

# CSAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## BRIEFING MATERIALS

Thursday, February 13, 2025

10am-1:30pm



**Sacramento Masonic Temple | 1123 J Street, Sacramento**

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84631350888?pwd=aO2yEueFSvN3rMRpVqahcrMnSaQABe.1>

Meeting ID: 846 3135 0888

Passcode: 252570

California State  
Association of Counties



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Orientation: 9:00am – 10:00am

Business Meeting: 10:00am – 1:30pm

[Sacramento Masonic Temple](#) | 1123 J Street, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84631350888?pwd=aO2yEueFSvN3rMRpVqahcrMnSaQABe.1>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 846 3135 0888 | Password: 252570

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AGENDA

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

9:00 AM **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORIENTATION (CSAC Board Members Only)**  
➤ *Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

10:00 AM **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
*Presiding: Jeff Griffiths | Inyo County Supervisor, CSAC President*

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

1. Pledge of Allegiance *Page 1*
2. Roll Call *Page 2-3*

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

3. CEO's Report *Page 4*  
➤ *Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer*
4. Presentation from California Health and Human Services  
➤ *Kim Johnson | CalHHS Secretary*
5. Working Groups Update *Page 5-9*
  - Insurance  
➤ *Heidi Hall | Nevada County Supervisor, Insurance Working Group Chair*
  - Childcare  
➤ *Chuck Washington | Riverside County Supervisor, Childcare Working Group Chair*
  - Tribal  
➤ *Bonnie Gore | Placer County Supervisor, Tribal Working Group Chair*

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2024 *Page 10-12*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. Legislative Update *Page 13-20*  
➤ *Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | Chief Policy Officer*

Administration of Justice

- *Ryan Morimune | Senior Legislative Advocate*
- *Michaela Stone | Legislative Analyst*

Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

- Catherine Freeman | Senior Legislative Advocate
- Amber Rossow | Legislative Analyst

Government Finance and Administration

- Eric Lawyer | Legislative Advocate
- Emma Jungwirth | Senior Legislative Advocate

Health and Human Services

- Jolie Onodera | Senior Legislative Advocate
- Justin Garrett | Senior Legislative Advocate
- Danielle Bradley | Legislative Analyst

Housing, Land Use and Transportation

- Mark Neuburger | Legislative Advocate

**CSAC REPORTS**

8. Operations & Member Services Report *Page 21-22*
- Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer
9. CSAC Finance Corporation Report *Page 23-40*
- Oscar Villegas | Yolo County Supervisor, President, CSAC FC
  - Alan Fernandes | Chief Executive Officer, CSAC FC
  - Jim Manker | Director of Business Development, CSAC FC
  - Corporate Partner | Dacia Easton, HGA
10. California Counties Foundation Report *Page 41-44*
- Susan Ellenberg | Santa Clara County Supervisor, California Counties Foundation President
  - Paul Danczyk | Chief Operating Officer, California Counties Foundation
11. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report *Page 45*
- Jason Britt | Tulare County CAO, CACE President
12. County Counsels' Association of California (CoCo) Report *Page 46-56*
- Brian E. Washington | Marin County Counsel, CoCo Past President

12:00 PM **LUNCH**

12:45 PM **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

13. Minute Mics: Board of Directors Roundtable
- What's going on in your county (in one minute)

**INFORMATION ITEMS WITHOUT PRESENTATION**

- Institute for Local Government (ILG) Reports *Page 57-60*
- 2025 Calendar of Events *Page 61*

1:30 PM **ADJOURN**



*United States of America*  
Pledge of Allegiance



California State Association of Counties®



**CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**  
 Board of Directors  
 2024-2025

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>President:</b>	Jeff Griffiths, Inyo
U=Urban	<b>First Vice President:</b>	Susan Ellenberg, Santa Clara
S=Suburban	<b>Second Vice President:</b>	Luis Alejo, Monterey
R=Rural	<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo

*Members of the CSAC Executive Committee are highlighted for your reference*

SECTION	COUNTY	DIRECTOR
U	Alameda County	David Haubert
R	Alpine County	Terry Woodrow
R	Amador County	Jeff Brown
S	Butte County	Tod Kimmelshue
R	Calaveras County	Benjamin Stopper
R	Colusa County	Kent Boes
U	Contra Costa County	John Gioia
R	Del Norte County	Chris Howard
R	El Dorado County	Greg Ferrero
U	Fresno County	Buddy Mendes
R	Glenn County	Grant Carmon
R	Humboldt County	Michelle Bushnell
S	Imperial County	Jesus Eduardo Escobar
R	Inyo County	Trina Orrill
S	Kern County	Leticia Perez
R	Kings County	Rusty Robinson
R	Lake County	Bruno Sabatier
R	Lassen County	Gary Bridges
U	Los Angeles County	Kathryn Barger
R	Madera County	Leticia Gonzalez
S	Marin County	Mary Sackett
R	Mariposa County	Rosemarie Smallcombe
R	Mendocino County	John Haschak
S	Merced County	Scott Silveira
R	Modoc County	Ned Coe
R	Mono County	John Peters
S	Monterey County	Luis Alejo
S	Napa County	Anne Cottrell
R	Nevada County	Heidi Hall

U	Orange County	Doug Chaffee
S	Placer County	Bonnie Gore
R	Plumas County	Tom McGowan
U	Riverside County	V. Manuel Perez
U	Sacramento County	Rich Desmond
R	San Benito County	Angela Curro
U	San Bernardino County	Jesse Armendarez
U	San Diego County	
U	San Francisco City & County	Rafael Mandelman
U	San Joaquin County	Robert Rickman
S	San Luis Obispo County	Bruce Gibson
U	San Mateo County	Noelia Corzo
S	Santa Barbara County	
U	Santa Clara County	Susan Ellenberg
S	Santa Cruz County	Manu Koenig
R	Shasta County	Kevin Crye
R	Sierra County	Lee Adams
R	Siskiyou County	Ed Valenzuela
S	Solano County	Wanda Williams
S	Sonoma County	James Gore
S	Stanislaus County	Mani Grewal
R	Sutter County	Dan Flores
R	Tehama County	
R	Trinity County	Ric Leutwyler
S	Tulare County	Amy Shuklian
R	Tuolumne County	Ryan Campbell
U	Ventura County	Kelly Long
S	Yolo County	Lucas Frerichs
R	Yuba County	John Messick

**TREASURER**

Belia Ramos, Napa County

**ADVISORS**

Brian E. Washington, Marin County Counsel

Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO, California Association of County Executives, President



**OFFICERS**

**President**

Jeff Griffiths  
Inyo County

**1st Vice President**

Susan Ellenberg  
Santa Clara County

**2nd Vice President**

Luis Alejo  
Monterey County

**Past President**

Bruce Gibson  
San Luis Obispo County



**CEO**

Graham Knaus

February 13, 2025

TO: CSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer

**SUBJECT: CEO's Report**

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This item provides an opportunity to discuss the state of the Association and core priorities as well as refine the strategic approach to advocacy and communications through Board of Directors input.



**Officers**

**President**  
Jeff Griffiths  
Inyo County

**1st Vice President**  
Susan Ellenberg  
Santa Clara County

**2nd Vice President**  
Luis Alejo  
Monterey County

**Past President**  
Bruce Gibson  
San Luis Obispo County

**CEO**  
Graham Knaus

February 13, 2024

**TO:** CSAC Board of Directors

**FROM:** Supervisor Heidi Hall, Chair  
Catherine Freeman, Senior Legislative Advocate  
Amber Rossow, Legislative Analyst  
Paul Shafer, Legislative Coordinator

**SUBJECT: Status Report from CSAC’s Insurance Working Group**

The property insurance crisis has been percolating in the ether for years, but as weather events resulting in billions of dollars in damages continue to flog the US, all eyes focus on decisive action for a remedy. The full extent of the impacts from the Los Angeles County fires have still yet to be realized but, for certain, this will have far reaching implications for the United States insurance market as a whole. CSAC established its Insurance Working Group to gain a deeper understanding of this complex issue and developed policy language to guide CSAC’s advocacy efforts moving forward. This memo includes insight into the state of California’s fragile insurance market and overviews the Insurance Working Group’s efforts to develop official guiding policies.

**Insurance Company Pull Outs**

Since 2022, California has seen an exodus of admitted insurance carriers, citing increased portfolio risk, increased losses, and an inability to set rates that meet the realities of covering costs in the state. According to the California Department of Insurance, seven of the 12 largest insurance companies, comprising a staggering 85% of the state’s insurance market, have paused or restricted new business. Between 2020 and 2022, 2.8 million home insurance policies were declined to be renewed, this includes 531,000 non-renewals in Los Angeles County alone.

**FAIR Plan in California**

For individuals who have been denied coverage from both admitted and non-admitted insurance companies, there exists a last resort option. The California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan is the state’s insurer of last resort and provides coverage to those unable to get a policy through the traditional market. The FAIR Plan is a consortium paid into by all licensed property insurers in the state. Currently, around 3% of the existing home insurance policies are covered by the FAIR Plan (Note: this data point is from before the outbreak of the 2025 Los Angeles County Fires).

While the original intent of the FAIR plan was to serve as the state’s insurer of last resort, it has quickly ballooned in demand. For residential coverage, risk exposure more than doubled from September 2023 to September 2024 totaling \$458 billion, this is triple the exposure from even three years ago.

### **Efforts by the State**

In the wake of growing pressures on the insurance market, in September 2023, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara released plans for executive action aimed at improving insurance choice and addressing the long-term sustainability of the nation's largest insurance market. Throughout 2024, Commissioner Lara released a host of regulations and changes to how insurance companies operate and offer services in the state of California. Commissioner Lara was welcomed to the Working Group in August 2024 to take questions and hear the county perspective on this issue.

### **CSAC's Insurance Working Group**

CSAC convened its first meeting of the Insurance Working Group in May 2024, under the leadership of Nevada County Supervisor Heidi Hall. This group met monthly over Zoom and welcomed guest speakers from across the country to help provide key context on the insurance crisis. The Insurance Working Group was comprised of rural, suburban and urban county supervisors and staff, representing more than 35 counties across the state. Given the highly complicated and technical nature of the insurance problem, the speakers (listed below) were instrumental in the developing policy language that addresses the issue central to the insurance crisis.

- **May 30, 2024 Meeting**
  - Tamar Foster, Deputy Executive Director and Ashley Hurley, Senior Research Analyst of the Little Hoover Commission
- **June 20, 2024 Meeting**
  - Julia Svetlana Juarez, Deputy Commissioner, California Department of Insurance; and Nancy Watkins, Principal and Consulting Actuary, Milliman Inc.
- **July 25, 2024 Meeting**
  - Amy Bach, Executive Director, United Policyholders
- **August 28, 2024 Meeting**
  - Richardo Lara, California Insurance Commissioner
- **September 26, 2024 Meeting**
  - Elizabeth Brown, Sr. Insurance Regulatory Policy Analyst, US Department of Treasury; Shana Oppenheim, Assistant Director of Financial Policy & Legislation, National Association of Insurance Commissioners
- **October 31, 2024 Meeting**
  - Shaveta Gupta, Catastrophe Risk and Modeling Advisor, Catastrophe Modeling Center of Excellence, National Association of Insurance Commissioners

The working group finalized its work with the development of guiding principles to integrate into CSAC's policy platform. The principles were approved by the Board of Directors in November 2024 and will be used to guide the statewide advocacy efforts by CSAC's legislative team.

# CSAC Insurance Working Group

## Policy Priorities

*As Of October 31, 2024*



California State  
Association of Counties

In 2024, the CSAC Insurance Working Group was formed to develop an advocacy plan on the detrimental impacts to counties created by a lack of available and affordable insurance options, especially as related to wildfire. The Working Group created the following Policy Principles to guide CSAC's advocacy moving forward:

### 1. Rewarding Resilience & Risk Mitigation Work

Counties across the state are building resilience through risk mitigation work, however, communities are not seeing the benefits of this work reflected in the cost and availability of insurance coverage. The state must develop clear mitigation standards and transparency on how the mitigation work will impact the availability and affordability of insurance policies. CSAC supports:

- The development of comprehensive standards to ensure that mitigation and resilience work completed at the community, landscape, regional, and wildfire home hardening levels result in direct increase of availability and affordability of insurance policies.
- Data sharing from risk models to help guide mitigation work.
- Clear, consistent education for policyholders on how to meet mitigation standards.
- Permit streamlining for vegetation management projects to lower cost barriers for risk reduction projects.
- Utilizing existing data collection efforts to minimize duplication of work.

One of the biggest barriers to completing more risk mitigation work is funding. Counties have invested heavily to build out community resilience and it is critical that all levels of government share the cost of this work. CSAC supports:

- Ongoing, sustainable state and federal funding to maximize community resilience, especially in the form of direct funding to counties.
- State and federal assistance to residents for mitigation work, including assistance for home hardening, via direct funding or tax credits.
- Ongoing, sustainable federal funding for vegetation management on Federal lands that protects homes and communities.

### 2. Transparency & Education

Home insurance companies are utilizing many data points, including new technology like drone and satellite imagery, to decide whether to insure homes. While the insurance industry has said this facilitates the establishment of rates that better reflect a property's risk, little is shared with consumers about how companies reach these conclusions. More disclosure is necessary when assessing risk scores affecting a policyholder's affordability and accessibility. CSAC supports transparency in:

- How risk models and rating standards are developed and used by insurance companies and regulators.
- What data methods are being used in the assessment of Wildfire Risk Scores.
- The use of maps as well as their consistency and accuracy on a home site scale.
- How technology is being utilized in the development of maps and models.
- The development and use of public catastrophe modeling, including how the Department will ensure that insurance companies are utilizing the model.

In addition, this transparency must be utilized to ensure the protection of policyholders through:

- The establishment of clear, easy to navigate appeals processes.
- Robust education for policyholders around the development and use of risk scores.
- Oversight from the Department of Insurance to help homeowners interpret and understand risk scores.

### **3. Adequate Departmental Resources & Staffing**

The Department of Insurance plays a critical role in protecting consumers and ensuring the health of the insurance market. It is important that the Department balance these missions while building out resources for consumers. CSAC supports:

- Adequate funding and staffing to ensure the Department can work in a timely manner.
- Enhanced consumer education, including better distribution of existing resources, to help equip consumers to understand risk scores and communicate with insurers.
- Proactive outreach for vulnerable communities to ensure they can stay in their homes.
- Departmental collection of data to better inform policies into the future.
- Departmental efforts to provide methods to correct maps and data used in risk scores that are proven to be inaccurate.
- Departmental oversight of risk modeling, including catastrophe modeling.
- The ability for consumers to easily access and understand information delivered by the Department.

### **4. Federal Engagement**

While the regulation of the insurance industry is predominantly delegated to states, the federal government can, and should, play a role in addressing what is quickly becoming a national crisis. CSAC supports federal engagement in, and leadership on:

- Addressing the increasing cost of re-insurance and alternative efforts to support responsible insurance companies.
- Research into the opportunities and challenges of establishing a federal backstop emergency fund for wildfire, similar to the National Flood Insurance Program or the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.



## CSAC Platform Language

The California County Platform is a statement of the basic policies of CSAC on issues of concern and interest to California's counties. The following can be found in the CSAC Platform under [Chapter 3 – Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources](#).

- Section 12: Emergency Management, Fire Protection:

*One of the biggest barriers to completing more risk mitigation work is funding. Counties have invested heavily to build out community resilience and it is critical that all levels of government share the cost of this work. CSAC supports:*

- *Ongoing, sustainable state and federal funding to maximize community resilience, especially in the form of direct funding to counties.*
- *State and federal assistance to residents for mitigation work, including assistance for wildfire home hardening, via direct funding and/or tax credits.*
- *Ongoing, sustainable federal funding for vegetation management on Federal lands that protects homes and communities.*

- Section 13: Wildfires and Home Insurance

*Counties across the state are building resilience through risk mitigation work, however, communities are not seeing the benefits of this work reflected in the cost and availability of insurance coverage. The state must develop clear mitigation standards and transparency on how the mitigation work will impact the availability and affordability of insurance policies.*

*Home insurance companies are utilizing many data points, including new technology like drone and satellite imagery, to decide whether to insure homes. While the insurance industry has said this facilitates the establishment of rates that better reflect a property's risk, little is shared with consumers about how companies reach these conclusions. More disclosure is necessary when assessing risk scores affecting a policyholder's affordability and accessibility. Consumers must have robust education on what goes into these scores, as well as clear and easy to navigate pathways to address and appeal rulings about their property.*

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Pasadena Convention Center | Ballroom F/G/H

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89319094728?pwd=bAj2TN010EF5G3sFhNSQ222Ue8ioHZ.1>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 893 1909 4728 | Password: 341468

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MINUTES

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1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

Bruce Gibson | President  
Jeff Griffiths | 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Susan Ellenberg | 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Chuck Washington | Immediate Past President

ADVISORS

Brian Washington | County Counsel, Marin County  
Jeff Van Wageningen | CEO, Riverside County (*absent*)

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer  
Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | Chief Policy Officer  
Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Belia Ramos | Treasurer, Napa County

Alameda	–	Keith Carson	Orange	–	Doug Chaffee
Alpine	–	Terry Woodrow	Placer	–	Bonnie Gore
Amador	–	Richard Forster	Plumas	–	Tom McGowan
Butte	–	Tod Kimmelshue	Riverside	–	V. Manuel Perez
Calaveras	–	Benjamin Stopper	Sacramento	–	Rich Desmond
Colusa	–	Kent Boes	San Benito	–	Angela Curro
Contra Costa	–	John Gioia	San Bernardino	–	Jesse Armendarez
Del Norte	–	Chris Howard	San Diego	–	<i>Absent</i>
El Dorado	–	<i>Absent</i>	San Francisco	–	Rafael Mandelman
Fresno	–	<i>Absent</i>	San Joaquin	–	Robert Rickman
Glenn	–	Grant Carmon	San Luis Obispo	–	Bruce Gibson
Humboldt	–	Michelle Bushnell	San Mateo	–	Noelia Corzo
Imperial	–	<i>Absent</i>	Santa Barbara	–	<i>Absent</i>
Inyo	–	Trina Orrill	Santa Clara	–	Susan Ellenberg
Kern	–	Leticia Perez	Santa Cruz	–	Manu Koenig
Kings	–	Rusty Robinson	Shasta	–	Kevin Crye
Lake	–	Bruno Sabatier	Sierra	–	Lee Adams
Lassen	–	Gary Bridges	Siskiyou	–	Ed Valenzuela
Los Angeles	–	Kathryn Barger	Solano	–	Erin Hannigan
Madera	–	Leticia Gonzalez	Sonoma	–	James Gore
Marin	–	Mary Sackett	Stanislaus	–	Mani Grewal
Mariposa	–	Rosemarie Smallcombe	Sutter	–	Dan Flores
Mendocino	–	John Haschak	Tehama	–	Candy Carlson
Merced	–	Scott Silveira	Trinity	–	Ric Leutwyler
Modoc	–	Ned Coe	Tulare	–	<i>Absent</i>
Mono	–	Jennifer Kreitz (alternate)	Tuolumne	–	Ryan Campbell
Monterey	–	Luis Alejo	Ventura	–	Kelly Long
Napa	–	Ryan Gregory	Yolo	–	Lucas Frerichs
Nevada	–	Heidi Hall	Yuba	–	Don Blaser

2. **CEO's Report**

Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the Association.

3. **Gubernatorial Candidate Presentations**

Three of the 2026 gubernatorial candidates presented to the CSAC Board of Directors:

- Michael Younger
- Betty Yee
- Antonio Villaraigosa

4. **Approval of Minutes from August 29, 2024**

*A motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 29, 2024, was made by Supervisor Scott Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Bruno Sabatier. The motion carried unanimously.*

5. **Election of 2025 Executive Committee & Caucus Report Outs**

**Rural**

Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, Rural Caucus Chair, provided an update on the Rural Caucus Meeting, which included the election of CSAC's 2025 Rural Caucus Executive Committee members:

- Kent Boes, Colusa County
- Ned Coe, Modoc County
- Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County (alternate)

**Urban**

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Urban Caucus Chair, provided an update on the Urban Caucus Meeting, which included the election of CSAC's 2025 Urban Caucus Executive Committee members:

- Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County
- Rich Desmond, Sacramento County
- John Gioia, Contra Costa County
- Kelly Long, Ventura County
- V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County
- Nora Vargas, San Diego County
- Noelia Corzo, San Mateo County (alternate)

**Suburban**

Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Suburban Caucus Chair, provided an update on the Suburban Caucus Meeting, which included the election of CSAC's new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo, and the election of CSAC's 2025 Suburban Caucus Executive Committee members:

- Bonnie Gore, Placer County
- Manu Koenig, Santa Cruz County
- Scott Silveira, Merced County
- Lucas Frerichs, Yolo County (alternate)

*A motion to approve the election of CSAC's 2025 Executive Committee was made by Supervisor Scott Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Mary Sackett. The motion carried unanimously.*

6. **Resolution Authorizing Conduct of CSAC Business**

*A motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Conduct of CSAC Business was made by Supervisor Luis Alejo and was seconded by Supervisor Ned Coe. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **7. Adoption of Policy Priorities and Platform**

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, Chief Policy Officer, provided a brief legislative update and referenced that CSAC will be creating a Tribal Working Group to support the restructuring of CSAC's tribal platform.

Each of CSAC's 5 Policy Committees convened as part of the 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The following chairs/vice chairs provided a report to the board, which included an update on each committee's adopted priorities and platform changes:

- Administration of Justice: Chair Rich Desmond, Sacramento County
- Agriculture, Environment, & Natural Resources: Chair Heidi Hall, Nevada County
- Government Finance & Administration: Chair Mani Grewal, Stanislaus County
- Health & Human Services: Vice Chair Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County
- Housing, Land Use, & Transportation: Chair Jennifer Kreitz, Mono County

*A motion to approve the 2025 CSAC Policy Priorities and Platform was made by Supervisor Rich Desmond and was seconded by Supervisor Kelly Long. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **8. Federal Priorities Issues Update**

Joe Krahn, Tom Joseph, and Hasan Sarsour of Paragon Government Relations provided a Federal Priorities and Issues update to the Board.

## **9. Conflict of Interest Policy Form**

Jennifer Henning, Litigation Counsel, provided a brief overview of the CSAC Conflict of Interest Policy and asked each Board Member to sign and return CSAC'S Conflict of Interest form.

## **10. CSAC Litigation Coordination Program Report**

Jennifer Henning, Litigation Counsel, provided an update on CSAC's Litigation Coordination Program highlighting the Grants Pass case and several cases related to the Public Records Act.

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

Chastity Benson, Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief update on CSAC Operations. Sarah Hodge, Senior Member Engagement Manager, and Rachael Serrao, Public Affairs Manager, unveiled the prototype of CSAC's new website and highlighted several key pages and new features.

## **12. CSAC Finance Corporation Report**

Supervisor Oscar Villegas, CSAC Finance Corp. President, provided a brief update on recent Finance Corp. Board activities. Supervisor Villegas thanked two retiring Board members, Supervisor Richard Forester and Leonard Moty, and highlighted the Finance Corp. partnerships with Enterprise Mobility and Public Square Real Estate Inc. Jim Manker, Director of Business Development, presented on the Corporate Partners Program and introduced Ryan Napier from Chorus Innovations.

## **13. California Counties Foundation Report**

Paul Danczyk, California Counties Foundation Chief Operating Officer, and Veronica Smith, Programs and Grants Director, provided an update on Institute programs and the CSAC Grants Initiative.

The meeting was adjourned in honor of El Dorado County Supervisor John Hidahl.

**The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on February 13, 2025, in Sacramento County.**















# 2025 Legislative Priorities

**Counties lead.** Californians look to counties for the protection of public health and safety, as well as the provision of a broad array of services: transportation, elections, vital records, planning, waste and environmental management, and social services. As the closest level of government to the people, the state entrusts counties with the responsibility to administer and deliver these services to California’s constituents.

**Counties are on the frontlines.** It is imperative that counties have a voice at the table to ensure legislation reflects adequate capacity, funding, and workforce availability at the local level.

## Primary advocacy priorities on CSAC’s docket for the 2025 legislative session:

 <p><b>Homelessness</b></p> <p>Advocate for ongoing homelessness funding, accountability mechanisms, and support for state and federal policies that align with the six pillars of the AT HOME framework.</p>	 <p><b>Behavioral Health</b></p> <p>Advocate for sustained investments to implement Proposition 1, the CARE Act, and other behavioral health initiatives.</p>	 <p><b>Energy Storage</b></p> <p>Advocate for robust energy storage solutions that align with California’s clean energy goals while preserving counties’ local land-use authority.</p>	 <p><b>Felony IST</b></p> <p>Advocate for changes to the IST growth cap and penalty program to reflect shared goals of reducing IST commitments and minimizing fiscal penalties for counties.</p>
 <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>Advocate for efforts to expand housing at all levels, promote construction of affordable housing, and protect county roles in housing development and related impact fees.</p>	 <p><b>Workforce Challenges</b></p> <p>Advocate for policies to rebuild the public service pipeline, address barriers to hiring and retention, and preserve the ability to use contractors for essential public services.</p>	 <p><b>Public Meetings</b></p> <p>Advocate for modernization of the Brown Act to support safe, accessible, and welcoming public meetings, ensuring participation from all community members.</p>	 <p><b>Juvenile Justice</b></p> <p>Advocate for funding to meet infrastructure, programming, and treatment needs for justice-involved youth and young adults.</p>
 <p><b>CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative</b></p> <p>Advocate for long-term funding, provide guidance and updates, and foster collaboration to ensure successful implementation of the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative.</p>	 <p><b>Disaster Preparedness</b></p> <p>Advocate for state and federal investments in emergency preparedness and resilience, including solutions to ensure affordable wildfire insurance for high-risk communities.</p>	 <p><b>Safety Net Services</b></p> <p>Advocate for protecting safety-net programs, including health, human services, and public assistance, from potential budget cuts.</p>	 <p><b>Local Revenue Protection</b></p> <p>Advocate for protecting local revenues, reforming state-mandated reimbursement systems, and reducing backlogs of payments owed to counties for services already rendered.</p>

For more information on CSAC’s legislative priorities, please visit

[www.counties.org](http://www.counties.org)



# 2025 Advocacy Priorities

## Administration of Justice

- **Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Growth Cap and Penalty Program**  
Previous program improvements align with the shared goal of reducing the number of IST commitments, while also reducing the total statewide county penalty amount in the millions of dollars, which will be critical as we approach fiscal year 2026-27 when the tiered penalty rate schedule will sunset. CSAC will continue advocacy to incorporate further changes to the IST growth cap and penalty program and engage on legislation and budget items that impact local systems and the larger IST population.
- **Juvenile Justice**  
CSAC will continue to advocate for the necessary funding and resources to provide care for justice-involved youth and young adults close to their loved ones and ensure access to effective, individualized treatment while upholding public safety. The goal is to ensure that all youth are safe, healthy, and supported to become contributing members of their community.
- **California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Initiative (CalAIM JI)**  
As counties implement this program, CSAC will continue to provide updates and guidance from the state, convene counties for vital information sharing and learning opportunities, and advocate for adequate, long-term funding necessary for successful implementation of the CalAIM JI initiative.

## Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

- **Community Resilience.**  
CSAC will advocate for appropriate state, federal and local emergency support and planning, funding for community resilience measures. Counties need investment from state and federal partners, including in areas where the state or federal government are the majority landowner, to prepare their communities against catastrophic future disasters, whether from wildfire, flood, heat, or other extreme weather events.
- **Energy Storage**  
As the state continues to strive to meet its ambitious clean energy goals, the need for robust energy storage solutions is becoming increasingly

important. However, it's important that counties maintain local land-use authority when citing these projects and have the best available information to inform their decisions. CSAC staff will continue to work with state, local, and industry partners to provide counties with the resources they need to make the best-informed decisions, and advocate for resources to support citing and permitting.

➤ **Wildfire Insurance**

CSAC will continue to build upon these permits streamlining successes to develop permanent actions that improve county water, flood and environmental restoration projects while reducing the amount of time it takes to obtain state permits.

## **Government Finance and Administration**

➤ **Address Workforce Challenges**

CSAC will continue to advocate for policies that help counties rebuild the public service pipeline. CSAC will also push back against efforts to make contracting more challenging, as third-party contractors have long performed vital roles in providing public services and whose necessity is acutely felt when workforce challenges exist.

➤ **State Imposed Mandate Reimbursement Reform and Debt Repayment**

CSAC will actively work with the Governor's administration and local government stakeholders to review the current mandate reimbursement system, identify potential alternatives to establish greater payment security, and reduce the potential for payment backlogs on services already rendered. To this end, CSAC will lead discussions and advocate for alternatives to the process for mandate determination, methodologies, and processes for mandate cost estimates, among other solutions.

➤ **Modernize the Brown Act and Promote Safe, Welcoming Public Meetings**

The Brown Act ensures that public decisions are deliberated on and made in public at noticed meetings in which the public can participate, but some of its out-of-date provisions make it difficult for members of boards, commissions, and advisory bodies to participate, especially those with young children, medical issues, or disabilities. CSAC will continue to lead in developing proposals to modernize the Brown Act and foster public meetings that are safe and welcoming for all community members.

## **Health and Human Services**

➤ **CalAIM Implementation**



CSAC will continue to focus on the federal, state, and local finance implications, as well as the impacts on county operations, successful programs, and the people and families served. Additionally, CSAC will continue to advocate for prioritization and funding of counties to provide services that leverage counties' existing expertise and for the state to consult with counties in formulating and implementing all policy, operational and technological changes of this multi-faceted initiative.

➤ **CARE Act Funding/Implementation and Technical Assistance**

CSAC will continue to advocate to secure adequate, flexible, and sustained funding across all impacted local agencies to support counties' efforts in this new statewide program. Additionally, CSAC will advocate for any necessary program changes and needed technical assistance related to implementation as counties continue to roll out this new program statewide.

➤ **IHSS (In-Home Supportive Services)**

A statewide report that analyzes the costs and benefits of moving IHSS collective bargaining responsibilities from counties to the state level will be released in January and there is a strong likelihood that legislation on this issue will be introduced. CSAC will continue to engage on IHSS collective bargaining in a manner that protects county fiscal, programmatic, and administrative responsibilities for any possible transition of collective bargaining to the state level.

➤ **Early Childhood and Childcare**

CSAC will continue to look for ways to increase county advocacy on early childhood and childcare issues. This year, CSAC will expand its engagement with counties on early childhood and childcare issues as it relates to benefits to families, economic impacts, and connections to county administered programs. In addition, CSAC will look to build upon the work in 2024 to further engage on bill and budget items that align with county needs and county responsibilities.

➤ **Homelessness**

CSAC will advocate for ongoing homelessness funding, appropriate accountability mechanisms, and a broad range of homelessness bills and budget items at both the state and federal level that are aligned with the policy recommendations of the six pillars of the AT HOME plan. In addition, CSAC will remain engaged in the implementation of HHAP Rounds 5 and 6, which included increased collaboration, accountability, and planning requirements. CSAC will work with the Administration and Legislature on implementation needs and to highlight county urgency, utilization, and successes with this funding.

- **Proposition 1 Planning and Implementation / Behavioral Health Funding**  
CSAC will continue to represent the needs of counties to successfully leverage investments and to make transformative changes envisioned in the voter-approved measure. That requires addressing the underlying county mental health plan funding shortfalls, and recognizing the resource and authority needs stemming from the expanding set of roles and responsibilities on county agencies.
- **Safety Net Programs.**  
CSAC will work to protect funding for county safety net programs in the state budget. Counties were able to preserve most of this funding in the 2024 Budget Act, but the state continues to experience significant fiscal uncertainty. There is the possibility that detrimental cuts to county health and human services (HHS) programs will once again be proposed in 2025. CSAC will work to highlight the importance of these programs and protect funding for the full range of HHS programs that counties administer.

## **Housing, Land Use and Transportation**

- **Stabilize State Transportation Fund**  
CSAC will assist efforts to broaden and stabilize the state's transportation funding system to ensure that counties continue to receive reliable funding for transportation programs.
- **Housing at-all Levels**  
CSAC will support bills that seek to aid the construction of all types of housing, especially housing that supports the most vulnerable, while appropriately balancing county participation in the process.
- **Impact Fees**  
Counties charge a variety of fees to support their duties to provide housing and land use planning, development and enforcement services. Advocates have begun to view these fees as excessive and have successfully passed legislation to restrict or eliminate a county's ability to collect these vital fees. CSAC will work to draw the link between these fees and the county staff they support to fulfill county responsibilities in the land use and housing spaces.

## **Federal Priorities**

- **Resilience**  
California's counties continue to be on the front lines of preparing for and responding to extreme weather events and natural disasters, including

catastrophic fires, earthquakes and floods. Federal resources and investments are a key component of locally driven efforts to address the impacts of climate change, including the severity and increased frequency of major disasters. CSAC will continue to work with the California congressional delegation to pursue investments in key pre-disaster mitigation and resiliency initiatives. CSAC will also continue to work with congressional partners and other stakeholders on much-needed reforms to FEMA disaster preparedness and response programs.

➤ **Wildfire Insurance**

As disasters continue to increase in number and severity, homeowners in disaster-prone regions of the country face higher insurance premium, policy non-renewals, and, in many cases, some higher-risk communities do not have access to property insurance at all. CSAC will continue to engage with federal policymakers on how to effectively address the state's burgeoning wildfire insurance crisis.

➤ **Housing and Homelessness**

California's affordable housing and homelessness crises continue to impact counties statewide. CSAC's comprehensive AT HOME plan includes several federal policy proposals that are part of the holistic strategy aimed at helping individuals who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused, such as creating flexible housing subsidies and modifying federal Housing Choice Vouchers to help more individuals utilize rental assistance to maintain housing. Additionally, AT HOME promotes increased federal investments for key local programs and supportive services, including county behavioral health services. CSAC will continue to promote key aspects of AT HOME at the federal level, including working with members of the California congressional delegation, a number of whom have championed a series of association-supported housing and homelessness initiatives. CSAC will work to protect and enhance funding for key housing and homelessness programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

➤ **Affordable Connectivity Program**

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) expired in 2024 and, as of this writing, has not been renewed by Congress. CSAC will continue to aggressively advocate for permanent continuation of the ACP or a similar broadband benefit program.

➤ **Rural Development and Public Lands**

Despite efforts aimed at reauthorizing the 2018 Farm Bill, lawmakers fell short of renewing key agricultural, commodity, and nutrition programs in 2024. As

a result, the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress will be responsible for advancing a new long-term Farm Bill package. As policymakers look to reauthorize the law in 2025, CSAC will continue to advocate for a robust rural development title and will seek to maintain and expand funding and eligibility for key nutrition programs, including SNAP/CalFresh. In addition, CSAC will remain engaged in federal forest management reform discussions and will support efforts to enhance wildfire protection, preparedness, and forest resiliency. Finally, CSAC will advocate for a long-term reauthorization of both the Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program.

➤ **Protecting and Strengthening the Social Safety Net**

CSAC will continue to work to protect county administered safety-net programs, including Medicaid/Medi-Cal, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, child welfare, access to health care and services, public health, mental and behavioral health, aging and other important programs that support vulnerable populations.

➤ **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Reauthorization**

Many of the key provisions of the 2021 *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA) are slated to expire in September of 2026. All told, the historic bipartisan infrastructure law authorized \$1.2 trillion in spending for over 350 district programs across more than a dozen federal departments and agencies. In 2025, Congress will begin the process of reviewing the IIJA and considering options for reauthorizing program spending, including policy considerations for renewing the five-year surface transportation title of the Act. CSAC is in the process of developing its transportation priorities and will begin laying the groundwork with members of Congress in anticipation of the IIJA reauthorization process.

➤ **Victims of Crime Act**

Recent cuts to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants have significantly impeded the ability of county district attorneys, law enforcement, and local non-profit agencies to provide essential crime victim services, including crisis intervention, emergency assistance, counseling, behavioral health, and shelter and emergency housing services. CSAC will continue to work to ensure that VOCA is adequately funded through the appropriations process. Moreover, CSAC will continue to urge Congress to enact legislation that would provide long-term funding certainty for VOCA grants by stabilizing the financial health of the Crime Victims Fund.

➤ **County Finance and Tax Priorities**

Key provisions of the 2017 *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* are set to expire at the end of 2025. As part of efforts to renew the law, CSAC will support efforts to reinstate or expand public financing tools that help counties fund key local

infrastructure projects, including advocating for the reauthorization of Build America Bonds, the expansion of private activity bonds, the restoration of advance refunding bonds, and the protection of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. CSAC also will support an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. Finally, CSAC will support legislative efforts that would fully restore the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction and oppose any effort to further reduce or eliminate this tax benefit.

➤ **Help America Vote Act**

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) remains a vital source of federal funding for bolstering election security, improving voting systems, and modernizing infrastructure. CSAC will advocate for consistent and predictable funding, as well as essential policy improvements to address evolving election challenges. CSAC's priorities include securing additional resources to counter the growing impact of AI-generated misinformation, enhancing ADA-compliant infrastructure, and advancing county-driven voter education initiatives. CSAC also will promote the need for additional flexibility in how HAVA funds can be utilized, enabling counties to address their unique election-related needs effectively.



**OFFICERS**

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Jeff Griffiths  
Inyo County

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**CEO**

Graham Knaus

February 13, 2025

**TO:** CSAC Board of Directors

**FROM:** Chastity Benson, Chief Operating Officer  
Sarah Hodge, Senior Member Engagement Manager  
Rachael Serrao, Public Affairs Manager  
Debra Kurtti, Meeting Planner & Event Coordinator  
Stanicia Boatner, Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Operations and Members Services Report**

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**Facilities**

The Building Renovation Project is moving forward, with an architect hired and the selection of a project manager. To support these efforts, a survey has been sent to all CSAC staff to gather input on their workplace experience – whether they work from home, in the office, or a mix of both. Their feedback was essential in shaping our plans and creating a supportive work environment during and after the transition. Temporary office space is being planned, with a target move by the end of 2025. The Building Advisory Council (BAC) will meet on February 24, 2025, to discuss the cost estimates of the project. Final recommendations will be presented to the Board as part of the 2025-26 budget considerations.

**CSAC Speakers Bureau**

As part of CSAC's commitment to enhancing its public affairs presence, we are excited to announce the launch of the Speakers Bureau and invite Supervisors and CAOs to participate. Members of the Speakers Bureau will be prioritized for opportunities to provide testimony before the Legislature or state and federal agencies, speak at press events, or offer timely media responses to key issues. This initiative is designed to deepen engagement with CSAC and create a more direct role in shaping how counties are represented to policymakers and the media. Participation in the Speakers Bureau will help amplify the collective voice of counties and strengthen advocacy efforts. Scan the QR code to join the [Speakers Bureau](#) and contribute to advancing CSAC's mission.



**Building Media Relations**

CSAC CEO Graham Knaus and CPO Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez recently participated in discussions with key media representatives, including KCRA 3 Capitol Correspondent Ashley Zavala and POLITICO reporters Rachel Bluth (Health Care) and Debra Kahn (Policy). These conversations provided an opportunity to share CSAC's 2025 priorities and discuss the issues and opportunities counties are tracking for the year ahead. These conversations are key to CSAC as we build our public affairs platform to support our advocacy efforts to ensure that the county voice is effectively represented in policy discussions and media coverage.

### **2025 Legislative Conference**

Join us for the 2025 CSAC Legislative Conference in Sacramento, April 23-25, 2025, where county leaders will engage directly with state legislators and policymakers to advocate for local priorities and shape decisions that impact California communities. Plans are underway to feature dynamic speakers, develop interactive workshops, and provide critical updates on State legislative and budget priorities. We will also co-host a legislative reception on Wednesday, April 25 with CalCities. Please join us for this great opportunity to amplify the county voice in the state's Capitol. Please use this [link](#) to register today.

### **Transition to New Association Management Software**

At the end of January CSAC launched a new association management software system, Rhythm. CSAC is excited about the opportunities this new system will bring to enhance efficiency, collaboration, and member engagement across all levels. This new system provides members with a user-friendly member portal, streamlined event and CSAC Institute course registrations, access to member-only content, and more. In the new system, all members will be required to create a new login through a simple process that ensures new accounts are matched to the correct records. Staff are available to assist with login set up and to ensure a seamless transition. Please use this [link](#) to sign up today!

### **CSAC Website Redesign**

Significant progress has been made on the comprehensive redesign of the CSAC website. The new platform will feature a modern, intuitive, and user-friendly design that embodies the organization's culture and values while providing essential resources to serve its 58 member counties effectively. Key updates include a streamlined sitemap for effortless navigation, a centralized events hub with advanced filtering and archiving capabilities, and an information-rich news section showcasing press releases, legislative updates, and multimedia content, including videos. CSAC leadership has reviewed and approved the final homepage design, which sets the tone for a cohesive and engaging user experience. Mockups for internal pages have been finalized, ensuring consistency across all sections of the site. With prototyping and development now in full swing, the project is progressing on schedule. The newly redesigned website is set to launch during the Legislative Conference.

### **Annual Meeting**

The 130<sup>th</sup> CSAC Annual Meeting was held on November 18-22, 2024, in Pasadena, Los Angeles County, and it was our most attended conference to date, drawing over 900 participants from all 58 counties, including more than 150 County Supervisors!

The meeting kicked off with the New Supervisors Institute, a full-day educational program tailored for incoming Supervisors. This cohort will continue their learning journey with follow-up sessions throughout the year.

Over the course of four and a half days, attendees engaged in a wide array of sessions, including policy meetings, workshops on topics like FEMA reimbursement, Innovations in Transportation, and CalAIM II.

Mark your calendar for the 131<sup>st</sup> CSAC Annual Meeting, taking place in Santa Clara County on December 1-5, 2025. Registration will launch after the CSAC Legislative Conference. We look forward to seeing you there!





February 13, 2025

**To:** CSAC Board of Directors

**From:** Oscar Villegas, President  
Alan Fernandes, Chief Executive Officer

**RE:** **CSAC Finance Corporation Report**

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**CSAC Finance Corporation Board of Directors**

The CSAC Finance Corporation (CSAC FC) Board of Directors is excited to welcome several new Board members for the start of the 2025 calendar year and is appreciative for the CSAC Executive Committee’s recent appointments of the following CSAC FC Board members:

- ***Ed Valenzuela, District 2 Supervisor, Siskiyou County and former CSAC Board President (Rural County Supervisor Seat)***
- ***Edward Hill, Chief Operating Officer, County of Fresno (County Agency/Department Head Seat)***
- ***Vernon Billy, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director - California School Boards Association (Public Seat)***
- ***Miguel Marquez, City Manager - City of Pasadena (Public Seat)***

CSAC FC is preparing for its annual Spring meeting this year being held on April 30, 2025 through May 2, 2025 in Napa County. The annual Spring meeting is perhaps the most significant board meeting of the year as it entails the election of the CSAC FC Officers, development of the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year CSAC FC Budget, annual updates by Business Partners, and various program development discussions.

**Public Promise Insurance**

CSAC FC is excited to announce its recent partnership with NACo’s Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) Coalition under its Public Promise Insurance (PPI) line of offerings. Through this program, PPI has taken an aggressive pricing approach utilizing one of the largest prescription retailers in the nation, CVS. CVS is also the largest PBM in the nation, and as such, PPI believes the program will result in more efficient prescription programs for county employees.

This program applies to employer health plans and is not a stand-alone prescription discount program. The program is available to all self-insured county health plans with 1,000 or more participants or self-insured risk pools in which counties participate. The program highlights are:

- Pharmacy benefit management services supporting the pharmacy benefit within an entity’s employee health plan.
- Account management and customer services related to the employee health plan pharmacy benefits.
- Access to a full network of pharmacies across the US.

- Strong national discounts and pharmacy rebate programs made available to counties and their employees through their employee health plan.
- The program is applicable to the entity's employee health plan only. It does not conflict with any third-party pharmacy discount programs that operate outside of an employee health plan.

NACo's PBM Coalition is the only plan specifically built for counties and county pools that manage self-insured health plans. The NACo PBM Coalition is experiencing between 15%-25% average county health plan Rx savings, which is very significant given that more than 30% of county employee health plan expense are related to pharmacy benefits. For more information, please see the attached flyer ([or click here](#)) and/or contact Rob Pierce at [rob@csacfc.org](mailto:rob@csacfc.org).

### **Easy Smart Pay**

The Easy Smart Pay (ESP) product continues solid growth, providing beneficial and convenient property tax payment services to property taxpayers in California. Staff is extremely proud of the fact that the program has grown from 14 to 35 California counties in the last two years. Adding to the testament of ESP's success, growth and expansion is the fact that ESP has now grown outside of California by onboarding Phelps County, Missouri as well as Clarke County, Alabama.

Adding ESP involves no cost to counties; they simply provide tax roll data and link to ESP on their websites. The service was designed to save taxpayers money and simplify the property tax process. Counties that actively promote ESP have seen higher adoption rates, showcasing its value.

ESP, owned by Smart Easy Pay, Inc.—a joint venture between private investors, the National Association of Counties, the California School Boards Association, and the CSAC Finance Corporation—remains focused on statewide and national expansion while providing California taxpayers with the lowest-cost online property tax payment option. For more information, please visit [www.easysmartpay.net](http://www.easysmartpay.net) or contact Alan Fernandes at [alan@csacfc.org](mailto:alan@csacfc.org) or Chase Broffman at [chase@csacfc.org](mailto:chase@csacfc.org).

### **Corporate Associates Program**

The Corporate Associates Program currently has 72 partners across all three levels. Staff added five new firms to the Platinum level in the month leading up to the CSAC Annual Conference. 27 Platinum partners attended our recently concluded CSAC Executive Committee Forum January 29-31 in San Diego County. Our Platinum Partners were able to connect with Executive Committee members and had a wonderful time discussing current issues and building strong business relationships.

We have a busy schedule over the next two months, with three engagement events on the horizon, including supporting the New Supervisors Institute in Sacramento County, the NACo Legislative conference in D.C., and the upcoming CSAC Regional Meeting in Butte County.

For more information regarding the CSAC FC Corporate Associates Program please visit our website at: ([www.csacfc.org](http://www.csacfc.org)), call (916-548-3280) or email Jim Manker ([jim@csacfc.org](mailto:jim@csacfc.org)). The current partner list is attached for your reference.



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Promise  
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Powered by  NACo.

SAVE ON  
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**Rx DRUG**  
PLANS  
TODAY

POWERED BY NACo  
BUILT FOR **COUNTIES**

## NACo PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT COALITION

More than 30% of county employee health plan expenses are related to pharmacy benefits. NACo's PBM Coalition is the **only plan specifically built for counties & county pools** that manage self-insured health plans.

Pharmacy benefits are  
**30%+ of Total**  
employee health plan costs

Average savings of between  
**15%-25% Discount**  
on county health plan Rx savings

Scan QR  
Code



**Alex Herrera**  
Managing Director  
aherrera@naco.org  
(713) 396-6001

## WE ARE STRONGEST WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER

Together, we are leveraging our collective strength to **combat skyrocketing Rx costs** for your employees. NACo Public Promise Insurance has partnered with CVS Caremark, one of the largest PBMs in the nation, for both a stand-alone PBM contract and an integrated PBM contract that includes:

- Best in market pharmacy pricing, including discounts, dispensing fees, and rebates
- Access to CVS Caremark's suite of pharmacy programs and cost management solutions
- Transparency and streamlined contracting with multi-year pricing guarantees
- Combined purchasing power of 3.6M county employees across the United States



## PLATINUM Partners (as of 1.1.2025)

### **1. Alaska Airlines**

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### **2. Amity Foundation**

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### **3. Anthem Blue Cross**

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### **11. Dominion Voting Systems**

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[rbrush@prismrisk.gov](mailto:rbrush@prismrisk.gov)  
[www.prismrisk.gov](http://www.prismrisk.gov)

**26. Procure America**

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**27. Prologis**

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**28. SiteLogIQ**

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**29. SLS**

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**30. Southland Industries**

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**32. 34 Strong**

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[alana@ca211.org](mailto:alana@ca211.org)  
[www.211california.org](http://www.211california.org)

**34. Vanir Construction Management, Inc.**

Onallee Elsberry-Crabtree, Senior Director of Business Development  
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Sacramento, CA 95834  
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[Onallee.elsberry-crabtree@vanir.com](mailto:Onallee.elsberry-crabtree@vanir.com)  
[www.vanir.com](http://www.vanir.com)

**35. Wellpath**

Jessica Mazlum, VP Partner Development WEST  
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Nashville, TN 37211  
(916) 634-6463  
[jmazlum@wellpath.us](mailto:jmazlum@wellpath.us)  
[www.wellpathcare.com](http://www.wellpathcare.com)

**36. Western States Petroleum Association**

Catherine Reheis-Boyd, President

1415 L St., Suite 600

Sacramento, CA 95816

(916) 498-7752

[creheis@wspa.org](mailto:creheis@wspa.org)

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### **1. Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.**

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(949) 660-8110  
[narshi@alliant.com](mailto:narshi@alliant.com)  
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(916) 947-9046  
[bm3620@att.com](mailto:bm3620@att.com)  
[www.att.com](http://www.att.com)

### **3. Coast2Coast Rx**

WellDyne Rx (dba Coast2Coast Rx)  
Michael Amiet, Chief Supply Chain Officer  
500 Eagles Landing Rd  
Lakeland, FL 33810  
(919) 451-1555  
[mamiet@welldynernx.com](mailto:mamiet@welldynernx.com)  
[www.coast2coastrx.com](http://www.coast2coastrx.com)

### **4. Hagerty Consulting**

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[Jessi.Widhalm@hagertyconsulting.com](mailto:Jessi.Widhalm@hagertyconsulting.com)  
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### **5. HdL Companies**

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[www.carahsoft.com/linkedin/vabjohj](http://www.carahsoft.com/linkedin/vabjohj)

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[www.oracle.com/government/state-local/](http://www.oracle.com/government/state-local/)

### **8. Public Surplus**

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### **9. Paragon Government Relations**

Joe Krahn, President  
220 Eye Street, NE, Suite 240  
Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 898-1444  
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### **10. Qlik**

Courtney Hastings, Sr. Field Marketing  
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[Courtney.hastings@qlik.com](mailto:Courtney.hastings@qlik.com)  
[www.qlik.com/us/solutions/industries/public-sector](http://www.qlik.com/us/solutions/industries/public-sector)

### **11. Recology**

Salvatore Coniglio, CEO  
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[SConiglio@recology.com](mailto:SConiglio@recology.com)  
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**12. SAIC**

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### **2. Barclays**

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### **3. Chick-fil-A**

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#### **15. National Demographics Corporation**

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#### **16. OpenGov**

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#### **18. Perimeter Solutions**

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The CSAC Finance Corporation offers value-added products and services to California's counties, their employees and residents as well as to other forms of local government. Our programs are designed to assist county governments in reducing costs, improving services, and increasing efficiency. Our offerings provide the best overall local government value and the revenue generated by the CSAC Finance Corporation supports CSAC's advocacy efforts on behalf of California's counties.

## Business Program Summary

**CSCDA**  
Financing  
www.cscda.org



**Cathy Barna**  
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The California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) was created in 1988, under California's Joint Exercise of Powers Act, to provide California's local governments with an effective tool for the timely financing of community-based public benefit projects. Currently, more than 530 cities, counties and special districts have become Program Participants to CSCDA - which serves as their conduit issuer and provides access to an efficient mechanism to finance locally-approved projects. To date, CSCDA has issued more than \$70 billion in tax exempt bonds helping local governments build community infrastructure, provide affordable housing, create jobs, make access available to quality healthcare and education, and more.

**Nationwide**  
Deferred Compensation  
www.nrsforu.com



**Rob Bilo**  
Bilor@nationwide.com  
(877) 677-3678

The Nationwide Retirement Solutions program is the largest deferred compensation program in the country for county employees. In California, over 65,000 county employees save for their retirement using this flexible, cost-effective employee benefit program. This program is the only one with a national oversight committee consisting of elected and appointed county officials who are plan participants. Additionally, an advisory committee comprised of California county officials provides additional feedback and oversight for this supplemental retirement program. Currently 34 counties in California have chosen Nationwide to help their employees save for retirement.

**CalTRUST**  
Investing  
www.caltrust.org



**Laura Labanieh**  
Laura@caltrust.org  
(833) CALTRUST

The Investment Trust of California (CalTRUST) is a JPA established by public agencies in California for the purpose of pooling and investing local agency funds - operating reserves as well as bond proceeds. CalTRUST offers the option of five accounts to provide participating agencies with a convenient method of pooling funds - a liquidity fund, a government fund, a short-term, and a medium-term, and a new ESG compliant money market fund. Each account seeks to attain as high a level of current income as is consistent with the preservation of principle. This program is a great option to diversify investments!

**CCHI**  
Outreach and Enrollment Network  
www.cchi4families.org



**Mark Diel**  
mark@cchi.org  
(916) 404-9442

California Coverage & Health Initiatives (CCHI) is a statewide outreach and enrollment network, whose efforts ensure that all California's families are able to easily and effectively navigate into health coverage and other health services.

**Easy Smart Pay**  
Property Tax Payment Portal  
www.easysmartpay.net



**Easy Smart Pay™**

**Alan Fernandes**  
Alan@easysmartpay.net  
(916) 650-8120

Formed by the CSAC Finance Corporation, Easy Smart Pay is a platform built to modernize and simplify the process of paying government. ESP is a complementary bill pay service focused on providing automatic monthly payments to taxpayers for their property tax at the lowest industry rates. In addition to the partnership with the CSAC Finance Corporation, Easy Smart Pay partners with the NACo Financial Services Corporation and the California School Board Association. This program is currently being used in 28 of the 58 California counties and is now available for all counties to onboard.

**PRISM**  
Employee Benefits Solutions  
www.prismrisk.gov



**Rick Brush**  
Rbrush@prismrisk.gov  
(916) 850-7300

The Personal Lines Insurance Program (PLIP) provided by PRISM offers employees of PRISM members access to practical group savings on everyday insurance coverages. Available to all eligible PRISM members and their employees, council, commissioners and retirees, there is a solution and savings for many participants. The coverages provided include Automobile, Pet Insurance, Homeowners, Renters, Excess Liability/Umbrella to all the employees (including retirees), Condominium, Scheduled Personal Property, Recreation Vehicles, Watercraft, RV, Rental Properties, and more. Each public entity participating in a PRISM benefit program receives service support from a dedicated program management team.



**Procure America**  
Business Intelligence Services  
www.procureamerica.org



**Todd Main**  
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(949) 388-2686

Procure America provides its clients with analytics and strategies that result in greater performance at lower costs. By leveraging decades of industry experience, Procure America generates an average savings of 34%, all while increasing operational efficiency, vendor accountability, and service levels. Procure America's experts have deep, industry-specific experience and will analyze all aspects of the supplier relationship-contractual, operational and invoice compliance. Knowledge, information and focus delivers results.

**CCA**  
Cannabis Compliance  
www.cca.ca.gov



**Stacie Frerichs**  
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The California Cannabis Authority is a Joint Powers Authority established by county governments to develop and manage a statewide data platform. The platform will assist local governments that are regulating commercial cannabis activity by consolidating data from different channels into one resource to help local governments ensure maximum regulatory and tax compliance. In addition, the platform can help to facilitate financial services to the cannabis industry by linking willing financial institutions with interested businesses, and by providing critical data to ensure that all transactions and deposits are from legal transactions. As Counties look at establishing or revising their cannabis licensing and taxing structure, CCA should be among the resources used to ensure a successful and robust regulatory program.

**Coast2CoastRx**  
Discounted Prescription Drugs  
www.coast2coastrx.com



**Jim Manker**  
Jim@csacfc.org  
(916) 650-8107

The Coast2Coast Discount Prescription Card is available at no-cost to the county or taxpayers and will save county residents up to 75% on brand name and generic prescription drugs. The Coast2Coast program is already being used by over 35 counties in California. Not only does it offer savings to users, your county will receive \$1.25 from Coast2Coast for every prescription filled by a cardholder.

**CSBA GAMUT**  
Agenda Management System  
<https://www.csba.org/gamut>



**James Collins**  
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(916) 669-3278

CSAC FC has partnered with the California School Board Association (CSBA) to bring the GAMUT platform to California Counties and other public agencies that allows for a virtual meeting minutes record keeping that conforms with the Brown Act. Agencies are able to use this simple yet robust software for meetings and policies as well as provide immediate public access and translates in more than 100 languages. The platform incorporates the needs of a virtual meeting environment with online voting and remote board access. Agencies can purchase the entire suite or select the module that best suits their governance team's needs.

**Synoptek**

Cyber Security and Technology  
www.synoptek.com



**Eric Westrom**  
ewestrom@synoptek.com  
(916) 316-1212

The CSAC FC and Synoptek have partnered to offer a human firewall training program and fraud assessment. The human firewall program is a training program whereby a comprehensive approach is initiated that integrates baseline testing, using mock attacks, engaging interactive web-based training, and continuous assessment through simulated phishing attacks to build a more resilient and secure organization. Synoptek offers a wide range of security technology offerings to aid your county in remaining vigilant and secure.

**Public Surplus**

Surplus Auction System  
www.publicsurplus.com



**Don Clayton**  
Donclayton@thepublicgroup.com  
(801) 932-7000

Public Surplus is the best government surplus auction system available. Find great deals on heavy equipment, cars, buses and even airplanes. This system was created with unique capabilities specifically for public agencies, making it much more than an auction site. The services we offer to both buyers and sellers is of the highest quality with a strong focus on customer care.

**CashVest by Three + One**

Liquidity Management Services  
www.threeplusone.us



**Garrett MacDonald**  
gam@threeplusone.us  
(585) 484-0311

CashVest® provides liquidity analysis and FinTech data services for counties and other public entities. This program is a new opportunity to help manage your organization's funds as a revenue-generating asset, identify the current marketplace value of your cash, and use time horizon data to maximize the value of all your financial resources.

**Treasury Curve**

Financial Management Services  
www.treasurycurve.com



**Nancy Jerez**  
Nancy@treasurycurve.com  
(650) 521-5249

Treasury Curve was founded by a team of financial and technology innovators all-too-familiar with the pain treasury professionals face each day: How to efficiently manage both cash and investments, maximize idle cash and ensure compliance within strict investment policies. The result is a total solution designed to help you optimize your treasury, while giving you precious time back to optimize other areas in your finance and treasury areas.

**Enterprise Mobility**

Vehicle Rental Program  
www.enterprisemobility.com



**Lisa Holmes**  
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(926) 240-1169

CSAC Finance Corporation and Enterprise Mobility have partnered to provide counties and other municipalities remarkably discounted rates for cars, trucks, vans and cargo vehicle rentals. Through this program Enterprise Mobility also provides automatic damage waivers and liability coverage at no additional cost and all with a zero-volume guarantee making it more efficient and cost effective to rent one or multiple vehicles on short and/or long-term bases. Enterprise Mobility is a leading provider of mobility solutions including car rental, fleet management, flexible vehicle hire, carsharing, vanpooling, car sales, truck rental, vehicle subscription, luxury rental, technology solutions and more, to help make travel easier and more convenient.



## Board of Directors

**Oscar Villegas**, Yolo County - **President**

**Graham Knaus**, CSAC - **Vice President**

**Ryan Alsop**, Napa County - **Treasurer**

**Kathryn Barger**, Los Angeles County

**Vernon Billy**, Public Member

**Edward Hill**, Fresno County

**Matt Jennings**, Riverside County

**Miguel Marquez**, City of Pasadena

**Susan Muranishi**, Alameda County

**Billy Rutland**, Public Member

**Ed Valenzuela**, Siskiyou County

## Staff

**Alan Fernandes** - Chief Executive Officer

**Rob Pierce** - Chief Operating Officer

**Jim Manker** - Director of Business Development

**Christy Higgins** - Director of Operations

**Stacie Frerichs** - Director of Business Programs

**Robbie Bendorf** - Director of Strategic Partnerships

**Chase Broffman** - Business Development Manager

**Sendy Young** - Executive Assistant



# Organizational Chart



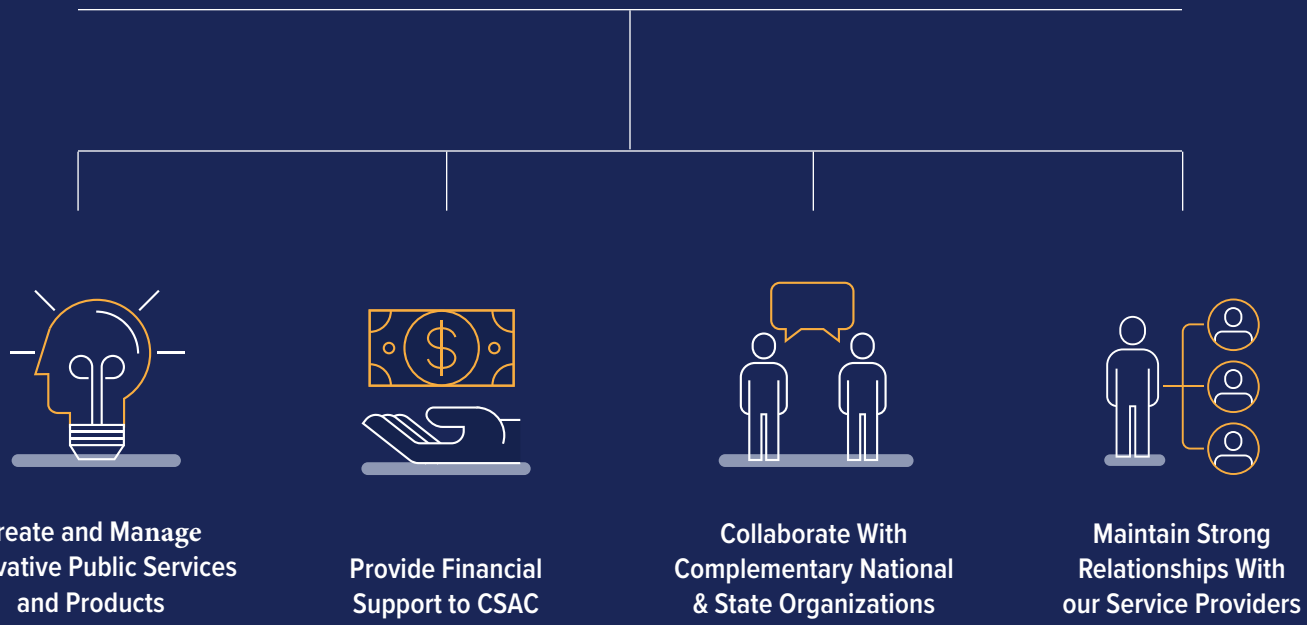


### Mission Statement:

To provide a broad array of finance, investment, insurance and purchasing services to benefit California counties and related public agencies.

## Commitment & Priorities

# “Dedicated to the Business of Improving Public Services for Counties and Their Constituents”



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February 13, 2025

**To:** CSAC Board of Directors  
**From:** Susan Ellenberg, President  
Paul Danczyk, PhD, Chief Operating Officer  
**RE: California Counties Foundation Report**

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The following report includes updates on the CSAC William “Bill” Chiat Institute for Excellence in County Government (CSAC Institute), and the CSAC Grants Initiative (CGI).

1. CSAC Institute

**New Supervisors Institute 2024 - 2025**

With a series of three modules, the first module launched at CSAC’s 130th Annual Meeting in Pasadena on November 18, 2024. The Institute welcomed 49 New Supervisor-Elects. This was followed by a virtual session on December 9, 2024. Preparations for Modules 2 and 3 are in place and we look forward to respective sessions in Sacramento on February 20-21, 2025 and July 17-18, 2025.

**HR Directors Institute 2024-2025**

The Institute partnered with the California Counties Human Resources Association (CCHR) to offer the Human Resources Directors Institute. Consistent with other Institute credentials, the program was designed to have 50 hours of instruction that includes a 4-day residency, which was held in October 2024, and virtual sessions. Participants included 25 HR leaders, including directors and senior leadership, from 17 counties. Upon successful program completion, they will be recognized during CCHR’s August conference. The Institute is working with CCHR to offer the program again this Fall.

**CCISDA 2024 – 2025 Cohort**

Since 2016, the Institute has partnered with the California County Information Services Directors Association (CCISDA) to offer the Technology Executive Credential program. The Institute launched CCISDA’s newest cohort of 43 participants from 25 counties in September. The program includes courses specially designed for technology leadership and a capstone group project. Graduates will be recognized this Fall at CCISDA’s annual conference.

**Alumni Program: Strengthening Response Muscles – 2024**

The Institute concluded the 5-part alumni program on December 5, 2024, with a session on ‘Courageous Leadership’. This program was designed based on alumni feedback during the annual survey. Based on alumni request, this program is being offered again this Spring. The program received positive feedback, including that from Supervisor Rhonda Duggan of Mono County:

*“When I saw this course first offered, I thought it was a great follow-up to what I studied earlier at the CSAC Institute. As a first time Supervisor, there are a lot of challenges and areas that you don’t know about. This course gave me a real opportunity to brush up on skills. Little did I know how timely the subject matter would be. The subject matter was timely, especially going into challenging times. I wondered if we use the skills learnt in our daily lives. It was a great opportunity to brush up on skills. Every course was timely. We*

*had a great opportunity to not only learn more about our colleagues but also about how to deal with constituents and staff. It gave us an opportunity to perform better and work with each other to achieve goals. I highly recommend this course to anyone. I appreciate CSAC checking back on us and encouraging us that we can do this.”*

### **Realignment Training**

The Institute offers realignment training twice a year. Spring Realignment will take place on April 3 – 4, 2025 in San Bernardino County. Fall Realignment will take place on October 2 – 3, 2025, in Sacramento County.

### **Upcoming Onsite Campuses**

The Institute continues its efforts in designing both onsite campuses and virtual offerings. Campus designs range from intensive approaches between five and ten-month periods.

Programs currently underway includes:

1. Glenn, Butte and Colusa Counties (hosted by Glenn County)
2. Orange and Riverside Counties (hosted by Orange County)
3. Ventura County
4. Monterey County
5. Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties (hosted by Humboldt County)
6. Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Madera Counties (hosted by Fresno County)

Programs in design includes:

7. Inyo County
8. Stanislaus County
9. Glenn, Butte and Colusa Counties (hosted by Butte County)

### **Recent Graduations: Executive Credential Program**

Inyo and Fresno cohorts were recently recognized at their county’s board of supervisors meetings. On January 21, Inyo County recognized 33 executive credential holders; while Fresno County recognized 27 graduates on January 28. Upcoming cohort graduations include Orange, Glenn, Butte and Colusa Counties.



*Pictured: Inyo County Supervisors Jennifer Roeser, Will Wadelton, Trina Orrill, Scott Marcellin, and Jeff Griffiths, CSAC CEO Graham Knaus, California Counties Foundation COO Paul Danczyk, with Inyo County Graduates*



*Pictured: Fresno CAO Paul Nerland, CCF COO Paul Danczyk, Fresno County Supervisors: Luis Chavez, Nathan Magsig, Buddy Mendes, Brian Pacheco, and Garry Bredefeld along with Fresno County Graduates.*

### **Executive Services**

The Foundation offers executive services to support elected officials and senior executives. Services include executive coaching, retreats, and seminars. The services are tailored towards the county needs and requests.

### **2. CSAC Grants Initiative (CGI)**

CGI remains committed to adapting and addressing the specific priorities and needs of California's counties. December saw a notable increase in counties reaching out for more information about CGI and exploring the process of entering into contract for premium services in 2025. This heightened interest can be attributed to the impactful grants panel discussion delivered during the November Annual Meeting, as well as the release of high-value content to CGI email subscribers throughout the final quarter of 2024.

### **CGI Grant Success – September 2024 to Present**

On January 8, 2025, **Imperial County** was awarded a \$1,472,020 federal grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. These funds will support the development of the Niland Complete Streets Planning Project, a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing infrastructure, improving safety, and increasing accessibility for the Niland community.

In December 2024, **Ventura County** was awarded a \$749,931 grant from the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program (ICARP) under the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program. This funding will enable the development of a comprehensive Heat Action Plan, including small pilot projects, aimed at mitigating the impacts of extreme heat within the county.



After writing and submitting successful grant applications for both Sacramento and Imperial counties, CGI received notifications in September 2024 that both counties had been selected for awards. **Sacramento County** was awarded an \$8,000,000 grant to reduce recidivism by strengthening reentry programs, expanding eligibility, and enhancing workforce development efforts through community-based organizations.

Additionally, the **Imperial County** District Attorney's Office was awarded a \$500,000 grant to enhance law enforcement and prosecution responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This project will provide specialized training, improve resource allocation, and support systemic policy reviews.

These grant awards help address critical needs and deliver lasting benefits to communities. Congratulations to Imperial, Sacramento, and Ventura counties on these outstanding achievements!

### **Process Improvement Updates**

To better serve counties, CGI is in the process of updating its standard service agreements. In 2025, CGI aims to launch an enhanced and more streamlined Master Services Agreement, carefully aligned with California Procurement Law. These improvements are designed to help counties more easily access CGI premium services while reducing administrative burdens and accelerating procurement timelines. Updates reflect our ongoing commitment to making grant-related services more efficient and accessible for California's counties.

### **Premium CGI Clients**

CGI is excited to announce progress in finalizing a first-time agreement with Sonoma County, while also advancing negotiations with San Mateo and Alameda Counties for premium services. Currently, seven counties benefit from CGI's premium services, with three of these counties moving into second agreements after achieving successful outcomes in their first year.

Additionally, all 58 counties continue to access the free CGI resources included as part of CSAC membership benefits. These resources play a vital role in supporting counties as they navigate the competitive grant funding landscape, ensuring every county has the tools and information needed to succeed. With ongoing enhancements to our services and increasing county engagement, CGI looks forward to another impactful year of empowering California's counties to secure critical funding for their communities.



# California Association of County Executives

*Providing Executive Leadership in California's Counties*

808 R Street, Suite 209 ■ Sacramento, CA ■ 95814 ■ 916-231-2131 ■ [www.calcountyexecs.com](http://www.calcountyexecs.com)

February 13, 2025

TO: CSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO and CACE President

**RE: February Update from the California Association of County Executives (CACE)**

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide periodic updates to the CSAC Executive Committee and Board of Directors. County administrators statewide are engaged in a variety of issues at all levels of government, and we look forward to sharing what we do on behalf of all counties on a more routine basis. It is my honor to serve as the 2025 CACE President, and I look forward to working in partnership with CSAC as well as our newly elected slate of officers in support of the important work of California's 58 counties.

In 2025, I anticipate that a set of disparate and complex challenges will require county administrators' attention and focus. I commit to providing you with updates on key developments in the months ahead. Among the continuing and emergent issues and priorities we expect to tackle this year:

- Exploring options for ensuring continued provision of jail medical services;
- Improving counties' engagement in SB 90 mandate process;
- Engaging on matters related to claims against counties that create fiscal liabilities to ensure that effective and practical tools are available to manage county budgets;
- Protecting investments in vital county services given likely changes in political priorities and policies;
- Working closely with CSAC Board of Directors and Executive Team on issues where county administrators' expertise can be of value;
- Supporting CACE members through information sharing, networking, and mentoring; and
- Providing expertise on responses to budget proposals and new initiatives introduced by the Newsom Administration and/or the Legislature that threaten the fiscal sustainability of county budgets or the effective administration of county government.

I look forward to meeting with you next week.

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# County Counsels' Association of California

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, President, and  
Members of the CSAC Executive Committee

**From:** Jennifer Bacon Henning, Litigation Coordinator

**Date:** February 13, 2025

**Re:** Litigation Coordination Program Update

This memorandum will provide you with information on the Litigation Coordination Program's new case activities since the Board's August 29, 2024 meeting. Briefs filed on CSAC's behalf are available at: <http://www.counties.org/csac-litigation-coordination-program>.

The following jurisdictions are receiving amicus support in the new cases described in this report:

COUNTIES	CITIES	OTHER AGENCIES
Los Angeles (2 Cases)	Azusa	Otay Water District
Napa	Exeter	San Joaquin Valley
Riverside	King City	Unified Air Pollution
San Benito	Pleasanton	Control District
San Luis Obispo	Roseville	
Santa Barbara	Sacramento	
Santa Clara	San Jose (2 Cases)	
Santa Cruz		
Ventura		
Yolo		

### ***Carachure v. City of Azusa***

Pending in the Second Appellate District (filed Apr. 22, 2024)(B336778)

Status: Amicus Brief Due February 17, 2025

In this challenge to the City of Azusa's sewer and trash service fees, the central question is whether the petitioner must exhaust administrative remedies under Health and Safety Code § 5472 by paying the challenged fees under protest and seeking a refund. The trial court found that exhaustion was required and petitioners' failure to do so rendered the court unable to act on the petition. The court rejected petitioners' argument that Section 5472 does not govern when services are provided by a private waste hauler under contract with the public entity. The court also rejected petitioners' argument that they are not seeking a refund, but rather have filed in the form of a declaratory relief action, and

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therefore the requirement to pay under protest and seek a refund does not apply. The court cited several long-standing cases that hold that a party cannot bypass the administrative procedure for a tax refund action by asserting a declaratory relief or writ cause of action. Petitioners have appealed. CSAC will file a brief in support of the City.

***Center for Biological Diversity v. County of San Benito***

104 Cal.App.5th 22 (6th Dist. July 24, 2024)(H051322), *request for publication granted* (Aug. 6, 2024), *petition for review denied* (Oct. 30, 2024)(S286905)

Status: Case Closed

The San Benito Planning Commission approved a commercial project that required a conditional use permit. The Planning Commission certified the EIR and made the necessary project approvals. Two days later, the County filed a Notice of Determination (NOD). Petitioners appealed the Planning Commission's decisions to the County Board of Supervisors. After a public hearing conducted within 30 days of the filing of the NOD, the Board denied the appeal. The County then filed a second NOD reflecting the Board's decision. Petitioners filed this action on the 30th day following the second NOD challenging the County's decisions on multiple grounds, including the alleged inadequacy of the EIR and tribal consultation. The project developer argued that the action was barred by the statute of limitations because the action was required to be filed within 30 days of the original NOD. The trial court agreed and dismissed with prejudice. The Court of Appeal reversed, holding that under the County's ordinances, the project decision was not final until the Board ruled on the appeal, and therefore the first NOD was not valid. CSAC supported Supreme Court review to get clarity on this issue from the Court, but review was denied.

***City of San Jose v. Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association***

101 Cal.App.5th 777 (6th Dist. Apr. 29, 2024)(H050889), *petition for review granted* (Aug. 10, 2024)(S285426)

Status: Amicus Brief Due February 21, 2025

This case raises the question of whether pension bonds issued to pay pension liability that has already been incurred count as "debt" for purposes of the constitutional debt limit. The Court of Appeal held that such pension bonds do not violate the constitutional debt limit (Cal. Const., art. XVI, §18, subd (a)) because the bond revenue is used to pay future pension benefits to current and former employees who have already earned them. The court rejected HJTA's argument that the issuance of the proposed new bonds would create "new debt," finding instead that the City was issuing bonds to provide an income stream for a pension liability it had already incurred. As such, the City's actions to sell bonds did not trigger the constitutional debt limitation. The California Supreme Court agreed to hear the following issue: "Is the issuance of pension obligation bonds to finance unfunded pension liability subject to the voter-approval requirement of article XVI, section 18, subdivision (a) of the California Constitution?" CSAC will file a brief in support of the City.

**February 13, 2025**

***County of Santa Clara v. Public Employment Relations Board (SEIU 521)***

Writ Petition Pending in the Sixth Appellate District (filed May 23, 2024)(H052154)

Status: Amicus Brief Due March 4, 2025

Each hospital in California has a largely independent, self-governing medical staff that adopts and enforces bylaws that set out the credentials professionals must have in order to provide care in that hospital. In this case, PERB decided that Santa County must bargain with labor unions involved in its hospitals over its approval of the medical staff's bylaws, even though the Business & Professions Code squarely prohibits hospital owner/operators from basing their decisions about medical staff bylaws on employment-related considerations. Santa Clara County is appealing, and CSAC will file a brief in support.

***Coziahr v. Otay Water District***

103 Cal.App.5th 785 (4th Dist. Div. 1 July 15, 2024)(D081099), *petition for review denied* (filed Aug. 26, 2024)(S286596)

Status: Case Closed

This is a Prop. 218 challenge to the Otay Water District's ("OWD") tiered water rate structure. The trial court ruled in favor of plaintiff, finding: (1) OWD's rates could not include amounts intended to promote water conservation and usage peaks; and (2) rate payers were entitled to a refund of the amounts they paid that were unlawful under Prop. 218. The Court of Appeal affirmed. On the first issue, the Court emphasized that OWD's use of water conservation as a factor in structuring its water rates was impermissible under Prop 218, noting that while promoting water use conservation is an important state goal, it cannot be the basis for setting rates that exceed the proportional cost of service. On the refund issue, which the court acknowledged had not previously been addressed in case law, the court concluded that a ratepayer can obtain a refund for a Prop. 218 violation via a petition for writ of mandate." CSAC supported a petition for California Supreme Court review in this case, but review was denied.

***Election Integrity Project California, Inc. v. Lunn***

--- Cal.App.5th ---, 2025 Cal.App.LEXIS 43 (2d Dist. Jan. 3, 2024)(B333507), *request for publication granted* (Jan. 30, 2025)

Status: Case Closed

The Election Integrity Project California (EIPCa) sued Mark Lunn, Ventura County Registrar of Voters, alleging that Lunn restricted election observers to places where they could not adequately observe vote by mail processing during the 2020 and 2021 elections in violation of Elections Code sections 15104 and 151045. EIPCa contended that observers had to be sufficiently close to allow them to challenge the decision of an election worker to accept or reject a signature match between the ballot envelope and registration documents. The trial court disagreed, ruling that section 15104(d) requires only that observers be allowed to effectively observe that established vote counting procedures were being followed. In an opinion that was originally unpublished, the Court of Appeal affirmed, agreeing with the trial court's interpretation of the statute and also finding that 15104(c) only requires a general notice of the dates, times, and places where vote by mail processing and counting will occur, not a 48-hour notice of each individual step in the process as contended by EIPCa. CSAC's publication request was granted.

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***Gilliland v. City of Pleasanton***

Pending in the First Appellate District (filed June 12, 2024)(A170666)

Status: Amicus Briefs Due February 11, 2025

Plaintiff sought damages for injuries sustained in a car collision with Elijah Henry, which occurred when Henry ran a red light. She named both Henry and the City of Pleasanton as defendants, alleging in part that a City police officer was following Henry at a high speed at the time of the collision and the City was therefore liable for Henry's negligent operation of his vehicle. The trial court agreed with the City that the action was barred by Vehicle Pursuit Immunity. Plaintiff argued that Pursuit Immunity could not apply because the officer's actions did not constitute a "pursuit" since the officer did not signal or activate his lights and sirens. As such, plaintiff maintained it was impossible for Henry to believe he was being pursued as required by statute. The trial court disagreed. The court noted that the officer was following Henry's vehicle at a high speed after witnessing Henry's vehicle accelerate away from the scene of an apparent auto break-in, which the officer desired to investigate. The trial court concluded that, considering all the evidence presented, a suspect would likely have concluded that the officer was engaged in a "pursuit" as that term is commonly understood, and pursuit immunity therefore applied. Plaintiff has appealed, and CSAC will file a brief in support of the City.

***JCCrandall, LLC v. County of Santa Barbara***

106 Cal.App.5th 211 (2d Dist. Oct. 29, 2024)(B333201), *petition for rehearing granted* (Nov. 25, 2024)

Status: Amicus Letter Due March 5, 2025

The County of Santa Barbara requires, as part of its requirement for a conditional use permit (CUP) for cannabis cultivation and transportation, that the applicant show that the streets and highways are adequate for the proposed use. Here, the cannabis applicant met the "streets and highways" component by relying on an easement over his neighbor's property, which was the only way to access the property subject to the CUP. The neighbor challenged the County's issuance of the CUP because he did not want the easement road to be used to transport cannabis. The trial court found in favor of the County, but the Court of Appeal reversed. The court found that the neighbor's objection to the issuance of the CUP on the ground that cannabis is illegal in California and everywhere else in the United States was sufficient to defeat the CUP under the requirements of the county ordinance. [As the court stated in the introduction to the opinion: "Many Californians have high expectations that cannabis is legal in California. This is a reasonable assumption because Civil Code section 1550.5 says it is. We regret to inform that cannabis is illegal in California because federal law says so."] The court determined that since the easement was the only means of access to and from the proposed use of transporting cannabis, and the neighboring property owner would not allow the easement to be used for a purpose that is illegal under federal law, the applicant could not meet the streets and highways component under the county ordinance. CSAC will support that County's petition for Supreme Court review.

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***LACERA v. County of Los Angeles***

102 Cal.App.5th 1167 (2d Dist. June 24, 2024)(B326977), *petition for review granted* (Oct. 17, 2024)(S286264)

Status: Amicus Brief Due April 10, 2025

This case involves proper application of Government Code section 31522.1 to staffing decisions made by a retirement board. The LACERA Board of Retirement determined that it needed several new positions and title and salary changes to several other existing positions. It sent an ordinance to the LA County Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption to effectuate the changes. The LA County CEO disagreed with the staffing changes requested by LACERA, and ultimately the Board adopted the CEO's recommendation, which was less staff than LACERA was seeking. LACERA filed this action in Superior Court, which ruled in favor of the County. The Court of Appeal reversed, agreeing with LACERA that a retirement board must have hiring authority to fulfill its fiduciary duty, including determining the number and type of personnel and their compensation. The California Supreme Court has granted review. CSAC provided amicus support in the trial court and Court of Appeal in this case, and will continue its support of LA County in the Supreme Court.

***Long v. City of Exeter***

Unpublished Opinion of the Second Appellate District, 2024 Cal.App.Unpub.LEXIS 4549 (2d Dist. July 23, 2024)(B316324), *petition for review granted* (Oct. 23, 2024)(S286705)

Status: Amicus Brief Due April 11, 2025

In 2015, the City of Exeter hired a new police officer. Following his probation period, he was accepted into the City's canine program. He was provided a dog and trained in both patrol and narcotics detection. About a year later, the officer decided to end his employment with the City and move to a different city. The City of Exeter sold him the dog. After his move, the officer kept the dog in a fenced back yard with another dog. He had a kennel, which the City had provided, but left it open so the dogs could run free in the yard. The dogs escaped the fenced back yard and attacked two neighbors. Both suffered serious injuries and one died three days after the attack. The victims' children sued the officer, the City of Exeter, its Chief of Police and the Sergeant in charge of the canine unit.

The case went to trial on a negligence claim, with the sole theory before the jury being that defendants were liable not for the sale of the dog to the officer per se, but for their failure to warn the officer that once "retired" the dog could not be treated as a pet, could not be "untrained" as a patrol canine, and should be kept kenneled at all times when not in his immediate control. The City argued that it owed no duty to plaintiffs in the absence of any special relationship with either the officer, who was no longer employed by the City, or the plaintiffs. Although the trial court acknowledged the lack of any special relationship, it held "other circumstances" could create a duty and sent the case to the jury. The jury returned a verdict in plaintiffs' favor and awarded \$20 million plaintiffs.

In an unpublished opinion, the Court of Appeal reversed. The court concluded that the City "owed no duty to provide a more explicit and robust warning to the officer about the dangerousness of the service dog or the conditions under which it should be kept." The California Supreme Court granted review, agreeing to consider the following question: If a police department elects to sell a patrol canine that the department has trained to attack people, do the department officials responsible for oversight of the patrol canine program

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have a duty to warn the purchaser about precautions that must be taken in order to prevent the animal from killing or injuring members of the public? CSAC will file a brief in support of the City.

***Ocean S. v. County of Los Angeles***

Pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (filed Dec. 16, 2024)(24-7577)

Status: Briefing Complete; Case Pending

This putative class action was brought by seven “transition age foster youth” (ages 16-21) who allege that the State and County defendants are violating federal law and their constitutional rights by failing to provide “meaningful access to the crucial housing, mental health, and other services to which they are legally entitled.” On June 11, 2024, the federal trial court granted in part and denied in part the County’s motions to dismiss. As relevant to this amicus request, the County argued that dismissal was under the Younger abstention doctrine, which is a legal doctrine that prevents federal courts from hearing cases that are already being litigated in state court. The County argued the doctrine applied here because dependency cases are intended to fully address a foster youth’s needs, including their housing placements. The district court disagreed. It noted that there is a split among the federal appellate courts on the issue of whether Younger applies to state-initiated child-welfare litigation. But ultimately the court concluded that because “the claims advanced in this action are not within either of the civil categories identified in, abstention is not appropriate.” The County then requested that the district court certify its ruling on the Younger issue for immediate appeal, which the district court granted. The next procedural step is to request that the Ninth Circuit take up the issue in an immediate appeal. LA County has requested amicus support in that effort. CSAC filed a brief supporting LA County in the federal trial court and has also filed a brief in the Court of Appeals arguing the court to hear the case.

***Pacific Bell Telephone Co. v. County of Riverside***

Pending in the Fourth Appellate District, Division Two (filed Mar. 19, 2024)(E083505)

Status: Briefing Complete; Case Pending

A number of telephone utilities (AT&T, Pac Bell, T-Mobile and Sprint) have filed tax refund lawsuits in over 20 counties in California challenging the property tax rates that were used to determine their tax bills for 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and beyond. The utilities’ tax rates were calculated by counties pursuant to the mandatory statutory formula in Revenue and Taxation Code section 100(b) (“Section 100(b”). The gravamen of plaintiffs’ cases is that Section 100(b) is unconstitutional under article XIII, section 19, of the California Constitution (“Section 19”), which purportedly requires that utility property be taxed at the exact same rate as other property.

The first one of these cases to move forward to the Court of Appeal arose out of Santa Clara County in a case in which CSAC provided amicus support. In that case, the Court of Appeal agreed with the County, concluding: “After considering the question presented and the parties’ arguments, we conclude that article XIII, section 19, does not mandate that utility property be taxed at the same rate as other property. Instead, it provides that, after utility property is assessed by the State Board of Equalization, it shall be subject to ad valorem taxation at its full market value by local jurisdictions.”

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The other cases, including this one out of Riverside County, have been working their way through the trial courts. There are now at least six cases in the Courts of Appeal, and a few more in trial courts or stayed, on whether Rev & Tax Code section 100(b)'s formula for a supplemental property tax to cover bonded debt is constitutional under Cal Const art. XIII, section 19. CSAC has filed a brief in support of Riverside County.

***Pacific Bell Telephone Company v. County of Napa***

Pending in the First Appellate District (filed Apr. 11, 2024)(A170169)

Status: Amicus Brief Due February 14, 2025

This case raises the same issue as the Riverside County case described above. CSAC will similarly be supporting Napa County on this issue.

***Peridot Tree v. City of Sacramento***

Pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (filed Nov. 21, 2024)(24-7196)

Status: Amicus Briefs Due March 24, 2025

There is a trend of cases nationwide challenging cannabis licensing programs as violating the Dormant Commerce Clause. This is one of those cases. Here, plaintiff challenged the City of Sacramento's cannabis licensing program, which is an equity program intended to reduce "barriers of entry and participation" in the cannabis industry to those who "have been negatively impacted by the disproportionate law enforcement of cannabis related crimes." The program prioritizes cannabis storefront licenses to those who meet the elements of the program, which include a preference for those who are current or former residents of Sacramento. Plaintiff has never resided in Sacramento and argues this residency preference for licenses violates the Dormant Commerce Clause. The district court disagreed: "Ordinarily, the Commerce Clause implicitly preserves free and open national markets from state and local protectionism. As explained in this order, however, the plaintiffs cannot assert a constitutional right to participate in a national marijuana market because Congress attempted to eliminate that market by passing the federal Controlled Substances Act. Even if the result is counter-intuitive, in that it effectively permits cities and states to favor local businesses operating in a market Congress has attempted to eliminate, this court cannot ignore federal law, and it cannot second-guess the Attorney General's or a local prosecutor's decisions about how to allocate their limited resources." Plaintiff has appealed. CSAC will file a brief in support of the City.

***Sacramento Television Stations v. Superior Court (City of Roseville)***

Pending in the Third Appellate District (filed Oct. 25, 2024)(C102316)

Status: Briefing Complete; Case Pending

This case is a Public Records Act action filed by CBS News against the City of Roseville over release of video following a shooting that involved both CHP and Roseville PD Officers. Pursuant to Government Code 7923.625, Roseville produced the only audio and video depicting the actual discharge of a firearm by its officers (including from nearby officers whose cameras captured the shots) and the audio and video of the time before and after the shots to provide context. CBS sued, alleging that Government Code 7923.625 requires the city to produce every second of video and audio taken during the time the city responded to the scene that day until the suspect was taken into custody, not just the audio and video that depicted the limited incident of the firearm discharge and the time

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surrounding that. The trial court denied the CBS' Writ Petition in its entirety. The court declined to offer a bright line on how much video is required but acknowledged it should be related to video that shows the discharge of the firearm. Ultimately, the court found the exemption in Section 7923.625(a)(2) applied, supporting the City's position that it need not disclose more. CBS has appealed, and CSAC has filed a brief in support of the City.

***San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District v. Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella***

Pending in the Fifth Appellate District (filed Aug. 12, 2024)(F088471)

Status: Amicus Brief Due February 20

In 1985, the California Supreme Court, in opinion known as *Clancy*, found that a city could not use outside counsel on contingency fee to prosecute a public nuisance action because it violates the standard of neutrality necessary in these types of actions. In 2010, in the lead paint case, the Supreme Court narrowed the *Clancy* opinion, holding that a contingency fee arrangement could be used if: (1) the public-entity attorneys retain complete control over the course and conduct of the case; (2) the government attorneys retain a veto power over any decisions made by outside counsel; and (3) a government attorney with supervisory authority is personally involved in overseeing the litigation.

In this current case, the Shute Mihaly law firm is counsel to a community group in an unrelated matter. That community group made a complaint to the Air Pollution Control District about odor from defendant Terra Bella's operations. The District then initiated this enforcement action against Terra Bella, which was based in part on the community group's complaint. Terra Bella cross-complained, and the District hired Shute Mihaly to defend against the cross-complaint. (The enforcement action part of this litigation is being handled by in-house counsel.) Terra Bella filed a motion to disqualify Shute Mihaly, arguing it had a conflict of interest because it also represented the community group whose complaints were part of the impetus for the enforcement action.

The trial court granted the disqualification motion, framing this case as "whether one can both be a player and the referee in the same game." In support of its decision, the court cited to *Clancy* and the lead paint case, even though there is no contingency fee arrangement in this case. The court also acknowledged that Shute Mihaly was not prosecuting an enforcement action, as was the situation in *Clancy* and the lead paint case, but only defending against the cross complaint. But the court concluded that the District was duty bound to resolve the conflict between the complaining community group and Terra Bella, and that Shute Mihaly was duty bound to its original client (the community group), and those two competing interests could not be reconciled. The District has appealed and CSAC will file a brief in support.

***San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper v. County of San Luis Obispo***

Pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (filed Dec. 27, 2024)(24-7807)

Status: Brief Filed January 31, 2025; Case Pending

Plaintiff filed this action against San Luis Obispo County alleging that the County's maintenance and operation of the Lopez Dam and Reservoir, which were built in the 1960s and provide a substantial portion of the drinking water for a handful of jurisdictions in the County (in some instances 100%), resulted in an lawful take of steelhead trout. The trial court agreed with plaintiff and issued a mandatory preliminary injunction order that



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includes a laundry list of required actions, including requiring the County to overhaul its operations of Lopez Dam and Reservoir, monitor for steelhead in the creek, screen the Lopez Dam spillway, modify various physical structures in the creek (the majority of which are not owned by the County), regulate discharges to the creek including from private lands and incorporated areas not within the County's jurisdiction, implement volitional passage above Lopez Dam, complete a Habitat Conservation Plan, submit incidental take permits applications, and remove predators and other competitors of steelhead from the creek. In issuing the order, the district court did not engage in a "balance of equities or public interest factors" that the County argued was required by statute and applicable case law. As a result, the communities that are served by this water source are at risk of losing their water. The County has appealed and CSAC has filed a brief in support.

***Sutter's Place, Inc. v. City of San Jose***

161 Cal.App.4th 1370 (6th Dist. Mar. 18, 2008)(H031317), *ordered published* (Apr. 14, 2008)

Status: Case Closed

This case is a Prop. 26 challenge to a cardroom regulation fee. Plaintiffs alleged the fees were an unconstitutional tax, an unconstitutional special tax and violated federal due process. The trial court ruled for the City, but the Sixth District reversed in part, awarding costs, but not fees. The Sixth District reversed in part, finding the trial court erred in concluding the fee was exempt from Prop. 26 without requiring the City to show that the fee was set to recover only permissible costs. The court also held that the proper remedy is a refund of any portion of the fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of service such that "Plaintiff is entitled to a refund of all unpermitted costs that have been included in the cardroom regulatory fee plaintiff paid in the relevant fiscal years." Finally, the court held that plaintiff could bring a separate federal due process claim as part of its challenge to the fee. CSAC's publication request was granted.

***Weseloh v. County of Santa Cruz***

Pending in the Sixth Appellate District (Oct. 7, 2022)(H050433)

Status: Amicus Brief Due February 5, 2025

This case involves an attempt by the owners of beachfront vacation homes to own, for private use, a publicly dedicated pedestrian walkway known as the 37' Walk. The County Board of Supervisors formally accepted dedication of the 37' Walk in 1929. Over the ensuing decades the lots were improved with vacation homes, and the owners started using the 37' Walk as a patio area. The owners of the units on the ends of the 37' Walk constructed fences, walls, and gates that partially obstructed direct access. In 1980, they obtained an encroachment permit from the County to construct a seawall to protect the homes. That permit included an express condition requiring preservation of the public access easement on the 37' Walk. After disputes with the County and Coastal Commission over public access in 2017 and 2018, the homeowners filed suit to quiet title to the 37' Walk in November of 2018. The trial court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, holding that they own the 37' Walk and are entitled to prevent public access across it. The trial court found an inverse condemnation taking as to all the properties, concluding that Plaintiffs acquired fee title to the Walk though something akin to adverse possession. Santa Cruz County has appealed, and CSAC will file a brief in support.

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***Working Families of Monterey County v. King City Planning Commission***

106 Cal.App.5th 833 (6th Dist. Oct. 21, 2024)(H051232), *request for publication granted* (Nov. 18, 2024)

Status: Case Closed

This case addresses whether the CEQA class 32 exemption for infill found in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15332 (“section 15332”) only applies in urbanized areas. The case involves a grocery store project in a rural area that the city approved as exempt from CEQA pursuant to the class 32 infill development exemption. Plaintiffs challenged the approval, arguing that the class 32 exemption must be construed to require an exempt project to be located in an “in-fill site” in an “urbanized area” surrounded by “qualified urban uses,” as these terms are defined in other parts of the CEQA statute and regulations. The city countered that the terms “qualified urban use,” “urbanized area,” and “infill site” do not appear in the section 15332, but rather are found in other provisions of the code and Guidelines and limited to residential projects. The omission of these terms from section 15332, according to the City, showed that the class 32 exemption for an infill development project did not require the project to be a “qualified urban use” located in an “urbanized area” on an “infill site.”

In an opinion that was initially unpublished, the Court of Appeal agreed with the City. The court first looked at the plain language of section 15332 itself, noting that it would not read terms into the statute. To the extent the plain language of Section 15332 is ambiguous, the court stated that it would turn to the intent of the Natural Resources Agency in issuing the Guidelines. The court found no intent to define the terms in the manner suggested by plaintiff. “The regulators’ intent was to the contrary, since the express intention was to reduce sprawl by exempting from the provisions of CEQA development in unused or underutilized areas that were in already developed areas, which were ‘typically but not exclusively in urban areas.’” CSAC’s publication request was granted.

***Yolo Land and Water Defense v. County of Yolo***

105 Cal.App.5th 710 (3d Dist. Sept. 13, 2024)(C099086), *request for partial publication granted* (Oct. 3, 2024)

Status: Case Closed

This case involves a sand and gravel mining project approved by Yolo County. The trial court denied a writ petition challenging the project approval, and also denied petitioner’s challenge to a portion of the memorandum of costs filed by the County. On appeal, as relevant to this amicus request, petitioners argued that the County could not recover record preparation costs because petitioner had elected to prepare the record pursuant to section 21167.6(b)(2). The Third District affirmed, holding that “it was proper to award the County costs for preparation of the administrative record, and [petitioners] have not shown that the awarded amount was unsupported or unreasonable.” The court noted that Section 21167.6, which governs the preparation and certification of the administrative record in a CEQA case, authorizes a writ petitioner to elect to prepare the administrative record instead of asking the public agency to prepare it. But here, petitioners asked Yolo County to produce the documents comprising the administrative record. “That [petitioners] elected to prepare the record under section 21167.6, subdivision (b)(2) did not mean the County had no costs associated with preparation of the administrative record, and

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it did not preclude an award of record preparation costs to the County.” The opinion was originally unpublished, but CSAC supported the County’s request for publication, which was granted.



# Update on Activities

*February 2025*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chair**

**Brett Channing**

Assistant City Manager, City of Corona

**Vice Chair/Secretary**

**Lydia Romero**

City Manager, Lemon Grove

**Immediate Past Chair**

**Teresa Acosta**

Councilmember, Carlsbad

**Michele Beal Bagneris**

City Attorney/City Prosecutor

Pasadena

**Jaron Brandon**

Supervisor, Tuolumne County

**Carolyn Coleman**

CEO & Executive Director

League of California Cities

**Rhonda Duggan**

Supervisor, Mono County

**Ruben Duran**

Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP

**James Keene**

Retired City Manager & CSAC CEO

**Graham Knaus**

Executive Director

California State Association of Counties

**Justin Lovell**

Director of Administrative Services

West County Wastewater District

MMANC Representative

**Pat Martel**

Retired City Manager

Cal-ICMA Representative

**Antonio Martinez**

Director

Contra Costa Water District

**Neil McCormick**

Chief Executive Officer

California Special Districts Association

**Judith Mitchell**

Former Councilmember

**Mona Miyasato**

County Executive Officer

City of Santa Barbara

CACE Representative

**Richard Montgomery**

Mayor, Manhattan Beach

**Lorenzo Rios**

Chief Executive Officer

Clovis Veterans Memorial District

**Johnathan Royas**

Deputy City Manager

City of Santa Paula

MMASC Representative

**Nat Rojanasathira**

Assistant City Manager, Monterey

**Hilary Straus**

General Manager

Citrus Heights Water District

## ILG - Committed to Supporting California Counties

ILG remains focused on supporting California cities with a wide range of issues they may be facing. From customized trainings to collaborative partnerships to strategic counsel, we apply our 70-year history of local government to meeting the complex needs of CSAC members.

We're constantly evolving our programs, education, training and support to meet the changing landscape of local government.

## Special Highlights

Here are a few special activities we've done since the last board meeting.

- Welcomed **Orange County** to ILG's Apprenticeships Initiative. Orange will join **Yolo County** in our pilot jurisdiction cohort.
- Trained staff from County of **Tuolumne County** on successful meeting facilitation during ILG's 2-day Meeting Mastery training.
- Partnering with the **Orange County** Registrar of Voters to provide community engagement training, guidance, as support as they update their Election Administration Plan.
- Provided ethics training nearly **50 county officials** at the CSAC Annual Conference.
- Launched BOOST Imperial Valley to provide technical assistance to **Imperial County** and all of their city partners on climate and resilience, grant writing, leadership, public engagement, and workforce development.
- Joined the **Powering Public Service** national cohort as a California local government representative. The group is led by Work for America, the National League of Cities, the National Governors Association, and the **National Association of Counties** and focuses on growing the public sector pipeline with strong collaborative programs from the national level down to the state.
- Launched the Bridge Public Sector Apprenticeships Initiative during National Apprenticeships Week. (more details below).
- Promoted **Hanna Stelmakhovych** to the role of **Interim Senior Program Manager** for Public Engagement, and **Melissa Kuehne** to the role of **Director of Enterprise Programs and Special Projects**.

## Webinars & Trainings

### Recent Webinars

ILG recently hosted the following webinars, trainings and special events, see the links below for recordings and materials.

- [Grant Readiness 101: Preparing to Submit Competitive State & Federal Applications](#)
- [The 2024 Election: What Public Officials and Staff Need to Know About Local Ballot Measures and Candidate Elections](#)
- [Complying with CARB's Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation](#)
- [IDEA Summit: Improving Diversity, Equity & Access \(IDEA\) to Public Sector Careers](#)
- [Public Meetings: From Brown Act Basics to New Legislation](#)
- [Empowering Communities Through Resident Academies](#)
- [Workplace Investigations: Tips From the Trenches](#)
- [Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency on a Budget](#)
- [What is a Registered Apprenticeship and Can It Work in Your Agency?](#)
- [Building Support for Ballot Measures: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from 2024](#)

ILG continues to deliver educational content related to topics of interest to our county partners, and we will continue to focus on leadership, workforce development, public engagement, housing, local government basics and climate resilience. We are actively planning sessions for 2025, please reach out to Erica Manuel ([emanuel@ca-ilg.org](mailto:emanuel@ca-ilg.org)) or Melissa Kuehne ([mkuehne@ca-ilg.org](mailto:mkuehne@ca-ilg.org)) for more information or if you have suggestions for other topics you would like us to consider.

## ILG Launches Bridge Registered Apprenticeships Initiative: Yolo County and Orange County Confirmed, More to Come



ILG recently announced the launch of [Bridge](#), a new initiative to support California's local governments in building their workforce pipeline through Registered Apprenticeship Programs in "non-traditional" fields like human resources, accounting, IT, health and human services, and more.

Bridge is open to cities, counties, and special districts. Jurisdictions interested in joining the pilot should complete [this interest form](#). Pilots will be accepted on a rolling basis until space is filled and goals are met. After receiving the form, ILG will schedule consultations and information sessions with top candidates to discuss each jurisdiction's workforce goals and needs, as well as any existing partnerships or projects.

We are excited to welcome Yolo County and Orange County as members of the cohort.



## **ILG Recognized by US Department of Labor as Apprenticeship Ambassador**

We're excited to announce that ILG has been officially recognized by the US Department of Labor as an Apprenticeship Ambassador! This is the culmination of years of hard work led by ILG's Executive Director Erica Manuel. We're proud to accept this designation and pledge to continue serving California's workforce through championing non-traditional registered apprenticeships. [Read more about the program here.](#)



## **ILG to Provide Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for Imperial Valley through BOOST Imperial Valley**

In October ILG's Erica Manuel, Karalee Browne, and Melissa Kuehne were in the Imperial Valley at an Imperial Valley Civic Ecosystem convening. This convening brought together the local governments in the region, the Governor's Office, the

Strategic Growth Council, the California Energy Commission and other state and community partners to discuss regional needs, challenges, and opportunities. This marks the beginning of ILG's BOOST Imperial Valley Project where we will be providing technical assistance, capacity building and training to Imperial County and all of its incorporated cities. Contact Karalee Browne at [kbrowne@ca-ilg.org](mailto:kbrowne@ca-ilg.org) for more information.

## **Promoting Civility & Good Governance in Challenging Times**

***Now That the Election is Over, How Will Your Agency Train and Onboard Your New Elected Officials?***

When the election dust settles, many local agencies will welcome new board and council members. ILG can help support that transition. In addition to providing a suite of materials for newly elected officials, ILG offers tailor-made training to enhance leadership and communication skills that can help foster a culture of trust and respect in your community. ILG offers customized workshops for counties to help bring civility back to public meetings and address civil discourse. These private sessions are available virtually and in person upon request. The sessions are specifically tailored to your county's unique needs and can cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Civility in Public Meetings
- Building Trust through Engagement
- Creating Effective Councils and Boards
- Goal Setting/Strategic Planning
- Developing Governance Tools: Policy Handbooks, Codes of Conduct, Ethics and/or Civility Policies
- Understanding Roles and Responsibilities
- Team Building
- Communicating for Success

[Find out more.](#)

## Stay Tuned for a New ILG Look!

The ILG team has been working closely with numerous communication and branding consultants on some signature projects. We are working with Tripepi Smith to refresh ILG's logo, branding and visual identity. We have secured Streamline for a website redesign. And we have a contract with the Fenton Agency for specialized communications support related to our Registered Apprenticeship Initiative.

The refined ILG logo and brand components will be incorporated into the website re-design, which is slated to launch in 2025 in alignment with ILG's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Bridge website will also be integrated into the new ILG website.

All updates will be made in conjunction with our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities.

## ILG Board Meetings

ILG's Board of Directors met in December to adopt our budget for 2025. The 2025 meetings are set for the following dates:

- Friday, March 28 (virtual)
- Friday, June 20 (virtual)
- Thursday & Friday, September 4-5 (Sacramento)
- Friday, November 7 (virtual)
- Monday, December 15 (virtual)

## About ILG

Local government plays an integral part in shaping a thriving community. That's why ensuring that local government leaders have the best resources, connections, and knowledge available is essential for their success. With a 70-year history of serving the needs of local governments in California, the Institute for Local Government (ILG) supports officials at counties, cities and special districts in tackling the state's most pressing and evolving issues.

Close alignment with our three affiliates – the California State Association of Counties, the League of California Cities, and the California Special Districts Association -- is critical to our success. Together with these local government associations, ILG maintains continued engagement with local leaders that affords us the opportunity to empower and educate them with real-world expertise.

We are a mission-driven nonprofit organization that is also non-partisan. And -- since ILG is not focused on advocacy -- we have the flexibility to serve as an objective third-party convener that helps counties, cities, and special districts navigate complex issues crossing multiple local and state agencies. To learn more about our programs and resources visit [www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org), or connect with us through our [newsletter](#) or social media through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

## California State Association of Counties 2025 Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 16 CSAC Executive Committee Meeting | Sacramento County
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 29-31 Executive Committee Leadership Forum | San Diego County (Torrey Pines)

### FEBRUARY

- 13 CSAC Board of Directors Meeting | Sacramento County
- 17 Presidents Day

### MARCH

- 1-4 NACo Legislative Conference | Washington, D.C.
- 13-14 CSAC Regional Meeting | Butte County
- 31 Cesar Chavez Day

### APRIL

- 3 CSAC Executive Committee Meeting | Los Angeles County
- 23-25 CSAC Legislative Conference | Sacramento
- 25 CSAC Board of Directors Meeting | Sacramento
- 4/30-5/2 CSAC Finance Corp. Spring Meeting | Napa County

### MAY

- 20-23 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference | Pennington County, S.D.
- 26 Memorial Day

### JUNE

- 12-13 CSAC Regional Meeting | Ventura County
- 19 Juneteenth

### JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 11-14 NACo Annual Conference | Philadelphia, PA

### AUGUST

- 21 CSAC Executive Committee Meeting | Sacramento County

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day
- 11 CSAC Board of Directors Meeting | Sacramento County

### OCTOBER

- 8-10 Executive Committee Retreat | TBD
- 13 Indigenous Peoples Day
- TBD CSAC Finance Corp. Fall Meeting

### NOVEMBER

- 11 Veterans Day
- 27 Thanksgiving Day

### DECEMBER

- 1-5 CSAC 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting | Santa Clara County
- 4 CSAC Board of Directors Meeting | Santa Clara County
- 17-19 Officers Retreat
- 25 Christmas Day

Updated 2.9.25