

BBK
BEST BEST & KRIEGER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

To: Las Virgenes MWD and Triunfo JPA
From: Syrus Devers, Best Best & Krieger
Date: October 2, 2020
Re: Monthly Report

There is little to report on legislative activities so this report will briefly cover general statewide issues.

Bill signatures:

The last day for the Governor to sign legislation was October 1st, and the main theme of the final package of bills was criminal justice reform. Although an exact number is not available, Newsom allowed far more bills to be enacted without action than most of his predecessors. (California does not have a “pocket veto.” Unsigned legislation becomes law in the same way a signed bill.)

Wildfires:

This is officially the worst fire season in history. As of September 27th, 2,275,559 acres have burned. That only counts state and local fires. The number jumps to 3,754,729 acres if federal lands are included. Compare that to 2018 when 1,975,086 acres burned, and we still have a month to go. As this report is being prepared the Glass Fire in Napa is growing and forcing evacuations, and is only 6% contained. On the bright side, this fire season has been far less deadly. Most of the fires this year were started by lightning in more remote areas. 15 lives were lost in the recent North Complex Fire while the deadly Camp Fire took 85 people in 2018, but keep in mind that the Camp Fire struck in November.

COVID-19:

Some better news on the pandemic in California...although not for Los Angeles County. (Sorry) Although the majority of the state falls into the first or second tier of the Governor’s new ranking system, a few larger counties have kept the rate of positive tests at a steady level long enough to allow for some limited reopening, albeit short of indoor activities like dining. San Diego and Contra Costa, for example, either met metrics for testing or decreasing rates of hospitalizations to permit additional reopenings. Whether or not specific sectors, such as schools, choose to take advantage of that is a locally made decision. Overall, 43% of the state’s population lives under the strictest tier where only essential services are allowed to remain open for indoor activity.