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Issue #6 - February 4, 2021

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State Budget

- *Natural Resources.* Of the \$7.4 billion allocated, \$60 million is for sustainable groundwater management. This is up from \$30 million in 20/21. \$365.2 million (up from \$1.83 million in 20/21) is to be used to help leverage \$1.8 billion in federal funds for maintenance and strengthening levees. An additional \$75 million is a one-time amount for critical levee repair. Delta resilience is another item in this category. \$69.6 million (\$43.7 million in 20/21) is to be used to support ecosystems, restoration and watershed resilience work in the San Joaquin River and for projects to improve water quality or Delta ecological conditions.

Elections

- *SCA 3 - Elections: recalls.* The California Constitution provides that voters may recall a state officer and, in the same election, elect a successor. The Constitution prohibits an officer who is the subject of a recall election from being a candidate for successor. This measure would instead require that the name of the officer be placed on the ballot as a successor candidate if the officer does not resign within 10 days after the date of certification of sufficient signatures. If the officer does resign, the office would be

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successor to serve the remainder of the officer's term. If the subject officer receives a plurality, however, the recall would fail and the officer would remain in office. Currently Pending referral.

Employment/Jobs

- [AB 230, Employment: flexible work schedules.](#) This bill would enact the Workplace Flexibility Act of 2021. The bill would permit an individual nonexempt employee to request an employee-selected flexible work schedule providing for workdays up to 10 hours per day within a 40-hour workweek, and would allow an employer to implement this schedule without the obligation to pay overtime compensation for those additional hours in a workday, except as specified.

Sentencing

- [ACA 2-Repeal of the Death Penalty in Ca.](#) - This measure would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the death penalty from being imposed as a punishment for any violations of law.
- [AB 292- Corrections: Increase prison "Good Time" credits for some violent felons.](#) This bill would direct the State Corrections department to increase specified credits to inmates incarcerated for a violent felony or for a non-violent second- or third-strike felony, with certain conditions, a one-day reduction in the term of confinement for every day of incarceration served (increasing from 1/5th of a day). The bill would require the department to award credits and conduct rehabilitative programming in a manner that meets specified requirements.

Infrastructure

- [AB 96- California Clean Truck, Bus and Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Technology Program.](#) This bill would create a separate definition for "near-zero-emission" and revise the definition for "zero-emission". The bill would extend the requirement that 20% of funding be made available to support early commercial deployment of existing zero and near-zero-emission heavy-duty truck technology until December 31, 2026.

Update

- [SB 29- Vote by mail elections extension until Jan. 2022](#) – This passed the Senate on 1/28/21. It's now before the Assembly.
- Thank you to one of our members for pointing out an error in the budget article from 1/28/21. Budget Resiliency was listed as \$34 million and later in the article as \$34 billion. \$34 billion is the correct number.

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