

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 3, 2019

Seascape Beach Resort | 1 Seascape Resort Drive, Aptos CA | Santa Cruz County
Conference Line: (800) 867-2581 | Code: 7500508#

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

Virginia Bass – President
Lisa Bartlett – 1st Vice President
James Gore – 2nd Vice President
Leticia Perez – Immediate Past President

SUPERVISORS

Luis Alejo – Monterey
Keith Carson – Alameda
Erin Hannigan – Solano
Kelly Long – Venture
Bruce McPherson – Santa Cruz
Buddy Mendes – Fresno
Leonard Moty – Shasta
Craig Pedersen – Kings
Mark Ridley-Thomas – Los Angeles (remote)
Ed Scofield – Nevada
Ed Valenzuela – Siskiyou
Chuck Washington – Riverside
Terry Woodrow – Alpine

STAFF

Graham Knaus – Executive Director
Darby Kernan – Deputy Executive Director,
Legislative Affairs
Manuel Rivas, Jr. – Deputy Executive Director,
Operations & Member Services

ADVISORS

Bruce Goldstein – County Counsels Association
Birgitta Corsello – CA Association of County Executives

2. Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes as provided made by Supervisor Long; second by Supervisor Gore. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Strategic Communications & Advocacy

CSAC has partnered with Bicker, Castillo & Fairbanks (BCF) on a branding campaign to remind legislators about what counties do and the programs they provide. The team at BCF addressed the executive committee with the “California Counties Driven to Serve” campaign and discussed which county services and programs will be highlighted throughout the campaign. The first promotional video featured the Whole Person Care program in Placer County, highlighting the people that the program has helped. The campaign will include similar periodic videos and email marketing to get the message out to legislators and constituents that the counties represent on the programs and services available from counties.

4. Action Item: Homelessness / Behavioral Health: Strategic Approach to 2020

CSAC Officers and the Executive Committee discussed a strategic approach to tackle the homelessness issue across California while protecting and advancing county interests. The

homelessness crisis remains a top priority for CSAC, and staff continues strongly advocating for additional funding and statutory changes in the state budget. There have been recent calls to reallocate MHSA funding away from counties and there are efforts to repurpose MHSA funds on the 2020 ballot. CSAC advocacy around homelessness has resulted in direct funding to counties, flexibility in the expenditure of resources, and improved access to funding through statutory changes proposed by CSAC. The administration continues to emphasize a collaborative approach to homelessness between state-local partnerships. In turn, staff has partnered with the League of California Cities, building on the Homelessness Task Force to develop a homelessness policy workshop on November 4th. The workshop will highlight the “Driven To Serve” campaign proposed by BCF, getting information on what services counties provide, particularly around the housing and homelessness crisis, in front of legislators. CSAC Officers invited the Executive Committee to discuss and explore the strategic approach presented to protect and advance county interests. The Executive Committee was presented with potential next steps, which include providing direction to build a homelessness coalition, officers/staff/BCF developing an informed proposal, and bringing the proposal in front of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for approval at the next meeting.

A motion to approve the strategic approach as presented made by Supervisor Alejo; second by Supervisor Mendes. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Action Item: Consideration of Distinguished Service Award Nominees

Staff presented a list of nominees for the 2019 CSAC Distinguished Service Award, which is meant to recognize those that go above and beyond in their contributions to the improvement of government in California. The nominees this year were instrumental in driving IHSS, inverse condemnation, and wildfire legislation. The following individuals were recommended for this award:

Keely Bosler | Director, Department of Finance

Kip Lipper | Chief Policy Advisor, Energy and Environment to the Senate President Pro Tem

Patrick McCullum | Lobbyist, Up From the Ashes

A motion to approve all three Distinguished Service Award recipients as nominated by staff made by Supervisor Perez; second by Supervisor Alejo. Supervisor Mendes opposed. Motion carried with majority vote.

A conditional motion to add David Kilgore made by Supervisor Washington; second by Supervisor Gore. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Action Item: Consideration of Circle of Service Award Nominees

Staff presented the Executive Committee with a list of recommended nominees for the CSAC Circle of Service Award. This award is more internally focused and was created to recognize county officials

such as Supervisors, CAOs, department directors, staff, and others whose service to their county and to CSAC have set them apart. The following individuals were recommended for this award:

Supervisor Leonard Moty | Shasta County
Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza | Napa County
Supervisor John Peters | Mono County
Supervisor Belia Ramos | Napa County

A motion to approve all four Circle of Service Award recipients as nominated by staff with the made by Supervisor Long; second by Supervisor McPherson. Motion carried unanimously.

A conditional motion to add Carmel Angelo to the list made by Supervisor Gore; second by Supervisor Groom. Motion carried unanimously.

7. CSAC 2019 Legislative Achievements Report

A video outlining CSAC's 2019 achievements was presented to the Executive Committee. The legislative team highlighted the advocacy achievements and successes throughout the year. Staff has tracked 2,177 of the 2,649 bills introduced during the 2019 legislative session. The top priorities on which staff has focused (and continues to focus) on are IHSS, homelessness, and emergency preparedness and resiliency. Staff was successful in lobbying for IHSS MOE funding, concluding with the state contributing nearly \$2 billion more in State General Fund for IHSS costs over the first four years. CSAC pushed for and successfully accomplished getting increased funding for a direct allocation to counties to tackle the homelessness crisis. Staff is heavily involved in the Governor's Homelessness Task Force and the Homeless Action Team to ensure that counties are at the forefront of the homelessness efforts. CSAC was determined to preserve disaster-related protections for counties and instrumental in ensuring no changes to inverse condemnation were made. CSAC partnered in a coalition on comprehensive wildfire legislation and was instrumental in securing critical funding in the state budget to help counties recover from, and prevent future wildfire disasters. Staff continues to collaborate with the new administration and a multitude of coalitions to represent, serve, and support our counties.

8. CSAC 2019 Operational Achievements Report

The Operations and Member Services team has had a very successful year and shared their achievements with the Executive Committee. Staff developed the California Counties Foundation, expanded the CSAC Institute, and maintained a multitude of communication tools to connect with members and other targeted audiences. CSAC has recognized the importance and impact of regional meetings, and has committed to improving these priority-focused opportunities to get in front of counties and collaborate on issues different counties face. Staff continues its outreach to counties through county visits, challenge awards, and communication to tell the county story and successfully advocate on behalf of counties. The California Counties Foundation continues to thrive and the

Institute for Excellence in County Government has expanded its offerings to nearly 100 courses. The Institute offers county-hosted campuses in Sacramento, Shasta/Tehama, Santa Cruz, Tulare, and San Diego counties. The Criminal Justice Support Hub received a \$900,000 grant to expand from 10 to 22 counties over the next two years. Staff has been working on streamlining and improving internal operations, creating efficiency and automation to provide better service to counties.

9. CSAC Finance Corporation Program Update

The President of the CSA Finance Corporation, Supervisor Leonard Moty, informed the Executive Committee that the Corporation will be increasing its contribution to CSAC by \$250,000 to underscore its support for education efforts regarding homelessness and behavioral health. The corporation held its Fall Board Meeting in conjunction with the National Association of Counties Financial Services Corporation to discuss existing and future partnerships and approve a budget adjustment. The corporation has been working with counties to assist with cannabis regulatory compliance, creating the California Cannabis Authority (CCA). The CCA focuses on data collection to facilitate tax compliance process and potentially lower cash payments. Smart Easy Pay simplifies the taxpayer experience, allowing taxpayers in some counties to customize payments in timing and source. The CSAC Finance Corporation is working with 211 California to assist with establishing connectivity throughout the state to provide community, health, and social services. The Executive Committee was provided a comprehensive list of all corporate sponsors that the CSAC FC partners with.

10. Review of 2019-19 Audited Financial Statements

The CSAC Treasurer, Supervisor Ed Scofield, addressed the Executive Committee with the status of the 2018-19 Financial Statement Audits. CSAC retained services from Moss Adams LLP for the audit, which includes the consolidated audits of the Finance Corporation and California Counties Foundation. The full consolidated audit will be finalized by mid-October and Supervisor Scofield will present the final report to the CSAC Audit Committee and the Executive Committee for review and approval in early November. Based on the preliminary review, auditors have indicated that CSAC is in sound fiscal condition with improved internal controls. The auditors do not anticipate any material weakness, deficiencies, or significant risk to the organization.

11. Discussion of 2020 Initial Priorities

The Officers opened up a discussion to begin the conversation and start thinking about CSAC policy priorities for 2020. The Executive Committee was provided with the 2019 priorities as a reference point on the policy platform priorities that staff focused on throughout the year. The floor was opened up to the committee to make suggestions for 2020. Recommendations from the executive committee members included recycling, early childhood education, water infrastructure and resiliency. Staff will work with the officers to create the priorities document and bring it to the Executive Committee for approval in January.