



**\*\* Proposed \*\***

**2017-18 CEAC Policy and Legislative Priorities**

The annual Policy and Legislative Priorities are best achieved through collaboration and shared responsibility. To achieve the following, CEAC, CSAC staff, and individual county staff must combine resources, including policy and technical knowledge and expertise to maximize our influence, efficacy, and successful outcomes.

**State Priorities**

**Transportation**

1. Pursue additional funding to address local transportation needs. Cities and counties currently have \$7.3 billion in unmet annual funding needs for the maintenance and preservation of local streets and roads and related facilities. CSAC will continue to advocate for at least \$3 billion in new ongoing funding for local streets and roads to be allocated to counties by formula with maximum flexibility for local transportation maintenance and improvements to roads and supporting infrastructure, including bridges and complete streets. Advocacy on new transportation funding also includes the return of the new HUTA revenues attributable to Off Highway Vehicles (OHV), watercraft, and agricultural vehicle fuel sales to counties, cities, and the State as intended under the transportation Tax Swap, the return of weight fee revenues back to transportation projects, and repayment of all existing transportation loans. This item may be resolved by November 30, 2106 as part of the Legislature's ongoing special session on transportation and infrastructure development.
2. Explore Road User Charge Policy Options. Work with CSAC to examine the association's position on mileage-based user charges as an eventual replacement for the gasoline excise tax. As improvements in the fuel efficiency of vehicles reduces gas tax revenue per mile travelled and inflation continues to erode the purchasing power of the excise tax revenues, alternatives to the gas tax are being seriously considered by transportation stakeholders. CEAC will study the policy implications of mileage based user fees and work with CSAC to develop positions on this method of taxation, which will be the focus of extensive study and a state pilot project over the next several years.
3. Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment. Work with the Needs Assessment Oversight Committee and consultant to publicize the 2016 biennial report and engage in education and advocacy in support of new revenues from transportation infrastructure. Develop strategies to increase attention to all statewide efforts that highlight needs of the statewide transportation system. Continue to work with counties, cities, regional agencies, and Caltrans to secure funding for the needs assessment contract.

## **Land Use**

1. CEQA Streamlining – Infill. Support CEQA streamlining for infill projects including the infrastructure necessary to support that development, especially as opportunities present themselves in transportation special session or in the continued discussion of proposals to streamline the development of housing for families of all income levels.
2. Fund Infill Infrastructure. Support funding sources for infrastructure related to infill projects that fall under applicable streamlining, including the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant program, as well as other proposals to fund infill infrastructure in tandem with affordable housing development, including proposals for a bond measure.
3. SB 743 Implementation. Work with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to ensure that the potential use of Vehicle Miles Travelled as a replacement metric for Level of Service for the purpose of CEQA transportation impacts analysis can be feasibly implemented by local governments. Support efforts to ensure that the new metric is applied in appropriate contexts and that funding and technical assistance are available to smooth the implementation process, including offering training opportunities in collaboration with OPR.

## **Resource Recovery and Waste Management**

1. AB 1826 and SB 1383 Implementation. Engage in CalRecycle and the Air Resources Board’s process for implementing AB 1826 and SB 1383 which creates an organic management program in California. Continue to advocate for resources for local governments to develop the necessary infrastructure to implement organics diversion programs.
2. Conversion Technology. Support legislative efforts to advance the development, design and implementation of conversion technologies.
3. Funding for solid waste recovery infrastructure. Alternative to AB 939 fees.

## **Flood Control**

1. Stormwater Funding Outreach and Engagement Effort. Increase public awareness and countywide support for stormwater programs by providing education and information on the needs, challenges, and benefits of stormwater and flood control programs throughout the state.
2. Stormwater Funding. Continue to support the development of a funding mechanism that would allow cities and county to finance compliance with Clean Water Act permit requirements, stormwater capture and flood protection services.

## **Surveyor**

1. Surveyor Monument Preservation. Support legislation that would simplify the collection of the Monument Preservation Fund Fee.

## Federal Priorities

### Transportation

1. FAST Act Implementation: Work to ensure that California counties are well-positioned to utilize environmental review streamlining opportunities available from the FAST Act. Continue to educate Congress and the Administration about the need to further streamline the federal process to reduce costs and improve project delivery.
2. Federal Transportation Funding: Take advantage of opportunities to educate Congress and the incoming Administration about the need for new federal funding for transportation in advance of the next reauthorization effort.
3. Off Set Impacts from Federal Lands. Support continued federal funding to offset impacts to counties from federal lands, such as the Secure Rural Schools program.

### Flood Control

1. Clean Water Act. Support legislation that would amend Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to provide a narrow exemption for maintenance activities involving the removal of sediment, debris and vegetation from flood control channels and basins.