



Established in 1991, UCC serves as the representative voice for state legislative advocacy for high-population counties in California. Initially composed of seven counties, the association has grown to 14 today. Nearly 80 percent of the state's population reside in UCC counties. Consequently, urban counties carry out critical programs and services to the state's most vulnerable populations. For more information, including details on our Board of Directors, please visit [our website](#).

August 19, 2022

As Session Nears End, Time for Goodbyes

In addition to all the business before the houses that must be wrapped up before final adjournment on August 31, Senators and Assembly Members alike are spending time saying goodbye to more than just a few of their colleagues. In the Senate, 10 members (four Republicans and six Democrats) are departing: Senators Pat Bates, Andreas Borgeas, Bob Hertzberg, Ben Hueso, Connie Leyva, Sydney Kamlager, Melissa Melendez, Jim Nielsen, Richard Pan, and Bob Wieckowski.

The Assembly will see its biggest turnover in a decade with a total of 19 members leaving when session adjourns *sine die*. These members include the following 13 Democrats, five Republicans, and the sole Independent serving in the Legislature: Jim Cooper, Marc Levine, Bill Quirk, Kevin Mullin, Frank Bigelow, Kevin Kiley, Adrin Nazarian, Adam Gray, Mark Stone, Jordan Cunningham, Rudy Salas, Chad Mayes, Richard Bloom, Jose Medina, Cristina Garcia, Kelly Seyarto, Tom Daly, Patrick O'Donnell, and Janet Nguyen. While some of the departing members are taking up newly elected positions at the local level or in Congress, Assembly Members Seyarto and Nguyen are vying for seats in the Senate in Districts 32 and 36 respectively and may indeed be sitting in the upper house come early December when the 2023-24 session kicks off.

CARE Act Suspense Amendments Now in Print

Last week's legislative fiscal deadline saw the Governor's CARE Act (**SB 1338**, Umberg and Eggman) come off the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file, clearing its final committee. As has been the case in multiple, prior committees, the bill was passed with amendments. Significant amendments included, but are not limited to:

- Shifting the implementation timeline. A first cohort of counties representing 50 percent of the statewide population would now implement October 2023 (previously July 2023) and a second cohort representing the balance of the state's population would now implement December 2024 (previously July 2024).
 - Amendments also include provisions regarding the potential approval of a further implementation delay to December 2025.
- Changes to the judicial authority to sanction local governments. The authority to impose sanctions is now placed with the presiding judge of each superior court rather than individual judges.
- Expanding on the court's considerations for imposing sanctions on local governments to include whether the local government "is making a good faith effort to come into substantial compliance or is facing substantial undue hardships."
- Changes to provisions identifying the expenditure of funds paid to the state by sanctioned local governments. Under the amendments, sanction funds "shall be used to support the efforts of the local government entity that paid the fines to serve individuals who have schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders and who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness, criminal justice involvement, hospitalization, or conservatorship."

The bill now sits on the Assembly floor awaiting action before returning to the Senate for concurrence. However, an additional round of floor amendments is expected before the Legislature sends the bill to the Governor's desk for signature. It is expected that remaining conversations surrounding those amendments will focus on the implementation cohorts, resources for the CARE Act process, and further drafting "clean-up." We will certainly keep you updated as SB 1338 action continues through the end of session.

Hospitals and SEIU Working on Seismic-Minimum Wage Deal

Several news outlets reported this week that the California Hospital Association and the Service Employees International Union State Council are

trying to hammer out a deal that would extend hospital seismic deadlines in exchange for a tiered statewide minimum wage for hospital workers. Specifically, the two groups are discussing a seven-year extension to the 2030 hospital seismic requirement and a narrowing of the 2030 standards to fewer types of structures. On the minimum wage side of the discussion, the proposal would create three different tiers for purposes of a hospital worker minimum wage, with the highest tier starting at \$24/hour in 2023 and increasing to \$25/hour in 2024. The tiers would be set geographically (by county), and the minimum wage would apply to all hospitals in the counties – public and private. Four cities – Los Angeles, Downey, Monterey Park, and Long Beach – voted earlier this year to raise the minimum wage for hospital workers to \$25 per hour.

Opposition to the deal emerged this week from the California Nurses Association, the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, the National Union of Health Care Workers, the State Building & Construction Council, and UNITE HERE! The group sent a letter to the Governor and Legislative leadership raising serious concerns with workplace safety. The California Dialysis Association, whose members would be affected by the minimum wage proposal, is also opposing the proposed deal.

A bill would need to be amended by August 25 in order to meet the legislative deadline for bill amendments. Neither an author nor bill number has been identified as of our publication deadline. Weekly Update 8.18.22

Locals Face Hit from Proposed Manufacturing Sales and Use Tax Exemption

AB 1951, by Assembly Member Tim Grayson, would extend the existing manufacturing equipment sales and use tax exemption to include the local share of the sales and use tax, including Proposition 172 public safety sales tax, 1991 and 2011 Realignments, and local voter-approved taxes through January 2028. There are no provisions in the bill that would backfill lost local revenues, so the estimated cost of \$533 million annually would be borne by counties and cities across the state.

AB 1951 is awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor. The county associations along with several individual counties are actively opposing the measure.

Administration Releases Proposed Climate Package

Late last week, Governor Gavin Newsom **released** the details of his late proposal to ramp up California's efforts to address climate change, the centerpiece of which is codifying the Governor's Executive Order establishing a statewide goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. Specifically, the proposal would

also adopt a more aggressive schedule to reduce greenhouse gasses, raising the 2030 target from 40 percent below 1990 levels to 55 percent below. The bill would establish setbacks of 3,200 feet for any new oil wells and ensure pollution control for existing wells near homes, schools, or parks. New clean electricity targets of 90 percent by 2035 and 95 percent by 2040, with the goal of 100 percent clean electricity retail sales by 2045, are also included in the proposal. Finally, the proposal creates a regulatory framework for carbon capture and requires the state to develop an achievable carbon removal target.