

CSAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BRIEFING MATERIALS

Thursday, April 3, 2025

10:00am - 1:30pm



Wine & Roses | 2505 W Turner Rd, Lodi, CA 95242

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82286643721?pwd=R8g5L0adF4CGH64R9QgIIOkKbSbrWn.1>

Meeting ID: 822 8664 3721

Passcode: 540799

California State
Association of Counties



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 3, 2025 | 10:00 am – 1:30 pm

[Wine and Roses Hotel](#) – Garden Ballroom | 2505 W Turner Rd, Lodi

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82286643721?pwd=R8g5L0adF4CGH64R9QgllOKKbSbrWn.1>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 822 8664 3721 | Password: 540799

AGENDA

Presiding: Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, President

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

10:00 AM **PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

1. Pledge of Allegiance *Page 1*

2. Roll Call *Page 2*

CLOSED SESSION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(d)(2): (2 potential cases)

- *Jennifer Henning | Litigation Counsel*

10:30 AM **ACTION ITEMS**

3. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2025 *Page 3-5*

4. Approval of Updated 2024-2025 Board of Directors Nominations *Page 6-7*
 - *Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer*

5. Approval of IRS Form 990 – Tax Year 2023 *Page 8-9*
 - *Supervisor Belia Ramos | Treasurer*
 - *Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer*

6. Consideration of the CSAC Proposed Budget & Salary Schedule for FY 2025-26 and Clarification of the CSAC Proposed Salary Schedule for FY 2024-25 *Page 10*
See Attachments
 - *Supervisor Belia Ramos | Treasurer*
 - *Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer*

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

7. CEO's Report *Page 11*
 - *Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer*

8. State-Local Fiscal Responsibilities Project *See Handout*
 - *Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | Chief Policy Officer*

9. Member Engagement Initiative
 - *Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer*
 - *Cassandra Pye | President, Lucas Public Affairs*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Legislative Update
 - *Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | Chief Policy Officer*

12:00 PM **LUNCH**

12:30 PM **DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED**

11. Executive Committee Minute Mics

- What's going on in your county (in one minute)?

CSAC REPORTS

12. Operations & Member Services Report

Page 12-13

- *Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer*

13. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Page 14-26

- *Alan Fernandes | Chief Executive Officer, CSAC FC*
- *Rob Pierce | Chief Operating Officer, CSAC FC*

14. California Counties Foundation Report

Page 27-30

- *Supervisor Susan Ellenberg | President, CA Counties Foundation*
- *Paul Danczyk | Chief Operating Officer, CA Counties Foundation*

15. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report

Page 31

- *Jason Britt | CACE President, Tulare County CEO*

16. County Counsels' Association of California (CoCo) Report

Page 32-39

- *Brian E. Washington | Marin County Counsel, CoCo Past President*

17. INFORMATION ITEMS WITHOUT PRESENTATION

- 2025 Calendar of Events

Page 40

18. Public Comment

1:30 PM **ADJOURN**

If requested, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Korina Jones kjones@counties.org or (916) 327-7500 if you require modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting.



United States of America
Pledge of Allegiance



California State Association of Counties®



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2025

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

PRESIDENT:

Jeff Griffiths, Inyo County

1ST VICE PRESIDENT:

Susan Ellenberg, Santa Clara County

2ND VICE PRESIDENT:

Luis Alejo, Monterey County

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo County

URBAN CAUCUS

Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County

Rich Desmond, Sacramento County

John Gioia, Contra Costa County

Kelly Long, Ventura County

V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County

Buddy Mendes, Fresno County

Noelia Corzo, San Mateo County (Alternate)

SUBURBAN CAUCUS

Bonnie Gore, Placer County

Manu Koenig, Santa Cruz County

Scott Silveira, Merced County

Lucas Frerichs, Yolo County (Alternate)

RURAL CAUCUS

Kent Boes, Colusa County

Ned Coe, Modoc County

Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County (Alternate)

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Belia Ramos, Napa County, Treasurer

ADVISORS

Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO & CACE President

Brian E. Washington, Marin County Counsel, County Counsels' Association Past President

**Alternates are highlighted for your reference*

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 16, 2025 | 9:00am – 1:00pm

Capitol Event Center | 1020 11th St. Suite 100, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89199505454?pwd=t6HCfZCeQBM5ludDjaPQQNeCOY7Nas.1>
Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 891 9950 5454 | Password: 410394

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

Jeff Griffiths | *President*
Susan Ellenberg | *1st Vice President*
Luis Alejo | *2nd Vice President*
Bruce Gibson | *Immediate Past President*

CSAC STAFF

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

ADVISORS

Jason Britt | *Tulare County CAO & CACE President*
Brian E. Washington | *Marin County Counsel, County
Counsels' Association Past President*

SUPERVISORS

Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County (absent)*
Rich Desmond | *Sacramento County*
John Gioia | *Contra Costa County*
Kelly Long | *Ventura County*
V. Manuel Perez | *Riverside County*
Noelia Corzo | *San Mateo County*
Bonnie Gore | *Placer County (absent)*
Manu Koenig | *Santa Cruz County*
Scott Silveira | *Merced County*
Lucas Frerichs | *Yolo County*
Kent Boes | *Colusa County*
Ned Coe | *Modoc County*
Ryan Campbell | *Tuolumne County*

Treasurer

Belia Ramos, *Napa County*

2. CEO's Report

Graham Knaus, CEO, provided an update on the Association.

3. 2025 Budget Update

Erika Li, Chief Deputy Director of Budgets for the California Department of Finance, provided an update on the 2025 State Budget.

4. Approval of Minutes from October 9-11, 2024, and November 19, 2024

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 9-11, 2024, and November 19, 2024, was made by Supervisor Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Coe. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Updated 2024 – 2025 Board of Directors Nominations

The CSAC Constitution indicates that each county board shall nominate one or more directors to serve on the CSAC Board of Directors for a one-year term commencing with the Annual Meeting. The CSAC Executive Committee appoints one director for each member county from the nominations received and was presented with additional 2024-2025 nominations received to date.

A motion to approve the updated 2024-2025 Board of Directors Nominations was made by Supervisor Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Perez. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of 2025 CSAC Appointments

Supervisor Griffiths, CSAC President, presented the Officers 2025 CSAC appointment recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

A motion to approve the 2025 CSAC Appointments was made by Supervisor Coe and seconded by Supervisor Frerichs. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval of CSAC Finance Corporation Appointments

Alan Fernandes, CSAC Finance Corp. CEO, presented the Finance Corp. Board’s recommendations to fill the rural county, agency/department head, and public member seats:

- Rural County Supervisor: Ed Valenzuela, Siskiyou County
- Agency/Department Head: Edward Hill, Chief Operating Officer, Fresno County
- Public Members: Vernon Billy, CEO & Executive Director of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and Miguel Marquez, City Manager for the City of Pasadena

A motion to approve the CSAC Finance Corporation Board appointments was made by Supervisor Alejo and seconded by Supervisor Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approval of CSCDA Appointments

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Alan Fernandes, CSAC Finance Corporation CEO, presented the recommendation appoint retired Solano County Supervisor Erin Andrews to the CSCDA Board.

A motion to approve the CSCDA appointment was made by Supervisor Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Coe. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion of Governor’s January Budget Impact

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, discussed Governor Newsom’s January budget and highlighted that the Los Angeles County wildfires could drastically change the budget.

10. Legislative Priorities for 2025

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, presented the 2025 Board Adopted Priorities to the Executive Committee and engaged in discussion.

11. Operations and Member Services Report

Chastity Benson, COO, provided an update on the building renovation project and the upcoming Challenge Awards dinner. Rachael Serrao, Public Affairs Manager, highlighted the launch of CSAC’s Speakers Bureau.

12. California Counties Foundation Report

Supervisor Ellenberg, Foundation President, provided an update on the New Supervisors Institute and the two new Institute Campuses. Paul Danczyk, Foundation COO, highlighted the CSAC Grants Initiative (CGI).

13. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Rob Pierce, CSAC Finance Corp. COO, highlighted that Easy Smart Pay is now in 34 counties. Stacie Frerichs, Director of Business Programs, provided an update on the upcoming Executive Committee Leadership Forum.

14. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report

Jason Britt, CACE President and Tulare County CAO, highlighted several complex issues that County Administrators will be working on in 2025, which include ensuring the continued provision of jail medical services and engagement in the SB 90 mandate process.

15. Minute Mics: Executive Committee Roundtable

Each member of the Executive Committee spent one minute discussing pressing issues in their county.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on April 3, 2025 in San Joaquin County.



OFFICERS

President

Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

1st Vice President

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Monterey County

Past President

Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County



CEO

Graham Knaus

April 3, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Approval of Nominations for the CSAC 2024 – 2025 Board of Directors

Background: The CSAC Constitution indicates that each county board shall nominate one or more directors to serve on the CSAC Board of Directors for a one-year term commencing with the Annual Meeting. The CSAC Executive Committee appoints one director for each member county from the nominations received.

For counties that do not submit nominations, the appointed supervisor from the preceding year will continue to serve until such county board nominates, and the Executive Committee appoints, a supervisor to serve on the CSAC Board.

The highlighted names denote *additional* responses received for 2024-2025.

2024 - 2025 CSAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS + ALTERNATES				
COUNTY	CAUCUS	DIRECTOR	ALTERNATE(S)	CHANGE FROM 2023 - 2024
Alameda	U	David Haubert		NEW BOARD MEMBER
Alpine	R	Terry Woodrow	Evan Mecak	NEW ALTERNATE
Amador	R	Jeff Brown	Dan Epperson	NEW ALTERNATE
Butte	S	Tod Kimmelshue	Tami Ritter	No Change
Calaveras	R	Benjamin Stopper	Martin Huberty	NEW ALTERNATE
Colusa	R	Kent Boes	Janice A. Bell	NEW ALTERNATE
Contra Costa	U	John Gioia	Diane Burgis	No Change
Del Norte	R	Chris Howard	Darrin Short	No Change
El Dorado	R	Greg Ferrero	Brooke Laine	NEW BOARD MEMBER
Fresno	U	Buddy Mendes	Nathan Magsig	No Change
Glenn	R	Grant Carmon	Monica Rossman	No Change
Humboldt	R	Michelle Bushnell	Natalie Arroyo	No Change
Imperial	S	Jesus Eduardo Escobar	Martha Cardenas-Singh	NEW ALTERNATE
Inyo	R	Trina Orrill	Jeff Griffiths	No Change
Kern	S	Leticia Perez	Phillip Peters	No Change
Kings	R	Rusty Robinson	Doug Verboon	No Change
Lake	R	Bruno Sabatier	Jessica Pyska	No Change
Lassen	R	Gary Bridges	Tom Neely	NEW ALTERNATE
Los Angeles	U	Kathryn Barger	Holly J. Mitchell	No Change
Madera	R	Leticia Gonzalez	Jordan Wamhoff	NEW ALTERNATE

Marin	S	Mary Sackett	Brian Colbert	NEW ALTERNATE
Mariposa	R	Rosemarie Smallcombe	Miles Menetrey	
Mendocino	R	Maureen "Mo" Mulheren	Bernie Norvell	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
Merced	S	Scott Silveira	Josh Pedrozo	No Change
Modoc	R	Ned Coe	Shane Starr	NEW ALTERNATE
Mono	R	John Peters	Jennifer Kreitz	No Change
Monterey	S	Luis Alejo	Wendy Root Askew	No Change
Napa	S	Anne Cottrell	Liz Alessio	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
Nevada	R	Heidi Hall	Hardy Bullock	No Change
Orange	U	Doug Chaffee	Vicente Sarmiento	
Placer	S	Bonnie Gore		
Plumas	R	Tom McGowan	Jeff Engel	
Riverside	U	V. Manuel Perez	Karen Spiegel	No Change
Sacramento	U	Rich Desmond	Patrick Hume	NEW ALTERNATE
San Benito	R	Angele Curro	Kollin Kosmicki	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
San Bernardino	U	Jesse Armendarez	Curt Hagman	
San Diego	U		Joel Anderson	No Change
San Francisco	U	Rafael Mandelman		
San Joaquin	U	Robert Rickman	Steven Ding	NEW ALTERNATE
San Luis Obispo	S	Bruce Gibson	Jimmy Paulding	
San Mateo	U	Noelia Corzo		
Santa Barbara	S	Bob Nelson	Laura Capps	NEW BOARD MEMBER
Santa Clara	U	Susan Ellenberg	Otto Lee	No Change
Santa Cruz	S	Manu Koenig	Felipe Hernandez	No Change
Shasta	R	Kevin Crye	Matt Plummer	NEW ALTERNATE
Sierra	R	Lee Adams	Sharon Dyrden	
Siskiyou	R	Ed Valenzuela		No Change
Solano	S	Wanda Williams	Cassandra James	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
Sonoma	S	James Gore	Rebecca Hermsillo	NEW ALTERNATE
Stanislaus	S	Mani Grewal	Vito Chiesa	BOARD MEMBER & ALT SWAPPED POSITIONS
Sutter	R	Dan Flores	Mike Ziegenmeyer	New Alternate
Tehama	R	Pati Nolen	Tom Walker	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
Trinity	R	Ric Leutwyler	Heidi Carpenter-Harris	
Tulare	S	Amy Shuklian	Pete Vander Poel	No Change
Tuolumne	R	Ryan Campbell	Jaron Brandon	No Change
Ventura	U	Kelly Long	Jeff Gorell	No Change
Yolo	S	Lucas Frerichs	Oscar Villegas	
Yuba	R	Jon Messick	Gary Bradford	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT



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CEO
Graham Knaus

April 3, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Supervisor Belia Ramos, Treasurer
Chastity Benson, Chief Operating Officer
Jyoti Tanwar, Controller

RE: **Approval of Internal Revenue Service Form 990 – Tax Year 2023 (FY 2023-24)**

Recommendation: Approve the CSAC IRS Form 990 for Tax Year 2023

This memorandum is to recommend approval of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 for Tax Year 2023. The IRS requires Form 990 to be filed annually by nonprofit mutual benefit corporations such as CSAC. The purpose of the submission is for the IRS to collect information pertaining to revenues, expenses, and qualified activities to ensure continued status as a tax-exempt entity.

Form 990 is completed annually, and the IRS recommends its review and approval as good governance action. In particular, the IRS considers the Board of Directors review as a proactive, informed and engaged act to ensure that the organization continues to be structured and operated exclusively for tax-exempt purposes.

CSAC has no net tax liability for Tax Year 2023. The California Counties Foundation, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, will file separate tax returns and submit its own Form 990 reflecting corresponding revenue, expenses, and tax-exempt activities. The Foundation Board is scheduled to consider approval of its Form 990 in April 2025.

In addition to the tax components included in Form 990, CSAC is required to declare the number of hours that the President, Officers, Executive Committee, and the Board devote to the organization. The estimated number of weekly hours reported is:

President:	8.0 hours
Officers:	8.0 hours
Executive Committee:	1.5 hours
Board:	0.5 hours

The complete Form 990 is available upon request.

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Form 990

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)
Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2023

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning JUL 1, 2023 and ending JUN 30, 2024

B Check if applicable: C Name of organization: COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIF.
D Employer identification number: 94-6000551
E Telephone number: 916 327-7500
G Gross receipts \$: 12,220,133.
H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes [X] No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) [X] 501(c)(4) (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527
J Website: WWW.CSAC.COUNTIES.ORG
K Form of organization: [X] Corporation Trust Association Other
L Year of formation: 1911 M State of legal domicile: CA

Part I Summary

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include: 1 Briefly describe the organization's mission... TO REPRESENT COUNTY GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE...
2 Check this box if the organization discontinued its operations...
3-7a Activities & Governance summary rows.
8-12 Revenue summary rows.
13-19 Expenses summary rows.
20-22 Net Assets or Fund Balances summary rows.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here: Signature of officer CHASTITY BENSON, COO
Date
Paid: Print/Type preparer's name LAUREN A. HAVERLOCK, Preparer's signature LAUREN A. HAVERLOCK, Date 03/11/25, Check if self-employed, PTIN P00545829
Preparer Use Only: Firm's name MOSS ADAMS LLP, Firm's EIN 91-0189318, Firm's address 2882 PROSPECT PARK DR, STE 300 RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670, Phone no. 916-503-8100

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions [X] Yes No

Consideration of the CSAC Proposed
Budget & Salary Schedule for FY 2025-26
and Clarification of the CSAC Proposed
Salary Schedule for FY 2024-25

See Attachments



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CEO

Graham Knaus

April 3, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: CEO's Report

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 Executive Committee input.



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CEO
Graham Knaus

April 3, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Chastity Benson, Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: Operations and Member Services Report

2024 CSAC Challenge Awards

The 2024 CSAC Challenge Awards celebrated the innovation, dedication, and excellence of California’s counties, honoring 16 exceptional programs from 11 counties with 13 Challenge Awards and 3 Innovation Awards. These awards recognize groundbreaking solutions that are making a real difference in urban, suburban, and rural communities, including Los Angeles, Sonoma, Nevada, Fresno, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, Solano, and Lake counties.

This year, our esteemed judging panel reviewed a record-breaking 419 entries, the highest in program history, underscoring the growing impact and prestige of the Challenge Awards. These entries showcased the most innovative, forward-thinking programs developed by California’s counties to enhance public services, address complex challenges, and improve residents’ quality of life.

Adding to the celebration, CSAC hosted the first-ever, and highly successful, Challenge Awards Dinner, where more than 160 county leaders came together to honor outstanding achievements, share best practices, and build stronger partnerships. The event was an inspiring showcase of innovation that left a lasting impression on attendees. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from CSAC members, emphasizing the impact and importance of this recognition.

The 2024 CSAC Challenge Awards was a resounding success, not only recognizing exceptional county programs but also in fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared innovation among county leaders. As we build on this momentum, we look forward to an even more impactful Challenge Awards program in the years ahead!

New Association Management Software Launched

At the end of January, CSAC launched a new association management software system, Rhythm. The new system brings about opportunities to increase efficiency, collaboration, and member engagement. The system also provides CSAC members with a user-friendly member portal, streamlined events, CSAC Institute course registrations, and more. In the new system, all members are 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 ensure a seamless transition. To sign up, please use this [link](#).

We are thrilled to have this system live and look forward to the future as it opens even more possibilities for enhanced member engagement and support.

Public Affairs

It's a new world in politics and media and the news industry is rapidly transforming. Public affairs efforts now shape political narratives — and therefore, policy outcomes — more than ever before. CSAC is adapting to “meet this moment” by infusing our public affairs work with a new urgency, and by implementing a communications style that is direct and assertive.

In recent weeks, CSAC has made significant strides toward our goal of raising counties' presence in the media and influence at the state Capitol. We are focusing our public affairs efforts on CSAC's priority areas: homelessness and housing; disaster preparedness and recovery; and the state's response to federal funding cuts that affect counties. In the coming months, we will work to build an infrastructure that will enable us to partner with CSAC members and county staff (including Public Information Officers) so that our messaging reaches media, influencers and voters in all 58 counties.

New CSAC Website

The CSAC website redesign is entering a pivotal phase as we approach its launch at the upcoming Legislative Conference. We are currently in development mode with our vendor, Capitol Tech Solutions (CTS), building out each page of the new site. In the coming weeks, we will transition into Quality Assurance (QA) mode, where CSAC staff will review the site for content accuracy and seamless flow. This redesign was crafted with our members' needs in mind, and we are confident the final experience will reflect this commitment.

2025 CSAC Legislative Conference — April 23-25, 2025

Join us in Sacramento for the 2025 CSAC Legislative Conference, where county leaders from across California will come together to engage directly with state legislators and policymakers. This annual gathering is a prime opportunity to advocate for local priorities, influence key policy decisions, and stay informed on the latest state legislative and budget developments.

With over 350 attendees already registered, this is a conference you won't want to miss!

- Online registration [closes](#) Monday, April 14.
- Onsite registration [opens](#) Wednesday, April 23.



April 3, 2025

To: CSAC Executive Committee

From: Alan Fernandes, CSAC FC Chief Executive Officer
Rob Pierce, CSAC FC Chief Operations Officer

RE: **CSAC Finance Corporation Report**

CSAC Finance Corporation Board of Directors

The CSAC Finance Corporation (CSAC FC) Board of Directors is preparing for its Annual Spring Meeting on April 30, 2025 - May 2, 2025, in Napa County. The Annual Spring Meeting is always critical as it entails the election of the CSAC FC Officers, development of the upcoming Fiscal Year CSAC FC Budget, annual updates by the CSAC FC Business Partners, and various program development discussions. The CSAC FC Board will also be welcoming its newest members in person, to their first Annual Spring CSAC FC Board meeting. The newest members are as follows:

- ***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 Finance Corporation Financial Position

CSAC FC is very proud to share that over the last nine (9) plus years, CSAC FC has continued to increase its contribution to CSAC and has become a larger percentage of CSAC's overall revenue budget.

CSAC FC will be reviewing its annual budget this May for the purpose of determining the financial priorities of the organization while ensuring a consistent contribution to CSAC. The financial position of CSAC FC remains resilient as revenues continue to remain strong due to the success of our business partnerships and our Corporate Associates Program.

For more information on CSAC FC please visit our website at: (www.csacfc.org) call us at (916) 650-8137 or email Alan Fernandes (alan@csacfc.org).

Public Square Real Estate, Inc.

Public Square Real Estate, Inc. (PSRE) is an exciting partnership formed between Cushman and Wakefield (C&W) and CSAC Finance Corporation (CSAC FC) aimed at providing holistic and comprehensive professional real estate needs and planning to California's counties. The unique nature of this partnership ensures that counties have access to the highest level of real estate services with a unique focus on counties and their needs. While C&W provides unmatched resources and expertise in real estate services, CSAC FC is dedicated to the business of improving public services for counties and their constituents in part by creating and managing

innovative public services and products. After nearly two years of due diligence and deliberation, PSRE was formed with these guiding principles and only after input, guidance and authorization of the CSAC FC Board of Directors.

CSAC FC is enthused to announce the selection of PSRE by Del Norte County after a recent request for proposals process by the County and this exciting project and work has begun. Multiple other counties have recently reached out to PSRE to inquire about its services and potential opportunities including Glenn County, Inyo County, and Plumas County.

PSRE was developed to provide essential and comprehensive real estate services to California counties, with a clear focus to ensure that counties have a service option that puts them first by an organization with individuals that understand counties and the public interest. The partnership between CSAC FC and PSRE is based on a county centric value-added model. If you would like additional information about PSRE, please call (916-612-3020) or email Rob Pierce (rob@csacfc.org).

Nationwide Partnership

In true innovative fashion and in response to market desires, Nationwide has developed a new offering, Protected Retirement Income Solutions. This model was developed because of active participants expressing a desire for solutions that are part of their employer's pension plan which can address one of the biggest issues that deferred compensation plan participants fear most, running out of resources in retirement. Protected Retirement solutions can provide county participants the confidence of knowing that regardless how long they live, they will always have a stream of income being generated by the County's deferred compensation plan.

The following summary information outlines the benefits of this program:

- Offer participants the opportunity to turn their 457b supplemental retirement savings into a stream of guaranteed lifetime income (particularly important for those counties whose employees do not contribute into Social Security).
- Ensure that participant employees' retirement savings lasts throughout their entire retirement.
- There is no added cost to the county, simply providing another solution option for its employees.
- Helps to reduce the risk of market volatility because each solution locks in the highest investment value either on an annual or quarterly basis.
- Participants retain full control and liquidity of their assets.
- Due to the security of the plans, participants will be far less likely to move assets into a retail annuity, therefore helping counties retain assets in their plan.

Staff is pleased to share that recently, after due diligence and deliberation, Solano County has elected to onboard this offering to enhance the benefit options available to its employees. If you would like additional information regarding this exciting new offering from Nationwide and how it can help your county and its employees, please call (916-612-3020) or email Rob Pierce (rob@csacfc.org).

Enterprise Mobility Partnership

This Fiscal Year CSAC FC announced a new Business Partnership with Enterprise Mobility. CSAC FC and Enterprise Staff have worked tirelessly during this short tenure and since our last Executive Committee update the team has added numerous counties and municipalities to the program. Due to its surging success and momentum, it is anticipated that this partnership will

exceed expectations in both the current and subsequent Fiscal Year. If this current trend continues the partnership has the potential to be one of CSAC FC's most successful programs.

For more information about this exciting partnership or to find out how your county can benefit from this program please call (916-612-3020) or email Rob Pierce (rob@csacfc.org).

Corporate Associates Program

The Corporate Associates Program continues to experience strong support and currently has 72 partners across all three levels. It has certainly been an exciting and busy calendar year for the program with multiple opportunities for partners and members to engage, including the CSAC Executive Forum in San Diego County, the New Supervisors Institute in Sacramento County, the NACo Legislative conference in Washington D.C., the CSAC Regional Meeting in Butte County, and of course the upcoming CSAC Legislative Conference in Sacramento County.

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



Organizational Chart



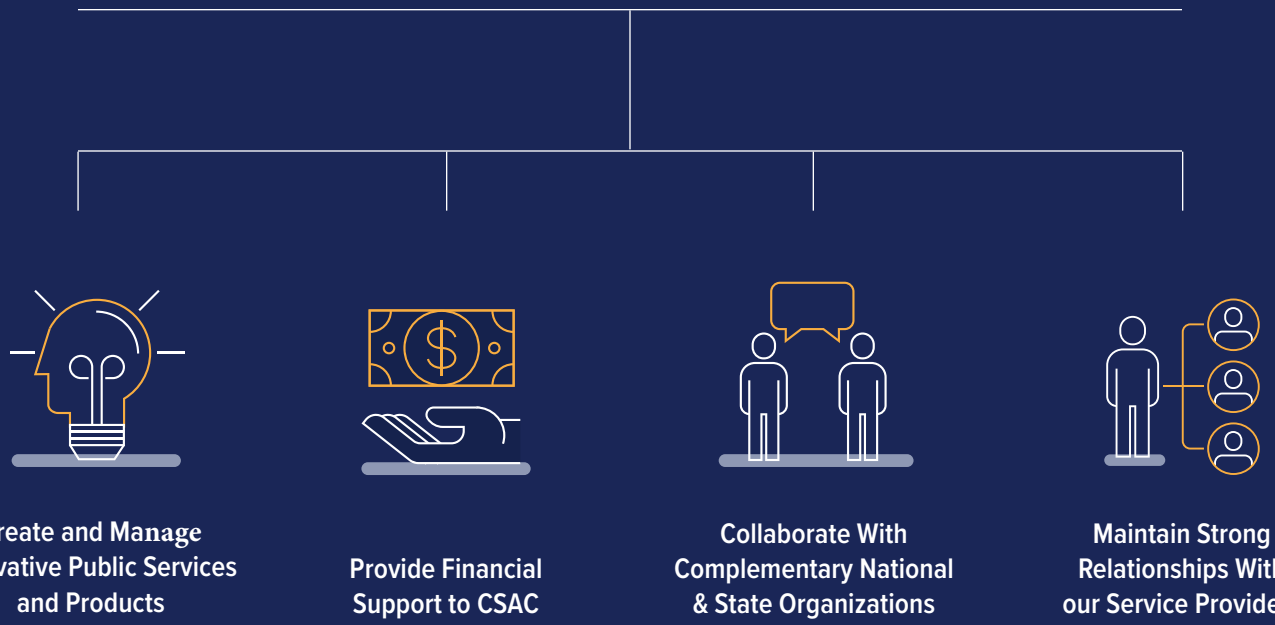


Mission Statement:

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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April 3, 2025

To: CSAC Executive Committee
From: Susan Ellenberg, Foundation President
 Paul Danczyk, PhD, Chief Operating Officer

RE: Report – California Counties Foundation (Foundation)

The Foundation’s work carries across the State, reaching all counties through courses at the William “Bill” Chiat Institute for Excellence in County Government (CSAC Institute) and via the free and premium services offered CSAC Grants Initiative (CGI).

1. CSAC Institute

The Institute expands leadership capacity and capability through educational opportunities via virtual courses and on-site campuses.

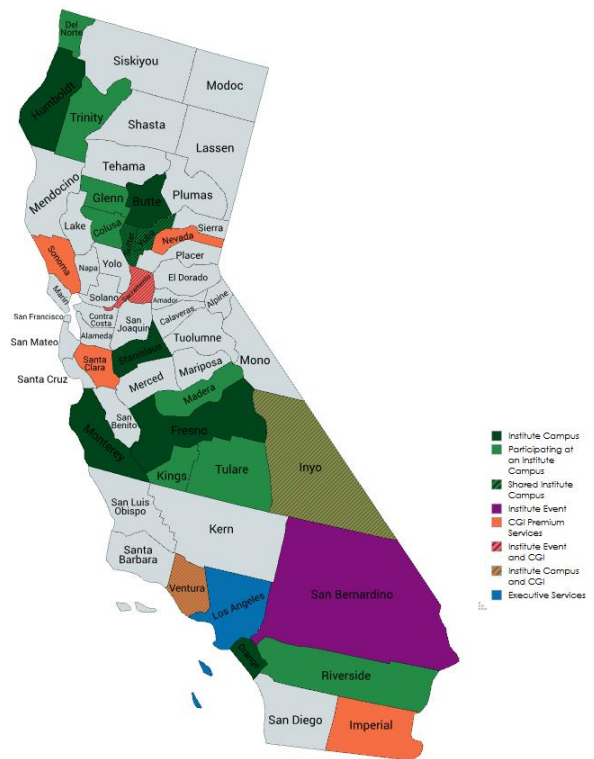
Specialized programs include:

New Supervisors Institute 2024 - 2025

A series of three modules, Module 2 was hosted in Sacramento on February 20-21, 2025. Preparations for Module 3 are in place for July 17-18, 2025 and will take place in Sacramento.

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 2025 cohort of 43 participants from 25 counties are advancing towards earning a technology credential this Fall at CCISDA’s annual conference. The Institute and CCISDA are designing the 2026 program and will begin recruitment soon.



HR Directors Institute 2024-2025

The Institute partnered with the California Counties Human Resources Association (CCHR) for the Human Resources Directors Institute 2024-2025 program. Consistent with other Institute credentials, the program was designed with 50 hours of instruction across a 4-day residency and virtual courses. Participants included 26 HR directors and senior leadership from 17 counties. Upon successful program completion, they will be recognized during CCHR's August 2025 conference in San Diego. The Institute and CHR are finalizing the 2025-2026 program design. The residency will be in Sacramento, December 8-12.

Alumni Program: Strengthening Response Muscles – 2025

The program focuses on responding to (instead of reacting to) difficult situations through courageous leadership, assertive communication, and self-care. The Institute concluded the inaugural 5-part series on December 5, 2024. Based on alumni requests, this program is offered again this Spring; the first session begins on April 04, 2025.

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.

Recent Graduations: Executive Credential Program

CSAC Institute proudly recognized participants from Glenn and Butte counties during their March 23rd Board of Supervisors meetings. Butte County recognized 23 graduates and Glenn County, 15, for earning the CSAC Executive Credential. Upcoming cohort graduations include Colusa and Orange counties.



Pictured: Butte County Supervisors Peter Durfee and Tod Kimmelshue, CSAC CEO Graham Knaus, California Counties Foundation COO Paul Danczyk, with Butte County Graduates



Pictured: Glenn County Supervisors Jim Yoder, Grant Carmon, Monica Rossman, Tony Arendt, Jake Withrow, CSAC CEO Graham Knaus and California Counties Foundation COO Paul Danczyk, with Glenn County Graduates

Upcoming Onsite Campuses

The Institute continues its efforts to design both onsite campuses and virtual offerings. Campus designs range in intensive approaches through offering ten courses between five- and ten-month time periods.

Programs currently underway include:

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

Programs in design include:

6. Inyo County
7. Stanislaus County
8. Glenn, Butte and Colusa counties (hosted by Butte County)
9. Sutter and Yuba counties

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 continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of California's counties. Building on the established foundations, we are exploring strategic enhancements to our service model that will further our mission of empowering counties. While specific details remain under review, our vision focuses on increasing accessibility, expanding resources, and creating more sustainable pathways for counties to secure critical funding.

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!

3. New Foundation Logo

To modernize and standardize its branding and stay consistent with CSAC’s style guide, the Foundation worked with an external designer to create its new logo. Various options were presented to the Foundation Board members for their review and input. A few variations of the logo are below and are being utilized across Foundation products and materials.





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

April 3, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO and CACE President

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

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the meetings of the CSAC Executive Committee and Board of Directors and bring forward the voice of the county administrators statewide. We are pleased to share with you an update on our work at CACE.

As we had anticipated, the federal administration's actions have created considerable uncertainty for California counties. While nothing is certain, potential significant reductions in Medicaid, FEMA, and other critical funding sources would have dramatic impacts on counties' capability to sustain public services. It is also clear that the state will not have the capacity to backfill anticipated federal reductions. Underscoring that uncertainty is the lack of information or preparation from our state department partners. As we understand it, the state is likely to approve its 2025-26 state budget in June without a good assessment of what it can anticipate in federal assistance. Should that be the case, the Legislature could need to return to Sacramento to make modifications to the state's spending plan in the fall, which will necessarily require budget adjustments at the county level during the fiscal year. In addition, we continue to focus on the following issues:

- Exploring options for ensuring continued provision of jail medical services and for 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;
- Discussion and consideration of impacts of proposals to allow utilities to relinquish their "plain old telephone service" or "carrier of last resort" obligations;
- Protecting investments in vital county services given likely changes in political priorities and policies;
- Supporting CACE members through information sharing, networking, and mentoring; and
- Responding to budget proposals and new initiatives from Newsom Administration.

Finally, CACE is in the initial stages of preparing for its annual conference, as well as association Board meetings concurrent with CSAC's Legislative Conference and Annual Meeting.

2025 OFFICERS

President | Jason Britt, Tulare County
Vice-President | Scott De Moss, Glenn County
Secretary/Treasurer | Dr. Sevet Johnson, Ventura County
Immediate Past President | Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County



County Counselors' Association of California

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jennifer Bacon Henning

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Jennifer Bacon Henning, Litigation Coordinator

Date: April 3, 2025

Re: Litigation Coordination Program Update

This memorandum will provide you with information on the Litigation Coordination Program's new case activity since your January 16, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Recent CSAC court filings are available on CSAC's website at: <http://www.csac.counties.org/csac-litigation-coordination-program>.

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

COUNTIES	CITIES	OTHER AGENCIES
Contra Costa (2 Cases) Kern Los Angeles Merced (2 Cases) San Luis Obispo Ventura (3 Cases)	Carson (2 Cases)	Coachella Valley Water Dist San Luis Coastal USD Santa Clara Valley Water Dist

AB 218 Revived Abuse "Gift of Public Fund" Cases

Status: Cases Closed

These four cases¹ involve claims against a county or school district brought under the revived statute of limitations and retroactive elimination of the claims presentment requirement created by AB 218 for childhood sexual assault claims. In each of the cases, defendants argued that AB 218's retroactive elimination of the claims-presentation requirement violated the California Constitution's Gift Clause and Due Process Clause. In each case, the trial court rejected that argument and defendants sought writ relief in the Court of Appeal. The appellate court summarily denied the writ petitions in all four cases on the same day. However, Judge Yegan dissented, stating:

¹ The cases are: *County of Ventura v. Superior Court (D.A.)*; *County of Ventura v. Superior Court (Diaz)*; *Roe 2 v. Superior Court (John Doe 1)*; *San Luis Coastal USD v. Superior Court (Doe)*.

The Legislature's retroactive elimination of sovereign immunity for claims arising from childhood sexual assault no matter the length of the delay in presentation, while also allowing limitless liability, has no reasonable basis. The fiscal impact flowing from the Legislature's erasure of time-honored rules concerning the filing of claims for personal injury against public entities is unprecedented. Local governmental entities and school districts are likely unable to litigate and compensate victims, even if they are worthy of compensation. These stale claims are not defensible even with a theoretical defense. Many alleged sexual abusers and potential witnesses would likely be unavailable and/or dead. There is no local 'reserve' fund to pay these claims and many insurance policies held by the public entities have lapsed long ago. . . . How does an entity go about defending these cases? The Legislature has provided no funding for the payment of these newly revived claims. If the local entities are indeed political subdivisions of the state, the Legislature will have to step in to avoid financial catastrophe at the local level. The legislative goal is laudable, but civil litigation contemplates an adversarial process. That is illusory in most of these stale cases. The Legislature has provided that these claims are to be resolved in court. But, there will be nothing to resolve other than the amount of damages. There is no practical way for the entities to truly defend themselves. . . . This petition presents a compelling case for review. We should issue the order to show cause and review the constitutionality of Assembly Bill 218. The seriousness of the issue and magnitude of the cost to the public fisc warrant review. I urge the Supreme Court to grant review of this important issue.

CSAC supported the petitions for review that were filed in these cases, but the California Supreme Court denied review.

B.B. v. County of Kern

Unpublished Opinion of the Fifth Appellate District, 2025 Cal.App.Unpub.LEXIS 540 (5th Dist. Jan. 29, 2025)(F087536), *request for publication denied* (Feb. 25, 2025)
Status: Cases Closed

Plaintiff B.B. was sexually abused in 1972 when she was 12 years old and living in a foster home she had been placed in by defendant, the County of Kern. Plaintiff disclosed the abuse to her assigned social worker, but plaintiff was not immediately removed from the foster home and the abuse continued for three months. In 2022, Plaintiff filed a personal injury lawsuit for negligence against the County, alleging direct liability for the County's failure to discharge various mandatory duties under Government Code section 815.6, and vicarious liability under sections 815.2, 815.4, and 820 for the failure of County employees, agents and/or independent contractors to protect plaintiff from sexual abuse while under the County's custody in foster care. The trial court dismissed, finding the County's employees were entitled to discretionary act immunity for foster care placement and removal decisions, and plaintiff failed to state a cause of action for breach of a mandatory duty by the County. In an unpublished opinion, the Court of Appeal affirmed. The court relied on a prior line of cases applying immunity for social worker actions: "Like in those cases,

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plaintiff faults the County's social worker for negligent investigation into her report of sexual abuse by her foster father. Based on established case law, the County's employees are immune from liability for failure to properly investigate plaintiff's report of sexual abuse." CSAC requested that the opinion be published, but the request was denied.

Conservatorship of E.A.

Unpublished Opinion of the First Appellate District, 2024 Cal.App.Unpub.LEXIS 5438 (1st Dist. Aug. 28, 2024)(A169299), *petition for review granted* (Dec. 11, 2024)(S287241)

Status: Amicus Brief Due June 5, 2025

E.A. has been under an LPS conservatorship since August 2020. When the Public Guardian petitioned for its annual renewal in September 2022, E.A. requested a jury trial. That trial had not yet been set when the Public Guardian petition for its next renewal in September 2023. The 2023 petition was heard and granted in November 2023. This appeal followed. In an unpublished opinion, the First Appellate District began by noting it was "dismayed by the trial court's inability to hear the 2022 petition for over a year, involving as it does 'a massive curtailment of liberty' for E.A." The court ultimately determined, however, that E.A. was unable to demonstrate that she was prejudiced by the delay, and it directed the trial court to dismiss the September 2022 petition for conservatorship as moot. The appellate court determined that the main reason for the delay was the court's inability to provide a courtroom, and it expressed concern that there was "nothing in the record to suggest the court viewed setting this case for trial with the level of urgency the statute and circumstances require." Ultimately, however, the court concluded that the delays could not support a dismissal of the conservatorship if E.A. did not suffer prejudice due to the delay. And because there was no evidence that the delay impaired her counsel's ability to prepare for trial and her condition has essentially remained unchanged since 2021, the court found there was no prejudice. The California Supreme Court has granted review to the following question: Must a conservatee demonstrate prejudice to establish that a 362-day delay in initiating a trial in a Lanterman-Petris-Short Act conservatorship proceeding violates due process and equal protection? CSAC will file a brief in support of the Contra Costa County Public Guardian.

Election Integrity Project California, Inc. v. Lunn

108 Cal.App.5th 443 (2d Dist. Jan. 3, 2025)(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 unpublished opinion, 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,

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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.

Great Oaks Water Co. v. Santa Clara Valley Water District

Unpublished Opinion of the Sixth Appellate District, 2025 Cal.App.Unpub. LEXIS 1228 (6th Dist. Feb. 28, 2025)(H050939), *request for publication pending* (filed Mar. 10, 2025)

Status: Publication Request Pending

This case is a challenge to certain water rates under Prop. 26. As relevant to the litigation, the Water District pricing policy in setting its groundwater fee provides: (1) an "open space credit" to encourage continued open space and agriculture uses; and (2) a conjunctive use adjustment so that groundwater and treated water customers are "economically indifferent" to which source of water they receive, for example by reallocating some of the costs of treated or recycled water to groundwater users. Plaintiff alleged that the charges violated Prop. 26 because they were more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the governmental activity, and because the cost allocation did not bear a fair or reasonable relationship to plaintiff's burdens on, or its benefits received from, the governmental activities. The Court of Appeal ruled in favor of the Water District in an unpublished opinion. Of particular interest, the Court ruled: (1) Charges for "governmental activity" are lawful and governmental activity is broadly defined as the water district's overall water management program; (2) the non-agricultural groundwater charges were reasonably allocated; and (3) the discount for agricultural groundwater pumping is constitutionally valid because it is not funded with the money received from non-agricultural pumpers like plaintiff, but instead with an "open space credit" paid for with revenue from ad valorem property taxes imposed by Santa Clara County and transferred to the Water District. CSAC's publication request is pending.

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association v. Coachella Valley Water District

108 Cal.App.5th 485 (4th Dist. Div. 2 Jan. 31, 2025)(E080870), *petition for review pending* (filed Mar. 10, 2025)

Status: Petition for Review Pending

This case is a Prop. 218 challenge to the rates the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) charges those who take raw water from the District's canals for irrigation. Because golf courses and other municipal and industrial uses have growing demand for water and farmers' demand is declining (as land is developed for urban uses), CVWD obtained expensive new supplies via the Colorado River Settlement Agreements, and allocates those charges to Class 2 users (mostly golf courses and other irrigators in non-farm settings). CVWD also uses the canal rates to charge the domestic utility for the use of the canal water it uses to recharge groundwater basins from which domestic supplies are drawn. HJTA subbed into the litigation for a domestic utility user to challenge the canal rates, even though the user does not himself pay the rate except to the extent those costs that are charged to the domestic utility are folded into his rate. The Court of Appeal invalidated the water district's rate for non-agricultural customers, finding the district did not show that its rate allocation bore a fair or reasonable relationship to non-agricultural customers' burdens. The Court further held that a refund suit did not require payment under protest because the Health & Saf. Code, § 5472, protest requirement for suits against

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municipalities did not apply to suits against other entities. CSAC has filed a letter supporting the Water District's request for California Supreme Court review, which is pending.

In re Lerke

107 Cal.App.5th 685 (4th Dist. Div. 1 Dec. 19, 2024)(D084051), *depublication request pending* (filed Feb. 18, 2025)(S289333)

Status: Request for Depublication Pending

In this Murphy conservatorship case (a type of LPS conservatorship for people who are deemed dangerous and unable to stand trial due to mental illness), the Court of Appeal in San Diego County held that "indefinite" detention in county jail of a conservatee found incompetent to stand trial, pending transfer to a state hospital, was unlawful because the applicable statute requires placement in a state hospital or other authorized facility providing treatment, and a county jail is not among the authorized facilities. Ultimately, however, the court denied the writ of habeas corpus as moot because the conservatee had been transferred from the jail to an authorized treatment facility during the pendency of the proceedings. CSAC has requested that the opinion be depublished. That request is currently pending.

K.C. v. County of Merced

--- Cal.App.5th ---, 2025 Cal.App.LEXIS 144 (5th Dist. Feb. 18, 2025)(F087088), *request for publication granted* (Mar. 11, 2025)

Status: Case Closed

This is a revived claim of childhood sexual abuse against Merced County involving alleged acts of sexual abuse that occurred in two foster homes in the early to mid 1970's. The complaint alleges that social workers had actual or constructive knowledge of the abuse but failed to take any investigative or protective action. The trial court sustained a demurrer in favor of the County, and the Fifth District affirmed in an unpublished opinion. The court concluded that "[i]n view of statutes granting discretionary immunity to public employees and derivative immunity to public entity employers (see Gov. Code, §§ 815.2, subd. (b), 820.2)," the demurrer was properly sustained. The court noted the "strong policy considerations in favor of upholding immunity" for social workers, citing to case law confirming that "the social worker's independence . . . would be compromised were the social worker constantly in fear that a mistake could result in a time-consuming and financially devastating civil suit." CSAC's publication request was granted.

Nabors Corporate Services v. City of Carson

108 Cal.App.5th 540 (2d Dist. Jan. 31, 2025)(B328026), *petition for review pending* (filed Mar. 13, 2025)(S289788)

Status: Letter in Support of Petition for Review Due April 11, 2025

Labor Code section 1781 states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a contractor may . . . bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover from the body awarding a contract for a public work or otherwise undertaking any public work any increased costs incurred by the contractor as a result of any decision by the body, the Department of Industrial Relations, or a court that classifies, after the time at which the body accepts the contractor's bid or awards the contractor a contract in circumstances where no bid is solicited, the work covered by the bid or contract as a 'public work,' . . ." In this case, plaintiff undertook work on behalf of the City of Long

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Beach as a subcontractor in a project that was deemed not to be a public work requiring prevailing wages. After the work was completed, employees of plaintiff were successful in arbitration, resulting in a finding that the work was a “public work” and prevailing wages were required. The employees then successfully petitioned a federal district court to confirm the arbitration awards as judgments.

Plaintiff then brought this action against the City under Section 1781 seeking indemnity for the employees’ wage award. The trial court ruled in favor of the City, concluding that the arbitrator’s decision is not a decision of “the body, the Department of Industrial Relations, or a court” as required by the statute, and therefore no indemnification was required. The Court of Appeal reversed. It found that the federal court confirmation of the arbitration award was sufficient to trigger Section 1781. The court rejected the City’s argument that the federal court’s order should not be included in Section 1781 because confirmation of an arbitration award does not review the merits of the arbitrator’s decision. The appellate court found instead that “under both federal and state law, a judgment entered following confirmation of a contractual arbitration award has the same force and effect as a judgment rendered after a court determination, regardless of whether an arbitrator, not a sitting judge, made the underlying factual and legal determinations.” Thus, under the plain language of the statute and the legislative history reviewed by the court, the trial court erred by dismissing the case. The City is seeking Supreme Court review, and CSAC will file a letter in support.

Nyarecha v. County of Los Angeles

Memorandum Opinion of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2024 U.S.App.LEXIS 26252 (9th Cir. Oct. 17, 2024)(23-55773), *cert. petition pending* (filed Mar. 7, 2025)(24-956)

Status: Amicus Brief Due April 4, 2025

In federal civil rights cases, a public entity can be held liable for the actions of its employees under what is known as “*Monell* liability” if the plaintiff can show there is a well-established custom or practice of the employees’ unlawful conduct. In other words, even if a County has a lawful policy and trains its employees on the policy, if plaintiff shows that the actual practice is different and employees customarily deviate from the policy, the County can be liable under the *Monell* theory. The question is this case is how much evidence is required to show a “well-established custom or practice” to establish *Monell* liability. The case involves an inmate who died in a special medical unit in the County’s jail. Plaintiff had been held in the jail for several months, but the sole evidence submitted to the trial court was video for the 13 hours immediately preceding his death, which showed deputies walking past the plaintiff’s cell 26 times without stopping to specifically check plaintiff’s status. The trial court ruled in favor of the County, concluding that 13 hours was not of sufficient duration to evidence a custom or policy under *Monell*. But the Ninth Circuit reversed, concluding the evidence supported an inference that the safety checks that occurred in the hours preceding plaintiff’s death represent a practice or custom capable of satisfying the standard for *Monell* liability. The County is seeking U.S. Supreme Court review, and CSAC will file a brief in support.

Pachote v. Nelson

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Memorandum Opinion of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2024 U.S.App.LEXIS 32070 (9th Cir. Dec. 18, 2024)(23-4000), *petition for rehearing and reharing en banc denied* (Jan. 27, 2025)

Status: Amicus Brief Due May 28, 2025

Plaintiff contacted the Sheriff's department after reportedly hearing shots fired near her home. Two sheriff deputies—Nelson and Thomas – were in the area and responded to the call. When Nelson arrived, plaintiff asked her to leave and the two had an exchange during which Nelson tried to pull plaintiff out of the house. Thomas was approaching the scene when he saw the ensuing struggle. He used only his hands to push plaintiff to the ground and assist in handcuffing her. She later brought this excessive force action. The trial court denied qualified immunity to both officers. On appeal, the Ninth Circuit agreed that Thomas was not entitled to qualified immunity on claims of excessive force. The court disagreed that Thomas had rightful authority to use minimal force to come to the aid of a fellow officer. Judge Bumatay dissented, finding “Thomas’s modest use of force to help Deputy Nelson subdue Pachote was . . . objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances. Nothing in the Fourth Amendment requires police officers to assume that other officers are acting against the law in using physical force. Nor does the Fourth Amendment require officers to acquire perfect knowledge of the situation before assisting another officer in a physical struggle.” Contra Costa County is seeking U.S. Supreme Court review, and CSAC will file a brief in support.

Pacific Bell v. County of Merced

--- Cal.App.5th ---, 2025 Cal.App.LEXIS 1092 (5th Dist. Feb. 24, 2025)(F087825), *request for publication granted* (Mar. 17, 2025)

Status: Case Closed

Merced County has received a favorable, though unpublished, decision in its telephone utility tax refund action. In this case, as with the others that are pending in various Courts of Appeal, plaintiffs challenged the property tax rates that were calculated 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 Fifth District held that “the relevant language in Section 19 does not mandate that the same tax rate must be applied to utility property as is applied to locally assessed property.” CSAC’s publication request was granted.

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: Case Fully Briefed and 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 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

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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 an amicus support.

Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co. v. City of Carson

Unpublished Opinion of the Second Appellate District, 2025 Cal.App.Unpub. LEXIS 1248 (2d Dist. Feb. 28, 2025)(B335686), *request for publication pending* (filed Mar. 10, 2025)

Status: Case Fully Briefed and Pending

The City of Carson has an Oil Industry Business License Tax (OIBLT), which imposes a tax on petroleum processing or refining operations within the City. The ordinance includes an administrative process for seeking refunds of alleged overpayments. In this case, plaintiff believed it was wrongly assessed for its OIBLT. It filed a claim with the City under the Government Claims Act, and when its claim was denied it filed a complaint in the trial court seeking a refund. The trial court agreed with the City that plaintiff could not bring its lawsuit because it did not exhaust the City's administrative process. In an unpublished opinion, the Court of Appeal affirmed, rejecting the plaintiff's argument that the City's administrative process was preempted by the Government Claims Act. CSAC has requested that the opinion be published.

California State Association of Counties

2025 Calendar of Events

Updates are highlighted below

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.
- 12-13 CSAC Regional Meeting | Butte County
- 31 Cesar Chavez Day

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

- (new dates!)* 11-12 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 131st Annual Meeting | Santa Clara County
- 4 CSAC Board of Directors Meeting | Santa Clara County
- 17-19 Officers Retreat
- 25 Christmas Day