

October 2, 2023

To: Ara Mihranian, City Manager
Karina Beñales, Deputy City Manager
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City of Rancho Palos Verdes

From: Sharon Gonsalves
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RE: Legislative Summary – September 2023

LEGISLATURE CLOSES OUT FIRST YEAR OF 2023-24 SESSION

The Legislature closed out its first year of the 2023-24 legislative session on September 14. The final two weeks were hectic, with Floor session taking place every day and hundreds of bills passing the Legislature on or before the last day of session. Bills now have until October 14 to be signed or vetoed by Governor Newsom. Although during most of the legislative session the Governor must sign or veto a bill within 12 days of its passage by the Legislature (otherwise it automatically becomes law), during the final month this is extended to 30 days. We will therefore not have a full picture of how 2023 fared for legislation until that date.

Of the 2,662 bills introduced since the start of this session, 1,046 made it to the Governor's desk (note: around 3,000 measures were introduced, but not all march toward the Governor for potential enactment, such as constitutional amendments). This ratio of bills making it to enrollment is roughly congruent with all prior years Governor Newsom has been in office, with generally less than 15% vetoed and approximately 85% signed into law.

Bills by the Numbers

As of October 2, there are 738 bills on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature or veto. Thus far this session, 475 have been chaptered and 11 have been vetoed.

End of Session Talk of The Town

The following measures were focal points in the final weeks and days of session, with large groups in support and/or opposition working the items heavily in the halls of the Capitol.

- **ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.** [ACA 1](#) passed the Legislature on the last day of session and per [SB 789](#) (Allen), which is pending before the Governor, will be put on the November 5, 2024 ballot. The measure, if approved by voters, would increase the taxing ability of local governments to fund public infrastructure and affordable housing. This measure was heavily lobbied in support by non-profit housing groups and backed by labor organizations, as well as the full spectrum of local government associations and individual agencies. However, it faced

fierce opposition from realtor and taxpayer accountability organizations. Advocates worked hard in the final days to ensure the measure had enough votes to pass.

- **ACA 13 (Ward) Voting thresholds.** [ACA 13](#) passed the Legislature on the last day of session and is currently being “held at the desk” until after the deadline for March 2024 ballot measures so that it can be placed on the November 5, 2024 ballot. The measure, if approved by voters, would require that an initiative measure that increases the voter approval requirement to adopt any state or local measure must receive a proportion of votes in favor of the initiative that is equal to or greater than the highest voter approval requirement imposed by the initiative. This measure was heavily lobbied in support by labor organizations as well as the full spectrum of local government associations and individual agencies. However, it faced fierce opposition from the California Business Roundtable and taxpayer accountability organizations, who shared misinformation campaigns in the final weeks that led to much confusion among legislators and supporters alike. Advocates worked hard in the final days to provide correct information and to ensure the measure’s passage.
- **AB 1078 (Jackson) Instructional materials and curriculum: diversity.** [AB 1078](#) was a bill backed by the Administration which would institute a funding penalty for school districts that do not sufficiently provide standards-aligned instructional materials, in response to actions taken by the Temecula Valley Unified School District. This bill passed the Legislature on September 7 and was signed into law on September 25.
- **SB 14 (Grove) Serious felonies: human trafficking.** [SB 14](#) initially failed passage in the Assembly Public Safety Committee until the Governor and other policy leaders got publicly involved in support of the measure. It was granted special reconsideration and sailed through the remaining legislative hurdles, with passionate testimony of lawmakers thanking peers for bipartisan support to provide further protections to minors. This bill passed the Legislature on September 13 and was [signed into law](#) on September 25. The bill makes human trafficking of a minor included within the definition of a serious felony.
- **Governor’s Behavioral Health Package.** The two measures that comprise the Governor’s behavioral health package, [AB 531](#) (Irwin) and [SB 326](#) (Eggman), passed the Legislature on the last day of session and as of October 2 had not yet been signed into law. The measures will be put to voters on the March 5, 2024 ballot as one initiative. AB 531 will provide \$6.38 billion in new funding for behavioral health infrastructure efforts. The bill was amended immediately prior to the 72-hour print deadline to expand the funding amount and to include a direct allocation to cities, which were asks made by a coalition of local agencies in support. SB 326 will rename, update, and modernize the Mental Health Services Act passed by the voters as Proposition 63 in November 2004. AB 531 and SB 326 received emotional bi-partisan testimony in support on both the Assembly and Senate Floors, with lawmakers applauding the efforts of the authors, the Administration, and their peers for the perfect confluence of events and timing to update what is no longer working. Former Senate Pro-Tempore and current Mayor of Sacramento Darrell Steinberg was in attendance for the vote as the Mental Health Services Act was a result of his efforts and he has voiced support for modernizing the program and its funding allocations.

RPPG MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

RPPG continues to review priority bills—keeping City staff apprised of developments on legislation during our standing meetings and throughout the month as needed. RPPG continues to work hand in hand with City staff to gather client-specific information while actively engaging with lawmakers and agency officials on legislation of interest to the City.

Sharon Gonsalves met with Councilmember Paul Seo, City Manager Ara Mihranian, and Administrative Analyst Shaunna Hunter in Sacramento on September 22 to discuss the City's legislative priorities.

RPPG sent the City a memo on September 15 which summarized the end of session and provided an update on the outcomes of key measures that the Legislature had taken up during the final two weeks.

RPPG sent the City a memo on September 28 which contained updated analyses of [ACA 1](#) and [ACA 13](#). Both measures are expected to appear on the November 2024 ballot.

Update on Positioned Legislation

RPPG is closely monitoring and providing updates on the following bills on which the City has adopted a position.

- [AB 309 \(Lee\) The Social Housing Act](#)
 - City Position: Oppose Unless Amended
 - Status: Governor's Desk
- [AB 584 \(Hart\) California Coastal Act of 1976: coastal development: emergency waiver](#)
 - City Position: Support
 - Status: Chaptered
- [AB 825 \(Bryan\) Vehicles: bicycles on sidewalks](#)
 - City Position: Oppose
 - Status: Governor's Desk
- [AB 1484 \(Zbur\) Temporary public employees](#)
 - City Position: Oppose
 - Status: Governor's Desk
- [AB 1708 \(Muratsuchi\) Theft](#)
 - City Position: Support
 - Status: Two-year bill
- [ACA 10 \(Haney\) Fundamental human right to housing](#)
 - City Position: Oppose
 - Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee
- [SB 4 \(Wiener\) Planning and zoning: housing development: higher education institutions and religious institutions](#)
 - City Position: Oppose
 - Status: Governor's Desk
- [SB 244 \(Eggman\) Right to Repair Act](#)
 - City Position: Support
 - Status: Governor's Desk

- [SB 363 \(Eggman\) Facilities for inpatient and residential mental health and substance use disorder: database](#)
 - City Position: Support
 - Status: Held in committee
- [SB 423 \(Wiener\) Land use: streamlined housing approvals: multifamily housing developments](#)
 - City Position: Oppose
 - Status: Governor's Desk

Priority Bills

RPPG has tagged 89 bills for the City as “priority,” which may be of potential interest, or may impact operations or priority issues, per the legislative platform. We will continue to bring bills of potential interest to staff for the City’s review in the coming weeks.

ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS

Insurance Reform Executive Order

Governor Newsom [signed](#) an [executive order](#) on September 21 which requested that the Insurance Commissioner take regulatory action in the state’s insurance market. That same day, the Insurance Commissioner [announced](#) “a package of executive actions aimed at improving insurance choices and protecting Californians from increasing climate threats while addressing the long-term sustainability of the nation’s largest insurance market.” There had been ongoing talks between the Commissioner’s office, the Governor’s office, Assembly and Senate leadership, and insurance groups for a compromise when news of the talks played out in the media, which then put those efforts on hold.

LOOKING FORWARD

The legislative break between September 14 and January 3 is known formally as “Interim Study Recess.” During this time, legislators plan their priorities for the following year and begin to prepare to introduce new bills or to advance any two-year bills. Now is the time for your organization to get ready for the second year of session, which hits the ground running when the Legislature reconvenes the first week of January. Fall is the time to revisit legislative platforms and identify any sponsored legislation needed, as well as state budget priority asks, in the event funding opens up so that the City is pre-positioned to submit a request.

- **OCTOBER 14:** Final date by which all bills in this first year of session must be signed or vetoed.
- **JANUARY 1:** All measures signed into law in 2023, unless otherwise excepted, go into effect.
- **JANUARY 3:** The 2024 legislative year begins.