



CEAC NEWSLETTER

Sept
2023

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President's Message

By **Brian Balbas**

Director of Public Works, Chief Engineer
Contra Costa County



Although our seasons have been unusual and interesting this year to say the least, it's starting to feel like Fall, at least in the Bay Area. The start of another school year, the final stretch of major league baseball and the kickoff of another football season are also signals that Summer is waning into Fall. As I've mentioned in previous messages, this year has been interesting from a weather perspective. Across the country we've seen record heat, followed by unusual cool snaps, with unusually high wind events and tornados in all parts of our country. Southern California saw a hurricane approach, only to have it degrade into a strong tropical storm that provided significant rain and wind to the Imperial Valley and counties throughout the area in August. These events, combined with the coming of the most dangerous part of fire season remind us to remain vigilant as first responders. The job of County Engineers and Public Works employees are year around. If we are not directly responding to emergencies, we are cleaning up after the last one or preparing our communities to minimize or eliminate the impacts to the next potential emergency. Let's hope the coming winter is less disruptive than last year, but prepare as we always do to keep our communities safe.

**Materials Submitted are
subject to the "3 R's":**

**Review
Revision
Rejection**

Editor: Pat DeChellis



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Our August 24th and 25th CEAC Policy Conference was outstanding. Thank you to **Merrin Gerety** for organizing a wonderful Policy Conference. Also thank you to our Affiliates, Policy Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, speakers and presenters, and the CLODS for providing incredible information, insight and opinions to our CEAC membership. The presentations and interactions at each of the Policy Committee meetings was valuable and provided good ideas and suggestions for all of us to consider and follow-up within our organizations and as a CEAC group. Thursdays lunch presentation included a thorough update and call to action by **Matt Machado**, Santa Cruz County, regarding our NACE 2024 Conference in Palm Springs. Matt has led our planning effort with the CEAC NACE 2024 Planning Committee and reminded us all about the conference agenda and our final push planning for this event.

We need volunteers to help during the event, so we need a strong CEAC engagement to make that happen. We are also pushing for strong affiliate and exhibitor turnout, as well as interesting and informative technical presentations to make the conference program incredible. Please contact Matt or me if you have any ideas or questions. We want to make NACE 2024 in Palm Springs the best national conference yet. Thank you also to **Bob Bronkall**, Humboldt County. Bob provided a demonstration of the CEAC Forum as the second half of the Thursday Lunch. Bob and **Ian Wilson**, Alameda County, have done an outstanding job working to make the CEAC Forum a great place to share information for our CEAC members. Bob's demonstration illustrated the power of this forum. Please contact Bob or Ian for further information about signing up and registering on the forum. I'll also be sending out follow-up information about this great tool soon. The way to make it productive is to start populating it with questions, answers, ideas and suggestions so we can all learn from each other on issues we face daily in our jobs to serve our residents. Friday's breakfast presentations at the Policy Conference were also interesting and informative. **Paul Danczyk**, from the CSAC Institute, discussed all the great tools and information available through the Institute. If you have not reviewed the opportunities available, I suggest you visit the website at: <https://csacinstitute.org/>

In addition, **Danielle Bradley**, CSAC Legislative Analyst, and **Justin Garrett**, CSAC Legislative Advocate, made a presentation on the CSAC AT HOME Program, designed to help address the huge homelessness issue facing us throughout California. This program is being rolled out across the state in an effort to provide tangible results to address homelessness through a more comprehensive approach with improved accountability at all levels. The presentation was comprehensive and you can find additional details at: [AT HOME Plan - California State Association of Counties](#).

Finally, I want to encourage all our CEAC members to attend the upcoming Fall Conference in Oakland, Alameda County, November 13-17, 2023. In addition to the incredible learning and networking opportunities at this conference, our membership will be voting on our incoming slate of CEAC Officers and addressing our CEAC fiscal challenges by updating our CEAC By-Laws to include a CIP for membership dues, something we've been working towards for some time now. Our membership will be duly notified of the proposed By-Law changes in the coming weeks to allow each of our members to review the proposed changes necessary to continue our mission to "To advance county engineering and management by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information aimed at improving service to the public."

Look forward to seeing you all in November, until then, stay safe and thank you for remaining engaged in CEAC.

~Brian

Brian M. Balbas

2023 CEAC President



**CEAC would like to thank our early
SPONSORS!**



WHAT'S HAPPENING Around the State....

SAVE THE DATES!

CSAC 128th Annual Meeting/Fall Conference

November 13-17, 2023, Alameda County

2024 CEAC Spring Conference

will not be held due to the 2024 NACE Conference in Palm Springs

2024 NACE Annual Conference

April 15-18, 2024, Palm Springs, Riverside County

Changes in Public Works

Yuba County – Sam Bunton was appointed the Director of Public Works for Yuba County on August 1, 2023. Sam has been working for Yuba County Public Works since December 2017, first as a Civil Engineer, then as the Assistant Director of Public Works. Sam has a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cal State University Chico and a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal State University Sacramento.



CEAC group in an Ice bar in Norway

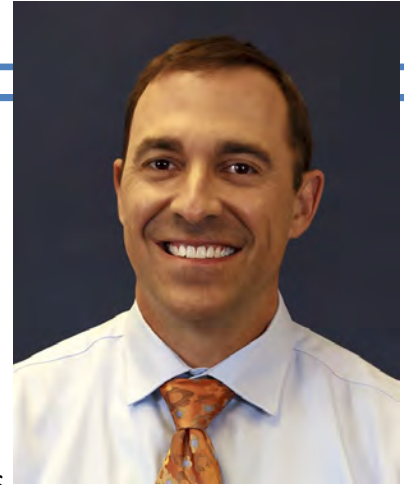
From left to right:

- George Johnson
- Luann Johnson
- Terry Herringshaw
- Pattie McNamee

NACE REPORT



Matt Machado
NACE Western Region Vice President
and Former NACE Representative



The NACE Report for this Issue of the Newsletter is a copy of the [PowerPoint](#) that was shared at our CEAC Policy Conference in Sacramento last month. This PowerPoint is focused on current efforts for our planned daily schedule for NACE 2024 in Palm Springs. Recall that our normal Spring Conference where we jointly host with the Cities is now being replaced with this planned NACE Conference. The last time California hosted this national event was 2002 in San Diego.

Let's make California shine in 2024 in Palm Springs! To be successful, we need all of you to attend. Considering that this NACE Conference is in lieu of the joint City/County Engineers Conference, I expect a huge turnout from California.



The conference begins on Monday, April 15, 2024. Please plan to arrive Sunday, April 14, 2024.

Where: Renaissance
Palm Springs Hotel

NACE 2024



Monday

Golf – Details TBD

Registration

Opens 10:00am

Welcome Reception

5:00-6:30pm



Tuesday

- Opening Session
- Technical Sessions
- Exhibit Hall Opens
- Exhibit Hall Reception
- Guest program kicks off with breakfast and an amazing day riding the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to the top of Mount San Jacinto, 10,834 feet above the Chino Canyon where guests will enjoy “lunch with a view”!



Wednesday

- Technical Sessions
- Exhibit Hall
- Conference Wide Event – you do not want to miss this event!

Thursday

- Technical Tour to include a Geologic Presentation and Tram ride to the top of Mount San Jacinto, 10,834 feet in elevation
- President's Reception and Annual Banquet

NACE 2024

To host a successful conference in California -
we need YOUR help!

We're looking for volunteers!

Contact Matt Machado, Santa Cruz County at
matt.machado@santacruzcounty.us
or (831) 454-2368



SEE YOU IN PALM SPRINGS

We look forward to seeing you in Palm Springs in 2024.
Please make sure to follow us on social media for updates.

#NACE2024

www.countyengineers.org



PALM SPRINGS
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
APRIL 15-18

www.countyengineers.org



NACE 2024



Mark Your Calendars!

April 15-18, 2024

California is hosting the National Association of County Engineers Annual Conference in 2024 in lieu of the CEAC Spring Conference that is held with the League of California Cities

GENERAL INFORMATION

Palm Springs in Riverside County, California is known for its hot springs, stylish hotels, golf courses and spas. It's also noted for its many fine examples of midcentury-modern architecture. Its core shopping district along Palm Canyon Drive features vintage boutiques, interior design shops and restaurants. The surrounding Coachella Valley offers hiking, biking and horseback riding trails.

Join Us. In April 2024, the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) will host the Annual Meeting/Management & Technical Conference in Palm Springs, CA.

photo credit: visitpalmssprings.com & greaterpalmssprings.com

TRAM TOUR

The Palm Springs aerial tramway is a major gateway to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.



DOWNTOWN PALM SPRINGS

One of several locations to walk, sightsee, and shop.



THINGS TO SEE & DO

CABAZON OUTLETS

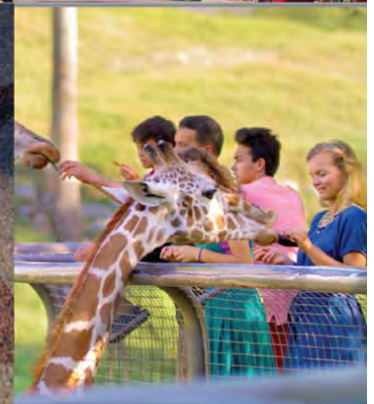
A shopping oasis, with several open-air outlet mall retailers.

GOLF

Golf courses run by the prestigious Club at PGA West and hosts the annual Desert Classic tournament.

AIR MUSEUM

Educational museum with exhibits of WWII aircraft



JOSHUA TREE

A national park known for its rock formations & trees.

CASINOS & SPA

Agua Caliente & Morongo are just two of the casino & spa resorts in Palm Springs

STAGECOACH FESTIVAL

The world famous country music festival happening every April

WALK OF STARS

Walk of fame in downtown Palm Springs, where "Golden Palm Stars" honoring various people who have lived in the greater Palm Springs area are embedded in the sidewalk.

LIVING DESERT ZOO

Zoo and botanic garden combination dedicated solely to the deserts of the world.



By Dave "Road Runner" Gravenkamp
CEAC Historian

Editor's Note: Article from the September 2007 CEAC Newsletter

Political Engineering Commandments

By George C. Protopapas

During my 24 years as an engineer for San Luis Obispo County, it became clear to me that civil engineering knowledge is not enough to succeed. One *also* needs to understand "political engineering." "Political engineering" is the "technology" of getting along with an elective body as your boss.

I have written two previous columns for Tech Transfer on this subject. "The Ten Commandments of Political Engineering" was published in October 1992. "Ten More Commandments of Political Engineering" appeared in October 1993. •

14 More Commandments

Since there is virtually no material available on political engineering and I continue to take an interest in this subject, I have once again expanded on my original idea. This time I have developed a third group of 10 commandments, along with four commandments of political traffic engineering. Although the commandments relate to a county board of supervisors, they could equally apply to a city council or a special district's board of directors.

The additional "Commandments" are:

1. Never intrude upon the policy prerogatives of your board. If pressed for comments by persons or organizations, always make it clear that your board will make the decision and that you will only recommend a course of action.
2. Never criticize a board member in a private or public gathering. Be loyal and always try to increase the respect accorded to your board by the general public and by your own staff.
3. Never get so comfortable that you forget that you are working for the board. If their decisions or your relationship with a board member begin to affect your sanity, then you have two choices. Either leave or wait for the next election, knowing that board

members are elected for four-year terms and hopefully you will outlast the one with whom you are having problems.

4. Always try in a public meeting to defer to any board members who are present so that they may be the county's spokes person. Substitute your presentation for theirs only upon their request, and never attempt to take the limelight from them.
5. Organize ribbon-cutting ceremonies so that the board member whose district includes a project gets to cut the ribbon. If the project is of county-wide interest, invite the chairman of the board to be the ribbon cutter. To provide a little levity at these ceremonies, I made a silly looking hard hat for the ribbon cutter. If the board member has a big ego and no sense of humor, don't use the silly hat.
6. Be helpful and don't good terms with members of the press. Get to know the reporters and notify them of newsworthy items. Never be belligerent, and remember they are only trying to do their jobs.
7. Never carry on a running battle in the "Letters to the Editor" column or editorial columns. You won't win.
8. Get to know your county administrator and county auditor-controller. To make life easier, be sure to make friends with them.
9. To minimize the inevitable irritation of property owners adjacent to construction projects or special maintenance projects, particularly where traffic control or street closure is involved, have your staff hand-deliver to each business or homeowner a fact sheet in letter form to advise them of the details of the project and how it will affect them.
10. Work closely with any citizens advisory committee formed by the board even if, as a professional engineer, you don't agree with the direction a committee seems to be taking. If there is a disagreement, bring your recommendation and present it along with the committee's. It is the board's responsibility to choose which recommendation will be adopted. Of course, it is always better for you and the advisory committee to be in agreement.

Political Traffic Engineering

Traffic engineering, especially in small cities, can become very political. Here are some commandments that could help to keep local politics from crowding out the relevant traffic engineering issues.

Traffic engineering, especially in small cities, can become very political.

1. Formulate your traffic engineering recommendation in accordance with professional traffic engineering standards, but don't ignore the viewpoints of citizens and board members as you go through that process. If your recommendation still is not adopted by the board, don't take it personally.

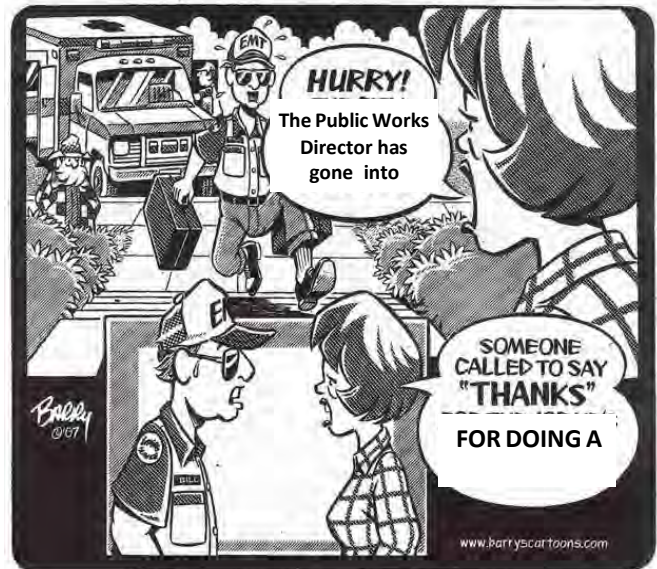


Political Engineering Commandments

(continued)

Traffic engineering, especially in small cities, can become very political.

2. Have your board adopt traffic warrants such as the California Department of Transportation's Traffic Warrants, which are recognized statewide. This will take the heat off you when a citizen or a board member would like to do something which is not good traffic engineering practice. By following the warrants, you will decrease your agency's liability in the event of an accident and make your board members think twice before changing your recommendation.
3. If you are finding that politics dictate traffic engineering decisions in your agency, you may want to consider recommending that your board form a traffic safety committee comprised of professionals (the majority) and residents from the community (a minority) who would be responsible for making recommendations on traffic engineering matters to your board. The professionals could be a combination of a county traffic engineer, a city traffic engineer, a member of the highway patrol, a member of the auto club, the police chief, or a Caltrans traffic engineer.
4. Often a large group of people will try to convince a board to modify your traffic engineering recommendation in a way that doesn't conform to professional guidelines. In that case, you may want to seek the assistance of your legal counsel to convince the board that deviating from good traffic engineering practice could increase the liability of your agency. When a board is considering actions that doesn't conform with constituents' wishes, it is more inclined to go along with the recommendations of its legal staff than with a straightforward engineering recommendation. In such cases, the board can cite a need to protect the agency from liability.



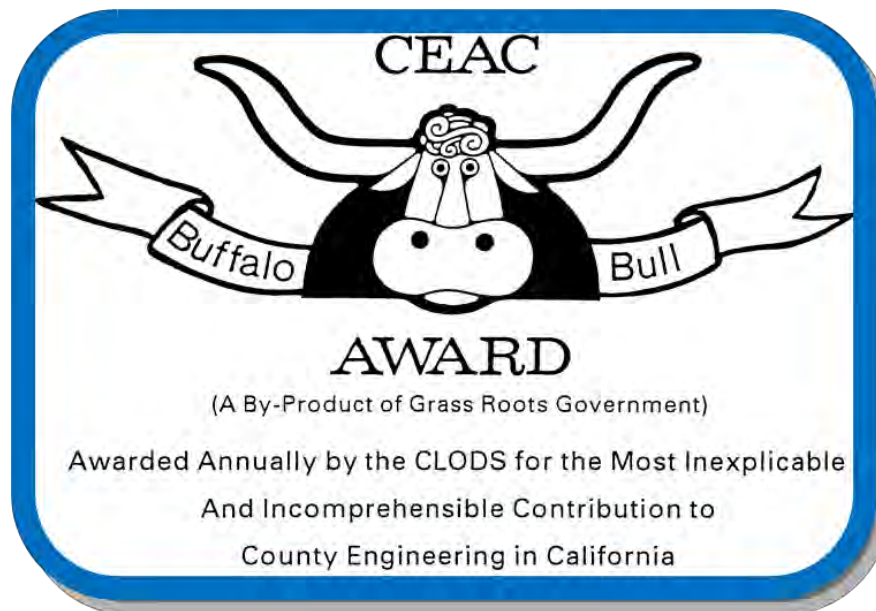
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING 101

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local County Public Works office to request the removal of the "DEER CROSSING" sign on a nearby road. The reason: *Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore."*

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING 102

The traffic signal on the corner buzzes when its safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an coworker of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, *"What on earth are blind people doing driving?"*

BUFFALO BULL AWARD - 2024



There probably will not be a presentation of the 2024 Buffalo Bull Award since CEAC will be hosting the 2024 NACE Annual Conference in Palm Springs.

Panos Kokkas, the current award holder will hold another record that will probably never be broken; the most consecutive years with the Buffalo Bull award in his office.

But, don't let your guard down because there still could be a presentation; you never know. The Tres Pinos Committee is always taking nominations even if the next presentation is not until 2025. So, if you don't want to be the next recipient, submit your nomination (s) to the CEAC Newsletter Editor for delivery to the Tres Pinos Committee.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Report

By Fritz Buchman, Regional Director, Director of Public Works, San Joaquin County



A couple of the more significant damage examples from the January storms in San Joaquin County are pictured above. The top two photos show a culvert washout resulting from a failed detention basin uphill of Kasson Road. On two separate occasions, vehicles drove around barricades and through caution tape into the washout in broad daylight, which made national news (the Washington Post). The bottom photo shows a major washout of the MacArthur Drive Bridge over Corral Hollow Creek due to extremely high creek flows.



Using the County's Job Order Contracts, repairs to these facilities, with a total cost of over \$1 million, were completed and these important roads were re-opened within four weeks of the damage occurring. Overall storm damage to public infrastructure in San Joaquin County resulting from the January storms was estimated at more than \$30 million.

San Joaquin Valley Regional Report (continued)



CEAC President **Brian Balbas** (second from left) presented the San Joaquin Valley Regional Employee of the Year Award to Deputy Public Works Director **Kristi Rhea** (third from left) from San Joaquin County at the April 11 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Kristi was recognized for her team's efforts to implement numerous recommendations set forth in the department's Business Process Review, including expanding GIS capability and utilization; establishing the Public Works Academy training program; publishing quarterly department newsletters and implementing other communications improvements; expanding the department's intranet presence; and overseeing procurement and implementation of a computerized maintenance management system.

*Editor's Note: **Fritz Buchman** is third from the right.*

San Joaquin Valley Regional Report (continued)



CEAC Secretary and French Executive Chef **David Leamón** (right) putting fine dining touches on the grilled hamburger and hot dog lunch at the region's May meeting hosted by Stanislaus County.

Although a couple of meetings were canceled due to storm impacts or other issues, the San Joaquin Valley region has gotten together to discuss a variety of interesting and educational topics this year, including a lively and lengthy discussion on Highway Bridge Program eligibility, programing and project delivery issues; pavement maintenance projects, 2023 storm response de-brief, successes, and lessons learned; and hydrogen-powered traffic signal back-up.

CLODS Annual Meeting

August 24, 2023



CLODS hard at work - from left to right - George Johnson (Riverside) 2007-08, Doug Wilson (Tulare) 1996-97, Mike Crump (Butte) 2006-07, Mehdi Sadjadi (Marin) 1998-99, Julie Bueren (Contra Costa) 2010-11, Mike Penrose (Sacramento) 2014-15, Jim Porter (San Mateo) 2018-19/2020-21, John Presleigh (Santa Cruz) 2016-17, Scott McGolpin (Santa Barbara) 2013-24, Howard Dashiell—The Junior CLOD (Mendocino) 2021-22 , Tom Mattson (Humboldt) 2012-13, Matt Machado (Stanislaus) 2015-16, Max Bridges (San Benito) 1999-2000, Dave Gravenkamp (Siskiyou) 1991-92, and Daniel Woldesenbet (Alameda) 2011-12.

2023 CEAC Policy Conference



First Time attending the conference:

Heba El-Guindy (left), Nevada County

Berenice Davidson (right), Marin County



From left to right:

Trisha Tillotson, Nevada County

Matt Griggs, Dokken Engineering



From left to right:

Carolina Hernandez, Los Angeles County

Mary Reyes, Los Angeles County



2023 CEAC Policy Conference



2023 CEAC Policy Conference





CEAC Board of Directors

DRAFT MINUTES

2023 CEAC Annual Conference

August 25, 2023| 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Capitol Event Center, 1020 11th Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento
Sacramento County, California

12:36 pm

Call to Order (Balbas)

Officers present: 10 of 10; Regional Directors: 6 of 6; **Quorum Present**

1. Approval of Minutes (Leamon)

2023 CEAC Spring Conference / PWOI – League of Cities - **Attachment 1 Action Item Motion** to approve minutes; Move to approve - DeChellis, 2nd Machado; **Approved**

2. Correspondence (Balbas)

Caltrans Letter on anti-swag at Transportation Conferences. Fleisch rightly mentioned, this just might be government over-reach. Gerety shared that CSAC has not made a decision, but likely will keep SWAG.

3. CLODS Report (CLODS) (Sadjadi)

Treasurer Emeritus Sadjadi – CLODS developed the slate of officers for 2024 to be presented in Oakland to the membership for consideration and voting. Sadjadi hopes Balbas will make into the CLODS. CLODS received the invitation to the Fall Conference to host the CLODS BBQ. Given during new Business placed here for continuity, **Penrose has been given a bird name by the CLODS – “THRASHER”**.

4. NACE Report (Machado)

Machado won the Western Region Vice President for NACE and reminded everyone that we need a new NACE representative, which will be selected by the CLODS.

Focus on 2024 Palm Springs NACE Conference, much to get done:

Technical Sessions – Mattson and Dashiell

Sponsors and Exhibitors – need a list

Golf program –

Guest program - Dashiell and Johnson

Wednesday Night Dinner in conjunction with the CLODS

Need to develop a budget in the Fall - \$5k

Profit for Alabama Conference was in the range of \$150,000 total for NACE – about \$30-40k for Alabama

Geotechnical presentation by Leacox and McElroy

Discussion on technical sessions to include roads, project delivery, flood control and disaster recovery.

5. CSAC Report (CSAC Staff) (Neuburger)

AT HOME program is a key priority at CSAC, with a housing focus. Housing is another hot topic, but there are conflicted conversations between the various push and pulls of housing development. Long delays at BPLESG for licensing, CSAC has reached out to see what can be done. CSAC has been engaging in regional tribal meetings starting in September and October, theme is being a good neighbor. Machado mentioned HCD grants and that PW departments are not typical grant applicants and PW departments could use help in education on these grants.

6. Regional Directors Reports

Balbas thanked Rosemarie Gaglione for stepping up to be the Bay Area Regional Director.

Johannes Hoevertsz and Rosemarie Gaglione – **Bay Area** – First meeting was held, Bay Area elected Gaglione, President Balbas in attendance.

Walter Rubalcava - **Central Coast** – Highlighted the excellent collaboration between the Counties along the coast.

Bob Bronkall – **NorCal** – will update the group under new business for the Bedroll conference.

Matt Randall and Kim MacFarlane – **Sac/Mother Lode** – Met virtually in August, voted in Kim MacFarlane as Regional Director, well attended, good discussions, storms, homelessness and snow. McFarland highlighted the good discussion on storm recovery. Yuba County has a PW director and received a \$22M Safe Routes to School grant, Placer Co has a large bridge project.

Fritz Buchman – **San Joaquin** – Due to storms May meeting was the next meeting hosted by Stanislaus County in San Joaquin County. Celebrity chef Lemond burnt dawgs and burgers. Kern County has had some rapid changes in leadership, Fritz will continue to reach out. Leamon suggested that maybe SoCal take Kern. DeChellis countered with deal if the Valley takes Mono and Inyo. Khan mentioned SoCal has lots of members.

Nardy Khan – **SoCal** – The region had virtual meetings, continue with this format. Khan mentioned that attendance is better with virtual meetings.

Bonus conversation: DeChellis reminded the Regional Directors to keep providing the updates. Minimum 10,000 word essay with no pictures is preferred. Reminded the NACE representative and President to provide their articles for the newsletter. Asked for County updates, Contra Costa County two years ago provided an update.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Johnson)

President Balbas thanked Treasurer Johnson for all his hard work on the budget and budget recommendations. Treasurer Johnson reminded us that:

CEAC is experiencing a budget shortfall, a sub-committee was assembled to evaluate funding alternatives. Three recommendations from the sub-committee:

One is to increase dues 10% per year for members and affiliates for three years.

Second recommendation is for job postings costs to increase from \$75 to \$125, Cities from \$150 to \$200.

Third recommendation is to increase revenue is to raise the registration on the Fall Policy Conference from \$100 up to \$150. Combined proposals would increase revenue by \$30,000 per year.

The CSAC service contract has an annual CPI inflationary factor that is projected to increase expenditures by approximately 8%, raising the cost from \$219,286 in 2022 up to \$237,000 for 2023. Good news was shared that 57 of 58 Counties have paid their dues. Siskiyou is the County that has not paid. There was talk about how to engage the Director, Machado suggested to contact their Board of Supervisors to encourage participation.

Treasure Johnson thanked the Regional Directors for their outreach efforts then asked if the Board had any questions. There were none.

Attachment 2 - Discussion Item – Treasurer's report – ACTION – ACCEPT the REPORT – 1st Dashiell 2nd Penrose – Unanimous

8. Committee Reports:

Administrative – **McFarland**, well attended, lively discussion on AI. This was a robust conversation by the membership that was there. San Joaquin Co. will present at a future Admin Committee on their PW Academy. Mentioned that maybe we could set up a mentoring program.

Flood Control and Water Resources – **Shepard** update, endowments are stinky for public agencies, we say no, Nardy and Shepard are thinking a subcommittee can tackle this subject.

Infrastructure and Development, aka the Committee formerly known as Land Use – **Tillotson**. Discussed illegal dumping and impacts on our infrastructure. Interest in future topic revolving around financing.

Resource Recovery and Waste Management – **Carter**, the meeting was well attended. Little Hoover Commission attended the meeting, it was a very good discussion. Plug for the forums. Bronkall assured us that “white glove” treatment was incoming.

Surveyor – **Bronkall** – What is the nature of a durable monument? What are surveyors? Where are we and is this all a dream? These and other existential thoughts seemed to consume the Survey group. Dallas Sweeny from the Board attended. Discussed how many active surveyors there were, it’s unknow. LSIT applications are up, anticipate an uptick in future years for the LS.

Transportation – **Zarif**, Caltrans Local Assistance attended, CEAC was very well behaved. Future discussion on asset management, Caltrans and possible technology changes to pavement rating.

Fellowship – no update. **Balbas** – reminded us we’re going to need lot’s of help for NACE 2024.

Oversight – **Balbas** - By-laws changes, budget discussions have dominated the conversations recently.

Scholarship –**Meyers** – Received four applications and we are awarding 3 scholarships. We definitely need more applications. Medhi again encouraged all in attendance to find more CEAC applicants for the scholarships.

9. Unfinished Business (Balbas)

ARTICLE III Dues and Assessments Update – Bylaws amendment - **Attachment Three – Action Item** – Item postponed as the Bylaws need to be voted on by the membership and we need to provide notice so that the members can vote on this amendment. Carried forward from Spring Conference to the Policy conference and now to the Fall Annual Meeting, due to Dashiell's rather damning self-incriminating admission that he messed up three times. Parliamentarian Penrose reminded us that the By-laws are voted on by the General Membership . Once the By-Laws are amended the Board will be able to correct the table going forward. Membership needs to be noticed by October 16th for voting during the Annual Meeting in November. 10% increases in 2023, 2024 and then 2025, with annual CPI starting in 2026.

Recommended Motion – Approve two more 10% dues increase for 2024 then the 10% increase with CPI below going forward starting in 2026 and direct Treasurer to build the 2024 CEAC Proposed Budget accordingly with modifications to the By-Laws as shown below. Bring back clean revision of By-Laws at least 10 days before November 17th 2023 (e.g. by November 7th publish a member vote along with Policy Agendas) with any corrections or adjustments for final ratification at the fall conference for distribution to the membership and final ratification by the Board of Directors.

1st – Bronkall, 2nd – Kokkas - Unanimous

10. New Business

Bedroll Conference – Bronkall – New camp found that is very similar to the Camp Connery that went up in flames, Camp Tehama in Mineral, CA, in Tehama County. Comes with a mess hall and kitchen, has a trout pond, bring your own BBQ grill or 3. Dashiell's volunteered to run the program, timeline was discussed for holding the Bedroll in late June early July.

NACE Representative – Sadjadi – Machado self-promoted to NACE Western Regional VP with California's help, thereby abandoning his NACE Representative ship; Dashiell in as NACE representative, **1st by Machado, 2nd by Kokkas – Unanimous**

2024 Conference Dates – Gerety – May would be better for the CEAC Policy Conference, in order to develop legislative measures, much circular conversation with the history of the name of the Policy Conference. Policy Conference has good attendance and is affordable. DeChellis remembered when the Policy Conference cost \$50, back in the Elder Days. No action – Waelder suggested we might consider pulling the Policy Conference back a couple of weeks earlier in August to time better with Sacramento Sausage Making. Balbas suggested that we should continue to hold it in August so that we can inform the Supervisors at the CSAC Annual Conference. Neuberger reminded us we only update our Priorities and Legislative Proposals every other year. Sadjadi reminded the group that this conference was Maurice Shui's idea and that the purpose was to inform the Supervisors on what was important for CEAC.

CEAC Liability Insurance – Balbas – No CSAC coverage but General Liability insurance would be a good idea for our event, \$2M general liability, \$1M in aggregate. Two proposals received, low bid was \$2046 per year, would cover conferences, special events, golf and social activities. No Board Directors and Officers insurance coverage, all seemed to think that coverage was necessary. Neuberger gave a fine discussion on insurance and coverages. Sadjadi recalled that CEAC used to have a rider with CSAC. Neuberger reminded CEAC that CSAC does not direct the CEAC Board, therefore we are independent and not under CSAC. Motion to get insurance – **1st by Dashiell, 2nd by DeChellis** – No - Sadjadi, remainder of the membership present voted aye.

Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment – Leamon – No update as we talked about the Policy conference for what seemed like three hours as I re-listen to that conversation.

11. Life Membership - None**12. Announcements**

Scheduled Conferences

- CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, Alameda County, November 13-17, 2023
- NACE Annual Conference, Palm Springs, Riverside County, April 15-18, 2024

CEAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

- CSAC Annual Meeting/Fall Conference, Alameda County, November 13-17, 2023
- NACE Annual Meeting, April, 2024 – Need to determine if a Board of Directors meeting should be scheduled during the NACE conference in Palm Springs.

13. Round table discussion – Conference Fees

Dashiell brought up the idea of allowing a remote option, Balbas said due to cost, we will try the owl / remote light version for the Fall Policy Conference in August.

2:30 pm **Adjourn** – Motion by DeChellis, **2nd by Kokkas**, unanimous consent to adjourn

CEAC Board of Directors

August 25, 2023| 12:30p.m. - 2:30p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

Page 4

Voting Board Members: Officers and Regional Directors

P indicates present at the meeting

Officer

Brian Balbas **P**
Panos Kokkas **P**
David Leamon **P**
Howard Dashiell **P**
George Johnson **P**
Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi **P**
Mike Penrose **P**
Patrick DeChellis **P**
Matt Machado **P**
Dave Gravenkamp

Office

President
Vice President
Secretary
Immediate Past President
Treasurer
Treasurer-Emeritus
Parliamentarian
Newsletter Editor
NACE Representative
Historian

County

Contra Costa
Trinity
Stanislaus
Mendocino
Riverside (Retired)
Marin (Retired)
Sacramento (Retired)
Los Angeles (Retired)
Santa Cruz
Siskiyou (Retired)

Regional Directors

Rosemarie Gaglione **P**
Walter Rubalcava **P**
Bob Bronkall **P**
Kim MacFarlane **P**
Fritz Bushman **P**
Nardy Khan **P**

Region

Bay Area
Central Coast
Northern California
Sacramento Mother Lode
San Joaquin Valley
Southern California

County

Marin
Santa Barbara
Humboldt
Tuolumne
San Joaquin
Orange

Committee Chairs

Josh Pack
Pattie McNamee
Glenn Shephard **P**
Trisha Tillotson **P**
Brian Balbas **P**
Jared Carter **P**
Alicia Meier
Aleks Jevremovic
Najee Zarif **P**

Committee

Administrative
Fellowship
Flood Control/Water Resources
Infrastructure & Development
Oversight
Resource Recovery & Waste
Scholarship
Surveyor
Transportation

County

Butte
Contra Costa (Retired)
Ventura
Nevada
Contra Costa
Madera
Mendocino
Santa Barbara
San Joaquin

CSAC/CEAC Staff

Catherine Freeman **P**
Mark Neuburger **P**
Ada Waelder **P**
Kristina Gallagher
Amber Garcia-Rossow
Merrin Gerety **P**

Title

Senior Legislative Representative
Legislative Advocate
Legislative Advocate
Legislative Analyst
Legislative Analyst
CEAC Program Manager

Agency/County

CSAC
CSAC
CSAC
CSAC
CSAC
CSAC/CEAC

Others in Attendance

Blossom Scott- Heim **P**
Kent Edler **P**

County

Tuolumne
Santa Cruz



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2023 Legislative Session End-of-Session Wrap-Up September 15, 2023

Late last evening, the Legislature adjourned for interim recess, concluding the 2023 legislative session, which marks the end of the first year of the two-year 2023-24 legislative cycle. As many have opined, California had a record number of new legislators – over a quarter took the oath for the first time. Along with many new faces, there were significant leadership changes: Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas was sworn in as the new Speaker mid-year and Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins announced that she will step down from her leadership post and be replaced by Senator Mike McGuire sometime next year.

Against this backdrop, the Legislature introduced more bills than it has in over a decade (3,028 in total) and during the last week of session, there were more than 700 bills that were still active. This set the table for a feverish final week, with the Legislature determining the fate of a number of bills important to counties, which are summarized by policy area further below. **Your CSAC advocacy team remains engaged on a number of these bills that have moved to the Governor's desk.** Governor Newsom has until October 14th to sign or veto these bills.

The amount of legislation impacting counties can be difficult to conceptualize; it is largely a function of counties being the first line of government where members of our communities turn for their most basic needs. Underlining this point is a *brief* list of *some* of the legislation impacting counties that was debated during the last week: the Governor's MHSA proposal; advance payments for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program; local enforcement against unlicensed cannabis activities; the conveyance of accessory dwelling units from primary residences; conservatorship expansion; supportive housing units; child safety at children's camps; minimum wage increases for health care workers; two constitutional amendments regarding voter thresholds and bond and tax measures; sympathy strikes and unemployment benefits for striking workers, and; Brown Act teleconferencing procedures during emergencies. Perhaps just as consequential, a deal to prevent the potential collapse of California's home insurance industry and reform the FAIR Plan, the state's insurer of last resort, fell apart at the last minute. Assembly Speaker Rivas announced that the Legislature will hold a series of hearings on the issue this fall.

Please reach out to CSAC [legislative staff](#) if you have any questions. Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend as we get a bit of respite from the end of session!

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez
Chief Policy Officer
California State Association of Counties

2023 Legislative Session End-of-Session Wrap-Up

Following are excerpts from Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez' e-mail on September 15, 2023 for **Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources** and **Housing, Land Use, and Transportation**. For additional information on **Administration of Justice, Government Finance and Administration**, and **Health and Human Services**, please refer to this e-mail.

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Signed By Governor

[SB 642 \(Cortese\) Hazardous materials: enforcement: county counsel](#) will close a loophole to provide county counsels with complete civil enforcement authority over hazardous waste violations, as originally intended by the Legislature. SB 642 will complete the Legislature's intent by granting county counsels complete civil enforcement authority over hazardous waste violations. The bill was signed by the Governor on September 1 and was [co-sponsored by CSAC](#).

Awaiting Governor's Action

[AB 297 \(Fong\) Wildfires: local assistance grant program: prescribed grazing: advance payments](#) would extend the sunset deadline on the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's ability to offer advance payments of up to 25 percent of the total grant reward from its Wildfire Prevention Grants program to January 1, 2034. [CSAC supports AB 297](#).

[AB 338 \(Aguiar Curry\) Fuel reduction work](#) would require, starting July 1, 2026, workers conducting contracted fuel reduction work over \$500,000 to be paid at least the general prevailing wage. Recent amendments have improved the bill, including by increasing the scope of the projects required to meet the new requirements. However, as the size, scope, and complexity of landscape level fuel reduction projects continues to grow, and projects include both public and private lands, this legislation would likely still serve as challenge for projects funded by public dollars. [CSAC remains opposed to AB 338](#).

[AB 345 \(Wilson\) Habitat restoration: flood control: advance payments](#) would provide the Department of Water Resources with discretionary authority to utilize an advanced payment option when funding local projects that restore vital habitat and/or improve flood protection. [CSAC supports AB 345](#).

[AB 1448 \(Wallis\) Cannabis: enforcement by local jurisdictions](#) would enhance local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities and allow a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act. [CSAC supports AB 1448](#).

Died in Legislature

[AB 985 \(Arambula\) San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District: emission reduction credit system](#) would have required the Air Resources Board to conduct an analysis of the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's emission reduction credit (ERC) banks for air pollutants by January 1, 2027. The bill would have also added a strain to the limited resources on the existing ERC program. [CSAC was opposed to this bill](#). The bill failed passage on the Assembly Floor.

2023 Legislative Session End-of-Session Wrap-Up

HOUSING, LAND USE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Awaiting Governor's Action

[AB 400 \(Rubio\) Local agency design-build projects: authorization](#) would allow local governments to continue the utilization of existing state law which allows them to use the Design-Build (DB) procurement process for qualifying public works contracts in excess of \$1 million using either a low bid or best value process. This bill would achieve this by extending the existing January 1, 2025 sunset date to January 1, 2031 on the statutory DB authority. [AB 400 is CSAC's sponsored legislation.](#)

[AB 1033 \(Ting\) Accessory dwelling units: local ordinances: separate sale or conveyance](#) would authorize a local agency to adopt a local ordinance to allow ADUs to be sold separately or conveyed from the primary residence. [CSAC is in support of this bill.](#)

[SB 4 \(Wiener\) Planning and zoning: housing development: higher education institutions and religious institutions](#) would establish that an affordable housing development is a use by right (i.e., not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or other discretionary review by the relevant city or county) on infill sites owned by a church or non-public college. [CSAC is in support of this bill.](#)

[SB 91 \(Umberg\) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: supportive and Transitional housing: motel conversion: environmental leadership transit projects](#) would permanently extend existing law that allows for a motel, hotel, residential hotel, or hostel that is converted into a supportive housing or a transitional housing project to be exempt from CEQA. [CSAC is in support of this bill.](#)

[SB 482 \(Blakespear\) Multifamily Housing Program: supportive housing: capitalized operating reserves](#) would allow the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to offer capitalized operating reserves to be used for eligible projects, and that assisted units may include, but not be limited to, supportive housing units funded by the Multifamily Housing Program. To determine project eligibility for capitalized operating reserves, the bill would authorize HCD to consider specified factors, including the availability of funds and the individual financial needs of the project. The bill would require HCD to offer capitalized operating reserves to supportive housing units after developers have sought capitalized reserves from other potential funding sources. [CSAC is in support of this bill.](#)

[SB 706 \(Caballero\) Public contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies](#) would allow counties, cities, and special districts to use the progressive design-build (PDB) project delivery method for construction contracts. Until January 1, 2030, the bill authorizes local agencies to use the PDB process for up to 10 public works projects in excess of \$5 million for each project. [This is a CSAC co-sponsored bill.](#)

Two-Year Bill

[SB 450 \(Atkins\) Housing development: approvals](#). For some background, [SB 9 \(Atkins\) \(Chapter 162, Statutes of 2021\)](#) allowed up to four homes on lots where currently only one exists. It did so by allowing existing single-family homes to be converted into duplexes, it also allowed single-family parcels to be subdivided into two lots, while allowing for a new two-unit building to be constructed on the newly formed lot. SB 450 amends SB 9 and would establish a ministerial approval or denial of an application for a duplex or a lot split and remove the ability of a local agency to deny a proposed duplex or lot split because the local agency has found that it would have a specific, adverse impact on the physical environment. [CSAC is in support of this bill.](#)

Signed by the Governor

[AB 356 \(Mathis\) California Environmental Quality Act: aesthetic impacts](#) extends the sunset date of a provision in CEQA stating that lead agencies are not required to evaluate the aesthetic effects of a project involving the refurbishment, conversion, repurposing, or replacement of an existing building that is abandoned, dilapidated, or has been vacant for more than one year and which includes the construction of housing. [CSAC supported this bill.](#)

[AB 1307 \(Wicks\) California Environmental Quality Act: noise impact: residential projects](#) specifies that noise generated by occupants is not a significant effect on the environment for residential projects for purposes of CEQA. [CSAC supported this bill.](#)

Job Opportunities in Local Government

CEAC provides an opportunity for California county and city public works agencies to post job openings on our site. New positions are posted on a regular basis. [County Job Openings: CSAC Website](#)

Organization	Position	Date Posted	Closing Date/First Review
San Diego County	LUEG Program Manager-Field Engineering Manager	9/22/2023	10/24/2023
City of Lancaster	Assistant Director of Public Works/City Engineer	9/21/2023	10/23/2023
Marin County	Senior Civil Engineer	9/12/2023	Continuous Until Filled
Valley Water	Deputy Operating Officer, Dam Safety and Capital Delivery Division	9/8/2023	9/21/2023
City of Palm Desert	City Engineer	9/8/2023	Continuous Until Filled
Marin County	Civil Engineer	9/6/2023	Continuous Until Filled
Merced County	Public Works Director/Road Commissioner	9/1/2023	10/3/2023

...if you're seeking a job.

For public sector job seekers, the CEAC Website can be an invaluable job-hunting resource. This page allows direct access to job listings posted by public-sector employers. We urge you to check this site often, since new jobs are posted regularly.

...if you're a Public Sector Employer.

To recruit candidates, you may email a position announcement/description to Merrin Gerety at mgerety@counties.org.

There is a submittal fee for each job opportunity listing. For CEAC members (county public works and CEAC affiliate members), the cost is \$125 per listing; for non-members, \$200. Each opening will run for six weeks or until the posted application deadline.

Payment in advance is not necessary. A copy of the job posting and an invoice will be sent to you. When submitting an ad, please include either a postal or email address to where the invoice should be sent.

Questions? Email Merrin Gerety: mgerety@counties.org