

# VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

## Staff Report – Item 7

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To: Board of Directors

From: Mitch Sears, Interim General Manager

Subject: Legislative Update – Pacific Policy Group

Date: January 21, 2021

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Pacific Policy Group, VCE's lobby services consultant, continues to work with Staff and the Community Advisory Committee's Legislative - Regulatory Task Group on several legislative bills. Below is a summary:

The Legislature reconvenes from the winter holidays on January 11, a week later than originally scheduled. Senate Pro Tem Atkins and Assembly Speaker Rendon delayed the legislature's return due to the increased spread of COVID-19 throughout California. The one-week extension of the winter recess demonstrates that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the legislative calendar and may continue to do so throughout the 2021 legislative session.

In addition to disruptions to the legislative calendar, the pandemic is also affecting the number of bills that will be considered during the 2021 legislative session. Although no official policy has been stated, it is understood throughout the Capitol that legislators will be limited to moving a maximum of 12 bills through the committee process of the other house, an approximately 50 percent reduction in the amount of bills legislators had been permitted to move in prior years. February 19, 2021 is the deadline for introducing legislation this year.

The Legislature's first order of business is digesting the Governor's proposed 2021-22 state budget, which the Governor is scheduled to present on Friday, January 8, 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic and the state's response to it will be the focal point of the 2021-22 budget. Prior to unveiling his full proposal, Governor Newsom announced that part of the overall budget proposal will be a \$4.5 billion recovery effort that includes funding to assist small businesses, promote workforce development, create new housing, and invest in electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure.