



December 19, 2018

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To: Members, County Engineers Association of California

Re: 2018 CSAC Annual Report to CEAC

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to present to the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) the 2018 CEAC Annual Report. This year, CSAC engaged in a number of high-profile and critical legislative, regulatory, and political issues on behalf of all 58 counties. The partnership between CSAC and CEAC enabled success on a number of these issues described in this report.

As we celebrate our progress, we continue to also deal with a number of significant challenges. At this time last year, we noted the devastating 2017 wildfires and our thoughts and prayers for victims across the state. Unfortunately, the same sentiment holds true this year as a number of California's counties are once again faced with rebuilding after the devastating Camp, Carr and Woolsey fires, among many others. CSAC was at the forefront of efforts in 2018 to address disaster recovery, wildfire liability issues and the safety and resiliency of communities across the state. The 2019 legislative session is already shaping up to focus on similar issues, and we will work to build upon the progress we made through the passage of a comprehensive wildfire prevention and recovery package this year, and work to ensure that counties have the resources they need to recover and rebuild.

2018 will also go down in history as the year we fought off the attempt to repeal SB 1 – the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. The defeat of Proposition 6, by a 13.6% margin, confirms that Californians strongly support investment in our transportation infrastructure. The retention of SB 1, bolstered by the 2018 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment – will allow counties and cities to improve the overall condition of our local streets and roads system and reduce the funding shortfall by over \$18 billion in the next decade. Moving forward, it will continue to be important to maintain education and outreach efforts so the public is fully aware of the benefit they are receiving from the SB 1 revenues.

This report not only provides a review of 2018 but also a look forward into 2019 and the policy issues that counties will be facing as a new Administration takes office. The long-standing and robust relationship between CSAC and CEAC is critical to CSAC's advocacy efforts on all matters pertaining to public works. The technical support that CEAC provides to CSAC is second-to-none in the County Family, and the passion and commitment of CEAC's leadership and members is incredibly valuable. Our mutual success is a result of this relationship.

On behalf of CSAC/CEAC policy team, we thank you for your hard work and look forward to productive 2019.

Kiana L. Valentine,
Senior Legislative Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kiana L. Valentine".

Christopher A. Lee
Legislative Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Lee".

Merrin Gerety
CEAC Program Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Merrin Gerety".

Cara B. Martinson
Senior Legislative Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cara B. Martinson".

Nick Cronenwett
Legislative Analyst

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2018 ANNUAL REPORT



COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES





CEAC'S Purpose

FRONT COVER PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM):
 CHIP SEAL, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY; SAND CREEK BRIDGE, TULARE
 COUNTY; MARION ASHLEY EDUCATION CENTER, RIVERSIDE COUNTY;
 GRANITE CREEK ROAD, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY; BROOKWOOD COVERED
 BRIDGE, HUMBOLDT COUNTY; ADAMS DEBRIS BASIN, VENTURA COUNTY.
 PAGE 1 PHOTOS: SAN JUAN CREEK LEVEE, ORANGE COUNTY (TOP);
 ROAD CREW, HUMBOLDT COUNTY (BOTTOM).

The County Engineers Association of California (CEAC), formed in 1914, is comprised of county engineers, public works directors, county road commissioners, and professional personnel throughout California's 58 counties. Its purpose is "To advance county engineering and management by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information aimed at improving service to the public."

Furthermore, the objective of CEAC is "To accomplish the advancement of engineering methods and ethical practice through networking efforts of all 58 counties in the state." Through discussion, interchange, and dissemination of engineering and administrative data/ideas, the organization shall strive to affect "maximum efficiency and modernization in engineering and administrative units of local government."

Throughout CEAC's history, it has maintained a close relationship with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to lend support in policy development and advocacy efforts, thus benefiting counties and their ability to serve their residents.



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Message from the 2017-2018 President of the County Engineers Association of California



Although many of you have been affected by this season's record-breaking fires, you continue to make time for CEAC and contribute to its critical mission. Thank you for your commitment to CEAC and my personal mission of increasing the active participation and involvement in CEAC this past year.

As part of my focus for re-engaging our members, I reorganized and chaired CEAC's Oversight Policy Committee (OPC). The newer, focused OPC now consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Immediate Past President,

Parliamentarian, and the CSAC staff member to CEAC (ex-officio). Why reorganize? In gathering input, it became clear that it was the best way to accomplish two ambitious goals: increase active participation in CEAC and to evolve CEAC's outreach and messaging. The importance? Clearly, a unified and trusted voice on all things Public Works is desired. CEAC members, legislators, affiliates, and the general public should have confidence in CEAC's professionalism, position, and message - whether it is on the importance of Public Works in any community, pending legislation, or regulatory challenges and policies.



Since December of 2017, the OPC met almost bi-weekly, developing a 2018 work plan and to make practical changes to on-going CEAC operations. The most immediate operational change involved evolving charters for each of the CEAC Policy Committees. These charters came directly from the CEAC Officer's Manual and were granted Parliamentarian approval. They clearly defined expectations for those who would be the chairs and vice chairs and included provisions for additional e-meetings and webinars. The charters aligned Policy Committee activities with the CEAC mission/vision.

The OPC knew that to increase active participation, CEAC needed demonstrate its relevance to membership. To do this, CEAC needed your help! CEAC needed to know what



SINCE DECEMBER OF 2017, THE OPC MET ALMOST BI-WEEKLY, DEVELOPING A 2018 WORK PLAN AND TO MAKE PRACTICAL CHANGES TO ON-GOING CEAC OPERATIONS.

was important to you. We subsequently sent a survey to the membership that garnered valuable feedback. Of the 80 that responded, 16 were retired and 64 were still working. Of those still working, 42 were executive management and 18 were in administration, surveying, or engineering.

The survey analysis indicated that CEAC vies for the attention of its membership with several other prestigious State and National associations. The survey made it clear, that to be competitive in this environment of associations, CEAC needs to expand upon its communication approach and its messaging. Not only are there other media to explore, but

the messaging on relevance needs review and update. It is also likely the case that CEAC needs to expand its outreach and broadcast to reach a larger audience, i.e. those members of our agencies that are not in executive management. The work on relevance has only just begun and there is much to be done.

I would like to acknowledge the retirement of DeAnn Baker, a long-time representative and supporter of CEAC and also to Kiana Valentine from CSAC who was instrumental in saving the SB 1 Transportation funding.

Thank you for your support!

Jeff Pratt
Public Works Director
Ventura County
2017-2018 CEAC President

PAGE 3 PHOTOS: OREGON GULCH ROAD BRIDGE, BUTTE COUNTY (LEFT); RICHGROVE DRIVE, TULARE COUNTY (RIGHT); JOHN PRESLEIGH, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY; JAY SPURGIN, CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS; RANDY BREAU, CITY OF BRISBANE; CHARLES HERBERTSON, CITY OF CULVER CITY AND LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT; JEFF PRATT, VENTURA COUNTY AND CEAC PRESIDENT; RICK TIPPETT, TRINITY COUNTY; AND JIM PORTER, SAN MATEO COUNTY (LOWER LEFT - L TO R).
PAGE 4 PHOTOS: JEFF PRATT, CEAC 2017-18 PRESIDENT (LEFT); BOLLEA BRIDGE, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY (RIGHT); EAST CAMINO CIELO ROAD, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (BOTTOM).



Reflecting on 2018

California's 58 counties and CSAC staff certainly have a lot to celebrate this year, with major achievements in fending off Proposition 6 and protecting transportation revenues. At the same time, California continues to experience devastating impacts from the most recent round of wildfires, and our hearts are heavy as we mourn the significant loss of life and property as wildfires threaten communities around the state. Our thoughts are with the victims and the countless county officials, first responders, state officials, and volunteers working tirelessly to protect life and property. We are heartened during this troubling time by the camaraderie, generosity and leadership of California's counties in lending helping hands as communities try to recover from the devastation.

Prior to the current disasters, wildfire liability had already emerged as perhaps the most critical and difficult issue in the 2018 legislative session. Investor-owned utility companies spent millions of dollars advocating for liability changes that would have hurt both local government and homeowners. Fending off this attack on liability quickly became CSAC's number one priority. CSAC created a broad coalition to look for solutions that would address safety and liability while keeping utilities fiscally sound— moving the conversation from politics to policy.

After months of negotiating, CSAC was successful in preventing wide-sweeping changes to utility liability laws, known as inverse condemnation that would have shifted the burden of utility-caused wildfires to victims. In the end, the Legislature passed SB 901 by Senator Dodd, a compromise measure that protects victims while creating stronger safety requirements for utilities. The measure also provides \$1 billion over five years for forest management and fire prevention, and provides a pathway for utility debt management and cost recovery, while protecting counties and victims of fires, and stabilizing rates. Wildfire liability and county resiliency are great examples of what can be accomplished when CSAC takes the lead in finding solutions to the major issues facing our state.

Despite the continued tragedy caused by fires, counties can still celebrate some hard-earned victories achieved in 2018. In fact, the most recent election will help California's counties recover and rebuild through the defeat of Proposition 6, which would have repealed over \$5 billion annually in transportation funding (discussed in greater detail below). The passage of Propositions 1 and 2 will help California build much needed affordable housing, and the defeat of Proposition 5 will prevent the erosion of billions of dollars in property tax revenue from county services and programs.

CSAC focused on many other critical issues important to counties throughout the legislative session including, reducing homelessness, preparing for the 2020 Census, climate change and resiliency efforts, unfunded mandates, changes in the mental health system, and bail reform. The Governor also signed a CSAC- sponsored bill to expand county Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) authority to help control costs on county construction projects, a long-sought CEQA exemption for infill housing projects in unincorporated areas, and a CSAC- supported measure that creates an extended producer responsibility program for the takeback of pharmaceuticals and medical sharps. The following policy sections provide greater detail about our 2018 achievements and illustrate how the collaborative partnership between CSAC and CEAC continues to get results. ●





PAGE 5 PHOTOS:
OAKLAND AIRPORT, ALAMEDA COUNTY (LEFT); SPENCEVILLE ROAD, NEVADA COUNTY.
PAGE 6 PHOTOS:
GOLETA BEACH BRIDGE, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (TOP);
MINES ROAD, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (MIDDLE LEFT); DRONE DEMO, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY (MIDDLE RIGHT);
PAVEMENT RECYCLING SB-1, RIVERSIDE COUNTY (BOTTOM).

Transportation



Transportation Funding

Just months after the successful passage of the Road Repair and Accountability Act (SB 1) – efforts were underway to repeal the long sought bi-partisan transportation infrastructure funding solution. SB 1 was the first new permanent transportation funding package passed by the Legislature in nearly three decades. It increased several taxes and fees to raise over \$5 billion annually in new transportation revenues. Moreover, SB 1 will make adjustments for inflation every year, so the purchasing power of the revenues does not diminish as it has in the past. SB 1 prioritizes funding for maintenance, rehabilitation and safety improvements on state highways, local streets and roads, and bridges, and for improvements to the state's trade corridors, transit systems, and active transportation facilities.

The effort to repeal SB 1 officially qualified for the November 2018 General Election as Proposition 6. Member counties reported to CSAC that Proposition 6 would require counties to cancel contracts, delay projects (some indefinitely), and lay-off staff, among other reductions in road maintenance services. Given the significant negative impacts the initiative would have had on the ability of counties to repair and maintain (in a safe condition) local streets, roads, bridges and other critical local transportation infrastructure in a safe

condition, CSAC played a critical role as campaign co-chair along with the State Building Trades and Construction Council and built an impressive coalition of over 670 organizations opposed to this harmful initiative.

Campaign polling and research indicated that voters were prepared to reject Proposition 6, but first they needed to understand the actual negative impacts the measure would have on their local streets and roads and the regional transportation system they rely on in their daily lives. Through SB 1's new robust transparency and accountability requirements, counties and cities had identified more than 6,500 local projects that would use SB 1 funding in 2017 and 2018. The campaign was able to leverage this information and develop regionalized messages highlighting the significant projects at-risk if Proposition 6 were successful.

The campaign strategy was extraordinary and relied on a multi-pronged approach using television, radio, earned media and social media to deliver the “No on 6” message to voters. CSAC staff was oftentimes the face of the campaign, debating proponents of the measure in live television and radio debates, taking countless interview requests from media outlets across the state and nation, and speaking at press conferences and rallies.

Recognizing the rightful legal limitations on counties actively advocating a position on ballot initiatives, CSAC staff provided counties with educational opportunities such as webinars and informational emails outlining what counties could and could not do while using public resources. At the same time, counties were in a unique position, possessing critical information relevant to voters, to inform the electorate of potential impacts of ballot measures on county functions, programs, and services.

CSAC staff prepared numerous resources for counties to use in their educational efforts, including Prop 6 Fact of the Week emails to help counties respond to false claims about how existing transportation revenues are spent and information about what SB 1 funds and what it doesn't fund. Educate counties it did! Counties from all over the state—in particular public works directors and staff—spoke at community meetings, developed lists of at-risk projects, and posted signage on SB 1-funded projects to educate voters about the benefits of SB 1 in their local community.



The immense effort from the entire campaign team and individual counties, cities, businesses, labor groups, and other advocates paid off in an overwhelming victory for the “No” campaign. Proposition 6 failed on election night – only garnering a 44% support rate. With Proposition 6 behind us, California’s counties, cities, the state and regions can continue to repair and rebuild California’s transportation infrastructure with the knowledge that a majority of California voters want their roads fixed and see transportation taxes and fees as a sound investment in their future!

Transportation Legislation

SB 914 (Dodd) Construction Manager At-Risk

In an effort to control costs and mitigate risk on large county construction projects, CSAC sponsored legislation to expand county construction manager at-risk (CMAR) authority. A CMAR contract is a competitively-procured contract with an entity that guarantees the cost of a project and furnishes construction management services. As a result of SB 914, beginning on January 1, 2019, counties will be able to use CMAR to deliver construction projects for flood control infrastructure, utility improvements, and bridges. ●

Land Use

Land use and housing continued to be a major focus of the Legislature in 2018, with dozens of bills ranging from minor changes of existing law to major overhauls of the state-local land use relationship; such as the process for allocating growth targets to local jurisdictions. CSAC worked with our local government colleagues and other partners to secure passage of environmental streamlining legislation; to successfully defend against misguided land use bills; and to amend bills that failed to consider the unique circumstances of unincorporated areas.

In a major victory for counties, CSAC worked closely with Assembly Member Marc Berman to successfully pass AB 1804. Counties had unsuccessfully pursued CEQA streamlining for infill housing projects in built-out unincorporated areas for many years. The final bill will allow counties to access a CEQA exemption for infill housing projects in the unincorporated area until 2025. While the bill includes standards for minimum residential density (six dwelling units per acre) and requires the development to have no significant impacts on transportation or vehicle miles travelled, it is otherwise very similar to the exemption cities have long enjoyed. CSAC encourages counties to consider this exemption as a housing streamlining tool during upcoming housing element and zoning ordinances updates.

CSAC also successfully played defense by averting or reducing costly new planning mandates. These victories included stopping three bills that sought once again to require accessory dwelling unit ordinance changes only a year after the last major overhaul and securing amendments to ensure that changes to the regional housing needs assessment process do not unintentionally promote sprawl-style zoning in unincorporated areas. While CSAC and our local partners were able to secure amendments or stop bills that would have limited the ability of local governments to ensure that new development offsets its impacts on public infrastructure, this issue is likely to come to a head once again when the Department of Housing and Community Development releases a study on impact fees, which is expected in 2019.

Finally, the state took final steps to allocate funding for local government planning and housing activities generated by CSAC-supported legislation in 2017. The Department of Housing and Community Development has issued final draft guidelines for local government planning grants funded by SB 2 (Atkins, 2017), which imposed a \$75 to \$225 per transaction document recording fee. California's voters authorized \$4 billion in bonds for affordable housing and veteran homeownership programs during the November General Election, many of which include county eligibility. ●



Surveying

The CEAC Surveying Policy Committee engaged on a number of issues this year including transportation, housing and other issues. Transportation issues, affordable housing and other legislative issues have an impact on surveying. The Committee provided input and stayed abreast of key bills. In addition, CEAC surveyors have been very active this year engaging in the use of a new listserv email list that allows the

group to “crowd source” questions to their fellow surveyors about complex and difficult property line and surveying issues, among other topics. Surveyors also engaged the Attorney General Xavier Becerra regarding a legislatively requested legal opinion on whether or not a “record of survey” would be subject to a newly enacted fee on property recording documents. ●



PAGE 9 PHOTOS: MONTECITO SURVEY MONUMENT, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (LEFT);
RANCHO SAN DIEGO RETROFIT, SAN DIEGO COUNTY (TOP RIGHT);
COVERED BRIDGE, YUBA COUNTY (BOTTOM RIGHT).
PAGE 10 PHOTO: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER PROJECT, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

Flood Control and Water Resources Management

Funding was a priority topic in the water arena this year as voters entertained several ballot measures for a variety of water projects and programs and the Legislature contemplated a new funding source for drinking water systems. While not all of these proposals were successful, CEAC helped to move the ball forward on a number of priority issues and worked as part of several strong coalitions – efforts that will build the foundation for future success.

Stormwater

Stormwater permit costs and compliance issues remain at the top of the list for the CEAC Flood Control and Water Resources Policy Committee in 2018. Committee leaders remained engaged on the issue and have been diligent in working to implement SB 231 (Chapter 536, Statutes of 2017), which CEAC members successfully advocated for in 2017. Several members of the committee are also actively involved in the SB 231 Working Group, which is comprised of a broad coalition of local government leaders, environmental groups, local government legal experts, water agencies, and sanitation engineers. The group continues to work to maximize the impact of SB 231 in the ongoing effort to create a stable revenue source for expensive stormwater system compliance permits.

Success was also had at the local level with voters in Los Angeles County passing Measure W to help pay

for projects, infrastructure, and programs that capture, treat and recycle stormwater. The countywide 2.5-cent per impermeable square foot special tax is expected to generate up to \$300 million annually. Los Angeles County representatives and CEAC members worked together this year to share their experiences about creating favorable budget measures and the ways in which they engaged the community and local cities in the effort to increase funding for stormwater projects.

Funding

In addition to Measure W in Los Angeles County, two major statewide water bonds were on the ballot this year. In June, voters passed Proposition 68, a \$4 billion water, parks, and wildlife bond, which will provide \$18 million for improvements to county fairgrounds and \$30 million for counties and Regional Park and Open Space Districts to make park improvements. It also contained significant funding for water quality improvement projects and wildlife protection, providing up to \$200 million for flood protection and repair that could also be used for stormwater projects. Proposition 3 was on the November ballot, but was rejected by over 52%. CSAC supported Proposition 3 because it would have generated \$8 billion in state funding for conservation, conveyance, water quality and other significant water projects.



CSAC AND CEAC MEMBERS HAVE ENGAGED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER.



PAGE 11 PHOTOS: ROCKY CREEK, MONTEREY COUNTY (LEFT); MARKLEEVILLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT ROAD, ALPINE COUNTY (RIGHT).
PAGE 12 PHOTOS: RANCHO DEL CAMPO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, SAN DIEGO COUNTY (RIGHT TOP INSET; TRAVER CANAL, TULARE COUNTY (TOP); FLATCAR BRIDGE DAVIS LANDSLIDE MATTOLE ROAD, HUMBOLDT COUNTY (BOTTOM).

Drinking Water

The Legislature continued to focus on clean drinking water issues and funding for failing systems, particularly in disadvantaged communities. SB 623, a measure introduced in 2017 by Senator Monning, which also was introduced as budget trailer bill as part of the Governor's 2018-19 budget proposal, would have created a new fee on drinking water customers and certain agricultural entities to generate revenue to implement financial assistance programs to address unsafe drinking water. The measure, which was supported by a bipartisan coalition of environmental groups, agricultural interests and local governments, including CSAC, ran into political challenges as the legislative session progressed since the bill was considered a tax. Despite the bipartisan support, the Legislature shied away from any new tax proposals as Proposition 6 loomed in the background.

CSAC and CEAC members have engaged with the Governor's office over the last several years to implement reforms to improve access to drinking water. Despite these

efforts, and successes in some areas to improve the district consolidation processes, a sustainable funding source is needed to assist communities, particularly disadvantaged communities, in paying for the short-term and long-term costs of obtaining access to safe and affordable drinking water. CSAC will continue to engage with the Legislature and stakeholders on this critical issue. ●



Resiliency & Emergency Response

Wildfire Response and Recovery

Year-round wildfires have, unfortunately, become California's new normal. Recognizing this, the biggest policy debate during the second year of the legislative session was focused on wildfires and utility liability. Facing significant costs associated from utility-caused fires in 2017, the investor-owned utilities pushed hard in the Legislature and in the Governor's office to make changes to liability laws that would have shifted the burden and much of the cost of recovery to local governments and victims. CSAC worked successfully to prevent these changes to inverse condemnation, and worked with a strong coalition to secure the passage of a comprehensive deal that included sweeping forest management reforms, \$1 billion in funding for forestry and fire prevention projects, Public Utility Commission reform, and sound financial tools to keep our utilities stable. This package was a major victory and a step forward for California that will help to protect counties, fire victims and ratepayers, and keep our utilities fiscally-sound and help protect against future fire events.

Education and Outreach

CSAC worked with CEAC members to conduct significant outreach and education regarding the 2017 fires and 2018 mudslides. CSAC formed the Resiliency Advisory Board, which includes public works officials to look at how counties can prepare for, mitigate and prevent future

disasters. The group held several meetings during 2018, including briefings with top state and federal officials. In addition, CSAC held a regional meeting in Santa Barbara, where public works and emergency management officials took county staff and officials on a tour of the burn scar and debris flow areas impacted by the Thomas Fire. At the regional meeting top administrators from FEMA, CAL Fire, CAL OES, and other experts in disaster preparedness and response came together with county supervisors and key staff to share insights and experiences to help counties better prepare for the future. Disaster response and emergency management will continue to be a focus for CSAC as counties work to recover from 2018 disasters. CSAC's partnership with CEAC in this particular area is critical to the health and safety of our communities. We will continue to work together next year on additional advocacy, outreach and education efforts.

Resource Recovery and Waste Management

CSAC and CEAC achieved a major success this year in the resource recovery and waste management policy area. After years of unsuccessful attempts and long-term negotiations, a deal with stakeholders including major pharmaceutical interests was reached on an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for the take-back of unused pharmaceutical medications and sharps. This success was particularly sweet as CEAC members have

PAGE 13 PHOTOS: AVILA BEACH, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY (LEFT);
COMBIE ROAD UNDERGROUND UTILITY PROJECT, NEVADA COUNTY (RIGHT).
PAGE 14 PHOTOS: MARSH CREEK ROAD BRIDGE, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY (TOP INSET);
SAN RAMON BYPASS VOLUNTEER EVENT, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY (LEFT).



WITH SUCCESS ALSO CAME ONGOING AND NEW CHALLENGES. CSAC AND CEAC CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT OUR STATE'S ORGANICS LAWS AND ADVOCATE FOR NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING - FUNDING THAT CONTINUES TO FALL CRITICALLY SHORT.



engaged actively over the years to fight back other efforts to impose less effective and cumbersome household hazardous waste requirements on local governments in an attempt to thwart our legislative efforts on EPR.

With success also came ongoing and new challenges. CSAC and CEAC continue to work together to implement our state's organics laws and advocate for necessary infrastructure funding - funding that continues to fall critically short. In addition, recycling markets became a major focus this year, as overseas markets are shutting down and domestic markets fall short.

Organics

CEAC members continued to engage on implementing organic recycling laws. SB 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016) established targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. The law also empowers Cal Recycle to create new regulations that implement the program. CEAC Resource Recovery and Waste Management Policy Committee members and CEAC staff were actively engaged with Cal Recycle as it developed SB 1383 regulations throughout this year. Staff was in constant contact with senior Cal Recycle leaders and submitted comments and attended numerous stakeholder meetings to influence the regulations. Both committee members and staff have been working hard to ensure that engineers and local governments are given the tools and the timelines necessary to help develop the infrastructure required to manage this new waste stream. The formal SB 1383 rulemaking process is expected to begin later this year or early 2019. In addition to advocating on SB

1383 regulations, staff was also successful in securing \$25 million for organic waste diversion programs from the State's cap and trade-linked Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

Resource Recovery and Waste Management Legislation

SB 212: Medical and Sharps Waste Stewardship Program

SB 212 by Senator Jackson established a producer-funded takeback program to provide safe and convenient disposal options for unused home-generated drugs and medical sharps waste. CEAC and CSAC have consistently supported producer responsibility frameworks. This bill will take substantial steps toward improving California's issues with unused drugs and medical sharps waste. This new law will help to keep unused drugs out of peoples' homes, decreasing the likelihood of abuse or accidental poisonings, and would create a workable solution to the issue of unexpected needle sticks from improperly disposed biohazardous sharps waste. The oversight elements of SB 212 are robust and include data tracking to ensure successful implementation and evaluation of the program. The bill also gives strong enforcement mechanisms to Cal Recycle and allows for input from other relevant agencies. In addition, the bill will provide for reimbursement to local agencies for specified medical sharps waste disposal costs.

National Sword

In 2017, China made major changes in its trade policies, increasing the standards for contamination of materials and banning mixed paper and various plastics. This policy change is collectively called the National Sword import policy. Despite expensive and comprehensive efforts to satisfy these new standards, a vast majority of California's landfill diverted materials no longer meet these requirements and now sit idle in material recovery facilities across the state. There is no major domestic market here in the United States that can purchase such huge quantities of material and there is no secondary international market for these goods either. China's policy change has had a major impact on the waste sector including county governments, waste haulers, and recycling advocates. CSAC staff will continue to work with CEAC members to raise awareness of the critical issue and advocate on legislation and regulations that attempt to deal with this growing crisis. ●

Federal Advocacy

CSAC's federal advocates, Paragon Government Relations, describe below, the status of federal issues of importance to CEAC.

At the federal level, CSAC worked closely with our federal advocates and CEAC members. These efforts were fruitful as counties were able to achieve multiple successes at the federal level despite fierce partisan politics that clouded this election year. Congress approved emergency relief funds for state and local recovery efforts related to last year's wildfires after a long-fought battle to ensure that California received its fair share of federal disaster aid. In addition, several important funding programs were reauthorized.

Disaster Assistance

After a long-fought battle to ensure that California received its fair share of federal disaster aid in the wake of last year's devastating wildfires, Congress approved in early 2018 emergency relief funds for state and local recovery efforts. Pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act (PL 115-123), direct federal funding was being allocated to California through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster relief fund, as well as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other important federal recovery programs.

In addition, FEMA disaster assistance was subsequently made available to California to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts associated with both the Carr and Mendocino Complex wildfires. Presidential disaster declarations were made for Butte, Ventura and Los Angeles counties in the end of 2018, which will allow those counties to access federal disaster funds.



Secure Rural Schools Act/Federal Land Management Reform

In a victory for California's forest counties, the final fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations Act (PL 115-141) includes two years of funding for the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program to cover payments for fiscal year 2017 (retroactive) and fiscal year 2018. In all, 29 California counties are receiving more than \$23.7 million in FY17 SRS formula payments, while 10 counties are collecting \$4.6 million in 25 percent payments, for a total of approximately \$28.4 million. An additional \$2.4 million is available for federal land projects, or Title II projects, that are identified by local resource advisory committees.

Water Resources

Congress approved a comprehensive water resources infrastructure package this year. Among other things, the legislation provides multi-year reauthorizations of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). The new law also includes provisions that will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to engage more directly with local stakeholders throughout the water resource project development process.

Environmental Reciprocity

In a major victory for CSAC and CEAC, the final FAA legislation includes language that will pave the way for California to take advantage of a new environmental reciprocity pilot program created by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The provision, championed by Representative Jeff Denham (R-CA) on behalf of CSAC, modifies the Statute of Limitations (SOL) for the program.

Pursuant to Section 1309 of the FAST Act, a select number of qualified states are authorized to participate in a DOT pilot program to conduct environmental reviews and make approvals for both state and local projects under State environmental laws and regulations instead of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The initiative would build upon California's long-term and successful execution of the NEPA Assignment Program (23 USC § 327), which has allowed the State to assume FHWA's environmental responsibilities for review, consultation, and compliance for Federal aid highway projects. ●

PAGE 15 PHOTO: RAIL ROAD FLAT BRIDGE, CALAVERAS COUNTY.

CONGRESS APPROVED EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL RECOVERY EFFORTS
RELATED TO LAST YEAR’S WILDFIRES AFTER A LONG-FOUGHT BATTLE TO ENSURE THAT
CALIFORNIA RECEIVED ITS FAIR SHARE OF FEDERAL DISASTER AID.



PAGE 16 PHOTOS: BRIDGE CREW, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY (TOP LEFT); COOPERSTOWN ROAD, STANISLAUS COUNTY (TOP RIGHT); CONSTRUCTION CREW, VENTURA COUNTY (MIDDLE); , BASS LAKE WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT, MADERA COUNTY (BOTTOM LEFT); EDINGER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, ORANGE COUNTY (BOTTOM RIGHT).



CEAC Program Update

CEAC continued to prosper in 2018, adding members, new affiliates and a revised structure to the Oversight Committee. Led by Ventura County Public Works Director, *Jeff Pratt*, our 2017-2018 CEAC President was a vocal proponent of getting the CEAC membership more involved in leading the association. Jeff modified the Oversight Committee to include the CEAC leadership team (President, Vice President, Secretary, Past President and Parliamentarian). The committee met frequently via conference calls to share their vision of the association moving forward.

Conferences

We had another very successful CEAC Spring Conference in 2018. Held in conjunction with the League of California Cities Public Works Officers Institute in Monterey County, March 28 - 30, the event was attended by over 180 public works officials, private sector engineers and guests and included 19 sponsors. The Northern California Regional conference, or Bedroll, almost was almost cancelled this year due to the Northern California wildfires. A big thank you goes to *Melody DeLeon*, wife of Lake County Public Works Director and conference organizer, *Scott DeLeon*. After fires broke out in Lake County, Scott was required to stay in his county to help with fire-related efforts, while Melody stepped in to transport a truck full of conference supplies to the PG&E Camp Conery near Lake Almanor in Plumas County. The conference was held August 1-3 and was again at capacity. The 13th Annual CEAC Policy Conference held at the Capitol Events Center in Sacramento, September 12-13 was attended by 35 county public works officials, and included over 110 registrants including 10 sponsors. Over 120 CEAC registrants including 13 sponsors took part in the 124th CSAC Annual Meeting hosted by San Diego County at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina hotel. *Rich Sanders*, the 2018 NACE President from Minnesota, and *Kevan Stone*, the new Executive Director of NACE attended the conference and provided a NACE update to the CEAC membership.

Awards

Mike Carlson, Contra Costa County received this year's Buffalo Bull award for his "...total lack of caring for a "County storm drain" on private property" at the Spring Conference; *Pat Minturn*, Shasta County was presented the CEAC Engineer of the Year award during the CSAC

Annual Meeting; and *Aleksandar Jevremovic*, Santa Barbara County earned the CEAC Surveyor of the Year Award. *Lourdes Pratt*, spouse of Jeff Pratt, Ventura County received the Buddy Award. Two Golden Egg Awards were also bestowed upon *Kiana Valentine*, CSAC, and *Melody DeLeon*, spouse of *Scott DeLeon*, Lake County. In addition, the Fellowship Committee awarded a Fellowship award for long-time committee member, *Mort August*, Willdan. We celebrated our Fifth year of recognizing California's cities and counties with the Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards at the Spring Conference. County award winners included the *City and County of San Francisco* for their Mansell Streetscape Improvement Project and *Trinity County* for the Trinity County Bridge Demonstration Project.

Membership

There were multiple Public Works Director changes in 2018. *Mohammad "Dr. Q" Qureshi* joined Glenn County; *Colt Esenwein* left Santa Cruz County to become the Public Works Director in San Luis Obispo County; *Matt Machado* left Stanislaus to become the Deputy County Administrative Officer and Director of Public Works for Santa Cruz County, and *David Leamon* was promoted to Public Works Director; *Joshua Pack* left Nevada County to take the Director of Public Works and Transportation position in Calaveras County; *Tony Dublino* was officially made the Public Works Director in Mono County; and *Randy Ishii* left Fresno County to join Monterey County as their Chief of Public Works. In addition to the staffing changes, some notable retirements included *John Presleigh*, Public Works Director, Santa Cruz County, *Pat Proano*, Deputy Director Transportation, Los Angeles County, and *DeAnn Baker*, Deputy Executive Director, CSAC. We wish them all well!

Outreach

CEAC continues to be very active on social media, utilizing CEAC's Facebook page, Twitter feed and CSAC's social media outlets, as well as maintaining the CEAC website.

Scholarships

The CEAC Scholarship committee Chaired by *Scott DeLeon*, Lake County awarded two \$2,000 scholarships each to *Steven Alvarez*, Cal Poly Pomona, and *Katherine Worcester*, CSU Chico. ●

On the Horizon in 2019

As Governor Brown leaves office, there are a number of ongoing challenges that newly-elected Gavin Newsom's Administration will face in January. There will be a number of significant opportunities, as well. Governor-elect Newsom is the first Democrat in more than 130 years to succeed another Democrat as California governor, creating the potential for continuity in administrations that California hasn't seen in over a century. Joining him will be a Legislature with Democratic supermajorities in both houses, giving the Governor's party the ability to raise taxes, suspend legislative rules and push a broad legislative agenda. The state's fiscal picture adds support, with several billion dollars in expected budget surplus and about \$14 billion in reserves in the rainy day fund to guard against the next economic downturn.

Despite these obvious advantages, the state and the new Administration face several vexing policy issues, many of which Newsom campaigned on, including housing affordability, income inequality, homelessness, and universal health care coverage, among others. Affordable housing will continue to be at the center of debate with focus on the state's acute challenges with homelessness and the high cost of housing. Counties will continue to play an important role in this debate, given their dual roles as a regulator of land use and provider of safety net services, and there are indications that many in

the Legislature and the incoming Governor are interested in recasting parts of the traditional state-local relationship on land use.

California will continue to face divisive water issues next year, with the state's aging water conveyance system, stressed ecosystem, and drinking water challenges unresolved. California voters rejected Proposition 3 this November, an \$8 billion water bond, and the Legislature also failed to pass SB 623 (Monning) a measure that would have created a sustainable funding source for contaminated drinking water systems. Focus will undoubtedly fall on how to fund a number of these water priorities.

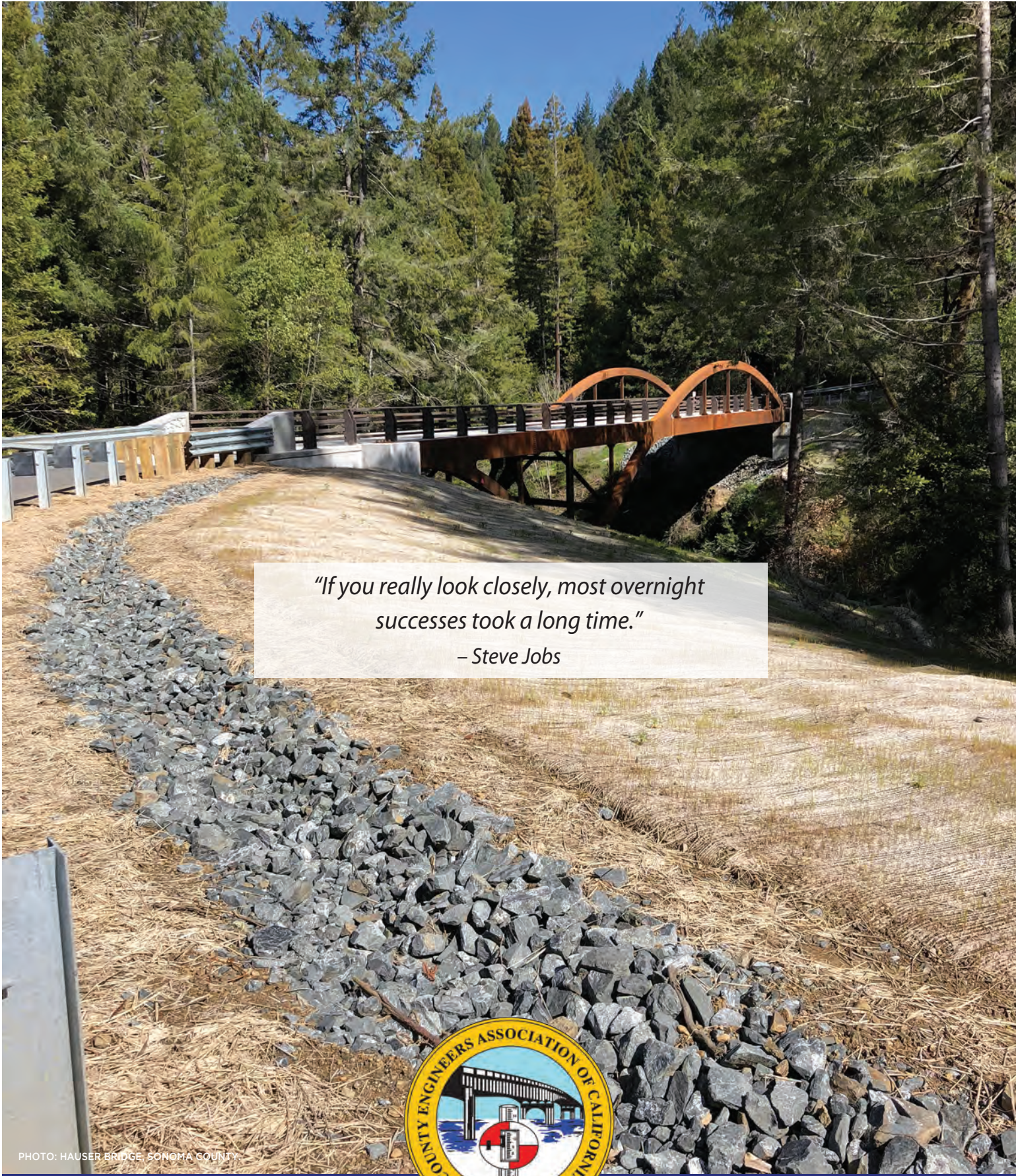
Finally, with the fire storms that continue to rage through California, it is anticipated that the wildfire liability conversation will reemerge. SB 901 (Chapter 626, Statutes of 2018), provides \$1 billion from cap and trade revenues over the next five years on fire prevention, forest health, and resiliency-related projects. The price tag and impacts associated with the deadly 2018 fires, however, will most likely drive legislative discussions further into land use, development and safety issues. CSAC will work to influence the allocation of resources and work with counties to achieve policy changes that aid in the rebuilding process and to help prevent future disasters.

Finally, CSAC stands with the county family and all of the dedicated public servants working to respond to wildfires, providing critical services and helping our communities recover from the numerous disasters that impacted California this year. California's counties and the communities you serve are resilient and we are proud to work with such dedicated individuals. ●



PAGE 18 PHOTOS: LOOP BIKE WAY PROJECT, ORANGE COUNTY (LEFT); MINES ROAD ROUNDABOUT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (RIGHT).





*"If you really look closely, most overnight
successes took a long time."*

– Steve Jobs

PHOTO: HAUSER BRIDGE, SONOMA COUNTY



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