

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, December 4, 2025
2:00pm – 4:30pm

San Jose McEnery Convention Center | Grand Ballroom B/C
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97939501273?pwd=H8ubKSS5CrKAKXQn5oKzfzujrq9alt.1>
Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 979 3950 1273 | Passcode: 574445

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

Jeff Griffiths | President
Susan Ellenberg | 1st Vice President
Luis Alejo | 2nd Vice President
Bruce Gibson | Immediate Past President

ADVISORS

Jennifer Mendoza Flores | Tulare County Counsel,
CCAC Past President
Jason Britt | Tulare County CAO, CACE President

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer
Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer
Kimberly Rodriguez | Chief Legislative Advocate

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Belia Ramos | Treasurer, Napa County

Alameda	–	David Haubert	Orange	–	Doug Chaffee
Alpine	–	Terry Woodrow	Placer	–	Bonnie Gore
Amador	–	Jeff Brown	Plumas	–	Tom McGowan
Butte	–	Tod Kimmelshue	Riverside	–	V. Manuel Perez
Calaveras	–	Autumn Andahl (<i>alternate</i>)	Sacramento	–	Rich Desmond
Colusa	–	Kent Boes	San Benito	–	Angela Curro
Contra Costa	–	John Gioia	San Bernardino	–	Jesse Armendarez (<i>absent</i>)
Del Norte	–	Chris Howard	San Diego	–	Monica Montgomery Steppe (<i>absent</i>)
El Dorado	–	Greg Ferrero	San Francisco	–	Rafael Mandelman (<i>absent</i>)
Fresno	–	Buddy Mendes	San Joaquin	–	Robert Rickman
Glenn	–	Grant Carmon	San Luis Obispo	–	Bruce Gibson
Humboldt	–	Michelle Bushnell	San Mateo	–	Lisa Gauthier
Imperial	–	Jesus Eduardo Escobar (<i>absent</i>)	Santa Barbara	–	Bob Nelson (<i>absent</i>)
Inyo	–	Trina Orrill	Santa Clara	–	Susan Ellenberg
Kern	–	Leticia Perez	Santa Cruz	–	Justin Cummings
Kings	–	Rusty Robinson	Shasta	–	Kevin Crye
Lake	–	Bruno Sabatier	Sierra	–	Lee Adams
Lassen	–	Gary Bridges	Siskiyou	–	Ed Valenzuela
Los Angeles	–	Holly Mitchell (<i>alternate</i>)	Solano	–	Wanda Williams
Madera	–	Jordan Wamhoff	Sonoma	–	James Gore (<i>absent</i>)
Marin	–	Mary Sackett	Stanislaus	–	Vito Chiesa (<i>alternate</i>)
Mariposa	–	Rosemarie Smallcombe	Sutter	–	Dan Flores
Mendocino	–	John Haschack	Tehama	–	Tom Walker
Merced	–	Scott Silveira	Trinity	–	Ric Leutwyler
Modoc	–	Ned Coe	Tulare	–	Amy Shuklian
Mono	–	John Peters	Tuolumne	–	Ryan Campbell
Monterey	–	Luis Alejo	Ventura	–	Kelly Long
Napa	–	Anne Cottrell	Yolo	–	Lucas Frerichs
Nevada	–	Heidi Hall	Yuba	–	Gary Bradford

2. CEO's Report

Graham Knaus, CEO, provided an update on the Association.

3. Presentation from California State Treasurer

Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer, presented to the Board.

4. Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2025

A motion to approve the Minutes from September 11, 2025, was made by Supervisor Mary Sackett and seconded by Supervisor Susan Ellenberg. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of Building Financing Policy

Chastity Benson, COO, and Rob Pierce, COO of the CSAC Finance Corporation, provided an update on the CSAC Building Renovation Project. They requested that the Board consider authorization of the financing plan, which included the issuance of tax-exempt bonds in a not-to-exceed amount of \$41,855,000, proceed with the bond financing structure, approve the shared debt service payment plan between CSAC and the CSAC Finance Corporation, and prepare and execute all related financing documents. This authorization would allow staff to proceed with bond issuance activities, including securing a credit rating and scheduling the bond sale.

A motion to Authorize the Financing Plan for the CSAC Building Renovation Project and the Issuance of Bonds in a Not to Exceed Amount and Authorize Staff to Prepare and Execute Related Documents was made by Supervisor Scott Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Bruce Gibson. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Consideration of Updated CSAC Policies and Procedures Manual including Addition of Investment Policy

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Chastity Benson, COO, presented the updated CSAC Policies and Procedures Manual for the Board's consideration. Key updates included updating caucus representation due to caucus membership changes for the Rural and Suburban Caucuses in 2024, clarifying the dues structure to incorporate the previous Board-approved 3% annual dues increase, and establishing a new investment policy to ensure consistent and responsible investment practices.

A motion to approve the Updated CSAC Policies and Procedures Manual including Addition of Investment Policy, was made by Supervisor Scott Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Doug Chaffee. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Caucus Report Outs & Election of 2026 Executive Committee

Rural: Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, Rural Caucus Chair, provided an update from the Rural Caucus Meeting, which included the election of CSAC's new 2nd Vice President, Colusa County Supervisor Kent Boes, and the election of CSAC's 2026 Rural Caucus Executive Committee members:

- Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County
- Grant Carmon, Glenn County
- John Peters, Mono County (alternate)

Urban: Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Urban Caucus Chair, provided an update from the Urban Caucus Meeting, which included the election of CSAC's 2026 Urban Caucus Executive Committee members:

- Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County
- Rich Desmond, Sacramento County
- David Haubert, Alameda County
- Kelly Long, Ventura County
- Buddy Mendes, Fresno County
- V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County
- John Gioia, Contra Costa County (alternate)

Suburban: Supervisor Luis Alejo, Suburban Caucus Chair, provided an update from the Suburban Caucus Meeting, which included the election of CSAC's 2026 Suburban Caucus Executive Committee members:

- Bonnie Gore, Placer County
- Mary Sackett, Marin County
- Scott Silveira, Merced County
- Lucas Frerichs, Yolo County (alternate)

A motion to approve the election of CSAC's 2026 Executive Committee was made by Supervisor Tom McGowan and seconded by Supervisor Doug Chaffee. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution Authorizing Conduct of CSAC Business

A motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Conduct of CSAC Business was made by Supervisor John Peters and seconded by Supervisor Doug Chaffee. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Adoption of Policy Priorities

Kimberly Rodriguez, Chief Legislative Advocate, provided a brief legislative update.

Each of CSAC's 5 Policy Committees convened as part of the Annual Meeting. The following chairs/vice chairs provided a report to the Board, which included an update on each committee's adopted priorities:

- Administration of Justice: Chair Bruno Sabatier, Lake County
- Agriculture, Environment, & Natural Resources: Chair Jessica Pyska, Lake County
- Government Finance & Administration: Vice Chairs Anne Cottrell, Napa County, and Angela Curro, San Benito County
- Health & Human Services: Chair Holly Mitchell, Los Angeles County
- Housing, Land Use, & Transportation: Chair Gary Bradford, Yuba County

A motion to approve the Adoption of Policy Priorities was made by Supervisor Doug Chaffee and seconded by Supervisor Holly Mitchell. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Federal Priority Issues Update

Joe Krahn, Tom Joseph, and Hasan Sarsour of Paragon Government Relations provided a Federal Priorities and Issues update to the Board.

11. Conflict of Interest Policy

Jennifer Henning, CSAC General Counsel, provided a brief overview of CSAC's Conflict of Interest Policy and asked each Board Member to sign and return the Conflict of Interest Policy form.

12. Operations & Member Engagement Report

Chastity Benson, COO, provided an update on CSAC's operations, reporting that CSAC's annual audit was completed with an unmodified opinion, and that staff has relocated to interim office space at 980 9th Street during the renovation of CSAC's historic 1100 K Street building.

13. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Supervisor Oscar Villegas, CSAC Finance Corp. President, Alan Fernandes, CSAC FC CEO, and Rob Pierce, CSAC FC COO, provided an update on recent Finance Corp. activities. Jim Manker, Director of Business Development, introduced a new corporate partner, Amazon.

14. California Counties Foundation Report

Paul Danczyk, California Counties Foundation COO, reported on several programs, highlighting the Los Angeles County Executive Leadership Development Program.

15. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report

Jason Britt, CACE President and Tulare County CEO, reported on the challenges facing counties as state and local governments begin implementing federal budget decisions, and that CACE recently concluded a successful annual conference in Sonoma County.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, in Sacramento County.