



Chair  
Supervisor Carole Groom

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## AGENDA

### Urban Counties of California **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019 ■ Please arrive at 4:30 p.m.\***  
Hyatt Regency Sacramento ■ 1209 L Street, Sacramento ■ Regency Rooms E & F

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*\*We ask that UCC Board members please arrive at 4:30 p.m. CSAC's urban caucus has a brief meeting planned beginning at 4:30 in the same room; UCC will begin its meeting immediately upon adjournment of the CSAC urban caucus.*

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- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call of Counties**
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
- IV. **Recognition of Meetings Sponsors**
- V. **Proposed Update on UCC Water Policy – ACTION ITEM**
  - V-A. Memo and background
- VI. **State Budget Update**
  - VI-A. IHSS
  - VI-B. Homelessness/Affordable Housing
  - VI-C. Child Support
  - VI-D. Property Tax Backfill
- VII. **Legislative Update**
  - VII-A. Wildfire Report
  - VII-B. Mental Health Services Act
  - VII-C. Other hot topics

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**Board of Directors: Chair:** Supervisor Carole Groom, San Mateo County **Vice Chair:** Supervisor Kelly Long, Ventura County, **Treasurer:** Emily Harrison, Finance Director, Santa Clara County **Members:** Supervisor Keith Carson, Alameda County; Supervisor Federal Glover, Contra Costa County; Supervisor Ernest Mendes, Fresno County; Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County; Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Orange County; Supervisor Chuck Washington, Riverside County; Supervisor Susan Peters, Sacramento County; Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, San Diego County; Supervisor Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County; Vacant, San Francisco County; Supervisor Bob Elliott, San Joaquin; Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Santa Clara County

**VIII. FOCUSED DISCUSSION: Next Steps for UCC – *Executive Work Session for UCC Supervisors and Alternates Only***

**IX. Proposals for Next Month's Meeting Agenda**

**X. Public Comment**

**XI. Adjournment**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 24 by conference call. It is possible that we will need to schedule a UCC Board of Directors' call in the latter part of May or in early June. We will keep you advised.



Chair  
Supervisor Carole Groom

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**UCC Board of Directors' Meeting  
Summary  
March 25, 2019**

Alameda: Supervisor Keith Carson, Monica Miller  
 Contra Costa:  
 Fresno: Supervisor Buddy Mendes, Jeannie Figueroa  
 Los Angeles: Donna Seitz  
 Orange: Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Peter DeMarco, Nicole Wordelman  
 Riverside: Supervisor Washington, Michelle DeArmond (Alternate)  
 Sacramento:  
 San Bernardino: Supervisor Curt Hagman, Josh Candelaria, Nicole Wordelman  
 San Diego: Geoff Patnoe (Alternate)  
 San Francisco:  
 San Joaquin: Jolena Voorhis  
 San Mateo: Supervisor Carole Groom, Connie Juarez-Diroll  
 Santa Clara: Michael Rattigan, Danielle Christian  
 Ventura: Supervisor Kelly Long, Sue Hughes  
 UCC: Elizabeth Espinosa, Jean Hurst, Kelly Brooks, Grace Ferguson

**I. Call to Order**

UCC Vice-Chair Supervisor Kelly Long convened the meeting and called the members to order.

**II. Roll Call of Counties**

There were seven supervisors and one alternate who participated in the meeting, with 11 counties represented at this meeting.

**III. Approval of Minutes from the February 25, 2019 UCC Board Meeting – APPROVED**

The February 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 minutes were approved and below is the vote count:

Member	County	Yes	No	Absent	Not Voting
Supervisor Groom, Chair	San Mateo	X			
Supervisor Kelly Long, Vice-Chair	Ventura	X			
Supervisor Carson	Alameda	X			
Supervisor Glover	Contra Costa			X	
Supervisor Mendes	Fresno	X			
Supervisor Ridley-Thomas	Los Angeles			X	

Supervisor Bartlett	Orange	X			
Supervisor Washington	Riverside	X			
Supervisor Peters	Sacramento			X	
Supervisor Hagman	San Bernardino				X
Supervisor Fletcher (Alternate)	San Diego	X			
Vacant	San Francisco			X	
Supervisor Elliott	San Joaquin			X	
Supervisor Ellenberg	Santa Clara			X	
<b>Vote Total</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>

**IV. Update on UCC / Transition Period**

**IV-A. – Report from Hurst Brooks Espinosa on Transition/Next Steps Efforts**

HBE provided an update on the individual UCC next steps conversations with Supervisors, noting they have also been meeting with various stakeholders and key county staff. HBE will be compiling the information they gather and providing the Board a written report at the next board meeting. They noted next month is the in-person UCC Board meeting, held in conjunction with the CSAC Conference, and urged Supervisors to be in attendance for this important discussion.

**V. Legislative Update**

**V-A Mental Health Issues and Funding**

HBE’s Kelly Brooks provided a memo with an overview and background on mental health issues and funding. She noted that in recent weeks there have been several informational hearings discussing mental health issues and counties’ role in delivering mental health services. Concerns have been raised by the Legislature on how counties are delivering mental health services and how counties are spending MHSA. Mayor Darrell Steinberg – in his role as author of the MHSA and founder of the Steinberg Institute – has expressed his concerns about the structure of the MHSA, saying there is very little outcome-based work to share with the public as to how MHSA funds are helping people. He also noted that focusing more on prevention and early intervention would improve the Act. HBE expressed the importance to have the discussion on messaging and being able to tell the counties’ story.

HBE suggested reaching out to each county to get an update on what the MHSA reserves are, and also asked the Board how much MHSA is used as match to draw down federal funds. HBE is coordinating with CSAC, as they have previously requested this information.

**Perspectives from the Steinberg Institute** -- Adrienne Shilton, the Government Affairs Director from the Steinberg Institute, joined the call to discuss MHSA-related legislation and the Insititute’s legislative priorities for 2019. Adrienne noted that this is a tipping point in California for mental health and highlighted the need to be strategic in care provision, especially in the area of prevention. She mentioned several reasons to be optimistic:

- Governor Newsom’s budget includes strategic investments in prevention: \$25 million for early psychosis, \$50 million for the behavioral health workforce; \$45 million for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) screening; \$5.3 million for University of California for student mental health.

- Governor Newsom will be appointing a mental health advisor who will report directly to the Governor.
- A legislative package that seeks to increase access to mental health care, which aligns with county interests:
  - SB 10 (Beall): Peer certification for mental health and substance use disorder, including statewide standards for training programs.
  - SB 66 (Atkins): Removing the regulatory barrier for federally qualified health centers and rural health centers from being reimbursed for two visits, a physical and mental health visit on the same day).

Adrienne noted that the number one call they get from the community is how to receive care in the moment of crisis. In the longer term, the Steinberg Institute will be focused on how to create a better system to assist individuals in a time crisis, including warm handoffs.

Board members expressed their concerns about the limited use of MHSA and the need to have more flexibility, giving an example of how MHSA funds cannot be used in locked facilities. During a jail stay may be a good opportunity to engage an individual in mental health treatment, which could help with recidivism reduction.

The question was raised on how have counties participated with the Steinberg Institute in the past, and the response was primarily working with CSAC, health and human services advocates, CBHDA Directors, as well as direct relationships with counties and county lobbyists.

### **V-B Housing and Homelessness Issue and Funding**

HBE's Jean Hurst reviewed a memo and gave an overview on the state budget activities associated with housing and homelessness. Under the Homeless Aid for Planning and Shelter Program there is a proposal for \$300 million for regional planning, \$200 million for continuum of care and \$100 million to the most populous cities in the state. Also, in the proposal is \$250 million to help cities and counties reach short-term housing production goals, and \$500 million incentives to reach certain planning milestones. A stakeholder process is being proposed to revamp the RHNA process and methodology through December 2022.

The LAO has raised concerns about this proposal regarding the one-time general fund dollars for new programs and purposes, encouraging the Legislature to think of alternative uses of the funding that still incentivizes cities and counties, but also spending the monies to further advance homelessness and affordable housing goals.

A press conference took place with the Governor and Big City Mayors. The Mayors – led by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg – requested an additional investment in their efforts to address homelessness. They expressed their interest in working with the Governor and focusing some funding on prevention and intervention.

CSAC sent a letter to the Governor requesting that all homeless funding be directed to counties for purposes of providing homeless services. UCC has also communicated with the Legislature and Administration on funding and policy issues, and has requested to have urban county representation on the homeless council. No responses have been given thus far and HBE noted that there is a lot more work to be done to get to resolution on the housing and homelessness issue.

The Board had a lively discussion on this item and requested that HBE solicit a meeting with the Governor. The Board also noted that large counties have to have a seat at the table to be able to give the urban county perspective. HBE noted that they have been in contact with the Governor's staff and will work toward a meeting with the Governor.

The Board reported that flexibility will be helpful to bring cities and stakeholders to the table. The Board asked HBE to report back on the following:

- Work to secure a face to face meeting with the Governor
- Provide broader flexibility in a housing/homelessness proposal
- Report on the outcomes from the CSAC UCC Housing and Homelessness Task Force from last year.

### **V-C. Legislative Bills of Note**

AB 931 (Horvath) – State and local boards and commissions – This bill would require a minimum number of women members to the state and local boards and commissions.

UCC Position: Oppose

Status: Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 3, 2019.

AB 964 (Medina) – In-Person Jail Visitation -- This bill would require all local detention facilities to offer in-person visitation. The bill would give any facility that does not offer in-person visitation until January 1, 2025, to comply with this requirement.

UCC Position: Oppose

Status: Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on April 2, 2019.

HBE noted that this bill would impose a significant mandate, and they are working with individual counties and other county associations and affiliates to oppose the bill.

AB 1568 (McCarty) – General plans: housing element: withholding of transportation funds – This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review counties' and cities' housing production reports from June 2022 through June 2051 and determine whether a city or county has met its applicable minimum housing production goal for that reporting period.

UCC Position: Oppose

Status: Pending hearings in the Assembly Housing and Community Development and Transportation Committees.

*Other bills being reviewed:*

AB 849 (Bonta) – Elections, Local Redistricting – This bill would recast provisions associated with redistricting practices of county boards of education, school districts, community college districts, counties, general law charter cities, and special districts.

Status: Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on April 10, 2019.

AB 1640 (Horvath) – Local Government Finance: budget reserves – This bill would require a local government to submit a written report to the State Controller’s Office as to how it plans to spend its budget reserves on specific priorities over a five-year period. The specific priorities include mental and behavioral health services, affordable housing, homelessness, foster youth programs, LGBTQ centers, veterans’ services, special needs youth and adult services and IHSS.

Status: Pending a hearing in the Assembly Local Government Committee.

AB 1724 (Salas) – Elections: redistricting – This bill would require the establishment of an independent redistricting commission for general law cities and counties.

Status: Scheduled for hearing in the Elections and Redistricting Committee on April 10, 2019.

SB 139 (Allen) – Independent redistricting commissions – This bill would require the establishment of an independent redistricting commission or counties with populations above 250,000 by March 1, 2021.

Status: Scheduled for hearing in the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee on April 2, 2019.

## **VI. State Budget Update**

HBE reported that the Legislature is working through the subcommittee process and trailer bill language is still being developed for certain proposals.

IHSS MOE – HBE noted that the United Domestic Workers (UDW) has proposed conditioning the Governor’s proposed IHSS MOE annual increase of 4% on a successful execution of a collective bargaining agreement with a wage above the state’s minimum wage. Counties without an executed agreement or with wages at minimum wage would be subject to the existing 7% inflator. One board member noted they would love to be able to bargain, but 7% is a concern.

## **VII. Proposals for Next Month’s Meeting Agenda**

### **VIII. Public Comment**

There were no public comments made.

### **IX. Adjournment**

Our next meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in conjunction with the CSAC Legislative Conference.

**Item V-A: Proposed Change to Water Policy**



## Item V-A: Proposed Change to Water Policy

April 10, 2019

TO: Urban Counties of California (UCC) Board of Directors

FROM: Hurst Brooks Espinosa

RE: Request for Change to Water Policy – ACTION ITEM

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At the UCC Board of Directors' meeting in November 2018, San Joaquin County Supervisor Bob Elliott requested a change to the Urban Counties of California's water policy. Below we provide context and background as well as the detail on the modest change being requested.

**Background** – At the UCC key staff meeting held in the fall 2017 to seek input on priorities and any needed policy changes in advance of the 2018 legislative session, the County of Fresno requested that UCC consider adopting a water policy. It was determined – and the Board subsequently approved – that the existing water policy developed and approved by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) would be an appropriate policy document for UCC to adopt. That document was deemed to be appropriately thorough and vetted to meet the urban county association's needs.

**Proposed amendment** – In the section entitled "Water Conservation" (excerpted in full below), the proposed change would eliminate a single sentence regarding fallowing of agricultural land. The rationale for the change is that it appears unnecessary to go to the Board of Supervisors to seek approval for the fallowing.

### Water Conservation

**\*\* PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE\*\***

The Legislature has recognized the need for water conservation. Counties recognize the need for local programs that promote water conservation and water storage. Water conservation may include reuse of domestic and industrial wastewater, reuse of agriculture water, groundwater recharge, or economic incentives to invest in equipment that promotes efficiency. ~~No conservation of water shall be recognized if the conservation arises from the fallowing of agricultural land for compensation, unless the board of supervisors of the county in which the water has been devoted to agricultural use consents to the fallowing.~~

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards need to direct staff to issue permits for direct discharge of properly treated wastewater to promote reuse.

**Policy considerations** – As the Board considers the proposed policy change, we offer two observations:

- To extent that UCC adopted the previously vetted and established water policy from CSAC, taking action to amend that policy sets a potential precedent for further changes that could move UCC away from a broadly approved document that reflects statewide county consensus on what many view as a divisive issue area.
- UCC staff undertook outreach to various stakeholders on the specific change proposed, and no one identified a particular concern.

**Staff recommendation** – Given the narrow nature of the proposed amendments and the fact that stakeholders have not identified any concerns or particular opposition to the change, staff recommends that the UCC Board of Directors approve the water policy change detailed on the prior page.