

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 23, 2007  
CSAC Conference Center, Sacramento

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MINUTES

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Presiding: Richard Gordon, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

1. ROLL CALL

Richard Gordon, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Mike McGowan, Yolo
Gary Wyatt, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Mike Nelson, Merced
Federal Glover, Contra Costa	Valerie Brown, Sonoma, alternate
John Tavaglione, Riverside	Terry Woodrow, Alpine
Roger Dickinson, Sacramento	Jeff Morris, Trinity
Liz Kniss, Santa Clara (via audio)	Tony Oliveira, Kings, alternate
Kathy Long, Ventura	Larry Combs, CAO advisor
Greg Cox, San Diego, alternate	Kathleen Bales-Lange, Co. Counsel advisor
Joni Gray, Santa Barbara	

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of May 24, 2007 were approved as previously mailed.

3. EMINENT DOMAIN EFFORTS/CAMPAIGN

Staff reported that ACA 8 passed out of Assembly Local Government Committee yesterday and will next be heard in Assembly Appropriations Committee. The coalition's "Homeowners and Private Property Protection Act" is now in the signature-gathering phase for the June 2008 ballot.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association's "California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act" campaign has raised approximately \$1 million and is also in the signature-gathering phase. However, this campaign recently received a damaging legal analysis which stated that the measure could have dramatic consequences for efforts to develop additional water storage and conveyance in California. This analysis could potentially harm their efforts to gain support.

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors previously approved \$180,000 in non-public funds to assist the coalition's efforts. Staff requested an additional \$250,000 to continue signature gathering for the "Homeowners and Private Property Protection Act."

Motion and second to authorize \$250,000 in non-public funds to continue the coalition's efforts. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff was directed to provide a financial history on campaign expenditures at the Executive Committee retreat in September.

A memo was included in the briefing materials regarding options for funding future initiative campaigns. This issue will be discussed at the September retreat.

4. ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS

California's Secretary of State Debra Bowen, recently released a ruling that decertifies four electronic voting systems widely used by California counties to administer elections. This ruling means that all counties in California will return to a paper-based voting system, with one electronic voting machine available at each precinct, primarily for disabled voters. CSAC and the California Association of County Elections Officials have voiced opposition to the methodology used in the review of the electronic voting systems, arguing that the testing was not done under "real world" circumstances, reflecting an unrealistic and inaccurate evaluation of electronic voting systems, all of which have passed comprehensive federal testing standards as well as California's more rigorous thresholds for security, accuracy and reliability. CSAC will be conducting a statewide survey to determine what the fiscal impacts are to counties as a result of this ruling, and also pursue legislation to reimburse counties for the cost of voting machines that were approved by the former Secretary of State.

Staff was directed to pursue legislation regarding an "all mail" ballot system. It was noted that there was a bill introduced this year (AB 1654) to allow any local, special, primary or general election to be conducted as an all-mail ballot election. However, it has now become a two-year bill. Staff was also directed to convene workshops on elections that include panelists from other states that have all-mail ballots. An update on these issues will be provided during the Executive Committee retreat in September.

5. DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY STATEMENTS

Supervisor Jeff Morris, Co-chair of the CSAC Climate Change Working Group, presented the draft Climate Change Policy Statements as contained in the briefing materials. The working group has been meeting to consider and identify areas where CSAC could develop policies to be utilized by staff as a foundation for lobbying efforts. The draft policy statements are largely based on existing CSAC policy, including the CSAC smart growth principles and include a wide range of subject areas such as fiscal, land use, energy, water, forestry, air quality and solid waste.

CSAC has met with the Attorney General's staff regarding individual county efforts to comply with climate change policy and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The draft policy statements will be considered by the CSAC Agriculture & Natural Resources and Housing, Land Use & Transportation policy committees in November and then brought to the Board of Directors for approval at the CSAC annual conference.

Staff reported on legislation which has been introduced regarding sustainable community strategies/climate change – SB 375 (Steinberg). The bill would require the California Transportation Commission to adopt guidelines for the development of travel demand models used in the development of regional transportation plans by the following organizations: Metropolitan Planning Organizations; county transportation agencies, and the Southern California Association of Government. The bill also encourages, but does not require, other transportation planning agencies, cities, counties and congestion management agencies to utilize the guidelines and requires the Air Resources Board to provide each affected region with an emissions reduction target for automobiles and light trucks for 2020 and 2035, and update these targets until 2050. It also provides CEQA relief to local governments if they amend their general plan so that the land use, circulation, housing and open-space elements are consistent with the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

CSAC is currently opposed to this measure. Staff would like to offer the following amendments which could remove CSAC opposition. They are:

1. Require regions to still meet county minimums for State Transportation Improvements Program (STIP) monies.
2. Ensure Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) distribution consistency with the SCS.
3. Ensure that development of SCS also takes into consideration general plans of cities and counties within each region in addition to spheres of influence.
4. Allow Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) to serve as a functional equivalent to the significant resource area requirement. Ensure definitions of “significant resource areas” and “significant farmland” are not overly prescriptive.

Staff was directed to pursue the above amendments to SB 375. Staff was also directed to develop recommendations on ways that counties can reduce their greenhouse gases.

6. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo) REPORT

Supervisor Valerie Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the National Association of Counties, reported on the election for NACo 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President that took place at the recent NACo conference held in Richmond, Virginia. Following the election, an investigation was launched due to a controversy with the number of votes cast by the New York State Association of Counties. The investigation resulted in Supervisor Teresa Altemus being elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. NACo will be reviewing its bylaws and voting procedures prior to next year’s election. CSAC will be preparing a resolution regarding NACo voting procedures for consideration by the CSAC Executive Committee at the September retreat.

She also reported that President-Elect Don Stapley’s presidential initiative will be bio-diesel and fleet cars. President Eric Coleman’s issue this year is to educate NACo members about the foster care system and the need for reform. He has

formed the Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Task Force which is being chaired by Supervisor Roger Dickinson. Supervisor Mike McGowan was named co-chair of the NACo Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

7. CalPERS UPDATE

Supervisor Tony Oliveira, a member of the CalPERS Board of Directors, provided an update on CalPERS activities. He announced that they will be changing their investment strategy to direct investment in medical and infrastructure. Currently, \$59 billion is invested in California. Supervisor Oliveira encouraged Executive Committee members to work with CalPERS to promote investing in their counties.

8. CSAC FINANCE CORPORATION REPORT

The CSAC Finance Corporation is sponsoring "Green Purchasing" seminars throughout the state which feature national speakers discussing how to create responsible county purchasing policies. An overview of the U.S. Communities purchasing program is also included as well as case studies from successful county programs already in place. The first seminar was held yesterday in Solano County and a second is being held today in Los Angeles.

9. REGIONAL SUMMITS ON RE-ENTRY FACILITIES REPORT

Following the enactment of AB 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2007, CSAC joined with the League of California Cities and several county affiliate organizations to assist the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in convening nine regional summits on re-entry facilities. The purpose of these summits is primarily to provide information on re-entry facilities, which are a cornerstone of the state's overall effort to reduce recidivism, improve offender outcomes, and address prison overcrowding. Three summits have been held so far in Monterey, Orange and San Diego Counties. CSAC will continue to work closely with CDCR, participate actively in the planning of the summits, and monitor the boards and commissions working on various areas of the corrections reform process.

CSAC has joined a coalition of local government interests – including the California State Sheriffs Association, the California District Attorneys Association, the Chief Probation Officers of California, and the California Police Chiefs Association – to support a motion to intervene in the federal court that has jurisdiction over the two class action lawsuits challenging California's prison overcrowding. The coalition will share the costs of litigation services to be provided by the law firm Jones & Mayer. The firm filed a motion on August 14 to intervene in the lawsuit on behalf of several elected sheriffs and district attorneys, who represent the interests of local government and the various local government associations' members. The Assembly Republicans filed a similar motion with the federal court, which has since granted the motions by the legislators as well as local government interests. This allows those parties to present to the court the local public safety impacts that would result from a population cap or early release of inmates. Further, the court also granted local governments' request for an extension to file additional motions to intervene until

September 14, 2007. As a result, additional interveners – including several counties – have an opportunity to be named in the intervention. CSAC has been coordinating with the County Counsels' Litigation Oversight Committee regarding individual county involvement. County counsels statewide are aware of the intervention and the steps necessary to become directly involved in the proceedings. CSAC contributed \$25,000 to a trust fund for litigation costs.

10. HEALTH CARE REFORM ISSUES

The Legislature made significant progress on health reform prior to the Assembly's departure on July 20. Earlier this summer, Democratic leadership merged their separate proposals into one vehicle – AB 8. Staff reported that the bill was amended this week and is currently on suspense file in Senate Appropriations Committee. CSAC has concerns with the current version of the bill. Staff also reported that the Governor announced he will veto AB 8 if it arrives on his desk and there is a good chance he will call a special session in the fall to address health care reform.

11. STATE BUDGET/LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislative leaders and the Governor reached agreement on the State Budget this week. The Governor is expected to cut approximately \$700 million from the budget using his "blue pencil" authority, primarily in health and human services programs and Williamson Act subventions.

The State Controller's Office has indicated they will attempt to expedite overdue payments on a priority basis once the Governor has signed the budget, which he is expected to do tomorrow. Counties should expect payments to flow within ten days and they will be made electronically when possible.

Senator Perata has asked the Governor to convene a bipartisan budget revision panel to develop a multiyear plan to restore on-time budgets.

12. OTHER ITEMS

Paul McIntosh was recently invited to join the Green California Summit Advisory Board, which provides direction for the annual Green California Summit and Exposition. This Summit was created to support efforts by local and state government to implement effective and innovative green services, products and solutions.

Meeting adjourned.