

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
January 14, 2021

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87215679447?pwd=dk1sdWVCSmpGYmZVY1N4T1hpKzkyQT09>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 872 1567 9447 | Password: 278330

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MINUTES

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**1. Roll Call**

OFFICERS

James Gore | *President*

Ed Valenzuela | *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Chuck Washington | *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

Lisa Bartlett | *Immediate Past President*

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | *Executive Director*

Manuel Rivas, Jr. | *Deputy Executive Director,  
Operations & Member Services*

Darby Kernan | *Deputy Executive Director,  
Legislative Services*

ADVISORS

John Beiers | *County Counsels' Association,  
San Mateo County*

Frank Kim | *Orange County CEO, California  
Association of County Executives, President*

SUPERVISORS

Keith Carson | *Alameda County*

Susan Ellenberg | *Santa Clara County*

John Gioia | *Contra Costa County*

Carole Groom | *San Mateo County (absent)*

Kelly Long | *Ventura County*

Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County*

Buddy Mendes | *Fresno County*

Luis Alejo | *Monterey County*

Diane Dillon | *Napa County*

Erin Hannigan | *Solano County*

Bruce Gibson | *San Luis Obispo County*

Craig Pedersen | *Kings County*

Sue Novasel | *El Dorado County*

Jeff Griffiths | *Inyo County*

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Ed Scofield | *Treasurer, Nevada County (absent)*

**2. Executive Director's Report**

Graham Knaus introduced the Governor's Cabinet Secretary, Ana Matosantos, and the Director of the California Department of Finance, Keely Bosler, to discuss vaccine distribution. Secretary Matosantos expressed the need to collectively focus on administering vaccine because that will affect that rate at which the state receives it. The state has requested vaccine allocation from the federal government on a per capita basis, but the Feds are concerned that our state is not vaccinating quickly enough. Secretary Matosantos said she would share the state's report that shows vaccine distribution, allocation and administration data. Director Bosler emphasized that we are in an emergency response posture when it comes to vaccine distribution. While there is an allocation in the state budget, it's just an estimate. They want to make sure federal money continues to flow to counties and the state will fill in with funds where needed. Ryan Miller, Assistant Budget Program Manager for the Department of Finance, said that on the Federal side, California is getting around \$1.7 billion for testing activities. This is in addition to \$575 million that's going directly to LA County and \$350 million for vaccines. They currently are working to interpret guidance received yesterday from CDPH regarding the use of these funds.

### 3. Minute Mics: Executive Committee Roundtable – *What’s going on in your county?*

**Chuck Washington / Riverside County** – We need to work harder to make sure the state understands what’s going on with counties to improve our outcomes.

**Ed Valenzuela / Siskiyou County** - Rural counties need more vaccines right now.

**John Gioia / Contra Costa County** – Hospital provider patients are coming to the county to get vaccines so they are trying to get hospitals to ramp up. Their online appointment system will be expanding to those 65+. The county has several alternate care sites set up that they hope won’t have to use.

**Buddy Mendes / Fresno County** – Fresno County needs more vaccine. The county has a farmworker program that they’re ready to roll out but they don’t have enough vaccine.

**Susan Ellenberg / Santa Clara County** – Santa Clara County is doing well on logistics. They have sufficient venues and workers but they need more vaccine.

**Bruce Gibson / San Luis Obispo County** – San Luis Obispo County has a vaccine task force that meets weekly. This group is made up of hospitals, health care providers and social service providers, so there is a good level of coordination. We need to press the state on the accuracy of their data otherwise we’re flying blind.

**Kelly Long / Ventura County** – Supervisor Long is concerned that the state may not have the correct vaccination numbers. Public gatherings are an issue as people are gathering at homes since restaurants are closed. Business owners are very upset because some are not following the rules.

**Erin Hannigan / Solano County** – Supervisor Hannigan is in communication with her public health team to see if the state’s data is correct. They do have members of the business community not following guidance; it’s been especially tough with restaurants not being able to open outdoors and she understands their frustration.

**Jeff Griffiths / Inyo County** – The vaccine roll out has gone smoothly in Inyo County. They have seen discrepancies in reporting of cases and testing on reservations as well as with the Indian Health Service. COVID is raging through their community. Their hospitals are overwhelmed and they’ve lost some community leaders. Inyo’s commercial airport scheduled to receive flights this summer for first time ever and the county staff is preparing to move into a new office building.

**Sue Novasel / El Dorado County** – El Dorado County has two private hospitals and they’re trying to get first responders and the tier 1a group vaccinated. They recently switched coordination from the public health office to OES. Instead of threatening our counties to take away resources, the state should offer to help those that need a helping hand.

**Lisa Bartlett / Orange County** – Orange County is getting ready to open up their Be Well OC campus, which is a P3 partnership with hospitals and the county health care system. It has 96 mental/behavioral health beds and assists with everything from crisis stabilization to addiction treatment to substance abuse, etc. Orange County hospitals were overwhelmed and didn’t have bandwidth to vaccinate so they opened up a super pod in the Disneyland parking lot. 20,000 residents went to the Othena.com app to register and schedule their vaccinations. The county gave 3,000 vaccinations yesterday and hopes to ramp up to 7,500 daily. The county plans to open more super pods, mini pods and mobile pods.

**Kathryn Barger / Los Angeles County**. The state's messaging surrounding vaccinations is very frustrating and the most recent announcement without any warning was even more confusing. The messaging needs to make sense. Kaiser was aggressively vaccinating 75+ and then immediately moved to 65+ when the announcement was made. Why can Kaiser do it but the counties can't? LA County has also set up super pods, including one at Dodger stadium.

**Luis Alejo / Monterey County** – Monterey County is putting additional focus on the agricultural workforce. Over 42,000 workers will be coming into the county and this population is not the easiest to convince to get vaccinated. The county is doing special planning with farmers and labor unions and needs to open more work sites to vaccinate essential workers. Supervisor Alejo agreed to be a lead on the translation of messages for Spanish speakers.

**Diane Dillon / Napa County** – Supervisor Dillon likes the idea of looking at vaccinating in a multi-county way. They have had to turn away volunteers because they didn't have enough vaccine to deliver. Counties are not stockpiling vaccine; it's the hospitals who are worried they won't get second doses. Napa has scheduled clinics, per the state's new announcement, and they're not sure they will get the vaccines in time. We have to prioritize vaccinating 75+ because they're in the ones in the ICU's.

**Leonard Moty / Shasta County** – Supervisor Moty agrees that the new tiered system description is terrible. Shasta County has two supervisors who are promoting radicals in their county to act like those in the D.C. riots, as referenced in the LA Times article last weekend. Supervisor Moty is not sure what's going to happen moving forward because their board chair is allowing it.

**Keith Carson / Alameda County** – There is a coalition of 9 Bay Area counties that have been convening for about 3 months surrounding COVID. This group works with the Bay Area Counsel, Public Health Officers and Public Information Officers in an effort to consolidate the way they are communicating. They have been able to solicit support and engagement of several key businesses, including Kaiser, and they are attempting to bring Pixar to the table. They are getting ready to roll out a big campaign and Kaiser is investing significant dollars to help with this effort.

#### **4. Discussion of Governor's January Budget Impact**

Graham Knaus discussed CSAC's 2021 Advocacy Priorities, which were approved by the Board of Directors at the November 2020 meeting. The short priority list includes COVID-19, county fiscal stability, broadband, homelessness, resiliency and behavioral health. Those are the first six core priorities that were adopted by the board, all of which were addressed in the state budget. Darby Kernan presented that the January budget looks better than what we saw at the May revise. Unfortunately, there are two critical areas that the administration lacked investment: public health and broadband. Each legislative representative highlighted key areas in the budget that fall within their policy area:

**Josh Gauger / Administration of Justice**: The budget is investing \$1.75 billion in homelessness, with \$750 million in one-time money for Project Homekey. We will continue to work on DJJ realignment implementation and clean-up legislation. The budget also allocates \$50 million directly to county probation departments and \$200 million to counties for the time state inmates have spent in county jail facilities.

Catherine Freeman / Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources: The budget allocated \$1 billion for wildfire and mitigation, which follows two years of hard work by county and local government. The proposal is to spend \$300 million in current year and \$700 million next year for fire prevention. Unfortunately, there was no local government support funding for organics recycling. Instead the proposal shifts personnel from local assistance to compliance and enforcement. The state will be working on consolidation of cannabis regulations to streamline permitting and regulatory work.

Geoff Neill / Government Finance and Administration: Geoff expressed his disappointment in the lack of any real proposal on broadband. Their hope was for specific investment in building out infrastructure and increasing adoption rates by adopting the action plan that the Broadband Council recently approved. There are two smaller tax proposals that would affect counties. One is related to property tax and will allow companies that construct or add electric vehicle charging/hydrogen fueling stations to avoid paying property taxes on the new construction for ten years. The other is related to sales tax and would double an existing program for certain types of manufacturing equipment purchases. This reduces sales tax revenue for local governments.

Justin Garrett / Human Services: Overall realignment revenue looks good for current year. The Governor's budget projects a 5.6% increase this year but a 1.9% decline next year in 2021-22. The Master Plan for Aging was released last week and there is some funding available. This funding includes \$250 million for preventing homelessness among older adults by acquisition of residential facilities for the elderly and an additional \$5 million placeholder for additional proposals. Nutrition assistance is another critical need that has grown during the pandemic. The budget includes a \$182 million increase for county administrative funding for Cal Fresh and \$30 million for food banks.

Farrah McDaid Ting / Health and Behavioral Health: This budget contains a historic investment in the county behavioral health system. The main proposal is \$750 million in state general fund to help counties create more mental health housing placements. There was no clear investment in local efforts for vaccinations or contact tracing and we're working to make sure counties get funding in this area. We believe the \$372 million in the budget for COVID should go to local government.

Roshena Duree / Legislative Analyst for Health and Human Services: This budget includes \$1.1 billion for CalAIM investments and initiatives and \$450 million for student mental health programs. There were several flexibilities granted during the COVID-19 pandemic, including an extension on Mental Health Services Act flexibilities as well as money in the budget for making some telehealth flexibilities permanent.

Chris Lee / Legislative Representative for Housing, Land Use and Transportation: There was significant funding for affordable housing, including \$500 million for an additional round of infill infrastructure grants and an additional one time investment of \$500 million for state housing tax credits. The budget included \$4.3 million for additional enforcement of state housing laws. It also included a proposal on the rental assistance program from the federal COVID-19 relief bill with \$1.2 billion going directly to counties/cities with over 200k population. The other \$1.4 billion will be controlled by the state. On transportation, they worked closely with the transportation commission on a proposal to provide SB1 maintenance of effort relief and they were told there will be trailer bill language on that.

Lastly, \$900 million was allocated to California through CalTrans from the Federal aid bill and we're trying to get a slice of that money.

**5. Approval of Minutes from October 8, 2020 & November 5, 2020**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 8, 2020 and November 5, 2020 was made by Supervisor Alejo; second by Supervisor Griffiths. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Approval of Updated 2020-2021 Board of Directors Nominations**

A motion to approve the Updated 2020-2021 Board of Directors Nominations was made by Supervisor Gibson; second by Supervisor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Appointment of CSAC Treasurer, NACo Board & WIR Representatives**

A motion to approve the Appointment of the CSAC Treasurer, NACo Board & WIR Representatives was made by Supervisor Bartlett; second by Supervisor Long. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Appointment of CSAC Policy Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Working Groups**

A motion to approve the Appointment of CSAC Policy Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Working Groups was made by Supervisor Barger; second by Supervisor Gioia and Supervisor Griffiths. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. CSAC Finance Corporation Board Report and Appointment of Board Members**

Supervisor Leonard Moty, Finance Corporation President, presented the process of recommending and appointing members the Finance Corporation Board of Directors. Their recommendations include:

- Lisa Bartlett, Orange County
- Leonard Moty, Shasta County
- Susan Muranishi, Alameda County
- Ryan Alsop, Kern County

A motion to approve the Appointment of the Finance Corporation Board Members was made by Supervisor Washington; second by Supervisor Long. Motion carried unanimously.

Alan Fernandes, Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Corporation, gave a brief overview of the objectives and mission of the Finance Corporation and highlighted the Corporate Associates' Program and business partnerships.

**10. Approval of Amended CSAC Policies and Procedures Manual**

Graham Knaus explained the proposed update as it relates to taking a position on a ballot initiative at Board of Directors meetings.

A motion to approve the Amended CSAC Policies and Procedures Manual was made by Supervisor Valenzuela; second by Supervisor Griffiths. Motion carried unanimously.

### **11. Communications and Member Services Report**

Manuel Rivas, Jr., presented that CSAC's goal is to continue being proactive in our communications. Key priorities include continuing to amplify advocacy efforts and compliment what our legislative team is doing, keeping our well-established relationships with media, keeping our members informed and continuing to tell the county story. David Liebler, Director of Public Affairs and Member Services, addressed CSAC's communications strategy on vaccine roll-out. The Association realizes that not all counties have dedicated PIO's. He requested that board members let CSAC know if there's anything we can do at the local level as we can help with resources.

### **12. California Counties Foundation Report**

Chastity Benson, Director of Operations and Educational Programs for the Foundation, informed the Executive Committee that the Winter/Spring Institute schedule has been released and the response and registration has been fantastic. The Institute is starting their partnership with Alameda County in March. The Education Committee has been meeting regularly and will begin to offer additional education in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. They are planning a larger forum surrounding that area. The December New Supervisors Institute was very successful, with the second session scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**