



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Third District

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Fifth District

February 8, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Executive Summary

This memorandum provides an update on the following:

- **Status of County-Sponsored Legislation:**
  - **AB 246 (Bradford)** - related to amendments to the Brown Act which would authorize the legislative body of a local agency to hold closed session meetings with the Governor on matters posing a threat to public buildings or public services.
  - **SB 184 (Committee on Governance and Finance)** - which includes a County-sponsored provision related to the appointment of members of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy governing board.
- **Legislation of County Interest** - a report on three measures (SB 17, SB 125 and SB 147 by Senator Gaines) related to fire prevention fees for State Responsibility Areas.

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### **Status of County-Sponsored Legislation**

**County-sponsored AB 246 (Bradford)**, which, as introduced on February 6, 2013, would authorize the legislative body of a local agency to hold closed session meetings with the Governor on matters posing a threat to the security of public buildings, a threat to the security of essential public services, or a threat to the public's right of access to public services or public facilities.

On February 7, 2012, the Board directed this office to pursue County-sponsored legislation to amend the Brown Act to authorize the Governor to meet in executive session with the Board of Supervisors on matters posing a threat to the security of public buildings or essential public services. **County-sponsored AB 1736 (Smyth) of 2012**, which would have amended the Brown Act to include the Governor in such sessions, failed passage in the Senate Floor at the end of the last legislative session.

As introduced, County-sponsored AB 246 is consistent with previous Board action to pursue legislation related to the Brown Act to allow the Governor to meet in executive session on matters posing a threat to the security of public buildings or essential public services.

AB 246 is currently in the Assembly pending referral to committee.

**County-sponsored SB 184 (Committee on Governance and Finance)**, which, as introduced on February 6, 2013, is the Senate Committee on Governance and Finance's local government omnibus bill. The omnibus bill is intended to combine several minor, noncontroversial statutory changes relating to the common theme, purpose, and subject of local government into a single measure.

SB 184 includes, among other provisions, a County-sponsored amendment to Section 32556 of the Public Resources Code to allow the seat on the Baldwin Hills Conservancy governing board that is designated for the Los Angeles County Supervisor within whose district the Conservancy is located to be filled by a designee of the Supervisor.

Under existing law, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy governing board shall consist of 13 voting members and seven non-voting members. Nine of the board's member seats are designated for the lead representative of State or County agencies, or his or her designee. One seat is designated for the Los Angeles County Supervisor within whose district the Baldwin Conservancy is located, but the law, as currently written, does not allow a designee for this seat.

The Department of Parks and Recreation reports that the County-sponsored amendment in SB 184 related to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy would ensure that the County's interests are represented on the Conservancy's board.

As introduced, the provision of SB 184 related to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy is consistent with Board-approved policy to support legislation to authorize the appointment of a designee to the governing board of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to ensure the County's interests are represented.

SB 184 is currently in the Senate pending referral to a committee.

### **Legislation of County Interest Related to Fire Prevention Fees**

Over the past couple of weeks Senator Ted Gaines introduced three measures related to fire prevention fees for State Responsibility Areas (SRA).

Pursuant to existing law, ABX1 29 (Chapter 8, Statutes of 2011) required the State Board of Equalization to establish a SRA fee of up to \$150 dollars to be charged on habitable structures within those areas to cover costs related to fire prevention services in wildland areas.

According to a California Department of Finance analysis, the SRA fee is estimated to generate up to \$200.0 million in ongoing State General Fund revenue to be directed to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal FIRE) for fire prevention efforts. Per the requirements of ABX1 29, Cal FIRE convened a working group to develop recommendations on implementation of the SRA fee and to address legal and programmatic issues. The working group met to further define the types of structures and dwellings upon which the fire prevention fees would be assessed and approved the SRA fee regulations in January 2012. According to the Fire Department, the existing SRA fee impacts approximately 15,500 parcels containing close to 17,000 dwelling units throughout Los Angeles County.

The measures related to the SRA fire prevention fees include:

- **SB 17 (Gaines)** - as introduced on December 3, 2012, proposes to repeal the fire prevention fee in its entirety. SB 17 is currently pending hearing in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.
- **SB 125 (Gaines)** - which, as introduced on January 22, 2013, would exempt the owner of a structure that is both within a SRA and within the boundaries of a local

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fire district that provides fire protection services from the payment of the fire prevention fee. SB 125 is currently in the Senate pending referral to committee.

- **SB 147 (Gaines)** - which, as introduced on January 31, 2012, would exempt the owner of a structure on a parcel within a State Responsibility Area from payment of the fire prevention fee, if the owner has an income of less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

This office will continue to work with the Fire Department to monitor and report to the Board on the status of these bills and other measures related to fire prevention fees.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:KA:AO:ma

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 721  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
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