

Smith, Watts & Hartmann, LLC.

Consulting and Governmental Relations

MEMORANDUM

TO: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee
c/o: John Cunningham

FROM: Mark Watts

DATE: August 31, 2018

SUBJECT: September Sacramento Report

Legislative Calendar

This week marks the last days of the 2017-18 Legislative Session which concludes at midnight tonight to be followed by the scheduled start of the Interim Recess. Although there are a number of significant issues under consideration by the Legislature, including requiring all electric generation in the state to be from renewable sources by 2045, eliminating money bail in criminal cases, and relief for utilities (especially PG&E) from the financial consequences of wildfires, no major transportation legislation of the same magnitude is pending.

The next major Legislative Calendar item occurs on September 30, 2018, which is the last day for the Governor to act upon bills in his possession. Following the November elections, the Legislature convenes on December 3, 2018, to organize and affirm each House's leadership for the start of the 2019-20 Legislative Session; they reconvene shortly following January 1.

Legislation

Several bills were specifically discussed in reports during the course of the year. This item provides a short synopsis and status update for these bills:

AB 2923 (Chiu)

STATUS: Approved on August 28; pending Governor's review.

This bill requires, until January 1, 2029, cities and counties to adopt zoning standards from the BART transit-oriented development (TOD) guidelines and establishes a streamlined approval process for projects on BART-owned land.

The author introduced the measure to assist BART in meeting TOD objectives which he asserts will expedite the production of mixed-use development adjacent to transit. TOD projects will in turn increase transit ridership, reduce congestion and greenhouse gas outputs, and sustainably accommodate new growth.

SB 827 (Wiener)

STATUS: Failed Passage in Senate Governance & Finance Committee, April 18, 2018.

This bill would have required a local jurisdiction to provide eligible applicants with a transit-rich housing bonus when requested by a developer.

SB 828 (Wiener)

STATUS: Approved on August 30; pending Governor's review.

This bill makes a number of changes to the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) process.

Iron Horse Trail

Subsequent to an in-depth consultation with Legislative Counsel, a request to prepare suitable legislative relief was submitted and is in preparation.