



September 10, 2024

TO: Board Members, Madera County Transportation Commission  
FROM: Gus Khouri, President  
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RE: **STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE –SEPTEMBER**

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### **General Outlook**

The legislature adjourned the 2023-24 Regular Session on August 31. Governor Newsom will have until September 30 to sign or veto legislation. On September 3, Governor Newsom called for a Special session on gas prices. The focus is on requiring oil refineries to keep a reserve to prevent price spikes, which the Governor states is all profit at the expense of consumers. The Governors of Arizona and Nevada have expressed concerns that potential legislation could severely impact gas prices in those states, given how dependent they are on the importation of California oil. The Governor is responding to gas price spikes in November of 2022 and wants to hold “Big Oil” accountable.

The current class of legislators, which includes 34 termed-out members (11 Senators and 23 Assemblymembers), can serve until November 30. The new class of legislators will be sworn in on December 2. The Senate has expressed reluctance to meet, and passage of legislation before the November 3 election could jeopardize certain candidates in tightly contested races.

The Special Session could also provide an opportunity to examine the imposition of a state gas tax, which is currently at 59.6 cents and, despite inflationary adjustments, is not keeping up with demand to address infrastructure needs for local streets and roads and highways, nor multi-modal investments into active and public transportation. This is primarily due to the emergence of zero-emission vehicles and gas-powered vehicles becoming more fuel-efficient.