

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETREAT
October 9-11, 2024
Cambria Pines Lodge | 2905 Burton Drive, Cambria

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

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

CSAC STAFF

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

ADVISORS

Sarah Carrillo | *County Counsels' Association, Tuolumne County (absent)*
Jeff Van Wagenen | *California Association of County Executives President, Riverside County (absent)*

SUPERVISORS

Keith Carson | *Alameda County*
Kent Boes | *Colusa County*
John Gioia | *Contra Costa County*
Buddy Mendes | *Fresno County*
Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County (absent)*
Scott Silveira | *Merced County*
Ned Coe | *Modoc County*
Luis Alejo | *Monterey County*
Bonnie Gore | *Placer County*
Rich Desmond | *Sacramento County*
Nora Vargas | *San Diego County (absent)*
Erin Hannigan | *Solano County*
Ryan Campbell | *Tuolumne County*
Kelly Long | *Ventura County*

Treasurer

Belia Ramos, *Napa County*

2. Approval of Minutes from August 8, 2024

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 8, 2024, was made by Supervisor Chuck Washington and seconded by Supervisor Ned Coe. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CSAC Building Renovation & Financials

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Chastity Benson, COO, provided an update on recent developments regarding the building renovation, which included the selection of an architect, a project/construction management firm, and a municipal advisor. Additionally, the California Counties Capitol Building and Museum nonprofit corporation was formally established and granted federal tax exemption.

Over the next several months, CSAC will hire a commercial real estate company to help secure interim housing, and work with the municipal advisor to develop an investment plan to optimize existing reserves. The architectural firm will test and evaluate the buildings systems and determine compliance with historic preservation standards. The California Counties Capitol Building and Museum Board will meet to approve their bylaws and approve the Building Expense Reimbursement Resolution.

4. State/Local Responsibility Shift Project

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, presented a timeline detailing areas where funding has shifted to counties over the last 15 years. The Executive Committee engaged in conversation about how to message these shifts with regards to advocacy and education.

5. Closed Session

The Executive Committee met in closed session with legal counsel on two potential cases of significant legal exposure. Following the closed session, the Executive Committee returned to open session and announced that no reportable action had been taken.

6. Consideration of 2024 Distinguished Service Awards

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to the individuals who have made the greatest contribution to the improvement of government in California, particularly as it relates to county government. The Executive Committee selected the following individuals to receive this award for 2024:

- Dr. Shirley Weber, California Secretary of State
- John Laird, California State Senator
- Steven Padilla, California State Senator
- Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember

A motion to approve the 2024 CSAC Distinguished Service Award nominees was made by Supervisor Bruce Gibson and seconded by Supervisor Chuck Washington. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Consideration of 2024 Circle of Service Awards

The Circle of Service Award is presented to recognize county officials, employees, and other members whose service to the county family, CSAC membership and the advancement of our goals is substantially above and beyond the norm. The Executive Committee selected the following individuals to receive this award for 2024:

- Supervisor Richard Forester, Amador County
- Supervisor Erin Hannigan, Solano County
- Supervisor Keith Carson, Alameda County
- Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County Public Works Director
- Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO
- Stephen T. Monaghan, Nevada County Information and General Services Agency Director

A motion to approve the 2024 CSAC Circle of Service Award nominees was made by Supervisor Susan Ellenberg and seconded by Supervisor Kelly Long. The motion passed unanimously.

8. California Counties Foundation Report

Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, Foundation President, and Paul Danczyk, Foundation Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on the CSAC Grants Initiative (CGI), the New Supervisors Institute and upcoming Institute campuses. They also highlighted the Foundation's 2024 Alumni Survey Report.

9. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Supervisor Oscar Villegas, Finance Corp. President, and Alan Fernandes, Finance Corp. CEO, discussed the upcoming appointment of a rural county supervisor to the Finance Corp. Board following Supervisor Richard Forster's retirement at the end of the year. They also highlighted the Corporate Associates program and key partnerships with Nationwide and Enterprise.

10. CSCDA Appointments

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Alan Fernandes, Finance Corp. CEO, provided a brief report on the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA). Upon review of the CSCDA bylaws, it was determined that CSAC is out of alignment with the required three-year terms for commissioners. The Executive Committee expressed its desire to bring CSAC back in alignment with the CSCDA bylaws. Staff proposed phasing in alignment starting with the longest serving members, Dan Mierzwa and Tim Snellings. The Executive Committee moved to appoint the two recommended candidates: Supervisor Vito Chiesa and Leonard Moty.

A motion to approve the appointment of Supervisor Vito Chiesa and Leonard Moty to replace Dan Mierzwa and Tim Snellings was made by Supervisor Erin Hannigan and seconded by Supervisor Chuck Washington. The motion passed unanimously.

For future appointments, the Executive Committee expressed its desire to ensure that new appointees reflect the diversity of their own boards and the State of California.

A motion to affirm the Executive Committee's commitment to racial, gender and other matters of diversity to its appointed boards that will reflect the diversity their own boards and the State of California was made by Supervisor Erin Hannigan and seconded by Supervisor Chuck Washington. The motion passed unanimously.

11. 2024 Year in Review

Graham Knaus, CEO, Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, and Chastity Benson, COO, presented CSAC's 2024 State and Federal Advocacy, Member Services and Operational achievements to the Executive Committee.

12. Homelessness and Behavioral Health Discussion

Graham Knaus, CEO and Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez discussed AT HOME, chronicling its timeline and milestones. Key achievements included early media engagement, building public-private partnerships, securing state funding, and the passage of numerous bills in 2023 and 2024 that aligned with the pillars of the AT HOME framework. The Executive Committee highlighted the importance of telling success stories and calling attention to legislation that has evolved into projects.

13. Childcare/Early Childhood Development

The Executive Committee discussed childcare/early childhood development and ways that CSAC can engage in this area. The Executive Committee recommended creating a Childcare Working Group.

A motion to create a Childcare Working Group was made by Supervisor Bruce Gibson and seconded by Supervisor Chuck Washington. The motion passed unanimously.

14. 2025 Initial Advocacy and Member Priorities

The Executive Committee discussed Association priorities for 2025.

15. CSAC Updates

Graham Knaus, CEO, Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, and Chastity Benson, COO, provided various updates regarding the Association.

14. Open Items & Other Issues

This item provided the Executive Committee with the opportunity to discuss other items of interest and issues they are experiencing in their counties.

15. Closed Session

The Executive Committee met in closed session.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on January 16, 2025.