

POLITICAL ADVOCACY



We would like to introduce Fay Yassini, our new Government Affairs Specialist, to the ABC NorCal Government Affairs Team.

Fay's background includes working in broadcast media and public affairs for several trade associations, including Bay East Association of REALTORS® and California Apartment Association.

Please welcome Fay to the team as she fights for fair and open competition!



Join Our ACTION Committees

To all of our members in Sacramento and counties north of Sacramento, we had our first inaugural North State/Capital ACTION Committee meeting last month. This is in addition to our Central Valley ACTION Committee, which focuses on vetting candidates in Modesto, Fresno and Tulare Counties.

Both committee meetings are held monthly to educate the ABC Board of Directors on important political strategies, plus the Political Action Committee and PAC contributions. If you are politically engaged in your community and would like to be involved, please reach out to the ABC NorCal Government Affairs team.

Update on the Fight Against California Senate Bill 984

On June 19th, the Government Affairs Team attended the Assembly Labor Committee Hearing for SB 984 to advocate for the merit shop. The bill passed with all members of the committee voting for it. It now heads to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, where it will be brought up on August 10th. We will engage in deep lobbying efforts with all committee members to inform them on the increased costs associated with Project Labor Agreements (PLAs).

For this effort we will need you to be engaged with signed letters as we start this fight.

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 PLAs include fair language, which could allow the state agencies to rebid without a PLA, if certain conditions are not met.

What is SB 984? This bill would authorize certain state agencies to undertake a major state construction project, only if that project is governed by a PLA. It provides that existing law authorizes a public entity to use, enter into—or require contractors to enter into—a PLA for major state construction projects.

SB 984 Amended requires a superior court, court of appeal, the California Supreme Court and the California State University to identify a minimum of three major state construction projects with costs estimated at \$35 million, which will be governed by PLAs. SB 984 also requires the Department of General Services to report to the Legislature every four years regarding the use of PLAs, advancement of any community benefits goals and apprenticeships.

Advocacy in the Counties and Cities

On June 20th the Government Affairs Team attended the quarterly Merit Shop retreat with [Western Electrical Contractors Association \(WECA\)](#) and the PLA coalition group. Strategizing and sharing the coalitions institutional knowledge and history of PLAs is vital to protecting ABC NorCal members' ability to work.

Grassroots Advocacy Videos with WECA

We know PLAs are difficult to understand and are full of hidden land mines for our members. We also know that the council members who vote to attach them to their construction projects do not understand the consequences to their cities and local workers. We are working every day to educate them, including creating a series of videos with WECA, which will make our work easier. We hope to have these educational videos out soon.

PLA Ticker as of July 2024

- 1. Watsonville Citywide PLA** – Get ready to bid!! Watsonville City Council voted to rebid a project WITHOUT the PLA, due to only one bidder who went over budget by 36%. Wastewater Treatment Facility, WWTF Electrical System Hazard Mitigation Project No. WW-22-14797
- 2. Sonoma County** – Labor continues to threaten Sonoma with PLAs on its projects.
Next steps: Educate them on PLA issues for Merit Shop and Fair PLA language.
- 3. Santa Cruz County** – Win! On June 25th, the County Supervisors decided to go forward with a PLA on only one pilot project, instead of a countywide PLA. The pilot PLA approved, provided public comment, meeting with Supervisor Manu Koenig with two members present, Paul Bruno with Monterey Peninsula Engineering, Morgan and Jeff with Superior Hydrospeeding Inc.
- 4. West Sacramento** – The City Council is negotiating a PLA.
Next steps: Educate them on PLA issues for Merit Shop and Fair PLA language.
- 5. Tri-Valley Area (Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore) CEQA threat** – We are working on a strategy to proactively protect development and private work from PLAs.
- 6. Humboldt County** – We are partnering with the Humboldt Builders Exchange PAC to educate elected officials on PLAs—following the Harbor District's decision to implement PLAs on offshore wind turbines. Part of our efforts will also include political grassroots efforts in the November 2024 election. Stay tuned.

Ask the Team

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; susan@abcnorcal.org; fay@abcnorcal.org

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