



Legislative Bulletin

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County of Orange Positions on Proposed Legislation

The Legislative Bulletin provides the Board of Supervisors with analyses of measures pending in Sacramento and Washington that are of interest to the County. Staff provides recommended positions that fall within the range of policies established by the Board. According to the County of Orange Legislative Affairs Procedures adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 3, 2003, staff recommendations for formal County positions on legislation will be agendaized and presented in this document for Board action at regular Board of Supervisors meetings. When the Board takes formal action on a piece of legislation, the CEO will direct the County's legislative advocates to promote the individual bills as approved by the Board. The Legislative Bulletin also provides the Board of Supervisors with informative updates on State and Federal issues.

The 2007 Legislative Platform was adopted by Board of Supervisors' Minute Orders dated November 14, 2006. On March 27, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved the following actions:

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. SUPPORT – AB 223 (Runner) – Absentee Voting: Military Service
2. SUPPORT – SB 872 (Ackerman) – State-Local Partnership Program
3. Receive and File Legislative Bulletin

SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE REPORT

ACTION ITEMS

SUPPORT – AB 223 (Runner) – Absentee Voting: Military Service – As Introduced on January 29, 2007

Author: Assembly Member Sharon Runner
Status: Assembly, Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Reviewed: CEO/Legislative Staff and Registrar of Voters
Hearing Date: March 27, 2007

In 2004 the Orange County Board of Supervisors successfully sponsored AB 2941, which was carried by our own Supervisor Patricia Bates for Special Absentee Voters: Voting by Facsimile. AB 2941 permitted a special absentee voter who is temporarily living outside of the territorial limits of the United States or the District of Columbia to return his or her ballot by facsimile transmission to the

elections official. The ballot would need to be received by the closing of the Election Day polls and accompanied by an identification envelope and an oath of voter declaration in a prescribed form.

Assembly Bill 223 would apply these provisions to a person called for military service within the United States on or after the final date to make application for an absent voter ballot. This bill would revise these provisions to provide that a special absentee voter may appear before the elections official either in his or her county of registration or in the county in which he or she is recalled to military service to make application for an absent voter's ballot which may be submitted by facsimile or by e-mail or online transmission to be counted, as specified.

CEO Legislative Affairs and Registrar of Voters Comments

CEO Legislative Affairs staff recommends a support position on AB 223. According to the Registrar of Voters, this bill merely expands a program that we already do, according to the Elections Code. The number of voters affected in Orange County would be approximately 20.

SUPPORT – SB 872 (Ackerman) – State-Local Partnership Program – As Introduced on February 23, 2007

Author: Senator Dick Ackerman
Status: Senate, Committee on Transportation and Housing
Reviewed: CEO/Legislative Staff and Resources Development and Management Department (RDMD)/Transportation

SB 872 creates the State-Local Partnership Program to allocate the \$1 billion in funding included in Proposition 1B, the transportation bond approved by voters in November, 2006. The bill carries intent language that the Legislature would appropriate \$200 million per year for five years beginning in the 2010-11 fiscal year to fund the State-Local Partnership Program. The program would allocate state funds to eligible highway and mass transit guideway projects nominated by local agencies that are to be funded with at least 50 percent of local funds derived from a locally-imposed transportation sales tax like Measure M in Orange County. The bill also specifies the process for applying for, receiving, and expending the funds.

CEO/Legislative Affairs and RDMD Comments

SB 872 is designed to be the implementing legislation for the \$1 billion State-Local Partnership Program portion of Proposition 1B, the transportation bond approved by voters in November, 2006. It is but one program component of a nearly \$20 billion bond package of transportation improvements. The bill is crafted to leverage state funds by requiring a local match of voter-approved transportation sales tax dollars such as Orange County's Measure M. As such, the bill will be popular with so-called self-help counties who have voter-approved transportation sales tax measures in place and those who pass on in the next few years, since the bill does not call for program funding until fiscal year 2010-11. It could be argued that the bill provides an incentive to counties currently facing the decision point on moving forward with a local sales tax measure.

The bottom line is that the state is prudently leveraging precious transportation dollars and Orange County, as a self-help county, is in a position to realize major project funding (the minimum project is

\$25 million) through this measure. Therefore, CEO Legislative Affairs and Resources Development and Management Department staff recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt a “support” position.

WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE REPORT

WASHINGTON UPDATE

The Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Sub-Committee began calling for project funding requests last week. Senator Dianne Feinstein serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and has called for Orange County's requests. Staff provided worksheets for each of the requests approved by the Board in February, including the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Project and the Aliso Creek SUPER Project as well as studies including San Juan Creek and Westminster-East Garden Grove Watershed Study.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee chaired by California Senator Barbara Boxer have also called for project authorization requests in anticipation of the committee mark-up of a Senate Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill. This is the Senate bill that would be the vehicle for the Santa Ana River Intercept (SARI) Line and the continuation of water conservation programs behind Prado Dam. While the Committee has indicated it will move a bill identical to last year's bill like the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee did, the possibility exists that the Aliso Creek SUPER Project could be added since it was in the draft of last year's conference committee bill. The conference bill unraveled following last November's elections and the on-set of a lame duck session.

County of Orange - Sponsored Bills Status/Update

AB 332 (DeVore) Elections: Recall Petitions: Signature Certification. Introduced: 02/13/2007
Location: 02/20/2007-Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee.
Calendar: 05/01/07 1:30 p.m. - Room 127 ASM E & R

AB 405 (Duvall) Redevelopment: Tax Increment Revenues. Introduced: 02/15/2007
Location: 02/26/2007-Assembly Local Government Committee.
Calendar: 03/28/07 1:30 p.m. - Room 127 ASM L. GOV

AB 745 (Silva) Local Agency Formation Commissions. Introduced: 02/22/2007
Location: 03/12/2007-Assembly Local Government Committee.

AB 1042 (Spitzer) Property Taxation: Applications for Changed Assessment: Electronic Filing.
Introduced: 02/22/2007
Location: 03/12/2007-Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
Calendar: 04/30/07 1:30 p.m. – Room 126 ASM REVENUE AND TAXATION

SB 497 (Ackerman) Political Reform Act of 1974: Conflict of Interest: Electronic Filing of Statements of Economic Interest. Introduced: 02/22/2007
Location: 02/28/2007-Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments.
Calendar: 04/18/07 Anticipated Hearing SEN E.,R. & C. A.

SB 547 (Correa) Property Tax Revenue Allocations. Introduced: 02/22/2007
Location: 03/08/2007-Senate Local Government.
Calendar: 04/18/07 9:30 a.m. - Room 112 SEN L. GOV

SB 644 (Correa) Court Records: Social Security Numbers. Introduced: 02/22/2007
Location: 03/08/2007-Senate Judiciary.
Calendar: 03/27/07 1 p.m. - Room 112 SEN JUD

A copy of the 2007 County of Orange Legislative Platform is available at: <http://www.oc.ca.gov/> under OC Links.

If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information on any of the items in this bulletin, please contact Bill Hodge at 714.834.7010.