



TO: SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: ELLISON WILSON ADVOCACY, LLC
SUBJECT: SANDAG LEGISLATIVE REPORT – OCTOBER 2025

Legislative Overview

October 13th was the final day for the Governor to sign or veto all bills sent to him in 2025. Of the 2,833 total legislative items introduced in 2025 – including regular session and extraordinary session bills, resolutions, and constitutional amendments – ultimately 1,124 were chaptered. Of this final amount, 794 were regular session bills that were signed into law by the Governor. He vetoed 123 bills in 2025.

Tentative 2026 Legislative Calendar Released

A few key dates of note:

- January 5: Legislature reconvenes
- January 23: Deadline to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel
- January 31: Deadline for 2-year bills to be passed from first house
- February 20: Bill introduction deadline
- April 24: Deadline for first-house policy committees to hear fiscal bills
- May 15: Deadline for first-house fiscal committees to hear bills (i.e. 1st suspense hearings)
- May 29: Deadline for each house to pass first-house bills
- June 15: Deadline for Budget Bill
- July 2: Deadline for policy committees to hear all bills
- July 2-August 3: Summer Recess
- August 14: Deadline for fiscal committees to hear all bills (i.e. 2nd suspense hearings)
- August 31: Deadline for each house to pass all bills; Final Recess upon adjournment
- September 30: Deadline for Governor to sign or veto bills
- December 7: 2027-28 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session

Final Action on 2025 SANDAG Priority Bills

Following the Governor’s October 13th deadline to sign or veto all legislation sent to him, below is a list of bills identified throughout the year to be a key priority for SANDAG, organized by the following categories: “Signed into Law”, “Vetoed” and “Failed/Inactive/Two-year bills.”

SIGNED INTO LAW

AB 655 (Alvarez) California-Mexico Border Relations Council.

Status: 07/14/2025 - Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 41, Statutes of 2025

Summary: AB 655 authorizes the Speaker of the Assembly to appoint a Member of the Assembly and the President pro Tempore to appoint a Member of the Senate who each represent a district that shares a border with Mexico to the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

SANDAG Position: Support

AB 1207 (Irwin, D) Climate change: market-based compliance mechanism: extension.

Status: 09/19/2025 - Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 117, Statutes of 2025

Summary: AB 1207 extends authorization for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) cap-and-trade regulation through 2045 to be known as the California Cap-and-Invest Program; requires CARB to ensure that emissions from covered sources decline with the 2030 and 2045 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions targets; maintains existing offsets limits, but requires offsets to be exchanged for allowances under the emissions cap; unfreezes industry assistance factors used to determine allocation of free allowances, allowing CARB, beginning in 2031, to set factors to minimize leakage risk; extends regulatory protections for the oil and gas industry; revises use of revenue from allocation of allowances to utilities to increase and target credits on electric utility bills, except for 5% of revenues directed to support public financing of transmission projects.

AB 1275 (Elhawary, D) Regional housing needs: regional transportation plan.

Status: 10/10/2025 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 593, Statutes of 2025.

Summary: AB 1275 requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to determine each region with a council of governments (COG)'s existing and projected housing need three years prior to each region's scheduled housing element revision, rather than two years as under existing law, and makes changes to how the transportation and job projections in a region's sustainable communities strategy (SCS) must be incorporated into each COG's final regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) plan.

SB 71 (Wiener, D) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: transit projects.

Status: 10/13/2025 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 742, Statutes of 2025.

Summary: SB 71 expands and extends existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for transit projects, and exempts diesel-powered heavy rail projects meeting the "Tier 4" exhaust emissions standard if certain criteria are met, among other changes.

SANDAG Position: Support

SB 79 (Wiener, D) Housing development: transit-oriented development.

Status: 10/10/2025 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 512, Statutes of 2025.

Summary: SB 79 requires a housing development project within a specified radius of an existing or currently proposed major transit-oriented development (TOD) stop, as defined, be an allowable use on a site zoned for residential, mixed, or commercial development, bypassing the local decision-making process, if the housing development meets certain requirements. This bill also allows a transit agency to adopt TOD zoning standards for district-owned land located in a TOD zone.

SANDAG Position: Oppose

SB 233 (Seyarto, R) Regional housing need: determination: consultation with councils of governments.

Status: 10/10/2025 - Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 577, Statutes of 2025.

Summary: SB 233 revises deadlines for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to meet and consult with each council of governments (COG) in the regional housing needs determination (RHND) process. Specifically, it requires HCD, commencing with the seventh housing element cycle, to meet with COGs at least 38 months rather than 26 months prior to the housing element due date for jurisdictions within that COG.

SANDAG Position: Support

SB 840 (Limón, D) Greenhouse gases: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: studies.

Status: 09/19/2025 - Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 121, Statutes of 2025

Summary: SB 840 reconfigures the continuous appropriations established for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and sets new legislative intent for how GGRF monies are spent. The bill also directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to assess and update compliance offset protocols, and establishes a new unit within the Legislative Counsel Bureau to support climate and environmental policymaking efforts.

VETOED

AB 650 (Papan, D) Planning and zoning: housing element: regional housing needs allocation.

Status: 10/13/2025 - Vetoed by Governor.

Summary: AB 650 would have extended a number of timelines in the process of determining regional housing needs (RHND), regional housing needs allocations (RHNA), and housing element revisions, and required the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to provide specific analysis or text to local governments to remedy deficiencies in their draft housing element revisions. In his veto message, the Governor stated his concern “that this bill would inappropriately shift responsibility for preparing housing elements from local jurisdictions to HCD,” which would purportedly “add at least \$11 million in new annual costs.”

SANDAG Position: Support

FAILED/INACTIVE/TWO-YEAR BILLS

AB 24 (DeMaio, R) San Diego Association of Governments: board of directors.

Status: 05/01/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was L. GOV. on 3/24/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: AB 24, the Give San Diego Rural Communities a Voice Act, would require the SANDAG board of directors to additionally include one member of the Board of Supervisors of San Diego County from an unincorporated area of the county and one representative from the Association of Planning Groups - San Diego County to be selected by their respective governing bodies.

AB 259 (Rubio, Blanca, D) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Status: 07/17/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was JUD. on 5/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: AB 259 would extend, until January 1, 2030, teleconferencing procedures, which allowed members of a legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing without identifying each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting, and without making each teleconference location accessible to the public, under specified conditions. These provisions were ultimately included in SB 707 (Durazo), which was signed into law.

SANDAG Position: Support

AB 334 (Petrie-Norris, D) Operators of toll facilities: interoperability programs: vehicle information.

Status: 09/13/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/13/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: AB 334 would clarify the data operators of toll facilities on federal-aid highways engaged in an interstate interoperability program can provide regarding a vehicle's use of the facility.

SANDAG Position: Support

AB 657 (Alvarez, D) Otay Mesa East Toll Facility Act: public-private partnership agreements: toll revenues.

Status: 09/09/2025 - Re-referred to Com. on TRANS.

Summary: AB 657 would revise the Otay Mesa East Toll Facility Act by, among other things, (1) revising the definition of "project" for purposes of the act to include facilities, whether or not now in existence, acquired or constructed to facilitate the movement of goods and people adjacent to the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry or to facilitate the generation of revenue for, or related to, the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, (2) authorizing public-private partnerships as an alternative project delivery method, (3) authorizing SANDAG to collect revenue for the use of a project or property covered by the act, and (4) adding payments to a private partner under a public-private partnership agreement to the categories of costs for which toll revenues are used under the act.

AB 902 (Schultz, D) Transportation projects: barriers to wildlife movement.

Status: 08/29/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/18/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: AB 902 would require the lead agency on certain transportation infrastructure projects to incorporate wildlife passage features to feasibly avoid, minimize, and mitigate impairment to wildlife connectivity into those projects

SB 10 (Padilla, D) Otay Mesa East Toll Facility Act: toll revenues.

Status: 07/17/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was TRANS. on 6/9/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: SB 10 would authorize SANDAG to utilize toll revenues from the State Route (SR) 11/Otay Mesa Port of Entry (POE) to assist in the maintenance of the South Bay International Boundary and Water Commission sewage treatment facility and other infrastructure projects related to the Tijuana River.

SB 240 (Jones, R) San Diego Association of Governments: board of directors: County of San Diego.

Status: 05/01/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was L. GOV. on 4/2/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: SB 240 would require San Diego County's secondary representative on the SANDAG Board to be from unincorporated San Diego County selected by its community planning groups.

SB 457 (Becker, D) Housing element compliance: Housing Accountability Act: housing disapprovals.

Status: 05/08/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was HOUSING on 2/26/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: SB 457 would revise Housing Element Law to specify that a local agency's housing element is in compliance the date it is adopted if the element is subsequently certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) or a court of competent jurisdiction, and changes the vesting period for builder's remedy projects.

SB 681 (Wahab, D) Housing.

Status: 07/17/2025 - Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was H. & C.D. on 6/16/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Summary: SB 681 would make extensive changes to laws governing housing approvals, elements, common interest developments, and building standards