

-VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL-

December 14, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Stacy Taylor, Mesa Water District

FROM: Dennis K. Albiani, Anthony Molina, California Advocates, Inc.

SUBJECT: December Report

The 2021-22 California legislative session is underway. On Monday, December 7th, 2020 the Legislature convened for their respective house's "Organizational Session". Organizational Session is held in early December, every two years, as a formality to swear-in newly elected officials, returning officials, and key institutional officers.

The Senate and Assembly both took a formal vote and unanimously reappointed the leaders of their caucuses – Senator Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) as the Senate President Pro Tempore and Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) as the Senate Minority Leader. In the lower house, Assemblymember Anthony Redon (D-Lakewood) as the Speaker and Assemblymember Marie Waldron (R-Escondido) as the Assembly Minority Leader. The only additional change came in the Assembly, where Speaker Rendon appointed Eloise Reyes (D-San Bernardino) as the new Majority Leader. She replaces for Assemblymember Ian Calderon who resigned from office after the last legislative session.

In listening to both the Senate and Assembly leaders speak, it's clear that COVID-19 response will remain the top priority, specifically, PPE, testing, and distributing a vaccine when it becomes available. Also, there will be a focused effort on balancing the state's budget, while keeping in mind the potential of revenue shortfalls in the outyears. Other topics of significance that will be priorities include wildfire cleanup/preparation, broadband for all, housing/homelessness, climate resilience, and economic stimulus.

In line with the priorities mentioned above, Members of both houses began introducing bills on day one, per usual. To be specific, at the end of week one, there were 173 bills introduced. Both the Senate and Assembly "Desks" will be open for bill introductions through December 18, 2020 and will then close until Legislators return for session at the start of the next year – January 4, 2021. We will continue tracking bill introductions on behalf of Mesa Water District and will provide timely updates on priority issues and the session progresses.

Assembly Speaker Announces Chairmanships

This weekend, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon announced new Chairs and Committee Makeups for the California State Assembly –the complete list can be found [HERE](#). Below are the key chairs and committees for Mesa Water District:

Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife

- Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Chair
 - Assemblymember Megan Dahle, Vice Chair
 - Assemblymember Steve Bennett
 - Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
 - Assemblymember Laura Friedman
 - Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
 - Assemblymember Ash Kalra
 - Assemblymember Marc Levine
 - Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
 - Assemblymember Janet Nguyen
 - Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
 - Assemblymember Rudy Salas
 - Assemblymember Thurston "Smitty" Smith
 - Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua
 - Assemblymember Christopher Ward
- (Committee size increased from 14 to 15 members)

Eduardo Garcia (Returning Chair) Short Bio:

Elected in 2014, Garcia is the returning Chair of Water, Parks and Wildlife. In this capacity he oversees some of the state's most pressing issues, such as drought conditions, and the implementation of the multi-billion-dollar Proposition 1, Water Bond passed by voters in 2014.

Garcia also serves on the Assembly Committees on Appropriations, Communications and Conveyance, Governmental Organization, and Utilities and Energy.

A graduate of local public schools, Garcia attended Coachella Valley High School and the University of California, Riverside. He also completed the "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" Public Administration program from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and earned a master's degree from the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning and Development.

Garcia was first elected to the Coachella City Council in November 2004. In 2006, at the age of 29, he became Coachella's first elected Mayor. Under his leadership, the City of Coachella flourished into an emerging economic and cultural center of the Coachella Valley. He is a proud father, husband and life-long resident of the Coachella Valley.

Assembly Natural Resources

- Assemblymember Luz Rivas, Chair
- Assemblymember Heath Flora, Vice Chair
- Assemblymember Ed Chau
- Assemblymember Laura Friedman
- Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
- Assemblymember Devon Mathis
- Assemblymember Kevin McCarty
- Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
- Assemblymember Kelly Seyarto
- Assemblymember Mark Stone

Assemblymember Jim Wood

Luz Rivas (New Chair) Short Bio:

Luz M. Rivas was born in Los Angeles to an immigrant family and grew up in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. She attended LA Unified schools before earning a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from MIT and a Master of Education from Harvard.

Luz has built her career at the intersection of engineering, education and public service. She worked as an electrical design engineer at Motorola before founding DIY Girls, a nonprofit that provides enrichment programs focused on encouraging young girls to pursue careers in science, engineering and technology.

Luz was elected and sworn into the California State Assembly in June of 2018. She currently serves on the Assembly Committees on Budget; Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation; Jobs, Economy Development, and the Economy; Labor and Employment; Local Government; Revenue and Taxation; and is Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, co-chair of the Legislative Ethics Committee, Chair of the Select Committee on STEM, and serves on the Select Committee on Latina Inequalities. It is an honor for her to represent the community she grew up in.

2021 Legislative Tracking

SB 45 (Portantino) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022.

This bill would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

Status: Introduced pending referral.

Position: Watch

SB 52 (Dodd) State of emergency: local emergency: sudden and severe energy shortage: planned power outage.

This bill would expand the definition of "sudden and severe energy shortage" to include a "deenergization event," defined as a planned power outage, as specified, and would make a deenergization event one of those conditions constituting a state of emergency and a local emergency.

Status: Introduced, pending referral.

Position: Watch

AB 62 (Gray) Income taxes: credits: costs to comply with COVID-19 regulations.

This bill will provide a tax credit for essential and small businesses seeking to comply with COVID-19 regulations adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board on November 19, 2020, relating to COVID-19 prevention and approved by the Office of Administrative Law.

Status: Introduced, pending referral.

Position: Watch

Regulatory

- Wednesday, November 18th, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office projects California will have a \$26 billion-dollar "windfall" entering the next budget cycle, a fiscal fortune that would have been unimaginable when state leaders crafted the June budget this summer. The LAO says this windfall is onetime in nature and shouldn't be used to expand programs because the state still faces a structural deficit in the long-term. Because it's hard to predict in this economic environment, the LAO says the revenues could be as high as \$40 billion beyond what's expected over the next 18 months or as low as \$12 billion. At the very least, California should enter the January budget season with confidence that it can balance its immediate fiscal year plan without the dire cuts that Governor Newsom previously proposed in May after the pandemic struck. The LAO 2021-2022 Fiscal Outlook can be found [HERE](#).

- Wednesday, December 9th, the Governor (re)appointed a new California Air Resources Board Chair and Board Members:
 - **Liane Randolph, 55, of Oakland, has been appointed Chair of the California Air Resources Board.** Randolph has been a Commissioner at the California Public Utilities Commission since 2105. She was Deputy Secretary and General Counsel at the California Natural Resources Agency from 2011 to 2014 and an Attorney at Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw, Pittman from 2007 to 2011. She served as Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission from 2003 to 2007, where she also served as a Staff Attorney from 1996 to 1997.

 - **John Balmes, 70, of Berkeley, has been reappointed to the California Air Resources Board, where he has served since 2008.** Balmes has been a Professor at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine since 1986 and a Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health since 2002. He was Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California School of Medicine from 1982 to 1986.

 - **Davina Hurt, 45, of Belmont, has been appointed to the California Air Resources Board.** Hurt has been a Belmont City Councilmember since 2015 and an Attorney at Davina Hurt, Esq. since 2005. She was Campaign Manager at the Democratic Volunteer Center from 2014 to 2015, Securities Litigation Case Assistant at Heller Ehrman White and McAuliffe LLP from 2004 to 2005 and a Law Clerk at Bay Area Legal Aid from 2002 to 2004. Hurt was a Law Clerk at Gardere, Wynne and Sewell LLP in 2001, Judicial Clerk Extern for the Honorable James Ware at the U.S.

 - **Gideon Kracov, 49, of Los Angeles, has been appointed to the California Air Resources Board.** Kracov has been Owner of the Law Office of Gideon Kracov since 2004. He was a Deputy City Attorney in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office from 2002 to 2004, an Associate at Rose, Klein & Marias LLP from 1997 to 2002 and Associate at Weston Benschopf LLP from 1995 to 1997. Kracov is a member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

 - **Tania Pacheco-Werner, 36, of Sanger, has been appointed to the California Air Resources Board.** Pacheco-Werner has been Assistant Co-Director at the Central Valley

Health Policy Institute at California State University, Fresno since 2019, where she has held multiple positions since 2015, including Research Scientist and Postgraduate Fellow. She was a Lecturer at the California State University, Fresno Department of Sociology from 2011 to 2017 and a Diocesan Administrator at the Diocese of San Joaquin in 2013. Pacheco-Werner is a member of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the American Public Health Association's Latino Caucus for Public Health.

- Thursday, December 10th, the State Water Resources Control Board announced their new Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Advisory Group Members:
 - Jianmin Huang, Yolo County Environmental Health
 - Castulo Estrada, Voachella Valley Water District
 - Emily Rooney, Agricultural Council of California
 - Michael Rincon, Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles
 - Jonathan Nelson, Community Water Center
 - Michael S. Prado Sr., Sultana Community Services District
 - Jonathan Rash, Indian Health Service
 - Sandra Chavez, Domestic Well Owner- Porterville
 - Horacio Amezcuita, San Jerarado Cooperative, Inc.
 - Maria Luisa Munoz, Public Water System Resident

- Friday, December 11th, the Governor made the following appointment:

- **Dee Dee Myers, 59, Los Angeles, to serve as Senior Advisor to the Governor and Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), a cabinet-level position.** Myers joined the Newsom Administration in May as a volunteer at the peak of the COVID-19 public health crisis working to support the Governor and his team, including the Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery. Prior to joining the Newsom Administration, Myers served as Executive Vice President of Worldwide Corporate Communications and Public Affairs for Warner Bros. Prior to that, she was a Managing Director of the Glover Park Group, where she counseled corporate and non-profit clients on strategic and crisis communications, reputation management and strategic positioning. Myers also served as White House Press Secretary during President Bill Clinton's first term and was the first woman to hold the position.

Important Dates and Deadlines for 2021

January:

- Jan. 1 – Statutes take effect.
- Jan. 4 – Legislature reconvenes.
- Jan. 10 – Budget must be submitted by Governor.
- Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 22 – Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

February:

- Feb. 15 – Presidents' Day.
- Feb. 19 – Last day for bills to be introduced.

March:

- Mar. 25 – Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(2)). (add to calendar)
- Mar. 31 – Cesar Chavez Day observed.

April

- Apr. 5 – Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess.
- Apr. 30 – Last day for policy committees to meet and report to fiscal committees' fiscal bills introduced in their house.