

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 11, 2021

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89001310974?pwd=R2V2ZEUrV3I3c2pWREd0WUFWN2FSdz09>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 890 0131 0974 | Password: 303419

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

James Gore | *President*
Ed Valenzuela | *1st Vice President*
Chuck Washington | *2nd Vice President*
Lisa Bartlett | *Immediate Past President*

CSAC STAFF

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

ADVISORS

John Beiers | *County Counsels' Association, San Mateo County*
Frank Kim | *Orange County CEO, California Association of County Executives, President*

SUPERVISORS

Keith Carson | *Alameda County*
Susan Ellenberg | *Santa Clara County*
John Gioia | *Contra Costa County*
Carole Groom | *San Mateo County (absent)*
Kelly Long | *Ventura County*
Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County (absent)*
Buddy Mendes | *Fresno County*
Luis Alejo | *Monterey County*
Diane Dillon | *Napa County*
Erin Hannigan | *Solano County*
Bruce Gibson | *San Luis Obispo County*
Craig Pedersen | *Kings County*
Sue Novasel | *El Dorado County*
Jeff Griffiths | *Inyo County*

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Leonard Moty | *Treasurer, Shasta County*

2. Executive Director's Report

Graham Knaus presented to the Executive Committee and discussed the state bringing in a Third-Party Administrator (TPA), Blue Shield, to assist with vaccine allocation and administration. Counties are concerned about this model as they have been doing great work to administer vaccines. CSAC participates in a TPA Steering Committee, along health directors/officers, the Administration, and Blue Shield. The purpose of the committee is to make recommendations on all things related to the flow of vaccines and to manage and correct data related issues. CSAC, counties, and county councils are pushing back on the TPA contract between counties and Blue Shield because it would give county constitutional authority to a non-government entity and would require releasing electronic health records to Blue Shield. As an alternative solution, counties have suggested a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the counties and the state.

3. Minute Mics: Executive Committee Roundtable – *What's going on in your county?*

Jeff Griffiths / Inyo County – Inyo County has been doing well administering vaccine. They have received some doses of Johnson & Johnson which has been helpful in reaching rural communities. They recently switched from Verily to OptumServe testing. Inyo has dedicated general fund money to help non-profit organizations throughout the county.

Sue Novasel / El Dorado County – El Dorado County is very happy to be receiving Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is easier to administer to rural communities. They just celebrated International Women’s Day and are pleased to have three women on their Board of Supervisors. COVID has had a profound effect on women in business and Supervisor Novasel asked the Executive Committee to keep this in mind as they use their COVID funds.

Craig Pedersen / Kings County – My Turn has been very challenging in Kings County. Kings County was rated 58 out of 58 in the equity process, as it relates to vaccinations. Bay Area residents are coming into the county to get vaccinated. Kings County has a lot of food processing plants and migrant workers, which have been tough to reach for vaccinations. As always, water is a significant issue due to the amount of agriculture.

Bruce Gibson / San Luis Obispo County – Supervisor Gibson discussed the challenges in managing the federal COVID relief dollars coming into San Luis Obispo County. How do they strike the appropriate balance between one-time COVID related needs and on-going programs in the county? Broadband and water issues are also very important. Supervisor Gibson mentioned a recent op-ed in the LA Times about the state’s investment in early childhood education and reminded the Executive Committee of the importance of these continued investments.

Erin Hannigan / Solano County – Solano County has a mass vaccination clinic that will be vaccinating 4,000 people per day. With regards to the TPA, Supervisor Hannigan would hate to see the great work her county has been doing in this area negatively impacted by this agreement.

Diane Dillon / Napa County – Napa County residents have a very real fear of another significant fire season. The county just received a report that the wine and tourism industry took a \$2.4 billion hit during 2020 and they wouldn’t survive another year like that.

Luis Alejo / Monterey County – Monterey County finally received additional vaccine and they have been able to start vaccinating thousands of farm workers, including 3,000 farm workers at the Salinas rodeo grounds last Saturday. They have another 3,000-person clinic scheduled for this coming Saturday. Vaccinations at the VA and other military institutions have not been correctly reported to the County. As a result, Monterey County is sending a letter to the Department of Defense advocating that they report vaccinations to all counties to assist counties in moving through the state’s tiered system.

Buddy Mendes / Fresno County – Fresno County has been vaccinating their farm worker community for about 6 weeks and has a 500-person vaccination event scheduled for tomorrow. It’s very complicated for people to schedule appointments through their online vaccination appointment system.

Kelly Long / Ventura County – Ventura County is working to get their \$2 million grant out to their businesses. They are mobilizing vaccinations to their farm workers and local businesses have expressed a need for that too. The Governor was recently in the area and congratulated the county on getting all of their educators vaccinated – which will be done by the end of March. Supervisor Long agrees that many fixes are needed for MyTurn.

Susan Ellenberg / Santa Clara County – 29 of 58 counties have adopted AOT due to new state law. Santa Clara County’s behavioral health department is recommending that they opt out.

Keith Carson / Alameda County – Alameda County is focused on all things COVID and has initiated a grass roots door to door vaccination campaign, along with many organizations in the faith-based community. The county is re-assessing how they spend their funds from the American Rescue Plan. They are launching East Bay Forward which looks at life after the pandemic and explores: how do we move forward, what does life look like, and how do we do things differently?

Chuck Washington / Riverside County – Riverside County celebrated International Women’s Day on March 8th. For the last two years Supervisor Washington has had an all-female staff. He stated that if someone had an all-male staff, no one would think to comment. But when the day comes that having an all-female staff becomes no big deal, we will have arrived at Diversity, Equity an inclusion.

Ed Valenzuela / Siskiyou County – Water is a big issue in Siskiyou County and that’s big concern for agriculture and the upcoming fire season. They are at about 20% in the county for vaccination rates.

James Gore / Sonoma County – Sonoma County has allocated \$25 million towards a vegetation management initiative. They are also implementing a behavioral health and homeless sales tax, passed during the pandemic, that will generate \$30 million per year.

4. Broadband Working Group Update

Supervisor Luis Alejo presented to the Executive Committee on the all the work the Broadband Working Group has been doing. CSAC is leading an \$8 billion budget request to the state for one time funding, which includes \$6.8 billion for broadband infrastructure and \$1.2 billion for programs to assist with broadband adoption. The working group is also supporting AB-14, SB-4 and AB-34.

Supervisor Chuck Washington reported that the pandemic has done a great job of illuminating the shortcomings of internet and broadband access. While this used to be an issue primarily supported by the rural caucus, now the urban and suburban caucuses have joined the cause. The American Rescue Plan includes \$7.2 billion for schools and \$10 billion for states and tribes. An infrastructure bill is being introduced today that would put \$94 billion into broadband.

5. Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2021

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 14, 2021 was made by Supervisor Washington; second by Supervisor Long. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Updated 2020-2021 Board of Directors Nominations

A motion to approve the Updated 2020-2021 Board of Directors Nominations was made by Supervisor Alejo; second by Supervisor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consideration of the CSAC Proposed Budget and Salary Schedule for FY 2021-22

CSAC Treasure Leanord Moty thanked both Supervisor Valenzuela and Supervisor Scofield, the two previous CSAC treasurers, for their work in setting up policies and creating reserves to carry the Association through difficult times. The 2021-22 budget being recommended is based on careful consideration and recognizing baseline revenues and expenditures.

A motion to approve the CSAC Proposed Budget and Salary Schedule for FY 2021-22 was made by Supervisor Dillon; second by Supervisor Long. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Advocacy Priorities Report

Darby Kernan presented to the Executive Committee on CSAC’s Advocacy Priorities. The legislative team is focusing on many issues, including flexibility with the use of COVID funds, wildfire and resiliency, and juvenile justice. CSAC has reinstated the Juvenile Justice Working Group, which will include one supervisor from each caucus (rural, urban, suburban), three CAO’s and three probation chiefs. Ms. Kernan emphasized that CSAC’s relationship with the Administration is still strong, even though they have had many difficult conversations surrounding the pandemic.

9. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Supervisor Moty presented that due to changes in their formula with Nationwide, the Finance Corporation may see a little bump in revenue this year, but a decline next year. The program for financing the Workforce Housing Initiative has been doing extremely well. They are looking to expand Easy Smart Pay to make it available to any county that wants it.

John Fiske, shareholder at Baron & Budd and CSAC corporate partner, provided an update on the work his firm is doing on behalf of counties. Baron & Budd represents public entities on large scale environmental and public nuisance cases, such as wildfire litigation, water contamination and opioid litigation.

10. Communications and Member Services Report

Manuel Rivas, Jr., reminded that Executive Committee that CSAC's virtual Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 22nd and 23rd. David Liebler, Director of Public Affairs and Member Services, presented that the communications team is working hard to complement CSAC's advocacy efforts. CSAC continues to use social media to push messaging surrounding COVID and highlight stories through the Profiles in Leadership.

11. California Counties Foundation Report

Chastity Benson, Director of Operations and Educational Programs for the Foundation, reported that the Institute was able to pivot quickly to address the changing education needs of counties during the pandemic. Ms. Benson reminded the Executive Committee that CSAC's first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Forum is scheduled for April 8th. The Institute's first Alameda County class will start next week.

Meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on August 12th, 2021.