

TO: Members, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Committee

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

RE: April 2015 State Update

DATE: April 30, 2015

The Legislature just wrapped up the policy committee deadline, which is May 1, 2015, however they completed their business on April 30, 2015. Many bills were heard during the month, but especially the last week of April, committees met for hours and late into the day and some even into the evening. The next deadline is May 8, 2015 for all non-fiscal bills. Appropriations Committee will now take a look at the hundreds of bills that moved out of policy committee this month, many of which will go to the “suspense file” which typically holds any bill that may cost the state \$50,000 or more, once they determine every bill that is on suspense, they will then hear the suspense file the Friday before Memorial day. Then the bills that do survive will go to their floors for further debate.

Additionally, the May Revise is due out May 15, 2015; however this Governor usually releases his May Revise a couple of days ahead of that scheduled date. We will review that with your staff to determine any areas that may be of interest to the County.

Bills of Interest to the County

AB 3 (Williams) This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to clarify and establish the necessary authority for the creation of the Isla Vista Community Services District within the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County. The substance of the bill has been amended into the measure and we understand that the county is reviewing the language currently in order to provide additional input and potentially take a position. The County has not taken a position, however we continue to work with Assembly Member Williams and his staff on the legislation. The bill has been referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee and will be heard on May 6, 2015.

AB 45 (Mullin) This bill is opposed by the County. The bill would mandate cities and counties that provide residential collection and disposal of solid waste to create a household hazardous waste (HHW) baseline and to meet an unspecified diversion requirement for HHW collection. The bill was opposed by many cities and counties. The bill did get out of Assembly Local Government on April 21, 2015 and Assembly Environmental Safety Committee on April 24, 2015. We will continue to follow the bill and the proposed amendments and keep the Board up to date.

AB 514 (Williams) This bill is the County sponsored bill which was introduced by Assembly Member Das Williams. This measure is an attempt to address the inadequacy of the current fines and penalties system for local governments. Under current law the violations are rather insignificant therefore people are not discouraging from violating them, we are hopeful that this will provide additional incentives to work with the locals to provide the best outcomes for our local communities. The bill has been referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee but has not been set for a

hearing at this time. We are continuing to work with the author on some clarifying amendments; however the bill passed out of Assembly Local Government Committee 6-2.

SB 13 (Pavley) This bill would provide a local agency or groundwater sustainability agency 90 or 180 days, as prescribed, to remedy certain deficiencies that caused the board to designate the basin as a probationary basin. This bill would authorize the board to develop an interim plan for certain probationary basins one year after the designation of the basin as a probationary basin. The bill also state that if the department determines that all or part of a basin or subbasin is not being monitored, would require the department to determine whether there is sufficient interest in establishing a groundwater sustainability plan. The bill will also serve as a vehicle for any necessary clean-up to the major ground water bill package passed and signed into law in 2014. The County does not have a position on this bill, but we are watching it as it moves through the process. This bill passed off of the Senate Floor today and now heads to the Senate.

SB 122 (Jackson, Hill and Roth) This bill is a vehicle for potential CEQA reform. The bill would require the lead agency, at the request of a project applicant and consent of the lead agency, to prepare a record of proceedings concurrently with the preparation of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, EIR, or other environmental document for projects. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation establishing an electronic database clearinghouse of notices and environmental document prepared pursuant to CEQA, establishing a public review period for a final environmental impact report, and relating to the record of proceedings for a project for which an environmental impact report is prepared pursuant to CEQA. This bill passed out of the Senate Environmental Safety Committee on April 15, 2015 with only Democrats supporting. It will be heard on May 4, 2015 in Senate Appropriations Committee.

Conclusion

April is policy deadline month; it has been incredibly busy with many policy committees trying to complete their business. As we look towards May, we are waiting for the May Revise to be released and anticipate that the April receipts will be higher than expected. We will continue to work with staff on priority issues for the County and keep the Board up to date on bills as well as budget items once the May Revise is released.