

CSAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BRIEFING MATERIALS

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025

10am-2:30pm



Tsakopoulos Library Galleria | 828 I St, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96532300219?pwd=gcna xb2MZRLNDIaw eQXS5WHyXZs2MI.1>

Meeting ID: 965 3230 0219

Passcode: 648451

California State
Association of Counties



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, September 11, 2025

10:00am – 2:30pm

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Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 965 3230 0219 | Passcode: 648451

AGENDA

Presiding: Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, President

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

10:00 AM	PROCEDURAL ITEMS	
	1. Pledge of Allegiance	<i>Page 1</i>
	2. Roll Call	<i>Pages 2-3</i>
	ACTION ITEM	
	3. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2025	<i>Page 4-6</i>
	➤ <i>Jeff Griffiths President</i>	
	SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS	
	4. CEO's Report	<i>Page 7</i>
	➤ <i>Graham Knaus Chief Executive Officer</i>	
	5. Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)	<i>Page 8-9</i>
	➤ <i>Tani Cantil-Sakauye President & Chief Executive Officer</i>	
	6. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy	<i>Page 10</i>
	➤ <i>George "Mac" McCarthy President & Chief Executive Officer</i>	
	7. CSAC Building Renovation Project	<i>Page 11</i>
	➤ <i>Chastity Benson Chief Operating Officer</i>	<i>See Attachment</i>
	➤ <i>Rob Pierce Chief Operating Officer, CSAC FC</i>	
	➤ <i>Jessica Paredes Interior Designer, HGA</i>	
	➤ <i>Mike Mallery Principle, coAct 24</i>	
	ACTION ITEM	<i>See Attachment</i>
	8. Authorize the CSAC Executive Committee to review and approve the Contractor Agreement and Long Lead Item purchases	
12:00 PM	LUNCH	
12:30 PM	SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED	
	9. Working Group Updates	
	Child Care Working Group	<i>Page 12-13</i>
	➤ <i>Susan Ellenberg Santa Clara County Supervisor, Child Care Working Group Co-Vice Chair</i>	
	➤ <i>Kent Boes Colusa County Supervisor, Child Care Working Group, Co-Vice Chair</i>	
	Tribal Platform Working Group	<i>Page 14-15</i>
	➤ <i>Bonnie Gore, Placer County Supervisor Tribal Platform Working Group, Chair</i>	

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Legislative Update

- *Justin Garrett | Interim Chief Policy Officer & Senior Legislative Advocate*

Administration of Justice

- *Ryan Morimune | Senior Legislative Advocate*
- *Michaela Stone | Legislative Analyst*

Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

- *Jordan Wells | Legislative Advocate*
- *Caitlin Loventhal | Legislative Analyst*

Government Finance and Administration

- *Emma Jungwirth | Senior Legislative Advocate*
- *Eric Lawyer | Senior Legislative Advocate*
- *Julissa Ceja Cardenas | Legislative Analyst*

Health and Human Services

- *Justin Garrett | Interim Chief Policy Officer and Senior Legislative Advocate*
- *Danielle Bradley | Legislative Analyst*

Housing, Land Use and Transportation

- *Mark Neuburger | Legislative Advocate*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Minute Mics: Board of Directors Roundtable

- What's going on in your county (in one minute)

12. INFORMATION ITEMS WITHOUT PRESENTATION

- Operations & Member Services Report *Page 16-17*
- CSAC Finance Corporation Report *Page 18-30*
- California Counties Foundation Report *Page 31-35*
- California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report *Page 36*
- County Counsels' Association of California (CoCo) Report *Page 37-44*
- Institute for Local Government (ILG) Report *Page 45-49*
- 2026 Calendar of Events *Page 50*

2:30 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 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

Board of Directors

2024-2025

SECTION

U=Urban

S=Suburban

R=Rural

President:

First Vice President:

Second Vice President:

Immediate Past President:

Jeff Griffiths, Inyo

Susan Ellenberg, Santa Clara

Luis Alejo, Monterey

Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo

Members of the CSAC Executive Committee are highlighted for your reference

SECTION	COUNTY	DIRECTOR
U	Alameda County	David Haubert
R	Alpine County	Terry Woodrow
R	Amador County	Jeff Brown
S	Butte County	Tod Kimmelshue
R	Calaveras County	Benjamin Stopper
R	Colusa County	Kent Boes
U	Contra Costa County	John Gioia
R	Del Norte County	Chris Howard
R	El Dorado County	Greg Ferrero
U	Fresno County	Buddy Mendes
R	Glenn County	Grant Carmon
R	Humboldt County	Michelle Bushnell
S	Imperial County	Jesus Eduardo Escobar
R	Inyo County	Trina Orrill
S	Kern County	Leticia Perez
R	Kings County	Rusty Robinson
R	Lake County	Bruno Sabatier
R	Lassen County	Gary Bridges
U	Los Angeles County	Kathryn Barger
R	Madera County	Jordan Wamhoff
S	Marin County	Mary Sackett
R	Mariposa County	Rosemarie Smallcombe
R	Mendocino County	Maureen "Mo" Mulheren
S	Merced County	Scott Silveira
R	Modoc County	Ned Coe
R	Mono County	John Peters
S	Monterey County	Luis Alejo
S	Napa County	Anne Cottrell
R	Nevada County	Heidi Hall

U	Orange County	Doug Chaffee
S	Placer County	Bonnie Gore
R	Plumas County	Tom McGowan
U	Riverside County	V. Manuel Perez
U	Sacramento County	Rich Desmond
R	San Benito County	Angela Curro
U	San Bernardino County	Jesse Armendarez
U	San Diego County	Monica Montgomery Steppe
U	San Francisco City & County	Rafael Mandelman
U	San Joaquin County	Robert Rickman
S	San Luis Obispo County	Bruce Gibson
U	San Mateo County	Noelia Corzo
S	Santa Barbara County	Bob Nelson
U	Santa Clara County	Susan Ellenberg
S	Santa Cruz County	Manu Koenig
R	Shasta County	Kevin Crye
R	Sierra County	Lee Adams
R	Siskiyou County	Ed Valenzuela
S	Solano County	Wanda Williams
S	Sonoma County	James Gore
S	Stanislaus County	Mani Grewal
R	Sutter County	Dan Flores
R	Tehama County	Pati Nolen
R	Trinity County	Ric Leutwyler
S	Tulare County	Amy Shuklian
R	Tuolumne County	Ryan Campbell
U	Ventura County	Kelly Long
S	Yolo County	Lucas Frerichs
R	Yuba County	John Messick

TREASURER

Belia Ramos, Napa County

ADVISORS

Brian E. Washington, Marin County Counsel, County Counsels' Association Past President
Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO, California Association of County Executives, President

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 25, 2025 | 9:00am-1:00pm

SAFE Credit Union Convention Center | 1401 K St, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89319598397?pwd=ZN2CNbXbkj8f5vfdmaPR8R5JE6kg5t.1>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 893 1959 8397 | Passcode: 655942

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

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

ADVISORS

Brian E. Washington | Marin County Counsel, CoCo
Past President
Jason Britt | Tulare County CAO, CACE President

CSAC STAFF

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

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Belia Ramos | Treasurer, Napa County

Alameda	–	David Haubert	Orange	–	<i>Absent</i>
Alpine	–	Terry Woodrow	Placer	–	Bonnie Gore
Amador	–	Jeff Brown	Plumas	–	Tom McGowan
Butte	–	Tod Kimmelshue	Riverside	–	V. Manuel Perez
Calaveras	–	Benjamin Stopper	Sacramento	–	Rich Desmond
Colusa	–	Kent Boes	San Benito	–	Angela Curro
Contra Costa	–	<i>Absent</i>	San Bernardino	–	<i>Absent</i>
Del Norte	–	Chris Howard	San Diego	–	Joel Anderson (Alternate)
El Dorado	–	Greg Ferrero	San Francisco	–	Rafael Mandelman
Fresno	–	Buddy Mendes	San Joaquin	–	Robert Rickman
Glenn	–	Grant Carmon	San Luis Obispo	–	Bruce Gibson
Humboldt	–	Michelle Bushnell	San Mateo	–	<i>Absent</i>
Imperial	–	Jesus Eduardo Escobar	Santa Barbara	–	Bob Nelson
Inyo	–	Trina Orrill	Santa Clara	–	Susan Ellenberg
Kern	–	<i>Absent</i>	Santa Cruz	–	<i>Absent</i>
Kings	–	Rusty Robinson	Shasta	–	Matt Plumber (Alternate)
Lake	–	Bruno Sabatier	Sierra	–	Lee Adams
Lassen	–	Gary Bridges	Siskiyou	–	Ed Valenzuela
Los Angeles	–	<i>Absent</i>	Solano	–	Wanda Williams
Madera	–	Leticia Gonzalez	Sonoma	–	James Gore
Marin	–	Brian Colbert (Alternate)	Stanislaus	–	<i>Absent</i>
Mariposa	–	Rosemarie Smallcombe	Sutter	–	Dan Flores
Mendocino	–	Maureen “Mo” Mulheren	Tehama	–	Pati Nolen
Merced	–	<i>Absent</i>	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	–	John Messick

2. CEO's Report

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

3. State-Local Fiscal Responsibility Project

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, discussed the Meeting the Mandate book and received feedback from the Board.

4. Member Engagement Initiative

Chastity Benson, COO, and Cassandra Pye, President of Lucas Public Affairs, discussed the Member Engagement Initiative and received feedback from the Board.

5. Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2025

A motion to approve the Minutes from February 13, 2025, was made by Supervisor Lucas Frerichs and seconded by Supervisor Kent Boes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of IRS Form 990 – Tax Year 2023

A motion to approve the IRS Form 990 – Tax Year 2023 was made by Supervisor Ned Coe and seconded by Supervisor Wanda Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

7. 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 also highlighted the 3% cost of doing business adjustment for membership dues, the establishment of a 4% contingency appropriation to allow for an operating margin to address unanticipated operational needs during the budget year, and the upcoming expenditures for the CSAC building renovation project.

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 CSAC Proposed Budget and Salary Schedule for FY 2025-26 and the Clarification of the CSAC Proposed Salary Schedule for 2024-25 was made by Supervisor John Peters and seconded by Supervisor Bob Nelson. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Legislative Update & Policy Committee Reports

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, provided a brief legislative update and thanked the members for their legislative visits during the conference.

The following Policy Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs reported on the Committee meetings held during the conference:

- Administration of Justice (AOJ): Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Chair
- Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources (AENR): Supervisor Tod Kimmelshue, Vice Chair
- Government Finance & Administration (GFA): Supervisors Angela Curro and Anne Cottrell, Vice Chairs
- Health and Human Services (HHS): Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe, Vice Chair
- Housing, Land Use & Transportation (HLT): Supervisor Gary Bradford, Chair

9. Federal Priority Issues Update

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, provided a federal priority issues update.

10. Operations & Member Services Report

Chastity Benson, COO, announced that registration for the CSAC Annual Meeting will open in June and shared that CSAC's inaugural Challenge Awards Dinner was a success. Rachael Serrao, Public Affairs Manager, presented CSAC's new website, which launched during the week of the conference.

11. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Rob Pierce, CSAC Finance Corporation COO, reported that the CSAC FC Spring Meeting will be in Napa from April 30 – May 2. He also announced the following new Finance Corporation board members: Supervisor Ed Valenzuela, Edward Hill, Vernon Billy and Miguel Marquez. Jim Manker, Director of Business Development, introduced Corporate Partner Steve Bennett from Dominion Voting Systems.

12. California Counties Foundation Report

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, California Counties Foundation President, provided an update on the Foundation, highlighting the work of the Institute which will have 5 campuses in the Fall. Veronica Smith, Programs and Grants Director, provided an update on the CSAC Grants Initiative.

13. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report

Jason Britt, CACE President and Tulare County CEO, reported on the numerous priorities that county executives will be focusing on in 2025 including the federal uncertainty around jail medical.

14. County Counsels' Association of California (CoCo) Report

Brian Washington, CoCo Past President and Marin County Counsel, reported on new case activity for the Litigation Coordination Program.

15. Minute Mics: Board of Directors Roundtable

Each member of the Board of Directors spent one minute discussing pressing issues in their county.

16. Public Comment

President Jeff Griffiths opened the floor for public comment.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on September 11, 2025, in Sacramento County.



OFFICERS

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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

September 11, 2025

TO: CSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: CEO's Report

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 Board of Directors input.



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

Independent, objective, nonpartisan research



Tani Cantil-Sakauye

**PRESIDENT AND CEO
WALTER AND ESTHER HEWLETT CHAIR IN UNDERSTANDING
CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE
(CHIEF JUSTICE OF CA, RETIRED)**

Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye is president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that works to improve public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research. She assumed this role in January 2023.

Prior to joining PPIC, she served as the Chief Justice of California for 12 years. Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye established herself as one of the country's leading proponents of equal access to justice, civic education, and reform of court funding practices that unfairly affect the poor.

When she was sworn into office in January 2011 as the 28th Chief Justice of California, she became the first person of color and the second woman to serve as the state's chief justice.

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye raised awareness of the unfair financial impact of fines, fees, and the bail system on the poor. She also sought to advance bail system reform that would address concerns about fairness and public safety.

As leader of California's judicial branch and chair of the Judicial Council, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye improved the branch's efficiency, accountability, and transparency in how it conducts business, sets policy, and discloses information. She opened meetings of the Judicial Council and its advisory bodies that were once closed to the public and made public comment more accessible. Judicial Council meetings are now webcast, as are state Supreme Court oral arguments. She oversaw changes in court rules that improved how judicial branch entities prevent and address harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and inappropriate workplace conduct. During the COVID-19 pandemic she advanced remote court operations and issued hundreds of emergency orders so that courts continued to operate safely. She also launched a program to make retired judges available to fast track the resolution of certain criminal cases.

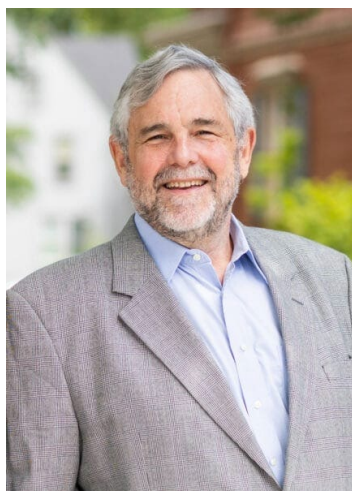
She has been recognized for her early work on domestic violence issues, support for minority bar associations, and advancing the role of women and minorities in the legal profession. She helped revitalize civic learning as chief justice through her Power of Democracy initiative. She, along with other state leaders, fulfilled one of this initiative's goals in July 2016 when the State Board of Education unanimously approved an instructional framework that encourages civic learning. In 2019, she was honored with the Sandra Day O'Connor Award by the National Center for State Courts for her work inspiring, promoting, and improving civics education.

As California's chief justice she convened leaders to address such issues as implicit bias, human trafficking, and truancy. All of her initiatives while leading the judicial branch supported her vision for a branch that provides physical access through safe and secure courthouses, remote access through technology initiatives, and equal access to all Californians.

Before she was elected statewide as the chief justice of California, she served more than 20 years on California appellate and trial courts and was appointed or elevated to higher office by three governors. Earlier in her career she served as a deputy district attorney for the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office and on the senior staff of Governor George Deukmejian, first as deputy legal affairs secretary and later as a deputy legislative secretary.

She holds a BA and a JD from the University of California, Davis.

FOLLOW US      



George W. McCarthy

President and Chief Executive Officer

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dr. George “Mac” McCarthy is president and CEO of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Since arriving at the Lincoln Institute in 2014, he has grown the organization from 38 to 165 full-time employees. His work to expand the organization’s relevance and impact is evidenced by numerous achievements, including establishing a partnership with Claremont Lincoln University, developing state-of-the-

art technology that tells parcel-level stories of land use with unprecedented detail, and growing the Lincoln Institute’s presence on a global scale through its work in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Before joining the Lincoln Institute, Mac directed Metropolitan Opportunity at the Ford Foundation, which sought to provide disadvantaged people better access to good jobs and other opportunities for advancement by supporting regional planning that integrates housing and public transit development. Mac also administered a program at Ford that focused on using homeownership to build assets for low-income families and their communities.

Prior to that, Mac worked as a senior research associate at the Center for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has also worked as professor of economics at Bard College, resident scholar at the Jerome Levy Economics Institute, visiting scholar and member of the High Table at King’s College of Cambridge University, visiting scholar at the University of Naples, Italy, and research associate at the Centre for Social Research in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Mac received a BA in economics and mathematics at the University of Montana; an MA in economics at Duke University; and a PhD in economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

CSAC Building Renovation Project
See Attachment



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Past President

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CEO

Graham Knaus

September 11, 2025

TO: CSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Chuck Washington, Riverside County, Chair
Justin Garrett, Interim Chief Policy Officer & Senior Legislative Advocate
Danielle Bradley, HHS Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: CSAC Child Care Working Group Update

Goals and Objectives

The CSAC Child Care Working Group was formed with the purposes of gaining a better understanding of California's child care system, including how unmet needs and lack of access to child care impacts counties both directly and indirectly, grow relationships with stakeholders, and explore opportunities for counties to engage in this space.

September 2025 Status Update

Since first meeting in March, the Working Group has convened three times and touched on various topics, including:

- An overview of California's child care landscape;
- A progress report on California's Master Plan for Early Learning and Care;
- Gaps in accessing care for families;
- Statewide child care and early childhood education workforce needs and gaps;
- How California's child care system has been impacted by major events over the last 5-10 years, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the expansion of universal preschool; and
- Key child care stakeholders and opportunities for counties to partner with these organizations.

The group will meet a few more times prior to the CSAC Annual Meeting in Santa Clara County this December. Planned meeting topics include the role of First 5 County Commissions, the economic impacts of lack of child care access and affordability and opportunities for private-public partnerships, and discussion on additional opportunities for counties to engage in the child care space. CSAC will summarize the findings and recommendations during CSAC's Annual Meeting.

Members

Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair (Riverside)
Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Vice Chair (Santa Clara)
Supervisor Kent Boes, Vice Chair (Colusa)
Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County
Supervisor Trina Orrill, Inyo County
Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County
Supervisor Eric Lucan, Marin County
Supervisor Belia Ramos, Napa County
Supervisor Cassandra James, Solano County



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CEO

Graham Knaus

Supervisor Lucas Frerichs, Yolo County
Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County
Supervisor Holly Mitchell, Los Angeles County
Sup. Scott Silveira, Merced County
Sup. Chris Lopez, Monterey County
Supervisor Mani Grewal, Stanislaus County

CSAC Staff Contacts:

Danielle Bradley, Legislative Analyst: dbradley@counties.org, (916) 224-3137

Justin Garrett, Interim Chief Policy Officer/Senior Legislative Advocate:

jgarrett@counties.org, (916) 698-5751



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CEO

Graham Knaus

September 11, 2025

TO: CSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Bonnie Gore, Placer County, Chair
Mark Neuburger, Legislative Advocate

SUBJECT: CSAC Tribal Platform Working Group Update

Goals and Objectives

The Tribal Platform Working Group will re-examine how CSAC's platform accounts for the evolving and multifaceted relationships between California Native American tribes and county governments. Historically, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) focused its tribal platform primarily on the impacts of development related to tribal gaming and the state compacting process. However, over the past 25 years, the interactions between counties and tribes have grown significantly more complex, encompassing a wide range of issues beyond land use.

The leadership of CSAC's Housing, Land Use & Transportation committee has acknowledged the dynamic nature of county-tribal relationships. These relationships now include various elements such as housing, transportation, public health, and environmental concerns, which extend far beyond the initial focus on land use and gaming. This evolution highlights the need for a comprehensive and updated review of how CSAC engages on tribal issues at the state and federal level that reflects the current realities and challenges faced by both counties and tribes.

Status Update

The working group has met three times and has heard presentations from county staff, CSAC advocates and tribal members. The information the workgroup has received to date has illustrated the wide variety of shared issues and cross-cutting concerns that counties and tribes have. The workgroup will continue to meet every other month over the next year to explore other issues that have a nexus with tribes. Discussions have included the potential for providing advocacy guidance to CSAC in the form of utilizing the various existing chapters that can provide direction on tribal issues instead of re-creating a standalone tribal platform.

Members

Working group members include:

Chair & Supervisor Bonnie Gore (Placer)
Supervisor Gary Bradford (Yuba)
Supervisor Ryan Campbell (Tuolumne)
Supervisor Lucas Frerichs (Yolo)
Supervisor Xystian Gutierrez (Riverside)
Supervisor John Haschak (Mendocino)
Supervisor Chris Howard (Del Norte)
Supervisor Trina Orrill (Inyo)



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CEO

Graham Knaus

Background

Recognizing Sovereignty and Local Residency

California Native American tribes are recognized as sovereign nations with a primary relationship with the Federal Government. Despite this, tribal members are also residents of counties and regularly interact with county governments. This dual relationship necessitates a nuanced approach to governance and advocacy that respects tribal sovereignty while addressing the needs and concerns of tribal members as county residents.

Working Group Objectives

The Tribal Platform Working Group will work collaboratively to identify the best strategies and practices for updating CSAC's advocacy in tribal spaces. The group's objectives include:

1. Assessing Current Issues: Conducting a thorough assessment of the current issues and challenges that affect county-tribal relationships, including but not limited to land use, housing, transportation, public health, and environmental concerns.
2. Engaging Stakeholders: Engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including tribal leaders, county officials, and community members, to ensure that the updated platform reflects the diverse perspectives and needs of all parties involved.
3. Developing Recommendations: Formulating recommendations for platform changes that will enhance the effectiveness of county-tribal collaborations and address the identified issues.

The Tribal Platform Working Group represents a significant step forward in recognizing and addressing the complex and evolving relationships between California Native American tribes and county governments. By updating CSAC's advocacy guidance in tribal spaces, the working group aims to create a more comprehensive, responsive and effective framework for advocacy and collaboration to ultimately benefit both tribal members and county residents.



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San Luis Obispo County


CEO
Graham Knaus

September 11, 2025

TO: CSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Chastity Benson, Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: Operations and Member Services Report

Member Services

Member Services continues to focus on deepening engagement with our counties through direct visits, regional meetings, and statewide conferences. These efforts allow us to hear member stories firsthand, strengthen relationships, and identify the ways CSAC can best serve our members at the local, state, and national levels.

County Visits

In partnership with CSAC President Jeff Griffiths, Member Services joined county visits to:

- **Sierra County** – Explored rural challenges including housing, staffing, and economic development.
- **Trinity County** – Focused on jail infrastructure, staffing, housing shortages, and regional dispatch services.
- **Santa Cruz County** – Discussed high housing costs, an aging population, major infrastructure investments, and coastal restoration efforts.
- **El Dorado County** – Reviewed fiscal strategies, community engagement through the county's charter process, and public concerns around homelessness and roads.

These visits reinforced the importance of local storytelling and helped identify how CSAC can advocate more effectively on behalf of counties with diverse needs.

National Engagement

Member Services also participated with our members at the NACo Annual Conference in Philadelphia County, shifting focus from local concerns to national issues. Engagement there underscored the importance of maintaining a unified California county presence in federal policy discussions.

Regional Meeting

CSAC hosted a Regional Meeting in Ventura County focused on the growing challenges counties face around risk, liability, and the evolving insurance market—including natural disasters, public safety incidents, and broader liability claims that are driving up premiums, straining budgets, and reshaping the general liability landscape. The meeting featured Commissioner Tare Davis, President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and Executive Director Kevin Leonard, who shared their state's approaches to risk management and disaster response, offering valuable lessons to strengthen California's strategy in addressing these critical challenges.

CSAC New Supervisors Institute – Module III

The final module of the New Supervisors Institute offered newly elected county supervisors a deeper dive into key leadership and governance topics. This closing session featured discussions on labor relations, effective engagement with employee groups, and an overview of CSAC’s mission, structure, and member services. Our new supervisors heard from CSAC leadership, county experts, and experienced facilitators. To celebrate the conclusion of the New Supervisors Institute, attendees were invited for a tour of the CSAC office, where they learned about the history of our unique headquarters and what’s on the horizon as we embark on the renovation project.

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.



September 11, 2025

To: CSAC Board of Directors

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

RE: **CSAC Finance Corporation Report**

CSAC Finance Corporation Board of Directors

At its Annual Spring Meeting held on May 1 and 2, 2025, in Napa County, the CSAC Finance Corporation (CSAC FC) Board of Directors held its annual election of Officers, approved the 2025-26 budget, welcomed and received updates from various Business Partners, and received reports from Staff regarding other partnerships and emerging programs.

With Board action, Oscar Villegas (Supervisor - Yolo County) was reaffirmed as President, Graham Knaus (Chief Executive Officer - CSAC) was reaffirmed as Vice President and Ryan Alsop (Chief Executive Officer - Napa County) was also reaffirmed as Secretary/Treasurer.

With Board approval of the 2025-26 budget, CSAC FC was honored and proud to report that its 2024-25 financial contribution to CSAC was the largest contribution by CSAC FC to date, which has consistently increased for several consecutive years.

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 call (916-612-3020) or email Rob Pierce (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 Staffs 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 call (916-612-3020) or email Rob Pierce (rob@csacfc.org).

Corporate Associates Program

The Corporate Associates Program (CAP) began the Fiscal Year in a strong position. Currently CAP has 70 partners across all three levels. New at the Platinum level, we welcome **Amazon Business** (Tessa Sullivan) and **ModCorr** (Buddy Johns and Tim Hancock). At the Gold level we welcome **Cal Water Services** (Shannon McGovern). At the Silver level we welcome **Energy Systems Group** (Ashu Jain), **Genentech** (Joaquín Castañeda), **Indivior** (Jennifer Duncan), and **6D PMCM** (Teri Cruz). Staff is in active communication with several potential new partners that could join before the upcoming CSAC Annual Meeting.

Ten partners traveled to NACo in early July to help support our members with dinners, the California Caucus, and numerous other events. The following week, Staff and partners hosted a dinner for the New Supervisor's Institute, where an additional twelve partners attended and supported this important event. We also anticipate working with several of our members and partners at the upcoming RCRC Meeting in El Dorado County.

Lastly, the National Corporate Associate Consulting Program continues to find success and growth in the following state associations: New Mexico, Tennessee, Michigan, Montana and Nevada.

The most current partner roster is attached for your reference. When making business decisions in your county, please consider our great partners and programs. For more information regarding the CSAC FC Corporate Associates Program please visit our website at: (www.csacfc.org), call (916-548-3280) or email Jim Manker (jim@csacfc.org).

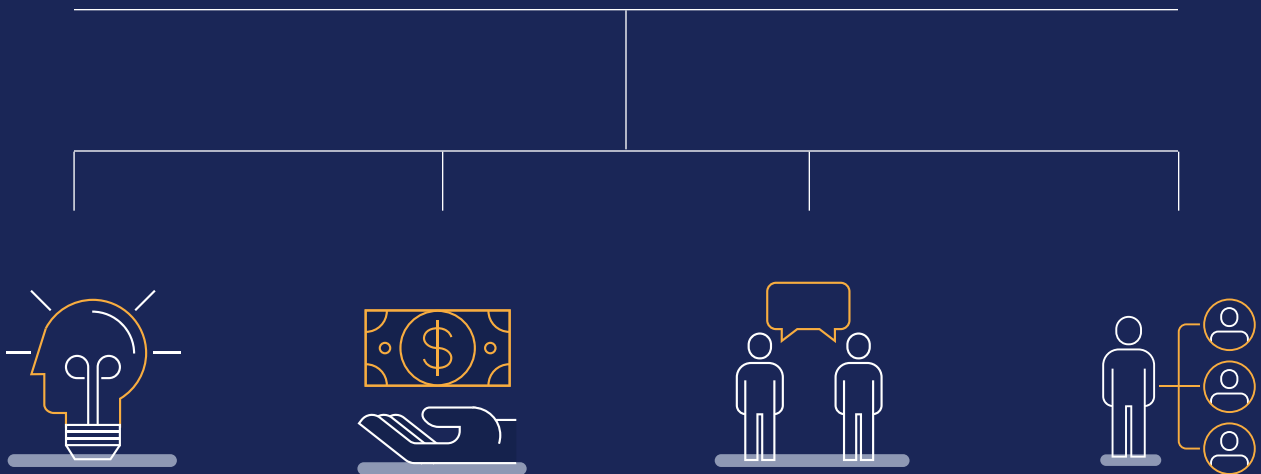


Mission Statement:

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



Organizational Chart





PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA
Counties

PLATINUM Partners (as of 8.1.2025)

1. Amazon Business

Tessa Sullivan, Sr. Account Executive,
Government
55 Pier 4 Blvd. Boston, MA 02210
(617) 655-8814
sulltess@amazon.com
www.business.amazon.com

2. Amity Foundation

Doug Bond, CEO
3655 S. Grand Ave, Suite 290
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(213) 400-4243
dbond@amityfdn.org
dacuna@amityfdn.org
www.amityfdn.org

3. Anthem Blue Cross

Stephanie Berry, Health Policy & Government
Affairs
1121 L Street, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814
(279) 245-7091
stephanie.berry@elevancehealth.com
www.anthem.com

4. Aramark

Michelle Bang, Growth Chief of Staff
2400 Market Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(630) 271-2930
bang-michelle@aramark.com
www.aramark.com

5. Baron & Budd

John Fiske, Shareholder
11440 W. Bernardo Court
San Diego, CA 92127
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jfiske@baronbudd.com
www.baronandbudd.com

6. Blue Shield

Andrew Kiefer, VP, State Government Affairs
1215 K St. Suite 2010
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Andrew.keifer@blueshieldca.com
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7. California Statewide Communities Development Authority

Felicia Williams, Executive Director
1700 North Broadway, Suite 405
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(800) 531-7476
fwilliams@cscda.org
www.cscda.org

8. CalTRUST

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(916) 745-6701
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9. Chorus Innovations

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10. Deloitte

Vanessa Vacca, Managing Director
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Arlington, VA 22209
(949) 375-2579
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www.deloitte.com

11. Dominion Voting Systems

Steve Bennett, Regional Sales Manager
26561 Amhurst Court
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(909) 362-1715
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12. DRC Emergency Services

Kristy Fuentes, Vice President Business Development
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13. Election Systems and Software

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14. Enterprise Mobility

Lisa Holmes, State of CA Contract Manager
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15. GX Broadband

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16. HGA

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17. IBM

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www.ibm.com

18. Johnson Controls Performance Infrastructure

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<https://www.johnsoncontrols.com/>

19. ModCorr

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20. Mosaic Solutions and Advocacy

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21. Nationwide

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492 Robert J Mathews Parkway, Suite 100
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
(86) 677-5008
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www.nrsforu.com

22. NextEra Energy

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www.nexteraenergy.com

23. Pacific Gas & Electric Company

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24. Peraton

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www.peraton.com

25. PRISM

Rick Brush, Chief Member Services Officer
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rbrush@prismrisk.gov
www.prismrisk.gov

26. Prologis

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(916) 764-6981
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www.prologis.com

27. SiteLogIQ

Michelle Parker, Business Development Manager
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Sacramento, CA 95815
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28. SLS

Janna Contorno, Division Director
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Galveston, TX 77552
(409) 877-1824
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29. Southland Industries

Desiree Haus, Business Development Manager
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Garden Grove, CA 92841
(559) 593-3902
dhaus@southlandind.com
www.southlandind.com

30. Vanir Construction Management, Inc.

Onallee Elsberry-Crabtree, Senior Director of Business Development
4540 Duckhorn Drive, Suite 300
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31. Wellpath

Jessica Mazlum, VP Partner Development
WEST
3340 Perimeter Hill Dr.
Nashville, TN 37211
(916) 634-6463
jmazlum@wellpath.us
www.wellpathcare.com

32. Western States Petroleum Association

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PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA
Counties

GOLD Partners

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david.tucker1@alaskaair.com
www.news.alaskaair.com

2. Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.

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1301 Dove St. Suite 200
Newport Beach, CA 92660
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narshi@alliant.com
www.alliant.com

3. AT&T

Bryant Milesi, Director of External Affairs
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www.att.com

4. Cal Water Services

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Regional Public Affairs Program Manager
(209) 715-0252
smcgovern@calwater.com
www.calwater.com

5. Coast2Coast Rx

WellDyne Rx (dba Coast2Coast Rx)
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Lakeland, FL 33810
(919) 451-1555
mamiet@welldynernx.com
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6. HdL Companies

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www.hdlcompanies.com

7. Kaiser Permanente

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Community and Government Relations
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8. Oracle

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9. Paragon Government Relations

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10. Public Surplus

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11. Recology

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12. SAIC

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13. Southern California Edison

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14. Synoptek

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15. 211 California

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PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA
Counties

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2. Chick-fil-A

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3. Comcast

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4. DLR Group

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5. Energy Systems Group

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www.energysystemsgroup.com

6. Equifax, Inc.

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7. Genentech

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8. Hagerty Consulting

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9. Healthnet

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10. Indivior

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11. Kofile

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12. Kosmont Companies

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13. Library Systems & Software

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14. Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Cynthia Weldon, Director of Marketing
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15. National Demographics Corporation

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16. OpenGov

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17. Opterra Energy Services, LLC.

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18. PARS

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19. Perimeter Solutions

Steve Barton, Prevention Protection Operations
Manager
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20. Procure America

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21. Republic Services

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22. Sierra Pacific Industries

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23. 6D PMCM

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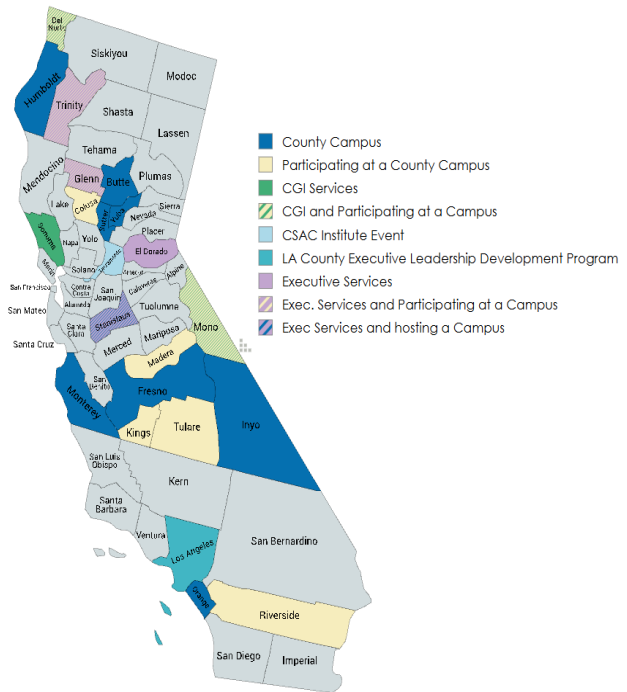
September 11, 2025

To: CSAC Board of Directors

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

RE: Report – California Counties Foundation (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.



1. Foundation Website

The Foundation proudly launched a new website at csacfoundation.org, staying consistent with CSAC. The site effectively meets members' needs with improved ease and access. After testing and a soft launch, the site was made public August 8th.

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 provides 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 began a 15-week program on September 3, 2025. Cohort participants span 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 were 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 at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria.

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 14th. The next course, on optimism and gratitude in public service leadership with Prof. Glenn Fox, takes place on September 19th.

Recent Graduations

Executive Credential Program

The CSAC Institute recognized 27 participants from Humboldt County during their board of supervisors meeting on August 19th. Upcoming cohort graduations include Riverside and Orange counties.



Pictured: Humboldt CAO Elishia Hayes, Humboldt County Supervisors: Natalie Arroyo, Mike Wilson, Michelle Bushnell, Steve Madrone and Rex Bohn, with CSAC CEO Graham Knaus, CCF COO Paul Danczyk and Humboldt County graduates.

Human Resources Executive Credential Program

On August 28th, CSAC Institute recognized graduates of the inaugural Human Resources Executive Institute 2025 cohort. A total of 26 participants from 17 counties earned the credential. The program is in partnership with California Counties Human Resources (CCHR). The recognition took place at CCHR's Fall conference in San Diego.



Pictured: Human Resources Executive Institute graduates with CCF COO Paul Danczyk.

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. Monterey County (Cohort 3)
2. Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Madera counties (hosted by Fresno County)
3. Inyo and Mono counties (hosted by Inyo County)
4. Stanislaus County
5. Glenn, Butte, and Colusa counties (hosted by Butte County)
6. Sutter and Yuba counties

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.
- Glenn County: August 25 – October 10, 2025, 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.



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

September 11, 2025

TO: CSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Jason Britt, Tulare County CAO and CACE President

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

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.

2025 OFFICERS

President | Jason Britt, Tulare County
Vice-President | Scott De Moss, Glenn County
Secretary/Treasurer | Dr. Sevet Johnson, Ventura County
Immediate Past President | Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County



County Counsels' Association of California

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jennifer Bacon Henning

MEMORANDUM

To: Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, President, and
Members of the CSAC Board of Directors

From: Jennifer Bacon Henning, General Counsel

Date: September 11, 2025

Re: Litigation Coordination Program Update

This memorandum will provide you with information on the Litigation Coordination Program's new case activities since the Board's April 25, 2025 meeting. Briefs filed on CSAC's behalf are available at:
<http://www.counties.org/csac-litigation-coordination-program>.

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

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

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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, 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 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]ermitt[ing] 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 Briefed; 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 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.

Greenberg v. Assessment Appeals Board for the City & County of San Francisco

Pending in the San Francisco County Superior Court (Case No. CPF-23-51813)

Status: Briefing Schedule To Be Determined

This case raises a procedural / timing issue for assessment appeals: whether the six-month statute of limitations set forth in Revenue and Taxation Code § 5141(c) is triggered by the Assessment Appeals Board’s (Board) decision letter or a later-issued findings of fact. Property Tax Rule 325(a)(3) governs when the Board’s decision becomes final. Under Rule 325(a)(3), the Board’s decision is final upon the earlier of when the Board issues a decision or findings of fact, unless the taxpayer or their agent requests that the decision become final after the issuance of the findings of fact, and such request was made prior to the conclusion of the hearing. In this case, the taxpayer’s action was filed more than six months after the Board’s decision letter, but within six months of the Board’s later-issued findings of fact. The trial court ruled in favor of the taxpayer, finding that nothing in the language of the statute requires taxpayer to expressly toll the finality of the decision. San Francisco plans an appeal. CSAC will file a brief in support of San Francisco.

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 denied* (Aug. 27, 2025)(S291567)

Status: Case Closed

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

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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 filed a letter with the California Supreme Court urging it to grant Butte County's Petition for Review, but review was denied.

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 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 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 denied* (Aug. 20, 2025)(S291893)

Status: Case Closed

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 also joined the City in requesting that the California Supreme Court hear this case, but review was denied.

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: Case Fully Briefed and Pending

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

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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.

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.



Update on Activities

September 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lydia Romero

City Manager, Lemon Grove

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Teresa Acosta

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Michele Beal Bagneris

City Attorney/City Prosecutor
Pasadena

Daniel Chatigny

County Executive Officer
County of Placer
CACE Representative

Carolyn Coleman

CEO & Executive Director
League of California Cities

Ruben Duran

Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Yxstian Gutierrez

Supervisor, Riverside County

James Keene

Retired City Manager &
Former CSAC Executive Director

Graham Knaus

Executive Director
California State Association of Counties

Justin Lovell

Director of Administrative Services
West County Wastewater District
MMANC Representative

Pat Martel

Retired City Manager
Cal-ICMA Representative

Antonio Martinez

Director
Contra Costa Water District

Neil McCormick

Chief Executive Officer
California Special Districts Association

Judith Mitchell

Former City Councilmember
City of Rolling Hills Estates

Lorenzo Rios

Chief Executive Officer
Clovis Veterans Memorial District

Johnathan Royas

Deputy City Manager
City of Santa Paula
MMASC Representative

Hilary Straus

General Manager
Citrus Heights Water District

Eddie Valero

Supervisor
Tulare County

ILG: Committed to Supporting California Counties

ILG remains focused on supporting California counties with a wide range of issues they may be facing. From customized trainings to collaborative partnerships to strategic counsel, we apply our 70-year history of local government to meeting the complex needs of CSAC members.

We're constantly evolving our programs, education, training, and support to meet the changing landscape of local government.

Key Highlights

ILG continues to provide technical support, training, and capacity-building to counties across the state in our four pillar areas:

1. Leadership and Governance
2. Public Engagement
3. Sustainable and Resilient Communities, and
4. Workforce Development and Civics Education

Key highlights of our recent work include:

- Honoring **Yolo County** with a Platinum Beacon Spotlight award for Community GHG reductions.
- Partnering with **Colusa, Imperial, Tuolumne, Modoc, Humboldt, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, Sacramento, and Santa Clara Counties** to provide support in identifying projects and apply for grants related to climate and public health.
- Training staff from **Santa Cruz, Imperial, and Marin Counties** on meeting facilitation and design.

Building County Partnerships

ILG Board of Directors

We are excited to welcome a new county representative to our Board of Directors. Placer County CEO Daniel Chatigny has joined the ILG Board as the CACE representative, and will join Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez from Riverside County, Supervisor Eddie Valero from Tulare County, and CSAC CEO Graham Knaus as key members providing a county perspective and spotlighting ways ILG can help address county needs and priorities.

Partnering to Promote Public Health

Through our contract with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), ILG is working with 11 Local Health Jurisdictions (County Public Health Departments) to provide support in identifying projects and apply for grants related to climate and public health. ILG is supporting in project ideation, development, engagement, and grant-writing to support goals in improving air quality, increasing resilience to extreme heat, improving active transportation, and preparing for sea level rise. We are working closely with Colusa, Imperial, Tuolumne, Modoc, Humboldt, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, Sacramento, and Santa Clara counties.

Expanding Career Pathways into California's Counties Through our work with the California Workforce Development Board, the Irvine Foundation, SETA and the California Community College Chancellor's Office, ILG has been able to engage with numerous counties around workforce development opportunities, including Alameda County, Sacramento County and Yolo County. In our recent webinar about succession planning, we were able to leverage the insights from a county practitioner Lisa Yapching, HR Division Manager of Compensation and Talent Strategies with the County of San Mateo.

Recent & Upcoming Webinars

Recent Webinars

- [The New Economic Development Is Green...and it comes with \\$\\$\\$](#)
[Access the materials here.](#)
- [Boosting Local Budgets: Leveraging Sales Tax and Lesser-known Revenue Streams](#)
- [From Vacancy to Vision: Proactive Succession Planning for Local Government](#)

Upcoming Webinars & Trainings

Meeting Mastery: Meeting Facilitation & Design Training

Tuesday & Wednesday, September 23-24



MEETING MASTERY
Meeting facilitation and design training for local governments

Tues, Sept. 23 & Weds, Sept. 24
10:00AM - 3:00PM

\$625 per person includes:

- ✓ Two days of interactive training
- ✓ Our exclusive Digital Workbook

REGISTER TODAY!
www.ca-ilg.org/meetingmastery

We know public meetings can be a challenge to coordinate. The topics are often too technical, and the format can be intimidating for the general public. That's why our training will equip you with the skills and tools to plan and implement productive, interesting, and engaging public meetings that center equity and allow for meaningful participation, whether in-person or virtual.

The workshop will focus on growing your skillset in meeting facilitation and meeting design. We'll share techniques for more interactive meetings that are accessible and engaging for everyone. We'll also include tips for active listening and strategies to support diverse viewpoints so you can better navigate contentious meetings

and interactions with stakeholders.

Positive community-building activities are critical for constructive dialogue and building trust. With our training, you'll be empowered to facilitate successful meetings that promote inclusive and constructive conversations that help foster a more connected and engaged community. [Learn more here.](#)

Webinar Series: Advanced Wildfire Risk Reduction

Wildfire in California is not just a “season” but a year-round crisis. In 2025 alone, over 5,300 wildland fires — including two of the three most destructive wildfires in California history — have damaged over 350,000 acres. Certain communities are more susceptible to wildfire losses. While we cannot change some factors, such as the number of strong, dry wind events, there are several actions local governments can take to stop large-scale loss from fires spreading into heavily populated urban areas in the first place. To help local government leaders better understand the multidisciplinary approach of wildfire risk reduction, ILG, Renne Public Law Group, and Renne Public Management Group are hosting a webinar series featuring subject matter experts and real-world practitioners who will provide information and best practices, facilitate discussion, and answer questions to help local governments better protect their communities against wildfires.

The series kicked off on Tuesday, September 9 with “Building Fire-Adapted Communities: A Roadmap for California Leaders”. You can [access the materials and recording here](#).

Registration is also now open for the rest of the sessions in the series, with additional information to come.

- [Wed, Oct. 1, 11 AM – 12:30 PM | Measure Twice, Cut Once: Creating the Right Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan for Your Community](#)
- [Thu, Nov. 13, 11 AM – 12:30 PM | Controlling Your Own Destiny: a Local Leader’s Toolbox for Reducing Wildfire Risk](#)
- [Mon, Jan. 26, 2026, 11 AM – 12:30 PM | Ch-Ch-Changes: CEQA and How It Impacts Your Wildfire Risk Reduction Efforts](#)

We are also currently planning webinars on:

- CEQA Compliance
- Open Meeting Laws
- Preparing for the 2026 Election
- Managing Multi-Generational Workforces
- Complying with AB 2561
- Navigating Advanced Clean Fleets Regulations

Stay tuned for additional details and registration information soon!

Help Us Build Our Training Schedule & Resource Library

We’re building out our training calendar and priority projects for 2025-2026. If you have ideas or suggestions for publication updates, webinars, workshops, and/or conference session topics, please reach out to us at info@ca-ilg.org.





Recruiting Counties to Join Bridge Registered Apprenticeships Initiative

[Bridge](#) supports California's local governments in building their workforce pipeline through Registered Apprenticeship Programs in "non-traditional" fields like human resources, transit, accounting, IT, health and human services, and more. We are excited to have Yolo County and Orange County as county participants.

and now have funding to recruit additional counties through our federal grant program, which allows us to offer employer incentives. Interested counties should complete [this interest form](#). Pilots will be accepted on a rolling basis until space is filled and the employer incentive funding is exhausted. After receiving the form, ILG will schedule consultations and information sessions with top candidates to discuss each jurisdiction's workforce goals and needs, as well as any existing partnerships or projects.

Promoting Civility & Good Governance in Challenging Times

Whether your board is new or seasoned, ILG can offer strategic planning to help support your ongoing governance work. In addition to providing a suite of materials for newly elected officials, ILG offers tailor-made training to enhance leadership and communication skills that can help foster a culture of trust and respect in your community. ILG offers customized workshops for counties to help foster internal collaboration and bring civility and decorum back to public meetings.

These private sessions are available virtually and in-person, upon request. The sessions are specifically tailored to your county's unique needs and can cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Civility in Public Meetings
- Building Trust through Engagement
- Creating Effective Boards
- Goal Setting/Strategic Planning
- Developing Governance Tools: Policy Handbooks, Codes of Conduct, Ethics and/or Civility Policies
- Understanding Roles and Responsibilities
- Team Building
- Communicating for Success

[Find out more.](#)

New Brand and Website Coming Soon!

Team ILG is currently working on a new website and brand refresh that will be unveiled this fall in alignment with our 70th anniversary. Stay tuned for our new look, and special announcements to celebrate this milestone!

ILG Board Meetings

ILG's Board of Directors met in June to discuss key initiatives and budget updates for 2025. The remaining 2025 ILG board meetings are set for the following dates:

- Executive Committee Retreat: Thursday & Friday, September 4-5 (Sacramento)
- Friday, November 7 (virtual)
- Monday, December 15 (virtual)

About ILG

Local government plays an integral part in shaping a thriving community. That's why ensuring that local government leaders have the best resources, connections, and knowledge available is essential for their success. With a 70-year history of serving the needs of local governments in California, the Institute for Local Government (ILG) supports officials at counties, special districts, and cities in tackling the state's most pressing and evolving issues.

We are a mission-driven nonprofit organization that is also non-partisan. And — since ILG is not focused on advocacy — we have the flexibility to serve as an objective third-party convener that helps counties, special districts, and cities navigate complex issues crossing multiple local and state agencies.

To learn more about our programs and resources:

- Visit our website at www.ca-ilg.org
- Connect with us through our monthly [newsletter](#)
- Connect with us on social media through [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#)

California State Association of Counties

2026 Calendar of Events

JANUARY		
1	New Year's Day	
19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
22	CSAC Executive Committee Meeting Sacramento County	
FEBRUARY		
4-6	Executive Committee Leadership Forum San Diego County (Torrey Pines)	
12	CSAC Board of Directors Meeting Sacramento County	
16	Presidents Day	
21-24	NACo Legislative Conferences Washington D.C.	
MARCH		
TBD	CSAC Executive Committee Meeting LA County	
31	Cesar Chavez Day	
APRIL		
TBD	CSAC Board of Directors Retreat	
MAY		
3-5	CSAC Finance Corp. Spring Meeting Maui County, Hawaii	
5-8	Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference Maui County, Hawaii	
20-22	CSAC Legislative Conference Sacramento County	
22	CSAC Board of Directors Meeting Sacramento County	
25	Memorial Day	
JUNE		
19	Juneteenth	
JULY		
3	Independence Day (observed)	
17-20	NACo Annual Conference Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA	
AUGUST		
20	CSAC Executive Committee Meeting Sacramento County	
SEPTEMBER		
7	Labor Day	
17	CSAC Board of Directors Meeting Sacramento County	
OCTOBER		
7-9	Executive Committee Retreat TBD	
12	Indigenous Peoples Day	
TBD	CSAC Finance Corp. Fall Meeting	
NOVEMBER		
11	Veterans Day	
26	Thanksgiving Day	
DECEMBER		
11/30-12/4	CSAC 132 nd Annual Meeting San Diego County	
3	CSAC Board of Directors Meeting San Diego County	
16-18	Officers Retreat TBD	
25	Christmas Day	