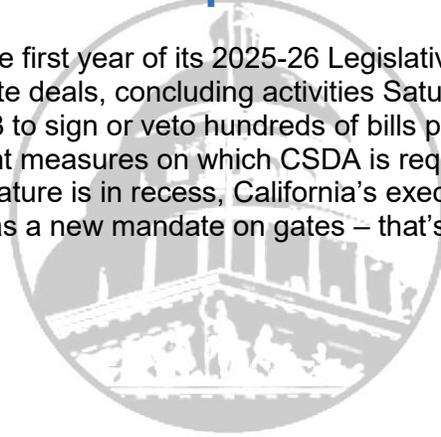




# TAKE ACTION BRIEF

## Governor’s Desk Edition: September-October 2025

The State Legislature extended the first year of its 2025-26 Legislative Session an extra day to accommodate a bevy of last-minute deals, concluding activities Saturday, September 13. Governor Gavin Newsom now has until October 13 to sign or veto hundreds of bills passed in the final weeks of action. This brief overviews the most significant measures on which CSDA is requesting the Governor’s signature or veto. Additionally, while the Legislature is in recess, California’s executive branch is weighing amendments to CARB’s ZEV mandate as well as a new mandate on gates – that’s right, gates. Read on to learn more.



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## Key Bills Impacting Districts Await Action by Governor Newsom

*Below is a run-down of some of the most significant bills for which CSDA is requesting Governor Gavin Newsom sign or veto by October 13:*

### [AB 339 \(Ortega\) Local public employee organizations: notice requirements](#) – REQUEST VETO

A follow-on to the unsuccessful [AB 2557](#) (Ortega, 2024) and [AB 2489](#) (Ward, 2024), both opposed by CSDA, this bill will create significant impediments to local governments' ability to contract with the private sector for services.

The bill requires the governing body of a public agency, and boards and commissions designated by law or by the governing body of a public agency, to give the union no less than 30 days' written notice before issuing a request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending an existing contract, to perform services that are within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization.

Recent amendments shortened the notice period from 60 days, further exempted public works and related contracts, and removed a meet and confer requirement specific to the bill, as specified.

### [AB 538 \(Berman\) Public works: payroll records](#) – REQUEST VETO

Requires the awarding body, if a request is made by the public through the awarding body for certified payroll records, and the body is not in possession of those records, to obtain those records from the relevant contractor and make them available to the requesting entity. The bill will authorize the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to enforce certain penalties if a contractor fails to comply with the awarding body's request within 10 days of receipt of the notice.

### [AB 699 \(Stefani\) Elections: local tax measures](#) – REQUEST SIGNATURE

Would allow, at the choice of the proponents, information about the tax rate, duration of the tax, and amount of revenue raised to appear either on the ballot or in the voter information guide for local measures that impose a tax of varying rates or authorize the sale of bonds.

### [AB 712 \(Wicks\) Housing reform laws: enforcement actions: fines and penalties](#) – REQUEST VETO

When an applicant for a housing development is a prevailing party in an action brought by the applicant to enforce a housing reform law against a public agency, would entitle an applicant for a housing development project to reasonable attorney's fees and costs and would require a court to impose fines on a public agency.

Additionally, this measure prohibits a public agency from requiring the applicant to indemnify, defend, or hold harmless the public agency in any action alleging the public agency violated the applicant's rights or deprived the applicant of the benefits or protection provided by a housing reform law.

The measure has mandatory penalties and penalty enhancements for local agencies with multiple housing reform violations under certain circumstances.



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## **SB 7 (McNerney) Employment: automated decision systems – REQUEST VETO**

This bill would place restrictions on the use of Automated Decision Systems (ADS) in workplaces, including those of public employers. The bill would further require pre-use and post-use notification, depending on the use, and allow workers to access their data.

This bill defines ADS to mean any computational process derived from machine learning, statistical modeling, data analytics, or artificial intelligence that issues simplified output, including a score, classification, or recommendation, that is used to assist or replace human discretionary decision-making and materially impacts natural persons. An automated decision system does not include a spam email filter, firewall, antivirus, software, identity and access management tools, calculator, database, dataset, or other compilation of data.

Recent amendments removed a right to appeal and removed a private right of action, among other changes.

## **AB/SB 105 (Gabriel, Wiener) – REQUEST SIGNATURE**

While these budget bills addressed many fiscal topics, CSDA supported both measures specific to their proposed appropriations of meaningful amounts of the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Fund (Prop 4 dollars) that we have joined ACWA in asking for (about \$3.287B out of \$10B total bond funds).

CSDA also expressed support for AB/SB 149 language allowing for emergency regulations for implementation, while also supporting a continuing request for an APA exemption.

## **AB/SB 149 (Committees on Budget and Fiscal Review) Public resources trailer bill – REQUEST SIGNATURE**

Among other things, the measures extend quagga and zebra mussel protections to golden mussels and other invasive freshwater mussels. They authorize water agencies operating under approved mussel control plans to continue water deliveries without fear of enforcement actions. They also provide that reservoir operators allowing boating implement mussel prevention programs and ensure collected fees can support mussel prevention and control.

## **SB 499 (Stern) Residential projects: fees and charges – REQUEST SIGNATURE**

This bill would specify that the public improvements or facilities related to providing fire, public safety, and emergency services for which a local agency may require the earlier payment of fees and charges under SB 937 (Wiener) of 2024 include parkland and recreational facilities when identified in the local agency's hazard mitigation plan or safety element for those uses. Later amendments also provided clarification on the timely collection of capacity and connection charges.



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## CA Wants to Regulate Your Gates and We Need Your Help

California’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) is advancing a proposed regulation that could impose significant new responsibilities on local government agencies—including special districts—regarding gate safety, inspections, and enforcement. Please complete CSDA’s survey and consider submitting comments to Cal/OSHA on behalf of your district.

### [COMPLETE CSDA GATE MANDATE SURVEY](#)

#### Quick Hits:

- Currently, horizontal sliding gates are regulated by [8 CCR § 3324](#) . An [advisory committee](#) of [California’s Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board](#)(OSHSB) is advancing a proposed regulation that could impose significant new responsibilities on special districts.
- The text of the proposed regulation changes as produced by the advisory committee [can be found here](#). Alternatively, we have [a clean version that shows the amendments to existing regulations](#) as they would appear if they were to become law today.
- Read [the proposed regulations](#) and [complete CSDA’s survey](#).
- If you have further questions or comments, please contact Legislative Representative Anthony Tannehill at [anthonyt@cdda.net](mailto:anthonyt@cdda.net).

#### Background:

Cal/OSHA’s proposed regulation could:

- Apply new standards to a wide range of gates and barriers, including many commonly used by public agencies.
- Require initial and recurring inspections, with oversight responsibilities falling to the gate owner—whether a city, county, school district, special district, or private entity.
- Result in new administrative burdens, including the need to hire or train personnel, track compliance, and respond to potential enforcement actions.

The potential cost and complexity of compliance raises concerns for agencies that may lack the staffing or resources to carry out such requirements without substantial operational impacts.

#### A Look Back: AB 2149’s Legislative Path

The current regulatory effort follows a failed legislative attempt to impose similar requirements. In 2024, [Assembly Bill 2149 \(Connolly\)](#) sought to establish a comprehensive gate safety framework.

AB 2149’s broad definition of a “regulated gate” would have impacted many thousands of installations. Local governments and special districts raised concerns about the lack of capacity to absorb the bill’s mandates. Ultimately, the bill failed to advance and was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file in 2024.



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## Special Districts, Cities, and Counties Call for Amendments to CARB ZEV Regulation

On September 15, CSDA, together with the League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties, submitted a comment letter to the California Air Resource Board ([CARB](#)), which is [proposing changes to the Advanced Clean Fleets](#) ZEV mandate rule, including those stemming from the successful passage of [AB 1594 \(Garcia\)](#) in 2023.

**Written comments on these amendments were due September 15th and a hearing will be held on September 25th. CSDA submitted a comment letter together with the League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties. The full letter was shared with CSDA members in the September 23 edition of CSDA eNews and can be found at [csda.net](#).**

Some of the commentary in CSDA's comment letter included:

- **Requests for the removal of barriers to apply for certain extensions and waivers due to issues that are beyond control of a local agency;**
- **The need to update emergency response and mutual aid exclusions; and**
- **Affordability protections.**

There may be an opportunity for the updated regulations to provide further relief to local agencies in their final form and CSDA encourages members to review the proposed changes and participate in the hearing **Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

### [Information on How to View or Comment at the Public Hearing on September 25th](#)

California Environmental Protection Agency  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814  
Byron Sher Auditorium, 2nd Floor  
[Webcast](#) (Livestream/Watch Only)

Zoom Webinar: [Register](#)  
Phone Number: (669) 900-6833  
Webinar ID: 817 7638 1780

**Look for additional updates in CSDA eNews and Advocacy News. Any questions may be directed to CSDA Legislative Representative Anthony Tannehill at [anthonyt@csda.net](mailto:anthonyt@csda.net).**



CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION PRIORITIES

# TAKE ACTION BRIEF

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## CSDA Members Get Access to NSDA Federal Advocacy Webinar

As the State Legislative year concludes, the federal Congressional year hits its homestretch. Registration is now open for the November 4, 2025 NSDA Federal Advocacy webinar where CSDA members will receive a full briefing on all the action impacting special districts.

**11:00 a.m. November 4, 2025**  
**Federal Advocacy – Navigating how DC impacts your District**  
[Register at NationalSpecialDistricts.org](https://www.NationalSpecialDistricts.org)  
**CSDA Access Code: CSDA7525**

NSDA lobbyists will wrap up a whirlwind year and discuss important changes and upcoming issues that affect districts, including HR2766/S.2014, the Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act.





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## OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

### Learn More

#### **Special District Leadership Academy Conference Northern Location**

October 5-8, 2025

Sheraton Redding Hotel at the Sundial Bridge – Redding, CA

#### **Special District Leadership Academy Conference Coastal Location**

November 16-19, 2025

Embassy Suites by Hilton Monterey Bay Seaside – Seaside, CA

Register at [sdla.csda.net](https://sdla.csda.net)

#### **2025 Board Secretary / Clerk Conference**

October 27-29, 2025

Hyatt Regency Sonoma Wine Country – Santa Rosa, CA

Register at [csda.net/BoardSecretary](https://csda.net/BoardSecretary)

### Join Today

Join an Expert Feedback Team to provide CSDA staff with invaluable insights on policy issues. Fill out the form here <https://www.csda.net/get-involved> to join one of the following teams:

- Environment & Disaster Preparedness
- Governance
- Human Resources & Personnel
- Local Revenue
- Public Works, Facilities, and State Infrastructure Investment & Partnership

### Stay Informed

In addition to the many ways you can **TAKE ACTION** with CSDA's advocacy efforts, CSDA offers a variety of tools to keep you up-to-date and assist you in your district's legislative and public outreach. Make sure you're reading these resources:

- CSDA's weekly e-Newsletter
- Districts in the News
- CSDA's *California Special Districts* Magazine
- CSDA – The Hub newsfeed

Email [updates@csda.net](mailto:updates@csda.net) for help accessing these additional member resources.