

CARPD NEWSLETTER

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By: Ralph Heim and Russell Noack
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Legislators Return to Complete the 2015-16 Session

The Legislature reconvened January 4th, commencing the second year of the 2015-16 Session scheduled to adjourn this year on August 31st, with Governor Brown having until September 30th to sign or veto all legislation passed by September 1st. Finally, January 31st is the deadline to pass house of origin bills introduced in 2015, so-called “2-year bills.”

Another important legislative date is February 19th, the deadline for legislation to be introduced for 2016. There are a few exemptions to this deadline, including constitutional amendments, legislation proposing a tax expenditure and legislation sponsored by a legislative policy or fiscal committee.

Since the majority of the new bills will be introduced during the week leading-up to the February 19th deadline, the CARPD Legislative Committee has scheduled a meeting for March 4th to review all the bills of interest to recreation and park districts and adopt positions on those where appropriate.

Also in January, the Governor released his 2016-17 proposed state budget, stressing the critical importance for the Legislature to use prudence relative to spending, specifically on new, on-going programs. Clearly a hard sell to the majority party, given the state has realized billions above the Governor’s Department of Finance estimates for the budget year. The Governor warned the next recession is “just around the corner,” and he will not allow the boom/bust budget years of the past to return. Governor Brown received some unsolicited support for his fiscal restraint position from Moody’s, who echoed the Governor’s admonition for fiscal prudence. The real state budget doesn’t emerge until after the Governor’s May Revision – the time the real budget discussion begins.

Legislation of Interest

Cited below are a number of 2015 and newly introduced bills of interest:

[Assembly Bill 665 \(Frazier\)](#): Relating to hunting, AB 665 would undermine local control by establishing state pre-emption of any local regulations, ordinances, or action relating to the discharge of weapons and the taking of game on specified public lands. AB 665 moved through both the Assembly and Senate last year, and can be taken up at any time in 2016 by the Assembly for concurrence in Senate amendments.

Assembly Bill 1648 (Wilk): Relating to the Public Records Act, AB 1648 would prohibit the state and any local agency from selling, exchanging, furnishing, or otherwise providing a public record subject to disclosure to a private entity in a manner that prevents a member of the public from sharing, distributing, or publishing the public record subject to disclosure.

Assembly Bill 1661 (McCarty): Would require local agency officials to receive sexual harassment training and education if the local agency provides any type of compensation, salary or stipend to the officials and would allow a local agency to require employees to received such training.

Assembly Bill 1676 (Campos): Relating to salary information, AB 1676 would prohibit employers, including the state and local governments, from seeking salary history information about an applicant for employment, with few exceptions. State and local governments would be exempt from the requirement that an employer, upon reasonable request, is to provide the pay scale for a position to an applicant for employment.

Senate Bill 218 (Huff): Would declare the Vehicle Code to be applicable throughout the State and would prohibit local authority from enacting or enforcing an ordinance unless expressly authorized by the Vehicle Code. SB 218 was designed to prevent the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) from using photo stop signs among other traffic safety systems. SB 218 died in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee last week.

Senate Bill 317 (De León): Would place the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, and Conservation Bond Act on the November 8, 2016 ballot and if adopted by the voters would authorize \$2.45B in bonds to finance parks, rivers and coastal protection programs. The bill is on the Senate Floor and needs to move through the legislative process by the Summer to qualify for the November General Election.

Senate Bill 876 (Liu): Similar to Senator Liu's homelessness measure of last year, SB 876 still contains many, if not all, of the issues that gave rise to CARPD's opposition last year, including use of parks and park restrooms, et cetera. I expect most local government associations and scores of individual local agencies will oppose SB 876.