



CARPD NEWSLETTER ARTICLE
Legislative Update by Russell W. Noack
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In dramatic fashion, on March 16, 2020, the California State Legislature passed a \$1 Billion care package pertaining to COVID-19 (([Senate Bill 89](#), [Senate Bill 117](#)), and then recessed the Session ([Assembly Concurrent Resolution 189](#)) and returned to their district homes. Legislators, staff and committee consultants remain available for phone calls, but the Capitol was officially closed earlier this week. Additionally, Governor Newsom issued [Executive Order N-29-20](#), which permits local and state governing bodies to waive the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act in order to allow meetings to be held via teleconferencing. The Order also sets out in some detail the public notice and accessibility requirements governing the procedure for such meetings.

On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, Governor Newsom indicated that California will likely remain in shelter-in-place mode through the month of April. He cited public health experts who have predicted an 8- to 12-week time period. The Governor's remarks contrasted with those of President Trump, who predicted mid-April as the time for re-opening of public activities.

Since personal meetings are out of the question, legislative activities have shifted to discussions with members and committee staff over the phone. Bills are still being worked on, and the Senate continues to amend bills to prepare for the resumption of the Session. Legislative leaders are signaling to their members that bill packages will need to be reduced due to these exigent circumstances, but no final decisions have been made yet. The 2020-21 State Budget will undergo extensive revision due to the COVID-19 crisis, with the Rainy-Day fund being diminished and many new programs being limited or curtailed for the time being. Budget augmentations will be unlikely.

It remains to be seen whether the current crisis will impact the Governor's proposed \$4.75 Billion Climate Resilience Bond addressing wildfire, drought, flood protection, extreme heat, sea level rise and community resilience. Further, the fate of the two legislative-led bond measures [SB 45 \(Allen\)](#) and [AB 3256 \(E. Garcia\)](#) will be tied to the Governor's proposal and the COVID-19 encumbered fiscal impact, which will be finalized in the May Revise of the 2020-21 Budget.

Since legislative committee activities have been suspended, all measures of interest to the CARPD are temporarily on hold. However, legislation to reduce the impact of [AB 5 \(L. Gonzalez; Chapter 296, Statutes of 2019\)](#) – the recent presumptive employee law – remains in place to be

heard later in the year. The same procedure applies to the package of bills directed at promoting affordable housing production, including imposing restrictions on Impact and Quimby fees. Additionally, the package to provide extensive resources to counteract homelessness remains in place but may well be subject to reduction due to the economic consequences of COVID-19.

Finally, the CARPD Legislative Committee recently had a very productive meeting (conference call) and recommended support for bills to improve grant opportunities for recreation and park districts, [AB 2270 \(Daly\)](#), and for access to securitized limited obligation notes, [AB 2107 \(Rodriguez\)](#). These bills, along with all other active bills being monitored by the Committee, will undergo increased scrutiny by legislative leaders as they establish priorities for processing bills under the streamlined legislative session.

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