



# **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**OCTOBER 5, 2023  
REPORT**



**Shannon Bradley**

Director of Constituent Services

No report as legislative business in the House of Representatives is on hold due to the lack of a Speaker.



### **Invitation to the *Ending Homelessness Summit***

Senator Blakespear invites you to attend the *Ending Homelessness Summit* that she is hosting on **Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.** at the Schulman Auditorium located at the Dove Library in Carlsbad. This free policy summit will feature three dynamic panel discussions with local, state, and regional experts who are committed to preventing and ending homelessness. By attending this summit, you will have the opportunity to hear from and connect with policymakers at all levels of government, local advocacy organizations, and community leaders. The goal of the summit is to find ways to create and implement effective solutions and identify key actionable takeaways for everyone participating. Seating is limited so please [RSVP](#) today to reserve your spot!

### **Invitation to *Grant Writing 101 Webinar***

Senator Blakespear invites you to attend a free Grant Writing 101 Webinar that she is sponsoring on **Thursday October 26, 2023 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.** This virtual workshop is being presented by California Consulting, the state's premier grant writing firm. Register at [RSVP](#).

### **Senator Blakespear secures \$3.09 for the Santa Fe Dr. Corridor Improvements Project in Encinitas**

Senator Blakespear secured nearly \$3.1 million in state funding that will enable the city of Encinitas to add separated bike lanes to this existing project to enhance safety for e-bike and bicycle riders as well as pedestrians. The recent death of Brodee Champlain Kingman, a 15-year-old student at San Dieguito Academy who was struck by a van while riding his e-bike, underscores the importance of the project, especially in the high-traffic area near the school.

### **Senator Blakespear Chairs the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Subcommittee**

Senator Blakespear chairs the Senate Transportation Subcommittee on LOSSAN (Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, San Diego) Rail Corridor Resiliency, which seeks to improve infrastructure and service along the 351-mile rail line that is the second busiest rail corridor in the nation. The rail line experiences frequent closures that disrupt service due to bluff failures related to coastal erosion. The committee has held two hearings and the next is scheduled for December. Members of the committee represent districts along rail corridor.

**Encinitas Chamber of Commerce Gov. Affairs Council Update**  
**Assemblymember Tasha Boerner – AD 77**  
**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Important Dates:**

- September 14<sup>th</sup> – Interim Recess Started, bills were submitted to Governor's office
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – Last Day for the Governor to sign or veto bills

**Bills Signed by the Governor:**

- **AB 72: Early Warning System for Enhanced Coastal Bluff Monitoring Research Extension**
  - Extend deadline by 1 year (January 1, 2026) for Scripps Institution of Oceanography to complete the warning system for bluff collapse research and report due to the Legislature
  - Extends deadline from AB 66 (Boerner 2021)
- **AB 559: California Senior Legislature Tax Contribution Fund Sunset Extension**
  - Extends the sunset date for the California Senior Legislature Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund to remain on the tax return through 2030.
  - 2023 is the current sunset expiration.

**Bills on the Governor's Desk- 9 Total**

- AB 265- Property Tax Postponement Program
- AB 399- San Diego Co. Water authority bill
- AB 548- Code Enforcement Supplemental Inspections
- AB 589- Unicorn Homes
- AB 716- No Surprise Billing for Ground Ambulance
- AB 719- Medi-Cal Transportation Reimbursement
- AB 812- Pro-artist Housing
- AB 1294- Tied-house Exemption for Surf Ranch
- AB 1481- Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women

**AB 530: E-Bike License and Training Program**

- Two-year Bill, still being developed.
- Goal is to ensure safety of children on e-bikes.
- Require an online written test and a state-issued photo identification for those without a valid driver's license.
- Prohibit persons under 12 years old from riding e-bikes.
- Create a stakeholders working group that includes the DMV, California Highway Patrol, the Transportation Agency, bike groups, and more to establish an e-bike training program and license, including more specifics on the classes and types of e-bikes.

**Budget:**

- \$2,000,000 for Rancho Coastal Humane Society Expansion Project
- \$4,000,000 total for AD-77

**CPUC**

- California's electricity rates are some of the highest in the country, and one of the main purposes of both the Public Utilities Commission and Cal Advocates is to prevent potential energy rate abuses. The Assemblymember wants the State Legislature to work cohesively with all agencies to promote transparency and strengthen oversight on for-profit entities.
- As such, last year, Assemblymember Boerner requested an audit through the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to determine why Californians were paying exorbitant costs for their utilities. The results on how to better regulate utility rates were released on August 29th.
- The Assemblymember noted that "The audit... brought to light some critical information we otherwise wouldn't have had. At its core, we know the California Public Utilities Commission and Cal Advocates need to be required to do a better job advocating for ratepayers by looking at the full picture of a utility's financials". The Assemblymember plans to "[pursue legislation next year to take the recommendations from the State Auditor and make it a reality for every ratepayer to reduce utility costs and protect consumers."

**AD-77 First Annual Environmental Hero Awards**

- Please join Assemblymember Boerner for Assembly District 77's first annual ***Environmental Hero Awards Ceremony***.
- The event is on **Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, 12pm -1:30pm at the *La Jolla Recreation Center* (615 Prospect St, La Jolla, CA 92037).
- This free event is open to the public and is a celebration to recognize the amazing work of community nominated residents in District 77 who work to protect and positively impact our environment.
- Please kindly RSVP with the number of guests, so we may have an estimated headcount via email to [Assemblymember.Boerner@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Boerner@assembly.ca.gov).
- Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.
- Parking Notes: Street parking is available surrounding the center ranging from 2-4 hours of permitted public parking. (As always, carpooling and ride share is *highly encouraged*.)
- If you have any other questions/comments/concerns, please feel free to contact our office.

**Office Contact:**

**Robson Winter (he/him)**

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# Summary of Report

## CARE Court

- On Oct. 1, State's CARE Court initiative launched in SD County
- Gives the County new tools to help **severely impaired people** living with untreated **schizophrenia** or other **psychotic disorders**

### **In a nutshell:**

- S.D. County is **1 of 7 pilot counties** in CA to get an early start on implementing the CARE Act program
- While some homeless people may qualify, **this is not strictly a "homeless" program**
  - It's **meant to help anyone** who meets the definitions of impairment under CA state law
- It connects adults to **voluntary** treatment

## Fighting the Fentanyl & Opioid Crisis

**Supervisor Lawson-Remer is continuing to move forward her four-point-plan to fight Fentanyl overdoses:**

It's focused on more education, more health-based treatments, and more data-driven solutions to provide early intervention.

### **The plan includes:**

- **Prevention** education for high-risk groups

- **Installing more vending machines that provide naloxone** — the life-saving medication that can prevent overdose deaths — which is sometimes known by its brand name Narcan
- **Early intervention with people at risk of an overdose**, such as people with mental health conditions
- And **tracking the locations of overdose outbreaks** so we can provide a more effective response tailored to the community
- **And as a reminder:** The County joined a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers (and WE won!)
  - The County expects to receive **\$100 million** from 7 lawsuits it has against drug companies.

## **Tackling Homelessness Through Prevention & Supporting Our Communities**

Where we believe our County can contribute is by continuing to invest in mental health and addiction treatment services – and through prevention.

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer wants to invest in interventions that have proven to be successful, and one we are helping to scale-up is the practice of **Diversion**.

- It immediately addresses the needs of someone who has just lost their housing
- The goal is to quickly divert someone away from a shelter stay or night in a vehicle into a housed situation.

**Diversion is a successful practice with proven results that keep people from becoming chronically homeless**

- Since 2019, RTFH and their provider partners have diverted nearly 1,500 households from homelessness, which meant nearly 2,000 fewer people living in shelters, on our streets, in canyons, or their cars.
- 85% of clients participating in diversion efforts remain stably housed.

**Specialized training of homeless providers and financial assistance to rapidly resolve a person's immediate situation helps divert them from long-term homelessness.**

- Diversion conversation can happen anytime during engagement between the provider and person, and the outcomes may include.
  - permanent family reunification,
  - permanent housing placement, and
  - diverting temporarily as new housing is sustained, and/or relocating permanently.
  - financial assistance to rapidly resolve their situation.
    - Security deposit assistance
    - Temporary rental assistance (including rent arrears)
    - Application fees
    - Utility deposits, payments, arrears
    - Car repairs

**Diversion helps the individual or family create a sustainable living situation by helping them with a strategy to permanent house, this is not a long-term rental assistance program, but people can be helped multiple times, if necessary**

**Supervisor Lawson-Remer has pursued and secured an additional \$1.3 million in funding to support Diversion.**

- She brought philanthropic leaders together, shared Diversion's success and secured the funds. She has also ensured proper evaluation will be conducted.



- Average spent per client is nearly \$1,500. But it can range up to several thousand dollars.
- In contrast, the average length of homelessness is 169 days with a shelter bed costing up to \$60 per night (\$10,000 per year)
- Funder the Supervisor Secured include: RTFH, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, Cushman Foundation, Lucky Duck Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation, San Diego Foundation, Conrad Prebys Foundation, and Funders Together to End Homelessness



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
Lt. Wisniewski

The North Coastal Sheriff's Station will be conducting extra patrols of the local businesses and other retailers as the holiday shopping season approaches. We are taking a pro-active measure to combat organized retail theft and petty theft from our local businesses.

The North Coastal Sheriff's Station reminds business owners to train staff that if an emergency is encountered to call 911. If the situation requires a deputy response but not an emergency, such as trespassing or suspicious persons in the area, to call the sheriff's non-emergency line (858-565-5200). The North Coastal Sheriff's Station main phone number (760-966-3500) is unable to dispatch deputies to calls in the field.



## **Fire & Marine Safety Department**

**Josh Gordon**

**Fire Chief**

A quick Fire and Marine Safety update.

1. The Encinitas Fire Department has completed the Olivenhain Evacuation plan edits and provided a presentation to the council and public. The Encinitas website under the Public Safety page has a link that provides wildfire emergency resources and information. This web page is a great resource for all Encinitas residents. Included in these resources is ZONEHAVEN. This is a program that provides vital information for residents during a wildfire and is the new platform firefighters and sheriffs will be using for evacuations.
2. The Encinitas and Marine Safety Department has completed the initial logistics phases of a new drone program and will be holding FAA classes to certify our lifeguards and firefighters to fly drones.
3. The Encinitas Lifeguards have promoted a new Sergeant and two new Senior Lifeguards.



Encinitas Union School District launched the year with a new vision and strategic plan to continue to elevate our work in preparing students for middle school, high school and beyond. We aim to ignite the limitless potential of all learners. We have a Learner Profile with 6 Competencies for all learners – Empowered Learners, Innovative Thinkers, Wellness Advocates, Confident Collaborators, Skilled Communicators, and Global Citizens. Additionally, this year the Board of Trustees has determined that we will pursue a school improvement bond in 2024 to help with the modernization and major maintenance of our facilities. We have campuses that are 100 and 75 years old and major facility repairs are necessary. Finally, we have been fortunate to work alongside the city of Encinitas to implement our Bike Safety program. We provided 18 assemblies completed by the San Diego Bike Coalition to ensure all 4600 EUSD students are equipped with the important knowledge needed to safely ride their bikes in the community.

[Link](#) to our Framework for the Future