

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

Monday, March 24, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Lena Tam, Chair
Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas, excused

Location: **Board of Supervisors Chamber – 5th Floor**
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

Schedule

The House and Senate are both scheduled to be in session this week. This kicks off a three weeklong session for both chambers, leading up to a two-week Spring recess.

Reconciliation

With FY2025 completed earlier in March, via passage of a continuing resolution keeping in place FY24 spending levels, Congress is set to bring its full focus to the GOP lead reconciliation process. The pending work needed to be completed to start the process is the adoption of a budget resolution by Congress. Both the House and Senate passed different versions of a budget resolution earlier this year with the House budget resolution including a minimum of \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts and \$4.5 trillion for tax cuts. The Senate's "skinny" budget resolution includes \$325 billion in new military and border security spending plus energy policy changes.

Republican leadership must reach an agreement on a compromise budget with an expectation that both chambers can take it up prior to the Spring recess which will begin on April 11th. The budget resolution will include instructions to committees to draft a legislative package containing much of the GOP's policy initiatives, most notably the extension of President Trump's 2017 tax cuts.

FY 26 Appropriations

With the recent extension of FY24 spending levels through passage of a continuing resolution, Congress has officially moved beyond FY25 and begun its consideration of FY26 spending. The President's budget request is expected to be sent to Congress sometime in April. The House and Senate Appropriations committees will then start setting dates for their individual subcommittee mark-ups. Reconciliation is expected to start seeing movement on FY26 as soon as late April.

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

Finance Bulletin

The Department of Finance released its March 2025 Finance Bulletin. General Fund revenues were \$2.3 billion above the Governor's Budget forecast in February and \$4.6 billion above the fiscal year-to-date estimates. One of the drivers is higher than expected revenues from personal income tax, which were \$1 billion, or 22.1 percent, above forecast in February and \$3.1 billion, or 4.1 percent, above the fiscal year-to-date forecast. Of note is that sales tax receipts are down. Sales tax receipts are \$167 million, or 3.9 percent, below forecast in February and \$263 million, or 1.1 percent, below the fiscal year-to-date forecast.

Senate Letter to Members Regarding the State Budget

Senator Weiner, the Chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, sent a letter to Senators regarding the process to provide input on the Budget. Of note is this is not typical in allowing member requests for local projects but instead instructed Senators to only provide input on statewide budget priorities given budgetary constraints. The letter notes any letters received after April 1st cannot be assumed to be included in the summary provided to the Chairs and Pro Tempore.

Medi-Cal Updates

Last week Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 heard the Medi-Cal projections included in the Governor's Budget. This was on the heels of a request from the Administration to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for a \$3.4B loan for the program. This loan is in addition to an LA Times article which noted the Administration will be seeking another \$2.8B bringing the total to \$6.2B to keep the program solvent for this fiscal year.

According to Administration officials, the higher projections for Medi-Cal in 2025-26 are primarily driven by rising healthcare costs, policy changes, and shifts in funding mechanisms. One factor is the changes in the use of the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax revenues as passed by voters in Proposition 35. Several eligibility changes including the expansion of coverage for individuals regardless of their immigration status led to higher-than-anticipated enrollment. Another factor is growth in senior enrollees up 40% since 2020. DHCS noted that for the Governor's Budget, they only had one month of data and several significant policy changes make estimates difficult.

Legislative Democrats noted their continued commitment to recent program expansions. Some ideas to address the issue include; taking a phased approach to rolling back coverage for undocumented individuals by age group, setting up a shared cost program, or introducing a 'skinny benefit' that would slim down the available coverage. Budget challenges exist given the State's fiscal situation that will need to be addressed. The Senate Budget Subcommittee will hear Medi-Cal in Subcommittee No. 3 on March 27th.

Carrier of Last Resort (COLR)

A fight is brewing in the Legislature over the carrier of last resort (COLR). The Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee convened a hearing on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, to discuss obligations of California's telephone companies. Assemblywoman Mia Bonta strongly advocated for the inclusion of Public Hearings in the Bay Area, emphasizing that previous hearings were held in Southern California, the Central Valley, and Northern California but excluded Oakland, Alameda, and Emeryville. While remote hearings will be available statewide, she underscored the importance of in-person hearings in major urban centers to address accessibility challenges.

Purpose:

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Request for Legislation position – Action items

- i. **AB 804** (Wicks) Medi-Cal: housing support services; and related budget request
Recommendation: Support bill and budget request: Aneeka Chaudhry, Interim Director, Alameda County Health
- ii. **AB 1288** (Addis) Registered Environmental Health Specialists
Recommendation: Support: Aneeka Chaudhry, Interim Director, Alameda County Health
- iii. **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Marketplace Integrity and Affordability**
Recommendation: Oppose: Aneeka Chaudhry, Interim Director, Alameda County Health

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
- ☐ Advocacy or Education
- ☒ **Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position**
- ☐ Other:

Move to the full Board of Supervisors with no recommendation from the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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