

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATION
COMMITTEE**

**Monday, October 26, 2015
1:30 p.m.**

**Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Wilma Chan**

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5th floor*
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are both in session this week. Speaker John Boehner has scheduled a Republican Conference election for Wednesday, October 28, 2015 to choose its nominee for speaker. A formal floor vote involving all members of the House is set for Thursday, October 29, 2015. The Senate will remain focused on cybersecurity legislation. Both the House and Senate leadership will continue to work with the White House in negotiating a longer-term budget deal as well as ongoing attempts to raise the debt ceiling before the November 20, 2015 deadline.

Budget Deal

Today, White House officials and congressional leaders are nearing a deal to raise the debt limit and set the federal budget for the next two years. The deal would include a boost to both defense and nondefense spending by \$50 billion in FY16, and \$30 billion in FY17, split evenly between defense and nondefense programs.

The negotiators still need to settle a dispute over controversial policy riders. However, House and Senate leaders hope to announce a deal tonight, to get a bill to the floor later this week. The deal would also raise the nation's debt ceiling to March 2017. The deal under discussion is also expected to address Social Security disability insurance. Extending existing measures to contain Medicare and hospital outlays would offset the additional spending for FY16 and FY17.

Currently, the Treasury Department has set a November 3rd deadline for raising the nation's debt limit and Congress also faces a December 11th deadline to fund the government.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved its bipartisan \$325 billion, six-year surface transportation bill (STRR Act) last week, with the support of Chairman Bill Shuster and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio. The Chair and Ranking Member agreed to accept only bipartisan and/or non-controversial amendments during the markup.

The cost of the legislation is slightly lower than the Senate DRIVE Act, which totals \$341.2 billion over six years. The House and Senate bills are not that different in terms of policy, and staff believes that once they can get to conference, it should be relatively easy to finalize a conference report as it relates to policy.

The current extension runs through this Thursday, October 29, 2015. It was announced today that Chairman Shuster plans to introduce a three-week extension of policy that would run through November 20, 2015. The legislation also includes a bipartisan extension of the deadline for implementation of Positive Train Control technology. Without an extension of the Positive Train Control deadline, freight railroads have indicated they would have to suspend various operations.

The three-week extension gives the House Ways and Means Committee time to continue to work on a funding solution for the six-year transportation bill. The Ways and Means Committee is expected to put forward a funding plan in the next couple of weeks with the goal of the full House taking up the STRR Act in November.

Criminal Justice Sentencing Reform Markup

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee advanced the bipartisan Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015 (S.2123). The bill grants judges greater sentencing flexibility for certain low-level drug offenders and establishes recidivism reduction programs, while targeting violent criminals with the addition of new mandatory minimums. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has not said when the bill may go to the floor, but it is expected to move in the next few months.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Hearing

On October 27, 2015, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition will hold a hearing on the Past, Present, and Future of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) at 10:00 am. The Committee has held a series of hearings as it works to reauthorize the program.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: Federal legislative update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. State Legislative Update –Platinum Advisors

Proposition 47

Proposition 47 is a retroactive measure aimed at reducing some non-serious, non-violent, drug and property crimes from potential felonies to misdemeanors. The savings resulting from fewer inmates are to be used to pay for mental health services, substance abuse services, truancy, dropout prevention and victims of crimes. AB 1056 (Atkins), the Second Chance Program, signed by the Governor earlier this month, requires the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to administer a competitive grant program utilizing the savings from Proposition 47 to support mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and diversion programs for people involved in the criminal justice system, emphasizing reducing the recidivism of those convicted of less serious crimes.

The Governor will include savings estimates in his January budget proposal. The courts and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation have incurred costs in addition to increased parole costs of the more than 4,000 inmates released. The Legislative Analyst's projection of \$100 to \$200 million in 2016-17 may be much higher than the Department of Finance projection.

On Wednesday, October 28, 2016, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSSC) will meet in the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' chambers to discuss the agency's role and listen to public input on funding priorities. Public agencies may partner with private

agencies or community-based organizations, but must take the lead on the grant programs. The meeting is the first of seven meetings; other meetings will be held in 2016.

1115 Waiver

The current 1115 waiver is set to expire on Saturday, October 31, 2015, and negotiations are still underway. The Governor signed SB 36 earlier this month, which will allow California to seek a brief extension of the current waiver but negotiations are not proceeding in favor of the State. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) submitted their proposal for a new waiver worth \$17 billion at the end of March. Since then, the State was forced to revise the proposal down to \$7.25 billion and now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have countered with a proposal worth about \$3.5 billion over less than the original five years proposed.

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is encouraging members of the Boards of Supervisors to call their congressional members to encourage advancement of the \$7.25 billion proposal but there hasn't been progress thus far.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: State legislative update**

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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