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**MEMORANDUM**

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**To:** East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

**From:** Townsend Public Affairs

**Date:** September 28, 2018

**Subject:** Monthly Report for the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District— September 2018

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**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

TPA worked with City staff to prepare and submit a Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program. The district applied for an FP&S grant to fund a community risk assessment that could serve as documentation that would support all other grant efforts. TPA secured letters of support from Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris and Congressman Jerry McNerney and they have been submitted to FEMA. FEMA continues to announce award recipients and we should receive notification within the next couple of weeks.

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grant program opened on September 24, 2018. The AFG program provides financial assistance to help fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Service (EMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTAs) for critically needed resources to protect the public, to train emergency personnel, and to foster interoperability and support community resilience. It also aims to enhance the safety of the public and to provide a continuum of support for emergency responders regarding fire, medical, and all hazard events. TPA is working with staff to prepare an application that will meet the high priorities of the agency. Applications are due on October 26, 2018.

**State Political Update**

The Legislature adjourned on August 31, 2018. Governor Brown has till the end of the September to sign or veto legislation.

Below is a list of upcoming dates in the Legislature:

- **September 30 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills**
- **November 6 – General Election Day**
- **December 3 – Swearing-In Day**

As he prepares to leave office, the Governor has spent much of the month of September attending climate warming summits in the Bay Area and in New York. Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 100, requiring all of California's energy to be carbon-neutral by 2045. He also signed a broad executive order calling for the entire economy of the state to be carbon-neutral by 2045. This is significant as the district will need to consider cost effective clean energy options in equipment purchases.

## **Federal Legislative Update**

The House of Representatives is currently preparing to pass a bill that would continue all federal government funding through December 7, 2018. This bill also includes full-year funding for the Departments of Defense, Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor through the end of Fiscal Year 2019 (September 30, 2019). The Senate passed the bill by a 93-7 the week of September 17, 2018 and the House is expected to pass it with overwhelming support.

Despite recent tweets regarding funding for a border wall that called into question whether the bill will be signed into law before the deadline, President Trump committed on Wednesday, September 26, to signing an \$852 billion funding bill that would avert a partial government shutdown at midnight on Sunday. The bill will fund key domestic agencies and includes a stopgap spending provision to keep the rest of the government open through December 7.

## **Looking Forward**

As we prepare for the 2019/2020 Legislative session, TPA will work with the district to update the legislative platform and begin discussions for potential legislation for the year ahead. Our legislative strategy will support the strategic plan that the board can expect to adopt after the election.

## **2018 Bills of Interest**

Assembly Bill 1877 (Limón) This measure requires OES to create a library of translated emergency notifications and promotes altering authorities to consider using the library in issuing emergency notifications to the public. **This bill has been signed by the Governor.**

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. **This bill has been amended to remove the opposition of California Special District's Association and is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting action.**

Assembly Bill 1956 (Limón) This measure requires CAL FIRE to establish a local assistance grant program for fire prevention activities in and nearby fire threatened communities. **This bill was signed by the Governor on September 21, 2018**

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 and this bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Assembly Bill 2118 (Cooley) would establish an Inter-Governmental Transfer (IGT) program for public emergency Medi-Cal transportation providers. **This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Assembly Bill 2293 (Reyes) would remove requirements, which prevent convicted felons from meeting EMT requirements. **This bill was chaptered on September 11, 2018**

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. **This bill was held in Senate Appropriations.**

Assembly Bill 2380 (Aguiar-Curry) would require OES to develop regulations for privately contracted private fire prevention companies operating in California. **This bill was signed by Governor on September 21, 2018.**

Assembly Bill 2551 (Wood) would require CAL FIRE to establish a Forest and Wildland Health Improvement and Fire Prevention Program. The bill would require the department to take specified actions to implement and administer programs that are intended to promote forest and wildland health, restoration, and resilience, and improve fire outcomes, prevention, and preparedness throughout the state. The bill would also require the department, to the extent feasible, to collaborate with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to utilize correctional officers and conservation crews for vegetation management and fire prevention activities. **This bill was signed by Governor on September 21, 2018.**

Assembly Bill 27119 (Chen) would increase Orange County's share of ad valorem property taxes over time to a maximum of 12%. **This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.**

Assembly Bill 2916 (Grayson) This bill, on or before January 1, 2020, would require the Office of Emergency Services to identify which fire protection districts in the state are qualified fire protection districts and to determine what amount of additional ad valorem property tax revenues are necessary for the qualified fire protection district to provide effective services for the district. **This bill was held in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee at the request of the author.**

Assembly Bill 2961 (O'Donnell) would establish an ambulance patient offload time report and provide recommendations to reduce wall time. **This bill was signed by Governor on September 21, 2018.**

Senate Bill 833 (McGuire) would establish a red alert system to coordinate alerts following an evacuation order. **This bill was signed by Governor on September 21, 2018.**

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. This bill was moved to the Joint Legislative Conference Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Wildfire Management. After several hearings and feedback from several stakeholders the conference report passed both houses. Senate Bill 901 was approved on votes of 29 to 4 in the Senate and 45 to 10 in the Assembly. **This bill was signed by the Governor.**

Senate Bill 929 (McGuire) 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. **The District had a support position and the bill has been signed by the Governor.**

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. **This bill was held in the Assembly Rule Committee.**

Senate Bill 1226 (Bates) This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to propose a building standard that permits local building officials to issue a retroactive building permit for an existing residential unit for which a permit does not exist and apply the building standards that were in place when the unit was constructed. **This bill is on the Governor's Desk awaiting action. He has until Sunday, September 30 to take action on this bill.**

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. **This bill is awaiting action and the Governor has until Sunday, September 30 to take action on this bill.**