

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Congratulations to Matthew Estipona on recently registering as an in-house lobbyist—a first for our organization. This new title comes with the added responsibility of more face-to-face visits with lawmakers and more time at the State Capital.

Our Government Affairs team recently met with [Cal Cities](#) President Ben Yee, who is also the Educational Program Director and Fremont Planning Commissioner. President Yee has graciously offered to include Merit Shop education, sponsored by ABC NorCal, in their educational program.

Cal Cities provides education and training programs for city officials to keep them updated on new developments in their field and to discuss solutions to common challenges they may face. This partnership is beneficial for both organizations.

Update on the Fight Against California Senate Bill 984

SB 984 passed, but with Amendments. The Amendments limit the scope of SB 984 and are a big win for ABC NorCal and its members. Our next job is to make sure these project labor agreements include fair PLA language and exclusions, which allow the state agencies to rebid without a PLA, if certain conditions are not met.

SB 984 (Wahab) – This bill would authorize certain state agencies to undertake a major state construction project, only if that project is governed by a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). It provides that existing law authorizes a public entity to use, enter into—or require contractors to enter into—a PLA for a major state construction project.

SB 984 Amended requires the Department of General Services (DGS), the California Courts system and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to identify a minimum of three major state construction projects with costs estimated at \$35 million that will be governed by Project Labor Agreements (PLAs). SB 984 also requires the Department of General Services to report to the Legislature every 4 years regarding the use of PLAs, advancement of any community benefits goals and apprenticeships.

Advocacy in the Cities

The Government Affairs Action Committee held its first meeting. The discussion centered around the political issues for the Fresno area. This was a very beneficial meeting, as our Fresno members have first-hand knowledge of the candidates that can benefit from PAC money.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District voted 4-1 to approve a Project Stabilization Agreement for district-wide projects that reach the \$1 million threshold. Mt. Diablo was the last school district in Contra Costa County to resist the Contra Costa County Building Trades push for a PLA. After fighting this, our next job is to monitor their PLA projects for increased costs, number of qualified bidders and other union promises.

PLA Ticker as of February 2024

- 1. Yolo County PLA Victory!** – March 24th, Yolo County Board of Supervisors. A Yolo County-wide PLA has been removed from the agenda and will no longer be pursued before the Board of Supervisors.
- 2. Santa Cruz County** – PLAs will be brought back before the board in June.
- 3. West Sacramento** – April 10th, City Council agrees to direct staff to negotiate Project Labor Agreements.
- 4. Washington Unified School District** – PLA required on Elkhorn Village School Modernization Project.
- 5. San Joaquin County** – Threat: CWA looks likely to be brought up to the Board of Supervisors.
- 6. Sunnyvale** – Threat.
- 7. Vallejo City Council** – Approved Project Labor Agreement for Contracts of \$750,000+.
- 8. City of Mountain View** – Threat.

Ask Matthew and Susan

If you have questions or concerns about anything listed above, or a new issue you would like to bring to our attention, please contact us at matthew@abcnorcal.org or susan@abcnorcal.org.

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