



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

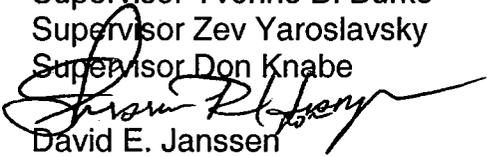
YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

August 21, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
From:   
David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**SACRAMENTO UPDATE**

**End of Session**

The Legislature is meeting this week as the end of session approaches. According to joint legislative rules, last Friday, August 18, 2006, was the deadline for fiscal committees to hold hearings and to refer legislation to the floor. As of Monday, August 21, 2006, no committees other than the Rules Committee or Conference Committees may meet. Nevertheless, the Legislature can choose to waive the rules to amend and hear bills in committee. In the past, priorities by the Governor or the Legislature have justified these waivers. These rules do not apply to the Special Session on Prisons.

**Assembly Special Session Hearing**

The Assembly Correctional Policy and Fiscal Issues Committee held an informational hearing entitled Prison Overcrowding and Proposed Solutions on Thursday, August 17, 2006. Committee Chair Mark Leno indicated that the purpose of the hearing was to provide an overview of the problems of overcrowding at State prison facilities. Committee Vice-Chair Sharon Runner remarked that because a comprehensive plan to alleviate the prison crisis would require a collaborative effort between State and local governments, the Special Session should also address local facility needs.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) reiterated testimony provided to the Senate Select Committee on August 15, 2006, projecting that approval of the Governor's Special Session proposals would increase expenditures for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from \$8.2 billion to \$12.5 billion by FY 2013-14, a 52 percent increase from FY 2006-07. Further, the LAO indicated that the Governor's proposals would result in the wrong mix of beds, a surplus of 1,300 beds for females and 4,800 for low-security males, but a deficit of 4,000 beds for high security males.

The Committee plans to consider the specifics of the 11 Assembly Bills introduced in the Special Session at a later date. This includes the ten bills originally introduced and described in the August 16, 2006 Sacramento Update. In addition, AB X2 11 was introduced on August 16, 2006, by Assembly Member Sharon Runner. This bill creates the Local Detention Facility Bond Act of 2006 and authorizes an unspecified amount of State General Obligation Bonds to be used for the construction, renovation or expansion of county detention facilities. Funds would be allocated to counties on a competitive basis. Priority would be given to those proposals that would house treatment programs for high recidivism inmates. AB X2 11 would allocate 75 percent of the funds to adult facilities and 25 percent to juvenile facilities. It would require local entities to provide a match of at least 25 percent of the grant award. The State Correctional Standards Authority would administer the bond program and would approve the local construction projects funded by this Act.

In the Senate, contrary to previous information, the Select Committee on Prison Population, Management and Capacity referred its Special Session bills to the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review for further consideration.

### **Joint Assembly Hearing on Foster Youth and Psychotropic Medication**

A joint hearing of the Assembly Human Services Committee, chaired by Noreen Evans, and the Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care, chaired by Karen Bass, was held on August 15, 2006 to discuss foster youth and the use of psychotropic medication. Assembly Members Evans and Bass stated that many children in foster care suffer from mental illness, and that these children are not receiving appropriate treatment and that they have repeatedly heard from foster youth that they are being forced to take psychotropic medications or risk losing their placements in group homes. They also expressed concerns about the side effects of these medications, and that many youth are not receiving proper mental health counseling services to go along with the medication. Representatives from the Administration, Judicial Council, Los Angeles County, and foster youth groups made presentations to the committees.

Dr. William Arroyo, Medical Director of the Child, Youth and Family Program Administration for the County's Department of Mental Health, and Dr. Charles Sophy, Medical Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), told members that providing health and mental health services to foster youth is a high

priority for the County, and outlined the health and mental health screening process for children entering the foster care system. Dr. Sophy stated that it is DCFS' policy that each foster care child is provided with a medical exam, a forensic evaluation to determine abuse and/or neglect, and a mental health screening at a Medical Hub, which is staffed by a team of professionals with expertise in abuse and neglect, and that the County carefully approaches the issue of when to prescribe psychotropic medications.

Assembly Members Evans and Bass said that it is the State's responsibility to ensure that foster children receive appropriate care and treatment, and that they want statewide data collected on the number of foster youth, on medication and the short-term and long-term side effects of its use. They will continue to study this issue over the coming months and in the next legislative session.

### **Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

**AB 2237 (Karnette)**, as amended on May 30, 2006, would require that the annual report to the Legislature from the Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security include a component pertaining to the protection of the State's harbor and port facilities and the commercial marine transportation sector from terrorist attack. It would specify that the report contain information on the policies, projects, and funding necessary to protect those facilities including identifying sources of funding and unmet funding needs and the percentage of cargo containers that receive security screening. In addition, the bill would require the Director to consult with representatives of all levels of government, harbor and port facilities, marine trade and transportation industry interests, and businesses and residents located near harbors and ports.

The author indicates that this bill is intended to identify funding and policy necessary to achieve Statewide port security and ensure that the California Legislature has the most reliable and accurate information about port security needs. This is necessary because California has not received enough Federal funding to adequately protect those who live, work, and conduct business near ports and harbors. Because disruption of port operations resulting from a terrorist attack would likely result in a significant negative impact to the regional and State economy, the author believes it is prudent to delineate port security needs clearly and to develop a long-term funding needs assessment to better position California ports for both State and Federal financial assistance.

Because support for AB 2237 is consistent with existing Board policy to support the pass-through of Federal homeland security funds to counties based on threat levels, population, and relative need, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 2237.**

AB 2237 is sponsored by the author and supported by the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, California State Sheriffs' Association, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Inland Boatmen's Union, Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council, and the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council. There is no registered opposition.

AB 2237 passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 13 to 0, and now moves to the Senate Floor.

### **Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-supported AB 379 (Koretz)**, which would make it an infraction for a person to smoke a pipe, cigar, or cigarette in a motor vehicle, whether the vehicle is in motion or not, when a child young enough to require a child safety seat is in the vehicle, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 8 to 5, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported AB 1056 (Chu)**, which would establish the Tolerance Education Pilot Program, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 8 to 5, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported, if amended AB 1363 (Jones)**, which would enact the Omnibus Conservatorship Reform Act of 2006 to expand and enhance the Probate Court's oversight of conservatorships, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 11 to 1, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported AB 1634 (McCarthy)**, which would appropriate funds for State and local costs incurred for the special statewide election held in November 2005, was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

**County-supported AB 1799 (Umberg)**, which would require State reimbursement for the cost of special elections to fill legislative or congressional vacancies, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 13 to 0, and is now on the Senate Floor pending a vote.

**County-opposed AB 1873 (Torrico)**, which would expand the scope of age for a safe surrender from 72 hours to up to 30 days, and allow a county board of supervisors to designate fire stations as an official safe surrender site as long as the fire stations have consulted with county child welfare agencies, passed the Senate on August 16, 2006 by a vote of 27 to 9, and now proceeds to the Assembly for concurrence in Senate amendments.

**County-supported AB 1979 (Bass)**, which would waive fees for conducting State criminal background checks for volunteer mentors of foster children, passed the Senate on August 21, 2006 by a vote of 37 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly for concurrence with Senate Amendments.

**County-supported AB 2161 (Hancock)**, which would establish the Unified Resource Families Assessment Pilot Project in five volunteer counties selected by the California

Department of Social Services, was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee's Suspense File because of increased costs to the State General Fund.

**County-supported AB 2384 (Leno)**, which would require the Department of Health Services to develop a "Healthy Food Purchase" pilot program to increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by low income families passed the Senate Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 8 to 5, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-opposed AB 2754 (Chan)**, which would require certain hospitals to adopt a plan or procedure for determining the staffing of professional and technical classifications to be used by a hospital to determine the number of competent personnel with the appropriate combination of skills necessary to meet the needs of patients, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 8 to 5, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported AB 2911 (Nuñez)**, which would establish the California Discount Prescription Drug Program in the California Department of Health Services and use manufacturer rebates and pharmacy discounts to reduce prescription drug prices for eligible low-income Californians, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 8 to 5, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported SB 246 (Figueroa)**, which would exempt a hospital from tissue bank licensure regulations for collecting, processing, storing, or distributing human milk collected from a mother exclusively for her own child, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 18 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 739 (Speier)**, which would establish the Hospital Infectious Disease Control Program, and require the California Department of Health Services and general acute care hospitals to implement various measures related to disease surveillance and prevention of health care associated infection (HAI), passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 18 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 840 (Kuehl)**, which would establish the California Health Insurance System and make all California residents eligible for specified health care benefits on a single-payer basis, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 11 to 5, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported, if amended SB 1116 (Scott)**, which would limit a conservator's power to sell a conservatee's personal residence, passed the Assembly Appropriations

Committee on August 9, 2006 by a vote of 13 to 0, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported SB 1288 (Cedillo)**, which would increase Drug Medi-Cal benefits and reimbursement rates for youths aged 12 to 20 suffering from substance abuse disorders, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 14 to 4, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 1350 (Romero)**, which would require the State Emergency Medical Services Authority to establish a statewide trauma system with trauma care regions to facilitate the coordination of emergency care and distribution of available funding, was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File because of increased costs to the State General Fund.

**County-supported SB 1520 (Ducheny)**, which would clarify that the five University of California academic medical centers and the County's five public hospitals are treated as a "system" rather than on a facility specific basis for the purposes of allocating Medicaid dollars under the Hospital Financing Waiver to the extent that payments do not exceed the sum of individual hospital payments, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 18 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported Senate Bill 1534 (Alarcon)**, which would require the California Health and Human Services Agency, Public Utilities Commission, Department of Education, and the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to work together to ensure individuals and families that meet eligibility requirements to enroll in low income programs administered by these agencies through a single application, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 13 to 5, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 1550 (Figueroa)**, which would establish a State board within the California Department of Consumer Affairs to license and regulate professional conservators, guardians, and trustees, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 13 to 5, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 1596 (Runner)**, which would establish the Nurse-Family Partnership Program and require the California Department of Health Services to make grants available to counties to provide voluntary visiting nurse services to first-time pregnant, low-income mothers, their children and their families, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 18 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 1622 (Escutia)**, which would require the California Department of Health Services and the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to develop an

informational document entitled the "Healthy Families/Medi-Cal Workplace Notice" for California employers within identified industries to provide to their employees regarding the availability of health coverage through the Healthy Families Program and the Medi-Cal Program, was placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File on August 16, 2006.

**County-supported SB 1716 (Bowen)**, which would expand the Probate Court's authority to investigate reports of a conservator's performance and review a conservatorship at any time deemed necessary to determine that the conservator is acting in the best interest of a conservatee, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 13 to 5, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SB 1773 (Alarcon)**, which would augment the Emergency Medical Services Fund by allowing counties to collect an additional \$2 penalty assessment on every \$10 penalty for all criminal offenses and moving violations, and require that 15 percent of the funds be used to fund all pediatric trauma centers throughout a county electing to adopt the additional penalty assessment, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on August 17, 2006 by a vote of 13 to 5, and now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

**County-supported SJR 13 (Escutia)**, which would urge the President and Congress to amend the Federal Railroad Safety Act to increase the authority of State and local governments to enact railroad safety regulations providing greater protection for their residents from railroad derailments, hazardous materials spills, and highway-rail crossing accidents, as long as state enactments, rules, or regulations do not conflict with Federal law and do not impose an unreasonable burden on interstate commerce, passed the Assembly Floor on August 14, 2006 by a vote of 42 to 31, and now proceeds to the Governor's Desk.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:JF:IGR:c

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Sheriff  
Probation Department  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 660  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association