



COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

2021 NACE ANNUAL STATE REPORT

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- State Association Name: County Engineers of California (CEAC)
- Number of Counties: 58
- Number of State Association Members: 450
- Number of NACE Members: 58 (100% Membership)

State Annual Meetings/Conferences:

- CEAC Spring Conference held in conjunction with the League of California Cities' Public Works Officers Institute (PWOI) - Virtual, March 18-20, 2020
- CEAC 12th Annual Policy Conference - Virtual, August 19-20, 2020
- CSAC 126th Annual Meeting - Virtual, December 1-4, 2020

Notable Achievements of State Association and/or Individual Members:

- State Association County Engineers of the Year: Mark Pestrella, Public Works Director, Los Angeles County, and Patty Romo, Transportation Department Director, Riverside County
- State Association Surveyor of the Year: Russ Marks, County Surveyor, Mariposa County
- NACE Urban County Engineer of the Year nomination by the State Association: Mark Pestrella, Public Works Director, Los Angeles County
- Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards winners, Santa Barbara County as the Overall Winner for their Ortega Ridge Mechanically Stabilized Tire Aggregate Wall, and Yuba County in the Efficient and Sustainable Road Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects category for their "Tomorrow's Paving Today" program.

Life Membership for long-term contributions to the State Association:

- George Johnson, Former Chief Executive Officer and Transportation and Land Management Agency Director, Riverside County
- Patty Romo, Former Transportation and Land Management Agency Director, Riverside County
- Panos Kokkas, Former Public Works Director, Yolo County

Important events in which the State Association participated in during the year:

- California again experienced a string of additional tragic and historic wildfires around the state. The fires reminded us of the importance of counties working together to provide mutual aid and support during times of disaster.
- Continued participation in the Transportation Cooperative Committee. Meetings are held bi-monthly in Sacramento to discuss statewide transportation issues such as:
 - Funding, procedural, and legislative issues from a local perspective
 - Working relationships between cities and counties, councils of governments and regional transportation planning agencies, Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission, and Federal Highways – the key is to improving communications and collaboration with all stakeholders
 - The application of technology to spread information and improve access to information to all stakeholders.
- Continued member participation in multiple state and nationwide committees and programs including:
 - Active Transportation Program-Technical Advisory Committee (ATP-TAC)
 - California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC)
 - California Statewide Local Streets & Roads (LSR) Needs Assessment Oversight Committee
 - Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Programming Decisions Committee
 - Highway Bridge Program (HBP)
 - Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
 - National Association of Counties (NACo) Transportation Steering Committee
 - California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission (CUCCAC)
 - Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)
 - Transportation Development Act (TDA) Working Group
 - Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC)

Issues and topics of particular importance for which action and efforts of the State Association were directed during the year:

2020 started out with great energy from county public works directors, as CEAC and CSAC representatives traveled to Washington DC in February to highlight county priorities for federal transportation reauthorization. CEAC had productive discussions with both Congressional leaders and Trump Administration agencies, but returned to California just as the COVID-19 pandemic began to reach the state. It soon became clear that the pandemic would upend business as usual for county public works officials and every other facet of government in 2020.

In Sacramento, the Legislature quickly passed a multibillion dollar emergency funding authorization at the beginning of March, providing Governor Newsom with significant funding and authority to direct a crisis response to COVID-19. Both houses of the Legislature adjourned early for spring recess as Californians statewide began to “shelter in place.” Initial hopes for a short legislative recess faded as COVID-19 cases continued to rise. Californians worked to bend the curve while the Legislature delayed their return and created new processes to allow hearings to proceed in a virtual format with remote participation by witnesses and members of the public.

The truncated legislative session led to a significant reduction in bills. In 2019, the Legislature considered over 3,000 bills during the months of March and April; during the same time period in 2020, they took up just fewer than 300 bills.

Despite the delayed start to policy committee hearings and the significant reduction in legislative proposals considered, there was still significant policy work affecting all areas of county public works. Bills related to local government impact fees were quickly shelved, but others affecting transportation funding and subdivision requirements advanced.

Regulatory work in the areas of water and resource recovery and waste management continued, and significant legislative proposals to address plastics waste were hotly debated. With California continuing to experience unprecedented fires, CSAC engaged closely on numerous disaster and emergency response bills and budget proposals and advocated for county priorities in proposed resiliency bond measures.

For more details on CEAC’s efforts in 2020, please see the 2020 CEAC Annual Report, attached.

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