

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
September 2, 2021

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89224073679?pwd=WEdpZUYrSHUvSW95MGZyTXZnUGhRZz09>

Phone: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 892 2407 3679 | Password: 679285

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MINUTES

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**1. Roll Call**

OFFICERS

James Gore | President  
Ed Valenzuela | 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Chuck Washington | 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, California Association of County  
Executives President, Orange County (Absent)

Alameda	– Keith Carson	Orange	– Lisa Bartlett
Alpine	– Terry Woodrow	Placer	– Bonnie Gore
Amador	– Jeff Brown	Plumas	– Greg Hagwood
Butte	– Debra Lucero	Riverside	– Chuck Washington
Calaveras	– Merita Callaway	Sacramento	– Sue Frost
Colusa	– Merced Corona (alternate)	San Benito	– Bea Gonzalez
Contra Costa	– John Gioia	San Bernardino	– Janice Rutherford
Del Norte	– Chris Howard	San Diego	– Joel Anderson
El Dorado	– John Hidahl (alternate)	San Francisco	– Rafael Mandelman
Fresno	– Buddy Mendes	San Joaquin	– <i>Absent</i>
Glenn	– Keith Corum	San Luis Obispo	– Bruce Gibson
Humboldt	– Virginia Bass	San Mateo	– <i>Absent</i>
Imperial	– <i>Absent</i>	Santa Barbara	– Das Williams
Inyo	– Jeff Griffiths	Santa Clara	– Susan Ellenberg
Kern	– Zack Scrivner	Santa Cruz	– Bruce McPherson
Kings	– Craig Pedersen	Shasta	– Leonard Moty
Lake	– Bruno Sabatier	Sierra	– Lee Adams
Lassen	– <i>Absent</i>	Siskiyou	– Brandon Criss
Los Angeles	– Kathryn Barger	Solano	– <i>Absent</i>
Madera	– <i>Absent</i>	Sonoma	– Lynda Hopkins
Marin	– Damon Connolly	Stanislaus	– Vito Chiesa
Mariposa	– Miles Menetrey	Sutter	– Dan Flores
Mendocino	– John Haschak	Tehama	– <i>Absent</i>
Merced	– Scott Silveira	Trinity	– Keith Groves
Modoc	– Ned Coe	Tulare	– Amy Shuklian
Mono	– John Peters	Tuolumne	– Ryan Campbell
Monterey	– Luis Alejo	Ventura	– Kelly Long
Napa	– Diane Dillon	Yolo	– <i>Absent</i>
Nevada	– Heidi Hall	Yuba	– Gary Bradford

## 2. Executive Director's Report

Graham Knaus, CSAC Executive Director, presented that CSAC has continued to push forward on its top three priorities: Broadband, Homelessness, and Resiliency. Graham welcomed Jenny Tan, CSAC's new Senior Manager of Public Affairs and Member Services and Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CSAC's new Deputy Executive Director of Legislative Affairs. Graham also thanked Darby Kernan for her many years at CSAC, and Josh Gauger, who will be moving on at the end of the month.

## 3. Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Update

Patrick Blacklock, RCRC President and CEO, provided a brief overview of RCRC's structure and its key affiliates, and thanked CSAC for its partnership.

## 4. Opioid Settlement Agreement

John Fiske, Shareholder at Baron & Budd, P.C., provided an update on two separate Opioid Settlement Agreements which account for \$26 billion in total. Approximately \$2.269 billion of these funds will come into the State of California and all counties and cities can be included in these settlements. Mr. Fiske hopes that they will be close to finalizing an intrastate allocation agreement by the end of September.

## 5. Approval of Minutes from April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

*A motion to approve the minutes from April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, as amended, was made by Supervisor Lucero; second by Supervisor Moty. Motion carried unanimously.*

## 6. Minute Mics: Board of Directors Roundtable

*Alameda County / Keith Carson* – Alameda County is trying to balance the COVID surge that's taking place and trying to determine what to do with their rescue dollars. They are working hard on homelessness, as are many other counties.

*Alpine County / Terry Woodrow* – Alpine County had the Tamarack fire in July and is working on debris clean-up. Now they are also dealing with the Caldor Fire. COVID is hitting the county a little harder this time. Broadband is very important to their community.

*Amador County / Jeff Brown* – Supervisor Brown thanked LA, Ventura, and Orange counties for allowing Amador to use their choppers on the Caldor Fire. The fire mostly stayed out of Amador County but has devastated El Dorado County. Amador County appreciates all the mutual aid they have received from other counties.

*Butte County / Debra Lucero* – Butte County is in the middle of redistricting, which is very challenging because one district lost 25,000 people from the Camp Fire. They are also in the middle of a water district being formed, which has been quite contentious. COVID is a big issue; their hospitals are very impacted with over 100 people currently hospitalized.

*Calaveras County / Merita Callaway* – Supervisor Callaway reported that CDPH only gives hospitalization data for those hospitalized within Calaveras County, but they have many residents in hospitals outside of the county. They would like to see a change in the way this data is reported. The county is struggling with court security funding. On COVID, they are concerned about kids going into the library masked vs. unmasked.

*Colusa County / Merced Corona* – Colusa County is dealing with many of the same issues as other counties. They are very lucky in that the fires have not touched their county yet.

Contra Costa County / John Gioia – Contra Costa County has started booster vaccinations to those who are immuno-compromised. Starting in September, they will be doing booster shots to the broader public. They have been working closely with their labor unions and have a policy that requires vaccinations now that there is FDA approval, though they do allow religious and medical exemptions. The county is also doing at home vaccinations and mobile clinics anywhere five or more people show up.

Del Norte / Chris Howard – Del Norte County is struggling with the COVID surge, and their hospitals are overwhelmed. This has taxed the system and they've had to backfill state workers into their hospitals. In the interim, they are flying patients out and doing the best they can.

El Dorado / John Hidahl – The Caldor Fire is at the top of their list. Supervisor Hidahl thanked everyone for their support and resources. He encouraged the board to work with each other and the state to mitigate wildfire threats. The COVID surge has hampered hospitalization capabilities and they have very limited resources. They've had to transfer many patients into Nevada. El Dorado County is trying to finalize their 2021-22 budget, but there are many unknowns with the Caldor Fire. They need funds from the state to fund special fire districts.

Fresno County / Buddy Mendes – Drought is a huge issue that is impacting crops and production. They are still having problems with COVID, like many other counties.

Glenn County / Keith Corum – Glenn County has a drought task force that's working with 150 homes to help residents whose wells have gone dry. They have received donations of bottled water from Walmart and Amazon. The county recently had a ribbon cutting for the West Hills Shooting Range, which can be used by the public and law enforcement. They are hoping to include an archery range in the future.

Humboldt County / Virginia Bass – Humboldt is really struggling with COVID, and they are also airlifting patients out of the county. They are fighting COVID vaccine misinformation. The county has only had one fire that they have been able to control. Cannabis prices are seeing a big drop due to oversupply and the community is panicking.

Inyo County / Jeff Griffiths – Supervisor Griffiths reported that Inyo County is dealing with many of the same issues as other counties. COVID is around but they still have hospital capacity and vaccination rates are holding near the state average. The biggest issues they are dealing with are the closures of the national forests due to wildfire risks. This is a great impact during their highest tourism weeks of the year, though they completely understand and support this decision.

Kern County / Zack Scrivner – Supervisor Scrivner addressed a trailer bill that will eliminate local government control over the permitting of any wind or PV project over 50 megawatts and give it to the California Energy Commission. Kern County produces over 50% of all the renewable energy in the State of California – wind and solar. The county has been pushing for an elimination of the solar tax exclusion. This is for large scale solar, not rooftop solar. The exclusion costs the county \$20 million a year in revenue. Supervisor Scrivner encouraged the board to oppose this bill.

Kings County / Craig Pedersen – Kings County is trending up with their COVID numbers and they have a big lag in getting tests back from the state labs. Water issues are huge, and California needs a coordinated strategy. Supervisor Pedersen encouraged those who have access to water to hear their call.

Lake County / Bruno Sabatier – Lake County recently had the Cash Fire and while it was only 83 acres, they lost 57 homes. They are trying to get the Governor to help fold them into the other declarations he's made as state and federal funding are essential for recovery. The county has been doing well with fire mitigation programs but the need for CEQA and NEPA has been slowing down the process on federal lands. Supervisor Sabatier expressed that we need to be able to lower the threshold for these. Housing becomes more and more dire with every fire that they have. COVID is a struggle with misinformation. Drought and illegal cannabis operations are decimating to the county's water.

Los Angeles / Kathryn Barger – Los Angeles County is struggling with water theft for illegal cannabis grows. The county can shut them down, but they are back in service shortly thereafter because of the minimal penalties. With regards to COVID, they are managing the surge and hospitalizations are down. 74% of their residents age 12 and over have had one vaccine dose. But there is still a portion of the population that is apprehensive about trusting government and the vaccine, so they are doing as much outreach as possible. Vaccine passports are on hold for the time being. LA County stands ready to help any counties they can with the fires.

Marin County / Damon Connolly – COVID response continues to be their top priority. Marin is the #1 county for vaccination rates in the entire US. They are working with the community on distributing ARPA funds and recently supported a shovel ready flood control project.

Mariposa County / Miles Menetrey – Supervisor Menetrey echoed the concerns with illegal cannabis grows, which cause huge issues with water and forest fire. The decriminalization of cannabis has been terrible for rural counties. Mariposa County is dealing with the COVID surge with the county being only 40% vaccinated and their community is terribly divided on this issue. They are excited to host the capitol Christmas tree, which will be making a tour stop in their county in November. The Mariposa County Fair will be up and running this Labor Day weekend.

Mendocino County / John Haschak – The big issue in Mendocino County is the drought. The county has a plan to ship water from Ukiah to the coast in trucks and they have committed \$1.5 million to this project. With regards to COVID, they don't have beds available in their hospitals. Supervisor Haschak agrees that illegal cannabis grows are contributing to the drought.

Merced County / Scott Silveira – While Merced County doesn't have any fires in their county, they are dealing with smoke. Environmental health agencies continue to come up with new ideas and regulations that are difficult to implement. Supervisor Silveira expressed that CSAC needs to help push back on these regulations.

Modoc County / Ned Coe – Modoc County is experiencing the same issues with state agencies and expressed frustration in dealing with the state for drought relief funding. Supervisor Coe believes that it should be returned back to the CalOES for Department of Water Resources as it's more difficult for small counties.

Monterey County / Luis Alejo – Supervisor Alejo requested that we adjourn in memory of the 13 members who were killed in action a few days ago. Several of these members were from California.

Mono County / John Peters – Supervisor Peters expressed that it's devastating to their economy when the forests are shut down due to fires and there is no plan or notice from the forest service. They are filing formal comments with the CPUC on broadband funds and mapping. With regards to NACo, they are doing a virtual congressional briefing on the NACo Broadband Task Force Report that came out in July. This will occur next Friday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.

Napa County / Diane Dillon – Supervisor Dillon offered hope to those experiencing fires in that all the fires have fostered a new community involvement as residents realize that these disasters can happen to them. Napa County has all kinds of systems in place since their 2017 fires and Supervisor Dillon encouraged the board to reach out to her so they're not re-creating the wheel when it comes to recovery and mitigation efforts. PG&E has started their fast power turn off system, where power instantly goes off when the line is tripped and can't be turned back on until someone physically checks the lines. Some rural areas have experienced six power outages in four weeks, some as long as eight hours in duration.

Nevada County / Heidi Hall – Nevada County had the River Fire, which blew up to 2,600 acres in a matter of hours and they lost 142 buildings. They were fortunate to stop it quickly. With regards to COVID, they have an explosion of the Delta variant and one of the highest test positivity rates in the state. The county is experiencing continued and increasing vitriol against elected officials and public health officers. They have multiple low-income workforce housing projects that have broken ground, as well as several single-family projects. On cannabis, they have a robust legal industry that is doing very well.

Orange County / Lisa Bartlett – Orange County recently passed a resolution requesting the President and Congress allow for an additional 100,00 refugees from Afghanistan and expedite immigration applications. Orange County is ready to support these refugees with services and support. They are getting ready to start on their 2<sup>nd</sup> Be Well OC Campus. The county is setting aside \$2.4 million in ARPA funds for seniors to get access to iPad tablets and training on how to use a computer. Orange County is doing well with COVID numbers, though they do have increases in positivity rates with the Delta variant.

Placer County / Bonnie Gore – Placer County is moving forward on their regional homelessness action plan in conjunction with the city council and other community partners. They are also experiencing very angry residents at their board meetings and have been increasingly concerned for their safety. Supervisor Gore thanked Supervisor Alejo for recognizing the lives of the service members recently lost.

Riverside County / Chuck Washington – Riverside County's public health department has been expanding the use of their healthy places index data to target their neediest residents. They are ramping up their vaccination and testing sites as the Delta variant becomes more prevalent. Riverside County is preparing to receive Broadband funding. They are also working with First 5 to increase access to childcare for families. The County will be receiving ARPA funds of \$240 million this year and \$240 million next year.

Sacramento County / Sue Frost – Sacramento County recently opened respite centers due to wildfire smoke. The county is expecting to receive two to three thousand refugees from Afghanistan, and they are working hard to prepare for that.

San Benito County / Bea Gonzalez – Supervisor Gonzalez reported that the San Benito County board is extremely divided, with three new supervisors this year. They are also experiencing anger and vitriol from the community at their board meetings. The vaccination mandate has been very controversial in their county. They already have their broadband task force ready to go but they need assistance in accessing the funds.

San Diego / Joel Anderson – In San Diego County, 77% of the population 12 and older is vaccinated; from ages 40-60, over 80% is vaccinated; and for 70 and older over 90% is vaccinated. Their county website listed the science behind closing restaurants and other businesses, which turned out to be more of an opinion, and this made combating misinformation a challenge.

San Francisco / Rafael Mandelman – San Francisco's COVID surge seems to be abating. Around 87% of the population 12 and older have gotten at least one shot and 80% are fully vaccinated. Their transportation system is at about 85% of the service they had pre-pandemic. They are working on a homelessness recovery plan. The county now has to move about two thousand residents out of the hotels they were moved into during the pandemic and they don't want to move them onto the streets. Drugs are a huge problem, the county had 700 overdoses last year.

San Luis Obispo / Bruce Gibson – San Luis Obispo County is working hard for a long-term solution to homelessness and trying to find the balance between getting folks on the path to permanent housing while maintaining enforcement to keep public spaces safe, secure, and inviting. Supervisor Gibson is increasingly concerned at the anger expressed towards elected officials and public health officers.

Santa Clara County / Susan Ellenberg – Santa Clara County has a recall against the board of supervisors. They took a unanimous vote of no confidence in their sheriff, and a unanimous vote to close a local municipal airport. The county's COVID numbers are in good standing. They are still trying to work out their ARPA strategy. Their population has lost 100,000 which has resulted in redistricting.

Santa Cruz / Bruce McPherson - COVID, fires and homelessness continue to be big issues in Santa Cruz County. They are trying to get through the process of rebuilding after the CZU fires. Supervisor McPherson is thankful for CSAC and NACo's work towards broadband. The county is concerned with the continuous urging by state legislators to have oversight over local land use. They have formed a new joint power agency with the goal of reducing costs of power purchases through government prepayment. They are looking at how to prepare for when the rescue dollars run out.

Shasta County / Leonard Moty – Shasta County is dealing with air quality issues but does not have any major fires. They are trying to take strong action against illegal cannabis grows, especially after what happened in Siskiyou County. There is a full recall effort against three of their supervisors with the two other supervisors actively involved in the effort. There is an angry group blaming the supervisors for the state's vaccination and masking mandates. Shasta County has very high COVID rates and very low vaccination rates.

Sierra County / Supervisor Adams – Fire and forest health are of the highest concern in Sierra County. Supervisor Adams expressed that we need to re-think what healthy forests look like. While the fires are often a rural problem, the watershed issues are an urban and suburban problem. They have not had any COVID cases in western Sierra County in several months, but the Eastern side has growing numbers.

Siskiyou County / Brandon Criss – Siskiyou County declared a state of emergency due to illegal cannabis grows in 2017. They don't get Prop. 64 funding due to zoning reasons and they don't have the resources to combat it. Their county has been hit very hard by the drought and they're looking into watershed treatments. They just passed a vacation rental moratorium to try and help address housing needs.

Sonoma County / Lynda Hopkins – In the last 5 years, Sonoma County has been through two floods, one drought, one pandemic and four catastrophic wildfires. Supervisor Hopkins expressed that we are living in an era of constant crises, and we are not as equipped at the local government level as we should be. She encouraged the board to come together and advocate for resiliency funding for communities who are continually hit by disasters.

Stanislaus County / Vito Chiesa – Stanislaus County is implementing an indoor mask mandate for all, even those who are fully vaccinated. Their hospital capacity is very low. The county is really struggling with illegal cannabis grows as they are a tremendous drain on resources. Supervisor Chiesa stated penalties need to be increased.

Sutter County / Dan Flores – Sutter County has a surge in COVID cases and is experiencing 1-2 deaths per day. They share a hospital with Yuba County and the ICU is at capacity. They don't have any fires in their county but continue to support their neighbors in crisis.

Trinity County / Keith Groves – Supervisor Groves presented that last week there was a court ruling against the county stating they can't issue provisional cannabis licenses. With regards to redistricting, Trinity County had the largest growth in the state but it's all because of the workforce from illegal cannabis grows. Trinity currently has three major fires in their county. They have a low vaccination rate with only 42% of their residents vaccinated.

Tulare County / Amy Shuklian – Supervisor Shuklian reported that the drought is hitting their county very hard. Since August 4<sup>th</sup> they've had 64 reports of dry wells. Tulare has good things happening surrounding homelessness. They have a project HomeKey site, another site the county collaborated on with the housing authority on, a homeless village and another non-profit that is building a 100-bed navigation center.

Tuolumne County / Ryan Campbell – Tuolumne recently had the Washington Fire which exposed their weaknesses with regards to evacuation procedures. They are working on a vegetation ordinance and would like to bring back more controlled burning.

Ventura County / Kelly Long – Ventura County has 68% of their residents fully vaccinated with 78% having at least their first dose. They do have a mask mandate but are focusing on having local control and keeping their businesses open.

Yuba County / Gary Bradford – Yuba County has a very low vaccination rate. Their ICU is well over capacity, and they are seeing almost double the active cases as they did during the winter surge. They have also had a lot of public participation in their board meeting with a lot of anger directed at the board for state regulations. Like Napa, they have also had issues with PG&E's fast trip power settings with some residents having lost power 6-8 times.

## **7. CSAC Legislative Update**

Darby Kernan reported that the recall election on September 14<sup>th</sup> is impacting how things are playing out making the end of the legislative session a little quieter.

Geoff Neill, Legislative Representative for Government, Finance and Administration reported on broadband, CalPERS rates, the Brown Act and AB 339. Ryan Souza, Legislative Representative covering the labor and employment side of GFA, reported on workers compensation and their work to make sure counties continue to have control over labor and employment issues.

Josh Gauger, Legislative Representative for Administration of Justice, reported on DJJ realignment implementation, juvenile justice, fines and fees, monitoring pre-trial reform efforts and homelessness.

Catherine Freeman, Legislative Representative for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, reported on fire prevention funding, illegal cannabis, drought and disposing of treated wood waste.

Farrah McDaid Ting, Legislative Representative for Health, reported on COVID, recent legislation, CalAIM and Afghan refugees coming into the state. Justin Garrett, Legislative Representative for Human Services reported on in-home supportive services, implantation of the Master Plan for Aging, and early childhood.

Chris Lee, Legislative Representative for Land Use and Transportation, presented on recent legislation, including AB 215, and on transportation funding.

## **8. CSAC Finance Corporation Report**

Supervisor Leonard Moty, Finance Corporation President, reported that the Finance Corporation was able to meet its commitment of \$4.5 million to CSAC this year. Supervisor Moty briefly discussed CSCDA, Easy Smart Pay, and the California Cannabis Authority.

Jim Manker, Director of Business Development, introduced CSAC's newest Platinum Partner David Andrews, Director of International Homeland Security at IEM, a disaster management consulting firm.

**9. Communications & Member Services Report**

Manuel Rivas, Jr. reported that CSAC continues to use earned media, social media, Profiles in Leadership and Membership Monday to tell the county story and highlight our members. CSAC's annual meeting will occur on Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2021, in Monterey County.

**10. California Counties Foundation Report**

Chastity Benson, Director of Operations and Educational Services for the Foundation, reported on the recent new Supervisors Institute Class and the Foundation's Partnership with NACo's Professional Development Academy. The remainder of the Summer/Fall session will remain virtual.

**The meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Directors meeting will be on December 2, 2021.**