

California Emergency Services Association



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2025 Board

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We appreciate the passion and concern expressed in the recent opinion piece, "CESA is AWOL – Why?" The threats to our profession are real, and we share the sense of urgency. We hope the following provides some clarity on the actions CESA has been actively taking to support our members and the emergency management community across California.

1. Advocacy and Member Engagement Are Ongoing

- CESA continues to engage with membership to receive feedback on our policy and legislative actions going forward.
- The Legislative Affairs Committee has developed templated letters, call scripts, and messaging tools for distribution statewide to empower emergency managers to contact their representatives and elevate the collective voice of our profession.
- The CESA State President and Vice President have engaged with Cal OES executive leadership on these issues in person to develop a collaborative path forward.
- CESA hosted Robert Fenton and Mark Cooper, key members of the FEMA Review Council, specifically to elevate this conversation with our members.

2. We Take Member Input Seriously

- If there has been a communication breakdown with the Board not receiving communications, we apologize and are committed to ensuring that all member feedback reaches us effectively.
- We recognize the value of unified public statements and are empowering individual member voices to create a larger voice within the emergency management community.
- We continue to engage directly with policy makers at all levels on these issues.

3. CESA Is a Member-Driven Organization

- CESA is a member-driven organization with multiple active committees and initiatives.
- We encourage all members to engage with our existing advocacy infrastructure, including our Legislative Affairs Committee, which meets monthly.
- We invite members to review the resources and advocacy materials on our website and through member communications.

4. We Agree—Now Is the Time to Step Up

- Now is a critical time requiring sustained advocacy. Our work is ongoing and multifaceted, involving direct engagement with state and federal officials, resource development for member advocacy, and strategic coalition building.
- We invite all members to learn more about our current initiatives on the CESA website and find ways to contribute to our collective advocacy efforts.

Mission: to support and coordinate the efforts of its members concerning Federal, State and local emergency management policies; improve the professional status of its members; and present legislative and regulatory matters to the members. CESA is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to the promotion of mutual support and cooperation across disciplines in preparing for natural and human caused disasters and public emergencies.

CESA's strength lies in informed member participation, and we welcome those ready to engage in the substantive work ahead.

We invite all members to engage, speak up, and contribute to the work ahead. CESA exists to serve and strengthen this profession, and we are committed to doing just that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey DuVall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "DuVall".

Jeff DuVall
CESA President