



March 25, 2016

In this Issue

Top Headlines

- [CSAC Regional Meeting Focuses on Tree Mortality](#)
- [CSAC Thanks CA Congressional Delegation for PILT Support](#)

Policy Reports

- [Local Electeds Could Face New Campaign Rules with Criminal Penalties](#)
- [Good News From State Cash Flow Report, With Caveats](#)
- [NACo Visits NorCal for Transportation Exchange](#)
- [CSAC's Matt Cate Talks Transportation](#)
- [New regulations proposed for criminal background checks in employment](#)
- [Victim Services Grant Deadline Extended](#)
- [Grant Announcement for Federal Justice and Mental Health Collaboration](#)
- [County Feedback Needed on Housing Bills](#)
- [Other Bills of Interest](#)

CSAC News

- [From Our Blog: CSAC's Legislative Conference, A Two-Way Street to the Capitol](#)
- [Legislative Conference Special Discount Registration Rate Ends Tonight](#)
- [CSAC Congratulates Newest Institute Fellows](#)

[Job Openings](#)

CSAC Regional Meeting Focuses on Tree Mortality

There are approximately 29 million dead and dying trees in California forests. Dealing with them is going to be a major issue for at least a decade. CSAC conducted a regional meeting in Shasta County this week, focusing on the dramatic death of millions of trees due to bark beetle infestation. The problem is huge—involving hundreds of thousands of acres up and down the Sierra Nevada.

"I think people have to see it to believe it," said CSAC President and Amador County Supervisor Richard Forster." And once they see these maps with the tree mortality documented by county, then they really see the impact of it statewide. It's a catastrophic situation. There are many counties that are approaching 20, 30, 40 percent tree mortality, and it touches nearly every county in the state of California."

[Read more](#)

CSAC Thanks CA Congressional Delegation for PILT Support

CSAC News Release:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) applauds Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, as well as 18 bipartisan members of the California congressional delegation, for designating the federal Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program as a top budgetary priority. Senators Feinstein and Boxer, along with their House colleagues, recently signed onto correspondence to House and Senate appropriators requesting full funding for PILT in fiscal year 2017 and beyond.

For nearly 40 years, PILT funding has provided payments to counties to help offset losses in tax revenues due to the presence of federal land within their jurisdiction. Since local governments are unable to tax the property or products derived from federal lands, these payments are necessary to support essential government services such as education, first responders, transportation infrastructure, law enforcement, and other local government responsibilities.

[Read more](#)

Local Electeds Could Face New Campaign Rules with Criminal Penalties

A bill seeking to level the playing field for campaign finance rules actually creates an unfair system against county supervisors and other local elected officials serving cities, counties, special districts and school districts. [Assembly Bill 2523](#) (Mullin) would apply the legislature's contribution limit (currently \$4200 per candidate, per contest) to all local elected officials.

[Read more](#)

Good News From State Cash Flow Report, With Caveats

The latest [monthly report](#) from the Department of Finance show positive news for state revenues, but the positive economic news is tempered with some continued uncertainty as well.

For the month of February, the "big three" revenue sources came in higher than anticipated: personal income tax receipts were \$348 million (14.4 percent) above projections, sales and use tax revenues were \$115 million (4.7 percent) above projections, and corporation taxes were \$181 million (1073.6 percent) above projections. In total, monthly general fund revenues beat the forecast by \$636 million, or 12.7 percent. Year to date general fund revenues are less extreme, but still tracking at \$442 million (0.6 percent) above forecast.

[Read more](#)

NACo Visits NorCal for Transportation Exchange

About 30 people from all over the Country are learning about transportation and the movement of freight in Alameda County this week. The "Keeping Counties Moving: Innovations in Transportation Peer Exchange" is sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) with support from the Federal Highway Administration, Alameda County, the Alameda County Transportation Commission and the Port of Oakland.

[Read more](#)

CSAC's Matt Cate Talks Transportation

CSAC Executive Director Matt Cate recently appeared on "The Local Edition" with host Brad Pomerance. The interview covers why CSAC, and many others, believe we need to enhance the revenue for local transportation needs. You can watch [the program at this link](#).

New regulations proposed for criminal background checks in employment

New proposed rules may delay when county employers can ask job applicants about their criminal history. The Fair Employment and Housing Council is proposing new regulations that would overhaul how criminal history is considered in employment decisions.

The full text of the proposed regulations is available [here](#) and the Initial Statement of Reasons is available [here](#).

[Read more](#)

Victim Services Grant Deadline Extended

You have a little extra time to apply for victim services grants from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). They have extended the deadline for the Request for Application (RFA) for the County Victim Services (XC) Program from April 12th to May 24. This is for grants covering fiscal years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018

[Read more](#)

Grant Announcement for Federal Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

A new round of grants has been announced that can help local jurisdictions deal with individuals with mental illness who come into contact with the criminal justice system. The US Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) are seeking applications for funding for the federal [Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program](#).

[Read more](#)

County Feedback Needed on Housing Bills

California's long-term challenges in providing for the development of housing affordable for all income levels are increasingly regarded as reaching a crisis level. This year, the Legislature has responded with a variety of housing bills that attempt to attack the problem from nearly all imaginable angles. CSAC staff are still parsing through a number of housing-related bills that provide additional revenue and financing options for affordable housing, allow local governments additional regulatory tools to promote affordable housing, or impose mandates on cities and counties related to their planning and permitting of housing development.

We've attempted to organize and describe twelve such bills by their general themes below. CSAC would appreciate comments or concerns that counties may be able to provide on any or all of the following legislative proposals.

[Read more](#)

From our Blog: CSAC's Legislative Conference, A Two-Way Street to the Capitol

As the voice for all 58 California counties, CSAC provides a conduit to and from the State Capitol to exchange information and promote understanding of the issues that affect counties and the constituents we serve. It's one of the most important services we provide. As CSAC's Deputy Executive Director for Legislative Affairs, I am very excited about the opportunity to share with you the work CSAC is doing at our upcoming annual Legislative Conference on May 18-19. Better yet, I want to invite you to participate, both by attending the conference and by taking the opportunity to bring your voice directly to your elected representatives in Sacramento.

[Read more](#)

Legislative Conference Special Discount Registration Rate Ends Tonight

CSAC's special "early bird" registration rate ends tonight (Friday) so don't delay signing up for the [2016 CSAC Legislative Conference](#). After tonight, you can still register for the conference in advance and online, but you will not be able to take advantage of our reduced fee.

[Read more](#)

CSAC Congratulates Newest Institute Fellows

CSAC congratulates the dozen county officials who are the latest group to earn the distinction of becoming CSAC Institute Fellows. The Fellows completed additional coursework, participate in the intensive Fellows Seminar - examining enduring problems facing California Counties - and will participate on the faculty of Institute courses.

[Read more](#)

Other Bills of Interest

A roundup of bills from all policy areas of interest to counties that are not included in this week's Bulletin articles.

Oak Woodlands

[AB 2162 \(Chu\) - Request for Comments](#)

As Introduced February 17, 2016

Public Utilities Commission

[SB 512 \(Leno\) - Request for Comments](#)

As Amended January 4, 2016

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

[SB 1188 \(McGuire\) - Support](#)

As Introduced February 18, 2016

Inmates: Medical Treatment

[AB 1703 \(Santiago\) - SUPPORT](#)

As Introduced January 25, 2015

Protection of victims: address confidentiality

[AB 2263 \(Baker\) - SUPPORT](#)

As Amended March 18, 2016

Jail Industry Program

[AB 2012 \(Bigelow\) - SUPPORT](#)

As Amended March 14, 2016

Unmanned aircraft systems

[SB 807 \(Gaines\) – SUPPORT](#)

As Amended March 17, 2016

False advertising: substantiation of claims: county counsel

[SB 1130 \(Wieckowski \) – SUPPORT](#)

As Introduced February 17, 2016

Oak Woodlands

[AB 2162 \(Chu\) – Request for Comments](#)

As Introduced February 17, 2016

Public Utilities Commission

[SB 512 \(Leno\) – Request for Comments](#)

As Amended January 4, 2016

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

[SB 1188 \(McGuire\) – Support](#)

As Introduced February 18, 2016

Groundwater

[SB 1262 \(Pavley\) – Request Comments](#)

As Introduced February 18, 2016

Water/Waste Water Funding

[AB 1588 \(Mathis/Alejo\) – Request Comments](#)

As Amended March 16, 2016

Greenway Easements

[AB 2651 \(Gomez\) – Request for Comments](#)

As introduced February 19, 2016

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

[AB 2783 \(Garcia, Eduardo\) – Request for Comments](#)

As introduced February 19, 2016

Alternative Transportation Program

[AB 2796 \(Low\) – Request for Comments](#)

As introduced February 19, 2016

Job Openings

Click [here](#) to see the latest county and local government job postings.





Copyright © 2016 California State Association of Counties, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)