

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 22, 2021

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83358326829?pwd=OGpNWTNMVW1qVWg3RFNTa29Bd3BqZz09>

Phone: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 833 5832 6829 | Password: 120576

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	– Bea Gonzalez & 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	– Rafael Mandelman
Fresno	– <i>Absent</i>	San Joaquin	– Chuck Winn
Glenn	– Keith Corum	San Luis Obispo	– Bruce Gibson
Humboldt	– Virginia Bass	San Mateo	– Carole Groom
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	– <i>Absent</i>
Madera	– <i>Absent</i>	Sonoma	– Lynda Hopkins
Marin	– Damon Connolly	Stanislaus	– Vito Chiesa
Mariposa	– Miles Menetrey	Sutter	– Dan Flores
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	– <i>Absent</i>
Nevada	– Heidi Hall	Yuba	– Gary Bradford

2. Executive Director's Report

Graham Knaus, CSAC Executive Director, congratulated Pat Blacklock, who started as RCRC's President and CEO this month. Graham highlighted CSAC's work with the legislature on CSAC priorities, which include broadband, homelessness, drought, and all things related to COVID. Graham also acknowledged the coming retirement of David Liebler, who has been CSAC's Director of Public Affairs and Member Services for the last 24 years.

3. Broadband Working Group Update

Supervisor Chuck Washington provided an update on the progress of the Broadband Working Group. The pandemic has highlighted broadband deficiencies that exist in urban and suburban communities, as well as rural.

Supervisor John Peters explained that the working group is developing strategies to help advise policy at CSAC, NACo and other partners. We need to be looking at both short-term and long-term strategies and ensure providers have the speeds necessary for telecommuting, distance learning and telehealth.

Supervisor Luis Alejo thanked the working group members for positioning CSAC to be in the driver's seat when working with the state and legislature. Passing the bond is the first step, but the main work lies ahead to make sure local governments are facilitating and helping expedite this work at the local level.

4. California Counties Foundation Report

Supervisor Ed Valenzuela, Foundation president, expressed his excitement for the great work the Foundation has been doing and introduced Manuel Rivas, Foundation CEO. The Foundation is a 501c3 and is a separate organization from CSAC. It has its own board of directors, which includes county Supervisors, county executives/administrators and senior staff. Mr. Rivas highlighted the Foundation's many 2020 accomplishments, including establishing an education committee, amending its bylaws, establishing institute campuses, and creating the Support HUB for Criminal Justice.

Chastity Benson, Director of Operations and Educational Programs, presented that the Institute has offered 99 classes, both in-person and virtual, with 4,080 participants. Foundation staff will continue to work with their board and education committee to provide content that is relevant and allows county leaders to provide great services to their communities.

Ryan Souza, Program Director for CSAC's Support HUB for Criminal Justice Programming, presented that the goal of the Support HUB is to assist counties in improving criminal justice programming. The HUB is funded by a mixture of the Laura and John Arnold Foundation and the Pew Results First Initiative. It currently has 14 county partnerships with 2 additional counties beginning engagement.

5. Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes from February 11, 2021, was made by Supervisor Groom; second by Supervisor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of the CSAC IRS Form 990 – 2019 Tax Year

A motion to approve the CSAC IRS Form 990 – 2019 Tax Year was made by Supervisor Lucero; second by Supervisor Gibson. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Recommendation to Adopt the CSAC Proposed Budget and Salary Schedule for FY 2021-22

Supervisor Leonard Moty, CSAC Treasurer, presented that given the challenges faced during the past year, they are recommending a very prudent budget with significant reserves. CSAC is in solid financial footing to continue to advocate major legislative and budgetary priorities on behalf of California counties. Supervisor Moty noted that the CSAC Executive Committee unanimously approved the budget and salary schedule in March.

Manuel Rivas highlighted key parts of the budget including the decrease in projected expenditures from \$10.7 million to \$10.5 million and the addition of \$1 million in reserves and \$250,000 in capital improvement funds. There will be no change to the CSAC membership dues for the 8th consecutive year. The Finance Corporation continues to be an important contributor to the budget. CalPERS requires that CSAC's salary schedule is approved in a public meeting.

A motion to approve the CSAC Proposed Budget and Salary Schedule for FY 2021-22 was made by Supervisor Moty; second by Supervisor Barger. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Minute Mics: Board of Directors Roundtable

Alameda County / Keith Carson – Alameda County is facing many critical issues including all things COVID, homelessness, the high cost of living, workforce development, public safety, and vegetation management.

Alpine County / Terry Woodrow – Alpine County is in the yellow tier. They have the highest vaccination percentage in the state of 156% due to the high population of second-home owners. They are resuming in-person board of supervisors meeting in May. Broadband is a priority, and they are also very concerned about Board of Forestry regulations, drought conditions and forest management.

Amador County / Richard Forester – Amador County would like help with the Mule Creek State Prison as they have been releasing contaminated storm water. The state water board has ordered them to fix it, but it hasn't been corrected. The Buena Vista tribe has stopped making payments and is suing the Amador County.

Butte County / Debra Lucero – Butte County has had a 16% increase in homelessness since the Camp Fire where they lost 16% of their housing. People in their community are experiencing severe mental health issues. They have added a public health education specialist since their county is experience a rate of suicides that are way above average. Butte County is looking at MHSA to do a law similar to Laura's Law.

Calaveras County / Merita Callaway – Calaveras County recently wrote a letter of support for SB-59 extending the sunset date for the provisional license under the Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act. They're having a lot of controversy regarding whether or not there should be a ban on burning of yard waste. The county has several staff openings, including a planning director and CAO. Supervisor Callaway thanked CSAC for not raising the dues.

Colusa County / Kent Boes – Supervisor Boes reported that Colusa County is seeing a lot of missed vaccination appointments. Drought is a huge issue as water allocations have been severely cut. Supervisor Boes thanked Supervisor Gore and Valenzuela for all their support.

Del Norte / Chris Howard – Del Norte County is experiencing transportation issues as highway 101 continues to slide into the ocean, separating their county from the rest of the state. Supervisor Howard is not sure how CalTrans can finish the project without federal help due to the high cost. They are also concerned about the Board of Forestry regulations.

El Dorado / Sue Novasel – Supervisor Novasel thanked Supervisor Valenzuela for the Broadband presentation. El Dorado County has a great affordable housing project happening in Tahoe. They have community hubs all over which provide essential services to the county.

Glenn County / Keith Corum – Supervisor Corum noted that Amazon put a small distribution center in their county, though they are only hiring part time workers. Glenn County has moved from the purple to red tier, and they continue to work on their general plan.

Humboldt County / Virginia Bass – Humboldt is excited to be in the orange tier. Their board of supervisors has both vaccinated and unvaccinated members and they haven't figured out how to get back into chambers. They have an elected auditor-controller who has been unable to account for millions of dollars. This morning they received notice of an IRS lien on the county of over \$150,000.

Inyo County / Jeff Griffiths – Supervisor Griffiths reported that Inyo County is well over 50% fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, the state's numbers do not include those distributed to Indian health services. These clinics have been so efficient at distributing vaccine that they have gone outside the non-native population. They are also concerned about fire and drought and have already had four fires in the county.

Kings County / Craig Pedersen – Kings County is dealing many of the same issues as other counties, especially with COVID and drought. There are winners and losers in green energy. The water allocations to the environment have drastically changed the landscape of Kings County and they have become a solar farm. This is eliminating jobs and they will not be able to recoup losses from businesses.

Lake County / Bruno Sabatier – Lake County created two new homeless shelters that will continue to run when COVID funding ends. The county is moving forward with broadband and is working on housing with the state and some local developers. Vaccinations are going so well they are backing out vaccine clinics and having normal health care facilities administer them. Their economy is doing well – they are lucky that SB-50 passed when it did. Water, fire prevention and illegal cannabis are all issues.

Lassen County / Chris Gallagher – Lassen County had two drive through vaccination clinics and administered over 2,000 vaccinations per day. The County Department of Rehabilitation decided to close a low-level prison, which employs 11% of their workforce.

Los Angeles / Kathryn Barger – Los Angeles County has administered around \$6.5 million vaccines, of which about \$2.3 million are second doses. Supervisor Barger likes what Supervisor Bartlett said about vaccine passports because Dodger Stadium will have a separate section for vaccinated individuals. Housing continues to be an issue; they just launched a mortgage relief program.

Mariposa County / Miles Menetrey – Supervisor Menetrey informed the board that for the first time in almost 30 years, the Mariposa County building department issued a permit for a 42-unit housing complex. Vaccinations are going well. The county is very concerned about the Board of Forestry regulations and what they're asking homeowners to do if they have to rebuild.

Mendocino County / John Haschak – Supervisor Haschak reported that the Governor visited yesterday. Their county recently declared a state of emergency for drought conditions. In August of last year, Cal Fire couldn't get in to fight fires because of illegal cannabis grows. They are also concerned with the large number of trees that PG&E felled but did not clean up.

Merced County / Scott Silveira – Supervisor Silveira announced that Merced was the last county to go from the purple to red tier. Homelessness is an issue and Supervisor Silveira reminded the board that they need to advocate for funds not only to build the facilities, but also for long-term funding to continue to run them. He reminded the board of the silent pandemic – the mental health crisis.

Modoc County / Ned Coe – Modoc County is experiencing extreme drought and their farmers do not have enough water to farm. The county is scrambling to help devastated family farmers and those who are now unemployed due to this crisis.

Mono County / John Peters – Supervisor Peters reported that Mono County is working on workplace wellness, and they recently created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee. The community is excited to get back together, and they are having their first senior center congregate meal of the year. They are also preparing for summer tourism.

Monterey County / Luis Alejo – Supervisor Alejo reported that he has been continuing to help vaccinate farmworkers every Saturday - they vaccinate 2,000-4,000 every weekend. Monterey County is also concerned with losing the J&J vaccine. Supervisor Alejo congratulated Rob Bonta who was recently confirmed as the Attorney General of California.

Napa County / Diane Dillon – Supervisor Dillon highlighted a program they're working on with Sonoma County and the City of Santa Rosa where they have asked the CPUC to order PG&E to reinstate its wildfire wood management program. PG&E felled 150,000 trees that are on the ground and fuel for fire. It's a huge problem.

Nevada County / Heidi Hall – Nevada County has had a high rate of unvaccinated individuals and they know they have a big challenge to get vaccine hesitant in. They are gearing up for a busy year of summer tourism, which generated a significant amount trash and fire danger last year. They will be putting a lot of money towards vegetation management with the drought.

Orange County / Lisa Bartlett – Orange County is in the orange tier and hopes to move to the yellow tier soon. Several businesses are requiring proof of vaccination for entry. Supervisor Bartlett asked the board to think about electronic ways of storing vaccination status, via QR code for example, as more businesses will start requiring it.

Placer County / Bonnie Gore – Supervisor Gore reported that Placer County had a huge increase in homelessness due to COVID. They recently passed a no parking ordinance due to the number of trailers, RV's and broken-down trucks parked at the Placer County Government Center. They are working with the city to put together an action plan to address homelessness in their community. They've had a number of young people pass away recently due to fentanyl overdoses.

Riverside County / Chuck Washington – Supervisor Washington reminded the board that the Officers participate in bi-weekly meetings with Governor's cabinet members via the CSAC Kitchen Cabinet. Once COVID has slowed down, these meetings will transition to other matters of importance to counties. The opioid settlement negotiations continue on, and we are fighting to make sure counties get money to fight this battle.

Sacramento County / Sue Frost – Sacramento County is working on a plan to open their board chambers. They are also looking for an extension on Laura's Law, which is assisted outpatient treatment, and they're having public meetings surrounding this. The county just voted to extend project RoomKey and they're trying to understand the American Recovery Act. They have hired a consultant to assist with this effort.

San Benito County / Bob Tiffany – San Benito County is in better shape with vaccines, but they are now seeing appointments going unfilled. They are working to see how they can best spend federal relief money. Supervisor Tiffany introduced Supervisor Gonzalez who will be the CSAC primary board representative moving forward.

San Bernardino County / Janice Rutherford – Supervisor Rutherford reminded the Board of her prior presentation about an initiative in her county that limits Supervisors to one term in office and cuts salary to less than minimum wage. They are seeking legislation to help prevent this from happening via AB-428 by Assemblymember Mayes. Supervisor Rutherford asked for the Board's support on AB-428 as it moves forward.

San Diego / Nora Vargas – San Diego County has administered 2.35 million doses of vaccine to date, which is 65.3% of the eligible population. 42% of their population has been fully vaccinated. They have created powerful interventions in the Latino community with their vaccine equity program called Project Safe.

San Joaquin County / Chuck Winn – Supervisor Winn is experiencing many of the same issues as other counties. They have the ability to administer 3,500 vaccine doses per day but are lacking vaccine.

San Luis Obispo / Bruce Gibson – San Luis Obispo County is on the verge of making a serious move to address homelessness. They are expanding safe parking and working on sanitation issues. Supervisor Gibson encouraged the board to stand strong with the Supervisor Moty and the issues he's experiencing in Shasta County.

San Mateo / Carole Groom – San Mateo County has 64% of their population over the age of 16 vaccinated. They have tried to be creative by setting up drive-through, airport and Saturday vaccination clinics.

Santa Barbara / Das Williams – Santa Barbara County is exploring diversion programs they can expand to keep jail populations low. They are trying to figure out how to get people to accept affordable housing.

Santa Cruz / Bruce McPherson – COVID, fires and homeless continue to be big issues in Santa Cruz County. The ever-changing rules from state and federal agencies have been a challenge to keep up with. They are concerned with what the Department of Forestry is doing and addressed these concerns at a recent Board of Forestry meeting. Monterey Bay Community Power, now Central Coast Community Energy, will reach their greenhouse gas emission reduction goal by 2030, 15 years ahead of the state.

Shasta County / Leonard Moty – Supervisor Moty discussed the recall effort in his county that was initially directed at the Governor and was then transferred to the county supervisors. The group leading this effort is very extreme and threatening to anyone who speaks out against them.

Sierra County / Supervisor Adams – Sierra County is still in the yellow tier!

Siskiyou County / Ed Valenzuela – Supervisor Valenzuela reported that Siskiyou County is really suffering with the drought which is leaving many unable to farm this year. Illegal cannabis is a big problem, and the county doesn't have the resources to address it.

Sonoma County / James Gore – Supervisor Gore reported that today, a teacher reminded him that 4th graders in Sonoma County have yet to have a full year of school, from both devastating wildfires and then COVID. Supervisor Gore voiced his support for all counties trying to be acknowledged for a drought declaration.

Stanislaus County / Vito Chiesa – Stanislaus County is experiencing vaccine hesitancy. Transportation, broadband and homelessness are also big concerns. The loss of local control on cannabis by an initiative process is very concerning. Supervisor Chiesa noted that he would be ok with raising CSAC dues via small COLA increases rather than one large increase.

Sutter County / Dan Flores: Sutter County is also experiencing vaccine hesitancy and they are working hard to put out public service announcements. Supervisor Flores highlighted their recent permanent supportive housing RoomKey project called Harmony Village. They put 62 low-income residences together by purchasing an old hotel and fixing it up. The state recognized the project as one of the best RoomKey projects that they've seen.

Tehama County / Bob Williams – Supervisor Williams has experienced many of the same issues as Yuba and Tuolumne and expressed gratitude for the recent drive-through vaccination clinic in their county that provided 1,000 vaccinations. Supervisor Williams is looking forward to going back to in-person meetings.

Trinity County / Keith Groves –Supervisor Groves presented that after 43 years, Trinity County has finally signed a contract for a general plan. They are very nervous about all the fire safe bills coming in as they are a threat to development in their county.

Tulare County / Amy Shuklian – Supervisor Shuklian reported that vaccine hesitancy is a big problem in Tulare County. The Johnson & Johnson pause been a challenge for reaching their hard to serve communities. The drought is on everyone's minds.

Tuolumne County / Ryan Campbell – Supervisor Campbell highlighted that they were recognized by the Governor's Office and Senator Padilla for the USEDA regional high speed internet grant. Tuolumne has partnered with Calaveras, Amador, Alpine and Mariposa counties to bring these issues to the forefront. Tuolumne County is currently in the orange tier. The state Board of Forestry proposal has created a great deal of concern as people are worried about how the regulations will impact existing residential and future commercial development.

Yuba County / Gary Bradford – Vaccine has been the primary focus in Yuba County. They went from not having enough vaccine to having vaccine appointments unfilled. This is concerning as Yuba County has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the state. Yuba County recently returned to their Board chambers and is doing hybrid meetings, even though they ran into some very passionate members of the public who were not willing to follow public health guidelines.

9. CSAC Policy Committee Reports

Darby Kernan addressed the advocacy that CSAC has been doing on its top priorities. The Legislative session started off with the introduction of many new bills and the CSAC legislative team has been busy testifying during this time. When the May revision comes out the week of May 10th, the team will begin focusing on the budget.

Catherine Freeman, Legislative Representative for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources (AENR), presented on the new Board of Forestry regulations. Their 45-day rule making process will start within the next couple of days. Ms. Freeman encouraged counties to submit letters and comments to the Board of Forestry so the board can understand the diversity of our counties and the desire to reduce fire risk.

Supervisor Kelly Long, Chair of the Administration of Justice (AOJ) Policy Committee, reported that the committee met yesterday and discussed juvenile justice realignment and CSAC's new SB-823 County Collaboration Consortium Work Group.

Supervisor Chris Howard, Chair of the Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources (AENR) Policy Committee, presented that they had an informative meeting where they discussed water resilience, Board of Forestry regulations, drought, and plastics recycling.

Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Chair of the Government, Finance and Administration (GFA) Policy Committee, discussed three issues in yesterday's policy committee meeting: the Brown Act, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and broadband.

Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, Chair of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Policy Committee, updated the Executive Committee on the discussion in yesterday's meeting which included: legislative health and human services budget priorities, a presentation on the Master Plan for Aging, and a 2021 budget and legislative review.

Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz, Vice-Chair of the Housing, Land Use and Transportation (HLT) Policy Committee, presented they the committee was provided an update on the State Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure and discussed sustainable communities strategies.

10. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Supervisor Leonard Moty, Finance Corporation President, provided an update on the Finance Corporation and expressed that the Finance Corporation is solid with their commitment to CSAC for the coming year. He encouraged the Executive Committee to look at Finance Corporation programs because county participation in these programs will come back to the CSAC and help keep dues low. Supervisor Moty also highlighted CSCDA and Easy Smart Pay, and the California Cannabis Authority.

Jim Manker, Director of Business Development, introduced the newest Platinum Partner Michael Simon from Zencity. Zencity is a civic engagement and analytics platform that digests from social media and transforms it into reports. It also provides public opinion research and surveys.

11. Operations & Member Services Report

Manuel Rivas, Jr. highlighted that CSAC has moved strategic communications to one of their top priorities. The communications team wants to tell the county story. CSAC has several communications tool kits for COVID-19 vaccinations and broadband. Mr. Rivas encouraged the board to use these tools and reminded everyone that CSAC can tailor these tools to each county.

12. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Directors meeting will be on September 2, 2021.