

Dear county family,

Let me begin by expressing my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to lead CSAC for the last five years. It has been a true honor to represent California's 58 counties and to advocate on your behalf. The work you do is critically important to the residents of your counties and I have been consistently impressed with the professionalism and dedication you all have shown in carrying out your responsibilities. It has been a real privilege to serve side-by-side with such an amazing group of public servants. Thank you.

I would also like to express how proud I am of the team we've built at CSAC. When I arrived in 2012, there were a number of talented professionals already here and I owe them a debt of gratitude for their excellent service and willingness to adjust to a new leader and a new approach. Naturally, some have stayed and others have moved on, but over that time the talent has been consistently high in this office. In fact, I can honestly say that this team is second to none. As you well know, they are talented, experienced and wholly dedicated to the mission of serving our 58 counties. I will miss leading this group very much.

I am also proud of everything CSAC has accomplished during my tenure. As you know, the CSAC legislative team has been very successful in representing your interests and the list of their achievements is long indeed. Just in the last year, the team secured the passage of SB 1 (providing much needed transportation revenues), successfully negotiated a new IHSS formula under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, defeated AB 1250 and convinced the Governor to veto SB 649. Looking back a few years, the team negotiated a strong financial position for counties following the passage of the Affordable Care Act, helped our law enforcement partners secure the funding needed to adapt to realignment and convinced the governor to prioritize the repayment of almost a billion dollars in unfunded mandates. At the same time, our communications team has excelled in using technology and social media to more effectively tell the county story. Whether through YouTube, Instagram or Twitter, CSAC seems to be everywhere at once, always informing Californians of the important work counties are doing on their behalf. The administrative team has also done amazing work – building a strategic reserve, improving our association meetings and growing the CSAC institute to a statewide powerhouse.

Yet, with all of that said, I feel very strongly that the time has come for me to take on a new challenge. As many of you know, at the time that I was hired by CSAC, I was in the process of opening a law/consulting practice here in Sacramento. And while I have truly loved my nearly 25 years in public service, especially the last five, I am very excited to enter the private sector and explore new opportunities. The timing is also right for my family. My daughter is graduating from college this year and my son from high school, so my obligations to them are changing. In addition, my wife Rachel is thriving in her second career as a high school teacher, which provides me with additional flexibility. And so everything considered, it seems like the right time to take on my next adventure. As for timing, I'll leave that to the wisdom of President Perez, the officers, and the Executive Committee, but I would like to transition sometime in the next couple of months.

Of course, I remain committed to CSAC and the county family and I hope we will be able to stay connected personally and professionally in the future.

With deepest respect and admiration, I remain your friend and colleague,

Matt