



Advocacy Update

Receive & File

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Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Policy & Innovation

Issue:

Update on state and federal advocacy activities.

Request:

None; this is for information only

Recommendation for Board:

None, this item is for information only.

Recommendation for Committee:

None, this item is for information only.

Background:

Congress has until September 30, to pass a federal budget for the new fiscal year or face a government shutdown. In Sacramento, the Legislature adjourned the 2023-24 legislative session, and the Assembly has begun a special session to consider legislation that would help avert fuel gas hikes. California heads into a busy election cycle with contentious ballot measures and many new legislators coming to the next two-year legislative session.

Discussion/Analysis:

Congress must either pass a full year spending bill or a short-term continuing resolution by September 30, to avoid a government shutdown. Congressional leaders, as of September 23, have struck a deal on a stopgap funding bill to largely keep federal agencies on current budgets through December 20. The House is expected to pass this bill the last week of September. Attachment A, the Federal Policy Monthly Report, has additional information about this and federal funding opportunities. Our federal lobbyists, Capitol Transportation Consulting and Pavluchuk & Associates, will provide an overview of the current state of appropriations, a preview of elections, and a look ahead at the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill during the committee meeting.

On state business, the Legislature adjourned on August 31, and the Governor had until September 30, to act on hundreds of bills approved by the Legislature. Following the end-of-session collapse of an energy

affordability legislative package, the Assembly began a special session to discuss legislation to avert fuel gas price hikes. While the Senate has yet to convene for the second extraordinary session, Senate Leader McGuire has indicated that they would meet and act if the Assembly passes special session legislation. The November state elections are upcoming, and ten ballot measures are qualified, including two \$10 billion bonds for climate mitigation and school construction and modernization. As for the makeup of the Legislature in 2025, there will be a heavy turnover of new Legislators in the November elections as members are termed out. Notably, over one-third of new legislators were elected in 2022, particularly in the Assembly, making for a new Legislature in 2025. For more information, please see attachment B of the state lobbyist report.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Included in the Overall Work Program/Budget

List of Attachments:

Attachment A- Federal Advocacy Report

Attachment B- State Advocacy Report