
MEMORANDUM

To: Orange County Sanitation District
From: Townsend Public Affairs
Date: November 21, 2025
Subject: November Legislative Monthly Report

STATE UPDATES

With the Legislature on Interim Study Recess, activity has shifted back to lawmakers' districts. Members are meeting with constituents, hosting local events, and preparing for the next legislative session, which begins January 5, 2026.

Voters Pass Proposition 50

On November 4, 2025, California voters approved Proposition 50 in a statewide [special election](#), with the measure receiving approximately 64 percent support. Counties have until December 5 to submit their certified vote counts to the Secretary of State, who is scheduled to certify the final election results on December 12.

Federal Lawsuit Filed Over California's Post-Proposition 50 Redistricting Plan

On November 13, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) [announced](#) they filed a lawsuit seeking to block California's newly approved congressional district map, which was adopted under Proposition 50 for use in the 2026–2030 election cycles. The measure shifts responsibility for drawing congressional districts from the state's independent redistricting commission to the Legislature, resulting in a redesigned map that could alter the political balance in several districts.

The DOJ's complaint argues that the map relied heavily on racial demographics, particularly the distribution of Hispanic voters, in ways that may violate the Equal Protection Clause and the Voting Rights Act. The lawsuit follows a separate challenge brought by the state's Republican Party, which has also raised concerns about how the districts were drawn.

The case introduces both legal and political uncertainties. Legally, it tests the boundary between permissible political considerations in redistricting and the constitutional limits on using race in the process. Politically, the outcome may influence competitive dynamics in upcoming congressional elections and shape how states approach redistricting in future cycles.

Statewide Initiative Proposes Streamlined Project Review

The California Chamber of Commerce recently [submitted](#) a proposed statewide initiative to the Attorney General's Office seeking to modernize California's environmental review process for major projects. The proposal, titled the *Building an Affordable California Act*, is designed to streamline approvals for "essential projects" such as housing, infrastructure, and public-service facilities, with the goal of improving affordability and reducing project delays.

The measure would establish defined timelines—generally up to one year—for state and local agencies to complete environmental reviews and issue final decisions on qualifying “essential projects,” including housing, renewable energy facilities, water and sanitation, broadband infrastructure, public health projects, municipal first responder facilities, and transportation improvements. If agencies fail to meet the proposed deadlines, applicants could request public hearings, and any legal challenges would be subject to expedited judicial review.

Beyond addressing permitting delays, the initiative seeks to lower project costs, create jobs in construction and clean energy sectors, and advance infrastructure investments that promote housing affordability and economic growth. It also includes provisions ensuring that, if enacted, the measure will be legally defended on behalf of voters.

If certified, the *Building an Affordable California Act* could appear on the 2026 statewide ballot, where voters would decide whether to adopt these proposed changes to California’s environmental and project approval framework.

Delta Conveyance Project Update

Governor Newsom and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) [announced](#) two key milestones advancing the Delta Conveyance Project, a major water infrastructure effort intended to strengthen the State’s water supply and climate resilience.

DWR submitted a certification of consistency to the Delta Stewardship Council, stating that the project complies with the Delta Reform Act and the State’s Delta Plan, which aim to balance environmental protection in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta with the need for a reliable water supply. In addition, the Third District Court of Appeal lifted a previous injunction, allowing DWR to resume pre-construction geotechnical work, including soil testing and subsurface investigations critical to project planning and design.

Governor Newsom highlighted these developments as part of the Administration’s broader strategy to modernize California’s water infrastructure and prepare for the challenges of a changing climate. State officials emphasized that these steps are necessary to ensure long-term water reliability for millions of residents, while continuing to safeguard the Delta ecosystem and address the impacts of drought, flooding, and aging water systems.