

Memorandum

TO: Members, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate
Monica Miller, Legislative Advocate

RE: May 2009 Update

DATE: May 21, 2009

BUDGET

As you know the voters expressed their opposition loud and clear on May 19, 2009. They voted down every measure, with the exception of Proposition 1F, which states that Legislators can not receive a raise if there isn't a budget in place. In an unprecedented move the Governor released two versions of his May revise just prior to the election, one that had the propositions passing and one that did not. While these two versions were intertwined, the cuts continue to raid county coffers and leave us holding the bag. Specifically, the Governor is seeking to invoke his right under Prop. 1A from 2004 whereby the legislature can borrow up to 8% of our ERAF dollars to achieve savings for the state of about \$2 billion. Additionally, they are proposing to put the PXP deal into the state budget in an effort to bring in money for the state, they also put forward a the proposal to delete the Williamson Act subvention funds and significantly cut or delete many of our health and human services programs. We are still reviewing the local impacts and anticipate additional details from the Governor's office on May 28, 2009. We will continue to keep you updated as the details are released.

Legislative Platform

Fortunately, our sponsored bills continue to move forward. AB 359 by Assembly Member Nava, which will allow women in the Medi-Cal system to receive a digital mammogram in place of an analogue mammogram, under the current Medi-Cal system. This measure has cleared the policy committee with without any opposition, the measure is sitting on the Appropriations suspense file awaiting additional amendments to allow the bill to be revenue neutral in an effort to keep the bill moving forward. We will know more on May 28th once the committee meets and considers this measure. We have also been approached by the California Department of Public Health to potentially use our measure to rectify a situation that they are dealing with regarding this program. If they amend our language into our measure, we are assured a signature however there are many hurdles to pass at this point, so we will remain in discussions with them and keep you updated on the progress.

SB 326 by Senator Tony Strickland, our measure related to housing in the county, is on the Senate Floor and is expected to be taken up the first week in June. We are continuing to move the bill forward as a shell with the understanding that we will amend it in the

Assembly to address an issue that the Long Range Planning Department has brought to us. We are working closely with HCD, the policy consultants from the Housing committee in the Senate along with other stakeholders. The measure moved out of the first policy committee with unanimous support as well as appropriations committee, we expect the same on the Senate Floor.

SB 619 by Senator Strickland and Assembly Member Nava is currently on the Suspense file in Senate Appropriations. They will take the measure up on May 28, 2009; we have had several conversations with the committee as well as leadership and expect this measure to continue to move forward. This measure, if passed, would allow the county to receive flood subvention funding for the Lower Mission Creek. You may be aware that the county has worked for the past 15 years to be eligible for these funds at the Federal level; fortunately we were brought into the Army Corp of Engineers budget in early March, therefore prompting the need for the state component to allow the county to receive the match.

We are also working closely on AB 486 by Assembly Member Wes Chesbro (D-Napa). This measure is an attempt to take care of the issue that many counties face when they are in a state of emergency and the amount of times that they have to continue to meet and adopt resolutions. Under current law the time frame is every 14 days. We would like to move it to every 30 days, and AB 486 takes care of this issue. This measure has moved through the Assembly with bi-partisan, unanimous support and now sits in the Senate awaiting a hearing in the Senate Governmental Organization committee.

Another measure that is of critical importance to the County is AB 50 by Assembly Member Nava. This measure will allow the county to receive the proper reimbursements from the Tea Fire as well as the Zaca Fire. After this last fire we will be amending the bill to ensure that we receive proper state reimbursements as the County continues to heal. There were a few bills introduced in the last session that would have addressed these past disasters on behalf of the County, however they were double-joined to a measure that the Governor had some concerns about and ultimately were vetoed with out prejudice. We believe that AB 50 will have a much different outcome. The measure was double referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee and the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. The measure cleared the Local Government Committee with bi-partisan, unanimous support and now sits on the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee Suspense file.

Wrap-Up

As always, if you or your staff have any questions or would like additional details, please don't hesitate to let us know. We will continue to work on our legislative package as well as other bills of interest to the County. As the budget discussion continue to unfold, we will work closely with you and our delegation in the legislature to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the proposed impacts on local services as well as our constituents. We anticipate that the Department of Finance will release a more detailed version of the May Revise on May 28, 2009, once that occurs we will have an

opportunity to get a better direction on our next steps. With the CSAC Conference coming up next week, we will have an opportunity to meet and discuss options with other counties on the various hits to our local programs.