



September 2025 - #015

CDCA Newsletter

1. CDCA in 2025: Installation Innovation Forum, Monterey

We look forward to seeing you at the Installation Innovation Forum October 27 - 29 in Monterey, California. Topics of national and California interest will be discussed. Detailed agenda will be provided as plans are finalized. Register on the ADC web site.

2. Building on Success: Charting a Course for 2025-2026

Your Executive Board is taking proactive steps to ensure our organization's continued effectiveness and growth. This past quarter, we engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning session, using a proven framework to assess our strengths, identify areas for improvement, and set ambitious goals for the 2025-2026 year. Our focus is on leveraging our solid foundation to capitalize on new opportunities and build a more resilient and impactful organization for the future.

Our Foundation is Strong

We're proud of the solid ground we stand on. Our analysis highlighted key organizational strengths, including:

- **A strong track record and established relationships** with key partners and stakeholders.
- **A solid legal and organizational structure** that provides a stable base for all our activities.
- **Deep inside knowledge and broad representation** that allows us to effectively navigate complex issues.

These strengths are the bedrock of our success and will be key as we move forward.

Opportunities for Growth

The future is full of potential, and we've identified significant opportunities that will shape our efforts in the coming year. We are strategically positioned to play a pivotal role in California's geo-strategic importance. With significant activity in **shipbuilding**, **aerospace**, and **space**, we can expand our influence and impact.

Our goals for 2025-2026 include:

- **Filling a void in education:** We will launch new educational tours and programs to inspire the next generation of leaders in our community.
- **Building on innovation:** We will actively seek partnerships within defense industries and innovation programs, allowing us to contribute to and benefit from cutting-edge developments.
- **Enhanced alignment:** We are committed to fostering better alignment across all of our lines of effort to ensure our teams are working in concert to achieve our shared goals.

Strengthening Our Impact

We are also focused on strengthening our internal operations to maximize our external impact. We've identified a need for enhanced **communication** and **alignment**. Our focus for the upcoming year will be to:

- **Improve Member Engagement:** We will be launching new initiatives to grow our membership and create more opportunities for our members to connect and contribute.
- **Enhance Communication:** We will be rolling out a new communication strategy to ensure a more cohesive flow of information across the organization and with our stakeholders.

The Executive Board is excited about the year ahead and confident that by building on our strong foundation and embracing these opportunities, we will achieve new levels of success in 2025-2026. We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

3. California 2024/2025 Legislation Status

Text and the latest status including hearing dates can be found on the California legislature web site (see "Tools and Resources" in section 7 for a link). Note that text may have changed significantly since the previous newsletter. Relevant California bills submitted include:

Senate Bill 1 Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.

This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2035, would exclude from gross income retirement pay received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, during the taxable year, with limitations and would also exclude from gross income annuity payments received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, during the taxable year, with limitations.

Status: Held in committee and under submission. (Note: Partial exemption achieved via state budget process.)

Assembly Bill 53 Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.

The Personal Income Tax Law, in modified conformity with federal income tax law, generally defines “gross income” as income from whatever source derived, except as specifically excluded, including an exclusion for combat-related special compensation.

This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2030, would exclude from gross income retirement pay received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, during the taxable year, not to exceed \$20,000, from the federal government for service performed in the uniformed services, as defined. The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2030, would also exclude from gross income annuity payments received during the taxable year, not to exceed \$20,000, by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, pursuant to a United States Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan. The bill would make related findings and declarations.

Existing law requires any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure to contain specific goals, purposes, and objectives that the tax expenditure will achieve, detailed performance indicators, and data collection requirements, as provided.

Status: Progressing. Referred to REV & TAX and M&VA. (Note: Partial exemption achieved via state budget process.)

Bill 10 California Coastal Commission: Consistency Determinations: Vandenberg Space Force Base.

This bill would deem the commission’s objection to concurrence on Consistency Determination CD-0007-24 null and void. The bill would deem the activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base, outlined by Consistency Determination CD-0007-24, consistent with the objectives of the California Coastal Act of 1976. The bill would provide that it shall act as a concurrence regarding consistency with the California Coastal Act of 1976.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for Vandenberg Space Force Base.

Status: Last action December 2024.

Assembly Bill 14: Coastal resources: Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program.

This bill would, subject to the availability of funding, require the council to participate as a stakeholder, and in an advisory capacity, to the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program with air pollution control districts and air quality management districts along the coast and other stakeholders to support, in an advisory capacity, coastal air districts in their efforts to implement a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California

coast in order to reduce air pollution, the risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts. The bill would authorize the expansion of the existing Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program to include specified components, including incentives to program participants based on a percentage of distance traveled by a participating vessel at a reduced speed, as provided. The bill would limit application of the program to vessels that are 300 gross tons or greater. The bill would require the participating air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, on or before December 31, 2029, to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the implementation of the program.

Status: In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending.

Assembly Bill 427 Social Workers: Interstate Compact

This bill would ratify and approve the Social Work Licensure Compact, which authorizes member states to issue multistate licenses to applicants meeting specified education and experience requirements. Under the compact, a multistate license grants the holder an authorization to practice in other member states. The compact provides for the creation of a commission and requires the board to select a delegate to serve on the commission. This bill would require the board to comply with the requirements of the compact and to adopt regulations necessary to implement that compact.

Status: Held under submission.

Assembly Bill 901 Veterans' Preferences: Eligible Spouses

This bill would authorize the eligible spouse of an active duty service member, widow or widower of a veteran, or spouse of a 100% disabled veteran to receive the appropriate credit for any selection test generally related to hiring and promotional preferences. The bill would make other related changes to these provisions.

Status: Hearing cancelled.

Assembly Bill 1412 Special Education: Residency Requirements: Records

(1) If an individual with exceptional needs, as defined, transfers from outside the state to a district, as defined, in the state, or transfers from district to district, within the same academic year, existing law requires local educational agencies, as defined, to provide the pupil with a free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those described in the previously approved individualized education program, in consultation with the parents, until the local educational agency conducts a federally required assessment, if determined to be necessary by the local educational agency, and develops a new individualized education program, if appropriate, that is consistent with federal and state law.

This bill would require a local educational agency, within 30 days of the above-described transfers, to either adopt and implement the individualized education program previously adopted for the pupil or develop, adopt, and implement a new individualized education program for the pupil that is consistent with federal and state law, if applicable. To the extent the bill

would impose additional duties on local education agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law ratifies the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, as specified.

Existing law requires the new school in which an individual with exceptional needs enrolls to take reasonable steps to promptly obtain the pupil's records from their previous school, including the individualized education program and supporting documents and any other records relating to the provision of special education and related services to the pupil, pursuant to specified federal law.

This bill would expressly require those reasonable steps to also be consistent with the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and would require the new school to accept unofficial records provided by the pupil's parent or guardian until validated by official records, consistent with the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. To the extent the bill would impose additional duties on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(3) Existing law provides that each person between 6 and 18 years of age not exempted is subject to compulsory full-time education and requires a person subject to compulsory education to attend the public full-time day school or continuation school or classes in the school district in which the residence of the parents or legal guardian is located. Existing law provides that a pupil complies with the residency requirements if the pupil's parent is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within the state while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order, and requires a parent to provide proof of residence in the school district within 10 days after the published arrival date provided on official documentation.

This bill would expressly provide that the above-described provisions apply to all pupils whose parent is an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, including pupils eligible for services or accommodations pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as applicable. The bill would require school districts, upon notification that a pupil who is enrolling pursuant to the above-described provisions is receiving, or may eligible to receive, services or accommodations pursuant to federal law, to promptly coordinate with the pupil's parents and previous school, as provided. To the extent the bill would impose additional duties on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Status: Re-referred to committee on APPR.

Senate Bill 56 Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: household income.

The California Constitution provides that all property is taxable, and requires that it be assessed at the same percentage of fair market value, unless otherwise provided by the California Constitution or federal law. The California Constitution and existing property tax law provide various exemptions from taxation, including, among others, a disabled veterans' exemption. Under existing law, the disabled veterans' exemption exempts from taxation part of the full value of property that constitutes the principal place of residence of a veteran, the veteran's spouse, or the veteran and veteran's spouse jointly, and the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran, as provided, if the veteran incurred specified injuries or died while on active duty in military service, as described. Existing law exempts that part of the full value of the residence that does not exceed \$100,000, or \$150,000 if the household income of the claimant does not exceed \$40,000, as adjusted for inflation, as specified.

This bill would exclude service-connected disability payments from the definition of "household income" for purposes of the disabled veterans' exemption. The bill would also correct an erroneous cross-reference in the above-described provisions. By imposing additional duties on local tax officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Status: Held in committee and under submission.

Senate Bill 99 Family childcare homes: United States Armed Forces.

Existing law, the California Child Day Care Facilities Act, generally requires the State Department of Social Services to license and regulate various types of child daycare facilities, including, among others, daycare centers and family daycare homes. Under existing law, a willful or repeated violation of those provisions is a crime. Existing law exempts from those provisions various entities, including, among others, community care facilities, certain program facilities administered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and extended daycare programs operated by public or private schools.

This bill would also exempt, from the above-described licensing provisions, a family childcare home administered by a person certified as a family childcare provider by a branch of the United States Armed Forces and that exclusively provides care for children of eligible federal personnel, as defined, and surviving spouses.

The bill would impose certain requirements on a military installation certifying a family childcare home in order for the home to qualify for an exemption. The bill would require the military installation to annually file with the department a list of exempt but certified facilities; report to the department all incidents involving physical injury to, or death of, children attending

the program; require providers to post a certain notice about the status of the facility; and certify that the facility meets the health and safety requirements set forth in related state regulations, except for obtaining and maintaining a license. The bill would also require each provider to meet certain criteria relating to, among other things, an emergency preparedness plan, inspections, and attendance records.

Status: Held in committee and under submission.

Senate Bill 519 Veteran Task Force

Existing law establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs. The department, among *other* services, provides veterans and their dependents and survivors with assistance in processing service-related disability claims, assistance in obtaining affordable housing, and information about health issues associated with military service.

This bill would create the Veteran Task Force for the purpose of reversing the trend of veterans and individuals transitioning from the military who are leaving California to reside and work in another state. The bill would prescribe the composition of the task force, including, among others, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The bill would require the task force to, among other things, examine existing veterans benefits in California, assistance for individuals transitioning from the military, childcare availability, affordable housing, and other services and opportunities to retain veterans and their families in California.

Status: Hearing cancelled at request of author (two year bill).

4. SDMAC Hosts State Legislators for a Military Base Visit

On July 17 and 18, 2025, SDMAC hosted 22 people from Sacramento - 11 State Legislators, and 6 staff members along with Under Secretary of CalVet touring our bases here in San Diego. Among them was Senator Limon, the Pro Tem of the Senate; Senator Caballero, Chair of the Appropriations Committee; Senator Durazo, the Majority Whip along with Senator Archuleta, the Senate Chair of the Military and Veterans Committee and Assemblywoman Schiavo, the Assembly Chair of the Military and Veterans Committee.

On Thursday, we provided a tour of Naval Base Point Loma along with a tour of the USS Alexandria – a fast attack submarine. On Friday, we attended Marine Corps graduation at Marine Corps Recruit Depot followed by a trip to MCAS Miramar to see air operations. The tour continued at Naval Base Coronado with a tour of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. The group returned to the east side via the bay in a coast guard vessel. We arranged to have Legislators make personal connections by having breakfast and lunch with young military personnel. We hosted a reception event for the legislators to meet our military and industry leaders in our community. The objective here was to inform and educate what our military is all about and its criticality to both national security and California's economy. Most of these legislators have never been on a base much less a war fighting platform.

This stimulated a lot of conversation about how the legislature is getting information about the military and veterans and truly understanding the impact of their policy decisions. We have had



follow on conversations about creating a forum that better enables communication and education. They also expressed interest to bring the Women's caucus to San Diego. Women are now a majority in the legislature and are a strong political entity. The legislators suggesting a forum with women leaders that would be a combination of military, veterans and military spouses.

This was a great opportunity for us to develop relationships with our legislators, tell our stories and help inform them on the policy impacts to our military and veterans' community

5. How Members Strengthen CDCA

In the ever-evolving landscape of social challenges and opportunities, CDCA is a model of collaboration and advocacy, thanks to the unwavering support and active participation of our member organizations. These local military community support organizations, each with their unique insights and expertise, form the backbone of our collective efforts to address pressing issues and drive meaningful change across the state.

One of the most significant ways our members contribute is by sharing local problems and innovative solutions. This exchange of information not only enriches our understanding of diverse community needs but also fosters a culture of learning and adaptation. By highlighting successful initiatives and strategies, members provide best practices for creating successful approaches, creating a ripple effect of positive impact.

Our members also play a crucial role in shaping our legislative agenda. By providing cogent arguments and compelling narratives, they help us craft well-informed positions on issues that warrant state-wide legislative action. Their local experiences and observations offer invaluable perspectives that might otherwise go unnoticed, ensuring that our advocacy efforts are grounded in reality and resonate with policymakers. Members can strengthen the outreach by hosting legislators for local base visits: See the nearby article about SDMAC's outreach as an example.

Financial support from our members is another cornerstone of our organization's success. Their contributions enable us to maintain operations, organize impactful events, and expand our reach.

Beyond these contributions, our members continuously bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the table. And members provide core administrative services for the functioning of CDCA, such as financial accounting, writing minutes of meetings, participating in working groups, and engaging in public awareness campaigns. Their involvement is instrumental in advancing our shared goals.

Together, we are more than the sum of our parts. Our members' dedication and collaboration empower us to present a unified, comprehensive position on issues, draft effective legislation, and champion causes that matter to our communities. As we look to the future, we remain committed to harnessing this collective strength to drive positive change and create a better tomorrow for all.

4. CDCA Contact Information

Complete Information on CDCA and Membership is available on our Web Site:
www.cadefensecommunitiesalliance.org.

Twitter: @CaDefenseComm.

Mailing address is 1017 "L" Street #398, Sacramento, CA 95814

Key points of contact: Co-chair are Hans Uslar (uslar@monterey.org) of Monterey Bay Defense Alliance and Sandy Person, who is also serving as treasurer (sandy@solanoedc.org) of Travis Community Consortium. Secretary is Gene Fisher (grfisher@rdp21.org) of Regional Defense Partnership.

5. Tools and Resources

California Legislation text and status:

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

Membership

For membership, see the CDCA web site www.cadefensecommunitiesalliance.org or contact any Executive Board member. Community support organizations, local government support organizations and individuals may be members.

New: Commercial Organization Membership: Any businesses/commercial corporations that support the goals and purposes of CDCA can be a member of CDCA. There are no voting rights connected to this membership.

▪ Membership dues for these organizations are based on number of employees in California. Dues are established annually by the Executive Board prior to CDCA Fiscal year. There are four levels of dues based on organizations employees in California:

- \$500.00 annually for Companies with ~50 or less employees
 - \$750.00 annually for Companies with ~500 or less employees
 - \$1200.00 annually for Companies with ~1000 or less
 - \$3000.00 annually for Companies with Greater than 1000.
- Benefits:
- Participation in all CDCA Events.
 - Participation in planning sessions and goal setting meetings.
 - Ability to serve on advisory Committees.
 - Use of CDCA Logo in advertising their community support/outreach.
 - Receive CDCA Information and Newsletters.
 - Company logo on CDCA Website.