction, requiring successful completion of a three-month program and installation of an ignition interlock device for six months. This bill is now a two-year bill.

AB 903 (Cunningham) would amend AUMA by requiring the Highway Patrol to use funding from the California Marijuana Tax Fund to study the viability of standards for marijuana impairment. This bill was held on the suspense file, and is now a two year bill.

AB 729 (Gray) would require license suspension for certain types of violations. It would also require licensees to post signs visible from public entrances to indicate “No Person Under 21 Allowed,” among other security measures; AB 729 also prohibits the sale or distribution of cannabis or cannabis products in a vending machine. The bill would authorize licensees and employees to refuse to sell cannabis to a person unable to produce adequate identification, and would authorize peace officers or local and state licensing authorities the ability to enter and conduct inspections. AB 729 also contains zoning restrictions, and would prohibit licensees from being located within a 600-foot radius of a playground, hospital, or church, unless a local authority or licensing authority specifies a different radius. This bill is now a two year bill.

Interactions with the Federal Government

AB 845 (Wood) would, if federal law authorizes the prescription of a controlled substance containing cannabidiol, a physician to prescribe that substance in accordance with federal law. The bill was held on suspense, and is now a two-year bill.

AB 1578 (Jones-Sawyer) would prohibit a state or local agency from taking certain actions to assist a federal agency investigate, detain, detect, report or arrest a person for cannabis activity that is authorized by the state of California, unless ordered by a judge. The bill was placed on the inactive file, and is now a two year bill.

Park and Water Bond

The Governor originally linked the housing package along with the water and park bond, which was in AB 18 (E. Garcia) and SB 5 (De Leon). SB 5 (De Leon) will be the bill moving forward, which includes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to implement its provisions.

SB 5 (De Leon) proposes the Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, subject to voter approval in the November, 2018, election. The legislation passed the Senate Floor 31-9 on May 30th, and passed the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee on August 31st with an 11-2 vote. The bill passed the Assembly Floor with a 56-21 vote, and then was concurred in the Senate. The bill is now enrolling and will be going to the Governor’s desk.

Bills of Interest to the County

AB 114 (Public Health) The County was in strong support of the MHSA trailer bill because it preserves critical MHSA funding that might have otherwise been clawed-back to the state, which would have reduced the local control granted in MHSA to implement the local plan to address Santa Barbara County mental health needs. The trailer bill was chaptered on July 10th, and is now law.

AB 334 (Cooper) Federal VAWA legislation passed in 2011 mandated the provision of free sexual assault forensic medical exams for patient/victims who do not want to cooperate with law enforcement agencies. The original California statute passed in 1977 mandating that local law

enforcement agencies pay for sexual assault exams was amended after 35 years to comply with VAWA. The amended statute specified that law enforcement agencies could be reimbursed \$300 by Cal OES out of their State VAWA appropriation for exams involving the non-cooperative patient/victim. The legislation passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with a 6-1 vote, but the author pulled the bill out of the Senate Public Safety Committee, therefore the bill is now a two-year bill. The County is in support of the bill.

AB 556 (Limon) The bill would allow Counties to impose larger administrative fines for one-time violations of the County's ordinances specifically where permits are available and when knowledgeable businesses chose to ignore the required permit. The bill will focus on one-time events that purposely don't acquire a permit due to the fee of the permit costing less than the violation fine. The County is sponsoring the bill. The bill passed the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on June 28th with a 6-1 vote, and passed the Senate Floor 30-10, and was concurred in the Assembly. The bill is now enrolled and is at the Governor's desk.

AB 653 (Ridley-Thomas) The legislation is sponsored by the Chumash Tribe, and was amended on August 23rd to state that beginning the 2018-19 fiscal year, property owned in fee or held in trust by a federally recognized Indian Tribe, or owned in fee or held in trust by a charitable nonprofit organization is exempt from taxation if the following conditions are met: The tribe has submitted an initial written request or trust application to the US Department of the Interior and the department has determined that the initial written request trust application is complete, and that the tribe has submitted both of the following to the assessor: documents establishing that the tribe is federally recognized and documents establishing that the initial written request or trust application is under consideration by the US Department of the Interior. The property is used primarily for tribal housing, an essential governmental function, or other charitable purposes including but not limited to, tribal religious, education, museum, hospital, and cemetery facilities or for the preservation of agriculture and open space. The author of the bill cancelled the Committee hearing, and the bill is now a two-year bill. The County opposes the legislation.

AB 722 (Limon) The bill would allow a member of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors or by any public officer of the County of Santa Barbara or his or her deputy to serve on the board of directors of the Isla Vista district. The bill passed the Assembly Floor 60-13, and passed the Senate Governance and Finance Committee 7-2. The bill then passed the Senate Floor with a 27-12 vote, and was concurred in the Assembly. The bill is now enrolled and is at the Governor's desk. The County's position is still pending.

AB 726 (Holden) and AB 813 (Holden) The legislation would have created a freeze on any new forming Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) organizations and restricted the ability to expand existing Community Choice Energy (CCE) programs. The County of Santa Barbara was opposed to AB 726 and AB 813, unless CalCCA's amendments were adopted. The bills were held in the Senate Rules Committee and are now two-year bills.

AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) The County is in strong opposition to the bill. The bill creates specific conditions and requirements that would apply when a county enters into a new contract or renews or extends an existing contract, and also specifies the conditions that must be met in order to permit a personal services contract. The Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee

claimed that there needs to be more negotiations on the bill. The bill was held in the Senate Rules Committee and is now a two year bill.

AB 1472 (Limon) The bill details in statute what the California State Lands Commission (SLC) may take into consideration when reviewing an application to assign, transfer or sublet a lease or permit of state lands for oil and gas production. Assemblymember Limon asked the County for support of the bill, and the County was looking at amendments. The bill passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee 9-0 on June 13th, and was enrolled July 10th, but was vetoed by the Governor with a message that said, "This bill outlines the factors that the CA State Lands Commission may consider when evaluating an application to assign, transfer, or sublet oil and gas lease. The Commission currently has broad authority to assess whether an applicant is able to meet the obligation under the proposed lease. Therefore the bill is unnecessary."

AB 1603 (Ridley-Thomas) This bill provides that persons who are employed jointly by a public agency and any other employer (e.g., a private staffing agency or registry) at specified public clinics or hospitals are public employees subject to the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act. The bill was ordered to the inactive file, and is now a two-year bill. The County will wait until next year to take a position on the bill.

SB 1 (Beall/Frazier) The merged legislation proposed an additional \$5.2 billion annually for road repairs and mass transit, by readjusting the state's obsolete gas tax and reform the user-pays system to ensure all motorists contribute their fair share to the maintenance of the roads. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 28th.

SB 35 (Wiener) The bill would result in the prevention of local discretionary land use authority, and bypass the environmental review process by creating a streamlined, ministerial approval process for development proponents of multi-family housing, if development meets specified requirements and the local government in which the development is located has not produced enough housing units to meet its regional housing needs assessment. The bill was a part of the Housing Package, and passed the Assembly Floor on September 14th with a 47-27 vote, and then concurred in the Senate with a 23-14 vote. The bill is now enrolled and awaiting action at the Governor's desk. The County is in opposition to this bill.

SB 44 (Jackson) The legislation requires that for the fiscal year (FY) 2018-19, out of those funds deposited into the General Fund by the commission from tideland oil revenues that the sum of \$2 million be transferred to the fund and be available, upon appropriation, for the purpose of implementing the coastal hazard and legacy oil and gas well removal and remediation program. The legislation has passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on July 10th with a 10-0 vote and has passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee 16-0. The bill passed the Assembly Floor with a 76-0 vote, and was concurred in the Senate. The bill is enrolled and on the Governor's desk. The County is supporting this legislation.

SB 190 (Mitchell) The proposed bill would have fees related to local home detention programs be only payable by adults. SB 190 would remove the County's ability to send Institution accounts to the FTB COD leaving accounts uncollectible. The bill also repeals the following: \$100 per day fee for parents who refuse to pick up their minor children from the County's

Juvenile Hall or Los Prietos Boys' Camp, the public defender fees paid by parents for their minor child's legal representation, and the Foster Parent training fund. The bill passed the Assembly Floor 57-9, and was concurred in the Senate. The bill is now enrolled and at the Governor's desk. The County opposes the bill.

SB 231 (Hertzberg) This bill would define "sewer" for the purposes of the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act. Storm water is a key source of local water supply and careful management is necessary now more than ever due to California's continuing cycles of drought. It can also carry pollutants into groundwater, creeks, rivers and the ocean. The bill passed the Assembly Floor with a 41-29 vote and was concurred in the Senate. The bill is now enrolled and awaiting action at the Governor's desk. The County is in support of this bill.

SB 349 (Lara) This bill would require minimum staffing ratios for dialysis clinics and a minimum transition time between dialysis patients, as follows, commencing January 1, 2020. The bill increases the likelihood of quality care for individuals with End Stage Renal Disease by reducing the risk of infections, cardiac related and other causes of death. The author of the bill announced that this will be a two-year bill on September 8th. The County is in support of the legislation.

SB 588 (Hertzberg) This bill substantially revises the existing state rigs-to-reefs program that allows for the partial removal of oil and gas platforms in state or federal waters if the remaining portion is converted into an artificial reef and certain conditions are met. The bill passed the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 29th with a 12-2 vote, and then was referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee but didn't meet the policy deadline, therefore is now a two-year bill. County opposes the bill.

SB 649 (Hueso) This bill establishes a statewide framework for streamlining the permit siting process of small cell wireless facilities that meet specified requirements. Specifically, this bill requires an administrative permit in lieu of a discretionary permit, limits fees to between \$100 and \$850 for small cell installations in the utility right-of-way, ensures access to most vertical infrastructure in the utility right-of-way and also within a commercial or industrial zone. This bill also requires permits for wireless telecommunications facilities would be automatically renewed for equivalent durations. The bill passed the Assembly Appropriations Suspense File, and passed the Assembly Floor with a 46-16 vote, and then was concurred in the Senate. The bill is enrolled and on the Governor's desk. County is opposed to the bill.

Conclusion

The Legislature adjourned on the morning of September 16th and the Legislators are currently in their districts until January 3rd when the Legislature will reconvene for the second year of the 2017-18 session. The Governor has hundreds of bills currently pending on his desk, which he will have to act on by the October 15th deadline.

We will continue to work with staff on any interim negotiations and keep the committee and Board updated. As always, should you or your staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.