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Letter Urges Legislature to Act on Transportation

While the State Legislature was not able to address California's crisis in transportation funding during the regular 2015-16 legislative session, it is possible that they could act on it before the Special Session on Transportation and Infrastructure Development expires at the end of November. And that's exactly what an ever-growing coalition is urging lawmakers to do. CSAC is one of the founding members of the transportation coalition that delivered a letter to the

Legislative leadership and the Governor this week, asking them to address transportation funding before time runs out.

[Read more](#)

Governor Signs CSAC-Sponsored Vital Records Bill



Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 1546 into law last week and it takes effect immediately. The bill, authored by Assembly Member Kristin Olsen, will bring California's vital records into the 21st century and ensure that the state's residents can receive their most precious documents; birth certificates and the like, without undue delays.

[Read more](#)

Cap and Trade Bills Signed

Governor Brown signed the package of legislation this week that directs \$900 million in cap and trade funds to greenhouse gas reducing programs that benefit disadvantaged communities, support clean transportation and protect natural ecosystems. The governor also signed bills that prioritize spending in communities disproportionately impacted by dirty air and carbon pollution.

[Read more](#)

New Gaming Compacts Signed With 8 Tribes

Governor Brown signed bills this week ratifying new or amended gaming compacts he had negotiated with eight California tribes. The compacts are required under federal law in order for the tribes to operate slot machines and certain types of card games in California. As [the Governor's press release](#) notes, the Governor previously signed bills ratifying compacts with three other tribes in 2016, for a total of thirteen compacts ratified during the 2015–16 legislative session.

[Read more](#)

Governor Signs Resources Budget Trailer Bill

SB 839, by the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, was signed by the Governor on Tuesday, September 13 and takes effect immediately. This is the measure that requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to impose a fee for incidental take permits under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

[Read more](#)

New Requirements for Agenda Posting are Signed into Law

Local agencies will soon need to comply with new requirements for posting their Board of Supervisor meetings agendas online. Governor Brown recently signed AB [2257 \(Maienschein\)](#), which requires agendas for the legislative bodies of local governments to be accessible on the homepage on the local agency's primary website through a "prominent, direct link."

[Read more](#)

Governor Preserves County Sales Tax Revenue

CSAC is pleased to report that Governor Brown was consistent with action in previous years and

struck down bills seeking to expand sales tax exemptions for various products including infant diapers, feminine hygiene products and animal blood products. CSAC opposed AB 717 (Gonzalez), AB 1561 (Garcia, Chang) and SB 898 (Nguyen) were vetoed with the Governor stating tax exemptions should be considered new expenditures and considered as part of the budget.

[Read more](#)

Property Tax Assistance Program Returns

State Controller Betty T. Yee announced the return of property tax assistance for eligible homeowners, seven years after the Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program was suspended by the legislature for lack of funds at the height of the Great Recession. From 1978 until the suspension of PTP in 2009, eligible applicants were able to defer payment of their residential property taxes under the program administered by the State Controller.

[Read more](#)

Reforms to Workers' Comp System Awaiting Action by Governor

Following several months of stakeholder meetings and negotiations with the author and Administration, Senate Bill 1160, by Senator Tony Mendoza, now awaits action by Governor Brown. The bill would make substantial changes to the workers' compensation utilization review process and purports to modernize data collection while making it more difficult to file fraudulent liens.

[Read more](#)

Business Tax Collection Help from the Franchise Tax Board

A newly enacted Franchise Tax Board (FTB) program can help counties find unlicensed businesses in their jurisdiction. Effective January 2016, as a result of Assembly Bill 279 (Dodd, 2015), counties in California became eligible to participate in the City/County Business Tax (CCBT) program.

[Read more](#)

Mining Board Releases Pre-Rulemaking Outline

The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) is preparing to undertake a rulemaking to make significant revisions to regulations governing the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). As part of this action, the SMGB has released a document which outlines their immediate regulatory goals, and to solicit specific input on how best to accomplish these goals. The document, referred to as the Pre-Rulemaking Discussion is available [here](#). The SMGB will be accepting comments until Friday, October 7th at 5:00 p.m.

[Read more](#)

Administration of Justice News Briefs

Governor's Office of Emergency Services Announces Two New Program Requests for Proposals

The Board of State and Community Corrections Meeting - September 22

PPIC Hosts California's Historic Corrections Reforms Event - September 28

NACo Hosts Interactive Discussion on Reforming Criminal Justice Fines and Fees

Californians for Safety and Justice: Understanding County Budgeting After Proposition 47

[Read more](#)

Health and Human Services News Briefs

DHCS Releases Plan to Evaluate PRIME Program

Recent Census Data Shows Drop in Uninsured Rate

Let's Get Healthy California Announces Innovation Challenge 2.0

[Read more](#)

CARB Holds Workshop on Strategies for GHG Reduction

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) hosted a public workshop on strategies in the transportation and land use sector to help achieve the State's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals. The AB 32 Scoping Plan, which outlines the State's comprehensive strategies to achieve our ambitious GHG reduction goals, is currently being updated to reflect the newest objective pursuant to SB 32 which requires reductions of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

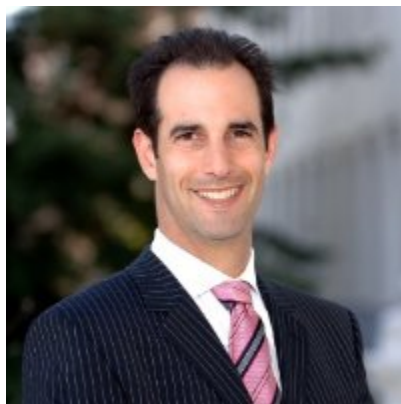
[Read more](#)

Take Advantage of CSAC's Early Bird Registration Rates for Annual Meeting

Early-bird registration rates for the upcoming [CSAC Annual Meeting](#) ends on October 14! Don't miss this opportunity to save \$50.00 off advance registration rates. After Friday October 14, you can still register online through November 15 at our advance registration rates. [To register click here!](#)

[Read more](#)

How to Close the Digital Divide: *And Why It Is a Matter of Public Policy!*



This is the second of a two-part series on the digital divide. Part one [can be found here](#).

By Lloyd Levine

Why is the Digital Divide a matter of public policy? The answer is simple: Since the turn of the new millennium, high-speed Internet access has become crucial to business, education, health and civic life.

Digital access and inclusion are 21st-century social justice and equity issues. Like the electricity grid, railroads, and the Federal Highway System, broadband infrastructure is a necessary public and private good. Because so much of modern life is dependent on being connected, the California has a compelling state interest to ensure that broadband access is available and affordable to everyone.

[Read more](#)

Job Openings

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



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