

***A research and advocacy association, supporting efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.***



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## CSA Board Discusses Biomass



This week at the CSA Board Meeting, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (Department) Director David Tenney provided Supervisors a briefing on the current state of fire management and what to expect during the coming fire season. The Department provides fire protection to 22 million acres of state and private land statewide. Director Tenney stated that, due to the strong winter rain, they are hopeful that fires will be minimized in the north this fire season. However, also due to the strong winter rain, there is grass in southern Arizona that has the potential to dry out and create an active fire season in the southern part of the state. To learn more about fire prevention from the Department of Forestry and Fire Management, please click [here](#). To visit the Department of Forestry and Fire Management website, please click

[here](#).

At the CSA Board Meeting, Navajo County Supervisor Jason Whiting and Coconino County Supervisor Matt Ryan briefed the board on a pending rule to establish standards for the minimum amount of bioenergy that should be generated in the state. CSA staff also briefed supervisors on the April Financial Advisory Committee Meeting and provided a legislative update.



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## Sun Corridor Trail Update

During the CSA Board Meeting on Thursday, Yavapai County Supervisor Thurman provided an update on the efforts to create the Sun Corridor Trail. Supervisor Thurman noted that the creation of a statewide system of trails that connects cities and towns across Arizona has great potential to promote tourism and economic development across the state.

The preliminary plan is to link scenic and significant regional trails in Arizona along economic, transportation and tourism corridors. The long-term goal is to create a system of hiking and biking trails that will stretch from Las Vegas, Nevada to Douglas, Arizona.

Arizona's first statewide trail system, the Arizona Trail is tailored towards backcountry hiking whereas the Sun Corridor Trail would go through Arizona's cities and towns to allow hikers to explore the local communities as well as scenic trails.

For more information on the proposed Sun Corridor Trail please, click [here](#)



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## Supervisors Bracker, Parks Participate in White House Opportunity Zone Conference

Supervisor Bruce Bracker (Santa Cruz) and Supervisor Jim Parks (Coconino) participated in the Opportunity Zone Conference at the White House on Wednesday April 17. Mr. Bracker and Mr. Parks joined state, local, tribal and community leaders from across the country to learn more about key developments in the Opportunity Zone Program and to explore strategies to attract increased investment to distressed communities. President Trump and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin were among the speakers at the daylong conference.

**What's an Opportunity Zone?** The program was part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and is intended to encourage investment in distressed communities across the Nation. The census tracts for Opportunity Zones were selected by governors and by the U.S. Treasury. Investors may defer tax on almost any capital gain through 2026 by making an appropriate investment in a zone and meeting other requirements. Opportunity Zones retain their designation for 10 years and are anticipated to generate upwards of \$100 billion in private capital investment.



Pictured: Hopi Tribe Chairman Timothy Nuvangyaoma, Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce Bracker, & Coconino County Supervisor Jim Parks

You can learn more about the program in our state at the [Arizona Commerce Authority](#). For information from the IRS, please see [Opportunity Zones Frequently Asked Questions](#).

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## Roundtable with Arizona State Land Commissioner Lisa Atkins



During the April Medium County Caucus, Arizona State Land Commissioner Lisa Atkins discussed the history and use of state land. She noted that, in Arizona, twenty-seven percent (14% private/13% state land) of the land is responsible for maintaining the long term economic health of the entire state and that the Arizona State Land Department (Department) strives to ensure all beneficiaries (current and future) receive the full value of the land. Commissioner Atkins stated she is focused on protecting state land, but that maintaining the land is challenging. Supervisors and Commissioner Atkins discussed the challenges encountered including illegal dumping, biomass accumulation, unauthorized off-road vehicle use, restricting roads that should be public access and encampments on public lands. She noted cities and counties have been good partners in helping her team with enforcement efforts, and that she is hopeful all entities will work together in the future in use of law enforcement to protect state lands.

Commissioner Atkins noted that her team is working on establishing a plan for non-urban state land (8.4 million acres) to establish a sustainable path regardless of the next downturn and to be engaged in development projects from the start. She encouraged supervisors to reach out to the Department at the beginning of any projects that may need to state land. Other topics of discussion included the sale and management of state lands, using state lands to increase economic development and identifying areas in which counties and the Department can be partners in bettering the state of Arizona.

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## County Finance Officers Meet

The County Finance Officers Organization met on Tuesday to discuss procurement, county budget documents and hear updates on the legislative session. Megan Smith, Accounting Services Manager with the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), discussed the changes that were made to the county budget documents for the coming fiscal year. CSA staff provided an overview of the legislation affecting counties that is still moving through the process and the status of the state budget discussions. Finance officers also discussed various models for procurement functions and various items related to public pensions.

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## Drought Contingency Plan Update

This week during the Senate Water and Agriculture Committee meeting, General Manager Ted Cooke of the Central Arizona Project and the Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke provided an update on the Drought Contingency Plan. Mr. Cooke provided an overview of why having a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) is so important and the benefits of having a DCP in place. Cooke stated that the main needs for Drought Contingency Plans are the fact that there are ongoing historic conditions in the Colorado River Basin that have increased the risks of Colorado River reservoirs declining and the Lower Basin has been facing increased risk of severe shortages. Lastly, Cooke explained that all three of the Lower Basin states benefit from having the DCP in place. Other benefits of the implementation plan include mitigating to reduce the impacts of the DCP on CAP Cities and Tribes water supplies and providing additional protection for Lake Mead through the Offset Program.



Director Buschatzke provided an Arizona DCP legislative recap and the completed actions necessary for Arizona to execute the Lower Basin DCP agreements. Additionally, Director Buschatzke discussed the movement of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act through Congress and statements from U.S. Senators and Representatives on the bill. To view the full DCP update presentation in the Senate Water and Agriculture Committee meeting for details, please click [here](#).

President Trump signed the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act ([H.R. 2030](#)) on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Getting the bill through Congress quickly took a bipartisan effort Senator Martha McSally shepherded the bill through the Senate ([S. 1057](#)) and Representative Raul Grijalva sponsored the bill in the House.

**Image Source:** Twitter

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## Legislative Session Snapshot

Today, April 19<sup>th</sup> is the 96<sup>th</sup> day of session, next Tuesday marks the 100<sup>th</sup> day of session. Once the legislature reaches the 100<sup>th</sup> day of session, in order to continue, the President and Speaker must call for an extension of up to seven days, which must then be approved by a majority of members present ([House Rule #2](#), [Senate Rule 27](#)). However, it is not until the 120<sup>th</sup> day of session that Members lose their per diem pay. Since the beginning of session, 1,289 bills and 98 memorials/resolutions have been introduced. This week, the House and Senate passed an additional 26 bills to the Governor, to reach a total of 138, with a total of 16 memorials/resolutions as well, and a total of 3 vetoed bills.

Today is the last day to for bills to be heard in Conference Committee, although it seems likely a future vote of the body will extend that deadline. Currently, 1 bill has been refused and 20 bills are pending concurrence (14 House / 6 Senate). In addition, there are 91 bills pending rules (41 House / 50 Senate), 64 bills pending COW (29 House / 35 Senate), and 137 bills (69 House / 68 Senate) pending 3<sup>rd</sup> or Final Read.

Budget negotiations are underway and both chambers are having small group discussions on budget requests. The Senate announced this week that it will begin putting together its own budget, while the House focused on passing legislation to limit distracted driving and texting while driving. As budget discussions commence in both chambers, floor action will continue to decrease as we move past the 100<sup>th</sup> day of session.

To view more important dates for the legislative session, please click on the following links:

- [Senate deadlines](#)
- [House deadlines](#)

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## CSA Legislative Update

The status of CSA's legislative agenda package is as follows:

- 1) CSA Legislative Budget Priorities
  - [SB 1140 county contributions; committed youth; repeal](#) (*Leach*), is waiting in Rules as the budget is negotiated.
  - [SB 1293 appropriations; EORP contributions; counties](#) (*Gowan*), is waiting in Rules as the budget is negotiated.
  - [HB 2702 TPT; marketplace facilitators; nexus](#) (*Toma*), pending action by the House Rules Committee, but is not expected to move forward and will need to be part of budget negotiations or part of a comprehensive tax package.
- 2) [HB 2467 NOW: committees; west basin water users](#) (*Cobb*), is pending 3<sup>rd</sup> Read in the Senate.
- 3) [SB 1084 funeral; last illness; expenses; lien](#) (*Borrelli*), is pending 3<sup>rd</sup> Read in the House.

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## Next Week: Committee Agendas

- The [Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee](#) will meet on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Education Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am in Senate Hearing Room 1

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## NACo Series: Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Together with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge, NACo has created the Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders series. The MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge is "providing support to local leaders from across the country who are determined to tackle one of the greatest drivers of over-incarceration in America – the misuse and overuse of jails." The goal of this NACo series is to "share strategies and interventions county leaders can use to provide justice-involved individuals suffering from substance use disorders support at the law enforcement, jail and reentry level." This series includes both briefs and webinars on Strategies for Law Enforcement, Strategies for Jails, and Strategies for Reentry.

To visit the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge, please click [here](#). To view NACo's "Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders" series, please click [here](#).

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