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First District

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Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

December 5, 2006

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Legislature Convenes 2007-08 Session

The California Legislature convened the 2007-08 Legislative Session on December 4, 2006. Press conferences were held by Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez and Assembly Minority Leader Mike Villines to preview their 2007 Agendas. The Sacramento advocates have provided the following highlights of these events.

The first issue mentioned by Senator Perata was implementation of the infrastructure bond package approved by the voters in November. He reported that the Legislature will be passing bills to allocate the bond funds, and he stressed that there would be no earmarks in those bills. In response to a question about when the bonds would be sold, the Senator indicated that it was not necessary to "sell" the bonds in order to begin work because of the State's cash position. According to Senator Perata, Caltrans Director Will Kempton will be one of the key players for the Administration on the bonds.

In addition, Senator Perata offered that healthcare and prisons would be high on the 2007 agenda. He made a point of reminding the media that the Senate has been working for over a year on healthcare, and that he was interested to see what the Governor will be proposing in both healthcare and prisons.

When asked about when there would be a new President pro Tempore, Senator Perata told the media that he subscribed to the Senator John Burton theory of succession—that he intends to be the pro Tem until after the 2008 elections, that there will be an orderly transition, and that he will announce when campaigning can commence to identify a successor with consequences if anyone attempted to start campaigning sooner.

In response to a question about reapportionment, Senator Perata responded that he was open and available for discussion and that the Senate had already passed a reapportionment bill to the Assembly. He added that there was no agreement between parties on linking a reapportionment change to a change in term limits. However, he did comment that truncated terms were diminishing the knowledge base of the Legislature.

In his opening comments, Speaker Nuñez expressed his desire to keep rebuilding California through bipartisanship efforts, and indicated that he will be traveling tomorrow to Washington, D.C. to speak with Senator Barbara Boxer on global warming. He also will be meeting with Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi on a variety of issues facing California, including the fact that California does not receive its fair share of federal dollars.

Speaker Nuñez added, the top priorities of his caucus were going to be education, healthcare and the environment. He said that he would continue the bipartisanship that worked well last year and that he intended that the Assembly would be “results focused”. He assured the media that he would “say no to divisive politics” and stressed that the business of the Assembly would be conducted civilly and respectfully.

Assembly Minority Leader Mike Villines told the media that closing the structural State Budget gap was “the” critical issue for his caucus. When asked whether an on-time Budget was more important than one that reflected more of his caucus’ priorities, he said that he wanted both. However, in response to a follow-up question, he admitted that a Budget that was done well was more important than one that was on-time. He also reiterated his caucus’ view that California didn’t have a revenue problem; it had an expenditure problem.

The next issue Assembly Member Villines stressed was implementation of the bonds approved by the voters in November. He opined that this needs to be “done quickly and done well”, that it needs to be done on a bipartisan basis and that it must contain provisions for Legislative oversight.

The third priority mentioned by Minority Leader Villines was reapportionment. He announced that he would be introducing a Constitutional Amendment dealing with reapportionment: **ACA 4 (Villines)**. He set out his goals for reapportionment

as: a Legislature with seats that are competitive in both the primary and general elections; district boundaries that are common-sense and geographically compact; and that the district lines would be drawn by a citizens' commission with no participation by the Legislature. In response to a question, he added that his bill had no linkage to a change in term limits. Further, he suggested that there was no desire in his caucus to link the two issues, and that his personal view was that term limits should be left as they are.

Assembly Member Villines also acknowledged that healthcare would be a major issue this year given it is one of the Governor's priorities. He expressed a willingness by his caucus to engage with the Governor as soon as possible to work on this issue. As of now, they have no specific health proposal. However, they do have some basic principles for a healthcare package: that there will be no mandates; that it will be performed by the free market as much as possible and that it would be incentive driven. When asked how new health coverage would be paid for, Assembly Member Villines said that his caucus was very firm that there would be no new taxes or fees and that the key was to find efficiencies to cover the costs.

Listed below are the Assembly leaders and the chairs of the Assembly committees.

Assembly Officers

Speaker – Fabian Nuñez
Speaker pro Tempore – Sally Lieber
Assistant Speaker pro Tempore – Laura Richardson
Majority Floor Leader – Karen Bass
Assistant Majority Floor Leader – Kevin De Leon
Democratic Caucus Chair – Noreen Evans
Director of Majority Affairs – Alberto Torrico
Majority Whip – Fiona Ma
Asst. Majority Whip – Mary Hayashi
Republican Leader – Mike Villines
Assistant Minority Leader – To Be Announced
Republican Caucus Chair – To Be Announced

Assembly Committee Chairs

Aging and Long-Term Care – Patty Berg
Agriculture – Nicole Parra
Appropriations – Mark Leno
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media – Betty Karnette
Banking and Finance – Ted Lieu

Budget – John Laird

- **Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services** – Patty Berg
- **Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance** – Julia Brownley
- **Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources** – Ira Ruskin
- **Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration** – Juan Arambula
- **Subcommittee No. 5 on Information Technology/Transportation** – Mike Feuer

Business and Professions – Mike Eng

Education – Gene Mullin

Elections and Redistricting – Curren Price

Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials – Jared Huffman

Governmental Organization – Alberto Torrico

Health – Mervyn Dymally

Higher Education – Anthony Portantino

Housing and Community Development – Lori Saldana

Human Services – Jim Beall

Insurance – Joe Coto

Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy – Juan Arambula

Judiciary – Dave Jones

Labor and Employment – Sandré Swanson

Local Government – Anna Caballero

Natural Resources – Loni Hancock

Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security – Ed Hernandez

Public Safety – Jose Solorio

Revenue and Taxation – Chuck Calderon

Rules – Hector De La Torre

Transportation – Pedro Nava

Utilities and Commerce – Lloyd Levine

Veterans Affairs – Mary Salas

Water, Parks and Wildlife – Lois Wolk

Senate Officers

President pro Tempore – Don Perata

Assistant President pro Tempore – To Be Announced

Majority Leader – Gloria Romero

Majority Whip – To Be Announced

Democratic Caucus Chair – Carole Migden

Republican Leader – Dick Ackerman

Assistant Republican Leader – To Be Announced

Republican Caucus Chair – George Runner

Republican Whip – David Cogdill

The Senate is expected to announce its committee chairs sometime this week.

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The Legislature will reconvene on Wednesday, January 3, 2007. The Governor is expected to deliver his State of the State Address on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 and he will release his proposed State Budget for 2007-08 on Wednesday, January 10, 2007.

CSAC Board of Directors Meeting

On Thursday, November 30, 2006, the California State Association of Counties Board of Directors met in Anaheim as part of its Annual Conference. At that meeting, the Board heard and adopted three policy guidelines. The first item, which came from the Administration of Justice Policy Committee, related to policies and guidelines for correctional reform developed by the County Corrections Reform Working Group whose membership included supervisors, county administrative officers, and county staff. These policies acknowledge that the optimum corrections strategy is a partnership between the State and local government which focuses on reducing recidivism and must provide adequate funding to counties while providing flexibility to recognize the unique characteristics of each county's criminal justice environment.

The second and third items were developed by the Government Finance and Operations Policy Committee and relate to redevelopment and eminent domain, and library funding. The redevelopment and eminent domain adopted guidelines support a more restrictive definition of blight and specifically recognize that while eminent domain is a necessary and useful tool for important public projects, residential property should be protected from the use of eminent domain for private development as much as possible. The third item supports full State funding of the Public Library Foundation to be used to improve educational opportunities to Californians by allowing these funds to supplement existing library budgets for their basic needs.

Urban County Caucus Board of Directors Meeting

On November 29, 2006, the Urban County Caucus Board of Directors adopted its legislative policies for the 2007-08 Legislative Session. The adopted policies cover the areas of Governance and Finance, Health and Human Services, and Justice, and are consistent with the County's Board-approved Legislative Agenda.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:DJW:IGR:hg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel