

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

Monday, February 6, 2023

1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Lena Tam

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

Both the House and Senate are in session this week.

State of the Union

On February 7th President Biden will deliver his second State of the Union Address (SOTU). This will be his first address with a divided government. He is expected to speak to the continued economic progress following the Covid-19 pandemic, passage of the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, his actions on climate change, the ongoing debate over raising the debt ceiling, historically low unemployment, funding for Ukraine, the US relationship with China, and his Administration's priorities for the next year. The president will likely use the speech to urge Republicans to seek bipartisan deals in the 118th Congress.

Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders will deliver the Republican's response to President Biden's address.

Debt Ceiling

Last week, President Biden met with Speaker McCarthy to discuss raising the debt ceiling. Both the President and the Speaker said it was a positive meeting and a good start to their negotiations. As part of the conversation, Speaker McCarthy made his demands for a two-year budget agreement to lower federal spending to go along with raising the debt ceiling. President Biden stressed that passing a clean debt ceiling increase is non-negotiable and there should be a separate discussion on deficit reduction. Speaker McCarthy is pushing for a fast pace to the negotiations and stated that he doesn't want to wait until the deadline to address the debt ceiling. Speaker McCarthy also just announced that he will give a speech tonight at 5:30 ET on the debt limit and federal spending. Mr. McCarthy will lay out his position on the debt ceiling before tomorrow's State of the Union Address.

The President announced that he will submit his budget request to Congress in just over a month, on March 9th. Republicans have announced that they are not waiting for the President's budget and are already working on their own budget plan which they are hoping to release before the April 15th statutory deadline.

At the moment, Minority Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans are sitting out any talks between the President and Speaker McCarthy. However, they are leaving open the possibility of a Senate-negotiated agreement in the event talks between the White House and the House break down closer to the drop-dead date. In the meantime, Senator Manchin has begun meeting with Senate Republicans and Speaker

McCarthy to discuss possible solutions to the debt limit crisis. Speaker McCarthy's true challenge is with members of his own party, and their willingness to raise the debt limit absent extreme cuts to federal mandatory and discretionary spending.

Committee Assignments

Congress spent most of the month of January organizing their committee chairs, ranking members, and full committee assignments. By the end of the month the House was fully organized, Senate Democrats released their assignments, but the Senate Republicans were still working on their roster. Finally last week, Minority Leader McConnell officially announced the Committee assignments for his conference and the Senate rosters are now finalized. Last week, several House Committees formally established and have begun to introduce and discuss legislation, while others finalize their committee rules in organizational meetings this week. The Senate will begin that process this week.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: Federal Update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

Request for Legislation position – Action Item

[i. Request to sign on to advocacy letter in support of federal breastfeeding policy priorities](#)

Recommendation: Support: Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other: Federal Update

Recommendation from the PAL Committee: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

Budget subcommittee hearings are starting up; of importance this week the Senate Budget Committee will be holding an informational hearing related to homelessness and housing programs in California and the Assembly Budget Committee will be holding an overview hearing of the Governor's proposed 2023-24 State Budget.

As the Bill Introduction deadline nears on February 17, the PS Team continues to review the introduced bill report daily and flags those of importance to the County.

Today, the Senate Budget Committee held an overview hearing related to homelessness and housing programs in California. The three-panel hearing was cut short due to connectivity issues, so the final panel related to affordable housing will be made into a separate hearing at a later date.

The focus of discussion revolved around accountability measures for dollars as the State continues to invest a substantial amount of money in this space and seeing very little results.

Governor Newsom Calls for Federal Investigation into Gas Prices Governor Gavin Newsom is urging the Federal Government to take action and investigate the recent spike in natural gas prices.

In the Governor’s letter, he requests that Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) “immediately focus its investigatory resources on assessing whether market manipulation, anticompetitive behavior, or other anomalous activities are driving these ongoing elevated prices in the western gas markets.”

In addition, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) voted on Thursday to accelerate the California Climate Credit – a \$90-\$120 credit applied to residential utility bills for customers of PG&E, Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Gas Company.

Key Dates & Deadlines

- Bill Introduction Deadline – February 17, 2023
- COVID-19 State of Emergency Set to End – February 28, 2023
- Spring Recess – March 30-April 10, 2023
- Policy Committee Deadline for Fiscal Bills – April 28,2023
- Policy Committee Deadline for Non-Fiscal Bills
May 5, 2023
- Appropriations Committee Deadline – May 19, 2023

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: State update**

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

Request for Legislation position – Action Items

i. [Submit comments to the California Health and Human Services \(CalHHS\) Center for Data Insights and Innovation \(CDII\) Data Exchange Framework](#)

*Recommendation: **Support:** Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency*

ii. [Support Restoration of State Funding for Local Court Appointed Special Advocates \(CASA\) Program](#)

*Recommendation: **Support:** Colleen Chawla, Director, Health Care Services Agency*

Purpose:

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- Other: Federal Update

Recommendation from the PAL Committee: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors

III. [2023-2024 Alameda County Legislative Platform](#) – Action item

*Recommendation: **Support and recommend to the full Board for adoption:** Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator, County Administrator’s Office*

Purpose:

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- Other: Federal Update

Recommendation from the PAL Committee: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors

IV. [Approve a letter of support for the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Regional Rail Authority's Grant Application for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program](#)

*Recommendation: **Support:** David Haubert, Vice-President, Board of Supervisors, District 1*

Purpose:

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

Recommendation from the PAL Committee: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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