Outline of Presentation

1. Legislative Process
2. Impacting Public Policy
3. Budget Process
Legislative Process
The California Legislature

- State Senate (40 members)
- State Assembly (80 members)
- Two-year legislative sessions
  - Odd-numbered year is first year of session.
  - Bills must meet certain legislative deadlines to move forward.
Key Legislative Terms

- **SB**: Senate Bill
- **AB**: Assembly Bill
- **Amendment**: Proposal to change the text of a bill after it has been introduced.
- **Appropriation**: Amount of money made available for an expenditure by a specific entity for a specific purpose.
- **Chaptered bill**: Bill that has been approved by Legislature, signed by Governor, then assigned a “chapter” number in California’s statutes for that year.
Idea to Bill to Law

- **Idea**
- **Drafting**
- **Introduction**
  - Bill receives number
- **Rules committee of the house:** Assigned to the appropriate policy committee for its **first hearing**.
  - 23 policy committees in Senate
  - 31 policy committees in Assembly
- **If requires the expenditure of funds must also be heard in the fiscal committees,** Senate Appropriations and Assembly Appropriations.
Legislative Process

- Committee action
  - Pass
  - Amend
  - Hold
  - Kill

- Floor debate and vote

- Required Votes:
  - Most bills require 21 votes in the Senate and 41 votes in the Assembly (Majority).
  - Bills that require an appropriation, or that take effect immediately, require 27 votes in the Senate and 54 votes in the Assembly to be passed (2/3).

- Move to the other House.
Resolving differences

If Assembly and Senate pass different versions of bill, differences must be reconciled. This can be done by

- **Concurrence**
  - One house agrees to other house’s version.

- **Conference committee**
  - Both houses must approve any compromise bill.

- If approved by Legislature, bill goes to Governor.
Action by Governor

- Governor acts (within 12 days of receiving bill).
  - Signs bill or
  - Allows it to become law without signature
    - Bill is “chaptered.”
  - Vetoes bill
    - Bill returns to Legislature for possible override.
      (Requires two-thirds vote in each house.)
  - Blue line or line item veto
How a Bill Becomes a Law

Bill is introduced

Committee Hearings

Floor Action

Returned to original house

if passed with amendments

if not vetoed

Bill goes to Governor

Most bills become law January 1 of the next year

if passed without amendments

if passed (Sent to other house)
Budget Process
THE ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

Departments review expenditure plans and annually prepare baseline budgets to maintain existing level of services; they may prepare Budget Chance Proposals (BCPs) to change levels of service.

Department of Finance (Finance) analyzes the baseline budget and BCPs, focusing on the fiscal impact of the proposals and consistency with the policy priorities/direction of the Governor. Finance estimates revenues and prepares a balanced expenditure plan for the Governor's approval. The Governor's Budget is released to the Legislature by January 10th of each year.

Governor issues State of the State Address setting forth policy goals for the upcoming fiscal year. Two identical Budget Bills are submitted (one in the Assembly and one in the Senate) for independent consideration by each house.

Public input to Governor, legislative members and subcommittees.

Finance and departments testify before budget subcommittees on the proposed budget. DOF updates revenues and expenditures with Finance Letters and May Revision.

As non-partisan analysts, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) prepares an "Analysis of the Budget Bill" and "Perspectives and Issues." Testifies before the budget subcommittees on the proposed budget.

Public input to Governor, legislative members and subcommittees.

Assembly Budget Committee - divided into several subcommittees to review (approve, revise, or disapprove) specific details of the budget. Majority vote required for passage.

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review - divided into several subcommittees to review (approve, revise, or disapprove) specific details of the budget. Majority vote required for passage.

Assembly Floor examines committee report on budget attempting to get 2/3 vote for passage. The Budget usually moves to conference committee.

Budget Conference Committee attempts to work out differences between Assembly & Senate versions of the Budget - also amending the budget to attempt to get a 2/3 vote from each house.

Senate Floor examines committee report on budget attempting to get 2/3 vote for passage. The Budget usually moves to conference committee.

Sometimes, the BIG 5 (Governor, Speaker of Assembly, Speaker pro Tempore, and Minority Leaders of both houses) meet and compromise to get the 2/3 vote required in each house.

Final budget package with 2/3 vote in each House submitted to the Governor for signature. Governor may reduce or eliminate any appropriation through the line-item veto. The budget package also includes trailer bills necessary to authorize and implement various program or revenue changes.

Individual departments and the Finance administer, manage change, and exercise oversight of the Budget on an ongoing basis. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) provides some coordination between the two houses and oversees the LAO. The JLBC is involved in the ongoing administration of the Budget and reviews various requests for changes to the Budget, after enactment.
Impacting Public Policy
LOBBYING

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

What would you like to put in your personal ad, sir?

I'm looking for someone who will constantly shower me with gifts and attention in return for special favors.

Looking for lobbyist.
How Can We Affect Public Policy?

- Sponsor a bill.
- Seek amendment to a bill.
- Advocate for or against a bill.
- Follow up after enactment of a bill to assure that appropriate regulations are in place.
- Seeking increased funding for a program through the budget.
- Grassroots advocacy on bills and budget including letter writing campaigns and use of media.
Key Web Sites for Advocacy

- Official California legislative information —
  http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/
  - Links to important information about legislation and legislative process.
  - Search for California bills at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html.
  - “Subscribe” to bills you want to track.
  - Budget Bill is also available via the leginfo website.