



**Agriculture, Environment, & Natural Resources Committee Meeting**  
**CSAC 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 · 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Pasadena Convention and Conference Center, Ballroom H**  
**Los Angeles County, California**

**Supervisor Heidi Hall, Nevada County, Chair**  
**Supervisor Jessica Pyska, Lake County, Vice Chair**  
**Supervisor Tod Kimmelshue, Butte County, Vice Chair**

- 2:30 p.m.**      **I. Welcome and Introductions**  
*Supervisor Heidi Hall, Nevada County*
- 2:35 p.m.**      **II. Opening Remarks: Senator Ben Allen, Senate District 24 (Invited)**  
*Chair, Environmental Quality Committee*  
Introduction: Supervisor Jessica Pyska, Lake County
- 2:50 p.m.**      **III. CSAC Insurance Working Group Policy Principles**  
*Supervisor Heidi Hall, Nevada County*
- 3:10 p.m.**      **IV. Community Resilience Through Fairgrounds**  
Introduction: Supervisor Tod Kimmelshue, Butte County  
*Michael Flores, Deputy Secretary for Fairs and Expositions*  
*California Department of Food and Agriculture*
- 3:30 p.m.**      **V. The California County Platform: Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources - ACTION ITEM**  
*Ada Waelder, AENR Legislative Advocate, CSAC*  
*Catherine Freeman, AENR Senior Advocate, CSAC*  
*Amber Garcia Rossow, AENR Legislative Analyst*  
Attachment: CSAC Platform: Chapter 3, Chapter 4, Chapter 14
- 3:45 p.m.**      **VI. AENR Year in Review and 2025 Priorities - ACTION ITEM**  
*Ada Waelder, AENR Legislative Advocate, CSAC*  
*Catherine Freeman, AENR Senior Advocate, CSAC*  
*Amber Garcia Rossow, AENR Legislative Analyst*  
Attachment: AENR Year in Review and 2025 Legislative Priorities
- 4:00 p.m.**      **VI. Closing Comments and Adjournment**

**Access the full committee packet, including the attachments referenced in the agenda, by scanning this QR Code**





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November 20, 2024

To: Agriculture, Environment, & Natural Resources Policy Committee

From: Catherine Freeman, Senior Legislative Representative  
Ada Waelder, Legislative Representative  
Amber Garcia Rossow, Legislative Analyst

RE: **AENR 2024 Year In Review – 2025 Legislative Priorities**

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**2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**

The Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources (AENR) policy committee is responsible for the review of state and federal legislative proposals, state budget items, regulatory issues, and ballot measures relating to the environment and California’s natural resources. The committee’s wide range of policy issues includes agriculture, air quality, cannabis, water, forestry, mining, endangered species, disasters, energy, parks and recreation, public lands, coastal resources, fish and game, solid waste, and hazardous waste. Throughout the 2024 Legislative Session, the AENR Policy Committee staff advocated on behalf of counties in these subject areas. Here are a few of 2024’s achievements:

**Energy & Natural Resources** During this year’s legislative session, CSAC supported AB 3233 (Addis) which enhances local control over land use and zoning issues, with regards to oil and gas operations. The bill clarifies in statute that local land-use authority applies to the regulation of oil and gas production facilities. The bill was signed into law by the Governor. On the energy front, CSAC continues to work to ensure counties have the resources needed to cite battery storage projects and navigate complex regulatory and permitting processes. As the state works toward achieving its clean energy goals, local governments are essential in meeting the increased demand for battery storage. This year, CSAC partnered with the California Energy Commission, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, Rural County Representatives of California, and League of California Cities, to host and participate in various panels exploring the challenges and potential solutions to the citing of battery energy storage systems.

**Fire Insurance** As California’s fire insurance crisis continues to deepen, CSAC has been diligently working to make the county story heard and develop policy priorities. The CSAC Insurance Working Group was formed this year to develop messaging targeted at local, state, and federal partners on the detrimental impacts to counties created by a lack of available and affordable insurance options. Throughout the year, CSAC collaborated with the Department of Insurance, industry leaders, consumer advocacy groups, subject matter experts, and federal agencies to

bring up to date information to members of the working group and develop principles to guide future advocacy.

**Organic Waste** One of CSAC's top Legislative Priorities in 2024 was addressing the issues that counties face in their efforts to meet the state's SB 1383 organic waste diversion goals. CSAC engaged with state agencies and advocacy groups to collaborate on reforms aimed at easing the pressure on counties as they work toward meeting the state's goal to reduce organic waste in landfills. This included supporting measures such as: AB 2902 (Wood), which extends the existing rural exemption for counties with less than 70,000 residents until January 1, 2037; SB 972 (Min), requiring CalRecycle to develop transparent procedures for local jurisdictions to receive technical assistance; and SB 1046 (Laird), requiring CalRecycle to develop a program environmental impact report that streamlines the process to site small and medium compostable material handling facilities for processing organic waste materials.

**Water** CSAC participated in lead negotiations on different legislative proposals impacting water policy. Of note, CSAC was one of the sponsors of SB 366 (Caballero), an ongoing legislative effort, which would require annual statewide water supply targets for 2050 as part of [The California Water Plan](#). Within the same advocacy space, CSAC protected counties from attempts to fundamentally change requirements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), such as AB 2079 (Bennett). CSAC led conversations in opposition to the bill which would have restricted local control by prohibiting counties from issuing well permits for a well proposed to be located within a specified area.

Additionally, CSAC continues to be a participating member of the Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners Collaborative (DRIP Collaborative), which is tasked with facilitating proactive state planning and coordination for pre-drought planning, emergency response, and post-drought management.

**Emergency Management** Following AENR's presentation at the Annual Conference last year, CSAC continued to partner with the Assembly's Emergency Management Committee to support efforts to bolster counties' capabilities to effectively respond and recover from emergencies. Among the measures supported by CSAC, AB 2469 (Rodriguez), extends the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) sunset by ten years. The EMAC is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that enables states to share resources during times of disaster.

**Wildfires** On the legislative front, CSAC engaged in language negotiations on a last-minute proposal, SB 610 (Weiner), which shifted fire mapping from the Board of Forestry to the State Fire Marshall, and would have created a new wildfire mitigation area designation to replace fire hazard severity zones. Followed by a coordinated advocacy effort, the bill was held in Assembly Appropriations. Additionally, CSAC was a lead supporter of SB 1101 (Limon), which requires CAL FIRE to use spatial planning tools and comprehensive mapping ("potential operational delineations") as a tool for strategic wildfire response.

## **Budget Plays**

The 2024 Budget Act included various reductions in climate programs and investments in the AENR portfolio, with some reductions proposed in the current year as reversions of unspent funds, and other reductions in previously approved multi-year investments. Funds were “swept” back into the General Fund as part of the budget solution. The final budget agreement additionally preserved several programs by shifting the funding source from the General Fund to the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Fund.

In response, both houses of the Legislature introduced climate bond proposals. After much consideration and negotiation, the Legislature passed SB 867 (Allen), the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 and signed on July 3, 2024, narrowly meeting an extended deadline for the Legislature to place a bill on the ballot. On July 3, the Secretary of State assigned the legislative measure Proposition 4 on the ballot. The ballot measure would allocate 10 billion in state general obligation bond funding for climate related programs. These broad category amounts are listed in Attachment # 1. CSAC voted to support Proposition 4 on the ballot.

## **Legislative Actions – New Laws**

### **Water**

[AB 460 \(Bauer Kahan\)](#) (Chapter 342, Statutes of 2024)

**State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: civil penalties.** This bill increases civil penalties, and adjusts for inflation, for violation of specified orders issued by the State Water Resources Control Board such as curtailment and cease and desist orders.

[AB 805 \(Arambula\)](#) (Chapter 505, Statutes of 2024)

**Sewer service: disadvantaged communities.** Until January 2029, the bill allows the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to require a designated sewer system to contract with an administrator if inadequate sewer services by a local agency that provides sanitary sewer service has been demonstrated.

[AB 1581 \(Kalra\)](#) (Chapter 681, Statutes of 2024)

**Conservation: Restoration Management Permit Act and California State Safe Harbor Agreement Program Act.** This bill enacts the Restoration Management Permit Act, which allows state departments to develop streamlined permit applications for restoration management permits with the goal of encouraging projects that restore habitats.

[AB 2501 \(Alvarez\)](#) (Chapter 833, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Water quality control plans: donations and grants.** This bill authorizes the State Water Board to accept funding from public agencies in the jurisdiction of the State Water Board and on behalf of

a Regional Water Quality Control Board. Specifically, AB 2501 authorizes the State Water Board, on behalf of itself or a Regional Water Quality Control Board to accept moneys from donations, grants, or contributions, or through contractual agreements, from public agencies.

[AB 3090 \(Maienschein\)](#) (Chapter 68, Statutes of 2024)

**Drinking water standards: emergency notification plan.** This bill authorizes a public water system, when updating an emergency notification plan, to provide notification to water users, by means of other communications technology such as text messages, email, or social media.

[SB 1156 \(Hurtado\)](#) (Chapter 458, Statutes of 2024)

**Groundwater sustainability agencies: conflicts of interest: financial interest disclosures.** This bill requires members of the board of directors and the executive of a groundwater sustainability agency to file statements of economic interests.

## **Cannabis**

[AB 1775 \(Haney\)](#) (Chapter 1004, Statutes of 2024)

**Cannabis: retail preparation, sale, and consumption of non-cannabis food and beverage products.** This bill authorizes local jurisdictions to allow cannabis retailers to prepare and serve food and beverages, and to sell tickets to live musical or other performances, in the area of the premises where consumption of cannabis and cannabis goods is authorized.

[SB 1064 \(Laird\)](#) (Chapter 875, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Cannabis: operator and separate premises license types: excessive concentration of licenses.** This bill streamlines the licensing of commercial cannabis activities by adding a combined activities license classification, which allows for two or more commercial cannabis activities at the same premises to be authorized under a single license and streamlines the submission of owner-related information.

## **Wildfire**

[AB 2276 \(Wood\)](#) (Chapter 388, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Forestry: timber harvesting plans: exemptions.** This bill extends various timber harvest exemptions, such as the Forest Resilience Extension and Oak Woodland exemption, scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2031.

[SB 504 \(Dodd\)](#) (Chapter 982, Statutes of 2024)

**Wildfires: defensible space: grant programs: local governments.** This bill updates defensible space requirements, including grant programs aimed at decreasing risk of fire for buildings, structures and occupied dwellings in high fire risk areas of the state. When reviewing applications for the local assistance grant program for fire prevention and home hardening education

activities, the bill gives priority to any local governmental entity qualified to perform defensible space assessments in very high and high Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

[SB 675 \(Limón\)](#) (Chapter 772, Statutes of 2024)

**Prescribed grazing: local assistance grant program: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force.**

This bill directs the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to develop a strategic action plan to expand the use of prescribed grazing to support the state's efforts to increase the pace and scale of wildfire and forest resilience activities. This bill directs the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop guidance for local or regional prescribed grazing plans. And, authorizes grant funding for prescribed grazing projects under the Fire Prevention Grants Program administered by CalFire.

[SB 1101 \(Limón\)](#) (Chapter 778, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Fire prevention: prescribed fire: state contracts: maps.** This bill requires CAL FIRE to use spatial planning tools and comprehensive mapping ("potential operational delineations") as a tool for strategic wildfire response.

[SB 946 \(McGuire\)](#) (Chapter 987, Statutes of 2024)

**Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: exclusions: wildfire mitigation payments.** This bill excludes from income for Personal Income and Corporation Tax purposes any amount received by a qualified taxpayer as a California qualified wildfire loss mitigation payment through the California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program. The program provides funding to local administrators to provide home hardening, vegetation management, defensible space, and other fuel modification activities provide neighborhood or community-wide benefits against wildfire. This program is currently in its pilot phase in certain areas.

### **Organic & Solid Waste**

[AB 2346 \(Lee\)](#) (Chapter 712, Statutes of 2024)

**Organic waste reduction regulations: procurement of recovered organic waste products.** This bill expands market development for recycled organic waste products such as compost and mulch.

[AB 2902 \(Wood\)](#) (Chapter 421, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Solid waste: reduction and recycling.** In relation to SB 1383, the organic waste reduction law, this bill extends the existing rural exemption for counties, which is set to expire in 2026. The exemption applies to 19 counties.

[SB 1046 \(Laird\)](#) (Chapter 452, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Organic waste reduction: program environmental impact report: small and medium compostable material handling facilities or operations.** This bill requires CalRecycle to develop a programmatic environmental impact report for small and medium-sized organic waste compost facilities.

[SB 707 \(Newman\)](#) (Chapter 864, Statutes of 2024)

**Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024.** This bill establishes the Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024, which creates an extended producer responsibility program for stewardship of waste textiles under the oversight of CalRecycle. As part of the bill's requirements, in consultation with CalRecycle and local jurisdictions, by March 1, 2027, the producer responsibility organization will need to submit an initial statewide needs assessment to determine steps and investment needed to meet the requirements of this bill

[SB 1143 \(Allen\)](#) (Chapter 989, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Paint products: stewardship program.** This bill establishes an Extended Producer Responsibility for Household Hazardous Waste.

[SB 1280 \(Laird\)](#) (Chapter 466, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Waste management: propane cylinders: reusable or refillable.** Beginning January 1, 2028, the bill requires 1lb propane cylinders sold in the state to be reusable or refillable.

### **Emergency Management**

[AB 2469 \(Committee on Emergency Management\)](#) (Chapter 402, Statutes of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Emergency Management Assistance Compact: California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program.** This bill would extend the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) sunset by ten years. The EMAC is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that enables states to share resources during times of disaster.

[SB 990 \(Padilla\)](#) (Chapter 322, Statutes of 2024)

**Office of Emergency Services: State Emergency Plan: LGBTQ+ individuals.** This bill would require the California Office of Emergency Services, no later than January 1, 2029, and every 5 years thereafter, to update the State Emergency Plan to include proposed policies and best practices for local government and nongovernmental entities to equitably serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and plus (LGBTQ+) communities during an emergency or natural disaster.



## **Energy**

[AB 1359 \(Papan\)](#) (Chapter 678, Statutes of 2024)

**California Environmental Quality Act: geothermal exploratory projects: lead agency.** This bill authorizes the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) to delegate its lead agency responsibility to a county that has adopted a geothermal element as part of its general plan.

[SB 1420 \(Caballero\)](#) (Chapter 608, Statutes of 2024)

**Hydrogen production facilities: certification and environmental review.** This bill adds hydrogen production facilities and onsite storage and processing facilities, to the types of facilities that existing law makes eligible for centralized permitting and expedited review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

## **Resource Extraction**

[AB 1866 \(Hart\)](#) (Chapter 548, Statutes of 2024)

**Oil and gas: idle wells.** This bill increases the idle well fees and increases the amount of wells that must be eliminated under an idle well management plan.

[AB 3233 \(Addis\)](#) (Chapter 550, Statute of 2024)

*SUPPORTED*

**Oil and gas: operations: restrictions: local authority.** This bill enhances local control over land use and zoning issues, specific to oil and gas operations. The bill clarifies in statute that local authority applies to the regulation of oil and gas production facilities.

## 2025 AENR PRIORITIES

**Community Resilience.** CSAC staff will advocate for appropriate state, federal and local emergency support and planning, funding for community resilience measures. Counties need investment from state and federal partners, including in areas where the state or federal government are the majority landowner, to prepare their communities against catastrophic future disasters—whether from wildfire, flood, heat, or other extreme weather events.

**Energy Storage.** As the state continues to strive to meet its ambitious clean energy goals, the need for robust energy storage solutions is becoming increasingly important. However, it's important that counties maintain local land-use authority when citing these projects and have the best available information to inform their decisions. CSAC staff will continue to work with state, local, and industry partners to provide counties with the resources they need to make the best-informed decisions, and advocate for resources to support citing and permitting.

**Wildfire Insurance.** California is in the midst of a home insurance crisis, with major insurers leaving the state citing regulatory pressure and outsized liability. In response CSAC formed an Insurance Working Group to develop messaging on the detrimental impacts to counties created by a lack of available and affordable insurance options, determine policy priorities and develop an advocacy plan, and keep members up to date on proposed legislation and regulatory actions. CSAC staff will build off the momentum of the Working Group to continue to ensure that the county perspective is heard on these issues at the state and federal level.

**\$3,800,000,000 FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER, DROUGHT, FLOOD, AND WATER RESILIENCE**

- \$1,885,000,000 - California water supply and water quality.
  - \$610,000,000 toward water quality or drinking water
  - \$386,250,000 for groundwater storage, groundwater banking, groundwater recharge, or instream flow projects
  - \$386,250,000 for water reuse and recycling
  - \$75,000,000 for projects under the Water Storage Investment Program
  - \$62,500,000 for capital investments in brackish desalination, contaminant and salt removal, and salinity management projects
  - \$15,000,000 toward data management and to reactivate existing stream gages and deploy new gages
  - \$75,000,000 regional conveyance projects or repairs to existing conveyances
  - \$75,000,000 to increase water conservation in agricultural and urban areas
- \$1,140,000,000 - Flood Risk and Stormwater Management
  - \$550,000,000 for flood management projects:
    - \$150,000,000 for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to improve existing levees
    - \$150,000,000 toward the Flood Control Subventions Program
    - \$250,000,000 for projects related to the State Plan of Flood Control
  - \$480,000,000 Resources for the Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program that enhance dam safety and reservoir operations
  - \$110,000,000 for urban stormwater management projects
- \$605,000,000 to protect and restore rivers, lakes, and streams, and to improve watershed resilience, including the resilience of fish and wildlife within the watershed.
  - \$100,000,000 for projects related to integrated regional water management to improve climate resilience on a watershed basis
  - \$335,000,000 for projects that protect and restore rivers, wetlands, streams, lakes, and watersheds, and improve the resilience of fish and wildlife
    - Funds under this section are specifically designated for the Los Angeles Rivershed, the Riverine Stewardship Program, the State Coastal Conservancy for the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program, the Urban Streams Restoration Program, projects that improve conditions on wildlife refuges and wetland habitat areas, the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Lower American River Conservancy Program, the State Coastal Conservancy to protect and restore watersheds through the Coyote Valley Conservation Program in the County of Santa Clara, the State Coastal Conservancy to protect and restore watersheds through the West Coyote Hills Program, funding for the California-Mexico cross-border rivers and coastal waters, and the Clear Lake Watershed.
  - \$170,000,000 to implement the Salton Sea Management Program 10-year Plan

## PROPOSITION 4 – THE CLIMATE BOND

- \$150,000,000 to the Wildlife Conservation Board with a portion toward projects reintroducing salmon into cold water habitat in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers watersheds
- \$20,000,000 for grants to nature and climate education and research facilities, nonprofit organizations and public institutions, natural history museums, California zoos and aquariums

## \$1,500,000,000 FOR WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

- \$1,205,000,000 to improve local fire prevention capacity, improve forest health and resilience, and reduce the risk of wildfire spreading into populated areas from wildlands, including on federal lands.
  - \$185,000,000 projects that improve forest health and fire resilience, implement community fire preparedness demonstration projects, facilitate greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and increase carbon sequestration in forests and other landscapes across regions and throughout the state
  - \$170,000,000 to implement regional projects, such as landscape-scale projects developed by forest collaboratives
  - \$175,000,000 for long-term forest health projects, including improved forest management, prescribed fire, prescribed grazing, cultural fire, forest watershed restoration, reforestation, upper watershed, riparian, and mountain meadow restoration, and activities that promote long-term carbon storage and sequestration
  - \$185,000,000 for local fire prevention grants and workforce development for fire prevention and wildfire resiliency work
  - \$25,000,000 for the creation or expansion of a fire training center.
  - \$200,000,000 for forest health and watershed improvement projects in forests and other habitats, especially aimed at fire hazard areas
  - \$50,000,000 for grants to conduct fuel reduction, structure hardening, create defensible space, reforestation, or targeted acquisitions to improve forest health and fire resilience
  - \$33,500,000 to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
  - \$25,500,000 to the California Tahoe Conservancy
  - \$33,500,000 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
  - \$33,500,000 to the State Coastal Conservancy
  - \$33,500,000 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
  - \$25,500,000 to the San Diego Rivers Conservancy
  - \$15,000,000 to the Wildfire Conservancy
  - \$15,000,000 to the California Fire Foundation
- \$135,000,000 to the Office of Emergency Services for a wildfire mitigation grant program. Local agencies, among others, would be eligible to apply for grant funding of projects that reduce wildfire risks with an approved community wildfire protection plan; structure

## PROPOSITION 4 – THE CLIMATE BOND

*hardening of critical community infrastructure, wildfire smoke mitigation, evacuation centers; creating zero-emission backup power, energy storage, and microgrids for critical community infrastructure due to disasters; and retrofitting hardening, or creating defensible space for homes*

- \$50,000,000 for projects in California that provide long-term capital infrastructure to use forest and other vegetative waste removed for wildfire mitigation for noncombustible uses
- \$25,000,000 for technologies that improve detection and assessment of new fire ignitions
- \$35,000,000 for uses to reduce wildfire risk related to electricity transmission.
- \$50,000,000 to the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, and nonprofit workforce organizations for demonstrated jobs projects. This will include local agencies that have programs that provide park and conservation employment training.

## \$1,200,000,000 FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

- \$415,000,000 for coastal resilience projects and programs
- \$350,000,000 for coastal and combined flood management projects and activities for developed shoreline areas, including port infrastructure
- \$135,000,000 for deposit into the California Ocean Protection Trust Fund
- \$75,000,000 to implement the California Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation Act of 2021
- \$50,000,000 to implement the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy
- \$75,000,000, to restore island ecosystem, advance climate-ready fisheries management, and restoration and management of kelp systems
- \$75,000,000 to remove outdated or obsolete dams and for related water infrastructure.
- \$25,000,000 for hatcheries and efforts toward the Central Valley Chinook Salmon

## \$450,000,000 FOR EXTREME HEAT MITIGATION PROGRAMS

- \$50,000,000 to the to fund projects that reduce the impact of extreme heat, reduce the urban heat island effect, and build community resilience
- \$150,000,000 to the Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities Program
- \$100,000,000 for urban greening including the creation and expansion of green streets and alleyways
- \$50,000,000 to protect or augment California's urban forests
- \$60,000,000 for the creation of strategically located community resilience centers across diverse regions of the state at eligible community facilities such as fairgrounds
- \$40,000,000 to fairgrounds for modifications or upgrades that provide community resilience and Deploy communications and broadband infrastructure

## PROPOSITION 4 – THE CLIMATE BOND

### \$1,200,000,000 FOR BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION AND NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTION PROGRAMS

- \$870,000,000 for grant programs to protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources
- \$320,000,000 toward specified conservancies
- \$180,000,000 for projects to improve habitat connectivity and establish wildlife crossings and corridors
- \$10,000,000 for the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program
- \$22,000,000 for the southern Ballona Creek Watershed

### \$300,000,000 FOR CLIMATE-SMART, SUSTAINABLE, AND RESILIENT FARMS, RANCHES, AND WORKING LANDS PROGRAMS

- \$105,000,000 for improvements in climate resilience of agricultural lands and ecosystem health with dedicated funding toward practices on farms and ranches that improve soil health, or accelerate atmospheric carbon removal or soil carbon sequestration and promote on farm water use efficiency
- \$20,000,000 for purposes of funding invasive species projects and activities
- \$15,000,000 for projects for the protection, restoration, conservation, and enhancement of farmland and rangeland
- \$90,000,000 for grants that benefit small- and medium-sized farms, socially disadvantaged farmers, beginning farmers or ranchers, and veteran farmers or ranchers, as defined, and increase the sustainability of agricultural infrastructure and facilities that support food systems, and increase market access. Funding is specifically designated toward the development and sustainability of farmers market, expand city or suburban community farms or gardens, regional farm equipment sharing, and tribes' food sovereignty to grow, produce, procure, and distribute foods
- \$30,000,000 to improve land access and tenure for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, tribal producers, and beginning farmers and ranchers
- \$15,000,000 to the California Vanpool Authority for grants for the deployment of vanpool vehicles, clean technologies, and related facilities
- \$15,000,000 for purposes of providing grants to public postsecondary educational institutions that are designated as Agricultural Experiment Stations or Agricultural Research Institutes, to develop research farms to improve climate resiliency
- \$10,000,000 Farmworker Housing Component of the Low-Income Weatherization Program, to low-income farmworker households for no-cost energy efficiency upgrades designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by saving energy.

### \$700,000,000 FOR PARK CREATION AND OUTDOOR ACCESS PROGRAMS

- \$200,000,000 for the creation, expansion, and renovation of safe neighborhood parks in park-poor neighborhoods

## PROPOSITION 4 – THE CLIMATE BOND

- \$200,000,000 for the creation, protection, and expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities – eligible projects would include improvements to county parks
- \$100,000,000 for projects to expand recreational opportunities and public access to state and public park nonmotorized trails
- \$175,000,000 to implement projects to address the Department of Parks and Recreation backlog of deferred maintenance.
- \$25,000,000 for grants to nature and climate education and research facilities, nonprofit organizations and public institutions, natural history museums, California zoos and aquariums

## \$850,000,000 FOR CLEAN ENERGY AIR PROGRAMS

- \$475,000,000 to support the development of offshore wind generation
- \$325,000,000 for the public financing of clean energy transmission projects necessary to meet the state's clean energy goals
- \$50,000,000 to support the Long-Duration Energy Storage Program



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Graham Knaus

November 20, 2024

To: CSAC Agriculture, Environment, & Natural Resources Policy Committee

From: Catherine Freeman, CSAC Senior Legislative Advocate  
Ada Waelder, CSAC Legislative Advocate  
Amber Rossow, Legislative Analyst

Re: **2024 Platform Chapters: Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources (AENR) - ACTION ITEM**

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**Staff Recommendation.** Staff recommends that the CSAC AENR Policy Committee approve the recommended changes to the CSAC policy platform as informed by Committee and staff suggestions.

**Background.** The California County Platform is a statement of policies on issues of concern and interest to California’s counties. At the end of each two-year legislative session, CSAC undertakes a policy platform review process to capture changes in law from bill signings and approved ballot measures, and to prepare for potential policy debate in the coming session. Committee recommendations are adopted through an action item and then sent to the Board to be adopted for final approval.

The chapters under the purview of the AENR Policy Committee:

- Chapter Three – Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Chapter Four – Energy
- Chapter Fourteen – Climate Change

CSAC staff solicited feedback on the AENR Chapters. The AENR Committee Chairs and staff reviewed the feedback and have proposed the following changes to the California County Platform.

Below is a summary of notable changes to the platform language:

**Chapter Three – Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Platform**

- Added language regarding timely appointees for Fair Boards.
- Added language supporting prioritization and funding of vegetation management efforts.
- Removed outdated language and added clarifying language regarding mineral resources and surface mining.
- Added language supporting the protection and enhancement of riparian ecosystems in multi-benefit flood control systems.
- Added language on hiring and staffing on federal lands



- Removed outdated references and added language promoting corporate producer responsibility under solid waste management.
- Added clarifying language under endangered species.
- Added language on supporting an entitlement process under the Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) system.
- Added language supplementing existing Emergency Management language requesting funding and resources to support disaster recovery and ensuring reasonable and timely reimbursements of emergency disaster funds.
- Added language under Fire Protection to request sustainable state and federal funding to maximize community resilience and support risk mitigation efforts.
- Added language supporting streamlining of environmental review processes for purposes of timely vegetation management.
- Addition of a new section, “Wildfires and Home Insurance” recognizing the importance of clear and transparent mitigation standards and risk scores affecting a policyholder’s accessibility in the home insurance market.

#### **Chapter Four – Energy Platform**

- Addition of a new section: “Battery Storage which recognizes the increasingly important role of battery storage in the creation of a resilient energy grid and appropriate safety mechanisms for battery facilities.

#### **Chapter Fourteen – Climate Change**

- Added clarifying and supplemental language to existing priorities.



## **The California County Platform | Chapter 3**

# **Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources**

*Adopted by the CSAC Board of Directors March 2023*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Counties recognize the necessity of balancing the need to develop and utilize resources for the support of our society with the need to protect and preserve the environment. Counties also recognize that climate change and the release of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere have the potential to dramatically impact our environment, public health and economy. Due to the overarching nature of the climate change issues, all sections in this chapter should be viewed in conjunction with Chapter Fourteen – Climate Change.

Counties assert that solutions necessary to achieve this delicate balance can best be formulated at the local level in cooperation with public and private industry as well as state and federal government.

Processes must be adopted for all proposed state and federal rules and regulations to include a detailed environmental and economic cost/benefit analysis. Additionally, proposed and existing state rules and regulations that exceed federal standards should be evaluated and justified.

### **SECTION 1: AGRICULTURE**

Counties recognize the importance of agriculture and its contribution to the state's economy. If California is to continue as the leading agriculture state in the nation, the remaining viable agricultural lands must be protected. In order to ensure that agricultural land protection is a statewide priority, the state, in cooperation with local governments, must implement policies which accomplish the following:

- Provide innovative incentives that will encourage agricultural water conservation and retention of lands in agricultural production;
- Promote agricultural economic development activities, including but not limited to agritourism, local food processing facilities, and the implementation of new technologies.
- Support allocation of transportation resources to the improvement of critical goods movement corridors and farm-to-market routes.
- Encourage the development of new water resources, storage, and delivery systems.
- Provide research and development for biological control and integrated pest management

practices.

- Ensure water and air quality standards are retained at a level that enables agricultural production to continue without significant lessening in the quantity or quality of production.
- Support the continuation of statewide public education curricula that address the essential role that agriculture plays in California and world economics.
- Promote California agriculture, protect it from pests and diseases and ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food and other agricultural products for the consumer.
- Foster a decision-making environment based upon input from all interested parties and analysis of the best available information, science and technology.
- Continue to build consumer and business confidence in the marketplace through inspection and testing of all commercial weighing and measuring devices.
- Encourage low impact/sustainable agricultural practices.
- Support the elimination of inheritance taxes on agricultural lands.
- Support full funding for, and protect investments in, the UC Cooperative Extension given its vital role in delivering research-based information and educational programs that enhance economic vitality and the quality of life in California counties, especially for rural and economically disadvantaged communities.
- Support funding programs for diversified climate smart adaptation to agricultural operation infrastructure including, but not limited to, solar, water collection, storage, and organic and regenerative agriculture practices.

#### Working with other Entities

The University of California's Cooperative Extension Service, County Agriculture Commissioners, Sealers of Weights and Measures, Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), local farm bureaus, Coordinated Resource Management Planning committees (CRMPs), and Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&Ds) are valuable resources that can be relied upon to assist state and local governments with the implementation of the policy directives noted above, as well as other programs supporting agricultural and natural resources. Given the long-standing relationship between local Cooperative Extension offices, county agricultural departments (i.e. County Farm Advisors and Agricultural Commissioners), RCDs, local farm bureaus, CRMPs, RC&Ds and individual counties, it is imperative that state and county officials develop ongoing support for these programs. Further, state and county officials are encouraged to remind other policy and decision makers of the importance of these entities and their value to agriculture, natural resources, the environment and community development.

### Williamson Act

Counties support revisions to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, that provide property owners greater incentives to continue participation under the Act. Additionally, counties are committed to support other reasonable legislative changes which preserve the integrity of the Williamson Act and eliminate abuses resulting in unjustified and premature conversions of contracted land for development.

Counties support the restoration of Williamson Act subventions. The state subventions to counties also must be revised to recognize all local tax losses.

### State and County Fairs

Whether state-owned/operated or county-owned, fairs are important assets to California's counties. They provide educational and competitive exhibits that highlight state and local industrial enterprises, resources and products. Fairs also provide the venue for a variety of agricultural and local community events and serve the state by assisting in emergency preparedness and response. Fairgrounds are critical facilities during local and statewide emergencies, including during wildfires, as evacuation centers and staging areas for emergency operations. The state and the Governor's administration are encouraged to provide timely appointees for Fair Boards.

For these reasons, counties believe it is important these facilities be modernized and well-maintained to be sustainably run. The state is encouraged to assess the condition of these state facilities, some of which are in poor and unsafe condition, and take action to bring facilities into good repair. The state is also encouraged to identify whether existing fairgrounds meet the needs of local Agricultural Districts or if investments in new facilities would better serve the aforementioned purposes.

Counties recognize that fairs represent a critical state and community asset that is in dire need of funding and strongly support the development of a comprehensive solution that will ensure the viability of the entire fair network.

## **SECTION 2: FORESTS**

Counties recognize the importance of forests to the state's economy. California is one of the top timber producing states in the nation and, to remain so, the state must protect and maintain its viable timberland base. Counties also recognize the importance of forestry in the context of climate change.

Effectively managed forests are critical to meeting state goals for climate change, climate resiliency, and GHG emissions. Just as importantly, overloaded forest fuels threaten rural communities, forest species, and natural ecosystems by abetting unprecedented catastrophic wildfires.

Good forest management practices not only protect local communities, economic assets, ecosystems, and outdoor recreation, but also reduces the release of harmful greenhouse gases. This is especially true as the state experiences more extreme wildfire seasons, as a single year of megafires can release as much carbon emission tonnage as 16 years of state emissions reductions. To meet state climate goals, and ensure protection of the viable timberland base, it must become a statewide priority to implement existing policies or adopt new policies that accomplish the following:

- Support the prioritization of vegetation management on federal and state public lands adjacent or in proximity to high-population areas.
- Support efforts for sustainable funding for the ongoing maintenance of vegetation management efforts for wildfire fuel breaks and federal and state public lands.
- Continue reimbursement to counties for lost timber related revenues as currently provided under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.
- Encourage sustainable forestry practices through the existing regulatory process and in collaboration with indigenous populations and tribal governments.
- Encourage continued reforestation on private timberlands.
- Provide new and innovative incentives that will encourage good management practices, such as prescribed burns, and timberland retention.
- Support the State Fire Safe Council's mission to preserve California's natural and man-made resources by mobilizing all Californians to make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe.
- Support for state and federal resources to address the tree mortality crisis in California.
- Support the continuing work of the Governor's Forest Management Task Force.
- Oppose any net increase in state or federal land acquisition, unless otherwise supported by the affected local governments, and until all the issues and concerns of local jurisdictions are addressed or mitigated to their satisfaction.
- Support the state's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action plan and better managements of state forest resources.

### Biomass

Counties recognize the problems and opportunities presented by biomass and accumulated fuels reduction efforts. However, counties view biomass as a critical technology for utilizing and removing non-salable slash and forest fuels and potentially an important technology to help

meeting state clean energy goals. The state of California must develop a coherent, integrated biomass policy that will guide forward-thinking regulation and help create a viable industry. The state must give highest priority in the near term to the retention of its unique biomass energy industry, which is in danger of disappearing as the result of electric services restructuring and changes in energy markets. By integrating state and local air quality goals, wildfire prevention and waste management strategies into a statewide biomass policy, California will solve several critical environmental problems and create viable private industries, which will serve the public need.

### SECTION 3: MINERAL RESOURCES

The extraction of minerals is essential to the needs and continued economic well-being of society. To ensure the viability of this important industry and to protect the environment, existing and new statewide policies concerning mineral resources must accomplish the following:

- Encourage conservation and responsible production of known or potential mineral deposits for the economic health and well-being of society.
- Ensure the rehabilitation of mined lands to prevent or minimize adverse effects on the environment and protect public health and safety.
- Recognize that the reclamation of mined lands will allow continued mining of minerals and will provide for the protection and subsequent beneficial use of the mined and reclaimed land.
- Recognize that surface mining takes place in diverse areas where the geologic, topographic, climatic, biological, and social conditions are significantly different and that reclamation operations and the specifications thereof may vary accordingly.
- Oversee surface, pit, in-stream, and off-site mining operations to prevent or minimize adverse environmental effects.
- Specify that determination of entitlements to surface mining operations is a local land use issue, provided that reclamation plans are obtained and enforced.
- ~~• Recognize that surface mining in diverse locations throughout the state serves local economies and assists the state in meeting carbon reduction goals.~~
- Encourage state support in reforming local and federal claim systems to ensure information sharing between governments and prevent fraudulent claim sales.

### SECTION 4: AIR QUALITY

This section should be read in conjunction with Section 8: Air Quality within the Climate Change Chapter of the County Platform.

Counties fully recognize that clean air laws have been enacted to protect the public from the adverse and deleterious health effects of air pollution. However, any rules and regulations aimed at improving California's air quality must be developed with the input of local government. Rule makers working on air quality issues must ensure a balance between economic advancement, health effects and environmental impacts.

Counties assert that federal and state agencies, in cooperation with local agencies, have the ability to develop rules and regulations that implement clean air laws that are both cost-effective and operationally feasible. In addition, state and federal agencies should be encouraged to accept equivalent air quality programs, thereby allowing for flexibility in implementation without compromising air quality goals.

As it pertains to air quality regulations, distinctions need to be drawn between different types of open burning (i.e. wildland fuel reduction programs using prescribed fire v. agricultural burning). Efforts should continue to find economical alternatives to open burning in general.

Failure to meet air quality standards may jeopardize federal transportation funding statewide. Counties continue to work closely with congestion management agencies, air quality districts, metropolitan organizations and regional transportation agencies to ensure that transportation planning is coordinated with air quality objectives.

Many portions of the state, including the broader Sacramento area and mountain counties air basin, have been formally identified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as receptors of ozone-related air pollution transported from the San Francisco Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley. Although the California Air Resources Board is considering actions that will help mitigate air pollution transport, the receptor counties are still potentially subject to sanctions if they do not take sufficient steps to achieve and maintain healthy air quality. Sanctions can take many forms, including lowered New Source Review thresholds in the receptor districts as compared to transporting districts and through transportation conformity. Given the potential impacts on the receptor counties, legislation and/or policy measures must be enacted that provide reasonable sanction protection for counties impacted by air pollution transport from upwind areas. Other legislative or policy measures that would require the upwind areas to implement air pollution mitigation measures should also be considered.

Given its longstanding support of local autonomy, CSAC opposes the addition of state appointees to local air districts. Such an action would result in a loss of local control without perceived improvements to the public process and clean air efforts. However, technical support services at the state level such as research, data processing and specialized staff support should be maintained and expanded to assist local air quality management efforts.

## **SECTION 5: WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

### Water Resources Development

Counties recognize the complexities of water use and distribution throughout the state, and therefore should be officially represented geographically on all federal, state, and regional water policy bodies and decision-making authorities. A comprehensive statewide water resource management plan – one that includes the upper watershed areas – is essential to the future of California. Such a plan should include a full assessment of needs for all users.

Counties support statutory protection of counties of origin and watershed areas. These protections provide that only water that is surplus to the reasonable ultimate human and natural system needs of the area of origin should be made available for beneficial uses in other areas. A natural system includes the ecosystem, meaning a recognizable, relatively homogeneous unit that includes organisms, their environment, and all interactions among them. Additionally, the cost of water development to users within the areas of origin should not be increased by affecting a water export plan. In all federal and state legislation, county of origin protections should be reaffirmed, and related feasibility studies should clearly identify and quantify all reasonable future needs of the counties of origin to permit the inclusion of specific guarantees. Existing water rights should be recognized and protected.

Counties must be compensated for any third-party impacts, including, but not limited to, curtailed tax revenues and increases in costs of local services occasioned by an export project.

The state must develop new solutions to expand water resources to meet the needs of residents, agricultural production, and industrial development, while balancing the protection of precious aquatic and riverine species. Projects should be considered that will create new water supplies through a variety of means such as recycling, water neutral developments, storm water capture, desalinization, waste water reclamation, watershed management, development of additional surface and groundwater storage, conveyance, and conservation. In building any new water projects, the state must take into account and mitigate any negative socio-economic impacts on the affected counties.

Counties support the incorporation of appropriate recreational facilities into all water conservation and development projects to the extent feasible.

### Water Rationing

One-size-fits-all statewide water rationing does not reflect the regional differences in water needs, consumption, and systems. Counties oppose statewide mandatory water rationing programs that would establish unrealistic and unnecessary restrictions on some areas and inadequate goals for other areas. Instead, counties support a voluntary approach to water conservation that promotes a permanent "conservation ethic" in California. If water rationing does become necessary, counties will need statutory authorization to impose water rationing decisions at the county level.



### Water Conservation

Counties recognize the need for local programs that promote water conservation and water storage. Water conservation may include reuse of domestic and industrial wastewater, reuse of agriculture water, groundwater recharge, or economic incentives to invest in equipment that promotes efficiency. No conservation of water shall be recognized if the conservation arises from the fallowing of agricultural land without compensation, unless the Board of Supervisors of the affected county consents to the fallowing.

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards need to direct staff to issue permits for direct discharge of properly treated wastewater to promote reuse.

### Ground Water Management

It is CSAC's position that ground water management is necessary in California and that the authority for ground water management resides at the basin level. Adequate management of water supply cannot be accomplished without effective administration of both surface and ground water resources within counties. Ground water management boundaries should recognize natural basins and responsibilities for administration should be vested in organizations of locally elected officials. Private property rights shall be addressed in any ground water management decisions.

Ground water management programs should maintain the flexibility to expeditiously address critical localized and basin-wide problems. Studies necessary to design ground water programs should be directed by local agencies with technical or economic support from state and federal programs.

Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act shifted the role of groundwater management to locals, including the development of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) which are charged with balancing groundwater use through enforceable Groundwater Sustainability Plans. It is CSAC's position that planning and land use decisions reside with the county, and therefore any planned changes must be implemented within the county land use authority.

### Financing of Water Management

Counties throughout California face many funding challenges when addressing storm water, flood control, groundwater management requirements, and compliance with water conservation requirements.

CSAC supports constitutional reforms to address the unintended consequences of Proposition 218 for local governments' ability to manage water responsibly. These reforms should maintain high standards of transparency and accountability, while providing local agencies with the needed flexibility to enact funding mechanisms that will enable them to improve supply reliability, maintain water quality for public and environmental health, and protect the state's residents and businesses from harmful flooding.

### Flood Control & Flood Protection

As California faces an increase in both the frequency and intensity of flood-producing weather events, long-term flood control projects are necessary to provide improved flood protection and minimize future damages. Local, state, and federal agencies should work to improve communications, coordination, and unity of effort prior to and following a flood disaster. Counties are encouraged to look for funding opportunities to move structures out of historical and newly expanding flood plains.

CSAC supports and encourages the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to adopt innovative geo-technical (high-tech) inspections systems to identify unexpected voids and saturated sand lenses in government-authorized levees. CSAC further supports recommendations from the Army Corps for non-federal sponsors to add these techniques to annual levee inspection programs.

Counties continue to experience frustration when applying for the state and federal permits required to repair, restore, and maintain flood control facilities. Counties support streamlining of such permits and any other efforts that would allow expeditious implementation of flood control activities.

Counties recognize the need for environmental mitigation measures to protect endangered species. The unique need for ongoing and routine levee maintenance must be reconciled with reasonable mitigation requirements. Solutions could include blanket "take permit" exempting levee maintenance from compliance and a more efficient process for routine maintenance.

Counties further recognize that providing habitat and flood control may not be mutually achievable goals within river, stream, or ditch channels. Counties support the protection and enhancement of riparian ecosystems in multi-benefit flood control systems.

However, ecosystem restoration projects may provide flood control benefits and will require detailed hydraulic and other engineering studies to assess the individual and cumulative hydraulic impacts in floodways. Counties also recognize that habitat areas shall be maintained in such a manner as to not obstruct the flow of water through the channel. Further, the river, stream and ditch channels should also have blanket "take permits" issued to allow for proper cleaning of obstructions to the water flow and/or carrying capacity.

Federal and state agencies that are responsible for species that would be harmed in the course of flood control projects – such as levee reconstruction, maintenance or repairs – must be charged with the rescue of these species and not the local government performing such activities in collaboration with local jurisdictions. These agencies have the expertise and funding to identify and protect species in ways that counties cannot. This identification and rescue should be accomplished in the most expedient time frame practicable. The federal agencies should be required to consult with the local action agencies within thirty days of any species rescue determination.

In respect to locally sponsored flood control projects, CSAC shall continue to urge the administration and the legislature to fully fund the State Flood Control Subvention Program.

CSAC believes that the state flood control system must be viewed as a complete functioning system and funded accordingly. Intermittent and piecemeal efforts at mapping, maintaining, and repairing the system have proven to be inefficient, costly and generally ineffective. CSAC also recognizes the critical need for new projects and repairs within the existing flood control infrastructure and the necessity of ensuring the ongoing maintenance of all components, from upper watershed to end-users.

### Flood Protection Funding

CSAC supports statewide, multi-level funding for new flood protection projects, mapping, system improvements, and the maintenance and operation of all flood mitigation efforts. This includes upper watershed flood positive mapping and watershed rehabilitation, coastal watershed mitigations and flood protections plans, and other identified projects in each of the state's 10 flood control zones. CSAC also recognizes that appropriations or bond funds earmarked for flood protection must be equally available to all areas of the state.

- CSAC would consider the use of financial incentives to encourage local governments to adopt flood related planning activities if such incentives applied equally to all jurisdictions affected by the statewide flood control system and were based on a uniform standard, such as the Community Rating System used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- CSAC supports full funding for the State's Flood Control Subventions Program within the Department of Water Resources to ensure appropriate staffing and reimbursements for delinquent and future claims.
- CSAC supports funding mechanisms originating within all levels of government but not relying solely on ratepayer shares.
- CSAC encourages state and federal funding that is stable, predictable, and sufficient for planning, capital projects, and ongoing operation and maintenance costs.
- CSAC supports prioritizing funding for improvements to areas deemed to be at the most risk in the statewide flood control system.
- CSAC supports a variety of funding sources which may include but are not limited to: statewide bond measures, statewide and local assessments, developer fees, wheeling charges, beneficiary pays, and the creation of a maintenance endowment fund.
- CSAC supports identifying specific dollar amounts for flood protection within any bond measure and supports the minimization or elimination of local matching requirements.
- CSAC supports funding being made available for both capital costs and operation and maintenance of the system.

- All state flood protection funding shall be protected under Proposition 1A.
- CSAC will continue to support efforts to exempt flood control and storm water fees from the voter approval requirements of Proposition 218.

#### Flood Protection & Levee Integrity

CSAC supports the assessment of the integrity of the statewide flood control system provided it is not to the exclusion of investing in actual and critical project improvements.

- In assessing the integrity of the flood control system, CSAC believes that project levees shall be distinguished from non-project levees; and levees that protect agriculture, urban areas or critical infrastructure shall be distinguished from each other.
- CSAC supports the assessment and inclusion of non-project levees into the statewide project levee system, as they are integral to the overall water management system.
- CSAC supports the use of formal, uniform, and reliable federal standards relating to levee integrity and the flood management system upon which all flood control agencies and jurisdictions can rely.
- CSAC supports the targeted and expedited assessment of levees in problem areas and supports operators at the local level who are willing to provide their expertise to agencies tasked that are tasked with assessing the integrity of California's flood protection system.
- While CSAC recognizes the need for detailed studies of the flood protection system, we support a reasonable ratio of time and funds for this purpose to be balanced by the urgent need for actual flood protection to protect threatened areas.
- CSAC supports the use of forecast-based management of the statewide flood protection system.
- CSAC supports the rehabilitation of the upper watershed areas for partial mitigation of flood events affecting downstream reservoirs and control systems.
- CSAC supports recognition of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a critical region of statewide importance encompassing vital water, transportation, energy, agricultural, environmental, and economic interests. As such, funding to assure the adequacy of its flood protection systems is of statewide importance.

#### Mapping the Flood Protection System

CSAC supports the creation of updated detailed FEMA and Statewide Awareness Maps and acknowledges the need for such maps to be created as soon as possible. The updated maps should be based on general plan build out of the watershed or a reasonable build out scenario. If

FEMA must maintain a floodplain map based on existing development, then it should include a second floodplain zone based on a reasonable watershed build out.

CSAC opposes changing federal standards from the current 100-year flood designation to a 200-year standard without a clear demonstration of the benefits and the attendant amount of funding that would enable local governments to achieve the new standard.

#### Development in Flood Prone Areas

While CSAC recognizes the existing role of state agencies to review and comment on development proposals, it ultimately opposes any state preemption of local land use authority and reiterates that land use decisions must remain at the local level. CSAC supports the strengthening of flood protection policies in State General Plan law while recognizing the value of agricultural uses, existing natural resources and housing needs of each region in the state. In addition CSAC supports:

- Updated building standards to reflect appropriate flood prevention standards.
- Efforts to ensure that every local entity creates an emergency flood response management plan that would include such items as emergency response protocols, integrated regional communications and emergency evacuation plans.
- Updates to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Checklist to ensure that projects are evaluated for flooding impacts.

CSAC believes that new development should pay its fair share, up to the full cost of project related impacts including mitigation, to achieve a designated level of flood protection. Furthermore new development should be a part of the funding solution relative to the maintenance and operation costs of project related flood protection.

#### Regulatory Streamlining for Flood Protection Projects

CSAC supports improvements to the regulatory process for flood protection projects, especially those deemed to be imminent threats. These needed improvements include:

- An expedited permit process for flood protection projects, including maintenance and operation work.
- Better coordination between state and federal regulatory agencies and clear direction on flood control requirements and responsibilities.
- Programmatic Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and standardized mitigation measures for the flood management system, levee maintenance and capital projects that fall under certain thresholds.

- CSAC opposes repeated mitigation requirements in connection with any ongoing maintenance of the flood management system, projects, and facilities.

### Flood Insurance

CSAC supports outreach and notification efforts by all levels of government to people at risk in identified flood prone areas. CSAC supports the establishment of an outreach or notification program administered by the state to educate the public regarding the level of risk they face in identified flood prone areas. Such efforts by the state shall be developed with input from, and coordinated with, local government.

While CSAC supports efforts to encourage property owners to secure and maintain flood insurance, counties have concerns about the possible effects of any new state-imposed flood insurance program and would oppose any mandates requiring local governments to administer such a program.

### Flood Control Protection Liability

CSAC opposes the transfer of primary liability for the statewide flood control system to local jurisdictions and believes there should be a proportional and equitable distribution of liability between all levels of government associated with the statewide flood control system. CSAC supports the enactment of a State Hazard Mitigation Plan law to provide funds for targeted relocation efforts in high-risk areas. In addition, CSAC supports a defined standard of liability for flood control infrastructure

### Delta & State Water Policy

CSAC acknowledges the reliance of counties on the Delta as a water delivery system, and recognizes the urgency with which all of the Delta partners, including the State, must act to resolve and fund infrastructure, environmental and supply issues.

As the nation's most populous state, California faces many complicated and compelling water resource issues. CSAC recognizes the complexities of water use and distribution throughout the state and has reiterated its position on this issue over the years through various policy statements, including, but not limited to support for statutory protection of counties of origin and watershed areas, support for existing water rights, the need for new and expanded water resources, and the need for local water conservation efforts.

Decisions regarding the Delta necessitate the inclusion of policy direction in CSAC's platform to ensure consideration of county interests. These proposed policies recognize the Delta as a critical region of statewide importance encompassing vital water, transportation, energy, environment, agriculture and economic interests. CSAC believes that any proposed Delta solutions be implemented in a manner that:

- Respects the affected counties' land use authority, revenues, public health and safety, economic development, water rights, and agricultural viability.

- Promotes recreation and environmental protection.
- Ensures Delta counties' status as voting members of any proposed Delta governance structure.
- Improves flood protection for delta residents, property, and infrastructure.
- Improves and protects the Delta ecosystem, water quality, flows and supply.
- Ensures consistency with affected counties adopted policies and plans.
- Secures financial support for flood management, improved emergency response, preservation of agriculture, protection of water resources, and enhancement and restoration of habitat.
- Accords special recognition, and advances the economic vitality of "heritage" or "legacy" communities in the Delta.
- Demonstrates a clearly evidenced public benefit to any proposed changes to the boundaries of the Delta.
- Support development of adequate water supply, utilizing the concept of "Regional Self Sufficiency" whereby each region maximizes conservation and recycled water use, implements storage (surface and groundwater) and considers desalination, as necessary.

## **SECTION 6: PARKS AND RECREATION**

Counties are encouraged to consider supporting the efforts of the California Association of Regional Park and Open Space Administrators to provide for the health, safety and quality of life for all Californians by protecting parkland and open space.

Counties support statewide efforts to provide funding for planning, capital investments, and programs to develop access to parks for all persons.

Counties request better staffing of State Parks lands which have become overused and under-patrolled. This has led to an inundation of trash, human waste, pollution, public safety issues, and fire threat which greatly impact counties and cities that house the parks.

Counties request better and more efficient staffing and hiring practices for federal land managers that support the goal of hiring processes from recruitment to evaluation, and background to start date within 90 days.

## SECTION 7: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

CSAC supports policies and legislation that aim to promote improved markets for recyclable materials, and encourages the creation of economic incentives for the use of recycled materials, and especially the use of recycled content in products sold in California. Counties encourage the state to look at the issues of recycling through not just an environmental context, but a market issue to increase the value and reduce the cost of recycled materials. Counties also support the expansion of the Beverage Container Recycling Program.

It is critical that solutions be developed to address a number of global policy reforms, ~~including China's National Sword Program, which has~~that have dramatically reduced California's market for recycled plastic and paper. Solutions should focus on market expansion, source reduction, recycled content requirements, and a focus on reducing single-use plastic materials.

CSAC shall support legislation that:

- Protects local solid waste franchising and fee-setting authority.
- Provides for the use of performance standards and alternative daily cover for landfills.
- Requires state facility cooperation with local jurisdictions on waste reduction to meet AB 939 and organic waste diversion goals.
- Promotes the development of conversion technologies as an alternative to land filling, and provides state funding to local jurisdictions for such projects; provides full diversion credit and greenhouse gas emission reduction credits under applicable state law; and, provides that all energy produced by these conversion technology facilities be designated as renewable energy.
- Promotes or requires more corporate producer responsibility for packaging, including take-back programs for items too complicated for recycling or safe disposal.

CSAC shall oppose legislation that:

- Preempts local planning decisions regarding solid waste facility siting.
- Preempts local solid waste and AB 939 fee-setting authority.
- Requires burdensome changes to locally adopted plans.

CSAC does not oppose legislation that assesses fees on solid waste that is disposed of out of state, as long as the fees reflect the pro-rata share of California Integrated Waste Management Board services used.



CSAC supports an Extended Producer Responsibility Framework Approach to the end-of-life management of products, which creates effective producer-lead reduction, reuse and recycling programs, to deal with a product's lifecycle impacts from design through end of life management, without relying solely on state and local governments.

In order to comply with the diversion requirements of the California Integrated Waste Management Act, local governments must continue to have the ability to direct the flow of waste. Given federal and state court decisions which restrict this ability, counties are encouraged to consider supporting legislation which ensures local governments' authority to direct the flow of waste.

CSAC supports efforts to improve access to resources that would help counties and our waste hauler partners implement the State's Organic Waste Diversion Regulations as required under SB 1383 (Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016). In addition, CSAC supports efforts to create more flexible SB 1383 implementation deadlines and requirements as a co-equal partner in achieving California's waste management goals.

## **SECTION 8: ENDANGERED SPECIES**

While protection of endangered species provides great benefits to counties, state and federal endangered species acts have widespread effects on public projects, agriculture, timber and other industries in California, including the resulting impact on county revenues. Both acts should be amended to provide for the following:

- Recognition and protection of private property rights and local government's land use authority.
- All those who benefit should pay the costs. It should be recognized that inequity exists concerning the implementation of the existing acts in that the cost of species protection on private property is borne by a few property owners for the benefit of all-
- If Congress and the state legislature deem the protection of certain species is of national interest, then the responsibility for that protection, including the costs, should be assumed by all who benefit through federal and/or state funding, and a process should be adopted which is consistent with other public projects of national interest.
- Applications for a listing should be required to include a map of critical habitat, a recovery plan and an economic and environmental analysis of costs and benefits.
- The development of a delisting process that is as aggressively adhered to as the listing process.

- The creation of a scientifically based and efficient process for delisting.
- Include independent scientific peer review, local public hearings, and equal access to judicial review.
- Delegation of implementation of the Federal Endangered Species Act to the state.
- Full compensation to property owners when historical or future use of their land is diminished.
- Use of public lands first for multi-species protection.
- Prohibit the distribution of public grant funds to private entities that seek to support or oppose listings or delisting of endangered species.
- Control of protected species that prey upon and reduce either the adult or juvenile population of any listed species.
- Protection of responsible current land uses.
- Support recovery efforts of endangered species.
- The ability to produce food, fiber, and all other agricultural products is not abridged.
- Agricultural produces should not be held liable for any “take” that occurs during normal agricultural operations.

## **SECTION 9: PUBLIC LANDS**

Plans for state and federal public lands shall be coordinated and compatible with local general plans and zoning where applicable. Private uses on public federal lands, exclusive of Native American lands, should be required to comply with applicable state and local laws to the extent that it does not burden local government. In addition, counties should be reimbursed for lost tax revenues when land is transferred for non-profit or public uses.

Counties should have an opportunity to review and comment on management decisions affecting their economies, general plans and resources. Public participation, including public hearings, should be required in land use planning on public lands to ensure that economic or environmental concerns are addressed.

Counties encourage the operation and ownership of land resources under private rather than governmental control. Lands acquired by government or utilities for specific purposes which are no longer essential should be returned to private ownership – with preference to previous

owners where possible – and without reservation of water and mineral rights. Small, isolated units of publicly held property should be offered for sale to private operators, with preference to adjacent owners.

Government should be required to demonstrate, using reliable data, an integrated program of land use and the need for the acquisition before being permitted to purchase, further expand, or transfer land from one governmental agency to another. Management plans and budgetary information should be required on all lands proposed for acquisition by governmental agencies prior to such acquisition, so that they can be made part of the public hearing process.

The practice of government funding through grants or other means to organizations and foundations in order to purchase private land that will be resold or donated to some governmental entity threatens to diminish the tax base of local units of government. As a result, counties' tax base should be kept whole in the event of federal or state purchase of land.

Counties support the multiple use of public lands. Uses of these lands include grazing, mining, timber, wildlife and recreation. Lands under governmental control should be actively managed in concert with private activities to encourage the greatest use and improvement. Counties believe that timber harvest, mining, and grazing activities are a valuable component of ecosystem management in some instances and that recreational activities, impacts on wildlife, and natural events like fires and floods must be considered. Properly managed land results in higher sustained yields of water, forage, timber, minerals, and energy. Grazing and logging are important elements of the multiple-use concept. Therefore, counties support efforts to minimize additional acreage designated as wilderness, unless otherwise supported by the affected local governments, and all of their issues and concerns are addressed or mitigated to their satisfaction.

Reforestation and continued management of public lands with suitable soils for producing forest crops are essential to maintaining a viable forest industry in California. Timber stand improvement is needed and required for producing sustainable ~~maximum~~ yields both for quality and quantity of timber products. Additionally, comprehensive fuels management programs are encouraged for the protection and sustainability of all public lands. Counties support economically and environmentally sound management of forests for the production of forest products, which support local industry, recreational uses, and, in the case of National Forests, maximize federal payments for support of local government.

#### Federal and State Compensation

Adequate compensation must be made available to local governments to offset the costs of providing services to public lands. Current federal compensation programs, such as the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (PL 106-393), should be retained with respect to land where harvesting is severely limited or no longer occurs. Counties continue to support a per acre charge for any land which has historically received revenue timber receipts.

County revenues generated from federal lands are at great risk. In order to ensure that a system is in place that is fair and equitable, a revenue sharing and/or Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) system must meet three criteria:

- 1) Equitable - The federal government must compensate the state and counties at a level that is consistent with revenues that would be expected to be generated if such lands were not in federal ownership and management.
- 2) Predictable – The system in place must provide some assurance and predictability of the level and timing of revenues; and,
- 3) Sustainable - Revenues should be maintained over time; and changes in federal policies in the future should not adversely affect local communities.

CSAC shall continue to pressure the state and the federal government to meet its statutory obligation to annually pay local agencies full in-lieu fees and PILT for state and federal purchased properties. And while the PILT is funded through the federal annual appropriations process, CSAC supports efforts to include its sustainable funding through an entitlement process. CSAC supports the premise that no new state or federal acquisitions of private property shall occur until state in-lieu fees and federal PILT are fully funded. Federal legislation is needed to provide additional compensation for those public land counties that meet specified hardship criteria. In light of the increasing use of public lands and the danger of mega wildfires throughout the state, these funds are more crucial than ever.

#### U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Exchanges

Counties recognize that efficient management of public lands requires land adjustments to ensure manageable units and prevent conflicts with adjacent private land uses. Land exchanges and purchases are the usual means available to the two federal agencies.

Counties will support the federal agencies in these exchange and consolidation efforts when:

- 1) Better and more productive management of public land will result;
- 2) Counties affected are consulted and given opportunity to help determine acquisition of local lands in exchange process and negative effects are fully mitigated;
- 3) County revenues, including PL 106-393 and PILT are protected or enhanced;
- 4) Areas slated for disposal in exchanges are included in the county general plan and classified as to probable use (e.g. residential, TPZ, commercial); and,
- 5) Land-for-land exchanges enhance the counties and result in no net loss of value.

Counties support efforts to streamline and shorten the federal land exchange procedure so mutually beneficial consolidations will be more attractive and expeditious.

### Local Use of Public Lands

Counties support legislation and land management policies to enable local agencies to acquire state and federal lands for public purposes. There are cases where viable excess public lands and not locally pursued due to the difficulty and time investment to acquire it. Where lands do not have an existing use, are not aligned with core agency purposes, or are effectively surplus or vestigial, the process for transfer to local governments should be streamlined,

### Waste Disposal on Public Lands

Counties experience considerable difficulty locating and maintaining facilities to dispose of solid waste. Counties with large areas of state and federal lands used for recreation are required to assume the responsibility of disposing solid waste generated by these recreational activities. The entities that administer these public lands should assume responsibility for providing sites for solid waste disposal and funds for development, maintenance, and operation of such sites that are equitable and match its public use.

## **SECTION 10: INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL**

Counties support aggressive action by federal, state, and local agencies to limit the spread, and to enhance the eradication of, identified invasive plants and animal species. Counties support prioritizing the efforts that are most attainable and cost-effective.

## **SECTION 11: PREDATOR CONTROL**

Counties benefit from the established federal-state cooperative programs to support predator control to reduce livestock depredation, prevent property damage, and protect public health.

Counties support predator control program efficiency through cooperative federal-state-county programs.

Counties support expanded program funding through the Federal-State Cooperative Animal Damage Control program and strongly support equal cost sharing between counties and cooperative agencies.

## **SECTION 12: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

CSAC supports legislative and regulatory proposals that maximize California counties' ability to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters and public health emergencies, protecting both physical and fiscal health. -Such proposals must recognize that the 58 California counties have unique characteristics, differing capacities, and diverse environments. -In addition, emergency management and homeland security policies, practices, and funding should be designed to promote innovation at the local level and to permit

maximum flexibility, so that services can best target individual community needs, hazards, threats, and capacities. To achieve this broad-based policy direction, CSAC shall:

- Support adherence to the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) processes, especially as they relate to the operational area concept.
- Advocate for broad county access to technology and infrastructure that offer effective and wide-ranging communications capabilities for alerting the public in emergency situations.
- Work to ensure that proposals that impose responsibilities upon counties are accompanied by full and flexible funding. This includes additional funding and authority to the California Office of Emergency Services to support disaster recovery by providing local jurisdictions advance cost reimbursements for projects that have been obligated or otherwise approved under a State or federal disaster declaration.
- Advocate for improved coordination between state and local offices of emergency services and state and local departments with health and safety-related responsibilities.
- Support full, sustained, and flexible funding for on-going emergency preparedness and all hazard planning, including provisions for establishing a baseline emergency management capability in each county.
- Support grant processes, procedures, and guidelines that allow full funding for personnel in order to carry out emergency management and homeland security mandates.
- Support efforts to reform the existing state and federal grant funding structure to create a streamlined and flexible process for Homeland Security, emergency management, and disaster preparedness programs and services. State funding should assist underfunded local governments and allow them to compete for federal grants where there is a required match.
- Support full and flexible funding for on-going emergency preparedness exercises and training, focusing on an all-hazards approach, at the state and local level.
- Support full and flexible funding for emergency communication system interoperability between all local government agencies and the State of California.
- Advocate at the federal level for policies and requirements that are practically achievable by local governments.
- Advocate for resources, staffing and efficiency efforts that ensure reasonable and timely reimbursements of emergency disaster funds.

## Fire Protection

Fires are best prevented and fought through long-term fuels management and other mitigation actions. Such fire protection efforts must be integrated and supported by other natural resource programs and policies. Counties support the achievement of a sustainable ecosystem and the maintenance of healthy forests while providing defensible space for protection of life and property. Governmental agencies alone cannot achieve fire safe communities; private property owners are also obligated to take necessary actions to reduce their fire risk.

Counties further support an increase in sustained state and federal funding for fuels management. However, given existing concerns expressed by counties regarding the allocation of fire protection resources, it is imperative that local governments be included in any effort to develop appropriate allocation of these resources between pre-fire management and fire suppression.

Fires are best fought by rapid response from trained firefighters. Counties support the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) reconnaissance and rapid response systems. Counties support state funding of local fire agencies – both paid and volunteer – for wildland fire response, and local Fire Safe Councils. CSAC supports funding for Sheriff's offices for evacuation planning, local OES's for County vegetation management, and Firewise Community support.

One of the biggest barriers to completing more risk mitigation work is funding. Counties have invested heavily to build out community resilience and it is critical that all levels of government share the cost of this work. CSAC supports:

- Ongoing, sustainable state and federal funding to maximize community resilience, especially in the form of direct funding to counties.
- State and federal assistance to residents for mitigation work, including assistance for home hardening, via direct funding and/or tax credits.

## Prescribed Fire

The state of California should pursue alternate and practical methods of biomass disposal that conserves energy in order to reduce the wildland fuel volumes consumed by prescribed fire.

Where alternative methods are not available, the state of California should assume greater responsibility in the development of a less restrictive program of prescribed fire for forest and range improvement, enhancement of wildlife, watershed management and reduction of major wildfire hazards.

Solutions must be found to the problems of liability when a county maintains a controlled burning program.

CAL FIRE and the State Air Resources Board should develop a joint policy concerning controlled burning so that counties will be dealing with one state government policy, rather than with two conflicting state agency policies.

### Environmental Health

Recent environmental hazard events across the State have demonstrated the need to bolster enforcement actions and local authority to prevent environmental incidents from occurring. Counties support policies to prevent and protect the public and the environment from hazardous incidents by improving enforcement of hazardous waste laws and regulations, and strengthening oversight and regulations of facilities that treat, store, or dispose toxic substances and pose an endangerment to public health and safety. Additionally, Counties also support legislation that expedites the cleanup of environmental hazards, increases resources for remediation activities, and promotes community engagement. Also, Counties support streamlining of environmental review processes for purposes of timely vegetation management along public rights-of-way that mitigate risks of wildfire and protect critical thoroughfares and emergency evacuation routes.

### **SECTION 13: WILDFIRES AND HOME INSURANCE**

Counties across the state are building resilience through risk mitigation work, however, communities are not seeing the benefits of this work reflected in the cost and availability of insurance coverage. The state must develop clear mitigation standards and transparency on how the mitigation work will impact the availability and affordability of insurance policies.

Home insurance companies are utilizing many data points, including new technology like drone and satellite imagery, to decide whether to insure homes. While the insurance industry has said this facilitates the establishment of rates that better reflect a property's risk, little is shared with consumers about how companies reach these conclusions. More disclosure is necessary when assessing risk scores affecting a policyholder's affordability and accessibility. Consumers must have robust education on what goes in to these scores, as well as clear and easy to navigate pathways to address and appeal rulings about their property.

### **SECTION 143: ENERGY**

This section should be viewed in conjunction with Chapter 4, which includes CSAC's Energy Policy Guidelines. It is CSAC's policy that the state and the 58 counties should seek to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency. Counties are encouraged to undertake vigorous energy action programs that are tailored to the specific needs of each county. When developing such action programs counties should:



- Assess available conservation and renewable energy options and take action to implement conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy development when feasible.
- Consider the incorporation of energy policies as an optional element in the county general plan.
- Consider energy concerns when making land use decisions and encourage development patterns which result in energy efficiency.

In order to meet the state's energy needs, counties fully recognize the importance of establishing a cooperative relationship between other levels of government and the private sector. This includes working with public and private utilities that serve their areas to develop energy transmission corridors and to minimize delays in approvals and land use conflicts.

With respect to alternative and renewable energy sources, the state and counties should encourage use of agricultural, forestry and non-recyclable urban wastes for generating usable energy. They should also take into consideration the other benefits of waste-to-energy production. Additionally, the state should encourage, and counties should explore, the development of cogeneration projects at the local level. In respect to public power options, counties support efforts that enhance local governments' ability to become community aggregators of electricity.

It must be recognized that in many parts of California, especially rural areas, power outages have become a regular occurrence for a number of reasons including a lack of grid reliability and the implementation of fire-safety measures. This not only puts communities and individuals at risk, but contributes to the expanding use of backup generators, propane reliance, and hesitance to transition to cleaner, more reliable technologies. This is an unsustainable situation that needs urgent state attention.

Counties support the encouragement of new sustainable energy generation facilities by the provision of increased incentives and a streamlined permitting process. However, state government needs to maintain regulatory oversight of these facilities. Lastly, counties oppose state acquisition and/or management of electric generating or transmission facilities.

## **SECTION 154: CANNABIS**

On November 8, 2016, voters passed Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), legalizing the adult use of cannabis in California. AUMA contains broad local regulatory and taxation authority, allowing local governments to decide how best to regulate – and impose local taxes on – the retail sale and cultivation of cannabis in their respective communities while integrating local regulatory programs within a larger state licensing system.

Counties have a stake in shaping the broader statewide landscape of cannabis regulation in California as it has a significant impact on local government operations and serves as an important economic driver in many communities. The success of cannabis programs is dependent on strong state and local partnerships. It is imperative that state agencies recognize the role counties play in the regulation of cannabis and are responsive to local needs.

As the Legislature and state agencies develop regulations relating to medical and adult-use cannabis laws, counties put forth the following policy principles to guide CSAC positions and advocacy on cannabis regulation.

#### Cannabis Licensing, Regulation, and Local Control

Counties must be able to enact prohibitions or regulations in the face of threats to public and environmental health, safety, and general welfare. Such decisions represent legislative judgments made by locally elected bodies about the wisdom and need for local control over a complicated land use issue. Under well settled constitutional separation of powers principles, deference must be afforded to the legislative judgments made by locally elected officials, who are in the best position to evaluate local conditions, community needs, and the public welfare. Accordingly, CSAC believes that cannabis regulations proposed by the state must allow individual local governments the discretion to either adopt that program in full, to modify the program as they see fit, or to opt out of the program completely.

Local government police powers and authority over taxation and fees must be respected in the development of any regulations implementing both medical and adult use cannabis laws. This includes support for local land use authority and the ability for counties to ban the commercial adult use or medical cannabis retail sale, delivery, manufacturing, and/or cultivation within the unincorporated area.

The Medicinal and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) outlines categories of licenses for the cultivation, sale, manufacture, distribution, and testing of cannabis. The law contains restrictions on how many licenses can be held by a single entity, and counties support prohibitions on the cross-ownerships of licenses. Counties support limitations of Type Five Large Cultivation licenses, which are defined under Business and Professions Code section 26061.

Counties support a dual licensing system, which requires the verification of a local license as a condition precedent to the issuance of a state license, and the development of a strong license revocation policy and procedure for violations of license requirements. Wherever possible, counties support practical streamlining of cannabis licensing and permitting while maintaining local control. Burdensome administrative barriers only serve to discourage entry into the legal market and put a strain on state and local resources.

#### Cannabis Cultivation and Environment Impacts

As cannabis cultivation in California grows and evolves, it is critical to have a functioning statewide track and trace system, designed with compatibility and full integration with local programs. Local governments should have access to both the state track and trace system and laboratory test results for cannabis and cannabis products.

In addition, counties support integration with local geographic mapping and information systems, especially with respect to cultivation sites. This should include integration and consultation with resource conservation districts and watershed management plans.

Counties urge action to reduce environmental degradation and ensure the responsible use of resources, including water and electricity, in all aspects of cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, and retail. CSAC believes responsible state and local agencies should be given clear guidance and adequate resources to regulate and enforce environmental laws relating to cannabis. CSAC also supports a requirement that state agencies coordinate with local governments to ensure uniform application in enforcement efforts.

#### Cannabis Enforcement and Public Safety

Counties strongly urge the state to fully enforce cannabis regulations, and to provide resources for local enforcement efforts. Combatting illicit cannabis is a key public safety issue in many counties, and there should be dedicated resources for the active enforcement of illicit cannabis activities on public land. Counties requires state action and assistance to stop unlicensed commercial activity and diversion of cannabis and cannabis products. This includes access to track and trace data as well as inspections of cannabis retail establishments, manufacturing locations, and cultivation sites to ensure adherence to state and local laws and policies.

Counties support the development and implementation of state standards to protect public safety, with regards to cannabis, including:

- Enforceable standards for impaired driving.
- Employer rights to maintain competency for duty and a drug-free workplace.
- Protections for worker safety and security in the cannabis industry.

#### Cannabis Labeling, Testing, and Advertising

Strong cannabis testing and labeling standards are critical to protect public health and safety. Counties support uniform potency standards and the use of use state-run labs for pesticide, heavy metal, and biological testing for enforcement purposes. Cannabis packaging should be designed to display no appeal for children, and counties support the requirement of childproof containers, where appropriate.

Counties encourage the state to develop standards for the recognition of a particular appellation of origin of cannabis cultivated in a certain geographical region.

### Cannabis Resources and Revenue

Sufficient funding is required for adequate staffing at the state and local level to conduct regular inspections of dispensaries, cultivation, and manufacturing facilities, to conduct investigations and enforcement activity, and to quickly respond to and resolve complaints in a timely manner.

Counties depend on cannabis tax revenue to support regulatory schemes and enforcement. To help accomplish this it is important that counties have as much access to cannabis business data, like track and trace, as possible. The state should work with counties to find ways to encourage tax compliance in the absence of adequate banking solutions.

### Federal Regulation

Californians voted to allow for the recreational cultivation, sale, and use of cannabis, however the federal government's ban poses serious roadblocks and risks. State and local control must be respected on the regulation and enforcement of these issues. Counties call on the federal government to declassify cannabis as a Schedule I drug and remove all conflicts under federal law. The federal government should allow banking services for the cannabis industry to reduce the public safety issues posed by a cash-based industry.

### Best Practices & Data

Counties benefit from the of sharing best practices, lessons learned, and model ordinances on cannabis regulation and taxation. CSAC encourages collaboration between local and state agencies, including ongoing dialogue about implementation efforts, tax rates, enforcement issues, and other issues of significance. To enhance this, there should be adequate local representation on the state's Cannabis Advisory Committee to help inform state regulatory agencies and other stakeholders about local conditions, concerns, and issues of significance.

It is important to have statewide data collection and additional research and monitoring of trends regarding the impacts of cannabis – including impacts to public health and enforcement issues. Counties urge the state to share such data and research with local governments.

### Public Health

Counties support widespread communication on the impacts of cannabis on public health, especially related to impaired driving and youth. This should include the development of strong, effective substance abuse prevention and education campaigns at the state level, with input from counties, and resources for local education.



# The California County Platform | Chapter 4 Energy

*Adopted by the CSAC Board of Directors March 2023*

## INTRODUCTION

The following policy guidelines cover a wide range of energy issues of significant interest to county governments. This policy direction will assist CSAC with its efforts to represent county interests on energy proposals moving through the legislative process.

## SECTION 1: TAX AND REVENUE IMPACTS

State and legislative decisions concerning energy issues shall include provisions to avoid negative impacts on local government and schools.

Local governments rely on property tax revenues and franchise fees from utilities to provide essential public services. These revenues, as well as property tax revenues from alternative energy facilities, must be protected to ensure that local governments can continue to provide essential services. Counties support statewide energy needs by siting new power plants, and alternative energy facilities, bringing old power plants back on-line, and enacting long-term conservation measures.

## SECTION 2: ENERGY GENERATION

Counties support efforts to ensure that California has an adequate supply of safe, reliable energy at the most competitive prices possible, while adhering to the state's priorities of conservation, renewables, new generation, and new transmission. While CSAC supports a statewide assessment and planning for future transmission needs, counties oppose transmission corridor designations that ignore the local land use decision-making process.

Counties oppose state ownership of power plants because of the impact on local government revenue streams, water rights, the operation of hydro facilities, and the efficient management of such systems, including the economic uncertainty associated with state ownership of power plants. In the event of state ownership, all impacts on local government shall be mitigated.

### Renewable Energy

Counties support establishing incentives that will encourage the development and use of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, and geothermal resources. Counties also support promoting the timely development of new infrastructure, such as new electric transmission, needed to facilitate renewable energy development.

To encourage local siting of renewable energy facilities, counties support restoring authority to assess alternative energy facilities such as commercial solar facilities currently exempt under SB 871 (Chapter 41, Statutes 2014).

Counties support the construction and operation of biomass facilities through the establishment of state policies that will ensure sustainable long-term commitments to resource supply and electrical generation purchases at a price that supports resource-to-energy conversion. (See also: Chapter 3, Section 2 of the County Platform)

Counties shall commit to examine their own policies on alternative energy for any potential impacts that discourage the use of such systems.

Counties support payments to qualified facilities consistent with state and federal standards for renewable energy sources.

Counties support streamlining the approval and environmental review process for new power plants and any building using alternative sources of energy.

#### Energy Siting

Counties support providing incentives to local agencies to site energy facilities. The following incentives would stimulate the development and siting of more energy generation facilities:

- *Funding to streamline the siting process at the local level.* Funds would be available to reimburse cities and counties for the costs of permits, environmental review and other local expenses in order to expedite the process at the local level.
- *Energy facility incentive payments.* Financial incentives for cities and counties that approve new generation facilities, expand existing generation facilities, improve the efficiency of facilities, or to build renewable projects, including photovoltaics, fuel cells or cogeneration. Increased incentives would be given to those facilities that generate power beyond the demand of the host jurisdiction's facilities alone.
- *Property tax allocation incentives.* Any city or county that approves siting of a privately developed generating facility should receive 100% of the property tax of that facility.
- *Waiving charges.* To stimulate development of projects such as cogeneration facilities, standby charges for generating facilities should be waived.
- *Aligning processes at various levels.* Streamlining of timeframes currently associated with the state and federal regulatory process for siting power generating facilities.

#### Generators

Counties support efforts to allow local agencies to retain regulatory oversight over generators by statutorily changing the threshold from 50 megawatts to 100 megawatts.

Counties support additional state grant funding for back-up generation for essential facilities.

Counties support additional state grant funding for air quality compliance for emergency generation facilities.

### **SECTION 3: PUBLIC POWER**

Counties support measures that enhance public power options available to local governments.

Counties support measures that enhance local government's ability to become community aggregators of electricity.

### **SECTION 4: CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY**

CSAC and its member counties are committed to reducing electricity use and increasing efficiency in their facilities. Counties support a rate structure that recognizes conservation efforts.

Counties support development of a statewide grant program to fund energy conservation and energy management equipment in local government facilities. Counties support grants and loans that promote energy efficiency among businesses and homeowners.

Counties support the adoption of real-time metering and time-of-use metering, allowing consumers to make choices about their consumption of electrical energy based on the real-time price of electricity.

Counties support providing incentives, including the use of new technologies, for businesses that generate their own energy, and support encouraging businesses to make excess capacity available to utilities.

### **SECTION 56: NOTIFICATION OF POWER OUTAGES**

Counties, as providers of essential services, must be provided with adequate notice regarding any planned rotating block outages.

### **SECTION 6: BATTERY STORAGE**

Counties recognize the increasingly important role of battery storage in the creation of a resilient energy grid. Counties encourage the state and industry to work in conjunction with local governments to facilitate the construction of these projects. However, it is critical that local land-use authority is preserved in the citing and permitting of new battery facilities.

Counties support operator-funded and maintained fire suppression systems, and other appropriate safety mechanisms, for battery facilities of all sizes.

## **SECTION 7: MISCELLANEOUS**

Counties support a utility market structure that ensures that energy supply and demand is not unreasonably constrained by artificially imposed price caps.

Counties support efforts to encourage alternative energy solutions to be instituted in businesses and residences.

Counties support the right to implement Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs and establish property assessment liens for energy conservation and renewable energy investments. PACE programs create jobs, stimulate business growth, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and add lasting value to residential and commercial properties without increasing risks of mortgage defaults.

Counties support an amendment to the California Integrated Waste Management Act (CIWMA) to provide full diversion credit for cogeneration facilities to further encourage their development. The CIWM Act currently establishes a 10% limitation on solid waste diversion that occurs through transformation.





**The California County Platform | Chapter 14**  
**Climate Change**

*Adopted by the CSAC Board of Directors March 2023*

**SECTION 1: GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- 1) CSAC recognizes that sustainable development and climate change share strong complementary tendencies.
- 2) CSAC recognizes that mitigation and adaptation to climate change – such as promoting sustainable energy, improved access and increased walkability, transit oriented development, and improved agricultural methods – have the potential to bolster sustainable development.
- 3) CSAC recognizes that climate change will have a harmful effect on our environment, public health and economy. Although there remains uncertainty on the pace, distribution and magnitude of the effects of climate change, CSAC also recognizes the need for immediate actions to mitigate the sources of greenhouse gases.
- 4) CSAC recognizes the need for sustained leadership and commitment at the federal, state, regional and local levels to develop strategies to combat the effects of climate change.
- 5) CSAC recognizes the complexity involved with reducing greenhouse gases and the need for a variety of approaches and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- 6) CSAC supports a flexible approach to addressing climate change, recognizing that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate for California’s large number of diverse communities.
- 7) CSAC supports special consideration for environmental justice issues, disadvantaged communities, and rural areas that do not have the ability to address these initiatives without adequate support and assistance.
- 8) CSAC supports cost-effective strategies to reduce GHG emissions and encourages the use of grants, loans and incentives to assist local governments in the implementation of GHG reduction programs.
- 9) CSAC recognizes that adaptation and mitigation are necessary and complementary strategies for responding to climate change impacts. CSAC encourages the state to develop guidance materials for assessing climate impacts that includes adaptation options.

- 10) CSAC finds it critical that the state develop protocols and GHG emissions inventory mechanisms, providing the necessary tools to track and monitor GHG emissions at the local level. The state, in cooperation with local government, must determine the portfolio of solutions that will best minimize its potential risks and maximize its potential benefits. CSAC also supports the establishment of a state climate change technical assistance program for local governments.
- 11) CSAC believes that in order to achieve projected emission reduction targets, cooperation ~~and~~, coordination, and data exchange between federal, state and local entities must occur to address the role public lands play in the context of climate change.
- 12) CSAC recognizes that many counties are in the process of developing, or have already initiated climate change-related programs. CSAC supports the inclusion of these programs into the larger GHG reduction framework and supports acknowledgement and credit given for these local efforts.
- 13) CSAC acknowledges its role to provide educational forums, informational resources and communication opportunities for counties in relation to climate change.
- 14) CSAC recognizes that collaboration between cities, counties, special districts, and the private sector is necessary to ensure the success of a GHG reduction strategy at the local level.
- 15) CSAC encourages counties to take active measures to reduce GHG and create energy efficiency strategies that are appropriate for their respective communities.

## **SECTION 2: FISCAL**

The effects of climate change and the implementation of GHG reduction strategies will have fiscal implications for county government.

CSAC recognizes the potential for fiscal impacts on all levels of government as a result of climate change, i.e. sea level rise, flooding, water shortages and other varied and numerous consequences. CSAC encourages the state and counties to plan for the fiscal impacts of climate change adaptation, mitigation and strategy implementation.

- 1) CSAC supports the use of grants, loans, incentives and revenue raising authority to assist local governments with the implementation of climate change response activities and GHG reduction strategies.
- 2) CSAC continues to support its state mandate principles in the context of climate change. CSAC advocates that new GHG emissions reduction programs must be technically

feasible for counties to implement and help to offset the long-term costs of GHG emission reduction strategies.

- 3) CSAC advocates that any new GHG reduction strategies that focus on city-oriented growth and require conservation of critical resource and agricultural lands within the unincorporated areas should include a mechanism to compensate county governments for the loss of property taxes and other fees and taxes.
- 4) CSAC supports the allocation of cap and trade revenues to fund programs that help reduce GHG emissions at the local level. Specifically, CSAC supports the creation and sustained funding of programs that acknowledge that investment in mitigation and preparedness are more cost-effective than response programs.
- 5) CSAC supports changes and refinement to the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) to include criteria that reflects the diversity of disadvantaged communities in California.

### **SECTION 3: LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING**

CSAC recognizes that population growth in the state is inevitable, and therefore climate change strategies that affect land use must focus on how and where to accommodate and mitigate the expected growth in California. Land use planning and development play a direct role in transportation patterns, affecting travel demands and in turn vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and fuel consumption. It is recognized that in addition to reducing VMTs, investing in a seamless and efficient transportation system to address congestion also contributes to the reduction of GHG emissions. In addition to serving vehicles and facilitating goods movement, local streets and roads are the primary right-of-way for transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. Continued dedicated funding will be required to maintain local roads and bridges, while also improving safety for all road users, and adding capacity for transit and active transportation where the local context is appropriate.

The provision of housing affordable to all income levels also affects the ability to meet climate change goals. Affordable housing in close proximity to multi-modal transportation options, work, school, and other goods and services is a critical element to reducing GHG emissions in the state. Smart land use planning and growth, such as that required by SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008), remains a critical component to achieve the GHG emission reduction targets pursuant to AB 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), particularly to address the emissions from the transportation sector (i.e. vehicle, air and train). In order to better understand the link between land use planning, transportation, housing, and climate change further modeling and consideration of alternative growth scenarios is required to determine the relationship and benefits at both the local and regional levels.

- 1) CSAC supports measures to achieve reductions in GHG emissions by promoting housing/jobs proximity and transit-oriented development, and encouraging high density residential development along transit corridors. CSAC supports these strategies through its support for SB 375 (Chapter No. 728, Statutes of 2008) and other existing smart growth policies for strategic growth. These policies support new growth that results in compact development within cities, existing unincorporated urban communities and rural towns that have the largest potential for increasing densities, and providing a variety of housing types and affordability.
- 2) CSAC supports adding safe facilities for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit use on state highways that serve as local main streets, especially in rural unincorporated communities. The state should bear the costs of constructing and maintaining these improvements rather than putting additional pressure on limited local funds or competitive grant funding.
- 3) CSAC supports a balanced transportation policy that recognizes the need to promote alternatives to driving by improving state and local roadways to add safe access for transit, bicycles and pedestrians, where feasible and appropriate. At the same time, CSAC supports transportation investments that facilitate interregional travel and goods movement.
- 4) CSAC supports continued dedicated state and federal funding for maintenance and rehabilitation of local roadways and bridges as part of a broader climate change strategy. Effective asset management can reduce the lifecycle carbon emissions associated with these facilities.
- 5) CSAC supports policies that efficiently utilize existing and new infrastructure investment and scarce resources, while considering social equity as part of community development, and strives for an improved jobs-housing balance.
- 6) CSAC supports policies intended to reduce traffic-related fatalities and injuries by promoting vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle safety; including policies allowing local governments to reduce speed limits, continued funding for projects under the Highway Safety Improvement Program, enhanced traffic safety enforcement, public education and traffic safety campaigns, and improved availability of road safety data for local agencies.
- 7) CSAC supports the protection of critical lands when it comes to development, recognizing the need to protect agricultural lands, encourage the continued operations and expansion of agricultural businesses, and protect natural resources, wildlife habitat and open space.

- 8) CSAC acknowledges that growth outside existing urban areas and growth that is non-contiguous to urban areas may be necessary to avoid the impacts on critical resource and agricultural lands that are adjacent to existing urban areas.
- 9) CSAC supports providing incentives for regional blueprints and countywide plans, outside of SB 375, to ensure that all communities have the ability to plan for more strategic growth and have equitable access to revenues available for infrastructure investment purposes. It is CSAC's intent to secure regional and countywide blueprint funding for all areas.
- 10) CSAC supports new fiscal incentives for the development of countywide plans to deal with growth, adaptation and mitigation through collaboration between a county and its cities to address housing needs, protection of resources and agricultural lands, and compatible general plans and revenue and tax sharing agreements for countywide services.
- 11) CSAC recognizes that counties and cities must strive to promote efficient development in designated urban areas in a manner that evaluates all costs associated with development on both the city and the county. Support for growth patterns that encourage urbanization to occur within cities must also result in revenue agreements that consider all revenues generated from such growth in order to reflect the service demands placed on county government. As an alternative, agreements could be entered into requiring cities to assume portions of county service delivery obligations resulting from urban growth.
- 12) While local governments individually have a role in the reduction of GHG emissions through land use decisions, CSAC continues to support regional approaches to meet the State's GHG emission reduction and climate change goals, such as efforts which build upon existing regional blueprint and transportation planning processes. CSAC continues to support regional approaches over any statewide "one size fits all" approach to addressing growth and climate change issues. Further, CSAC supports countywide approaches to strategic growth, resource and agricultural protection, targeting scarce infrastructure investments and tax sharing for countywide services.
- 13) CSAC finds it critical that state and federal assistance is provided for data and standardized methodologies for quantifying GHG emissions for determining and quantifying GHG emission sources and levels, vehicle miles traveled and other important data to assist both local governments and regional agencies in addressing climate change in environmental documents for long-range plans.

#### **SECTION 4: ENERGY**

Reducing energy consumption is an important way to reduce GHG emissions and conserve. Additionally, the capture and reuse of certain GHGs can lead to additional sources of energy. For example, methane gas emissions, a mixture of methane, carbon dioxide and various toxic organic and mercuric pollutants, from landfills and dairies have been identified as potent GHGs. Effective collection and treatment of these gases is not only important to the reduction of GHG emissions, but can also result in an additional source of green power.

CSAC continues to support efforts to ensure that California has an adequate supply of safe and reliable energy through a combination of conservation, renewables, new generation and new transmission efforts.

### Energy Efficiency

- 1) CSAC supports energy conservation and energy efficiency, along with broader use of renewable energy resources. Counties are encouraged to undertake vigorous energy action programs that are tailored to the specific needs of each county. When developing such action programs counties should:
  - (a) Assess available conservation and renewable and alternative energy options and take action to implement conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy development when feasible;
  - (b) Consider the incorporation of energy policies as an optional element in the county general plan; and,
  - (c) Consider energy concerns when making land use decisions and encourage development patterns which result in energy efficiency.
- 2) CSAC supports incentive based green building programs that encourage the use of green building practices, incorporating energy efficiency and conservation technologies into state and local facilities. A green building is a term used to describe structures that are designed, built, renovated, operated or reused in an ecological and resource-efficient manner. Green buildings are designed to meet certain objectives using energy, water and other resources more efficiently and reducing the overall impact to the environment.
- 3) CSAC supports the state's development of green building protocols sustainable building standards, including guidelines for jails, hospitals and other such public buildings.
- 4) CSAC supports the use of grants, loans and incentives to encourage and enable counties to incorporate green building practices into their local facilities.
- 5) CSAC supports the use of procurement practices that promote the use of energy efficient products and equipment.

### Methane Emissions

- 1) CSAC supports state efforts to develop a dairy digester protocol to document GHG emissions reductions from dairy farms. CSAC supports funding mechanisms that support the use of dairy digesters to capture methane gas and convert it to energy.
- 2) CSAC supports state efforts to capture methane gases from landfills and waste treatment facilities, and supports development of a reasonable regulatory measure with a feasible timeline to require landfill gas recovery systems on landfills that can support a self-sustaining collection system.
- 3) CSAC supports the development of a guidance document for landfill operators and regulators that will recommend technologies and best management practices for improving landfill design, construction, operation and closure for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.
- 4) CSAC also supports funding mechanisms, including grants, loans and incentives to landfill and waste management operators to help implement these programs.

## **SECTION 5: WATER**

According to the Department of Water Resources, projected increases in air temperature may lead to changes in the timing, amount and form of precipitation, changes in runoff timing and volume, sea level rise, and changes in the amount of irrigation water needed. CSAC recognizes the need for state and local programs that promote water conservation and water storage development.

CSAC recognizes that climate change has the potential to seriously impact California's water supply. CSAC continues to assert that adequate management of water supply cannot be accomplished without effective administration of both surface and ground water resources within counties, including the effective management of forestlands and watershed basins.

- 1) CSAC supports the incorporation of projections of climate change into state water planning and flood control efforts.
- 2) CSAC supports water conservation efforts, including reuse of domestic and industrial wastewater, reuse of agriculture water, groundwater recharge, and economic incentives to invest in equipment that promotes efficiency.
- 3) CSAC continues to support the study and development of alternate methods of meeting water needs such as desalinization, wastewater reclamation, watershed management, the development of additional storage, and water conservation measures.

## **SECTION 6: FORESTRY**

With a significant percentage of California covered in forest land, counties recognize the importance of forestry in the context of climate change. Effectively managed forests have a lower probability of releasing large amounts of harmful GHG emissions into the atmosphere in the form of catastrophic wildfires. Furthermore, as a result of natural absorption, forests reduce the effects of GHG emissions and climate change by removing carbon from the air through the process of carbon sequestration. CSAC also recognizes the benefits of biomass energy as an alternative to the burning of traditional fossil fuels, as well as the benefits of carbon sequestration through the use of wood products.

- 1) CSAC supports encouraging sustainable forestry practices through the existing regulatory process, and encouraging continued reforestation and active forest management on both public and private timberlands.
- 2) CSAC supports responsible optimum forest management practices that ensure continued carbon sequestration in the forest, provide wood fiber for biomass-based products and carbon-neutral biomass fuels, and protect the ecological values of the forest in a balanced way.
- 3) CSAC supports the state's development of general forestry protocols that encourage private landowners to participate in voluntary emission reduction programs and encourage National Forest lands to contribute to the state's climate change efforts.
- 4) It is imperative that adequate funding be provided to support the management of forest land owned and managed by the federal government in California in order to ensure the reduction of catastrophic wildfires.
- 5) CSAC supports additional research and analysis of carbon sequestration opportunities within forestry.

## **SECTION 7: AGRICULTURE**

The potential impacts of climate change on agriculture may not only alter the types and locations of commodities produced, but also the factors influencing their production, including resource availability. Rising temperatures, changes to our water supply, and shifts in soil composition all could have significant impacts on California's crop and livestock management. Additionally, agriculture is a contributor to GHG emissions in form of fuel consumption, cultivation and fertilization of soils and management of livestock manure. At the same time, agriculture has the potential to provide offsets in the form of carbon sequestration in soil and permanent crops, and the production of biomass crops for energy purposes.

- 1) CSAC supports state efforts to develop guidelines through a public process to improve and identify cost effective strategies for nitrous oxide emissions reductions.



- 2) CSAC continues to support incentives that will encourage agricultural water conservation and retention of lands in agricultural production.
- 3) CSAC continues to support full funding for UC Cooperative Extension given its vital role in delivering research-based information and educational programs that enhance economic vitality and the quality of life in California counties.
- 4) CSAC supports additional research and analysis of carbon sequestration opportunities within agriculture.

## **SECTION 8: AIR QUALITY**

CSAC encourages the research and development and use of alternative, cleaner fuels. Further, air quality issues reach beyond personal vehicle use and affect diesel equipment used in development and construction for both the public and private sector.

- 1) CSAC supports state efforts to create standards and protocols for all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks that are purchased by the state and local governments that conform to the California Strategy to Reduce Petroleum Dependency. CSAC supports state efforts to revise its purchasing methodology to be consistent with the new vehicle standards.
- 2) CSAC supports efforts that will enable counties to purchase new vehicles for local fleets that conform to state purchasing standards, are fuel efficient, low emission, or use alternative fuels. CSAC supports flexibility at the local level, allowing counties to purchase fuel efficient vehicles on or off the state plan.
- 3) CSAC supports identifying a funding source for the local retrofit and replacement of county on and off road diesel powered vehicles and equipment.
- 4) CSAC opposes federal standards that supersede California's ability to adopt stricter vehicle standards.
- 5) Counties continue to assert that federal and state agencies, in cooperation with local agencies, have the ability to develop rules and regulations that implement clean air laws that are both cost-effective and operationally feasible. In addition, state and federal agencies should be encouraged to accept equivalent air quality programs, thereby allowing for flexibility in implementation without compromising air quality goals.
- 6) CSAC also recognizes the importance of the Air Pollution Control Districts (APCDs) and Air Quality Management Districts (AQMDs) to provide technical assistance and guidance to achieve the reduction of GHG emissions.

- 7) CSAC supports the development of tools and incentives to encourage patterns of product distribution and goods movement that minimize transit impacts and GHG emissions.
- 8) CSAC supports further analysis of the GHG emission contribution from goods movement through shipping channels and ports.

## **SECTION 9: SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING**

The consumption of materials is related to climate change because it requires energy to mine, extract, harvest, process and transport raw materials, and more energy to manufacture, transport and, after use, and dispose of products. Recycling and waste prevention can reduce GHG emissions by reducing the amount of energy needed to process materials, and reducing the amount of natural resources needed to make products.

CSAC continues to support policies and legislation that aim to promote improved markets for recyclable materials, and encourages:

- 1) The use of recycled content in products sold in California;
- 2) The creation of economic incentives for the use of recycled materials;
- 3) Development of local recycling markets to avoid increased emissions from transporting recyclables long distances to current markets;
- 4) The expansion of the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 and the Beverage Container Recycling Program;
- 5) The use of materials that are biodegradable;
- 6) Greater manufacturer responsibility and product stewardship.

## **SECTION 10: HEALTH**

CSAC recognizes the potential impacts of land uses, transportation, housing, and climate change on human health. As administrators of planning, public works, parks, and a variety of public health services and providers of health care services, California's counties have significant health, administrative and cost concerns related to our existing and future built environment and a changing climate. Lack of properly designed active transportation facilities have made it difficult and in some cases created barriers for pedestrians and bicyclists. Lack of walkability in many communities contributes to numerous chronic health related issues,

particularly obesity which is an epidemic in this country. Heat-related illnesses, air pollution, wild fire, water pollution and supply issues, mental health impact and infectious disease all relate to the health and well-being of county residents, and to the range and cost of services provided by county governments.

CSAC recognizes that there are direct human health benefits associated with improving our built environment and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, such as lowering rates of obesity, injuries, and asthma. Counties believe that prevention, planning, research, education/training, and preparation are the keys to coping with the public health issues brought about by our built environment and climate change. Public policies related to land uses, public works, climate change and public health should be considered so as to work together to improve the public's health within the existing roles and resources of county government.

- 1) CSAC supports efforts to provide communities that are designed, built and maintained so as to promote health, safety and livability through leadership, education, and funding augmentations.
- 2) CSAC supports efforts to improve the public health and human services infrastructure to better prevent and cope with the health effects of climate change through leadership, planning and funding augmentations.
- 3) CSAC supports state funding for mandated local efforts to coordinate monitoring of heat-related illnesses and responses to heat emergencies.
- 4) CSAC supports efforts to improve emergency prediction, warning, and response systems and enhanced disease surveillance strategies.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

### ***Climate change***

A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*

### ***Carbon Sequestration***

Carbon sequestration refers to the provision of long-term storage of carbon in the terrestrial biosphere, underground, or the oceans so that the buildup of carbon dioxide (the principal greenhouse gas) concentration in the atmosphere will reduce or slow. In some cases, this is accomplished by maintaining or enhancing natural processes; in other cases, novel techniques are developed to dispose of carbon.

*US Department of Energy*

### ***Environmental Justice***

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

*US Environmental Protection Agency*

### ***Greenhouse Gas***

A gas that absorbs radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of radiation (infrared radiation) emitted by the Earth's surface and by clouds. The gas in turn emits infrared radiation from a level where the temperature is colder than the surface. The net effect is a local trapping of part of the absorbed energy and a tendency to warm the planetary surface. Water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. *United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*