

CARPD LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2013-14 Session Overview

The Legislature reconvened on January 6, 2014, to commence the second legislative year of the 2013-14 Session. This year's Final Recess is scheduled for August 31st.

Governor Unveils 2014-15 Proposed State Budget

On January 9th, Governor Brown unveiled his 2014-15 proposed State Budget, a budget constructed around an estimated \$6 billion surplus, the first such surplus in many years. While the proposed budget does contain increased spending in a number of programs, the Governor cautioned members of the Legislature that they must exercise restraint relative to spending, specifically on new programs, as overspending and/or another economic state or national downturn could move California back to the days of deficits.

In addition to calling for a significant budget reserve, coupled with an equally significant "rainy day fund," the Governor also highlighted his proposals to spend down California's huge and growing "wall of debt." Included in the "wall of debt" are millions of dollars owed local governments for past-year state mandated program costs. Clearly, the budget reserve, rainy day fund and spending down the wall of debt will undergo modification during the Legislature's budget subcommittee process and may look very different in the Legislature's adopted state budget.

New Assembly/Senate Leadership Elected

With Assembly Speaker Perez and Senate President Pro Tem Steinberg termed-out this year, both houses have selected their respective members to replace Perez and Steinberg later this year.

Democrat members in the Senate have elected Senator Kevin de Leon of Los Angeles to replace Steinberg, while the Assembly Democrats have chosen Assembly Member Toni Atkins of San Diego as their next Assembly Speaker. As stated above, both will assume their new positions later this year.

2-Year Bills Deadline

January 31st was the deadline for all bills introduced in 2013 to pass their house of origin.

Bill Introduction Deadline

This year's deadline to introduce new legislation is February 21st, and while introductions to date are few, that pace will increase significantly as the February 21st deadline approaches.

Redevelopment Initiative Filed

On December 24, 2013, an organization called "Redevelop California" submitted an initiative to "restore and modify redevelopment." Simply, the initiative proposes the restoration of pre-existing redevelopment agencies and authorizes them to continue and complete redevelopment plans and projects on a going-forward basis **and continues the use of tax increment financing without your approval.**

The Attorney General's Office will be preparing the title and summary for the initiative in the coming weeks and you may review the initiative's text by going to the Attorney General's website at: **oag.ca.gov/initiatives** under the Active Measures tab. The initiative is #13-0065--"California Jobs and Education Development Initiative Act."

Legislative Committee to Meeting

The CARPD Legislative Committee will hold its first 2014 meeting on February 7th. The Committee will review all newly introduced legislation of interest to the CARPD membership and where appropriate, adopt positions on all such bills.