
MEMORANDUM

To: Orange County Sanitation District
From: Townsend Public Affairs
Date: August 7, 2024
Subject: State Legislative Monthly Report

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

July 3 marked the beginning of the Legislature's month-long Summer Recess, with legislators returning on August 5. Despite the lack of legislative activity during the month of July, it was a critical time for behind-the-scenes negotiations on bills and funding activities as the Legislature gears up to tackle the final month of the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. Upon their return on August 5, lawmakers had over a thousand measures to consider and pass prior to their adjournment on August 31. Following this legislative session's adjournment, the Governor will have until September 30 to sign or veto bills.

In addition to the behind the scenes work this month, July also marked a critical milestone for the finalization of statewide ballot initiatives California voters will consider at the November 5, 2024 General Election. Prior to its departure for summer recess, the Legislature finalized two final bond proposals to fund projects related to climate resiliency and school facility improvements. The two bond measures will appear among eight other ballot initiatives, ranging from local rent control to serial theft prevention, and tax reforms.

Below is an overview of pertinent state actions from the month of July.

Looking Forward to the Legislature's Return in August

Upon the legislators return from their Summer Recess on August 5, fiscal committee hearings and House Floor sessions resumed at an accelerated pace. The upcoming legislative deadline on August 16 marks the point by which measures must pass out of their respective fiscal committees (in the opposite house) to proceed to the opposite House Floor for a final vote.

Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees will be considering legislation that originated in the opposite house and has an unabsorbable fiscal impact to the state. Typically, any bill with a fiscal impact exceeding \$150,000 is placed on the fiscal committee's Suspense File. Measures placed on the suspense file will face consideration during the Appropriation Committees' "suspense hearing" on August 15. These hearings feature the rapid reading of measures and their status. Measures that are passed out of the Suspense File are moved to each House Floor for a final vote.

From August 19 through August 31, each House Floor will conduct floor sessions only, during which measures must pass off the Floor, in order to advance to the Governor's desk for a signature or veto. Measures must pass out of each House Floor by the August 31 deadline, which will begin the Legislature's Final Recess upon adjournment.