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**To:** East Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
**From:** Townsend Public Affairs  
**Date:** June 1, 2018  
**Subject:** Monthly Report for the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District — May 2018

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**CSDA Legislative Days**

Several Board members and Chief Helmick traveled to Sacramento on May 22-23 to participate in California Special District's Legislative Days.

In addition to the meetings arranged by CSDA, TPA set up additional meet and greets with the following key stakeholders:

Senate Steve Glazer  
Katie Kolistos – Office of Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Zachary Leahy – Office of Assemblywoman Autumn Burke

The purpose of the meetings was to inform stakeholders on the history of the District and the challenges that the District is facing. By telling our story we are working at putting the District in a position to have a seat at the table as key policy decision are being made that will affect our industry.

**Fire Foundation Grant**

TPA continues to work with the District to prepare an application for the Fire Foundation Grant. Pacific Gas & Electric Company and the California Fire Foundation have come together to help address the catastrophic effects of climate disasters that threaten millions of residents in California.

The Foundation and PG&E are partnering in helping local fire departments and firefighter associations address these issues through a \$1 million grant. Individual grants from this fund will aid these agencies in helping communities address issues such as wildfires, floods, and climate-caused disasters.

Grants are due on June 15, 2018.

**State Political Update**

In the month of May, the Legislature focused on fiscal-related bills in their respective appropriations committees. Hundreds of bills failed to make it out of their appropriations

committees before the deadline on May 25 and are now dead. There are approximately 2100 bills that are still alive and moving through the process. The Legislature will now turn their full attention to the budget process with a budget bill due before June 15.

Below is a list of upcoming dates in the Legislature:

- **June 1** – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house
- **June 15** – Budget Bill must be passed by midnight
- **June 28** – Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the November 6 General Election Ballot

After the Governor released his May Revise, the Assembly and the Senate convened a series of budget subcommittee hearings to negotiate specifics of the budget. Once these various budget subcommittees finalized their work, each house approved their own budget proposal. Differences between the Senate and Assembly versions of the budget are currently being consolidated by a conference committee before the final budget is voted on.

The final budget agreement must be in print by June 12 to allow the Legislature to pass a budget by the June 15 deadline.

#### May Budget Revise

On May 11, the Governor released his May Revise, an updated starting point for budget negotiations that includes the latest tax revenue numbers. The May Revise includes \$137.6 billion in General Fund spending, which represents a \$3 billion increase over the Governor's January Budget proposal. As has been the case for the last several budgets, the Governor has focused the increased revenue toward building up the State's reserves, paying down debt, and investing in one-time funding. The May Revise did not propose any new major on-going programs but did maintain the Governor's January proposal to fully fund the State's rainy-day fund, as well as invest nearly \$4 billion in one-time spending.

#### Disaster Readiness for SAFER Communities

The D-RiSC coalition has been working diligently over the past few months to ask for \$100 million in the final 2018-19 State Budget for pre-positioning fire personnel and apparatus and to update the California mutual aid system.

The State Senate has recommended \$25 million to fund pre-deployment of local government firefighters and equipment during times of extreme weather and elevated risk for wildfire and other disasters. While fire chiefs, firefighters and local governments appreciate the Senate's proposal, it is far short of the \$100 million requested to effectively utilize pre-positioning as a proactive strategy to combat climate-caused disasters. In addition, no money has been proposed for modernizing Mutual Aid communications and dispatch technology.

The Legislative Budget Conference Committee will meet the first week of June to reconcile the budget proposals drafted in both houses. Once a consensus budget has been reached it will go to the floor of each house for a vote before going to the Governor for his signature.

## **Federal Legislative Update**

In May, Congress struggled to advance major policy bills as legislators continued to battle over contentious issues such as immigration and abortion. House and Senate Appropriations Committees also began releasing its first drafts of their bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, which would set federal funding levels beginning October 1, 2018. Advancing legislation in these areas will be critical for Congress as they approach their month-long recess, scheduled to begin for the House on July 27. During and after this recess, Congress will become more entrenched in midterm election politics and will be less likely to act on major policy issues.

## **Bills of Interest**

Assembly Bill 1912 (Rodriguez) is designed to eliminate the ability to reduce liability for members of JPAs by contractually altering their obligations regarding debts, liabilities and other obligations with other parties to the JPA.

Assembly Bill 2065 (Ting) would require special districts to offer their land for development before leasing their property. AB 2065 requires special districts and other local agencies to offer the right of first refusal to affordable housing developers, schools, and parks before selling, leasing, or otherwise conveying their land. The new requirements in the bill would be very problematic for many public agencies that have valid reasons to lease or otherwise protect land they own. District has taken an oppose position.

Assembly Bill 2118 (Cooley) is our sponsor bill to establish an Inter-Governmental Transfer (IGT) program for public emergency Medi-Cal transportation providers was unanimously approved.

Assembly Bill 2293 (Reyes) would remove requirements, which prevent convicted felons from meeting EMT requirements.

Assembly Bill 2333 (Wood) would establish a behavioral health director at OES to ensure individuals have access to behavioral health support following a natural disaster.

Assembly Bill 2380 (Aguiar-Curry) would require OES to develop regulations for privately contracted private fire prevention companies operating in California.

Assembly Bill 2551 (Wood) would require CAL FIRE to establish a Forest and Wildland Health Improvement and Fire Prevention Program.

Assembly Bill 2961 (O'Donnell) would establish an ambulance patient offload time report and provide recommendations to reduce wall time.

Senate Bill 833 (McGuire) would establish a red alert system to coordinate alerts following an evacuation order.

Senate Bill 901 (Dodd) would require utility company wildfire mitigation plans to include policies to deenergize lines and protocols to notify customers of such action.

Senate Bill 929 (McGuire) which would require that all special districts maintain a website. This bill will grant the public with greater access to their services, and greater transparency and accountability of the governing bodies who oversee them. District has taken a support position.

Senate Bill 1088 (Dodd) would require OES to adopt standards and policies applicable to utility companies to reduce the risk of fire during major events.

Senate Bill 1226 (Bates) now states a declaration of existing law providing that when a building permit for an ADU does not exist, enforcement officials may apply the state building standards code when the ADU was constructed.

Senate Bill 1415 (McGuire) is the Ghost Ship Building Fire Task Force bill to require inspections of factory buildings which are now occupied by residents and authorizes a fee to recover costs of the inspection or for related fire and safety activities.