

TO: Members, Legislative Committee
County of Santa Barbara

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

RE: February State Update

DATE: February 18, 2010

The Legislature is in full swing since January 4, 2010 when they returned from their interim recess. The Governor released his budget, which hit many of our programs very hard, then called a special session with his Prop. 58 authority beginning the 45 day clock to a budget resolution. Unlike last year, he only put \$8.9 billion into the special session, last year it was the entire budget. The legislature has until February 22, 2010 to resolve these budget issues. As you know, programs like the elimination of IHSS, raiding both Prop. 10 and 63, elimination of the Adult Day Health Care Center Program, a take on the transportation dollars for transit, just to name a few.

As the legislature wraps up the special session, the Senate completed their work on Thursday, February 18, 2010 and the Assembly is expected to complete their work on Monday, February 22, 2010. Assuming the Assembly does not make any changes many of the proposals were not enacted, the expectation is that they will all be pushed into the regular session and dealt with as a whole part of the budget process.

Regarding where the rest of the legislature currently stands, we are just coming off of the second big deadline of the year, bill introduction deadline, there is an anticipated 1000 or so bill expected to be introduced in the next 24 hours, people are working fast and furiously to get things "across the desk" which means to get the bill introduced.

To date, we have been working on several budget issues, but we have also been working closely with County staff to ensure that legislative issues are addressed. One area of concern to the County is some clean-up to our sponsored bill, AB 359 by Assembly Member Nava. Last year we successfully ran this bill to allow providers to offer breast and cervical cancer screenings to low-income woman under the Every Women Counts (EWC) program. The bill was signed, however the Administration then eliminated the program for women ages 40-49 citing deficiencies in the fund. We have worked closely with Assembly Members Nava and Evans (budget Chair) to do oversight hearings, a press conference and a bake sale with Susan G. Koman to raise awareness of this situation. The Department of Finance is auditing the program, so we hope to have additional information on this issue this spring and continue to work towards full restoration of the program. We will continue to update you on this issue and the implementation of AB 359.

We have also been working with our delegation and the Alcohol and Beverage Control Commission (ABC) on an issue that has been a source of frustration for the Board, specifically in the 3rd District. Last year, the legislature approved a measure, AB 1470 to allow for more public scrutiny of ABC license's to wine makers for their second site, however we believe there needs to be more enforcement on the ground with regard to bad actors in the system. We will continue to work on this issue and keep the Board updated on the outcomes as the issue moves forward.

Another issue from last year, AB 50 (Nava), related to disaster relief money for the County. If you recall, this measure was held in the Senate due to partisan politics. Once the bill was able to move, the Department of Finance met with us and explained that although they requested an amendment, now the Governor's office was opposed to that language and the deadlines had passed to remove that language. Having said that, the bill was parked on the Senate floor for the time being. We are continuing to work with the Administration to work out these issues, once there issue is resolved, we will continue to move the bill.

Finally, we do anticipate continuing to work with our delegation on the bills they introduced in an effort to support their legislative package, we will be working closely with them on areas of mutual interest. We will continue to update the legislative committee once we have vetted the bills that have been introduced. It should be noted that it was strongly suggested that each member introduce less bills this year, it will be interesting to see if the actually followed that recommendation. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional details on any or all of these issues.