

TO: Legislative Committee, County of Santa Barbara

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

RE: June 2013 State Update

DATE: June 20, 2013

With the release of the May revise came the flurry of budget discussions in an attempt to get to Conference Committee so they could get the budget to the floor and voted on by June 15, 2013. As you know, the May Revise clarified that the Medi-Cal Optional Expansion would be a state run program; however the Administration also stated that they planned on taking \$300 million from Counties to off-set the budget. This started a flurry of activity on behalf of CSAC in an attempt to come up with a workable formula, the finally agreed on various formulas depending upon the county and how they run their public health department. There are the public hospitals counties, the County Medical Services Counties and what are called the “non-non” or 12 others, of which Santa Barbara is due to our clinic system and how we deliver care to our indigent populations.

Unfortunately, in the very late night discussion prior to the June 15th deadline, CSAC negotiated a deal that was very bad for Santa Barbara. As such county staff and our lobbying team went into action to brief our delegation and Supervisors. As a result of many long discussions, we successfully proved our case and the Speaker of the Assembly have agreed to continue to work with us to resolve our issue. This is due in part to the Public Health Departments tireless efforts, the CEO’s office and our wonderful delegation. We were also successful at demonstrating to other counties the negative impacts with the “take” of \$300 million, due to how we provide care. While it was an incredible hill to climb, we did and our message was heard, now we must continue to work on the language that will hopefully provide some relief to our county as we attempt to implement the Affordable Care Act.

The budget and its trailer bills were all adopted by June 15th with the exception of the budget trailer bill related to the implementation of the Coordinated Care Initiative that was adopted on Monday, June 17th. This is the first time since the 1980’s that all have been dealt with at the same time. Keeping in mind that the Assembly budget chair will be resigning shortly due to his successful campaign for LA City Council earlier this year. The Governor has yet to sign any of these bills and is catching some political heat with one of the trailer bills due to the roll-back of some public records disclosure issues. That bill has been returned to the legislature for further discussion.

Now that they have wrapped up the budget, they are working on moving their bills out of policy and into appropriations committee. The Assembly will break for its summer recess on July 3, 2013 and the Senate July 12, 2013. This is the first time in our history

where we have different schedules for each house, so we are unsure how this will play out.

Specific Legislation of interest to Santa Barbara County

AB 65 (Achadjian) – This bill was a reintroduction of AB 765 from the last session. This bill was introduced at our request by Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian on behalf of our DA, Joyce Dudley and is part of the Board of Supervisor’s platform. The bill has had bi-partisan support both this year and last year session. AB 765 was held in the Senate Public Safety Committee on June 28, 2011 due to concerns that the bill would create a new crime. This measure will allow the penal code to catch up with modern day life related to sexually violent crimes and allow for DA’s to properly prosecute offenders. There has been some significant media around the issue that AB 65 intends to fix; the bill was heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee on May 14th and passed unanimously. The Senate passed a similar measure in early March, so while this bill continues to be a fight between the Assembly and the Senate regarding which house will take credit, we are optimistic that AB 65 will be successful this year. The bill is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee later this summer.

AB 537 (Bonta) – This bill makes various changes to the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA) governing local public employer and employee relations related to arbitration agreements, mediation, ground rules, contract ratification, and employee relations ordinances. The bill binds a governing body to any tentative agreement reached by its bargaining representatives. The MMBA currently states that a tentative agreement is provided to the governing body for review, but does not bind them. It also establishes legislative ground rules, under currently practice local conditions would establish those ground rules. This bill passed the Assembly and is now awaiting a hearing in the Senate PERS committee; it is scheduled for June 24, 2013.

AB 982 (Williams) – This bill requires the regional water quality board to approve a proposed groundwater monitoring plan prior to noticing the intent to begin any oil or gas drilling. The bill also requires the notice to include the source of water used during any Hydraulic fracturing operations. The bill was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file; however the language was amended into AB 669 by Assembly Member Mark Stone (D-Monterey) however that bill is now a two year bill after it was defeated on the Assembly Floor.

SB 191 (Padilla) – The Board just took a support position on this bill. The bill would authorize counties to continue to collect funds used to support local emergency medical services systems, pediatric trauma centers, and hospitals and physicians who provide uncompensated trauma and emergency care to ill and injured patients. Given our past work on maintaining the Maddy Fund as a standalone bill, this bill seeks to address local funding issues related to keeping our trauma system open and accessible. The bill successfully moved out of the Assembly Health Committee on June 18th, with no debate, however there was an amendment taken to allow this to sunset in 2020, we will continue to look at ways to extend this, but we are pleased it is continuing to move forward.

SB510 (Jackson) - The Board just took a support position on this bill. The measure is a reintroduction of SB 444 from last session. SB 510 seeks to clarify that a local government, when considering an application to convert a mobile home park to resident ownership, is required to consider the results of the survey to residents about their support for the conversion in making its decision to approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove the map, and allows the local government to disapprove the map if it finds that the results of the survey have not demonstrated adequate resident support. The bill successfully moved out of the Assembly Housing Committee on June 19, 2013 and is now slated to be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee.

SB 727 (Jackson) - The Board has taken a support position on this bill. Creates the Drug Abuse Prevention and Safe Disposal Program stewardship program. This bill is intended to address serious social and environmental problems that persist from lack of appropriate disposal options for pharmaceuticals. The stockpiling of unused medications in the home allow for easier access for children and teens, thus fueling youth drug abuse. Poisoning is the fastest rising cause of accidental death among older adults. For example, unintentional poisoning of adults over 60 resulting in hospitalization increased by 43% in Alameda County from 1998 to 2006. Flushing medications into sewage systems harms the environment and contaminates the water we drink. This bill will be held as a two-year bill in an effort to work with the opposition.

SB 804 (Lara) – This Board has taken a support position on this bill. Existing California law defines biomass conversion as the direct combustion of certain listed types of biomass materials. This definition excludes conversion technologies that can more efficiently generate electricity from biomass with lower air emissions. Additionally, existing law is unclear regarding how anaerobic digestion facilities should be permitted. This hampers the State's goals of diverting additional organic materials from disposal. This bill successfully made it out of the Senate and is now waiting for a committee hearing in the Assembly Natural Resources committee, which should happen later this summer.

In Conclusion

As we are approaching the summer recess things are moving at a fast clip, we move 6 months of work in 12 weeks, so there is a lot happening. We are looking towards closing out the end of this session, but have many hurdles in front of us and not a lot of time to close those items out. We will continue to monitor the issues related to the county and of concern to the Board of Supervisors. As always, please don't hesitate to let me know if you or your staff has any questions or would like additional details.