

TO: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

**FROM: Michelle Rubalcava
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DATE: December 19, 2024

RE: 2024 End-of-Year Report

The County's team of state advocates is pleased to provide to the Board of Supervisors this report which provides an overview of state legislative and administrative activities impacting the County during 2024. In so doing, it also provides some insights into what to expect in 2025.

ELECTION RECAP

The 2025-26 legislative session will mark a significant change for Contra Costa County, as all of the county's state senators have termed out of office. One of those seats has been filled by former-Assemblymember Tim Grayson, whose Assembly seat is now held by former trustee of the Contra Costa County Board of Education Anamarie Avila Farias. The other Senate seats are now held by former mayor of Berkeley Jesse Arreguin and former mayor of West Sacramento Christopher Cabaldon.

Statewide, Republicans picked up one seat in the Senate and two in the Assembly, but Democrats still retain a supermajority in both houses. The Senate has 30 Democrats and 9 Republicans; the 40th seat is vacant due to the election of Janet Nguyen (R) to the Orange County Board of Supervisors. The Assembly has 60 Democrats and 19 Republicans; the 80th seat is vacant due to the election for Vince Fong to Congress. Notably the Senate currently has a female majority with 20 women and 19 men, one of six such state legislative bodies in the United States. The Assembly has 37 women and 42 men.

2023 – 2024 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

AB 817 (Pacheco) Authorizes a subsidiary body to use certain alternative teleconferencing provisions. Would also require at least one staff member of the local agency to be present at a designated primary physical meeting location during the meeting and require the local agency to post the agenda at the primary physical meeting location.

County Position: ***Support***

Status: ***Failed Passage in Senate Local Government***

AB 884 (Low) Requires, following a presidential election, the Secretary of State to determine the number of residents of voting age in each county and precinct who are members of a single language minority group and who lack skills in English to vote without assistance. Provides that existing law requires an elections official to provide a Spanish translation of a candidate written statement. Provides that a speaker with experience in providing certified translations of legal documents may provide the translation.

County Position: ***Oppose***

Status: ***Vetoed by Governor***

AB 1168 (Bennett) Provides that the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act authorizes each county to develop an EMS program and designate a local EMS agency. Provides that existing law requires a county to enter into a written agreement with a city or fire district for prehospital EMS. Sets various conditions for a joint powers agreement, including requiring uniform operational procedures for prehospital EMS throughout the EMS area or subarea covered by the agreement.

County Position: ***Oppose***

Status: ***Vetoed By Governor***

AB 1238 (Ward) Adds consumer-owned solar photovoltaic modules to the definition of covered electronic devices, thereby subjecting such modules to the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003. Would also require a consumer or a service provider serving the consumer, including a developer or installer of a consumer-owned solar photovoltaic system, to pay a consumer-owned solar photovoltaic module recycling fee in an amount determined by CalRecycle upon the purchase of new consumer-owned solar photovoltaic modules. Appropriates funds.

County Position: ***Support***

Status: ***Died In Senate Rules***

AB 1465 (Wicks) Provides that existing law establishes maximum civil penalties for a person who violates air pollution laws from nonvehicular sources. Allows specified civil penalties to be multiplied by a factor of not more than a specified number if the violation results from an emission from a stationary source required by federal law to be included in an operating permit program established pursuant to specified provisions of the federal Clean Air Act, and the emission contains or includes one or more air contaminants.

County Position: ***Support***

Status: ***Signed by Governor, Chapter 300, Statutes of 2024***

AB 1999 (Irwin) Provides that under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission may authorize fixed charges for any rate schedule on an income-graduated basis. Would prohibit modifications to the amount of the income-graduated fixed charge from exceeding changes in inflation. Would also require the Commission to adopt any modification to an existing fixed

charge for the collection of a reasonable portion of the fixed costs of providing electrical service to residential customers in a stand-alone proceeding.

County Position: **Support**

Status: **Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense**

AB 2075 (Alvarez) Enacts the Resident Access Protection Act to provide a resident of a long-term care facility with the right to in-person, onsite access to a visitor or a health care and social services provider during a public health emergency. Authorizes a State or local government order to deny resident access to visitors and health care and social services providers for up to a specified number of days during a public health emergency and authorizes an extension of that order.

County Position: **Oppose**

Status: **Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense**

AB 2132 (Low) Requires a Medi-Cal managed care plan to ensure access to care for latent tuberculosis infection and active tuberculosis disease and coordination with local health department tuberculosis control programs for plan enrollees with active tuberculosis disease. Requires a patient who is 18 years of age or older receiving health care services in a facility, clinic, center, office, or other setting, where primary care services are provided, to be offered tuberculosis screening.

County Position: **Support**

Status: **Signed by Governor, Chapter 951, Statutes of 2024**

AB 2489 (Ward) Requires a county board of supervisors or a representative, at least 10 months before beginning a procurement process to contract with persons for special services that are currently, or were previously, performed by employees of the county represented by an employee organization, to notify, in writing, the exclusive employee representative of the workforce affected.

County Position: **Oppose**

Status: **Held on Assembly Appropriations Suspense**

AB 2557 (Ortega) Requires each board of supervisors that solicits for and enters into a specified contract for special services to post that contract and any related documents on its website. Requires each contract to include the objectives, desirables, and goals of the contract. Requires, before beginning a procurement process to contract for functions, duties, responsibilities, or services, the board to give reasonable written notice to the exclusive employee representative of the workforce affected by the contract.

County Position: **Oppose**

Status: **Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense**

AB 2561 (McKinnor) Provides that the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act requires the governing body of a public agency to meet and confer regarding conditions of employment with representatives of recognized employee organizations. Requires a public agency to present the status of vacancies and recruitment and retention efforts at a public hearing at least once per fiscal year. Entitles the organization to present at the hearing. Requires the agency, upon request of the organization, to include specified information during the hearing.

County Position: ***Oppose***

Status: ***Signed by Governor, Chapter 409, Statutes of 2024***

AB 2882 (McCarty) Provides that existing law authorizes each county to establish a Community Corrections Performance Incentives Fund for a community corrections program to be implemented by probation and advised by a local Community Corrections Partnership. Adds a representative of a community-based organization with experience in successfully providing behavioral health treatment services to persons who have been convicted of a criminal offense, and a representative of a Medi-Cal managed care plan, to the partnership.

County Position: ***Oppose***

Status: ***Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense***

AB 3233 (Addis) Provides that existing law requires the State Oil and Gas Supervisor to supervise the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of wells and the operation, maintenance, and removal or abandonment of tanks and facilities attendant to oil and gas production. Authorizes a local entity to limit or prohibit oil and gas operations or development in its jurisdiction, notwithstanding any other law or any notice of intention, supplemental notice, well stimulation treatment permit, or similar authorization.

County Position: ***Support***

Status: ***Signed by Governor, Chapter 550, Statutes of 2024***

SB 964 (Seyarto) Relates to the sale to certain entities of a property that has been tax defaulted for 5 years or more in an applicable county. Authorizes a property or property interest to be offered for sale under provisions authorizing a sale to certain entities that has not been offered for sale under certain provisions if the State Board of Equalization conducts a property valuation that shows that the property or property interest is worth less than the amount of the defaulted debt.

County Position: ***Oppose***

Status: ***Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense***

SB 1013 (Bradford) Establishes the Property Tax Assistance for Descendants of Enslaved Persons Program for purposes of making, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys available to persons who meet specified criteria for purposes of providing financial assistance

equal to the total amount of property taxes paid on a residential dwelling, or a specified amount, whichever is less, and as subject to specified limitations.

County Position: **Support**

Status: **Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense**

SB 1057 (Menjivar) Provides that existing law requires a juvenile justice coordinating council to consist of certain members. Requires each county juvenile justice coordinating council to, at a minimum, consist of at least a specified percent community representatives with the remainder of the seats allocated in a specified manner.

County Position: **Oppose**

Status: **Held on Assembly Appropriations Suspense**

SB 1159 (Dodd) Relates to categorical exemptions to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Requires the Office of Planning and Research to evaluate, and the Secretary of the Natural Resources to consider, the inclusion of roadside projects no more than a specified number of road miles from a municipality or census-designated place that are undertaken solely for the purpose of wildfire risk reduction in the classes of projects subject to a categorical exemption.

County Position: **Support**

Status: **Held on Assembly Appropriations Suspense**

SB 1245 (Ochoa Bogh) Defines licensed health care professional for specified purposes to mean any person who engages in acts that are the subject of licensure or regulation under specified provisions of the Business and Professions Code or under any initiative act referred to in those specified provisions.

County Position: **Support**

Status: **Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense**

SB 1432 (Caballero) Provides that existing law requires that, by January 1, 2030, owners of certain hospitals must either demolish, replace, or change to nonacute care use all hospital buildings that are not in compliance with seismic safety building standards or seismically retrofit all acute care inpatient hospital buildings. Authorizes a hospital owner or operator to submit an application, by specified dates, to the Department of Health Care Access and Information for additional extensions to the compliance deadline.

County Position: **Support**

Status: **Vetoed by Governor**

A LOOK AT 2025

The Governor's proposed budget for the 2025-26 budget year will be made public on or before January 10, 2025. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the California Legislature's nonpartisan

fiscal and policy advisor, describes the 2025-26 budget forecast as “roughly balanced” but does project a state budget deficit of about \$2 billion. The relatively small deficit is also the result of improved income tax revenues offset by forecasted increases in expenditures, despite the proactive budget-balancing actions made in spring 2024. For the three-year period following the upcoming fiscal year, the state’s fiscal condition is expected to be considerably more challenging. The LAO forecasts an annual operating deficit between \$20 billion to \$30 billion for 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29.

An emerging legislative “hot topic” is the focus on the “affordability crisis” for California residents. Like the rest of the nation, California faces real challenges from rising unaffordability. Legislative members have started introducing measures to address the rising costs facing households everywhere for things such as, child care, healthcare, energy, gasoline, transportation, and, most of all, housing.

Of course, much of 2025’s legislative and budget activity will be dictated by the relationship between California and the incoming federal administration. Significant cuts to federal programs could substantially affect the state’s finances and could also affect county budgets, either directly or indirectly through the state budget.