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



In the August 16, 2019 CSA Weekly Update:

- [County Administrators & Managers Meeting](#)
- [Sun Valley Corridor](#)
- [House Ad Hoc Committee on Earned Release Credits for Prisoners](#)
- [Wildfire Update](#)
- [CSA on the Road](#)

County Administrators & Managers Meeting



On Tuesday, CSA staff discussed the current actuarial assumptions used by the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) for the three systems it manages, PSPRS, the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP), and the Elected Officials Retirement Plan (EORP).

Today the County Managers and Administrators (CMA) met and discussed the impacts and potential paths forward to ensure that the plans are properly funded. Hunter Moore, Governor Ducey's Natural Resources Policy Advisor discussed the importance of water conservation, forest restoration and air quality. He also noted that Maricopa County has been the fastest growing county in the United States three years in a row.

CSA staff also provided a briefing on the March 2019 Department of Revenue (ADOR) transaction privilege tax (TPT) audit. Staff noted that the Auditor General found that inefficiencies in ADOR practices and a reduced auditing staff and budget were costing the state and local governments money by failing to collect TPT revenues. Staff also noted that while ADOR has agreed to make all requested changes in the audit, CSA is considering adopting a resolution encouraging change in the TPT collection process to ensure county revenues are being collected.

The CMA recognized longtime friend and colleague, Ms. Kay Gale who retired as the Greenlee County Administrator earlier this month. Ms. Gale began her 40-year career with a data processing position in the basement of the Greenlee County Courthouse, she was appointed to her position as county administrator in 2001.

[Top](#)

Sun Corridor Trail Alliance Committee Meets

On August 6th, the Sun Corridor Trail Alliance Committee held a stakeholder meeting to discuss the future of the trail system and the progress made thus far. Yavapai County Supervisor Tom Thurman gave the opening remarks in the meeting, where various county and municipal partners provided an update on the segments of the trail within their jurisdictions. The committee also discussed the appropriate structure of the organization going forward and heard from several U.S. Forest Service representatives on the National Recreation Trail designation.

The Sun Corridor Trail is a proposed system of trails from Douglas, AZ to Las Vegas, NV that 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](#).

[Top](#)

House Ad Hoc Committee on Earned Release Credits for Prisoners

On Monday, August 5, 2019 the nine-member House Ad Hoc Committee on Earned Release Credits for Prisoners (Committee) met. The Committee is charged with studying, gathering input and establishing recommendations regarding the earned release credit system for prisoners.



The Committee heard testimony from a variety of stakeholders including the Arizona Department of Corrections, the Arizona Supreme Court, American Friends Service Committee, Middle Ground Prison Reform and the Justice Action Network. Testimony included a variety of topics, including: a comparison of the criminal justice laws in Arizona with other states, best practices and recommended changes.

The committee plans to meet again on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 10:00 am.

Committee members include: Representative Walt Blackman, Chairman; Representative Reginald Bolding; Representative Shawna Bolick; Representative Domingo DeGrazia; Representative Diego Espinoza; Representative Tony Rivero; Representative Bret Roberts; and Representative Diego Rodriguez.

To view an archived recording of the meeting please, click [here](#).

[Top](#)

Wildfire Update

County leaders work hard to ensure that proper resources are deployed to protect public safety in communities and when possible create control lines that allow fires that are not threatening infrastructure to reduce fuel and refresh the ecosystem. There are currently six wildfires burning in Arizona, including:

- Castle Fire – a lightning-caused fire, burning about 11 miles south of Jacob Lake in the Kaibab National Forest. The fire covers over 19,368 acres and is currently burning in a contained area and is being allowed to act as a natural disturbance process in the ecosystem.
- Ikes Fire – a lightning caused fire has burned 3,289 acres in the Grand Canyon National Park and is 89 percent contained.
- Boulin Fire – was discovered on August 6th and has burned 1,576 acres in the northwest corner of Spring Valley. The fire is 10 percent contained and will be contained within a 4,200 acre planning area to remove excess forest fuels for the restoration of the area.
- Saber Fire – is located 1.5 miles south of Turkey Butte Lookout and 12 miles northwest of Sedona. Fire managers have determined the fire will benefit the area by burning dense forest fuels. Firefighters removed fuel near the Arizona Public Service high-voltage electrical power lines, the fire is currently at 394 acres due to work to establish control lines by removing fuel to protect infrastructure.
- Pemberton Fire – the lightning-caused fire near 13 miles northwest of Prescott, Arizona has grown to 1,173 acres and is burning short grass and brush. The fire is being used to reduce hazardous fuel build up in the area.
- Sheridan Fire – The Prescott and Tri-City area fire is currently 674 acres. Firefighters are establishing control lines and will allow for safe burning to reduce the buildup of fuel.

For up to date information on wildfires, please click on the following links:

[Arizona Interagency Wildfire Prevention](#)

[Arizona State Forestry Division](#)

[Arizona State Parks Fire Restrictions and Information](#)

[InciWeb – Interagency All-Risk Incident Information Management System](#)

[Federal: Active Fire Maps](#)

[Fire Restrictions](#)

[National Weather Service](#)

[Top](#)

CSA on the Road



CSA enjoyed traveling to Greenlee and Graham counties last week to meet with county supervisors and professional staff. Over the course of the summer, staff is looking forward to visiting with all 15 counties.

In the following week, staff will travel to Gila county:

- Gila County: August 19th
- Yavapai County: September 18th
- Maricopa County: October 7th

[Top](#)



County Supervisors Association of Arizona

1905 W. Washington, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85009

www.countysupervisors.org

[Leadership](#) / [Research](#) / [Advocacy](#) / [Newsletter](#) / [Speakers](#) / [Counties](#) / [Alliances](#) / [Calendar](#) / [Contact](#)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? Email us at csaupdate@countysupervisors.org or call us at 602-252-5521.