



## **Legislative Update ■ January 6, 2020**

### **Legislature Returns to Kick Off New Year**

The Legislature returned to Sacramento this afternoon to begin the second year of the 2019-20 legislative session. In addition to the state budget release, this week also will feature the commencement of two weeks of policy committee hearings on two-year bills, which are measures introduced in 2019 that did not secure passage before the Legislature went on its fall break. These bills are subject to strict deadlines, which dictate that they must pass out of their house of origin by the end of January or it is officially dead.

Members can begin introducing new bill proposals as early as today, which will appear in print tomorrow.

One particular two-year measure of note is SB 50, by Senator Scott Wiener, which seeks to incentivize housing development near transit and jobs. His staff convened a group of local government associations and advocates this afternoon to provide an overview of amendments to SB 50 that should be in print and available for review online later this evening (at or after 9:00 pm). Recall that SB 50, which was held on suspense in the Senate Appropriations Committee last May, would, among other things, require cities and counties to grant certain benefits and waivers of local development regulations to “jobs-rich” and “transit-rich” housing projects, if a number of criteria are met. UCC has an oppose unless amended position on the bill as amended on May 1, 2019, primarily because of the delegation of authority to the executive branch to develop guidelines and regulations as to the practical application of SB 50 in local land use planning.

As described by Senator Wiener’s staff, the proposed amendments seek to create more flexibility at the local level to meet the goals of SB 50 and also attempt to address displacement and equity concerns raised by stakeholders. In terms of local flexibility, the amendments would give cities and counties two years to determine how it wants to comply with SB 50 – the new effective date will be January 1, 2023. Local governments can either choose to follow SB 50’s provisions in state law – the default pathway – or develop a

local approach that can demonstrate it will create a comparable amount of housing, meet fair housing requirements, and create the same or similar transportation efficiencies as would be achieved under the SB 50 default. Presumably, this would allow cities and counties more flexibility in where to upzone their communities and where and how to reduce vehicle miles traveled. Cities and counties would be required to get approval from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on their alternative SB 50 approach. Finally, to prevent displacement and gentrification, the amendments would require 40-percent of any affordable housing units that result from SB 50 (either by the default or local approach pathway) would be reserved for residents that currently live within a ½ mile radius of the new development, awarded via a lottery. Unless specifically referenced above, all other provisions in the bill will remain unchanged although the author is in active negotiations with other stakeholders on the sensitive communities provisions on the bill, so additional changes are likely later in the year.

Please review the amendments when in print ([accessible here](#)) and provide us with your feedback. Are the amendments going in the right direction? What, if any, are your primary concerns with the newly amended version of the bill? Does your county have a position on the measure (if so, please share relevant information with us so that we can accurately reflect the urban county position on the measure)?

### **Governor's Budget to be Released This Week**

Governor Newsom is required to release his 2020-21 state budget proposal no later than Friday of this week. UCC will provide a detailed summary of the Governor's spending plan by close of business on the day of its release. Although rumors have been flying on a sooner-than-Friday release, we also heard from a reliable source that Friday will be the day that the budget proposal is unveiled. Stay tuned ...

### **Healthy California for All Commission Formed**

Governor Newsom announced his highly anticipated appointments to the Healthy California for All Commission on December 18. The Commission will meet for the first time on January 27 in Sacramento. There had been much speculation about what type of people the Governor would appoint to the Commission; by and large the Governor appointed individuals from academia and from foundations, with one exception – he tapped a representative from the California Nurses Association to sit on the Commission.

Under the language negotiated in the 2019-20 state budget between the Governor and Legislature, the Commission was supposed to hold its first meeting by September 1, 2019.

The Commission's charge is to develop a plan for achieving health care coverage and access through a unified financing system, including, but not limited to, a single payer financing system. Initial reports from the Commission are due July 2020 and February 2021.

The Governor's eight appointments include:

- 1) Carmen Comsti, regulations policy specialists at the California Nurses Association and National Nurses United since 2016.
- 2) Jennie Hansen, independent consultant at Hirsch and Associates. She has held a variety of health-related positions including CEO at the American Geriatrics Society, a federal commissioner of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, and CEO at On Lok Senior Health Services.
- 3) Sandra Hernandez, president and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation.
- 4) William Hsiao, research professor of economics at the department of health policy management and the department of global health and population at Harvard University.
- 5) Rupa Marya, associate professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Marya is a member of the Board the Mni Wiconi Health Clinic and Farm at Standing Rock.
- 6) Robert Ross, president and CEO of the California Endowment.
- 7) Richard Scheffler, professor at the School of Public Health and the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley.
- 8) Andy Schneider, research professor of practice at the Center for Children and Families in the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy; he was senior advisor at the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services from 2014 to 2017.

The Legislature previously appointed:

- 9) Sara Flocks, policy coordinator with the California Labor Federation (Senate)
- 10) Janice Rocco, deputy commissioner, health policy and reform, Department of Insurance (Senate)
- 11) Antonia Hernandez, CEO of the California Community Foundation (Assembly)
- 12) Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access (Assembly)

The ex officio (non-voting) members of the Commission include:

- 13) Richard Figueroa, acting director Department of Health Care Services
- 14) Peter Lee, executive director Covered California
- 15) Don Moulds, chief health director CalPERS
- 16) Senator Richard Pan, chair of Senate Health Committee

17) Assembly Member Jim Wood, chair of Assembly Health Committee