

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 12, 2021

Capitol Event Center | 1020 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85670569085?pwd=UkxYZE9haGZwcFp6M2Y5ckN1OVN1UT09>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 856 7056 9085 | Password: 754442

---

MINUTES

---

**1. Roll Call**

OFFICERS

James Gore | *President*

Ed Valenzuela | *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Chuck Washington | *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

Lisa Bartlett | *Immediate Past President*

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | *Executive Director*

Manuel Rivas, Jr. | *Deputy Executive Director,  
Operations & Member Services*

Darby Kernan | *Deputy Executive Director,  
Legislative Services*

ADVISORS

John Beiers | *County Counsels' Association,  
San Mateo County (absent)*

Frank Kim | *Orange County CEO, California  
Association of County Executives, President*

SUPERVISORS

Keith Carson | *Alameda County*

Susan Ellenberg | *Santa Clara County*

John Gioia | *Contra Costa County*

Carole Groom | *San Mateo County (absent)*

Kelly Long | *Ventura County*

Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County (absent)*

Buddy Mendes | *Fresno County*

Luis Alejo | *Monterey County*

Diane Dillon | *Napa County*

Erin Hannigan | *Solano County*

Bruce Gibson | *San Luis Obispo County*

Craig Pedersen | *Kings County*

Sue Novasel | *El Dorado County*

Jeff Griffiths | *Inyo County*

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Leonard Moty | *Treasurer, Shasta County*

**2. Executive Director's Report**

Graham Knaus reported that Darby Kernan, CSAC's Deputy Executive Director of Legislative Affairs, will be leaving CSAC at the end of the legislative session. He also introduced Jenny Tan, CSAC's new Senior Manager of Public Affairs and Member Services. Mr. Knaus invited the Executive Committee to attend CSAC's Regional Meeting on Homelessness which will be held virtually on Friday, August. 13<sup>th</sup>. He thanked the Executive Committee and CSAC team for pushing to ensure county priorities were reflect in state budget and policy.

**3. Minute Mics: Executive Committee Roundtable – *What's going on in your county?***

**Keith Carson / Alameda County** – Alameda County is focused heavily on homelessness and is currently concluding their CARES Act spending. They are preparing for a community listening session this coming Tuesday. Alameda County has already received requests totaling \$700 million from community-based groups and are they working on a process for making decisions. Alameda County's ARPA allocation is \$328 million. They have spent \$280 million in CARES money over what was already allocated.

**John Gioia / Contra Costa County** – Contra Costa County is developing a policy that will require everyone to get vaccinated once the FDA gives final approval to one of the vaccines. They already require weekly testing if employees are not vaccinated. They are moving to full vaccinations with two exceptions: sincerely held religious beliefs or a medical exception. Employees will have a set number of days to get vaccinated once full FDA approval is granted. They had a board workshop on ARPA funds. The community is very interested in transparency on the funds they are receiving. Contra Costa County is receiving \$220 million over two years. The first-tier allocation of \$110 million will be fully used by their health department. They are also very focused on homelessness and are really hoping that the additional funds proposed by the Governor are very flexible because there have been more restrictions with FEMA funds. The county is still concerned with COVID, and Contra Costa County has an indoor mask requirement, whether you are vaccinated or not.

**Kelly Long / Ventura County** – Ventura County has a public health order mandating vaccinations for hospital employees. Supervisor Long has a great concern for those workers who are choosing not to get vaccinated and wants to ensure they get tested in a rapid way, so they are not losing health care workers. The county is working with their unions to ensure the staffing will be there, but they are receiving a lot of push back in their community regarding this mandate. Ventura County is working hard on homelessness, specifically on clearing riverbeds and educating the community. Their ARPA funding is around \$129 million, and they are reviewing where they can spend these funds.

**Buddy Mendes / Fresno County** – Fresno County has a resolution supporting school districts authority to make decisions on masks. Their resolution says school districts should go to the state, and not the county, as that's who regulates them. They have an ARPA subcommittee that is working with the CAO's office, which will then work with each Supervisor. Fresno's allocation is around \$192 million, and they are thinking they will spend most of it in the unincorporated areas. They are trying to help areas that have no ARPA money at all.

**Craig Pedersen / Kings County** – Kings County has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the state with only about 30% vaccinated. They are a very rural county and have a large migrant community that is hard to reach. They are trying to combat this with mobile vaccination units. Water supply is a big issue in their county, and they are expecting a lot of personal home well failures. With regards to ARPA funding, they have \$29 million with about \$9 million committed. They have a subcommittee working on this. They are looking at unincorporated areas and trying to make sure community services districts are backfilled for their loss in revenues.

**Sue Novasel / El Dorado County** – El Dorado County is less than 50% fully vaccinated. They are doing what they can to get people vaccinated, including using mobile units. Their COVID numbers have gone up and ICU beds have increased. They are concerned with the order requiring jail personnel to get vaccinated. Their sheriff is reporting that 30%-40% will not get vaccinated so they are looking at closing a jail and/or doing early releases. With regards to ARPA, they have about \$37 million to spend and they have received a lot of requests for these funds, including from unions and fire districts.

**Jeff Griffiths / Inyo County** – Inyo County is close to the state average with regards to vaccination rates. They also have an issue with getting jail staff vaccinated. They are even getting major pushback for getting weekly testing and the county has spent vast amounts of overtime dealing with these issues. Inyo County is getting about \$3 million in ARPA funding. They recently had a bad use of force incident with their sheriff's department. It's frustrating when the sheriff does not cooperate with the county, but the liability for the public falls on the county. Housing and homelessness continue to be an issue, and nearly all their vacant land is owned by Los Angeles. They just moved into their consolidated office building which took 20 years to build. The county passed their final checklist with the FAA for commercial air service into their airport, which will start this winter. Their public health officer determined that it would be difficult to get compliance with a mandatory masking order, so they have issued a strong recommendation.

**Luis Alejo / Monterey County** – Monterey County took a similar position to Contra Costa County regarding vaccination requirements. Their sheriff's office said they would not follow the policy approved by the board of supervisors which has been a challenge. Monterey County has been doing well vaccinating their agricultural workforce with over 75% receiving at least one vaccination. This spurred a visit from Health and Human Services Secretary, Javier Becerra, who visited a clinic in Salinas. They received \$84 million in ARPA funds, which they have spread over 3 years.

**Diane Dillon / Napa County** – Napa County is very concerned with PG&E. In addition to the impact on housing, tourism, watersheds etc. Napa County has the only terroir in the United States that is most like Bordeaux and last year they lost half their crop. That's not sustainable, especially when insurance costs for wineries have gone up five times. They are very concerned about this because half of their economic engine is from the wine industry, with the other half being tourism. With regards to ARPA, they've had community members request more involvement. The county is trying to identify where these funds will have the most impact. Mental health is also a huge concern.

**Erin Hannigan / Solano County** – Supervisor Hannigan just finished a New Supervisor's Institute class this morning, and thanked Chastity, Porsche and Olviya for being able to pivot at the last moment to change this class to virtual. They had great speakers and panelists and received wonderful feedback. They hope to be in person at the CSAC Annual Meeting and host a reception for the new supervisors. Solano County received \$86 million in ARPA funds. They have formed a subcommittee and Supervisor Hannigan hopes to collaborate with cities. Solano County is one of the few counties without an indoor mask mandate.

**Bruce Gibson / San Luis Obispo County** – San Luis Obispo County is wrestling with many of the same issues as other counties. With regards to homelessness, they continue to struggle with finding the balance between providing the needed services while also providing safety, security, and health in public spaces. They have embraced the model of wrap-around services and Supervisor Gibson hopes they could embrace it more. They don't have an indoor mask mandate, though they are in decent shape with regards to COVID case rates. Their board decided not to get into the argument over school masking.

**Ed Valenzuela / Siskiyou County** – Siskiyou County is experiencing many of the same issues as other counties. Fires are paramount right now. Higher temperatures are occurring more frequently. Drought is a big issue. Lake Siskiyou, which is at the top of the Sacramento River watershed, is running out of water. They just received \$4.2 million in ARPA dollars, which should ultimately be \$8.4 million. Supervisor Valenzuela is part of a small working group that will be meeting next week to discuss projects and ideas for use of these funds.

**Leonard Moty / Shasta County** – Shasta County is being allocated \$35 million in ARPA funds and they are having conversations about how to best use it. Their CEO has indicated that he would like to invest in a project that will be around for 50-100 years instead of spending it all on services. With regards to the pandemic, Shasta County is very divided. Some are very upset and continue to come to board meetings and threaten the board and other community members. These groups are also trying to blame the county for hospital worker vaccination mandates and school masking mandates. The county recently appointed a new sheriff who plans to take a new approach to the role.

**Chuck Washington / Riverside County** – Riverside County is utilizing the healthy places index data to target neediest communities. With regards to COVID restrictions, they are likely to start mandating mask wearing by county employees in the near future, but unlikely to mandate anything outside of that. Riverside County has a healthy tourism economy. When the pandemic happened, they saw a significant amount of people coming into the county and using short-term rentals and this became a problem. The county is improving their short-term rental ordinance to protect and preserve neighborhoods. Through First 5 and other organizations, Riverside County is looking to increase access to quality and affordable childcare. Riverside County is due to get \$240 million in ARPA funds this year and another \$240 million next year.

**Lisa Bartlett / Orange County** – Orange County received about \$617 million in ARPA funds. They put the bulk of the first tranche into the revenue lost bucket because counties had to advance so much funding. They put \$50 million for current year COVID response costs and \$40 million to balance this year's budget. They have also allocated about \$5 million for arts programs, \$10 million for meal gap programs, \$40 million to support programs that would not have been cut by ARPA, and \$50 million for health care agency COVID response. Orange County is about 73% vaccinated. Their positivity and hospitalization rates are going up, so they are watching this very closely. The county is putting together a 5-year contract to implement a body cam program for the sheriff's department, which would result in 1,000 body cameras and 300 vehicle cameras. Orange County is also putting forth \$20 million for a new veterans' cemetery.

**Susan Ellenberg / Santa Clara County** – Santa Clara County has not yet seen a proposed spending plan from their county executive's office. Their vaccination rate is very high – over 80%, though they are still seeing increases in hospitalizations due to those who are unvaccinated. County employees are required to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status and they are encouraging businesses to do so as well. Santa Clara County is scrutinizing their sheriff due to numerous inmate deaths, which is costing the county tens of millions of dollars.

**James Gore / Sonoma County** – In Sonoma County, about 80% of everyone who is eligible is vaccinated. They do have mandatory vaccinations, not only in health care, but also for fire and police. Sonoma County does have a good model for citizen oversight called the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Oversight, which includes a community advisory commission. It has been effective in invoking change. The county requires masking indoors. CSAC has had multiple conversations with the insurance commissioner but has seen little movement. Supervisor Gore encouraged other Executive Committee members to talk to Supervisor Hannigan about First 5 and her work in this area. With regards to ARPA, Sonoma County has \$96 million. \$20 million is dedicated towards COVID response, and they are putting together a Notice of Funds Availability for key members of the community for the other \$75+ million. They have an office of equity reviewing this. The county is looking to make funding decisions in December.

#### **4. Communications and Member Services Report**

Jenny Tan, Senior Manager of Public Affairs and Member Services, discussed CSAC's focus on key topics including COVID, broadband, homelessness, and disaster assistance. The communications team continues to connect stakeholders to priorities, collaborate with the legislative team, support advocacy efforts, and build credibility and visibility. Ms. Tan presented that CSAC will continue to focus on several categories of communications, including earned media, social media, advocacy campaigns, and spotlighting members.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes from March 11<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

*A motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 11<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, was made by Supervisor Moty; second by Supervisor Long. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **6. Consideration of Venue for the 2023 & 2024 CSAC Annual Meeting**

Porsche Green, CSAC's Meeting Planner, presented that CSAC is recommending the 2023 CSAC Annual Meeting to be held in Alameda County at the Oakland City Center Marriott, and the 2024 CSAC Annual Meeting to be held in Los Angeles County at the Pasadena Convention Center.

*A motion to approve the Venue for the 2023 & 2024 CSAC Annual Meeting was made by Supervisor Hannigan; second by Supervisor Dillon. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **7. CSAC Legislative Update**

Darby Kernan reported that the legislature is on recess now but has until September 10<sup>th</sup> to finish out the legislative session. Ms. Kernan provided a brief update on the recall efforts and the opioid settlement litigation. She also provided a few CSAC staffing updates: Danielle Bradley, is CSAC's new analyst with Government, Finance and Administration (GFA), Justin Garrett was promoted to Senior Lobbyist, Roshena Duree was promoted to Associate Lobbyist, and Marina Espinoza was promoted to Senior Analyst.

Catherine Freeman, Legislative Representative for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, presented on fire prevention funding, drought funding and organic waste.

Josh Gauger, Legislative Representative for Administration of Justice, presented on DJJ realignment implementation, fines and fees and monitoring new pre-trial reform efforts.

Roshena Duree, Associate Legislative Representative, presented on homelessness.

Justin Garrett, Legislative Representative for Human Services, presented on IHSS collective bargaining and fiscal penalty or realignment withholding for counties that failed to reach a collective bargaining agreement. He also reported on county aging programs.

Farrah McDaid-Ting, Legislative Representative for Health Policy, presented on COVID, the state's CalAIM proposal, AB 988 and several budget items.

Chris Lee, Legislative Representative for Housing, Land Use and Transportation, presented on CSAC's efforts to secure additional transportation infrastructure for counties.

Geoff Neill, Legislative Representative for Government, Finance and Administration, presented on census bureau results, redistricting, broadband, AB 339 and CalPERS.

Ryan Souza, Legislative Representative for the labor side of Government, Finance and Administration, presented on several bills that have impacted employers, including SB 1159.

#### **8. CSAC Finance Corporation Report**

Supervisor Moty reported that the Finance Corporation approved their upcoming budget, which included an additional \$300,000 contribution to CSAC, bringing total contribution to CSAC to \$4.8 million for the year. The Finance Corporation is anticipating a base contribution of \$4.5 million to CSAC next year. The next semi-annual meeting is scheduled for September 2021.

Alan Fernandes, CSAC Finance Corporation CEO, presented that Smart Easy Pay is now open to all counties. Mr. Fernandes also highlighted the California Cannabis Authority (CCA). CCA is a JPA that endeavors to help counties who license, tax, and regulate cannabis by providing them with a platform where they can monitor industry activity within their jurisdictional bounds.

#### **9. California Counties Foundation Report**

Chastity Benson, Director of Operations and Member Services, discussed the Foundation's partnership with the NACo Leadership Academy. The California cohort will run from September 13<sup>th</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>. The NACo Leadership Academy will also have a cohort for newly elected county officials in January. The Foundation just completed their 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the New Supervisors Institute Class. The CSAC Challenge Awards was recently launched and the deadline to submit is September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Ryan Souza presented that the Criminal Justice Support HUB just finished a seminar series and plans to complete onsite visits towards the end of the year. The HUB is also working on expanding its work around domestic violence through improving batter intervention programs.

**Meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**