March 25, 2020

Message from Sol

Good morning!

We wanted to give you a quick update about where we we stand with legislative activity.

Eleven days ago, Saturday March 14th, the state legislature went into recess due to the coronavirus threat. They passed House Joint Resolution 20-1007 stating that the legislature will return on March 30th to reevaluate the situation. That was the 67th legislative day of the 120-day session.

The House and Senate also passed House Joint Resolution 20-1006 requesting guidance from the State Supreme Court regarding the nature of the 120-day session. The question is, if in a state of emergency, it is required the 120 days be counted consecutively (which would mean an end date of May 6th) or if only days on which the Senate or the House of Representatives are convened are counted.

Many of the legislative priorities, including constitutional mandates such as passing an annual budget, await a response from the state's highest court. For now, the fate of the 465 bills (out of 563 introduced) still working their way through the legislative process are in limbo, including the bills APA is actively lobbying or monitoring. Luckily, our priority bill, HB-1095, has passed the legislature and is headed to the Governor’s desk. Here is your tracking sheet so you can look at what is still out there:

https://coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-analysis/3231/2020/0/

All of the bills APA has been tracking and working on have been put on hold by the recess. A point of clarification on process, any bill that has been passed through the legislative process, will go to the Governor for a signature. Because the Governor operates in a different branch of government his process will not be affected as bills go from the legislature to his desk. He can still sign, veto, or take no action on bills that are sent to him with his regular 10 day window for action.

Also, with all of the business closures around the state we are doing everything we can to keep business doors open, as well as maintain safe distances for customers. I am curious to hear how this has effected the planning community for our own professional and strategic reasons, so please let us know how things are evolving on your end. There is now a “stay at home” order in Denver instituted by Mayor Michael Hancock with more counties joining soon, as you know, which means that you need to stay inside unless you are going to the grocery store or restaurant/hotel for food, taking a child to or from childcare, exercising outside, or going to utilize an essential service as outlined by the Mayor’s Executive Order that I will send as a follow up to this email.
We do not foresee the Governor following suit with a “stay at home” order, but things are changing hour to hour so we will keep you updated as things progress.

We will continue to pass along more information as it becomes available. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy. We remain ready to re-engage when the legislature reconvenes!

Thank you so much for all you do for the communities in the state and please let us know if you’d like to hop on the phone to walk through more details about this unprecedented time.

Best,

Sol

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