

Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 26, 2017

FY 2017 FEDERAL FUNDING

Congress returned from its two week spring recess with only four days remaining before the April 28 expiration of the Continuing Resolution (CR) funding all Federal agencies and programs at FY 2016 levels pending completion of the FY 2017 appropriations process. The respective House and Senate Appropriations Committees have been negotiating for several months with the goal of having an omnibus package ready before the upcoming deadline, but while many of the individual appropriations bills are in essence complete, a final signoff has been complicated by President Trump's heretofore insistence on the inclusion of initial funding to begin construction of a border wall. In the Senate in particular, the wall funding does not have majority support, with opposition from a number of border State Republicans as well as Democrats. Another point of contention is the insistence by Democrats that the package include language clarifying that cost-sharing reduction subsidies under the Affordable Care Act, which the Administration has threatened to withhold, are mandatory appropriations under the law. A compromise has been offered that would provide additional funding for border security technology and border agents rather than the wall. If agreement is not finalized by the end of the week, Congress will likely consider a short term extension of the CR to avoid a government shutdown.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REPEAL

Despite the failure of House Leadership to cobble together enough votes to pass H.R. 1628, the *American Health Care Act*, President Trump continues to press them to move forward with the effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and during the recess rumors surfaced that a compromise was close at hand between centrists and hard-right members of the Republican Conference. One element of the proposal would give States more flexibility to opt out of major provisions of the ACA, while also preserving popular protections like the

law's ban on discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions. However, House Speaker Ryan indicated there will be no further action on health care until work on FY 2017 funding is completed, and it is unclear if the purported compromise would garner enough votes to pass the House, let alone the Senate.

CAMP 4 LEGISLATION

We arranged meetings in Washington, DC for Supervisor Hartmann to discuss the County's ongoing negotiations with the Chumash Indians regarding Camp 4, as well as Congressman LaMalfa's (R-CA) H.R. 1491, the *Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017*. In addition to the County's Congressional delegation, we scheduled meetings for Supervisor Hartmann with Congressman LaMalfa, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bishop (R-UT), the Department of the Interior, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. To date, no action has been scheduled on H.R. 1491.

SCAAP REAUTHORIZATION

We contacted the Senate Judiciary Committee to advocate in support of Senator Flake's (R-AZ) S. 745, which would reauthorize and update the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). We also urged Senator Feinstein, who is the Ranking Member of the committee, and Senator Harris to consider cosponsoring the bill. S. 745 would amend SCAAP to clarify the definition of "criminal alien" to include individuals charged with a crime – which would benefit local governments such as the County - and expand it to include reimbursements for medical expenses associated with the incarceration of criminal undocumented aliens. The Department of Justice previously allowed reimbursements for non-adjudicated illegal aliens in local jails, and when it discontinued doing, the County's SCAAP payments fell by over 58%. Santa Barbara County received \$318,334 under SCAAP for FY 2016.

IMMIGRATION REFORM - DREAMERS

We contacted the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction to advocate the County's support for legislation to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, citing the hundreds of undocumented students that graduate from Santa Barbara County high schools every year. In the House, Congressman Coffman (R-CO) has introduced bipartisan legislation to continue DACA as H.R. 496, the *Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy Act* or *BRIDGE Act*, and companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Graham (R-SC) as S. 128. Congressman Carbajal has signed on as a cosponsor to H.R. 496, and both Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris are cosponsors of S. 128. Neither the House nor the Senate have begun scheduling hearings on immigration-related legislation as of yet.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Following your Board's action on April 11, we contacted Chairman Lamborn (R-CO) and Ranking Minority Member Lowenthal (D-CA) of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources to advocate in support of Congressman Carbajal's H.R. 731, the *California Clean Coast Act*, which would permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California. H.R. 731 was the first piece of legislation introduced by Congressman Carbajal and is similar to legislation introduced in the past by Congresswoman Capps and Senator Boxer. Hearings have not yet been scheduled on the proposal.

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