

November 12th, 2020



To: CSAC AENR Policy Committee

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From: Catherine Freeman, CSAC AENR Legislative Representative  
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Re: **2020-2021 Platform Chapters: Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources (AENR) – ACTION ITEM**

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**Staff Recommendation.** Staff recommends that the CSAC AENR Policy Committee approve the recommended changes to the CSAC policy platform as informed by Committee and staff suggestions.

**Background.** The California County Platform is a statement of policies on issues of concern and interest to California's counties. CSAC's policy committees and Board of Directors review the platform regularly, amending and updating when necessary. Generally, CSAC policy committees adopt recommend updates to their relevant platform chapters every two years at the Annual Meeting. Committee recommendations are adopted through an action item and then sent to the Board to be adopted for final approval.

The AENR Committee has jurisdiction over the following pieces of the California County Platform:

- Chapter 3: AENR Policy Platform
  - Chapter 3 Attachment: Flood Protection Principles
  - Chapter 3 Attachment: State Water Policy Guideline
- Chapter 4: Energy
- Chapter 14: Climate Change
- Chapter 17: CEQA Reform Guidelines
- Cannabis Policy

The AENR Committee and staff have proposed the following changes to the California County Platform.

### **Chapter Three – Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Platform**

CSAC staff proposes to combine the following attachments and policies into AENR's Chapter Three of the County Platform. Minor and clarifying changes were made to merge these attachments and policies together. Specifically, these attachments and policies include:

- Flood Protection Principles
- State Water Policy Guidelines
- Cannabis Policy

The following statement was added to the State and County Fairs Paragraph under the Agriculture Section:

*Fairgrounds are critical facilities during local and statewide emergencies, including during wildfires, as evacuation centers and staging areas for emergency operations.*

The following language was added to the Ground Water Management paragraph under the Water Resources Management Section to include implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:

*Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act shifted the roll of groundwater management to locals, including the development in some areas of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) that are charged with balancing groundwater use through enforceable Groundwater Sustainability Plans. It is CSAC's position that planning and land use decisions reside with the county, and therefore any planned changes must be implemented within the county land use authority.*

The following language was added to the Parks and Recreation Section:

*Counties support statewide efforts to provide funding and programs to develop access to parks for all persons.*

The following language was added to the Solid Waste Management Section:

*CSAC supports efforts to improve access to resources that would help counties and our waste hauler partners implement the State's Organic Waste Diversion Regulations as required under SB 1383 (Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016). In addition, CSAC supports efforts to create more flexible SB 1383 implementation deadlines and requirements as a co-equal partner in achieving California's waste management goals.*

The following language was added to a sentence in the Emergency Management Section:

Advocate for broad county access to technology *and infrastructure* that offer effective and wide-ranging communications capabilities for alerting the public in emergency situations.

San Joaquin County has proposed to remove the following language from the Cannabis Cultivation and Environment Impact Section:

*Counties support the ability to grow industrial hemp as an agricultural product.*

This attachment was incorporated into AENR's Chapter Three of the County Platform. No changes were made to the language of the attachment.

### **Chapter 3 Attachment – State Water Policy Guideline**

Language from this attachment was incorporated into AENR's Chapter Three of the County Platform.

Minor changes were made to merge the two documents.

The following language in the State Water Policy removed reference to older specific state wide water policy and planning documents and was replaced with more generic language:

The proposed policies will be relied upon by CSAC staff in conjunction with existing CSAC policy in developing recommendations regarding ~~the State Water Plan, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the California Water Fix Project.~~

This language was replaced with broader generic language.

The proposed policies will be relied upon by CSAC staff in conjunction with existing CSAC policy in developing recommendations regarding *statewide water policy, planning, guidance and projects.*

### **Chapter 4 – Energy**

Minor clean up and formatting changes made.

### **Chapter 14 – Climate Change Policy Guidelines**

Adopted in conjunction with Housing, Land Use, and Transportation Policy Committee.

Minor clean up and formatting changes made.

### **Chapter 17 – CEQA Reform Guidelines**

Adopted in conjunction with Housing, Land Use, and Transportation Policy Committee.

No proposed changes to this document.

### **Cannabis Policy**

This attachment was incorporated into AENR's Chapter Three of the County Platform.

Small formatting changes were made to combine the documents.

Changed numbered list to bullets under the Labeling, Testing, and Advertising Section.

Changed numbered list to bullets under the Resources, Revenue Collection, and Banking Section.

### **Attachments.**

1. Chapter 3: AENR Policy Platform
2. Chapter 4: Energy
3. Chapter 14: Climate Change
4. Chapter 17: CEQA Reform Guidelines

**CSAC Staff Contacts.**

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