



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

HYBRID LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members

Councilmember Michael A. Cacciotti, Chair
Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson
Supervisor Curt Hagman
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Councilmember Nithya Raman
Councilmember Brenda Olmos

March 14, 2025 ♦ 9:00 a.m.

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION

Paramount City Hall 16400 Colorado Ave. Paramount, CA 90723	Riverside City Hall 3900 Main Street Riverside, CA 92522
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A meeting of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Legislative Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 2025, through a hybrid format of in-person attendance in the Dr. William A. Burke Auditorium at the South Coast AQMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California, and remote attendance via videoconferencing and by telephone. Please follow the instructions below to join the meeting remotely.

Please refer to South Coast AQMD's website for information regarding the format of the meeting, updates if the meeting is changed to a full remote via webcast format, and details on how to participate:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/meeting-agendas-minutes>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION AT BOTTOM OF AGENDA

Join Zoom Webinar Meeting - from PC or Laptop

<https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/99574050701>

Zoom Webinar ID: 995 7405 0701 (applies to all)

Teleconference Dial In

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Audience will be able to provide public comment through telephone or Zoom connection during public comment periods.

PUBLIC COMMENT WILL STILL BE TAKEN

AGENDA

Members of the public may address this body concerning any agenda item before or during consideration of that item (Gov't. Code Section 54954.3(a)). If you wish to speak, raise your hand on Zoom or press Star 9 if participating by telephone. All agendas for regular meetings are posted at South Coast AQMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California, at least 72 hours in advance of the regular meeting. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes total for all items on the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 1 through 2):

1. **Interviews to Select Legislative Representation in Sacramento, CA** *Lisa Tanaka*
(Motion Requested) *Deputy Executive Officer*
Legislative, Public Affairs & Media
At the January 10, 2025 meeting, the Governing Board approved release of an RFP to solicit proposals for specialized legislative representation and strategic political consulting services for South Coast AQMD in Sacramento, California for FY 2025-2026. Two separate proposals were received from Actum II, LLC and Resolute Company, LLC. The Legislative Committee will interview and select a contractor for legislative representation in Sacramento. Recommendations from the Legislative Committee will be forwarded to the Board for final approval.
[Attachment 1a-1b]

2. **Update on South Coast AQMD Sponsored State Legislation** *Philip Crabbe III*
(No Motion Required) *Senior Public Affairs Manager*
Legislative, Public Affairs & Media
Staff will provide an update to the Committee on 2025 South Coast AQMD sponsored state legislation:
 1. *Clean-up Amendments to AB 2851 (Bonta, 2024) re: Fenceline Monitoring at Metal-shredding Facilities*
 2. *CARB Board Air District Representative Fair Compensation*
 3. *Statewide Air Quality Incident Response Program*

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Items 3 through 4):

3. **Update and Discussion on Federal Legislative Issues**
(No Motion Required)

Consultants will provide a brief oral report on Federal legislative activities in Washington D.C.

[Attachment 2a-2c - Written Reports]

*Gary Hoitsma
Carmen Group*

*Lio Barrera
Cassidy & Associates*

*Ben Miller
Kadesh & Associates, LLC*

4. **Update and Discussion on State Legislative Issues**
(No Motion Required)

Consultants will provide a brief oral report on State legislative activities in Sacramento.

[Attachment 3a-3c - Written Reports]

*David Quintana
Resolute*

*Ross Buckley
Buckley Government Affairs
LLC*

*Paul Gonsalves
Joe A. Gonsalves & Son*

OTHER MATTERS:

5. **Other Business**

Any member of this body, or its staff, on his or her own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, may ask a question for clarification, may make a brief announcement or report on his or her own activities, provide a reference to staff regarding factual information, request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. (Govt. Code Section 54954.2)

6. **Public Comment Period**

At the end of the regular meeting agenda, an opportunity is provided for the public to speak on any subject within the Legislative Committee's authority that is not on the agenda. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes.

7. **Next Meeting Date** –April 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Document Availability

All documents (i) constituting non-exempt public records, (ii) relating to an item on an agenda for a regular meeting, and (iii) having been distributed to at least a majority of the Committee after the agenda is posted, are available by contacting Maria Corralejo at (909) 396-2759 or send the request to mcorralejo@aqmd.gov.

Americans with Disabilities Act and Language Accessibility

Disability and language-related accommodations can be requested to allow participation in the Legislative Committee meeting. The agenda will be made available, upon request, in appropriate alternative formats to assist persons with a disability (Gov't Code Section 54954.2(a)). In addition, other documents may be requested in alternative formats and languages. Any disability or language-related accommodation must be requested as soon as practicable. Requests will be accommodated unless providing the accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden to South Coast AQMD. Please contact Maria Corralejo at (909) 396-2759 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or send the request to mcorralejo@aqmd.gov.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Instructions for Participating in a Virtual Meeting as an Attendee

As an attendee, you will have the opportunity to virtually raise your hand and provide public comment.

Before joining the call, please silence your other communication devices such as your cell or desk phone. This will prevent any feedback or interruptions during the meeting.

Please note: During the meeting, all participants will be placed on mute by the host. You will not be able to mute or unmute your lines manually.

After each agenda item, the Chair will announce public comment.

A countdown timer will be displayed on the screen for each public comment.

If interpretation is needed, more time will be allotted.

Once you raise your hand to provide public comment, your name will be added to the speaker list. Your name will be called when it is your turn to comment. The host will then unmute your line.

Directions for Video ZOOM on a DESKTOP/LAPTOP:

- If you would like to make a public comment, please click on the “**Raise Hand**” button on the bottom of the screen.
- This will signal to the host that you would like to provide a public comment and you will be added to the list.

Directions for Video Zoom on a SMARTPHONE:

- If you would like to make a public comment, please click on the “**Raise Hand**” button on the bottom of your screen.
- This will signal to the host that you would like to provide a public comment and you will be added to the list.

Directions for TELEPHONE line only:

- If you would like to make public comment, please **dial *9** on your keypad to signal that you would like to comment.

DRAFT

BOARD MEETING DATE: DATE

AGENDA NO. XX

PROPOSAL: Execute Contract(s) for Legislative Representation in Sacramento, California

SYNOPSIS: At the January 10, 2025 meeting, the Board approved release of an RFP to solicit proposals for specialized legislative representation and strategic political consulting services for South Coast AQMD in Sacramento for FY 2025-2026. Two separate proposals were received from Actum II, LLC and Resolute Company, LLC. On March 14, 2025, the Legislative Committee recommended approval of the execution of contract(s) with _____ for \$_____ for legislative representation in Sacramento.

COMMITTEE: Legislative, March 14, 2025, Recommended for Approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Authorize the Chair to execute contract(s) with _____ in an amount not to exceed \$_____ for legislative representation in Sacramento, California for a one-year period, with two additional one-year term extensions upon approval by the Board.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

Background

Specialized legislative representation and strategic political consulting services for South Coast AQMD in Sacramento are essential to advance the Board's policies and priorities, especially considering budgetary and critical policy issues such as, but not limited to, the reauthorization of Cap and Trade and funding for AB 617. Strategic relationships with high-level elected and appointed officials are necessary to achieve legislative and budgetary objectives in the current political environment. South Coast AQMD also is sponsoring three state bills as directed by the Board.

Legislative Priorities for FY 2025-26

A strong presence in Sacramento is crucial to build support for South Coast AQMD-sponsored bills and protect the agency's authority and interests.

- Reauthorization of the Cap-and-Trade program including Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund allocations to maximize criteria pollutant and toxic emission reductions.
- Securing funding to support AB 617 and to continue to foster environmental justice, equitable access to clean technologies, and community participation.
- Protecting, increasing, and identifying new funding sources to support South Coast AQMD programs that achieve state and federal air quality standards and reduce toxic air contaminants. Ensuring sufficient administrative funding to implement clean air programs effectively.
- Defending South Coast AQMD's authority to raise revenue and impose fees to support implementation of AQMPs and SIPs.
- Preventing unfunded state mandates and advocating for the state's active role in reducing regional air pollution through legislation, regulatory actions, and funding.
- Promoting air quality initiatives related to transportation, infrastructure, and goods movement, focusing on deploying the cleanest technologies.
- Advancing legislative and administrative policies for zero-emission technologies and infrastructure to protect public health, achieve clean air standards, and bolster economic growth.
- Advocating for energy efficiency, renewable energy development, and emissions reduction measures, particularly in environmental justice communities.
- Promoting job retention, workforce training for zero-emission technologies, and economic growth aligned with clean air goals.
- Addressing air quality impacts from wildfires, dust storms, and other public health risks.
- Supporting legislative measures to meet South Coast AQMD's administrative and operational needs.

At the January 10, 2025 meeting, the Board approved release of an RFP to solicit proposals for specialized legislative representation and strategic political consulting services for South Coast AQMD in Sacramento for FY 2025-2026. Two separate

proposals were received from Actum II, LLC and Resolute Company, LLC. On March 14, 2025, the Legislative Committee recommended approval of the execution of contract(s) with _____ for \$ _____ each, for a total amount not to exceed \$ _____ for legislative representation in Sacramento.

Outreach

In accordance with South Coast AQMD’s Procurement Policy and Procedure, a public notice advertising the RFP and inviting bids were published in the Los Angeles Times, the Orange County Register, the San Bernardino Sun, Riverside County's Press Enterprise, and the Sacramento Bee newspapers, to leverage the most cost-effective method of outreach to the South Coast region.

Additionally, notice of the RFP was e-mailed to the Black and Latino Legislative Caucuses and various minority chambers of commerce and business associations, and placed on South Coast AQMD’s website (<http://www.aqmd.gov>) where it can be viewed by making the selection “Grants & Bids.”

Bid Evaluation

Two proposals were received in response to the RFP. The proposals were evaluated by a three-member panel, including one South Coast AQMD senior manager, who was male and Latino; one South Coast AQMD manager, who was female and Latina, and one outside municipal official, who was male and Caucasian. All proposals were deemed technically qualified, and all proponents were interviewed by the South Coast AQMD Legislative Committee. Attachment A provides the final scores for the four firms.

Proposal

Staff proposes to execute contract(s) with _____ in an amount not to exceed \$ _____ for legislative representation in Sacramento, California, for a one-year period, with two additional one-year term extensions upon approval of the Board.

Resource Impacts

Sufficient funds are available in the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2024-25 Budget for the services requested. Funding for future fiscal years is contingent upon Board approval of the Budget.

Attachment

RFP #P2025-06 Scores and Costs Matrix for Qualifying Firms

Attachment A

RFP #P2025-06 SCORES AND COSTS MATRIX FOR QUALIFYING FIRMS

Firm Name	Technical Score	Additional Points	Cost Points	Total Points	Total Cost
Actum, LLC	47.7	0	30.0	77.7	\$180,000
Resolute	64.7	12.0	30.0	106.7	\$180,000



Carmen Group
I N C O R P O R A T E D

To: South Coast AQMD Legislative Committee
From: Carmen Group
Date: February 25, 2025
Re: Federal Update -- Executive Branch

FY25 Appropriations: As of late February, House and Senate appropriators continued to work toward a hoped-for bipartisan agreement to approve the remainder of FY25 appropriations in the face of a March 14 deadline. Members want to avoid a government shutdown and also avoid a possible year-long continuing resolution (CR) at current levels, as that could trigger possible automatic spending cuts per a 2023 budget agreement designed to prevent future CRs. The final sticking point in the negotiations is the Democrats' demand for a provision outlawing the President's ability to withhold appropriated funds even for a temporary period, something the Republicans will not agree to. A short-term stop-gap CR to stretch the March 14 deadline appeared likely.

Reconciliation: House and Senate Republicans continue on a path to set up one or two filibuster-proof reconciliation bills later this year covering immigration, border, defense, energy, tax cuts, spending cuts and debt limit issues. The process begins with House and Senate passage of concurrent budget resolutions. Earlier in February, the Senate passed its version, but without the tax and debt limit issues. Meanwhile the House passed its "one big bill" budget resolution in a close 217-215 vote on Feb. 25, 2025.

Trump Administration

Cabinet: By late February, the Administration was on track to secure Senate confirmation of all of its cabinet level nominees by approximately mid-March.

Deregulation: In January, an executive order on "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation," stated that "for each new regulation issued, at least 10 prior regulations be identified for elimination."

RIFs: In February, an executive order on "Implementing the President's DOGE Workforce Optimization Initiative" called on agency heads to prepare for "large-scale reductions-in force (RIFs)" of Federal employees.

NGOs: In February, the President directed all agency heads to review "all funding that agencies provide to non-governmental organizations (NGOs)" and to eliminate such funding which is not in sync with Administration goals and priorities.

Independent Agencies: In February, an executive order on "Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies" directed that all independent agency chairmen regularly coordinate with the White House and defer to the President and the Attorney General for authoritative interpretations of law for the executive branch.

Proven Process. Proven Results.™

Environmental Protection Agency

Zeldin Announces Five Themes for Trump EPA: Upon taking office, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced what he called the “Powering the Great American Comeback” initiative, encompassing the five themes he says will drive the Trump EPA: 1) Clean Air, Land and Water for Every American; 2) Restore American Energy Dominance; 3) Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership; 4) Making the U.S. the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World; and 5) Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs.

Zeldin Seeks to Claw Back EPA GGRF Program Funds Distributed Last Year: In February, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced an immediate effort to claw back and restore EPA control over \$20 billion in funds distributed last year under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Program, which was authorized and funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. Zeldin described the Biden EPA’s handling of the funds as an inappropriate and unprecedented handoff designed to rush billions of federal dollars outside the government before the 2024 election (in anticipation of a possible change in administrations), while ceding authority for the ultimate funding decisions on thousands of climate-related projects to less accountable NGOs, some with questionable political and other connections. The entire matter is now likely to be fiercely litigated before any final resolution. For reference, see Biden EPA press releases describing the program: [EPA Press Release -- April 4, 2024](#)
[EPA Press Release -- August 16, 2024](#)

EPA Submits California Waivers to Congress: In February, the EPA announced it was submitting to Congress the Biden Administration rules granting waivers that allowed California to preempt federal car and truck standards. These include California’s Advanced Clean Cars II, Advanced Clean Trucks, and Omnibus NOx rules, each now likely to be voted down through Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions.

Notable EPA Appointments:

David Fotouhi, *Deputy Administrator Nominee* (Trump I EPA Gen. Counsel)

Sean Donahue, *General Counsel Nominee* (Federalist Society)

Aaron Szabo, *Asst. Admin., Office of Air & Radiation Nominee* (Trump I CEQ)

Jessica Kramer, *Asst. Admin., for Water Nominee* (Trump I EPA) (Senate EPW)

Catherine Hanson, *Chief Financial Officer Nominee* (Trump I EPA)

Eric Amidon, *Chief of Staff* (Zeldin Staff since 2014)

Alex Dominguez, *OAR Deputy Asst. Admin. for Mobile Sources* (Trump I EPA)

Department of Energy

Wright Announces Nine Themes for Trump DOE: Upon taking office, Energy Secretary Chris Wright announced nine themes he said would drive the Trump Department of Energy and “Unleash a Golden Era of American Energy Dominance”: 1) Advance Energy Addition, Not Subtraction; 2) Unleash American Energy Innovation; 3) Return to Regular Order on LNG Exports; 4) Promote Affordability and Consumer Choice in Home Appliances; 5) Refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; 6) Modernize America’s Nuclear Stockpile; 7) Unleash Commercial Nuclear Power in the U.S.;

Strengthen Grid Reliability and Security; and 9) Streamline Permitting and Identify Undue Burdens on American Energy.

Wright Issues First New LNG Export Approval: In February, Energy Secretary Chris Wright announced a new liquefied natural gas export approval to Commonwealth LNG in Louisiana – the first since President Trump lifted the Biden Administration’s freeze on such export permit approvals.

Notable DOE Appointments:

- James Danly**, *Deputy Secretary Nominee* (Trump I FERC Member)
- David Eisner**, *Asst. Sec. for International Affairs Nominee*
- Tina Pierce**, *Chief Financial Officer Nominee* (DOD Deputy CFO)
- Audrey Robertson**, *Asst. Sec., for EERE Nominee* ((Oil/Gas Co. CFO)
- Wells Griffith**, *Undersecretary Nominee* (Trump I DOE)
- Dario Gil**, *Undersecretary for Science & Innovation Nominee* (Trump I DOE)
- Alexander Fitzsimmons**, *Chief of Staff* (Trump I DOE EERE Deputy)

Department of Transportation

Duffy Directs Resetting of Current CAFÉ Standards: Upon taking office, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy’s first act was to sign a memorandum directing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to immediately initiate a rulemaking to rescind or replace all existing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards for cars and light trucks. He said the current standards were burdensome and overly restrictive, and had needlessly driven up the cost of a car, sacrificing affordability and consumer choice.

Duffy Directs Review of California High-Speed Rail Project: In February, Secretary Duffy directed the Federal Railroad Administration to initiate review of the California High-Speed Rail Authority to determine whether roughly \$4 billion in federal money should remain committed to the project.

Notable DOT Appointments:

- Steven Bradbury**, *Deputy Secretary Nominee* (Trump I DOT Gen. Counsel)
- David Fink**, *FRA Administrator Nominee* (Fmr. President, Pam Am Rail Corp.)
- Jonathon Morrison**, *NHTSA Administrator Nominee* (Trump I NHTSA Gen. Counsel)
- Marcus Molinaro**, *FTA Administrator Nominee* (Fmr. US Rep. NY19)
- Paul Roberti**, *PHMSA Administrator Nominee* (Trump I PHMSA Chief Counsel)
- Charles (Peter) Meachum**, *Chief of Staff* (Rep. Duffy Chief of Staff)
- Loren Smith**, *DAS, Transportation Policy* (Trump I DOT Staff)
- Ben Siegrist**, *Director of Public Liaison* (House T&I Highways/Transit Staff)

Outreach: During February, Carmen Group was in touch with Congressional staff, sources in the news media and DC policy organizations to gather intelligence on relevant administration, appropriations, and reconciliation matters.

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To: South Coast Air Quality Management District
From: Cassidy & Associates
Date: February 25, 2025
Re: February Report

HOUSE/SENATE

Congress

The House returned on Monday after a one-week recess, while the Senate has been in session since the beginning of January. The Senate passed its version of the budget resolution last week, which favors a two-bill approach for reconciliation. It differs from the House's one-bill approach. The budget resolution is the first step in the process of reconciliation, but both chambers of Congress will need to pass the same version of the resolution for it to move forward. Additionally, congressional offices and committees are gearing up to begin the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process.

Over the past month, the Senate has focused on confirming President Trump's cabinet nominees. The Senate confirmed Lee Zeldin as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 29. This week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on energy and environment spending.

EPA

On February 20, the EPA announced its intention to perform Five-Year Reviews of cleanups at 26 Superfund sites, including the Del Amo site in Los Angeles. Five-Year Reviews are required to ensure the remedy continues to be protective of public health and the environment. The Del Amo site was previously used for the production of synthetic rubber from 1943 to 1972. This will

be the site's third Five-Year Review, which will include a site inspection, review of site data, and interviews with stakeholders and the community. The Review will be completed by September 30, 2025. Read more [here](#).

On February 17, the EPA announced that it completed 75% of the hazardous waste cleanup from the Los Angeles wildfires. The project is the largest of its kind in the agency's history, and President Trump released an Executive Order requiring EPA to complete the work within 30 days. The project includes clearing 13,595 residential properties and 305 commercial properties of lithium-ion batteries and hazardous materials. As of the announcement, 12,024 properties had been surveyed, and 7,100 properties had been cleared. EPA partnered with the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security to complete the project. Read more [here](#).

On February 14, the EPA announced that it will transmit rules granting California's waivers to preempt EPA car and truck standards to Congress. Under the Biden Administration, EPA issued a rule granting California a waiver from federal standards for Advanced Clean Cars II, Advanced Clean Trucks, and Omnibus NOx rules. EPA did not previously transmit this rule to Congress, as required under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Once the rule has been received, Congress has the ability to pass a CRA disapproval resolution to invalidate the rule. Read more [here](#).

On February 11, the EPA announced that it had placed 171 employees on administrative leave. The employees worked on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility initiatives and Environmental Justice initiatives. The action was part of the EPA's implementation of President Trump's Executive Order, *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*. Additionally, EPA terminated 388 probationary employees; however, news outlets have reported that hundreds of employees later received emails rescinding their termination. Read more [here](#).

On February 4, the EPA announced a new initiative to support economic growth along with environmental protection, the Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative. The policy initiative includes five pillars that will serve as guiding principles for the agency: (1) clean air, land, and water for every American; (2) restore American energy dominance; (3) permitting reform, cooperative federalism, and cross-agency partnership; (4) make the United States the artificial intelligence capital of the world; and (5) protecting and bringing back American auto jobs. Read more [here](#).

On January 29, Lee Zeldin was sworn in as Administrator of the EPA. He was confirmed by the Senate with 56 votes in favor, including two Democrats. He previously served in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he supported the Great American Outdoors Act and the Save Our Seas

Act and sought to prevent per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. He is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve, with a 22-year career in the Army, including a deployment to Iraq in 2006. He has also served in the New York State Senate and practiced as an attorney. Read more [here](#).

Cassidy and Associates support in February:

- Worked with SCAQMD staff to strategize on future DC outreach and plan for DC visits.
- Advised SCAQMD on contacts within incoming Trump Administration and executive actions pursued by the Administration.
- Advised SCAQMD throughout appropriations cycle to identify and pursue funding opportunities.
- Participated in weekly strategy sessions with SCAQMD staff.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE DATES

March 14, 2025: Deadline to fund the federal government. In September, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution providing Congress with more time to complete its consideration and pass FY 2025 funding.

September 30, 2025: The Farm Bill, an omnibus package of legislation that supports US agriculture and food industries, expired in 2023. The bill is reauthorized on a five-year cycle.

December 31, 2025: National Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes and funds specialized Department of Defense (DoD) programs and sets the DoD's policy agenda each year.

KADESH & ASSOCIATES

South Coast AQMD Report for the March 2025
Legislative Meeting covering February 2025
Kadesh & Associates

Given the pace of change in Washington this year, it is likely that this report will have been overtaken by events by the time of the March meeting. While the Senate continues to process executive branch nominations on the floor, both the House and Senate have started work on the budget reconciliation process, which will be the main vehicle to implement President Trump's legislative agenda.

The reconciliation process - outlined in the Budget Control Act of 1974 - is that both chambers must pass an identical budget resolution, which instructs the authorizing committees to draft legislation to spend or cut certain amounts within their jurisdictions reflecting the majority's priorities. Once the committees report back on their specific changes that meet the numbers called for in the budget resolution, those recommendations are assembled into a budget reconciliation bill. Reconciliation bills (the American Rescue Plan Act and the Inflation Reduction Act are two recent examples) are considered under special rules in the Senate, allowing them to avoid a filibuster.

So far, the Senate has passed a version of the FY25 budget resolution, and the House has begun consideration of its version. The two resolutions, however, are very different and reflect different strategies being adopted by each chamber. In short, the Senate strategy is to focus on immigration and defense spending increases which avoids discussion of - and offsets required - to extend 2017 tax law. The House strategy - which reflects very slim margins there - is to get as much as it can into one bill that includes everything; House leadership is concerned the current majority will be unable to pass two reconciliation bills.

The House bill is the "one big beautiful" bill that President Trump has sought, spending over \$4 trillion to make permanent the 2017 law and to fund increases in defense spending and the border wall, while cutting \$2 trillion from the deficit Medicaid and SNAP among other cuts. The House bill would also raise the debt ceiling by \$4 trillion. We are already starting to see comments from House members from swing districts expressing their reservations about the offsets required by the House bill.

Meanwhile, the "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) staff have been focusing on one agency at a time and appear to have been at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) over the last week. It was reported recently that more than 300 FAA employees have been fired; in light of the recent aviation incidents, however, this has drawn bipartisan pushback. We are also seeing Senators and House members start to push back as the DOGE cuts impact areas of political concern, especially from Republican House members representing large federal agency constituencies (such as the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Georgia). Several DOGE actions - especially those focused on accessing Social Security and IRS records - are also drawing non-partisan ire.

KADESH & ASSOCIATES

The current Continuing Resolution expires on March 14. Despite several high-level meetings, leadership has been unable to reach consensus on a topline number required to complete the FY25 appropriations bills, and the Democratic leadership has been unwilling to grant many concessions without first addressing their concerns about DOGE, White House funding cuts, and the on again / off again freeze of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grants.

These bills take time to draft and finalize, and we have already passed the practical deadline for Congress to write bills for March 14. It should be noted that a shutdown is a definite possibility, especially as resolving the March 14 funding deadline and the October 1 fiscal year deadline are the only real points of legislative leverage congressional Democrats have this year.

Kadesh & Associates Activity Summary-

-Worked with South Coast AQMD and the congressional delegation on funding implications of Executive Orders and agency directives.

Contacts: Contacts included staff and Members throughout the CA delegation, Senate offices, and members of key committees.

RESOLUTE^{*}

South Coast Air Quality Management District Legislative and Regulatory Update –January 2025

❖ Important Upcoming Dates

April 10, 2025 – Spring Recess Begins Upon Adjournment

❖ RESOLUTE Actions on Behalf of South Coast AQMD. RESOLUTE partners David Quintana, and Alfredo Arredondo continued their representation of South Coast AQMD before the State's Legislative and Executive branches. Selected highlights of our recent advocacy include:

- Provided ongoing updates as the new legislative session began.
- Followed up on bills for the 2025 legislative session, including for South Coast AQMD sponsored legislation.
- Arranged meetings with key legislators on behalf of South Coast AQMD.

❖ AB 907 (Chen). Assemblymember Philip Chen has introduced AB 907, sponsored legislation for South Coast AQMD dealing with the inequity of pay for local air district board members appointed to serve on the CA Air Resources Board.

AB 907 was introduced on February 19th, 2025.

❖ AB 1106 (Rodriguez). Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez has introduced AB 1106, currently as a 'spot bill', which is sponsored legislation for South Coast AQMD which would establish Air Quality Incident Response centers to be located at local air districts, including at South Coast AQMD, to support response to crises impacting air quality and public health at the local and regional level. The AQIRs would be equipped with technical and communications infrastructure to support emergency response including, but not limited to, air monitoring, data collection and analysis, data publishing, integration into Unified Command and/or Joint Information Center, and other related activities. The bill would provide funding to plan, construct, and equip AQIRs as well as provide for on-going administrative funding to support readiness and implementation during future crises.

AB 1106 was introduced on February 20th, 2025. Given the 30 Day In Print Rule, the earliest the bill can be amended with the full language is 30 days after introduction.

South Coast AQMD, Legislative Committee Report
Buckley Government Affairs LLC
March 14, 2025

Legislative Session Update

February is always a significant month in the legislative calendar, as it marks the deadline for introducing new bills. This year, that deadline fell on February 21, 2025.

A total of 2,350 bills were introduced by the deadline, consisting of 1,500 Assembly bills and 850 Senate bills. Notably, 1,250 of these bills were introduced in the final four days leading up to the deadline. Additionally, we have seen that number increase to 1,504 Assembly bills because policy committees may continue introducing bills beyond this date.

As a reminder, the Senate and Assembly recently imposed a 35-bill limit per legislator, with the expectation that this would reduce the overall number of bills introduced. However, when compared to previous odd-numbered years, the impact appears to be modest as 2,632 bills were introduced in 2023, and 2,369 bills in 2021.

Budget Update

Both the Assembly and Senate have held their preliminary budget hearings to review the Governor's proposed budget. The Assembly has announced plans to hold more than 60 additional budget hearings, with the Senate expected to hold a similar number.

Additionally, the Department of Finance released its first Finance Bulletin of the year. Preliminary General Fund agency cash receipts are \$361 million, or 1.5% below the Governor's January Budget forecast, but they remained \$2.2 billion, or 2% above the fiscal year-to-date forecast. The year-to-date surplus was driven by higher-than-expected personal income tax receipts, which were up \$2.1 billion as well as an increase of \$483 million in other revenues. These gains were partially offset by lower corporation tax receipts, which are \$186 million below expectations, and sales tax receipts, which are \$96 million lower than projected.

It is important to note that the Governor's Budget forecast was finalized in late November and did not account for the delayed tax deadlines for Los Angeles County taxpayers, which impacted January receipts. Specifically, the fourth-quarter personal income tax estimated payment deadline of January 15 has been extended to October 15, and fourth-quarter sales tax payments for smaller businesses in Los Angeles County have been delayed from February 3 to April 30.

Appointments Update

On February 18th, Assemblymember Corey Jackson announced that the Speaker of the Assembly had appointed him to the California Air Resources Board as an Ex Officio Member.

On February 20th, Governor Newsom announced two relevant appointments:

Lynda Hopkins, of Sebastopol, has been appointed to the California Air Resources Board. Hopkins has been the Fifth District Supervisor on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors since 2016.

Dawn Ortiz-Legg, of San Luis Obispo, has been appointed to the California Air Resources Board. Ortiz-Legg has been the Third District Supervisor on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors since 2020.



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TO: South Coast Air Quality Management District

FROM: Anthony, Jason & Paul Gonsalves

SUBJECT: Legislative Update – February 2025

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2025

February 21 marked the deadline to introduce new bills in 2025. This year, both the Assembly and Senate reduced the number of bills each member is allowed to introduce. In the Assembly, it went from 50 to 35 and in the Senate it went from 40 to 35. Despite this, over 2,500 new bills are now in print and the vast majority were introduced just last week. The Assembly introduced 1,500 and the Senate introduced 850.

The following will provide you with updates of interest to the District:

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Lynda Hopkins, of Sebastopol, has been appointed to the California Air Resources Board. Hopkins has been the Fifth District Supervisor on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors since 2016. She was a Co-Owner at Foggy River Farm from 2008 to 2020. Hopkins was a Reporter at the Sonoma West Times & News from 2009 to 2013. She was the Executive Director at Sonoma County Farm Trails from 2008 to 2010. Hopkins was a Head Teaching Assistant at the Stanford University Earth Systems Program from 2005 to 2007. She is a member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Hopkins earned a Master of Science degree in Earth Systems, a Bachelor of Science degree in Earth Systems, and a Bachelor of the Arts degree in Creative Writing and Poetry from Stanford University. This position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Hopkins is a Democrat.

Dawn Ortiz-Legg, of San Luis Obispo, has been appointed to the California Air Resources Board. Ortiz-Legg has been the Third District Supervisor on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors since 2020. She was a Right of Way Agent at Pacific Gas and Electric Company from 2018 to 2020. Ortiz-Legg was a Project Manager & Public Affairs Liaison at First Solar from 2010 to 2018. She was North American Sales and Marketing Manager at PTEC Corporation from 1999 to 2010. Ortiz-Legg is a member of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. She earned her Master of Public Policy degree in Climate Change and Technology Policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a Bachelor of the Arts degree in Organizational Communication from Pepperdine University. This position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Ortiz-Legg is a Democrat.

\$55 MILLION PROJECT FOR HIGH-POWERED ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

On February 13, the California Energy Commission (CEC) announced a new \$55 million funding window, set to launch in July 2025, to support the installation of electric vehicle (EV) fast-charging stations at businesses and public locations statewide. This initiative, known as the Fast Charge California Project, is part of the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP)—the nation’s largest EV charging incentive program. To date, CALeVIP has helped fund nearly 10,000 EV chargers, supporting the 1.5 million electric vehicles on California roads.

Applications will be open to EV charging service providers and representatives of sites such as gas stations, convenience stores, retail centers, hotels, parking lots, and other publicly accessible locations. The program prioritizes tribal, disadvantaged, and low-income communities and requires that projects be ready for construction with approved utility designs and permits before applying.

Key Features of the Fast Charge California Project:

- Funding available for direct current (DC) fast chargers only.
- Open to installations at any publicly accessible site statewide.
- Covers up to 100% of approved project costs, offering up to \$55,000 or \$100,000 per charging port, based on power level.
- Projects must have utility service design approval and construction permits before applying.
- Priority given to ready-to-build projects in underserved communities.

This initiative is part of California’s broader effort to expand EV infrastructure and accelerate the state’s transition to clean transportation.

MDHD ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE STATION DASHBOARD

On February 20, the California Energy Commission (CEC) unveiled a new medium- and heavy-duty (MDHD) zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) station dashboard, tracking 16,327 charging and hydrogen fueling points statewide. Developed using ArcGIS, this interactive tool monitors California’s progress in building the necessary charging ports and hydrogen fueling nozzles for MDHD ZEVs, informing future infrastructure funding decisions. The dashboard provides location details for publicly available MDHD ZEV charging and hydrogen fueling stations, including station addresses, port/nozzle counts, and additional specifications.

Key Features of the Dashboard:

- Charging Points: Represent individual electric charging ports.
- Fueling Points: Represent individual hydrogen fueling nozzles.
- Data Sources: Collected through an interagency effort involving CalSTA, CTC, Caltrans, CPUC, CARB, and local air quality management districts.
- Public & Private Stations: While many charging points are in private fleet depots, publicly accessible stations are growing with support from state grant programs.

Although trucks make up only 6% of California’s vehicles, they generate over 35% of transportation-related emissions and 25% of the state’s on-road greenhouse gases. Expanding MDHD ZEV infrastructure will help improve air quality and reduce health issues such as asthma in communities near major transportation corridors.

In 2023, new MDHD ZEV sales doubled, with one in six new vehicles in freight, last-mile delivery, and school transportation now being zero-emission. A statewide initiative will deploy 1,000 zero-emission school buses, reinforcing California's leadership in clean transit. Under the Innovative Clean Transit regulation, nearly 900 zero-emission buses (ZEBs) were reported in agency fleets as of 2023.

By accelerating the deployment of MDHD ZEVs and charging infrastructure, California continues to set a national precedent in reducing transportation emissions and fostering cleaner, healthier communities.

2025 LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

Feb. 21: Last day for bills to be introduced

May 2: Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees' fiscal bills introduced in their house

May 9: Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the Floor nonfiscal bills introduced in their house

May 16: Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 9

May 23: Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house. Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 9

June 2-6: Floor Session only. No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to A.R. 77.2, and Conference Committees

June 6: Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house

June 9: Committee meetings may resume

June 15: Budget bill must be passed by midnight

July 18: Last day for policy committees to hear and report bills

Aug. 29: Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report bills to the Floor

Sept. 2-12: Floor session only. No committees may meet for any purpose, except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees

Sept. 5: Last day to amend on the Floor

Sept. 12: Last day for each house to pass bills. Interim Recess begins upon adjournment