

TO: Legislative Committee Members
Contra Costa County

FROM: Michelle Rubalcava, Partner
Geoff Neill, Senior Advocate

DATE: June 5, 2025

RE: Quarterly Legislative Report

Deadlines – Budget and Bills

Friday, June 6, was the last day for the Legislature to pass bills out of their house of origin. Twenty-two of the 43 bills that the County is tracking closely met that deadline and are still alive. As the number of bills narrows, and as bills get closer to being in their final form, the County will want to revisit some that it has not prioritized to this point, such as AB 1337 described below.

The Legislature has until Sunday, June 15, to pass a balanced budget. There's no requirement, however, that the Governor sign that version of the budget. Very likely, the two houses will agree on a legislative budget by that date to meet their constitutional deadline, then begin negotiations with the Governor afterward.

This year, some of the larger proposed budget solutions include:

- Healthcare and human service funding (especially for undocumented adults).
- Cap-and-Trade revenue, and whether to spend a significant amount of it on Cal FIRE costs instead of climate programs.
- Cuts to UC and CSU.
- How much of the Proposition 4 climate bond to use backfilling General Fund spending.
- The Governor's Delta Conveyance-related proposals, which do not directly affect the state's budget.
- Use of the state's Rainy Day Fund and other cash reserves.

June 5, 2025

Page 2 of 4

Also notable are proposals missing from the Governor's budget proposals, especially funding for HHAP, funding to implement Proposition 36, and significant revenue proposals.

Capitol denizens largely take it for granted that state policymakers will need to make major revisions to the budget once the federal government finalizes its budget.

Major Data Privacy Mandate Moves Forward

[AB 1337 \(Ward\)](#) would impose a significant new mandate on all local agencies. By expanding the state's Information Practices Act of 1977 to cities, counties, and special districts, the bill would immediately impose a complicated, onerous regulatory scheme on local governments that the law was never designed for. The Information Practices Act of 1977 includes many specific requirements related to employee training, mandatory employee discipline in certain circumstances (up to termination), records retention, administrative remedies, regular notifications to all people about which the agency retains any data, and much more.

In reviewing AB 1337, cities and counties should include IT professionals, counsel, and department heads, and should not only read the language of the bill itself, but [the entire Information Practices Act](#) that the bill would subject them and their employees to.

The bill makes a number of other changes to the Information Practices Act, including prohibiting local agencies from utilizing any information they have about people when investigating criminal acts.

Brown Act Bills Merged

The provisions of SB 239 (Arreguin), which would make remote participation easier for members of advisory bodies, have been folded into [SB 707 \(Durazo\)](#), which places several new requirements on Brown Act bodies such as mandatory remote public comment. SB 239 will not move forward this year. Several other major changes were also made to SB 707, including limiting its applicability to some small cities, adjusting requirements for some closed meetings, redefining eligible bodies, and

June 5, 2025

Page 3 of 4

changing the process for voting for executive compensation. SB 707 will now be the only significant Brown Act vehicle moving this year.

AI for the State...

Following up on Governor Newsom's [Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence](#), the state of California announced three new state agreements to utilize Gen AI (generative AI) to reduce highway congestion, improve roadway safety, and enhance customer service in a state call center. This action aligns with Governor Newsom's goal to make state operations more efficient and responsive.

Caltrans will deploy GenAI tools to analyze traffic patterns, predict bottlenecks, and identify crash-prone areas to enhance safety, particularly for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists. The state will also use AI to improve roadway safety, a continuation of earlier proof of concept work. Early efforts used the technology to analyze roadway injury and fatality data to identify patterns and potential remedies. This new agreement will expand on the data sets with the goal of evaluating safety upgrades prior to real-world implementation.

AI will also be employed to expedite the process of handling complex inquiries within California tax offices, with the goal of improving customer service and response times.

...And Local Agencies

On April 30th Governor Newsom announced the launch of an AI tool set to assist with expediting building permits for homes lost in the Los Angeles wildfires. The tool, which local governments and other users can access for free through a partnership involving the state and philanthropic organizations, such as LA Rises and Steadfast LA. The AI software employs machine learning and computer vision to automatically assess building plans for compliance with local zoning and safety codes. This will allow property owners to pre-validate their plans before submission, which is expected to reduce delays and expedite the review process by city and county staff.

New Population and Housing Estimates

June 5, 2025

Page 4 of 4

As was widely reported, new population estimates show that California's population grew in 2023 and also grew more in 2022 than previously estimated. Less widely reported, the number of housing units has not only also continued to increase, but is doing so more quickly than population. Housing has now gone up by 0.8% per year for at least the last four years and the number of people per housing unit continues to decrease. Contra Costa County's population fell by 24 (-0.002%) overall, and by 345 (-0.2%) in the unincorporated area. The county's housing supply increased by 2,216 (0.5%), including 228 (0.3%) in the unincorporated area.