

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



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CSA Board Meeting



This week during the CSA Board of Directors (Board) meeting, the Arizona State Parks and Trails Director Bob Broscheid provided an update on his goals in his new role. Director Broscheid noted that he is working to build partnerships with stakeholders and local communities. He would also like to ensure the grant process is transparent and the requirements are easily accessible for local governments.

NACo Associate Legislative Director Jonathan Shuffield provided the Board with a federal update. He noted that there is legislation to fully fund Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and reauthorize Secure Rural Schools (SRS) for two years ([S.430](#)). A plan for the reintroduction of the SRS endowment plan allocating \$7 billion towards the long-term health of SRS is expected to be dropped in the next few weeks.

CSA Executive Director Craig Sullivan recognized Alexis Pagel, on behalf of the association, for her service with CSA's Arizona Public Service (APS) and Arizona State University (ASU) Local Government Internship Program. CSA has partnered with APS since 2014 to establish an outstanding internship program. Sullivan expressed his gratitude to APS and ASU for their work to strengthen the next generation of public services professionals.

The Board also heard an update from CSA staff on the continuing state budget negotiations. Staff noted that the introduced budget included a revenue neutral tax conformity package, allowing for the taxation of remote purchases (Wayfair), a multi-year repeal of the highway safety fee, a number of one-time infrastructure investments, debt reduction and additional education spending. On the major county issues, the introduced budget includes ongoing EORP relief, a one-year fix on the ADJC fee and flexibility language.

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Support for Resolution Copper



In 2015, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act authorized the transfer of approximately 2,400 acres of public lands in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Tonto National Forest to Resolution Copper in exchange for 5,300 acres of privately held environmentally-sensitive lands with the State of Arizona pending an environmental impact study.

Resolution Copper has worked to be responsible to public comments and requirements throughout the environmental impact study and ensure natural resources will be used in a responsible manner.

The CSA Board adopted Resolution Number 1-19 supporting development of the Resolution Copper project and urging the Forest Service to progress toward issuing a Final Environmental Impact statement and complete the land exchange. To view the resolution please, click [here](#).

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Sun Corridor Trail



On Monday, the Sun Corridor Trail (SCT) Steering Committee met to review their memorandum of understanding and outline the STC's mission and vision. The STC is working on the creation of a statewide system of trails that will connect cities and towns across Arizona, it 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.

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ACDESHA Meets

On Wednesday, the Arizona County Directors of Environmental Health Services Association (ACDESHA) met with state agency partners at the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Services regarding a variety of functions delegated to counties by the state. CSA staff gave a legislative update on the 2019 Legislative Session.

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JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

On Monday, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) staff released an overview of the April collections and spending for the state general fund. Through April, general fund revenues are 7.9 percent above FY 2018, but (1.4) percent - \$124.7 million - below forecast. Over the past several months, Individual Income Tax (IIT) collections have underperformed previous years and forecast. April IIT collections continued that coming in \$(54.0) million below forecast, resulting in year-to-date collections (4.2) percent below forecast. However, early May IIT figures reflect a large spike in collections and JLBC staff believes that the forecast losses may be made up before the close of the fiscal year. Sales tax revenues continue to be in line with the JLBC forecast, and 6.5 percent above the same time period in FY 2018.

The Highway User Revenue Fund has collected \$1.3 billion year-to-date which is 4.5 percent above April 2018 and 2.0 percent above the baseline forecast.

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CSA Legislative Update

Today, May 24th, marks the 131st day of session. This week, the House and Senate passed an additional 15 bills to the Governor, to reach a total of 272, with a total of 21 memorials/resolutions as well, and a total of 7 vetoed bills.

Late Tuesday, the House and Senate dropped appropriations bills and heard bills in Appropriations on Wednesday. On Thursday evening the House pushed some of the budget bills through the Committee of the Whole, then adjourned for a minute to restart the day and allow for voting on budget bills. The House adjourned a little after 2:00 am until 10:00 am Friday morning. As of Friday afternoon, the Legislature is continuing budget negotiations that may flow into the weekend.

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, but part of the request was addressed in the budget. The proposed budget prohibits the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ACJC) from assessing the fee in FY 2020, so all counties would see \$11.26 million relief in FY20. It would also change statute to provide permanent relief to 13 counties but maintained the requirement for two larger counties in future years. Therefore, absent action Maricopa and Pima will face financial exposure in FY2021.
 - [SB 1293 appropriations; EORP contributions; counties](#) (*Gowan*), is waiting in Rules and was addressed as part of the budget. The current proposed budget appropriates \$3.0 million from the state general fund in FY 2020 to be distributed equally across counties with a population under 300,000. The JLBC Budget spreadsheet scores the appropriation as ongoing.
 - [HB 2702 TPT; marketplace facilitators; nexus](#) (*Toma*), pending action by Rules. The budget proposal also addresses the remote seller issue by making changes to state statute to allow for the collection of state transaction privilege tax and local excise taxes on remote sales if the seller's income from customers in the state is more than \$200,000 in 2019, \$150,000 in 2020 and \$100,000 for 2021 and each year thereafter. Authorizes the collection of tax on sales through marketplace facilitators if the income derived in the state is more than \$100,000.
- 2) [HB 2467 NOW: committees; west basin water users](#) (*Cobb*), was signed by the Governor, Laws 2019, Chapter 243.
- 3) [SB 1084 funeral; last illness; expenses; lien](#) (*Borrelli*), was signed by the Governor, Laws 2019, Chapter 193.

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NACo Webinar: Creative Counties

On June 6th, NACo will be hosting the webinar "Creative Counties: Reinventing a Regional Economy with the Creative Class." This webinar will focus on the Friends of Southwest Virginia and partners that have built a sustainable and creative economy with 19 counties, 4 cities, and 53 towns in the region. This webinar will discuss "the complex history of the region and the collapse of an economy, and how the region is in the midst of stabilization through investment in the creative economy." The program that will be discussed in the presentation has over \$300,000 of planning projects and through federal, state, and private grants has an additional \$7 million of tourism and outdoor recreation projects under construction. To learn more about the Friends of Southwest Virginia and their partners, please click [here](#).

For more information and to register for this webinar, please click [here](#).

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