

Revised Agenda Item No. 3
Legislative Policy Committee Meeting

March 10, 2021
10:00 a.m.

MEETING ACCESSIBLE VIA ZOOM AT: <https://gosbcta.zoom.us/j/98154735255>

Teleconference
Dial: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 981 5473 5255

Discussion – Legislative/Public Outreach

3. State Legislative Update

Receive the March 2021 State Legislative Update and provide direction as to positions on bills as appropriate.

~~Receive and file the March 2021 State Legislative Update.~~

The recommendation in the agenda item has been revised.

Minute Action

REVISED AGENDA ITEM: 3

Date: *March 10, 2021*

Subject:

State Legislative Update

Recommendation:

Receive the March 2021 State Legislative Update and provide direction as to positions on bills as appropriate.

~~Receive and file the March 2021 State Legislative Update.~~

Background:

STATE UPDATE

The deadline to introduce new bills occurred on February 19, 2021, and we saw a flurry of new bills being introduced all the way up until the last minute. When the dust settled, the Assembly had introduced 1,560 bills and the Senate had introduced 809 bills for a total of 2,369. These figures do not include constitutional amendments or resolutions. It should also be noted that policy committees can still introduce bills past the deadline, and we have already seen some committees introduce new bills. A significant portion of the legislation introduced are considered “spot bills” which make technical, non-substantive changes to the law and serve as placeholders until more details can be worked out.

Both houses of the Legislature will be looking to cut down the amount of bills they hear this year. The Speaker of the Assembly has told his members that they can only pass twelve bills to the Senate. The Senate has not put in a hard cap, however, they believe cut downs will be necessary. To avoid a “traffic jam”, President pro Tempore Atkins and Republican Leader Wilk agreed to suspend the 30 day in print rule for 2021, which will allow bills to be amended and heard prior to the 30 day waiting period.

On February 23, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law a comprehensive package of immediate actions that will speed up needed relief to individuals, families and businesses suffering economic hardship due to the pandemic. The package builds on the initiatives in the Governor’s January state budget proposal to provide cash relief to lower-income Californians and increase aid to small businesses. In addition to these measures, this action will commit additional resources for critical child care services and fund emergency financial aid for community college students.

Lastly, Cap-and-Trade revenues from the February 17, 2021 auction raised nearly \$650 million for the state to spend. This is positive news when you consider the May 2020 auction raised under \$26 million dollars. These auction proceeds have been used to pay for a wide range of climate related projects. There will be continued discussions on what priorities we should spend this additional revenue on as the state considers its Cap-and-Trade spending plan.

Attachment A contains a list of legislative bills of interest to the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority/San Bernardino Council of Governments.

Entity: San Bernardino Council of Governments, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority

Financial Impact:

This item has no impact on the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget.

Reviewed By:

This item is not scheduled for review by any other policy committee or technical advisory committee.

Responsible Staff:

Louis Vidaure, Management Analyst II

Approved
Legislative Policy Committee
Date: March 10, 2021

Witnessed By: