



2021-22 CEAC Policy and Legislative Priorities

The on-going Legislative and Administrative Policy Guidelines 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. California Implementation of Federal Transportation Reauthorization. CSAC will advocate for county priorities in California's implementation of any new federal transportation bill, including maximizing and protecting dedicated funding for local bridges, prioritizing fix-it-first investments, infrastructure hardening, and maximizing funding for local safety and active transportation projects.
2. Protect State Transportation Funding and Promote Streamlining. CSAC staff will continue to monitor the allocation of state transportation revenues to counties and oppose any effort to use transportation revenues outside their intended purposes. Moreover, CSAC staff will continue to proactively seek additional flexibility for counties and streamline project delivery and environmental review processes.
3. Recycled Materials Standards for Local Roadways. Support efforts that promote adoption of specifications allowing the use of recycled material when sufficient local flexibility is provided. CSAC staff will identify opportunities to support the use of recycled materials for maintaining and rehabilitating streets and highways with appropriate exceptions based on local conditions. CSAC staff will oppose policies that impose overly-prescriptive requirements related to the use of recycled materials.
4. Traffic Safety and Collision Reduction. CEAC will identify opportunities to support policies intended to reduce traffic-related fatalities and injuries by promoting vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. CSAC staff will support legislative efforts to reduce speeds on local streets and roads and efforts to improve roadway infrastructure, enhance traffic safety enforcement, support public education and traffic safety campaigns, and improve safety data.
5. City and County Pavement Improvement Center. Participate in and support the work of the City and County Pavement Improvement Center (CCPIC). Work with CEAC's governing board members to ensure CCPIC does not duplicate efforts of other academic institutions and that the technical trainings, research, etc. are focused on the priorities identified by the CEAC and League of California Cities membership. CSAC staff will

focus on partnering with other agencies and educational institutions to provide ongoing funding for the CCPIC and contribute to the growth of the CCPIC program.

6. Develop CSAC Policy on Autonomous Vehicles and Emerging Technology. Technological advancements, including autonomous vehicles and associated infrastructure, are rapidly changing. Counties may already be responding to, and deploying, new technology. As technology continues to change, CSAC must be poised to respond and ensure, at minimum, any new mandates are funded. CSAC staff will work with the CEAC Transportation Policy Committee to develop and recommend to CSAC new policy.
7. Explore Road User Charge Policy Options. Work with CSAC to reexamine 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, 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.

Land Use

1. Ensure Adequate Funding for Infrastructure Impacted by Development. AB 879 (Grayson, 2017) requires the Department of Housing and Community to study how to reduce fees imposed on new development pursuant to the Mitigation Fee Act and publish a report in 2019. Support proposals which promote housing development by adequately funding infrastructure, but oppose measures that arbitrarily limit fees or other exactions necessary to support county infrastructure, or facilities, required by new development. Legislative action on Mitigation Fee Act was delayed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis and requests from CSAC and other local government groups. In 2021, this issue is likely to be at the forefront once again.
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. Subdivision Map Act. Oppose legislation to reform the California Subdivision Map Act that removes or decreases local control and conditional use requirements.
4. Protect Rule 20A. Oppose legislation or Public Utilities Commission action that threatens Rule 20A for overhead/underground conversion project funding.

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 Resource Recovery infrastructure. Advocate for sustainable and diverse funding streams to develop and manage the infrastructure necessary to manage California's waste and recycling needs.
4. Market Development. Support legislative efforts to expand local markets for recyclable materials, to support limits on single use plastics, to support producer responsibility, to support bottle bill reform for CRV buyback programs and support efforts to increase requirements for recyclable contents in products.

Flood Control & Water Resources

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 counties to finance compliance with Clean Water Act permit requirements, stormwater capture and flood protection services.
3. Waters of the State Dredge and Fill Rulemaking Implementation. Develop reliable and comprehensive data regarding the implementation of the State Water Board's new dredge and fill regulations to advocate and inform the Water Board and stakeholder about the real impacts of the regulation.
4. Resiliency. Support for resources to make flood control and county infrastructure resilient to climate change and natural disasters.

Surveyor

1. Surveyor Recorder Relationship Clean-up. Support coordinated effort with the County Recorders Association to update outdated language in the Government Code relating to transfer and sharing of documents, through Senate Committee on Governance and Finance Omnibus bill.
2. Surveyor Monument Preservation. Support legislation that would simplify the collection of the Monument Preservation Fund Fee.

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Transportation

1. Federal Transportation Reauthorization and Emergency Aid. Support reauthorization of a federal transportation bill consistent with the priorities adopted by CEAC and CSAC. CSAC staff will advocate for backfilling lost local transportation fuel tax revenues due to the COVID-19 crisis in federal emergency aid legislation, as well as funding for local bridge, safety, and active transportation projects. Finally, CSAC will request direct subventions to counties for transportation infrastructure in any federal infrastructure package outside of the traditional highway funding bill process.
2. CEQA-NEPA Reciprocity. Now that CSAC/CEAC successfully advocated for a reduction to the Statute of Limitations under the FAST Act's program allowing states to meet federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements with state environmental review, build and work with a coalition of transportation stakeholders to ensure California applies to participate and if approved, that Caltrans and FHWA implement a California reciprocity program in a manner that reduces duplication and is not equally or more burdensome. CEAC supports delegation of authority to the local/regional level so that counties can participate directly in the program.
3. Offset 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.