



**NEVADA  
COUNTY**  
CALIFORNIA

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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD AGENDA MEMO**

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**MEETING DATE:** January 26, 2023

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ariel Lovett, CEO Project Administrator  
Jeffrey Thorsby, Senior Management Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Update

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive the presentation and discuss legislative priorities for 2023.

Presenters include:

- Joe Krahn, Hasan Sarsour and Tom Joseph, Paragon
- Karen Lange, SYASL
- NACo Legislative Director for Public Lands Jonathan Shuffield
- CSAC Legislative Advocate Catherine Freeman
- RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate Tracy Rhine
- SBC President Steve Frisch
- MCWRA Executive Director Justin Caporusso

**BACKGROUND:** Every year the Board of Supervisors adopts an annual legislative platform. On January 10, 2023 the Board adopted its 2023 Legislative Platform. The platform is used to orient the County's legislative advocates on the County's top priorities and articulate its position on key issues to best leverage opportunities or thwart/mitigate threats of unfunded mandates.

The County works with Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (SYASL) for its direct state advocacy and Paragon Government Relations for its direct federal advocacy program, as well as through a variety of staff member associations. Throughout 2022, both firms worked directly with County staff to advance the Board's priorities and legislative platform.

The County recognizes that joint city/town and county advocacy can be effective in realizing regional advocacy goals and appreciates the partnership with the Town of Truckee on Federal advocacy throughout the year, as well as the collaborative input from Grass Valley and Nevada City in developing the 2023 Legislative Platform

SYASL has been engaged with the County for many years that has resulted in critical movement on a wide variety of issues. In 2022 SYASL work included advocating for the County's interest on the CARE Act (also referred to as CARE Court), supported efforts to solidify speakers for the County's first sustainability summit, advocated on issues related to the availability and affordability of homeowners and commercial wildfire insurance, advocated for green waste funding, and provided support for the re-evaluation of the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) Office of the Inspector General for Behavioral Health Medi-Cal recoupments, amongst other work. SYASL works with staff to monitor and track state bills throughout the legislative year, coordinates and supports special meetings with state officials and delegates in Sacramento, and provides weekly updates on pivotal state issues, including the annual budget.

On the Federal side, the County works with Paragon Government Relations. In 2022 Paragon's work included working to help secure the County's second round of Congressional directed spending, which resulted in the appropriation of \$750,000 for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Zone Extension Program, advocated on the County's behalf on *State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act* (S. 3011/H.R. 5735), assisted in coordination with the United States Forest Service, advocated for issues related to workforce housing, the availability and affordability of homeowners and commercial wildfire insurance, and the inclusion of provisions to allow for cannabis banking, amongst many other activities.

Paragon also provides weekly federal legislative updates while Congress is in session and provides summary reports and analysis on key bills and appropriations. Paragon also helped staff provide detailed input on the Department of the Treasury's Interim Final Rule governing the use of the *American Rescue Plan Act's* Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which resulted in expanding flexibility of \$10M of the County's ARPA funds.

The Board of Supervisors also play a pivotal advocacy role through Board members' participation in the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), National Association of Counties (NACo), and Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA).

- Former District III Supervisor Dan Miller served as the Chair of RCRC that represents 40 rural counties on rural issues in both the state and federal levels. Supervisor Miller also served as the county's representative to the MCWRA which was successful in the defeat of AB1717.
- District IV Supervisor Sue Hoek is now the County's representative to both RCRC and MCWRA.

- Supervisor Hall serves as the Board’s representative to CSAC where she serves as the Vice Chair of CSAC’s Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Policy Committee (AENR) and CSAC Broadband and Cannabis Committees. CSAC represents all 58 California counties at both the state and federal levels. Supervisor Hall also serves as the Board’s representatives to NACo and serves on the Vice-Chair of the Public Lands Subcommittee on Payments and is a member of the Resilient Counties Initiative and Rural Action Caucus.

In the coming year, CSAC is focused on CalAIM Implementation, sustained funding for behavioral health, issues related to drought, wildfire, cannabis, the easing of public administration of the Public Records Act, and affordable housing (CSAC 2023 Priorities are attached for more information).

Sierra Business Council (SBC) also contributes to the County’s legislative advocacy via its contract for economic development with focus on leveraging funding opportunities and promoting strategic and sustainable community resilience.

The following are attached to provide further information on background, legislative accomplishments, 2023 legislative horizon and forthcoming efforts:

- Legislative Advocates Presenter Bios
- CSAC 2023 Priorities
- Nevada County 2023 Legislative Platform

**Item Initiated by:** Jeffrey Thorsby, Senior Management Analyst  
Ariel Lovett, Project Administrator

**Item Approved by:** Alison Lehman, CEO

**Submittal Date:** 1/17/2023