

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 27-28, 2007  
Monterey Plaza Hotel, Monterey, CA

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M I N U T E S

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Presiding: Frank Bigelow, President

1. ROLL CALL

Frank Bigelow, President  
Richard Gordon, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Gary Wyatt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Connie Conway, Immed. Past President  
John Tavaglione, Riverside  
Roger Dickinson, Sacramento  
Liz Kniss, Santa Clara  
Kathy Long, Ventura  
Greg Cox, San Diego (alternate)

Joni Gray, Santa Barbara  
Mike McGowan, Yolo  
Mike Nelson, Merced  
Valerie Brown, Sonoma (alternate)  
Terry Woodrow, Alpine  
Tony Oliveira, Kings (alternate)  
Larry Combs, advisor

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Jim Mayer and Zabrae Valentine of New California Network, made a presentation regarding the "California Forward" project which was created to reform state policies in the areas of: education, health care, public safety and the environment; and to address the needs of California's growing population. The goals of the project are to: engage responsive and representative leaders; improve civic engagement, involvement; improve performance and accountability; and improve relationship among state-local governments. Mr. Mayer indicated that this could be achieved by building a bipartisan constituency for structural change focused on improved results and establish the best solutions that the largest number of people can support.

California Forward is funded by the following organizations:

The California Endowment  
Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund  
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
James Irvine Foundation  
David & Lucile Packard Foundation

Mr. Mayer encouraged Executive Committee members to become involved in the project.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 23, 2007 were approved as previously mailed.

4. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

The CSAC Distinguished Service award is given annually a person(s) who has made the greatest contribution to the improvement of government in California, particularly as it relates to county government. In addition, the CSAC President chooses an individual who has made a significant contribution to county government during the year.

Staff submitted a list of nominees for consideration, as contained in the briefing materials. The Executive Committee chose the following recipients for the 2008 Distinguished Service Award:

**Senator Ellen Corbett** – The author of SB 145, CSAC's co-sponsored measure with the Judicial Council to extend the deadline for court facility transfers, Senator Corbett has demonstrated great leadership in seeking maximum flexibility for our counties in policy area of great significance. In addition, she strongly supported the interests of counties relating to implementation of Prop 1B transportation accounts.

**Assembly Member Roger Niello** – Primarily for his leadership as author of AB 98, which would enable counties to offer more subsidized employment opportunities for CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work participants. AB 98 complements county efforts to increase work participation in accordance with new federal requirements. In his role as the Vice Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, he has been a willing listener to county concerns on pertinent fiscal and policy issues.

**Director Will Kempton, California Department of Transportation** – For his continued ability to demonstrate leadership at critical times during an era of significant infrastructure expansion and a burdened state transportation system. He consistently seeks to partner with local governments and has an in-depth understanding of county needs.

**Secretary Jim Tilton, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation** – As leader of the state's corrections system, he has shown principled leadership and an extraordinary willingness to reach out to and collaborate with counties in addressing corrections challenges facing state and local governments alike.

The President's Award will be determined at a later date.

## 5. CIRCLE OF SERVICE AWARD NOMINEES

The CSAC Circle of Service award was created to recognize county officials, department directors, employees, Corporate Associates and other CSAC members whose service to CSAC and counties sets them apart. Staff submitted a list of nominees for consideration, as contained in the briefing materials.

The Executive Committee chose the following recipients for the 2008 Circle of Service Award:

**Supervisor Helen Thomson (Yolo)** – For her work as chair of the CSAC Health and Human Services Policy Committee this year as counties have grappled with their role in the statewide health care reform debate. She has chaired weekly health care reform update conference calls, often with more than 20 counties participating. She also testified on the Governor's health care reform package in February, and didn't hesitate to leverage her legislative contacts and experience to insert the concerns of counties into the debate. Her knowledge and constant engagement in the issue truly proved to be an asset to counties during these turbulent times.

**Supervisor Mike McGowan (Yolo)** – For his service both as co-chair of the CSAC Flood Protection Policy Working Group and as chair of the Housing, Land Use and Transportation policy committee. In addition, he also has continued his tireless leadership on a broad range of Native American and Indian gaming issues at the state and federal levels. He has been named Co-Chair of the newly formed NACo Subcommittee on Native American Affairs.

**Supervisor Tony Oliveira (Kings)** – For his active leadership as the county representative on the CALPERS Board. Serving in this capacity since 2005, Supervisor Oliveira has brought visibility to local government issues before the PERS Board for the first time in recent history and he has dedicated considerable time and efforts to a range of related activities, including hundreds of constituent contacts.

**Supervisor Bill Powers (Plumas)** – For his active involvement and participation in key policy discussions, including flood control, corrections reform, climate change, and health care reform. In addition, Supervisor Powers represents counties on the Corrections Standards Authority (formerly the Board of Corrections), where he is an active and engaged member.

**Brian Lee, Deputy Director of Public Works (San Mateo)** – For his work on the Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Project jointly undertaken by CSAC, the League of California Cities, and CEAC. The needs assessment effort will result in a big picture needs number for the city streets and county road system for the first time ever. This information will allow CSAC to better advocate on behalf of greater funding for the local roadway system and the state in general.

**Mike Silacci, AT&T** - Served as President of CSAC Corporate Associates during 2007 and has also been very active in CSAC for a number of years.

**Rob Bilo, Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS)** – Has been a strong supporter of the Corporate Associates program, the Finance Corporation and CSAC for a number of years. Additionally, through his efforts at NRS, he has assisted California county employees in making sound decisions for their financial future.

**Supervisor Roger Dickinson (Sacramento)** – served as co-chair of the CSAC Flood Protection Policy Working Group, Chair of the NACo Human Services and Education Committee, and was recently appointed by the NACo President to chair the Aging Out of Foster Care Task Force.

**Supervisor Brian Dahle (Lassen)** – Has demonstrated a dedicated commitment on behalf of California counties at the national level by becoming an officer of NACo's Western Interstate Region (WIR).

**Rubin Lopez, CSAC** – Acknowledgement of his ongoing work on behalf of California counties in the State Legislature on the complex issue of trial court transfers.

#### 6. REVIEW OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FY 2006

Staff reviewed the CSAC audited financial statements as contained in the independent auditors' report from John Waddell & Co.

Supervisors Oliveira and Tavaglione reported on the recent CSAC Audit Committee conference call. The Audit Committee discussed Ransohoff building IRS tax credits; classification of CSAC independent contractors; and a new IRS Form 990, specifically as it relates to reporting campaign fundraising.

Staff was directed to ensure that appropriate recordkeeping is maintained to track Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT) allocations.

Staff was further directed to develop a cash reserve policy and bring back recommendation to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

Motion and second to accept CSAC Audited Financial Statements and make staff recommendations listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 7. COST OF DOING BUSINESS WORK GROUP

Staff outlined a proposal to create a CSAC Cost of Doing Business Work Group. The purpose will be to develop multiple strategies for gaining support in the Legislature and Administration to deal with the continued lack of funding for county human services programs. The work group would be comprised of

county supervisors, CAOs, welfare directors, county counsel, and affiliate organization staff. It was recommended that Supervisor Roger Dickinson be appointed Chair of the Work Group.

Motion and second to approve creation of the Cost of Doing Business Work Group and appoint Supervisor Dickinson as Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Tavaglione volunteered to participate on the Task Force.

8. PROPOSED CHANGES TO CSAC CONSTITUTION AND POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL

Supervisor Gordon presented recommendations from the CSAC Constitution Revision Task Force as contained in the briefing materials. Highlights of the proposed changes include: establishing minimum population requirements for caucuses; imposing a higher vote threshold for taking positions on ballot propositions; clarifying the role and appointment of the CSAC Treasurer; clarifying the process for adoption of policy resolutions and ballot proposition positions; addition of descriptions for Corporate Associates and Past Presidents' council; and separation of the Constitution and Policy Manual.

The Executive Committee recommended some clarifying language to the document and the addition of ex-officio members to the Executive Committee. Specifically, the addition would apply to any California county supervisor serving as a NACo or NACo WIR officer.

Motion and second to recommend that the Board of Directors adopt the proposed changes to the CSAC Constitution and Policies & Procedures Manual, including Executive Committee recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

9. RELATIONSHIPS WITH CSAC AFFILIATES AND OTHER COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

Paul McIntosh discussed the need to create more opportunities for CSAC to work closely with county affiliate organizations and noted that the newly formed Cost of Doing Business Work Group is a good example of that type of relationship.

10. UPDATE ON EMINENT DOMAIN INITIATIVES

Staff reported that CSAC is continuing to work with a coalition that includes the League of California Cities and California Redevelopment Association, on a campaign to offer alternatives to and defeat a detrimental eminent domain

initiative being sponsored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. The original strategy was to pursue legislation, but the measure, ACA 8, did not pass the Legislature.

The coalition is now considering running a campaign against the “Jarvis” initiative as well as going forward with a coalition-sponsored initiative. Signature gathering has begun on the coalition’s initiative. Staff will also continue to work on a legislative alternative to introduce next year.

#### 11. OPTIONS FOR FUNDING FUTURE INITIATIVE CAMPAIGNS

As directed by the Board of Directors in June, staff researched options for reserving funds to participate in future issue campaigns. One option is to form a political action committee (PAC). Staff noted that while the formation of a PAC is relatively simple, the administration of a PAC is more complicated. Another option would be to hold reserve funds in a separate CSAC account. This is a relatively straightforward option that would involve specifying revenue to set aside within the CSAC budget for purposes of an eventual initiative campaign. CSAC has been advised that approximately \$200,000 in reserve funds should be maintained in either the PAC or CSAC account. A third option would be to continue with the current practice of “pay as you go.”

Staff was directed to bring back a recommendation regarding steps that CSAC would need to take in order to form a political action committee.

Staff announced that CSAC has begun developing a database of supervisor profiles that would assist in grassroots lobbying efforts.

#### 12. UPDATE ON ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS/ELECTIONS

The California Association of County Elections Officials (CACEO) Legislative Committee met on August 24 to discuss next steps regarding the Secretary of State’s “Top to Bottom Review” of electronic voting systems. The Committee approved an action authorizing the contracting of outside counsel to perform a legal analysis on the ruling. CACEO is also considering filing an SB 90 claim with the Commission on State Mandates. Staff reported that it is unlikely the claim will be successful.

CSAC will hold an elections roundtable during the November Annual Meeting in Oakland. The roundtable will focus more broadly on the need for elections reform in California and serve as a brainstorm session for elections reform proposals, which will be the starting point for a CSAC Elections Working Group to be established after the meeting.

13. PROPOSED CSAC DUES STRUCTURE

Staff presented a proposal to increase CSAC dues by 2.5% for the coming year and to also incorporate National Association of Counties (NACo) dues so that both are paid directly to CSAC. CSAC would, in turn, pay the dues to NACo. The proposal was developed in an effort to ensure maximum participation in NACo.

Motion and second to recommend a 2.5% dues increase to the Board of Directors as part of the draft budget and to establish a Task Force to look at incorporating NACo dues into CSAC dues. Motion carried unanimously.

14. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ELECTIONS PROCESS

Staff presented a draft resolution that was developed in response to the problems that took place during the election for 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president at the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference in Richmond, as contained in the briefing materials. The resolution supports allowing all counties who are members in good standing the opportunity to vote for a NACo officer, regardless of whether or not they are registered for the annual conference. Staff also presented a letter from the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) outlining their concerns with the NACo elections process.

Staff was directed to include statements in the resolution regarding support for review and change of the NACo elections process and that CSAC concurs with the points noted in the correspondence from AMC.

The Executive Committee adjourned to a closed session with the Executive Director to discuss personnel issues.

