

# CSAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## BRIEFING MATERIALS

Thursday, August 21, 2025

10:30am - 1:30pm



**Sutter Club | 1220 9th Street, Sacramento**

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93065778361?pwd=ge4Mq4TzvIvJKz7Cgl4A9gVNS1TrML.1>

Meeting ID: 930 6577 8361

Passcode: 899178

California State  
Association of Counties



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Thursday, August 21, 2025 | 10:30am – 1:30pm

[Sutter Club](#) – California Room | 1220 9<sup>th</sup> St, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93065778361?pwd=ge4Mq4TzvlvJKz7Cgl4A9gVNS1TrML.1>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 930 6577 8361 | Password: 899178

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AGENDA

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Presiding: Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, President

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21**

10:30 AM **PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

1. Pledge of Allegiance *Page 1*

2. Roll Call *Page 2*

**ACTION ITEMS**

3. Approval of Minutes from April 3 and May 29, 2025 *Page 3-6*

4. Approval of Updated 2024-2025 Board of Directors Nominations *Page 7-8*  
➤ *Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer*

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

5. CEO's Report *Page 9*  
➤ *Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer*

6. Cap and Trade  
➤ *Catherine Freeman | Senior Legislative Advocate*  
➤ *Jordan Wells | Legislative Advocate*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. Legislative Update *Page 10*  
➤ *Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | Chief Policy Officer*

8. Executive Committee Minute Mics  
• What's going on in your county (in one minute)?

12:00 PM **LUNCH**

12:45 PM **CSAC REPORTS**

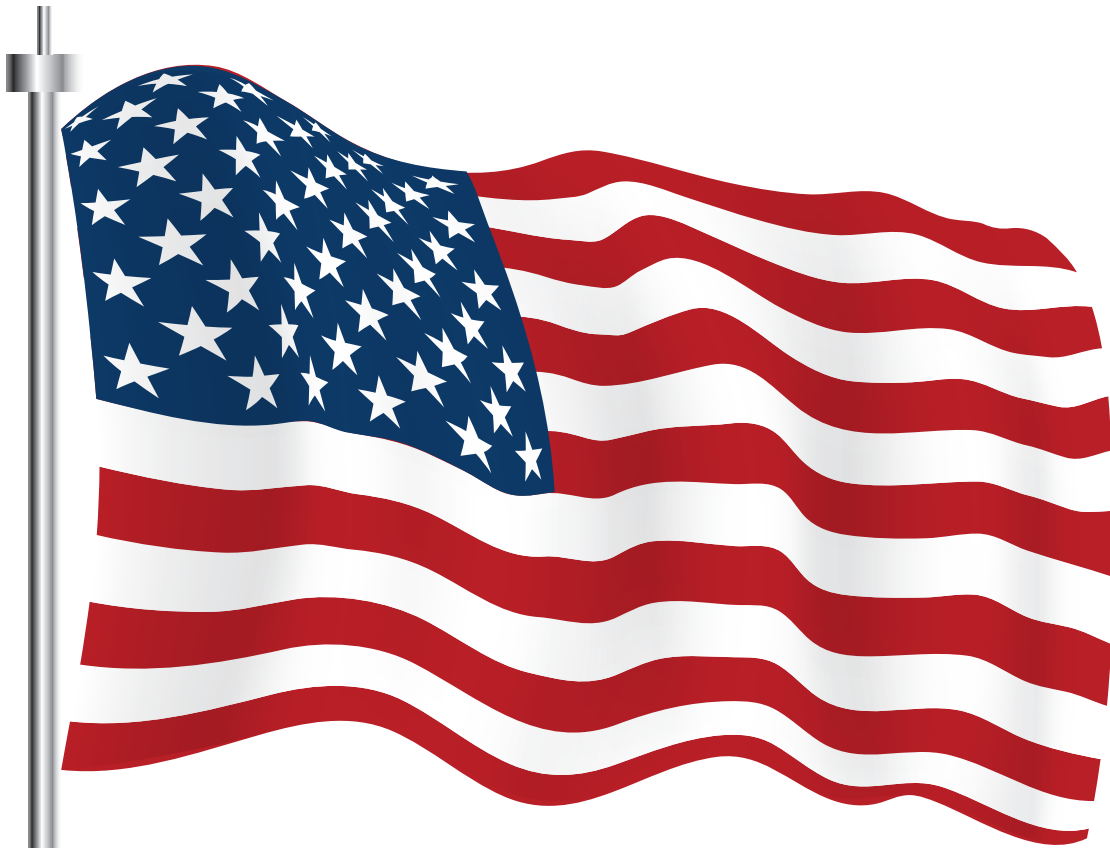
9. Operations & Member Services Report *Page 11-12*  
➤ *Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer*

10. CSAC Finance Corporation Report *Page 13-24*  
➤ *Supervisor Oscar Villegas | President, CSAC FC*  
➤ *Alan Fernandes | Chief Executive Officer, CSAC FC*

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 11. California Counties Foundation Report                                | <i>Page 25-29</i> |
| ➤ <i>Supervisor Susan Ellenberg   President, CA Counties Foundation</i>  |                   |
| ➤ <i>Paul Danczyk   Chief Operating Officer, CA Counties Foundation</i>  |                   |
| 12. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report            | <i>Page 30</i>    |
| ➤ <i>Jason Britt   CACE President, Tulare County CEO</i>                 |                   |
| 13. County Counsels' Association of California (CoCo) Report             | <i>Page 31-39</i> |
| ➤ <i>Brian E. Washington   CoCo Past President, Marin County Counsel</i> |                   |

1:30 PM     **ADJOURN**

*If requested, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability.  
Please contact Korina Jones [kjones@counties.org](mailto:kjones@counties.org) or (916) 327-7500 if you require modification or accommodation  
in order to participate in the meeting.*



*United States of America*  
Pledge of Allegiance



California State Association of Counties®



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
2025

OFFICERS

**President**

Jeff Griffiths  
Inyo County

**1st Vice President**

Susan Ellenberg  
Santa Clara County

**2nd Vice President**

Luis Alejo  
Monterey County

**Past President**

Bruce Gibson  
San Luis Obispo County



**CEO**

Graham Knaus

**PRESIDENT:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:**

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:**

Jeff Griffiths, Inyo County

Susan Ellenberg, Santa Clara County

Luis Alejo, Monterey County

Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo County

URBAN CAUCUS

Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County

Rich Desmond, Sacramento County

John Gioia, Contra Costa County

Kelly Long, Ventura County

V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County

Buddy Mendes, Fresno County

Noelia Corzo, San Mateo County (Alternate)

SUBURBAN CAUCUS

Bonnie Gore, Placer County

Manu Koenig, Santa Cruz County

Scott Silveira, Merced County

Lucas Frerichs, Yolo County (Alternate)

RURAL CAUCUS

Kent Boes, Colusa County

Ned Coe, Modoc County

Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County (Alternate)

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Belia Ramos, Napa County, Treasurer

ADVISORS

Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO & CACE President

Brian E. Washington, Marin County Counsel, County Counsels' Association Past President

*\*Alternates are highlighted for your reference*

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 3, 2025 | 10:00am – 1:30pm

Wine and Roses Hotel – Garden Ballroom | 2505 W Turner Rd, Lodi

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82286643721?pwd=R8g5L0adF4CGH64R9QglI0KKbSbrWn.1>  
Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 822 8664 3721 | Password: 540799

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MINUTES

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**1. Roll Call**

OFFICERS

Jeff Griffiths | *President*  
Susan Ellenberg | *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
Luis Alejo | *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
Bruce Gibson | *Immediate Past President*

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | *Chief Executive Officer*  
Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | *Chief Policy Officer*  
Chastity Benson | *Chief Operating Officer*

ADVISORS

Jason Britt | *Tulare County CAO & CACE President*  
Brian E. Washington | *Marin County Counsel, County  
Counsels' Association Past President*

SUPERVISORS

Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County (Absent)*  
Rich Desmond | *Sacramento County (Absent)*  
John Gioia | *Contra Costa County*  
Kelly Long | *Ventura County*  
V. Manuel Perez | *Riverside County*  
Buddy Mendes | *Fresno County*  
Noelia Corzo | *San Mateo County*  
Bonnie Gore | *Placer County*  
Manu Koenig | *Santa Cruz County (Absent)*  
Scott Silveira | *Merced County*  
Lucas Frerichs | *Yolo County*  
Kent Boes | *Colusa County*  
Ned Coe | *Modoc County*  
Ryan Campbell | *Tuolumne County*

Treasurer

Belia Ramos, *Napa County*

**2. Closed Session**

The Executive Committee met in closed session with legal counsel on two potential cases of significant legal exposure. Following the closed session, the Executive Committee returned to open session and announced that no reportable action had been taken.

**3. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2025**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2025, was made by Supervisor Susan Ellenberg and seconded by Supervisor Ned Coe. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of Updated 2024-2025 Board of Directors Nominations**

The CSAC Constitution indicates that each county board shall nominate one or more directors to serve on the CSAC Board of Directors for a one-year term commencing with the Annual Meeting. The CSAC Executive Committee appoints one director for each member county from the nominations received and was presented with additional 2024-2025 nominations received to date.

A motion to approve the updated 2024-2025 Board of Directors Nominations was made by Supervisor Bruce Gibson and seconded by Supervisor Kent Boes. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Approval of IRS Form 990 – Tax Year 2023**

Supervisor Belia Ramos, Treasurer, and Chastity Benson, COO, presented IRS form 990 for tax year 2023.

A motion to approve IRS tax form 990 for tax year 2023 was made by Supervisor Ned Coe and seconded by Supervisor Luis Alejo. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Consideration of the CSAC Proposed Budget & Salary Schedule for FY 2025-26 and Clarification of the CSAC Proposed Salary Schedule for 2024-25**

Supervisor Belia Ramos, Treasurer, and Chastity Benson, COO, presented the 2025-26 Proposed Budget and reported that this budget reflects the continued support of CSAC's advocacy priorities, county visits and regional meetings, and the Challenge Awards program, and provides continued financial support to the California Counties Foundation. Treasurer Ramos highlighted the 3% cost of doing business adjustment for membership dues and the establishment of a 4% contingency appropriation to allow for an operating margin to address unanticipated operational needs during the budget year.

COO Benson and Treasurer Ramos reported that the Proposed Salary Schedule for 2024-25 was amended to include the word "Annual" in the document title to clarify the term of the schedule, as required by CalPERS.

A motion to approve the Proposed Budget and Salary Schedule for FY 2025-26 and Clarification of the CSAC Proposed Salary Schedule for 2024-25 was made by Supervisor Scott Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Buddy Mendes. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. CEO's Report**

Graham Knaus, CEO, discussed CSAC's homelessness and housing pilot, highlighted CSAC's ongoing public affairs efforts and reminded the Committee of the upcoming deadline to apply for NACo Presidential Appointments.

**8. State-Local Fiscal Responsibilities Project**

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, presented a draft of CSAC's new Meeting the Mandate booklet. This booklet documents how county responsibilities have evolved and increased over the past 15 years and the effect this has had on different policy areas. CPO Wong-Hernandez announced that CSAC's Legislative Conference will feature a Meeting the Mandate workshop and asked the Executive Committee members for quotes to incorporate in the booklet.

**9. Member Engagement Initiative**

Chastity Benson, COO, and Cassandra Pye, President of Lucas Public Affairs, discussed CSAC's Member Engagement Initiative. They presented feedback from stakeholder interviews, provided strategic recommendations, and received feedback from the Committee.

**10. Legislative Update**

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, provided a brief Legislative Update and discussed the CSAC's Disaster Recovery booklet.

**11. Executive Committee Minute Mics**

The Executive Committee minute mics, item #11, was removed from the agenda at the direction of President Jeff Griffiths.

**12. Operations & Member Services Report**

Chastity Benson, COO, reported that CSAC's inaugural Challenge Awards dinner was a success. CSAC has launched new association management software, Rhythm, and plans to launch a new website at the 2025 Legislative Conference. COO Benson also highlighted the changing nature of politics and media and the crucial role of public affairs.

**13. CSAC Finance Corporation Report**

Alan Fernandes, CSAC FC CEO, and Rob Pierce, CSAC FC COO, discussed their upcoming Spring Meeting and announced the new FC board members. Mr. Fernandes highlighted Public Square Real Estate (PSRE), the FC's new partnership with Cushman and Wakefield, and reported that the FC is in a strong financial position due to the success of their business partnerships and Corporate Associates Program, which has allowed them to increase their contribution to CSAC.

**14. California Counties Foundation Report**

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Foundation President, and Paul Danczyk, Foundation COO, highlighted the Institute's seven Spring campuses and announced that they anticipate five campuses in the Fall. The CSAC Grants Initiative (CGI) continues to evolve as it reacts to the changing federal grants landscape.

**15. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report**

Jason Britt, CACE President and Tulare County CAO, discussed CACE's strategies for navigating uncertainty surrounding the federal relationship with the state under the current administration.

**16. County Counsels' Association of California (CoCo) Report**

Brian E. Washington, Marin County County Counsel and CoCo past president, provided an update on County Counsels' Association and the recent work of the Litigation Coordination Program.

**17. Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

**The meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on August 21, 2025, in Sacramento County.**



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 29, 2025 | 12pm – 12:30pm

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92867168058?pwd=U7sXMXaAnmpMQD7t70J0dc1qR3hS5Q.1>  
Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 928 6716 8058 | Password: 845010

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MINUTES

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**1. Roll Call**

OFFICERS

Jeff Griffiths | *President*  
Susan Ellenberg | *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
Luis Alejo | *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
Bruce Gibson | *Immediate Past President*

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | *Chief Executive Officer*  
Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | *Chief Policy Officer*  
Chastity Benson | *Chief Operating Officer*

ADVISORS

Jason Britt | *Tulare County CAO & CACE President (absent)*  
Brian E. Washington | *Marin County Counsel, County Counsels' Association Past President (absent)*

SUPERVISORS

Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County (absent)*  
Rich Desmond | *Sacramento County*  
John Gioia | *Contra Costa County (absent)*  
Kelly Long | *Ventura County (absent)*  
V. Manuel Perez | *Riverside County (absent)*  
Buddy Mendes | *Fresno County*  
Noelia Corzo | *San Mateo County (absent)*  
Bonnie Gore | *Placer County*  
Manu Koenig | *Santa Cruz County (absent)*  
Scott Silveira | *Merced County*  
Lucas Frerichs | *Yolo County*  
Kent Boes | *Colusa County (absent)*  
Ned Coe | *Modoc County*  
Ryan Campbell | *Tuolumne County*

Treasurer

Belia Ramos, *Napa County*

**2. Consideration of CSCDA Commissioner Appointment Recommendations**

A motion to approve the appointments of Helen Robbins-Meyer (retired Chief Administrative Officer, San Diego County) and Lisa Bartlett (retired Supervisor, Orange County) for three-year terms on the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) Board, replacing Erin Hannigan Andrews and Jim Erb (alternate) was made by Supervisor Scott Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Rich Desmond. The motion passed unanimously.

**The meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on August 21, 2025, in Sacramento County.**



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Luis Alejo  
Monterey County

**Past President**

Bruce Gibson  
San Luis Obispo County



**CEO**

Graham Knaus

August 21, 2025

**TO:** CSAC Executive Committee

**FROM:** Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer

**SUBJECT: Approval of Nominations for the CSAC 2024 – 2025 Board of Directors**

**Background:** The CSAC Constitution indicates that each county board shall nominate one or more directors to serve on the CSAC Board of Directors for a one-year term commencing with the Annual Meeting. The CSAC Executive Committee appoints one director for each member county from the nominations received.

For counties that do not submit nominations, the appointed supervisor from the preceding year will continue to serve until such county board nominates, and the Executive Committee appoints, a supervisor to serve on the CSAC Board.

The highlighted names denote *additional* responses received for 2024-2025.

2024 - 2025 CSAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS + ALTERNATES				
COUNTY	CAUCUS	DIRECTOR	ALTERNATE(S)	CHANGE FROM 2023 - 2024
Alameda	U	David Haubert		NEW BOARD MEMBER
Alpine	R	Terry Woodrow	Evan Mecak	NEW ALTERNATE
Amador	R	Jeff Brown	Dan Epperson	NEW ALTERNATE
Butte	S	Tod Kimmelshue	Tami Ritter	No Change
Calaveras	R	Benjamin Stopper	Martin Huberty	NEW ALTERNATE
Colusa	R	Kent Boes	Janice A. Bell	NEW ALTERNATE
Contra Costa	U	John Gioia	Diane Burgis	No Change
Del Norte	R	Chris Howard	Darrin Short	No Change
El Dorado	R	Greg Ferrero	Brooke Laine	NEW BOARD MEMBER
Fresno	U	Buddy Mendes	Nathan Magsig	No Change
Glenn	R	Grant Carmon	Monica Rossman	No Change
Humboldt	R	Michelle Bushnell	Natalie Arroyo	No Change
Imperial	S	Jesus Eduardo Escobar	Martha Cardenas-Singh	NEW ALTERNATE
Inyo	R	Trina Orrill	Jeff Griffiths	No Change
Kern	S	Leticia Perez	Phillip Peters	No Change
Kings	R	Rusty Robinson	Doug Verboon	No Change
Lake	R	Bruno Sabatier	Jessica Pyska	No Change
Lassen	R	Gary Bridges	Tom Neely	NEW ALTERNATE
Los Angeles	U	Kathryn Barger	Holly J. Mitchell	No Change
Madera	R	Jordan Wamhoff	Robert Macaulay	NEW BOD MEMBER & ALT

Marin	S	Mary Sackett	Brian Colbert	NEW ALTERNATE
Mariposa	R	Rosemarie Smallcombe	Miles Menetrey	
Mendocino	R	Maureen "Mo" Mulheren	Bernie Norvell	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
Merced	S	Scott Silveira	Josh Pedrozo	No Change
Modoc	R	Ned Coe	Shane Starr	NEW ALTERNATE
Mono	R	John Peters	Jennifer Kreitz	No Change
Monterey	S	Luis Alejo	Wendy Root Askew	No Change
Napa	S	Anne Cottrell	Liz Alessio	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
Nevada	R	Heidi Hall	Hardy Bullock	No Change
Orange	U	Doug Chaffee	Vicente Sarmiento	
Placer	S	Bonnie Gore		
Plumas	R	Tom McGowan	Jeff Engel	
Riverside	U	V. Manuel Perez	Karen Spiegel	No Change
Sacramento	U	Rich Desmond	Patrick Hume	NEW ALTERNATE
San Benito	R	Angele Curro	Kollin Kosmicki	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
San Bernardino	U	Jesse Armendarez	Curt Hagman	
San Diego	U	Monica Montgomery Steppe	Joel Anderson	NEW BOARD MEMBER
San Francisco	U	Rafael Mandelman		
San Joaquin	U	Robert Rickman	Steven Ding	NEW ALTERNATE
San Luis Obispo	S	Bruce Gibson	Jimmy Paulding	
San Mateo	U	Noelia Corzo		
Santa Barbara	S	Bob Nelson	Laura Capps	NEW BOARD MEMBER
Santa Clara	U	Susan Ellenberg	Otto Lee	No Change
Santa Cruz	S	Manu Koenig	Felipe Hernandez	No Change
Shasta	R	Kevin Crye	Matt Plummer	NEW ALTERNATE
Sierra	R	Lee Adams	Sharon Dyrden	
Siskiyou	R	Ed Valenzuela		No Change
Solano	S	Wanda Williams	Cassandra James	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
Sonoma	S	James Gore	Rebecca Hermosillo	NEW ALTERNATE
Stanislaus	S	Mani Grewal	Vito Chiesa	BOARD MEMBER & ALT SWAPPED POSITIONS
Sutter	R	Dan Flores	Mike Ziegenmeyer	New Alternate
Tehama	R	Pati Nolen	Tom Walker	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT
Trinity	R	Ric Leutwyler	Heidi Carpenter-Harris	
Tulare	S	Amy Shuklian	Pete Vander Poel	No Change
Tuolumne	R	Ryan Campbell	Jaron Brandon	No Change
Ventura	U	Kelly Long	Jeff Gorell	No Change
Yolo	S	Lucas Frerichs	Oscar Villegas	
Yuba	R	Jon Messick	Gary Bradford	NEW BOARD MEMBER & ALT



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San Luis Obispo County



**CEO**

Graham Knaus

August 21, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer

**SUBJECT: CEO's Report**

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This item provides an opportunity to discuss the state of the Association and core priorities as well as refine the strategic approach to advocacy and communications through Executive Committee input.

Thursday, August 21, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | Chief Policy Officer  
Jessica Sankus | Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst

**SUBJECT: Updating the *Meeting the Mandate* Booklet**

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### **Background**

In April 2025, CSAC published a long-term project, [\*Meeting the Mandate: Counties Respond to Shifting Costs, Responsibilities, and Outcomes\*](#). The goal of this report is to take stock of compounding responsibilities facing county governments and support systemic reforms to improve the success of county functions. The project aims to answer the longstanding question: How can we better communicate the increased layers of responsibility for county governments in recent years – and the cumulative impact of new laws?

This publication examines the administratively burdensome and uncertain state mandate reimbursement process, outlines the limitations on local revenue-generating authority, and covers every major policy area to provide a comprehensive picture. It offers a clear-eyed view of the realities counties face in order to spark a dialogue about the future of the state-county relationship. To inform this project, CSAC interviewed County Supervisors and County Administrative Officers, engaged with 10 affiliate county associations, and conducted a review of past efforts to transform the state-local relationship. Subsequently, CSAC identified over 200 bills enacted between 2009 and 2024 that created new responsibilities, requirements, programs, or services for counties.

### **Next Steps: Prepare Version 2.0**

With the educational tools and insights on governmental complexity included in the *Meeting the Mandate* report, CSAC aims to inform the next generation of state lawmakers on how to best support county leaders in the 21st century – and meet the demands of governing in an increasingly complex world. As such, in fall 2025 CSAC staff will begin updating the *Meeting the Mandate* report to capture newly chaptered legislation and add additional insights from county governments about increasing levels of responsibility and programmatic complexity.

### **How Can You Get Involved?**

Contact Jessica Sankus, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, at [jsankus@counties.org](mailto:jsankus@counties.org) to:

- 1) Provide feedback on the booklet,
- 2) Provide a quote for inclusion in the next iteration of the publication, or,
- 3) To request physical or electronic copies.



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Santa Clara County

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Monterey County

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San Luis Obispo County



**CEO**

Graham Knaus

August 21, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Chastity Benson, Chief Operating Officer  
Ben Adler, Director of Public Affairs  
Rachael Serrao, Senior Manager, Public Affairs and Communications

**SUBJECT: Operations and Member Services Report**

**Member Engagement**

Registration is officially open for the [131st CSAC Annual Meeting](#), happening December 1–5, 2025, in Santa Clara County. This year’s program will tackle the toughest county challenges head-on through workshops, panels, and discussions designed to move the needle. We’re excited to give you a sneak peek: the event will feature keynote remarks from David Brooks, *The New York Times* opinion columnist and best-selling author, along with exclusive off-site mobile tours—details of which will be revealed soon. The Annual Meeting is where county leaders across California come together to share ideas, build connections, and chart a course for success in the year ahead.

At the same time, the [2025 CSAC Challenge Awards](#) are open for entries. These awards highlight counties delivering tangible results through innovative, effective, and cost-saving programs. Last year, 16 programs from 11 counties earned recognition, and we expect the bar to be even higher this year. We encourage every county to submit examples of work that’s making a difference in your communities. This is your opportunity to spotlight the creativity and dedication transforming county government.

**Final Module of the 2024-25 New Supervisors Institute**

On July 17–18, CSAC hosted the final module of the 2024–25 New Supervisors Institute at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria in Sacramento. This final module brought together newly elected county supervisors from across California to strengthen their leadership skills, deepen their understanding of county operations, and build lasting peer connections. Opening remarks set the tone for a dynamic program focused on practical governance and collaboration.

Key sessions included a labor relations panel discussion offering best practices in communication and negotiation. CSAC CEO Graham Knaus presented an overview of CSAC’s mission and member resources, while a panel moderated by California Women Lead emphasized the importance of boards and commissions in shaping policy. Panelists encouraged supervisors to pursue appointed roles as a way to expand their impact beyond elected office.

President Jeff Griffiths led a session on effective public meetings, sharing strategies for managing productive discussions. Nevada County officials, joined by CAL FIRE and law enforcement representatives, presented their integrated emergency preparedness model—highlighting interagency coordination as a best practice. The final day focused on intergovernmental collaboration and shared services, with the co-facilitators guiding a discussion on regional partnerships and cross-jurisdictional problem-solving.

The Institute concluded with a recognition ceremony, where participants received certificates of completion. Graduates left with enhanced leadership tools, stronger relationships, and a deeper commitment to serving their communities with purpose and confidence. This final module reaffirmed CSAC's dedication to developing capable, connected, and forward-thinking county leaders.

### **Public Affairs**

On the day Governor Newsom released his May Revision budget proposal, a CSAC team waited patiently outside his news conference. The Governor had just spent four minutes criticizing CSAC by name for [a statement on homelessness](#) that we'd issued two days earlier. Earlier in his news conference, he'd also criticized counties on Proposition 36.

We never could have predicted that Governor Newsom would call us out like that. But we did expect his budget proposal to shortchange county priorities. So as part of our Rapid Response plan (which also included [a statement issued](#) within minutes after the Governor's news conference began), there we were: ready to tell the County Story to reporters — on [Homelessness](#) and [Prop 36](#) — as they rushed out to file on deadline. CSAC's comments were featured prominently in Capitol coverage for the next several news cycles.

Our public affairs efforts that day epitomized the strategy [laid out by Graham](#) in his speech at this spring's Legislative Conference: "transforming ourselves from an organization that is *reactive* to one that is *proactive*." In these final weeks of the 2025 legislative session, we'll continue to engage with the Capitol press corps and reporters throughout the state — in our new, signature, direct and assertive tone.

As Graham told CSAC members in his Legislative Conference address, "our ability to influence the Governor and Legislature is greatest when it comes from you." In that spirit, we hope and expect to be able to turn to many of you at critical moments to represent CSAC to the state's elected leaders and to journalists.





August 21, 2025

**To:** CSAC Executive Committee

**From:** Oscar Villegas, CSAC FC President  
Alan Fernandes, CSAC FC Chief Executive Officer

**RE:** **CSAC Finance Corporation Report**

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**Amazon Business**

Staff is pleased to announce one of the newest partners, Amazon Business Prime. This partnership means CSAC FC is joining an impressive family of successful partnerships between Amazon Business and numerous other Statewide County associations. To announce this exciting partnership and its benefits to counties, CSAC FC Staff was honored to host a webinar on August 14, 2025, for California Counties to learn more about Amazon Business Prime and the unique benefits available to all CSAC Members through the partnership. The webinar proved to be very effective with 45 attendees throughout California's Counties who learned how they can save and benefit by utilizing Amazon Business Prime accounts that are being offered to CSAC members, completely free for a two-year period. For counties who may already established and paid for Amazon Business Prime accounts, a prorated refund will be provided for converting their account. If you would like additional information about Amazon Business Prime, please contact Rob Pierce at 916-612-3020 or [rob@csacfc.org](mailto:rob@csacfc.org).

**CSCDA Commissioners Appoint New Executive Director**

After an extensive and thorough recruitment process, on August 1, 2025, The California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) Commission appointed Felicia Williams as the new Executive Director of CSCDA. Ms. Williams will succeed Cathy Barna who retired from CSCDA in February 2025.

Ms. Williams brings extensive experience in Municipal Finance, Clean Energy, Economic Development and Local Government to her new position at CSCDA. This includes 15 years of municipal bond banking and financial advisory work including experience with CSCDA's pooled Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS), Open PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy), and Statewide Community Infrastructure Program (SCIP) programs. She has also worked in the Economic Development field advising cities on the creation of Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts (EIFD) and served on the Pasadena City Council during their review and approval of 3 CSCDA Workforce Housing Program projects.

Impressively, over 40 individuals applied for the position and were considered, however Ms. Williams emerged from that process as the top-rated candidate by the CSCDA Commissioners, due to her knowledge and experience with both CSCDA programs and her background in Municipal Finance and several related fields.

Ms. Williams shared, "As a long-time advisor to cities and counties, and an elected official, I understand the many challenges facing our local governments. CSCDA has always developed innovative financing solutions, and I look forward to responding to the current and future needs of our communities." CSAC and CSAC FC staff welcome Ms. Williams to her new role and look



forward to working with her. Ms. Williams will attend the CSAC Annual Meeting, and she looks forward to engaging and meeting CSAC Members and its leadership.

#### **Public Square Real Estate, Inc.**

CSAC FC is proud to share that Public Square Real Estate (PSRE) is actively involved in various real estate related projects with Del Norte County. PSRE is also currently engaged with another county who is considering retaining PSRE for comprehensive and holistic real estate services including the acquisition and disposition of numerous properties. PSRE is also actively developing submittals for current Requests for Proposals/Qualifications that have been issued by various municipalities.

PSRE was developed to provide essential and comprehensive real estate services to California counties, with a clear focus to ensure that counties have a service option that puts them first by an organization with individuals that understand counties and the public interest. The partnership between CSAC FC and PSRE is based on a county centric value-added model. If you would like additional information about PSRE, please contact Rob Pierce at 916-612-3020 or [rob@csacfc.org](mailto:rob@csacfc.org).

#### **Corporate Associates Program**

The Corporate Associates Program continues to experience success with its overall membership levels. Through effective retention and recruitment, the Program had 71 partners to start the Fiscal Year. Staff has been actively engaged with these partners as they look to develop and plan their participation at the CSAC Annual Meeting. The latest partners joining our program since the last update are as follows: At the **Platinum Level** please welcome **Amazon Business**, and **ModCorr**. At the **Silver Level** welcome **Indivior**, **Energy Systems Group**, and **6D PMCM**.

For more information regarding the CSAC FC Corporate Associates Program please visit our website at: ([www.csacfc.org](http://www.csacfc.org)), or contact Jim Manker at 916-548-3280 or ([jim@csacfc.org](mailto:jim@csacfc.org)). The current partner list is attached for your reference.



# Organizational Chart



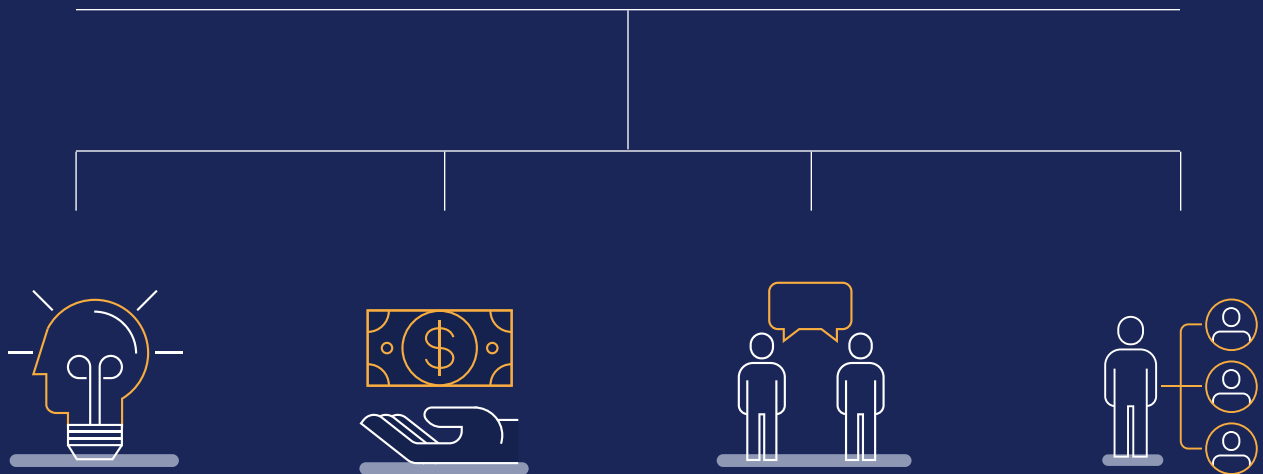


## Mission Statement:

To provide a broad array of finance, investment, insurance and purchasing services to benefit California counties and related public agencies.

## Commitment & Priorities

# “Dedicated to the Business of Improving Public Services for Counties and Their Constituents”



Create and Manage  
Innovative Public Services  
and Products

Provide Financial  
Support to CSAC

Collaborate With  
Complementary National  
& State Organizations

Maintain Strong  
Relationships With  
our Service Providers

1100 K Street, Suite 101 \* Sacramento, CA 95814 [www.csacfc.org](http://www.csacfc.org)



# PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA  
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### **2. Amity Foundation**

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### **3. Anthem Blue Cross**

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### **4. Aramark**

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**14. Enterprise Mobility**

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# PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA  
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### **5. Coast2Coast Rx**

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# PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA  
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August 21, 2025

**To:** CSAC Executive Committee

**From:** Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Foundation President  
Paul Danczyk, PhD, Chief Operating Officer

**RE: Report – California Counties Foundation**

The Foundation's work continues to expand across the State, reaching all counties through courses at the William "Bill" Chiat Institute for Excellence in County Government (CSAC Institute) and via free and premium services offered by CSAC Grants Initiative (CGI). The Foundation welcomed a Program Manager; expanded its executive services, county campuses, and executive leadership programs; and launched a new website.



***The Foundation Footprint as of August 2025***

## 1. Foundation Website

The Foundation proudly launched a new website at [csacfoundation.org](https://csacfoundation.org), staying consistent with CSAC. The site effectively meets member needs with improved ease and access. After testing and a soft launch, the site was made public August 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 2. CSAC Institute

The CSAC Institute supports county professional development efforts through high-impact and high-quality executive-level courses. The return on investment is clear—the Institute has lasting personal and professional impacts. Course evaluations reinforce that the content and delivery facilitate immediate applications through additional tools and resources. The long-term impacts are measured through annual alumni surveys. From last fall, 97% of the respondents indicated that their experiences were excellent or positive. Career benefits reinforced professional growth and expanded networking opportunities.

The total number of course enrollments in FY25 was 4,302. While not unique participants, it does provide a scope of interest and need. FY25 had 335 graduates earning credentials through the completion of 10 courses. The 122 courses included 88 onsite and 34 virtual. For comparison, FY24 had 4,177 enrollments with 278 graduates.

Credentials can either be self-driven or through county and association partnerships.

2025 county partners include: **Humboldt**/Del Norte/Trinity, **Butte**/Colusa/Glenn, **Sutter**/Yuba, **Inyo**/Mono, **Stanislaus**, **Fresno**/Madera/Kings/Tulare, **Monterey**, **Ventura**, **Los Angeles**, and **Orange**/Riverside. (Counties in bold were/are hosts.)

2025 association partnerships include: California Association of County Executives (CACE), California Counties Human Resources (CCHR), and California Counties Information Services Directors Association (CCISDA). **Specialized programs include:**

#### Los Angeles County: Executive Leadership Development Program

The Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP) is a partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources (DHR) to provide leaders in Los Angeles with essential skills to transition into higher roles. Two cohorts of 25 will begin a 15-week program on September 3, 2025. Cohort participants are spread across the 38 departments to encourage cross collaboration as they complete group projects, engage in executive coaching, and participate in fourteen courses focused on ten leadership competencies. Graduates of the program will earn the Los Angeles County Executive Credential.

#### New Supervisors Institute 2024 - 2025

A series of three modules, the program wrapped up the final module in Sacramento on July 17-18, 2025. Elected County Supervisors that completed the program earned the California County Supervisor Credential.

#### CCISDA 2024 – 2025 Cohort, Renewed Partnership

Since 2016, the Institute has partnered with the California County Information Services Directors Association (CCISDA) to offer the Technology Executive Credential. The current 2025 cohort of 43 participants from 25 counties are advancing towards earning a technology credential at CCISDA's annual conference this fall. The Institute and CCISDA renewed partnership for the 2026 cohort and opened registration.

#### HR Directors Institute 2024-2025

The Institute partnered with California Counties Human Resources (CCHR) for the Human Resources Executive Institute 2024-2025 program. Consistent with other Institute credentials, the program was designed with 50+ hours of instruction. The residency was across 4 days and, to tailor the program, included elective courses. Participants included 26 HR directors and senior leadership from 17 counties. Graduates will be recognized on August 28 during CCHR's conference in San Diego. The Institute and CCHR renewed partnership for the 2026 cohort and opened registration. The residency will be in Sacramento, December 8-12, 2025.

#### Alumni Program: Strengthening Response Muscles – 2025

To support Institute alumni, this program focused on responding to (instead of reacting to) difficult situations through courageous leadership, assertive communication, and self-care. Based on alumni requests, this program was offered in the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

#### Realignment Training

The Institute offers realignment training twice a year. Spring Realignment was delivered on April 3-4, 2025 in San Bernardino County. Fall Realignment will take place on October 2-3, 2025 in Sacramento.

### CAO Executive Institute

The CAO Executive Institute was first launched in 2013 to support CEO/CAO success by fostering professional growth and creating pathways into executive leadership roles. This year's program builds on the formerly titled "So You Want to Be a CAO?" curriculum, enhanced with insights gathered from one-on-one interviews and focus groups. The 2025–2026 Institute includes five modules and, to tailor the experience, electives. The first residency will take place December 10–12 in Sacramento.

### Master Classes in Public Service Leadership

The Institute has launched four virtual courses exploring public service topics that enhance leadership practices. The Institute partnered with nationally recognized faculty who have a deep understanding of the challenges faced within local government. Topics include cultivating employee resilience, understanding the impact of optimism and gratitude, crafting adaptable solutions in a dynamic environment, and tackling complex problems with evidence-based interventions. The first course was on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Recent Graduations: Executive Credential Program

CSAC Institute recognized participants from Ventura County during the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Upcoming cohort graduations include Humboldt, Riverside and Orange counties.

### Participant Feedback:

*"I really value the time spent with the cohort. The four hours were just right. The activities were useful. I learned other departments' leaders' perspectives on the topics discussed, which was helpful and useful. Our input seemed valued by other participants, which was validating." Ventura County Executive*



*Pictured with the graduates: Supervisor Kelly Long, Supervisor Matt LaVere, Supervisor Vianey Lopez, Supervisor Janice S. Parvin, Supervisor Jeff Gorell (on screen), CEO Sevet Johnson, CSAC CEO Graham Knaus, and Foundation COO Paul Danczyk with Ventura County graduates as they received their credentials at the Board of Supervisors Meeting on June 3rd.*

### Upcoming Onsite Campuses

The Institute continues its efforts to design both onsite campuses and virtual offerings. Campus designs range in intensive approaches through offering ten courses between five- and ten-month time periods.

Programs currently underway include:

1. Orange and Riverside counties (hosted by Orange County)
2. Monterey County (Cohort 2)
3. Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties (hosted by Humboldt County)
4. Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Madera counties (hosted by Fresno County)
5. Inyo and Mono counties (hosted by Inyo County)

Programs starting this fall include:

6. Stanislaus County
7. Glenn, Butte, and Colusa counties (hosted by Butte County)
8. Sutter and Yuba counties
9. Monterey Cohort (Cohort 3)

### **3. Executive Services**

The Foundation offers executive services to support elected officials and senior executives, tailored towards county needs and requests. Services include executive coaching, retreats, seminars, and keynote presenters. Recent initiatives include:

- County Information Services Directors Association: April 29th, keynote presenter.
- Trinity County: August - September 2025, board chair multi-rater assessment.
- El Dorado County: August – September 2025, Board workshop.
- Legislative Staff Management Institute: August - October 2025, executive coaching.
- Stanislaus County: August 18th, leadership summit.
- City of Ventura: October 16th, executive coaching.

### **4. CSAC Grants Initiative**

CGI—a partnership between the CSAC Foundation and The Ferguson Group—connects counties with federal and state funding for essential community projects. In response to the temporary federal funding freeze enacted earlier this year under a Trump Administration executive order, CGI has shifted its focus to premium, customized services for counties with identified needs and active funding pursuits. These services include expert project development, tailored grant research, application review, strategic funding guidance, and comprehensive pre- and post-award management and compliance consulting—providing dedicated, end-to-end support to help counties compete successfully and deliver measurable community impact during this funding transition period.

CGI is pleased to welcome **Del Norte County** as its newest premium client. Del Norte joins **Inyo, Mono, Sacramento, and Sonoma Counties** in receiving customized, high-level grant consulting services tailored to advance county priorities and secure critical funding. Since 2023, CGI has also delivered premium services to **Humboldt, Imperial, Nevada, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties**, reflecting our ongoing commitment to helping counties navigate competitive funding opportunities and achieve transformative community outcomes.



## 5. Staff Announcement



**Ruth McCormack**, MPA, joins the CSAC California Counties Foundation team as a Program Manager, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience in public administration and educational programming. She previously served as the Program Manager of the South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone, the backbone entity for one of the 22 national Promise Zones. Ruth holds a master's degree in public administration and a graduate certificate in social innovation from the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Barnard College, Columbia University. Ruth is originally from Cambridge, MA, and currently lives in the Echo Park neighborhood within Los Angeles.

Join us in welcoming Ruth to the team as she leads the Los Angeles County: Executive Leadership Development Program.

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# California Association of County Executives

*Providing Executive Leadership in California's Counties*

808 R Street, Suite 209 ■ Sacramento, CA ■ 95814 ■ 916-231-2131 ■ [www.calcountyexecs.com](http://www.calcountyexecs.com)

August 21, 2025

TO: CSAC Executive Committee

FROM: Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO and CACE President

**RE: Summer Update from the California Association of County Executives (CACE)**

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As always, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the meetings of the CSAC Executive Committee and Board of Directors. This memo provides an update from the county administrators and executives statewide on the association's recent activities and future events.

As are county supervisors, county administrators are understandably very concerned about the state and local implications of the federal government's budget decisions. We are collaboratively discussing implementation timelines and sharing approaches to best assess impacts in the near- and long-term. Equally, we are discussing and watching the economic data. Cuts at federal and state levels along with a slowdown in economic activity can have devastating impacts on our counties.

In addition, our work continues in the following areas:

- Exploring options for ensuring continued provision of jail medical services and for improving counties' engagement in SB 90 mandate process;
- Engaging on matters related to claims against counties that create fiscal liabilities to ensure that effective and practical tools are available to manage county budgets;
- Supporting CACE members through information sharing, networking, and mentoring; and
- Discussing potential opportunities to innovate and collaborate on service provision to our various constituencies.
- Engaging on legislative matters at the request of CSAC, our respective boards, or other organizations as requested.

CACE is finalizing the agenda for our membership's annual conference planned for October in Sonoma County. The meeting will feature opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, sharing best practices, and hearing from a variety of speakers on practical, policy-focused matters as well as leadership and professional development topics.

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# County Counsels' Association of California

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, President, and  
Members of the CSAC Executive Committee

**From:** Jennifer Bacon Henning, CSAC General Counsel and  
CCAC Executive Director

**Date:** August 21, 2025

**Re:** Litigation Coordination Program Update

This memorandum will provide you with information on the Litigation Coordination Program's new case activity since your April 3, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Recent CSAC court filings are available on CSAC's website at: <http://www.csac.counties.org/csac-litigation-coordination-program>.

The following jurisdictions have received or are receiving amicus support in the new cases described in this report:

COUNTIES	CITIES	OTHER AGENCIES
Butte Los Angeles Mariposa Merced Nevada San Diego Ventura	Azusa Berkeley Burbank Carson Pacifica Redlands Santa Barbara Tiburon	

### ***Berkeley People's Alliance v. Berkeley***

Pending in the First Appellate District (filed Jan. 15, 2025)(A172245)

Status: Fully Briefed; Case Pending

In response to significant disruptions during Berkeley City Council meetings in late 2023 and early 2024, the Council relied on [Government Code section 54957.9](#) on several occasions to clear a meeting room and continue the meeting. In each instance, the mayor

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determined that the level of disruption and number of protesters meant the Council could not restore order by removing the disruptive individuals. The Council recessed and reconvened in an adjacent room, allowing press access and public participation via videoconference. Plaintiffs challenged the City's actions, arguing that the City was required to try removing specific individuals first, and could only clear the room if order was still not restored. Pursuant to Section 54957.9, before a legislative body may order a meeting room cleared, it must first try and fail to restore order by removing specific disruptive individuals. Plaintiffs also argued that after the meeting room is cleared, the Council was required to reconvene in the same room. The trial court upheld the City's actions, holding that the City complied with Section 54957.9 because the statute provides a necessary condition for a legislative body to clear the meeting room and continue the meeting without public attendance -- that order is unachievable through removal of individuals -- but does not require that the City actually try to remove people one by one before clearing the room. Plaintiffs have appealed. CSAC has filed a brief in support of the City.

***Carachure v. City of Azusa***

110 Cal.App.5th 776 (2d Dist. Apr. 15, 2025)(B336778), *petition for review denied* (July 27, 2025)(S291094)

Status: Case Closed

In this challenge to the City of Azusa's sewer and trash service fees, the central question is whether the petitioner must exhaust administrative remedies under Health and Safety Code § 5472 by paying the challenged fees under protest and seeking a refund. The trial court found that exhaustion was required, but the Court of Appeal reversed. The court held that plaintiffs did not have to file a claim for a refund before seeking judicial relief because their constitutional challenge to the City's collection and use of franchise fees sought relief outside the scope of the statutory claims procedure for refund. The court determined that the plain language of the statutory scheme requires a taxpayer to pay under protest and file a refund claim before filing a superior court action for a refund of sewer or trash fees. But it does not require the same of a plaintiff challenging the constitutionality of a city's general practices for setting and spending such fees. CSAC filed a brief in the Court of Appeal in this case and support the City's petition for review, but review was denied.

***Cleveland National Forest Foundation v. County of San Diego***

109 Cal.App.5th 1257 (4th Dist. Div. 2 Mar. 27, 2025)(D083555), *petition for rehearing denied* (Apr. 28, 2025), *petition for review denied* (July 16, 2025)(S290759)

Status: Case Closed

CEQA allows agencies to create "thresholds of significance" to assist in determining whether an environmental effect caused by a project must be evaluated. In 2022, San Diego County adopted thresholds of significance that,

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if met, would in most cases obviate the need for the developer of a proposed project to perform an analysis of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), the metric generally used to determine the significance of transportation-related environmental effects.

Plaintiffs, two environmental groups, appealed their unsuccessful challenge to two of those thresholds: (1) “infill” projects proposed to be built within the County’s unincorporated villages (the infill threshold); and (2) projects that are expected to generate no more than 110 automobile trips per day regardless of where they are built (the small project threshold). Plaintiffs claimed the infill threshold was adopted in violation of Public Resources Code section 21099, CEQA Guidelines, and guidance from the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) because it omits a numeric VMT target. They also asserted that both thresholds are based on unproven assumptions about transportation impacts unsupported by any substantial evidence. They argued there is no evidence to show that these assumptions are necessarily valid for San Diego County.

The appellate court agreed that the record developed by the County failed to support the adopted thresholds, and on that basis reversed. As to the infill exemption, the court noted that “as a conceptual matter, CEQA does not prohibit the County from adopting a qualitative infill threshold. The more difficult question is whether the specific infill threshold the County chose to adopt is supported by substantial evidence.” On that “more difficult question,” that court found that “the County was required to make some showing that development consistent with the adopted infill threshold will normally or likely result in an insignificant transportation effect. In other words, will development in infill and village areas, as defined by the County, generally result in per capita VMT that is insignificant, even if it does not always do so?” On this point, the court concluded that the “infill threshold adopted by the County is based on assumptions not supported by substantial evidence showing that development consistent with the threshold will generally be VMT-insignificant under local conditions.” On the small project threshold, the court found that the County erred in relying on statewide data instead of evidence that the small project threshold is justified by local conditions.

CSAC supported the County’s efforts at depublication and Supreme Court review, but both requests were denied.

***Coalition for Pacificans for an Updated Plan v. City and Council of the City of Pacifica***

Pending in the First Appellate District (filed June 11, 2024)(A170704)

Status: Fully Briefed; Case Pending

Under the Housing Accountability Act (HAA), a local agency is prohibited from disapproving a housing development project unless it makes certain written findings based on a preponderance of the evidence in the record. In 2024, the HAA was amended by [AB 1633](#) to provide additional

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protections for local governments who have been sued by neighbors or interest groups for approving a housing development project. These amendments make it more difficult for plaintiffs challenging projects approved under the HAA to receive attorneys' fees by requiring the court to consider various priorities in the HAA. Specifically, Government Code section 65589.5(p)(1) states: "It is the intent of the Legislature that attorney's fees and costs shall rarely, if ever, be awarded if a local agency, acting in good faith, approved a housing development project that satisfies conditions established [by the HAA]." Here, plaintiffs successfully challenged an HAA project under CEQA and the trial court granted plaintiff \$2 million in attorneys' fees. The City has appealed. This appears to be the first appellate decision to consider application of Section 65589.5(p)(1). CSAC has filed an amicus brief in support of the City and the case is pending before the Court of Appeal.

***Di Lauro v. City of Burbank***

110 Cal.App.5th 969 (2d Dist. Mar. 28, 2025)(B334408), *request for publication granted* (Apr. 23, 2025), *petition for review denied* (July 30, 2025)(S291103)  
Status: Case Closed

This case raised the issue of whether the California Public Records Act authorizes class action claims. The trial court concluded the answer is no: "One must remember that there would be no enforceable claim regarding public records access absent this statute, and, as such, the statute is a focused waiver of the otherwise applicable concept of sovereign immunity. As such, the express limitation of standing to bring a claim under the statute should be respected and not eroded by countervailing considerations that class actions are a desirable procedural device which should be grafted onto all types of litigation." In an unpublished opinion, the Court of Appeal affirmed, concluding that the plain language of the statute and the applicable case law demonstrate the "limited nature of relief available under the CPRA, reinforcing the trial court's correct determination that a class action to enforce the CPRA is not permissible on the facts alleged in plaintiff's complaint." . . . [P]ermittting plaintiff to pursue a class action under the circumstances alleged here would not necessarily enhance public access, particularly where there is no indication that large numbers of ascertainable people are being denied access to public records held by the DWP." CSAC successfully requested that the opinion be published and the California Supreme Court later denied review.

***Disney Platform Distribution Inc. v. City of Santa Barbara***

Pending in the Second Appellate District (filed Nov. 13, 2024)(B342211)  
Status: Fully Brief; Case Pending

Since 2008, the City of Santa Barbara has imposed a tax on "video services," which service providers collect from users and remit to the city. This tax has historically applied to cable television services but has faced declining revenue as consumers shift to online streaming. In 2023, the city determined

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that streaming services like ESPN+, Disney+, and Hulu qualify as “video services” under the tax ordinance. Since the companies failed to collect the tax the city determined was owed, it issued assessments against them, which were upheld by the superior court. The companies have appealed. CSAC has filed a brief in support of the City.

***Holman v. County of Butte***

111 Cal.App.5th 177 (3d Dist. May 12, 2025)(C101517), *request for publication granted* (May 15, 2025), *petition for review pending* (filed June 23, 2024)(S291567)

Status: Petition for Review Pending

Plaintiff was allegedly abused by his parents when he was a minor. In 2006, when he was 14, his teacher reported suspected abuse to the County’s child welfare department. After receiving the report, the social worker decided to “evaluate out” the referral, meaning the case was closed out without conducting an in-person investigation or cross-reporting it to other government agencies. Plaintiff later brought this action under Government Claims section 815.6, alleging that the County welfare department breached a mandatory duty to cross-report suspected child abuse to local law enforcement under Penal Code sec. 11166 (k) upon receipt of a report submitted by a mandatory reporter. The trial court granted the County’s motion for summary judgment on the basis that the County’s employee determination that no abuse or neglect occurred and therefore had no duty to cross-report to law enforcement for investigation was discretionary. CSAC has filed a letter with the California Supreme Court urging it to grant Butte County’s Petition for Review, which is currently pending.

***K.C. v. County of Merced***

109 Cal.App.5th 606 (5th Dist. Feb. 18, 2025)(F087088), *request for publication granted* (Mar. 11, 2025), *petition for review granted* (June 25, 2025)(S290435)

Status: Amicus Brief Due December 12, 2025

This is a revived claim of childhood sexual abuse against Merced County involving alleged acts of sexual abuse that occurred in two foster homes in the early to mid 1970’s. The complaint alleges that social workers had actual or constructive knowledge of the abuse but failed to take any investigative or protective action. The trial court sustained a demurrer in favor of the County, and the Fifth District affirmed in an unpublished opinion. The court concluded that “[i]n view of statutes granting discretionary immunity to public employees and derivative immunity to public entity employers (see Gov. Code, §§ 815.2, subd. (b), 820.2),” the demurrer was properly sustained. The court noted the “strong policy considerations in favor of upholding immunity” for social workers, citing to case law confirming that “the social worker’s independence . . . would be compromised were the social worker constantly in fear that a mistake could result in a time-consuming and financially devastating civil

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suit.” CSAC successfully requested that the opinion be published, but unfortunately the Supreme Court has now granted review to consider whether discretionary act immunity under Government Code section 820.2 precludes liability. CSAC will file an amicus brief in support of Merced County.

***Mariposa County v. California Dept of Human Resources***

Pending in the Third Appellate District (filed Aug. 21, 2024)(C101902)

Status: Amicus Brief Due October 30, 2025

Mariposa County terminated an employee, DeJesus, after concluding he sexually harassed multiple subordinate employees. DeJesus appealed to CalHR. The ALJ upheld the termination, concluding DeJesus’ conduct was sufficiently severe and pervasive and the likelihood of recurrence was high. DeJesus appealed the CalHR decision to the Sacramento Superior Court, which remanded based on its finding that some of the witness testimony was hearsay. On remand, CalHR issued a new decision finding that DeJesus had “committed egregious misconduct” and that the likelihood of recurrence is “extremely high,” but it reversed his termination and instead concluded he should be suspended for one year and demoted, but reinstated. Mariposa County challenged this decision through a writ petition to the Sacramento Superior Court, but the court denied the writ, concluding that the County did not show that CalHR engaged in the “manifest abuse of discretion” required to set aside the decision. CSAC will file a brief in support of the County.

***Ocean S. v. County of Los Angeles***

Pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (filed Dec. 16, 2024)(24-7577)

Status: Fully Briefed; Case Pending

This putative class action was brought by seven “transition age foster youth” (ages 16-21) who allege that the State and County defendants are violating federal law and their constitutional rights by failing to provide “meaningful access to the crucial housing, mental health, and other services to which they are legally entitled.” On June 11, 2024, the federal trial court granted in part and denied in part the County’s motions to dismiss. As relevant to this amicus request, the County argued that dismissal was under the *Younger* abstention doctrine, which is a legal doctrine that prevents federal courts from hearing cases that are already being litigated in state court. The County argued the doctrine applied here because dependency cases are intended to fully address a foster youth’s needs, including their housing placements. The district court disagreed. It noted that there is a split among the federal appellate courts on the issue of whether *Younger* applies to state-initiated child-welfare litigation. But ultimately the court concluded that because “the claims advanced in this action are not within either of the civil categories identified in, abstention is not appropriate.” The County then requested that the district court certify its ruling on the *Younger* issue for immediate appeal, which the district court granted. CSAC supported the

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County's request to the Ninth Circuit to hear the appeal, which was granted. CSAC also filed a brief on the merits in support of LA County.

***Rogers v. City of Redlands***

112 Cal.App.5th 667 (4th Dist. Div. 3 June 4, 2025)(G063580), *petition for rehearing denied; request for publication granted* (June 30, 2025), *petition for review pending* (filed July 14, 2025)(S291893)

**Status: Petition for Review Pending**

This case is an appeal of a lawsuit challenging the city's decision to transfer a portion of the revenue collected from its solid waste collection fee to the citywide street paving program to repair road damage caused by solid waste collection vehicles. Plaintiff argued that the charge violates Vehicle Code section 9400.8, which states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, . . . no local agency may impose a tax, permit fee, or other charge for the privilege of using its streets or highways, other than a permit fee for extra legal loads. . . ." The City argued that its use of solid waste fee revenue did not violate section 9400.8 because it "charges utility rates calculated to recover the full cost of providing service on a record which properly estimates those costs, including the costs . . . to remedy the impact on streets of regular travel by utility trucks on streets, including residential streets not designed for such loads. This is not a charge for the privilege of using streets, but recovery from service recipients of the cost to remediate damage to streets necessarily incurred to provide the service." The trial court disagreed, finding that the transfer of a portion of the solid waste fee to the pavement repair program violated section 9400.8.

CSAC filed a brief in support of the City in the Court of Appeal, but the court upheld the trial court ruling against the City. The court held that a road maintenance or impact fee is simply one type of fee for the privilege of using a road, and as such violates section 9400.8. CSAC has now joined the City in requesting that the California Supreme Court hear this case.

***Shehyn v. Ventura County Public Works***

108 Cal.App.5th 1254 (2d Dist. Feb. 20, 2025)(B337452), *petition for review denied* (May 14, 2025)(S289998)

**Status: Case Closed**

Plaintiff brought this inverse condemnation action alleging that sediment from the Ventura County Public Works water delivery system permanently damaged the pipes used to irrigate his commercial avocado orchard. The trial court ruled in favor of the County, finding that inverse condemnation claims cannot lie where the landowner consents to defendant entering the property. The Court of Appeal, in a very brief opinion, reversed, finding there is no brightline rule prohibiting inverse condemnation claims in cases like this one where the damages are caused by a system that the plaintiff voluntarily allowed on this property. The County sought Supreme Court review, which CSAC supported, but the Petition for Review was denied.



***Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co. v. City of Carson***

Unpublished Opinion of the Second Appellate District, 2025 Cal.App.Unpub. LEXIS 1248 (2d Dist. Feb. 28, 2025)(B335686), *request for publication denied* (Mar. 21, 2025), *petition for review granted* (May 28, 2025)(S289952)

Status: Amicus Brief Due October 16, 2025

The City of Carson has an Oil Industry Business License Tax (OIBLT), which imposes a tax on petroleum processing or refining operations within the City. The ordinance includes an administrative process for seeking refunds of alleged overpayments. In this case, plaintiff believed it was wrongly assessed for its OIBLT. It filed a claim with the City under the Government Claims Act, and when its claim was denied it filed a complaint in the trial court seeking a refund. The trial court agreed with the City that plaintiff could not bring its lawsuit because it did not exhaust the City's administrative process. In an unpublished opinion, the Court of Appeal affirmed, rejecting the plaintiff's argument that the City's administrative process was preempted by the Government Claims Act. CSAC's request for publication of the opinion was denied, but the Supreme Court has granted review notwithstanding the unpublished status. CSAC will file a brief in support of the City.

***The Committee for Tiburon v. Town of Tiburon***

Pending in the First Appellate District (filed Nov. 14, 2024)(A171983)

Status: Amicus Brief Due August 22, 2025

As part of the Town of Tiburon's 2023 Housing Element update, the town was required to identify specific sites on which new housing could be developed to accommodate their RHNA allocation. One site identified for development was Site H, a 9.3-acre site where up to 118 units could be built. Tiburon certified a program Environmental Impact Report for adoption of proposed amendments to its General Plan and Housing Element, which included Site H. A group of residents formed the Committee for Tiburon and filed a lawsuit, claiming that the town's General Plan, Housing Element, and rezoning decision for Site H violated CEQA. They argued that the program EIR was insufficient because it lacked a detailed site-specific analysis of environmental impacts for Site H. The trial court agreed with the petitioners, stating that the EIR should have addressed foreseeable environmental impacts at the program level, rather than deferring such analysis to a later stage. Although the court acknowledged the town's legal constraints, it ruled that the EIR for Site H was inadequate and ordered the town to redraft and recirculate a focused EIR that analyzed the specific impacts of Site H's development. The town appealed, with the central issue being the appropriate level of CEQA review for a program-level EIR related to the housing element. CSAC will file an amicus brief in support of the City.

August 8, 2025

***Tindall v. County of Nevada***

112 Cal.App.5th 78 (3d Dist. May 30, 2025)(C099205), *request for publication granted* (June 18, 2025)

Status: Case Closed

This is a personal injury case filed by a Wellpath employee who allegedly slipped and fell on snow and/or ice in the County's parking lot while leaving work at the County's correctional facility. She brought this action, alleging that the presence of snow and/or ice in the parking lot was a dangerous condition for which the County could be held liable. The County asserted the so-called "weather immunity defense" of Government Code section 831, which states, in part: "Neither a public entity nor a public employee is liable for an injury caused by the effect on the use of streets and highways of weather conditions as such." The trial court ruled in the County's favor. The court first concluded that the parking lot of the correctional facility was a "street or highway" for purposes of section 831 immunity. In an unpublished opinion, the Court of Appeal affirmed, concluding that section 831 immunity does indeed apply to parking lots. CSAC filed an amicus brief in this case and also joined the County in its successful publication request.