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

Monday, May 20, 2024 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

The House and Senate are in session this week. They will leave Washington on Thursday for a week-long Memorial Day recess, returning on June 3, 2024.

FAA Reauthorization

Last Thursday, President Biden signed a bipartisan Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill. The legislation renews authority for the agency for the next five years and invests in air infrastructure nationwide.

Farm Bill

House Agriculture Chair Glenn "G.T." Thompson released the long-awaited farm bill last week. The \$1.5 trillion bill significantly boosts farm safety net programs but crosses two red lines for Democratic leadership, setting up a showdown with the Senate over the must-pass legislation. The House Agriculture Committee will mark up the bill on Thursday.

The bill doubles key trade promotion authority to develop and support new markets for farmers to sell their products abroad. It also increases funding for specialty crop programs, expands access to programs that lower energy costs for farmers and rural small businesses and improves tracking of farmland purchases by entities from China and other adversary countries.

The House bill includes two provisions that have drawn firm opposition from senior Democrats. One would limit future updates to the Thrifty Food Plan, which serves as the basis for calculating benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Emergency Food Assistance Program, Summer EBT program and Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program. The other provision many Democrats oppose would remove strict climate-smart requirements for the use of roughly \$13 billion in conservation funding from the Inflation Reduction Act when those dollars are incorporated into the farm bill for the next five fiscal years. At the same time, the bill would repeal the lifetime federal ban on individuals with felony drug convictions from receiving SNAP and would increase funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Senior Democrats are urging members to oppose the House farm bill due to those provisions. Democratic leaders are confident they can block any farm bill they do not support on the House floor, given Republicans' razor-thin majority.

Lawmakers have already punted on the farm bill once, extending the existing authorizations last year after the two parties failed to come to agreement on a new package. That extension expires at the end of September, just weeks before the 2024 election. An extension of the current bill will likely be needed into the next Congress.

Senate Border Legislation

This week, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is expected to tee up another vote on the bipartisan border security deal that failed earlier this year. It is highly unlikely that this new effort goes anywhere. Leader Schumer knows that he will not have the full support of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and Republicans see this move as political jockeying in an election year where immigration is and will continue to be a top issue.

The White House is calling for Senators to support the bill, which includes funding for thousands of additional Border Patrol agents and investments in technology to target and catch drug traffickers. The bill also includes funding for the hiring of asylum and immigration officers to process asylum cases at the southern border.

House Appropriations

The House Appropriations Committee released their FY25 appropriations markup schedule last week. A subcommittee markup is one of the first steps in the annual spending process and sets the timeline for the rest of the process.

Purpose:

	Report progress
	Advocacy or Education
	Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
\boxtimes	Other: Federal Update

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

Request for Legislation position – Action Items - Federal

i. <u>S. 1298</u> (Kaine) Direct CARE Opportunity Act *Recommendation: Support*: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency

ii. <u>Request to include increased Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</u> <u>Community Violence Intervention Initiative funding in FY 2025 Labor-HHS-Education</u> <u>Appropriations bill</u>

Recommendation: Support: Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health

Purpose:

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

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

Request for Legislation position – Action Items - State

- i. <u>AB 1588</u> (Wilson) Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act o 2024 *Recommendation: Support:* Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health
- ii. <u>AB 2258</u> (Zbur) Health care coverage: cost sharing *Recommendation: Support*: Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health
- iii. <u>AB 2271</u> (Ortega) Relating to St. Rose Hospital *Recommendation: Support*: Elisa Márquez, Board of Supervisors, District 2
- iv. <u>AB 2680</u> (Aguiar-Curry) Alzheimer's Disease *Recommendation: Support:* Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health
- v. <u>AB 2703</u> (Aguiar-Curry) Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics: psychological associates *Recommendation: Support:* Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health
- vi. <u>AB 2871</u> (Maienschein) Overdose fatality review teams *Recommendation: Support*: Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health
- vii. <u>SB 1067</u> (Smallwood-Cuevas) Healing arts: expedited licensure process: medically underserved area or population *Recommendation: Support*: Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health
- viii. <u>SB 1396</u> (Alvarado-Gil) CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program *Recommendation: Support*: Andrea Ford, Director, Social Services Agency
- ix. <u>State Budget request: Uninterrupted Implementation of Disability Service Provider Rate</u> <u>Increase</u>

Recommendation: Support: Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health

Purpose:

Report progress
 Advocacy or Education
 Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
 Other:

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

II. Informational item: Reject Governor's Proposal to Eliminate \$300 million Future of Public Health (FoPH)

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

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