

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 11, 2021

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84657533218?pwd=anJRNGZM2E4VmdRRk9tNTR5WS9CZz09>

Phone: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 861 4344 9305 | Password: 578598

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

James Gore | President
Ed Valenzuela | 1st Vice President
Chuck Washington | 2nd Vice President
Lisa Bartlett | Immediate Past President

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | Executive Director
Manuel Rivas, Jr. | Deputy Executive Director,
Operations & Member Services
Darby Kernan | Deputy Executive Director,
Legislative Services

ADVISORS

John Beiers, County Counsels Association, San Mateo
County
Frank Kim, California Association of County
Executives President, Orange County

Alameda	– Keith Carson	Orange	– Lisa Bartlett
Alpine	– Terry Woodrow	Placer	– Bonnie Gore
Amador	– Richard Forster	Plumas	– <i>Absent</i>
Butte	– Debra Lucero	Riverside	– Chuck Washington
Calaveras	– Merita Callaway	Sacramento	– Sue Frost
Colusa	– Kent Boes	San Benito	– Bob Tiffany
Contra Costa	– <i>Absent</i>	San Bernardino	– Janice Rutherford
Del Norte	– Chris Howard	San Diego	– Nora Vargas
El Dorado	– Sue Novasel	San Francisco	– <i>Absent</i>
Fresno	– Buddy Mendes	San Joaquin	– Chuck Winn
Glenn	– Keith Corum	San Luis Obispo	– Bruce Gibson
Humboldt	– Virginia Bass	San Mateo	– <i>Absent</i>
Imperial	– <i>Absent</i>	Santa Barbara	– Das Williams
Inyo	– Jeff Griffiths	Santa Clara	– Susan Ellenberg
Kern	– Zack Scrivner	Santa Cruz	– Bruce McPherson
Kings	– Craig Pedersen	Shasta	– Leonard Moty
Lake	– Bruno Sabatier	Sierra	– Lee Adams
Lassen	– Chris Gallagher	Siskiyou	– Ed Valenzuela
Los Angeles	– Kathryn Barger	Solano	– Erin Hannigan
Madera	– <i>Absent</i>	Sonoma	– Lynda Hopkins
Marin	– Damon Connolly	Stanislaus	– Vito Chiesa
Mariposa	– Miles Menetrey	Sutter	– <i>Absent</i>
Mendocino	– John Haschak	Tehama	– Robert Williams
Merced	– Scott Silveira	Trinity	– Keith Groves
Modoc	– Ned Coe	Tulare	– Amy Shuklian
Mono	– John Peters	Tuolumne	– Ryan Campbell
Monterey	– Luis Alejo	Ventura	– Kelly Long
Napa	– Diane Dillon	Yolo	– Jim Provenza
Nevada	– Heidi Hall	Yuba	– Gary Bradford

2. Your Role as a Board of Directors Member

President James Gore briefly outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, as referenced on page four of the meeting packet.

3. Executive Director's Report

Graham Knaus, CSAC Executive Director, acknowledged the retirement of CWDA Executive Director, Frank Mecca. Graham also highlighted the work that CSAC is doing surrounding COVID-19 through the guidance of the Officers, Kitchen Cabinet and Rural County Working Group. CSAC staff is working tirelessly to insure there is equitable vaccine distribution considering counties have a primary role in how vaccines are flowing through communities. One major challenge is related to the state's reporting of data, as the reported number of vaccines available significantly underrepresents the number of vaccines administered in many counties. CSAC is working with county health directors to correct this issue. To assist in accomplishing this goal, a 3rd party administrator steering committee was created that includes the state, Blue Shield, Kaiser, health directors/officers and CSAC.

4. Governor's January Budget

Keely Bosler, Director of the California Department of Finance, presented the 2021-22 Governor's Budget to the Board of Directors. Director Bosler reported that revenues have dramatically improved and California's GDP has largely recovered from a 31.5% drop. However, the current unemployment rate is at 8.2% and there are still 4 million Californians receiving unemployment benefits. The improved revenue can be attributed to a less severe economic downturn than expected buoyed by federal aid, unequal spread of wage losses (high-wage workers were largely spared while low-wage workers were disproportionately impacted) and strong stock market performance with record capital gains.

This budget prioritizes emergency COVID-19 response with \$2 billion allocated for testing, \$1.3 billion for vulnerable populations, \$473 million for contact tracing and \$372 million for vaccines. Additionally, the budget includes \$2 billion for safely reopening schools, \$4 billion in Golden State Stimulus funds, \$575 million in small business grants, \$70 million in fee waivers and \$2.6 billion for federal relief funds and eviction moratorium extension. Director Bosler highlighted the California jobs initiative, which includes funds for workforce development and job creation. There are also funds set aside for climate and environmental protection, which includes \$1 billion for wildfire and forest resiliency. While this budget prioritizes equitable recovery and expanding opportunities for those most impacted by the recession, additional action is needed by the federal government as we continue to face the uncertain impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Federal Priority Issues Update

Joe Krahn from Paragon Government Relations provided a federal update to the Board.

Democrats in Congress are working to move President Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan via the budget reconciliation process. In addition to fiscal relief, there is significant support for many programs counties administer at the local level. This includes replenishing of FEMA Disaster Relief, funding for additional nutrition support, housing and rental support, and homelessness etc.

Democrats are confident they have enough votes to pass it.

Tom Joseph provided an update on vaccines. As of last night, the CDC reported that 7.6 million doses were delivered to California, with about 4.9 million shots administered. Distribution has increased by 30% over the last three weeks. The Administration has announced several new vaccination distribution initiatives with pharmacies, FEMA mass vaccination sites and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). The federal transparency on where these sites are located is lacking. Two FEMA sites will be standing up next week: one in Alameda and one in Los Angeles County. Both sites will be staffed by federal employees.

6. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, from November 19, 2020, was made by Supervisor Rutherford; second by Supervisor Forster. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Amended CSAC Policies and Procedures Manual

A motion to approve the Amended CSAC Policies and Procedures Manual was made by Supervisor Peters; second by Supervisor Moty. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Appointment of CSAC Treasurer, NACo Board & WIR Representatives, Policy Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs and Working Groups

President Gore informed the Board of the 2021 Appointments made by the CSAC Officers. Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, noted that it's his understanding that RCRC Chair, Supervisor Stacey Corless, will be substituting him for Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley as the RCRC Appointment to the NACo WIR Board.

9. Caucus Reports

The chairs of the Rural, Suburban and Urban Caucuses reported on their recent caucus meetings: Rural Caucus - Supervisor Valenzuela, Chair, reported that it's critical that rural counties get a consistent amount of vaccine. The caucus also discussed the draft letter from the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) to join a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. The end result was that there needs to be a little more work on the language of the resolution. Suburban Caucus – Supervisor Washington, Chair, reported that they also need more vaccines for disadvantaged communities and migrant workers. President Gore also shared the frustration from the suburban caucus with regards to vaccine allocation, lack of transparency and status of the TPA. Urban Caucus – Supervisor Bartlett, Chair, reported on the importance of having a back-up system for vaccine refrigeration units as her county almost had to dispose of thousands of doses from a refrigeration unit failure.

10. Minute Mics: Board of Directors Roundtable

Alameda County / Keith Carson – Supervisor Carson reported that most people who have been scheduled to get vaccines in Alameda County are not from Alameda County. It's clear from their data that people who have a greater access to technology have better access to vaccines.

Alpine County / Terry Woodrow – Supervisor Woodrow is concerned about getting consistent vaccine allocated to their county and the mandatory switch to My Turn as broadband is an issue in the rural population.

Butte County / Debra Lucero – Butte County continues to recover from disaster as they have lost 16% of their housing. Recently the State Water Quality Control Board set out a regionalization plan for the Paradise and Chico Sewer, the 12th largest infrastructure project in the state, and no elected official was part of this discussion. Butte County is not receiving enough vaccines and had to cancel all new vaccination appointments in February as they had to save their supply for second doses.

Calaveras County / Merita Callaway – Calaveras County recently had a significant winter storm which left residents without power for 10 days. They are hoping the Governor will declare state of emergency to assist with the recovery process.

Colusa County / Kent Boes – Their largest concern is vaccine distribution and allocation. Due to the recent Broadband grants, Colusa County is starting to see fiber installation, but many census blocks have been omitted and unfortunately these are in underserved communities. Colusa has the capability to administer more vaccine, but they don't have enough allocation.

Del Norte / Chris Howard – Supervisor Howard thanked rural caucus chair Supervisor Valenzuela, Darby Kernan and Farrah McDaid Ting for driving the COVID discussions for rural counties at the state level. Del Norte finally got into red tier. Aside from COVID, Del Norte County has two things on radar 1) Board of Forestry regulation 2) fire insurance.

El Dorado / Sue Novasel – Supervisor Novasel thanked CSAC for their recent housing webinar. El Dorado County does not have enough workforce housing as many in their community have been priced out by people who are telecommuting.

Fresno County / Buddy Mendes – Fresno County is an urban county but is also the biggest agricultural county in the US. They need more vaccines especially for their rural areas.

Glenn County / Keith Corum – Glenn County is not getting enough vaccine but COVID rates are going down. Amazon has leased space in their industrial park in Orland for a distribution center.

Humboldt County / Virginia Bass – Given the recent executive order, Humboldt County has adjusted their board meetings to allow for more public participation. Now they are faced with a lawsuit because all five supervisors' faces are not seen in live time on display.

Inyo County / Jeff Griffiths – Inyo County has the same issue with vaccines as other counties. They are still in the purple tier and it's becoming increasingly difficult to enforce COVID-19 restrictions. Inyo County has been doing great work with regional collaboration on forest/fuel management, fire risk and reduction and infrastructure for public lands.

Kings County / Craig Pedersen – Kings County is unable to transition their current vaccine wait list into My Turn and this is very frustrating. They are also concerned with who is going to enforce equity issues with the new TPA.

Lake County / Bruno Sabatier – Supervisor Sabatier expressed the need for more local control for vaccine distribution, administration and COVID-19 guidelines. He is also concerned that SB55 will hinder rebuilding for communities that have been destroyed by wildfire.

Lassen County / Chris Gallagher – Having a single provider for testing is not working for Lassen County. They were testing many more people when they had multiple providers. It's critical that rural counties have sufficient supply for first and second doses and it's been a challenge to get a hold of state health department. Counties that have state prisons should receive state assistance because the prisons have brought COVID to their counties. Lassen County needs Broadband.

Los Angeles / Kathryn Barger – Los Angeles County is only giving out second doses because of lack of inventory. The lack of clarity from state is frustrating. The federal rental assistance program puts the responsibility on counties to ensure people are not getting double rental assistance, so Los Angeles

County is encouraging the state to create their own database that counties can access so they aren't held responsible if someone receives assistance from both.

Marin County / Damon Connolly – Marin County is experiencing a vaccine supply shortage like other counties and has moved to a strictly age based system for vaccine administration. They are working on rental assistance programs, wildfire preparation, climate change and homelessness. Their county has seen a significant rise in homelessness encampments.

Mariposa County / Miles Menetrey – SB55 is an important issue for Mariposa County. They are still digging out from major wind event, which was followed by significant snow fall. The County is doing well with vaccine administration and is trying to save enough for second doses. The lifting of the lockdown was great for economic activity, but then Yosemite National Park went to a reservation only system.

Mendocino County / John Haschak – Supervisor Haschak agreed that the reliability of getting second doses is critical. My Turn and Broadband issues are concerning because most people don't have broadband. The recent storm did a lot of damage in their county. They are working with CAL Fire for clean up, but CAL Fire is overwhelmed too. Wildfire preparation is critical. Provisional licenses for cannabis cultivation expire at end of the year and an extension is needed.

Merced County / Scott Silveira – Supervisor Silveira expressed the need transparency from state on vaccine allocation so counties can plan. He also reminded the board of the silent pandemic, the mental health crisis, which will continue long after COVID-19 is gone. Supervisor Silveira would like start in minute mics in reverse alphabetical order at the next meeting.

Modoc County / Ned Coe – Modoc County does not have a Walmart or CVS within a couple hours' drive. Rural counties should still be able to get vaccine through their public health departments. There is a January 2022 deadline for sustainable groundwater management planning that requires significant public input. This is not possible with COVID-19 and in areas with limited broadband.

Mono County / John Peters – Supervisor Peters emphasized that the Blueprint for a Safer Economy is antiquated and hasn't been refreshed in any substantial way since September of 2020. Opening the economy needs to be a priority number one after the vaccine. Mono County did not receive any of the state's grants for round one. The tiered system needs to be reset.

Monterey County / Luis Alejo – Supervisor Alejo reported that they continue pushing for fair distribution of vaccine. CVS put appointments online and they were able to get some vaccine in the areas hardest hit in East Salinas. They also got Palo Alto VA to bring vaccine for their veterans at the Marina VA Clinic. Monterey County recently sent a letter to the Governor asking for accountability for vaccine distribution allocations as the allocations don't always match where the greatest need is.

Napa County / Diane Dillon – Supervisor Dillon expressed that Napa County is experiencing many of the same problems as all other counties.

Nevada County / Heidi Hall – Nevada County does not receive enough vaccine and the state's data is incorrect. Broadband will continue to be a high priority. AT&T is not putting up new lines and they can't get them to fix broken lines, which is really hindering connectivity in rural areas. Nevada County is also having trouble enforcing COVID-19 restrictions. They have been very innovative with COVID-19 relief funds and turned small investments into larger ones.

Orange County / Lisa Bartlett – Orange County only receives 20% of vaccine allocations, while MCE's get 80%, but more people come to the county to get vaccinated. Counties need to work with hospitals to set up mobile pods to get into hard to reach communities.

Placer County / Bonnie Gore – Supervisor Gore agrees that the state’s blue print needs to be updated. Businesses are struggling. Placer County has been able to use CARES funding to provide direct grants to local businesses. Supervisor Gore is very concerned about kids mental health and emphasized the need to get kids back into youth sports.

Sacramento County / Sue Frost – Sacramento County does not have enough vaccine. The county has a lot of activism around youth sports, and Supervisor Frost agrees that the blue print needs to be updated to allow more flexibility and more local control.

San Benito County / Bob Tiffany – San Benito County needs more vaccine, more equity in vaccine distribution and more local control and financial support for small businesses.

San Bernardino County / Janice Rutherford – Supervisor Rutherford commented that our speaker timer music was completely appropriate based on the experience that counties are having with the state right now.

San Joaquin County / Chuck Winn – Supervisor Winn believes that local control is critical for vaccine distribution. The appointment registration system in their county has been very successful and they could administer much more vaccine if they were given more allocation. With the way the state administers vaccine, they are unable to focus on those who need it most.

San Luis Obispo / Bruce Gibson – San Luis Obispo County is also struggling with the predictability equity, transparency in vaccine distribution. They are trying to determine how to administer rent relief funds, which is challenging because they don’t know what the interaction between the state and counties will be.

Santa Clara County / Susan Ellenberg – Santa Clara County is focusing on vaccine administration, broadband, schools, and rental assistance. One particular issue they are experiencing is that half of their sheriffs/deputies have declined to be vaccinated, which is leading to outbreaks in jails. They are looking into whether they can mandate vaccine for county employees.

Shasta County / Leonard Moty – Supervisor Moty agrees that we need to revamp state’s tiered program as more vaccine is administered. Shasta County just made the unprecedented decision to censure two board members who took actions directly in defiance of their board.

Siskiyou County / Ed Valenzuela – RCRC just hired a new Executive Director, Pat Blacklock, and Supervisor Valenzuela is looking forward to future partnerships between RCRC and CSAC.

Stanislaus County / Vito Chiesa – Stanislaus County is experiencing many of the same issues as other counties. Supervisor Chiesa reminded the board to please try and support their public health officers during these challenging times.

Tehama County / Bob Williams – Tehama County is not receiving enough vaccine. The EDD is a fiasco they are getting calls from constituents. Currently, 36% of their jail population is comprised of felons waiting to be transported to the state prison system and there is no room for local criminals. Citizens are very upset about this.

Trinity County / Keith Groves – Trinity County is in the orange tier. The inability of Cal Cannabis is crushing their community and 30 years of lack of forest management need to be addressed. Supervisor Groves has heard a lot of complaints about the EDD crisis as it’s a very inefficient system.

Tulare County / Amy Shuklian – Tulare County has experienced issues with My Turn and had almost 500 people show up to in their county that should have gone to Fresno County. They are also experiencing issues with receiving enough vaccine allocation.

Tuolumne County / Ryan Campbell – Tuolumne County is digging out of several feet of snow and looking for assistance from the state with their state of emergency. They need more vaccine and are facing a coming financial storm with local budgets. Supervisor Campbell is interested to see what the federal government plans to do.

Ventura County / Kelly Long – Ventura County has moved to 65+ for vaccine administration and the have mobile farmworker vaccinations. Supervisor Long expressed that we need to advocate for 4 foot distancing for schools, and that the 25% capacity now allowed in churches should also apply to funeral homes. The state should also be looking at the tiers for restaurants, gyms etc. There is a mental health crisis and businesses are pushing back.

Yolo County / Jim Provenza – Yolo County made big push on Project Roomkey and was able to house almost all homeless 65+. Then they moved to Project Homekey with several cities purchasing hotels and apartment complexes. They are at 65+ for vaccinations but are looking at exceptions for farmworkers. Yolo County plans to have the state administer both state and federal rental assistance while the county does outreach.

Yuba County / Gary Bradford – Yuba County needs more vaccine. They also have concerns about equity, distribution, and lack of predictability and want transparency on how allocations are made. The county receives complaints and questions, but they don't have all the state data. Yuba County is prioritizing 65+ but they are constantly getting pressure from other sectors.

11. State and Federal Legislative Priorities

Darby Kernan addressed the advocacy that CSAC has been doing on our top priorities. The Legislative team has scheduled numerous meetings with the Legislature and Chairs/Vice Chairs of the CSAC policy committees. The results have been very positive. Many of the conversations have been around COVID-19 funding, but Broadband has also been a key issue and we would like to see early action instead of waiting until May revise.

Josh Gauger, Legislative Representative for Administration of Justice (AOJ), presented several Platform changes approved by the committee and provided an update on the progress of the committee's priorities: DJJ Implementation, fines and fees and bail reform.

Catherine Freeman, Legislative Representative for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources (AENR), presented several Platform changes that were approved by the committee and provided an update on the progress of some of the committee's priorities: wildfires, organics waste recycling and climate resiliency.

Ryan Souza, Legislative Representative for Government, Finance and Administration (GFA), presented several Platform changes that were approved by the committee and provided an update on the progress of some of the committee's priorities, which include expansion of the workers compensation system and balancing the effects of county revenue impacts and the administrative burdens that the legislature puts on county operations.

Geoff Neill, Legislative Representative for Government, Finance and Administration (GFA), presented several Platform changes that were approved by the committee and provided an update on the progress of one of the committee's main priorities: early action on Broadband.

Justin Garrett, Legislative Representative Health and Human Services (HHS), presented several Platform changes that were approved by the committee and provided an update on the progress of the committee's main priorities: county fiscal stability related to realignment, the Master Plan for aging, and sponsoring an IHSS collective bargaining budget proposal in partnership with unions and other county associations.

Roshena Duree, Legislative Analyst for Health and Human Services (HHS), presented several Platform changes that were approved by the committee and provided an update on the progress of one of the committee's main priorities: COVID-19.

Chris Lee, Legislative Representative for Housing, Land Use and Transportation (HLT), presented several Platform changes that were approved by the committee and provided an update on the progress of several of the committee's main priorities.

12. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Supervisor Leonard Moty, Finance Corporation President, provided a brief explanation on the role of the Finance Corporation and its relationship with CSAC. The Finance Corp. provides a revenue stream to CSAC which equates to about 45% of its budget. These funds allow CSAC to provide advocacy and keep membership dues low. Supervisor Moty also mentioned Supervisor Bartlett's recent appointment to the Finance Corporation Board. Supervisor Bartlett took the urban county position held by Supervisor Cox prior to his retirement.

Jim Manker, Director of Business Development, introduced Steven Bennett, Regional Sales Manager for Dominion Voting. Mr. Bennett has been involved with the corporate partners program for 18 years. Currently 40 California counties have partnered with Dominion and all 40 counties of those counties have certified their 2020 election results. He encouraged the Board to contact him for assistance with voting solutions in their counties.

13. Operations & Member Services Report

Manuel Rivas, Jr. presented that the goals of the CSAC communications team include supporting and complimenting CSAC's advocacy efforts and telling the county story. Media inquiries to CSAC rose by 83% from 2019 to 2020. This shows that CSAC is a trusted source for providing the county perspective. CSAC has effectively used social media to leverage our communications. As an example, CSAC's twitter views have increased 94% year over year. Mr. Rivas also reminded the Board about the CSAC COVID-19 Tool Kit and posted the link in the chat.

14. California Counties Foundation Report

Manuel Rivas, Jr. explained that the Foundation team has overcome the challenges of changing their programming from in-person to virtual. They are currently averaging 47 participants for each class as the new virtual format has allowed greater participation. The Foundation team is now thinking about providing hybrid model classes and hopes to resume in-person classes in the fall. CSAC is planning to partner with NACo for a virtual leadership academy. The Foundation just completed campuses in San Diego, Santa Cruz and Tulare Counties. They are opening a campus in Alameda County next month and will open a Riverside County campus in the fall. Solano County is slated to open in 2022 and they are in discussions with Mariposa County.

Chastity Benson, Director of Operations and Educational programs, presented that the New Supervisors Institute has been quite successful. For the first time ever they are hosting a new social media tips and tricks event in between the New Supervisors classes. The Foundation is currently working on a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Forum and the date has been changed to April 8th so it doesn't complete with NACo Legislative Conference programming. The next New Supervisors session will be on March 4th and 5th.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Directors meeting will be on April 22nd, 2021.