

CARPD LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Legislature returned from Spring Break March 28th with legislators facing hundreds of bills subject to the May 1st deadline for policy committees to pass bills that must also be considered by the fiscal committees. It didn't take long for committees and the Assembly/Senate floor to consider a number of high profile measures.

Perhaps the most contentious was Senate Bill 3 by Senate Leno and others, relating to increasing the minimum wage. SB 3 was introduced last year and was "held" in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, reportedly to give the author and sponsors to continue work on a number of concepts. As magic happens in the Capitol, on Saturday, March 27th, the Governor, labor groups and scores of legislators announced they had brokered a \$15 per hour, phased-in compromise that would be amended into SB 3 the following Monday, March 28th. Many Democrats were caught off guard, as they were unaware of the negotiations, not to mention the outrage of Republican members that cried foul to the secret closed door deal.

On Thursday, March 31st, with only an Assembly Appropriations Committee hearing (zipper policy committee hearings), SB 3 was passed by both

houses with relative ease. Governor Brown will sign the bill in Los Angeles on Monday, April 4th.

While not quite as newsworthy as SB 3 but significantly important to many interest groups, including CARPD, on March 29th, the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, after a very long, but thoughtful hearing, killed Senate Bill 876 by Senator Liu, relating to homelessness. All Committee members acknowledged that a solution to homelessness must be developed and implemented, SB 876 is not that solution. The final vote was: Aye=2; No=7; and, Abstaining=2.

Other bills of interest to CARPD to be heard in the coming weeks include:

*Assembly Bill 1707(Linder): CARPD adopted an Oppose position on this bill as introduced that as drafted was a huge overreach relative to the California Public Records Act and written requests for documents. Assembly Member Linder substantially amended the bill on March 28th, with additional amendments forthcoming before the bill is considered by the Assembly Local Government Committee that has, or will, remove visually all of the current opposition, including CARPD's. The Legislative Committee will consider a position change once all the amendments are in print.

*Assembly Bill 2257(Maienschein): CARPD has also adopted an Oppose position on this Brown Act measure that requires local agencies that post their meeting agendas on the website, to also provide “a prominent direct link to the current agenda itself.” Lots of confusion and potential costs for local agencies. Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Local Government Committee April 4th.

*Assembly Bill 2613(Achadjian): CARPD is supporting AB 2613, an alternative process for special districts to replace the required annual audit with and “annual financial compilation” and an annual review of the internal control procedures to be performed by the county auditor. Requires unanimous request of the special districts governing board and unanimous approval of board of supervisors. Could be a very helpful, cost-savings alternative for smaller special districts.

*Assembly Bill 2444(Eduardo Garcia): This is the new park, et al, bond act. Details are still in discussion relative to components of the bond, including per capita, which should become more focused when the bill is considered by the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee April 12th.

*Senate Bill 1292(Stone): CARPD support SB 1292 by Senator Stone, relating to grand jury reports. The bill contains numerous provisions to provide local agencies/individual subject to a grand jury investigation greater opportunity to clarify the record before the grand jury report is published.

Finally, a detailed legislative report on all of the issues cited above, and others of importance, will be presented during the Annual Conference in May.