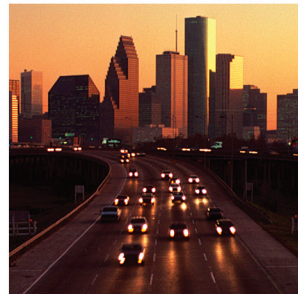




COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

CEAC's Purpose

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 citizens.

Since 1914

2007 Board of Directors



OFFICERS

President

Mike Crump

Butte County

President-Elect

George Johnson

Riverside County

Secretary

Peter Rei

Tuolumne County

Treasurer

Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi

Marin County (Retired)

Treasurer Emeritus

William (Bill) McIntosh

Lassen County (Retired)

Parliamentarian

Doug Wilson

Tulare County (Retired)

Past President

Maurice Shiu

Contra Costa County

NACE Representative

George Johnson

Riverside County

Historian

David A. Gravenkamp

Siskiyou County (Retired)

Newsletter Editor

Ken A. Miller

San Bernardino County (Retired)

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

North Coast

Tom Mattson

Humboldt County

Central Coast

Julie Bueren

Contra Costa County

Northern California

Jon Wrysinski

Colusa County

Sacramento Mother-Lode

Vacant

San Joaquin Valley

Frank Fowler

Fresno County

South Central Coast

Ron Lundquist

Monterey County

Southern California

Ignacio Ochoa

Orange County

2007 Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs

Flood Control & Water Resources

Jeff Pratt, Ventura, Chair

Mitch Avalon, Contra Costa, Vice-Chair

Rod Kubomoto, Los Angeles, Vice-Chair

Oversight

Thomas Flinn, San Joaquin, Chair

Daniel Woldesenbet, Alameda, Vice-Chair

Solid Waste Management

Birgitta Corsello, Solano, Chair

Mark Schleich, Santa Barbara, Vice-Chair

Steven Winkler, San Joaquin, Vice-Chair

Land Use

Cheryl Creson, Sacramento, Co-Chair

Wes Zicker, Placer, Co-Chair

Stuart Edell, Butte, Vice-Chair

Heather Ballenger, Contra Costa, Vice-Chair

Surveyor

Mike Emmons, Santa Barbara, Chair

Stuart Edell, Butte, Vice Chair

Wes Zicker, Placer, Vice Chair

Transportation

Patrick DeChellis, Los Angeles, Co-Chair

Patrick Minturn, Shasta, Co-Chair

Alan Glen, Quincy Engineering, Inc., Vice-Chair

Brian McDermott, Siskiyou, Vice-Chair

Peter Rei, Tuolumne, Vice-Chair

President's Message

2007 was another busy year in California for both transportation and flood control issues! Please take the time to read this 2007 Annual Report that goes into detail about the efforts that CSAC staff has undertaken before the California Legislature, as well as before various state and federal agencies, on behalf of CEAC. I want to thank our CSAC staff, including DeAnn Baker, Karen Keene, Kiana Buss, Patti Hughes, Katrina Thompson, and Cara Martinson for all their efforts and hard work, which really made a difference in 2007.

I also want to thank the CEAC committee chairs, vice chairs, and committee members for all their dedicated work and expertise in the various fields of public works. Without their help, CEAC would not have come close to accomplishing what it did.

As you may know, we have been successfully working with the League of California Cities in raising more than \$500,000 to undertake a comprehensive assessment of our local street-and-road system. An Oversight Committee – made up of representatives from CEAC, CSAC, the League, as well as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency group and Rural County Task Force – will be overseeing the contract to complete this assessment in 2008. The real work on this important project is just beginning. We will hear more on this subject at the spring Public Works Officers Institute in La Jolla in March 2008.

What the State giveth, it also can taketh away! We got \$1 billion in Proposition 1B bond funds for local streets and roads, including \$400 million this fiscal year 2007-08, but word is that the State may borrow our first year of fully allocated Proposition 42 funds! Two things are clear with this picture: first, California's system of transportation funding is always changing (but not always for the better) and second, CEAC needs to be fully engaged with CSAC if we are ever going to get off this pot-hole filled treadmill we find ourselves on.

Thank you all for a great year! I know with your help, along with the talent of our CSAC staff and the leadership of George Johnson, 2008 will be even better.

Mike Crump
2007 CEAC President

Reflecting on 2007

As a result of public support for the \$43 billion infrastructure bond package in November 2006, the focus this past year was on developing implementation criteria and processes to determine how to best target these infrastructure investments. CSAC was actively engaged in multiple discussions involving access to several billion dollars in bond funds for transportation and housing purposes. CSAC sponsored several bills related to the local streets and roads account in Proposition 1B. Ultimately, we were successful in meeting the CEAC 2007 priorities in every area related to the bonds as outlined in greater detail in the transportation section of this report.

In addition to the success related to bond monies, significant progress was made in meeting a CEAC objective for the last 20-years – pursuit of a comprehensive needs assessment of the local system. Cities and counties committed more than \$500,000 in pledges, and the effort is underway to accomplish this goal. The information will provide critical data needed to advocate for additional investments in the transportation system.

We were also instrumental in protecting the city/county share of Proposition 42 revenues despite an aggressive attempt to reduce our 40 percent share and include unpredictable transit spillover revenues into the mix.

With the close of the legislative year, Governor Schwarzenegger called special legislative sessions on two major issues, health reform and water. The Governor repeatedly said that water storage, plus a solution to environmental problems in the Delta, were his top priorities for 2007. However, the Governor and President pro Tempore Don Perata both blamed the summer's 52-day budget standoff for waylaying any progress toward either cause. An attempt to approve a water bond package during the special session ended in a stalemate, as Republicans and Democrats were unable to come to agreement to place anything on the February 2008 ballot. In the meantime, an alliance of businesses and farm groups began an effort to qualify an \$11.7 billion water bond initiative for the November 2008 ballot. The proposed bond includes language supported by CSAC and the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) that addresses area or origin protections, water storage, and wastewater treatment funding. It is unclear if any water bond will be moved in 2008 given Senator Perata's recent announcement that the State's fiscal crisis should take precedence.



Progress was made, however, on flood control. The 2007 legislative session concluded with the passage of a comprehensive package of bills aimed at strengthening flood protections in California. The flood bill package signed by the Governor includes statutory changes that would require all cities and counties to increase consideration of flood risks in their general plans, and creates a new standard in flood protection for urban development in the Sacramento-San Joaquin region. CSAC was actively involved in the discussions surrounding these measures.

Climate change and greenhouse gas reductions continued to be a hot topic in 2007. With the passage of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has started to change the conversation surrounding transportation, land use, solid waste management, and many other areas. In an effort to help shape the dialogue, CSAC convened a working group on climate change, which developed a comprehensive policy addressing nine different issue areas, including land use and transportation, solid waste, water, and energy. ●

... significant progress was made in meeting a CEAC objective for the last 20 years – pursuit of a comprehensive needs assessment of the local system.

INFRASTRUCTURE
TRANSPORTATION
HOUSING
WATER STORAGE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT
FLOOD PROTECTION
CLIMATE CHANGE
LAND USE
ENERGY



Transportation

In the world of transportation investment, 2007 was a very busy year. Implementation criteria was determined and/or appropriations were made to 13 of the 14 different accounts contained in Proposition 1B. As a result, counties will ultimately receive direct subventions for \$1 billion in transportation bond proceeds with \$400 million appropriated in Fiscal Year 2007-08. Further, counties will have access to nearly \$2 billion in additional bond monies for both housing and transportation purposes.

Transportation—Proposition 1B Implementation

\$2 Billion Local Streets and Roads Account: CSAC sponsored and drafted language for three bills to provide statutory procedures and accountability for this program to ensure direct allocation of these funds without burdensome state oversight. CSAC was also successful in securing the appropriation level targeted for Fiscal Year 2007-08 in the amount of \$400 million. This was accomplished through inclusion in budget bills SB 88 (Chapter 181), AB 193 (Chapter 313), and AB 196 (Chapter 314).

\$1 Billion State-Local Partnership Program: We were successful in facilitating policy consensus between conflicting county perspectives and drafted language consistent with CSAC policy, which is contained in SB 748 (Corbett). Although the Legislature failed to reach consensus on the criteria for this program, CSAC's objectives were included in legislation and continue to remain an issue for completion in 2008.

Proposition 42

In the Budget debate, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5 approved a very aggressive proposal to protect the transit spillover revenues, but also changed the Proposition 42 formulas, reducing the city and county shares. CSAC was instrumental in those negotiations and successfully defeated that effort, preserving the local share of Proposition 42 revenues into the future – potentially equating to billions of dollars.

Statewide Needs Assessment

Significant progress was made on this issue with pledges from cities and counties exceeding the targeted \$500,000 to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the local streets and roads system. A request for proposal (RFP) has been issued and a consultant should be on board by the end of January 2008.

SAFETEA-LU Implementation & Reauthorization

In total, 16 various committees were established to implement the new federal act. We secured representatives and participated in all but three of them. A safety plan was developed with significant county input. The effort to develop consensus principles for the next act has just begun and will continue into 2008. ●

Land Use/Transportation Linkages

Climate Change

SB 375, by Senator Darrell Steinberg, proposes the development of a specific land use strategy by regional transportation planning agencies that is consistent with targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases and serves as the basis for the investment of transportation revenues into the future. CSAC continues to work on improving the approach outlined in SB 375 to ensure that the investment of transportation dollars meets the climate change challenges, but is also compatible with future development driven by local general plans.

Blueprints

The Fiscal Year 2007-08 State Budget appropriated another \$5 million to the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program for the third consecutive year. A notable difference in the Fiscal Year 2007-08 round of grants is that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and rural Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) that are not within an MPO boundary are eligible to apply for \$500,000 in blueprint planning monies set aside for rural agencies. This was another CSAC objective that was met in 2007. ●

Public Works Administration

During the 2006 CSAC Annual Meeting, the CEAC Public Works Administration Policy Committee was eliminated and merged into the Oversight Committee, which was renamed the Oversight and Special Tasks Committee. The Oversight and Special Tasks Committee will maintain its usual role of recommending changes in the bylaws and operational procedures of CEAC, developing and recommending the annual overall work program, working with CSAC staff to identify issues of importance to CEAC, and monitoring the performance under the agreement with CSAC. Further, the new Oversight and Special Tasks Committee is now also charged with special tasks that may arise. For instance, during the 2007 CEAC Fall Policy Conference, the committee was given the duty to develop climate change strategies and funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to public works. ●



...counties will ultimately receive direct subventions for \$1 billion in transportation bond proceeds with \$400 million appropriated in Fiscal Year 2007-08. Further, counties will have access to nearly \$2 billion in additional bond monies for both housing and transportation purposes.

Flood Control

Flood Protection Bills Signed Into Law

The topic of flood protection continued to be at the forefront of policy discussions throughout 2007. In fact, it was one of the few policy areas in which consensus was reached and a legislative package was signed into law. CSAC was successful in obtaining numerous amendments to the flood bill package based upon the valuable technical input from members of the CEAC Flood Control and Water Resources Committee, as well as county planning department staff.

The flood bill package, with a few exceptions, applies primarily to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. The linchpin – SB 5, by Senator Mike Machado – prohibits cities and counties within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley from approving development in areas at risk of flooding unless a finding is made that a specified level of flood protection will be met. The bill also requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide local governments with information regarding the condition of existing flood protection facilities and maps that delineate flood levels during a 100-year and 200-year storm.

The other bills make changes to the organization and operation of the State Reclamation Board; require all cities and counties to strengthen flood protection policies in their general plans; and direct DWR to (1) map areas at risk for flooding, (2) prepare a status report on the Central Valley's State Plan of Flood Control, (3) identify levee flood protection zones, and (4) notify property owners in levee flood protection zones of flood risk and flood insurance.

Despite opposition by CSAC, the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), and the League of California Cities, the Governor signed AB 70, by Assembly Member Dave Jones. AB 70 requires cities and counties to share liability with the state, under certain conditions, if they allow growth in an undeveloped area prone to flooding.

With the exception of AB 70, the flood protection bill package establishes positive public policy that will ensure consideration of flood risk in the land use approval process and other reasonable flood protection practices and programs at both the state and local level.

Flood Control Needs Assessment Project Moves Forward

Over the past year, a subset of the CEAC Flood Control Committee, the CEAC Flood Control Needs Assessment Team (including CSAC staff and the CEAC consultant), continued its discussions with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding the counties' support for a statewide flood control needs assessment. The purpose of the needs assessment is to gather information on the level of protection flood control facilities provide, the cost to improve flood control facilities, the cost to repair aging facilities, and the estimate to provide flood protection where none currently exists. The assessment may facilitate the use of current statewide bonds, and will help identify needs for future bond measures.

The needs assessment is consistent with the objectives of the State's Flood Safe program, and the program's plans to incorporate the data collected into the 2009 State Water Plan update (Bulletin 160). Consequently, the discussions with DWR have proven fruitful. DWR agrees that it would be mutually beneficial for the State to partner with counties in this endeavor. A memorandum of understanding between CEAC and DWR is currently under review, and the CEAC consultant is collecting information from counties statewide to be utilized in the development of a scope of work. CSAC is supportive of this effort and will use the data collected to advocate for the investment in local and state flood protection projects. ●



CSAC was successful in obtaining numerous amendments to the flood bill package based upon the valuable technical input from members of the CEAC Flood Control and Water Resources Committee, as well as county planning department staff.

Solid Waste Management

Moving Beyond 50 Percent Recycling Goal

The momentum to move the State beyond the 50 percent solid waste diversion goal increased substantially in 2007. The California Integrated Waste Management Board adopted strategic directives, one of which identifies an overall statewide diversion target of 75 percent by fiscal year 2020. Legislation was also introduced that would change the goals and switch to a county-level measurement with the objective of simplifying the current accounting system.

CSAC joined with other local government groups in expressing opposition to SB 1020, by Senator Alex Padilla, which would require the waste board to develop a plan to achieve a 75 percent statewide rate of solid waste diversion. CSAC asserts that it is premature to increase the diversion goal before the enactment of other needed reforms, such as producer responsibility requirements, emerging technology considerations, and provisions that address the issue of adding capacity to the diversion system or address the way diversion and/or disposal is calculated. In the final weeks of the legislative session, SB 1020 was made a two-year bill, as was SB 1016, by Senator Patricia Wiggins, the vehicle for a simplified measurement system.

Landfill Closure/Post Closure Rulemaking Process

Enacted into law in 2006, AB 2296, by Assembly Member Cindy Montanez, requires the waste board to conduct a study and adopt regulations to define conditions and address financial assurance mechanisms that potentially affect the closure and post-closure maintenance periods of landfills. The waste board started its AB 2296 implementation process this year, and asked CSAC to participate. Members of the CEAC Solid Waste Management Committee agreed to lend their technical expertise to these discussions and serve as the CSAC representatives to the AB 2296 consulting group. CSAC representatives have provided substantive comments on the AB 2296 draft study and will continue to represent county interests as the waste board moves forward with the development of regulations to implement the findings of the study. ●

The waste board started its AB 2296 implementation process this year, and asked CSAC to participate.



Congressional Activity

CSAC's 2007 federal legislative priorities included direction to support the reauthorization of two federal laws of particular interest to county public works departments: the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS).

A bold move by the U.S. Congress resulted in a successful override of President Bush's veto of the WRDA reauthorization bill. The new WRDA law authorizes \$11.2 billion between 2008 and 2012 – and another \$12 billion for an additional 10 years – for a total of \$23.2 billion for a variety of flood control, navigation, water supply, and environmental restoration projects that fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While a significant amount of funding included in the act is dedicated to projects in Louisiana and Florida (for hurricane protection and wetlands restoration), the legislation also authorizes millions of dollars for a large number of projects in California.

Unfortunately, the rural public schools and rural county roads did not fare as well. While a one-year extension of the SRS was included in the Fiscal Year 2007 emergency supplemental appropriations bill, which President Bush signed in May, other proposals to further extend the program died in the final days of session. The fight to secure a long-term reauthorization will continue throughout 2008. ●

CEAC Fall Policy Conference

The second annual CEAC Fall Policy Conference was held in October 2007. Once again, the conference was very successful and resulted in identifying priorities for the coming year. This conference has served as an educational opportunity for public works directors and their staffs, and also an opportunity to provide technical assistance to staff for the purposes of developing CSAC priorities. ●

On the Horizon...

Transportation Funding/Infrastructure Bonds

With an estimated \$14 billion shortfall for Fiscal Year 2008-09, the State will be faced with making some drastic cuts to programs and services across all categories of funding. CSAC will continue to advocate for full funding of Proposition 42, in order to consistently fund transportation, as well as fully support the investment Californians made by passing the infrastructure bond package of 2006.

Additionally, with respect to the Proposition 1B: \$2 billion Local Streets and Roads Account, CSAC will advocate for \$150 million in Fiscal Year 2008-09, and each of the next three fiscal years through 2011-12, unless Proposition 42 is borrowed. In that case, the appropriation level request would increase to \$400 million.

The \$2 billion State-Local Partnership Program contained in Proposition 1B will likely be implemented during the 2008 legislative session. CSAC was successful in getting an amendment to legislation during the 2007 session to allow uniform developer fees to be used as an eligible match; however this measure is still pending in the Legislature. CSAC will continue to monitor the implementation criteria for this program and advocate that final implementation include the use of uniform developer fees.

Federal Transportation Safety Funds: SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization

CSAC/CEAC has already begun efforts to develop the consensus principles that the California Consensus Group will rely on for the next federal reauthorization approaching in 2009. CSAC/CEAC, along with the League of California Cities, will develop a set of local agency consensus principles to present to the Consensus Group for inclusion in the overall California effort.

Needs Assessments

The momentum on the Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment from last year continues on track. With a request for proposal (RFP) out and plans to have a consultant on board by January 2008, CEAC and CSAC will continue to work with its partners to implement and oversee the needs assessment through to completion, hopefully by the end of 2008.

CEAC has identified another area in need of credible numbers – California's extensive network of bridges, both state and locally owned. We will work with the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to undertake a statewide study to estimate bridge needs across the state.

The Flood Control Needs Assessment Team will continue to partner with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the development of a statewide flood control needs assessment. The team and DWR hope to have a preliminary assessment completed by the end of 2008 for inclusion in the public review draft of the State Water Plan Update 2009. The comprehensive flood control needs assessment is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

Climate Change

Since the passage of AB 32, The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), the issue of climate change has dominated the political scene. The linkages between transportation and land use are the focus of this debate. CSAC remains engaged in this effort to ensure that any strategies developed to reduce greenhouse gases are workable and respect all transportation needs, including congestion relief, safety, mobility, and preservation.

Through the Oversight and Special Tasks Committee, CEAC will work to identify climate change strategies and funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to public works.

Flood Control

Cities and counties will need to know how the 2007 flood protection bill package will affect their roles and responsibilities. CSAC, the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), the League of California Cities, and the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) planned a one-day workshop in 2008 to provide cities and counties with the opportunity to learn about the bills, discuss implementation problems and uncertainties, and ponder potential solutions. City and county public works and planning staff were encouraged to attend.

Solid Waste Management

CSAC will continue to rely upon CEAC for technical input regarding legislative efforts to move beyond the 50 percent recycling goal, as well as any proposed changes to the existing AB 939 diversion accounting system.

Also, CEAC/CSAC will be engaged in the ongoing discussions with the Waste Board and other stakeholders during the AB 2296 landfill closure/postclosure rulemaking process. AB 2296 requires the Waste Board to adopt such regulations by July 1, 2009.

Delta Vision

In 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed a seven-member task force to develop a long-term sustainable vision for the Delta by the end of the year, and an implementation plan by October 2008. In December 2007, the task force submitted to the Governor twelve recommendations and several proposed near-term actions to protect the Delta ecosystem and the state's water supply. The task force recommendations address a number of issues that will impact the land use decision-making process in and near the Delta, water rights and flood control. CSAC will seek CEAC members' input regarding the implementation of the task force recommendations. ●

Through the Oversight and Special Tasks Committee, CEAC will work to identify climate change strategies and funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to public works.

The County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) would like to acknowledge the efforts of the following California State Association of Counties (CSAC) staff members in putting together this publication:

*DeAnn Baker, Karen Keene, Kiana Buss, Cara Martinson,
Susan Hyman, Stanicia Boatner and Francisco Beltran.*



1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, California 95814-3941
(916) 327-7500
(916) 441-5507 Fax
www.ceaccounties.org