



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE**

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110
(909) 387-4821

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brad Mitzelfelt, Vice-Chairman*First District*
Janice Rutherford*Second District*
Neil Derry.....*Third District*
Gary C. Ovitt.....*Fourth District*
Josie Gonzales, Chair*Fifth District*

The Senate and the Assembly are both in session. Friday is the last day to amend bills on the floor. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn for the year on August 31, and the Governor will have until September 30 to sign or veto any bills passed by the Legislature. Please find a list of state legislative activities that the County and state advocates are monitoring the week of August 13, 2012, as well as a brief recap of legislative items of interest from last week here.

Status of County Advocacy Legislation

- County Supported AB 890 (Olsen), which was amended on August 7, 2012, would exempt certain public works projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), such as repair, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing roadways; provided that the project is initiated by a city or county to improve public safety, does not cross a waterway, and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. This bill was moved to the inactive file.
- County Supported AB 1181 (Butler), which was amended on May 31, 2012, would reauthorize the State-County Property Tax Administration Loan Program, which was established by the Legislature to ensure counties had sufficient resources to assess the value of newly constructed properties or those which had changed ownership. A hearing date is pending.
- County Supported AB 1712 (Beal), which would provide additional clean-up to the California Fostering Connections Act of 2010 and clear the way for full implementation. Additionally, this legislation would change Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) Foster Care from a county approved program to a statewide licensed community care facility thus streamlining the process in the most cost efficient manner for the implementation of these facilities. This legislation passed the Senate Appropriation committee on a 6-1 vote and is scheduled and will head to the Senate floor.
- County Supported AB 1623 (Yamada), which was amended on August 6, 2012, would extend the authority of a county board of supervisors to charge fees to recover the costs of the County Sealer, from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2018 and provide adjustments to the fee for particular weighing and measuring devices to reflect the actual cost of providing services. This bill passed the Senate floor on a 27-9 vote and will be now be enrolled to the Governor.
- County Supported SB 1186 (Steinberg), which was amended on June 20, 2012, would prohibit an attorney or other person from issuing a demand for money to a building owner or tenant, or an agent or employee of a building owner or tenant, or from receiving any payment, settlement, compensation, or other remuneration pursuant to a demand for money that is provided or issued without or prior to the filing of a complaint on the basis of one or more construction-related accessibility violations. This bill passed the Assembly Appropriation committee on a 17-0 vote and is scheduled to be heard on the Assembly floor.

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.

- County Sponsored SB 1425 (McLeod), which was amended on June 26, 2012, would improve the ability of county child welfare services to protect seriously abused children. This bill was signed by the Governor.
- County Supported SB 1544 (Hernandez), which was amended on May 2, 2012, would afford disaster loss treatment to taxpayers in the County of San Bernardino and Los Angeles affected by the serve winds in 2011. This bill passed the Assembly floor on a 79-0 vote and will now be enrolled to the Governor.
- County Opposed Unless Amended AB 916 (Perez), which was amended on July 5, 2012, would require the Department of Public Health to report patient demographic data being served by County operated Federal Qualified Health Centers. This bill passed the Senate Health committee on a 8-0 vote and will be heard on the Senate floor.
- County Opposed SB 1222 (Leno), which was amended on June 19, 2012, would impose hard caps on solar permit fees, create unnecessary and burdensome administrative process and erode city and county decision making authority. This bill passed the Assembly Appropriation committee on a 14-1 vote and will now be heard on the Assembly floor.

Special Session on Health Care

Governor Brown indicated he will call for a special session in December to address several of the outstanding items related to Affordable Care Act. In his letter to Legislative leaders, which can be found [here](#), the Governor noted that the State has already made considerable progress implementing many of the provisions of the Act, but there is much yet to be done in statue to make the ACA work in California.

On Friday, Diana Dooley, secretary of the California Health and Human Service Agency, told the media eligibility and enrollment systems, building technology infrastructure, working with county service centers and doing community outreach are among the issues the state needs to begin addressing.

Call for Audit of Mental Health Service Act

Approved by the voters in 2004, Proposition 63, the Mental Health Service Act, places a 1 percent income tax on Californians earning \$1 million or more per year. These funds, which have recently come under scrutiny, are set aside for early intervention, outreach, prevention, innovative services, building projects and mental health worker training. After alleged mishandling of funds by the media recently, Assemblymembers Dan Logue and Brain Nestande requested that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee review the spending.

In an attempt to dispel any criticism and highlight the effectiveness of the Mental Health Service Act, Senate President pro Tem Steinberg, who co-authored the initiative in 2004, sent letter to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee formally requesting that the State Auditor's office conduct an outcome and performance review of programs. The letter can be found [here](#). On Thursday the Joint Legislative Audit Committee will consider Senator Steinberg's request.