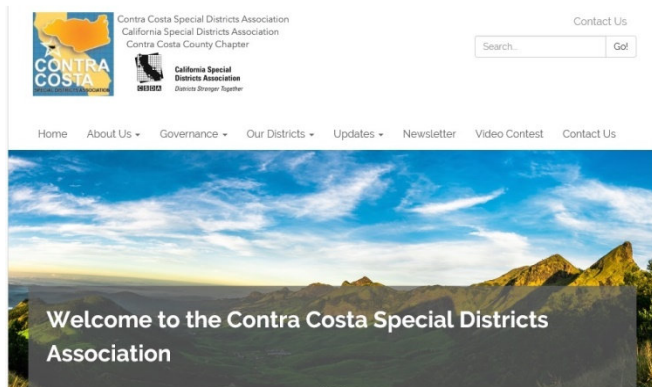


# Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

October 2018 Quarterly Newsletter

## New Contra Costa Special Districts Web page



At the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, when the membership okayed the use of our new web host provider Digital Deployment (Streamline) our page was open for business. Please take a look and provide comments to Stan Caldwell, Susan Morgan, or Ed Duarte so we can make corrections, additions or deletions as required. The URL: <https://contracostasda.specialdistrict.org/>

## CSDA and CALAFCO Strike Compromise on AB 2258

On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Assembly Member Anna Caballero and the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) agreed to compromise amendments to AB 2258 (Caballero). The compromise, developed together by CALAFCO and CSDA, provides for a tiered public protest threshold for LAFCO-initiated actions funded by the new grant program established by the bill.

AB 2258 would require the Strategic Growth Council, until January 1, 2024, to establish and administer a local agency formation commissions grant program for the payment of costs associated with initiating and completing the dissolution of districts listed as inactive, the payment of costs associated with a study of the services provided within a county by a public agency,

and for other specified purposes, including the initiation of an action, based on determinations found in the study, as approved by the commission. The bill would make funding for the program subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

Amendments to AB 2258 will mirror the signature thresholds currently in California Elections Code 11221. These thresholds range from 10 - 30 percent depending on the number of affected registered voters. The previous version of the bill raised the protest threshold from its current 10 percent level up to a flat 25 percent, regardless of population. CSDA is pleased to support AB 2258 as proposed to be amended, and encourages special districts to support the legislation once the compromise amendments go into print.

AB 2258 creates a grant-funding program for LAFCOs managed by the Strategic Growth Council to fund certain studies and actions. Protest thresholds are the minimum percentage of eligible voters in an affected jurisdiction required to place a LAFCO action on the ballot. A LAFCO action could include various decisions like mergers and consolidations.

CSDA appreciates the willingness of both Assembly Member Caballero and CALAFCO to work together with CSDA to find a solution that will empower LAFCOs to do their important work while protecting the voice of local voters. This compromise is a victory for collaboration and partnership, as it not only addresses CSDA's concerns, but begins the process of improving an important area of public policy for local agencies. Both CALAFCO and CSDA have also agreed to continue the dialogue to attempt to find agreement on a comprehensive review of all protest thresholds going forward.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> the bill was vetoed by the governor. The governor had to September 30<sup>th</sup> to sign bills or veto them.

## CSDA Upcoming Webinar: Disaster Planning

How does your agency define a 'disaster'? Fire, Flood, Earthquake, Cyber-Attack, Active Shooter are just some of the critical events that public agencies have found themselves facing. How do you plan for a disaster? You focus on RECOVERY.

\$65 CSDA member  
October 10, 2018  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

To attend sign up at <https://www.csda.net>

## CSDA Webinar: Legislative Round-Up

Presenters: CSDA Advocacy and Public Affairs Department

Free bi-annual webinar series for CSDA members only. Each year the State Legislature introduces thousands of bills; hundreds have potentially serious implications for special districts. Hear from CSDA's advocacy team about the most significant bills and how they will impact your ability to deliver essential services, maintain and build infrastructure, raise and protect revenue sources, manage personnel and more. Ask your questions directly to CSDA's lobbyists walking the Capitol halls and learn how your district can join the advocacy effort.

11/11/2018  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Free to CSDA members

To attend sign up at <https://www.csda.net>

## The next chapter meeting date is October 15, 2018

The Chapter normally meets from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District - Come at 9:30 AM for a meet and greet opportunity to network. Refreshments will be available. This meeting will explore the special topic of: California Voting Right Act (CVRA) and the Legal Challenges to Subdivide (Cities and Districts). See the map for directions on the last page of this newsletter.

The Central San Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) remodel is going to take about 8 months. It is part of the Plant Operations Building retrofit. A number of upgrades will be addressed since they are basically closing off that side of the building. Board Meetings will still take place in Board Room but that will be closed for the most part too. They will be bringing trailers in for staff that will be displaced. The MPR remodel will take place from January to August. We have the room over at Collection System Operations (CSO) for those dates. Location is 1250 Springbrook in Walnut Creek. We will use the training room which holds up to 60 people.

## Free Water-Wise Gardening Workshop was held for Dublin San Ramon Services District Residents

A free workshop on Water-Wise Gardening in the Tri-Valley was offered Saturday, Aug. 18, in the Community Room of the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin, hosted by Dublin San Ramon Services District.



Water conservation experts taught attendees how to create a beautiful, water-conserving landscape that can help lower water bills and save a precious resource. Participants learned where the water for the Tri-Valley comes from and how it is delivered to customers.

Armstrong Garden Center gave a presentation on having a lush garden while saving water with drought-tolerant plants. Eco Folia Design described the steps for sheet mulching as well as options available for irrigation. Preregistered attendees were entered into a drawing for a hardcover copy of East Bay Municipal Utility District's "Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates" and drought-tolerant plants from Armstrong Garden Center.

Attendees also received a giveaway bag that included a low-flow garden hose nozzle.

## District of Distinction Gold Level

Town of Discovery Bay Community Services District has demonstrated the district's commitment to transparency, sound operating practices, and comprehensive governance training for the entire Board.

This accreditation is designed as a way for districts to highlight their prudent fiscal practices along with other areas important to effectively operate and govern a special district, highlighting their transparent governance, strong community outreach, and prudent fiscal practices.



Thank you Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) for continuing to host the Contra Costa Special Districts Association (CCSDA) and providing the administrative service and support to CCSDA. We greatly appreciate the work and services that Central San provides.

Our January 28, 2019 meeting will not be hosted at the current Central San headquarters Multipurpose Room; the room will be closed for a remodeling project. We will meet at Central San's Collection System Operations (CSO) for those dates. Location is 1250 Springbrook in Walnut Creek.

### West County Wastewater District Certificate of Excellence Award



At the Board meeting of May 2, 2018, West County Wastewater District (WCWD) was presented with the Certificate of Excellence Award from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of WCWD's outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. Ms. Colleen Hayley, Public Affairs Field Coordinator of California Special Districts Association (CSDA) presented the Award to the Board of Directors. Pictured with the Award (left to right) is Ms. Colleen Hayley CSDA representative and WCWD President Audrey Comeaux.

### Stege Sanitary District Announces No Rate Increase for 2018

In 2014, The Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors approved a rate increase plan that was to be phased in over a period of five years. Under this plan, the annual residential sewer rate for the fiscal year 2018-2019 was to increase to \$294.00. Instead, the annual residential sewer rate will remain at \$242.00 (\$20.17 a month). The non-residential rate will remain \$4.97 per 1000 gallons.

The District was able to maintain the current sewer service rate structure because of its strong financial position at the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal years. The current rate structure will meet necessary operating and capital improvement expenses while maintaining sufficient emergency reserve funds.

### Highlights from Senator Glazer guest Speaker at July Meeting



*"Brian Oftedal (President, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District), Senator Glazer, Susan Morgan (Director, Ironhouse Sanitary District)"*

1. Trust - Special Districts build trust in their community by providing (me) transparency, (ii) accountability, and (iii) fiscal responsibility.
2. Interest groups including unions - will "punish" decisions that go against their interests. This takes the form of large expenditures to defeat a candidate, or recall a candidate, etc. It is part of the reason that lawmakers are reluctant to speak up against powerful interest groups.
3. Public Pensions (CALPERS) - 71% funded statewide. Currently costs are \$6B this year, will be rising to \$9B by 2023. In CCC, Special Districts are 77% funded (CALPERS); Cities are 70% funded. Senator Glazer tried to introduce a measure that would allow only new-hires for the state to "opt-in" to a 401(k) type of plan as several other public agencies and cities have done, (UC System, City of San Diego) Not one single Democrat would vote for it, so it never even made it out of committee.

Continued on next page

4. SB 623 water tax bill - Glazer voted in favor of the original version of this bill (which did not include new taxes or fees, and was contingent upon future budget appropriation from the Legislature). The bill has since been significantly changed from this original version, and Glazer has expressed concerns with the current form of the bill.

5. Prop 72 - a rainwater recycle bill which won by 85% - Glazer did support this bill.

6. SCOTUS Janus decision (to require an "opt-in" system for Union membership, rather than on "opt-out" system). Glazer spoke against this decision. He believes that it creates a "free rider" problem, where employees who don't pay union dues still benefit from the negotiations and increases in salary/benefits provided by unions.

7. Infrastructure spending - Sacramento is spending funds on useless projects, rather than useful ones, \$600M from the General Fund on high-speed rail - which will never get built (as intended - from LA to SF). This money could have been used for so much more useful projects.

8. Income inequality - Glazer believes that this is a BIG problem that we must solve. It will tear the fabric of our nation otherwise. He is against Hi-Speed Rail and it is sucking up money from the General Fund, so the only way to fund Infrastructure improvements was to raise the Gas Tax.

9. He alluded to the fact that getting any type of conservative agendas passed in Sacramento is extremely difficult.

10 The state's unfunded liability on pensions is 71% and is going to get worse.

11. The previous BART Boards have literally given away the farm, i.e. BART management is not even allowed to prepare for a work stoppage, until it occurs. Incredible!

## Diablo Water District Mike Yeraka Announces his Retirement



*At the end of the year, Mike Yeraka will embark on a new journey - retirement*

Mike Yeraka General Manager of Diablo Water District will be retiring 12/31/2018.

The Board decided to hire CPS HR, an executive search firm, to help find a new General Manager. "I wanted to give the Board sufficient advanced notice about my plans so the District would have time to find a replacement before I retire."

Mike has had a great working relationship for the District since 1992. Mike wants to keep in touch through the Special District Association, BACWWE, and East County Water Management Association. "This is not something one can walk away from cold turkey after working my entire career in water."

## Streamline (our chapter) Web Developer

Affordable Internet technologies that make Local Government Compliance easy and affordable, the Contra Costa Special Districts Association webpage is a Streamline developed website.

Streamline Web is the only content management system designed especially for special districts, with meeting dashboard and agenda reminders, transparency guidelines and an easy to use interface. Streamline makes the tools that help local governments stay compliant online. Streamline is a powerful, flexible content management system designed specifically for local government.



## STREAMLINE

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Phone (916) 238-1800

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## Master Plan Community Meeting Revealed Top Recreation Priorities

Pleasant Hill Recreation and Parks District held the Master Plan Community Meeting on July 25, 2018 to review results from the Community Need Assessment Survey mailed out in May 2018 and provided a forum for additional input on future recreation facilities, parks and programs.

The "Big Picture" Master Plan process is a yearlong project to develop a comprehensive picture of the District's future and a clear action plan for the next 10-15 years. Project completion is expected in January 2019.

"This second community meeting is an exciting step in our Master Plan process," said Michelle Lacy, General Manager. "Together, we begin to see a clearer picture of community recreation priorities-the top new projects and improvements most valued by District residents."

You can read about the survey results at:

<http://pleasanthillrec.com/>



### Contra Costa County Community Warning System

As a reminder you should register your cell phones and email addresses with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS), which is recognized as one of the nation's most modern and effective all-hazard public warning systems.

CWS is designed to deliver time-sensitive and potentially life-saving information to the people of Contra Costa County. The CWS Telephone Emergency Notification System is a computerized system that makes telephone calls to the known telephone numbers or email addresses in the vicinity of a hazard, based on incident-specific issues, and would be used to warn of an incident in the areas you specify at registration. While most landlines are already in the system, cell phones and email addresses are not.

More and more people are no longer using landlines, or aren't home to receive emergency calls. That is why it is so important to sign up your mobile devices. To register visit: <https://cwsalerts.com/>



**SEND US YOUR NEWS!**

We would welcome your contributions for our next newsletter!

## Pollution Prevention Billboard

Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) again has a pollution prevention billboard up displaying an important message to all. The billboard could be seen along 680 freeway just prior to the Marina Vista exit.



National Pollution Prevention Week-September 18-24, 2018 this week is an opportunity for individuals, businesses, and government to emphasize and highlight their pollution prevention and sustainability activities and achievements, expand current pollution prevention efforts, and commit to new actions.

MVSD's annual September P2 billboard is focused on fat, oil, and grease (FOG) for 2018. The P2 message encourages people to protect their pipes by disposing of FOG in the trash and not down the drain. The annual billboard will run for four weeks in September. \

Pollution Prevention (P2) means reducing or eliminating sources of pollution to prevent damage to the environment while also eliminating the need for costly controls and cleanup. During Pollution Prevention Week, we congratulate our state partners, industry and citizens - pat yourself on the back for the progress

Pollution Prevention is the key to saving our planet's resources and moving toward sustainability

## Dissolution of Reclamation District RD 2121 Bixler Tract

For many years, RD 2121 has struggled with administrative, governance, financial and infrastructure matters. Following the 1st and 2nd round Reclamation Services Municipal Services Review (MSRs) in 2009 and 2015, respectively, LAFCO had communicated with RD 2121 regarding needed improvements to comply with State law. Following Commission discussions

In 2017 and early 2018, LAFCO received a letter from RD 2121 thanking LAFCO for explaining the State requirements and for acknowledging the challenges faced by RD 2121. District representatives explained that they operate a small family farm and the State's requirements which place a burden on their small operation. Consequently, their small family-run district can no longer remain an independent district. Subsequently, on May 9, 2018, LAFCO adopted a resolution initiating proceedings to dissolve the RD 2121.

At the Wednesday, August 8, 2018 LAFCO dissolved RD 2121.

## East Contra Costa Fire Protection District News

At the August 6, 2018 East Contra Costa Fire Protection District board meeting, Director Stephen Smith received his Special District Leadership Foundation recognition in Special District Governance.



Colleen Haley CSDA Field Coordinator Presented Special District Leadership Foundation recognition in Special District Governance Certificate to Stephan Smith

President Oftedal stated: "I appreciate the fact that Director Smith clearly sees the importance of this certification track and has made the commitment to professional development and helping the Fire District work towards its District of Distinction".

This recognition is an opportunity for staff and directors to demonstrate to their constituents and colleagues the extent of their commitment and dedication to providing the best possible service to the communities they serve

## Congratulations to the 2018 CSDA Award winner Chris Lauritzen



Board Member of the Year Chris Lauritzen, Ironhouse Sanitary District.

A big congratulation to all of this year's CSDA Annual Award winners! Individuals and districts both will receive awards acknowledging their achievements in various areas including exceptional public outreach, leadership, and innovations. The awards are presented at the CSDA Annual Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, September 26 at 12:30 p.m. during this year's 2018 CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase held September 24-27 in Indian Wells.

## Congratulations to Chad Davisson newly elected CSDA Bay Area Network (Seat A: Term 2019-2021)

Chad Davisson, Ironhouse Sanitary District won election to Seat A of the California Special Districts Association Bay Area Network. Three individuals serve on the CSDA Board of Directors 3 from each network. They will be your local point of contacts to help you access CSDA resources. CSDA is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors elected by mail ballots. The Board consists of three directors from each of the six networks throughout California. The Board meets bi-monthly in Sacramento to guide the Association's legislative and member benefit programs.

New board member Chad Davisson takes office on January 1, 2019, but was invited to sit in on the August 31st Board meeting. He will also be sitting in on all the remaining 2018 CSDA Board meetings. Per the CSDA Bylaws, the election results were ratified by the Board at the August 31 Board meeting.

## BART receives \$6.8 million safety and security grant

BART's efforts to improve safety and security for riders are getting a major infusion of funding thanks, in part, to Bay Area members of Congress. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded BART about \$6.8 million in a grant to pay for continued police patrols on trains travelling through BART's busiest stations, interoperable radio communications systems and for upgraded security cameras at Powell St., Civic Center and 16th St. stations.

"The grant provides an extra boost to the important steps we're already taking to improve the safety and security of BART riders," said BART General Manager Grace Crunican. "We're very grateful for the help of the Bay Area Congressional Delegation, led by Representative Eric Swalwell; in obtaining this much needed funding. Time and again Representative Swalwell has recognized the critical security needs of BART and made sure the Bay Area gets its fair share of federal grants."



## Ironhouse Sanitary District receives Platinum District of Distinction Accreditation

The Special District Leadership Foundation's Districts of Distinction Accreditation highest level is the Platinum level. This accreditation is designed as a way for districts to highlight their prudent fiscal practices along with other areas important to effectively operate and govern a special district.

The ISD is proud to be a District of Distinction. For Ironhouse, one of the most important measures of success is remaining diligent in being open and transparent to our community. It is one of the reasons the District takes the time and effort to apply for the SDLF's District of Distinction accreditation and Transparency certificate every two years.

This year the District decided to go one step further in the program by completing the steps needed to become a "Platinum" District of Distinction. To receive this level of Distinction the District's general manager and board of directors must attend a special three-day seminar and an additional 10 hours of educational credits.



*Pictures L-R: ISD General Manager Chad Davisson, ISD Board member Susan Morgan, ISD Board President Chris Lauritzen, ISD Board member Dawn Morrow, ISD Board Vice President Peter Zirkle and CSDA Field Representative Colleen Haley.*

"A lot of effort was provided on the Board members part to get this platinum level Distinction nomination," said Chad Davisson. "That speaks highly on the commitment they have to this District."

"In private industry you try to upgrade yourself to make your company successful, that is dedication to your business" said Ironhouse Board president Chris Lauritzen. "I applaud everyone who has helped us get to this state we've reached in being honored as a District of Distinction."

## Susan Morgan not running for ECCFPD

Susan Morgan, who currently sits of the Boards of both the Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD) and the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD), has decided not to run (ECCFPD) Board. She is however running for the (ISD) Board (as a current incumbent...

Susan stated that the ECCFPD has a good set of candidates that have filed to run for that Board, and she believes that the District will be well-served with them. In view of that, it seemed more prudent to complete her current term of appointment on the ECCFPD Board.

In addition, doing this will avoid the question of conflicts, particularly in the future, as there is some potential for ISD and ECCFPD to become a little more involved with each other - the two Districts are currently exploring, at a very preliminary staff level, certain strategic initiatives between them, which could come before both Boards at some future time.

Susan believes her involvement with ECCFPD as an appointed director has been very positive, for both herself and the district, and certainly intends to keep involved after her appointed term ends as a concerned (and educated) citizen.

## 2019 CSDA Committee & Expert Feedback Team Participation

New this year: committee interest forms will be submitted online at CSDA.net!

CSDA's strength and effectiveness as an organization is directly related to our ability to involve members in the work of the association. Special districts board members and staff, as well as business affiliates bring tremendous talents and energy to CSDA and to the issues that concern special districts in California.

With this in mind, we are asking for volunteers to participate and contribute on one or more of our committees and/or expert feedback teams to assist in shaping CSDA. If you or any others from your district or company would like to get involved with CSDA, please go to our Get Involved page at CSDA.net to view a complete list of committees and expectations for committee member service.

Committee interest forms must be filled out by 5:00 PM on October 12, 2018. The selection and ratification of CSDA's 2019 committees will take place in November 2018 and selected participants will be notified by the end of November. Committee participation begins in January 2019.



## Ironhouse wins statewide Awards of Excellence



Ironhouse Sanitary District was presented with two top awards at the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) annual conference in Monterey. The first of the two awards received was for Organizational Excellence Award acknowledging the District's efforts in fiscal management and the second for Outstanding Capital Project.

"At our core is our commitment to public transparency and fiscal management," said Chad Davisson, Ironhouse's general manager. "To that end we work really hard to make sure we are using ratepayer's money in the most responsible manner possible. It is an honor to be recognized for these efforts by one of the top agencies in our industry."

CASA's Organizational Award of Excellence recognizes achievements in managing the agency, focusing on strategies that promote organizational sustainability, organizational development and effective financial management. Ironhouse demonstrated its organizational excellence to the awards committee of their peers by:

- Not increased annual sewer service fees in four years, including FY 18/19, resulting in the longest duration without the need for an increase since 1992
- Reducing operating expenses each year since 2015
- Developed a risk model for the sewer collection system to determine the highest priority investment
- Completed a Water Recycling Facility reliability study
- Developed a capital improvement program for the entire District
- Developed the District's first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that concisely communicates the overall fiscal strength of the District

CASA's Outstanding Capital Project award recognizes an exemplary public wastewater capital project, emphasizing unique or innovative design for a difficult and challenging issue. Ironhouse received this award

for its aluminum sulfate (alum) feed station. In the winter of 2016, the District's collection system and Water Recycling Facility received a significant increase in storm flows and illegal surface water drainage. These increased flows resulted in the need to add alum to increase ultraviolet light (UV) transmittance and reduce suspended solids.

"Through direction from the Board of Directors, the District has pre-purchased a bulk storage tank to achieve cost savings and safety improvements prior to the project completion," said Tyson Zimmerman, Ironhouse's assistant general manager.

To deal with issue the District worked to provide a temporary system to reduce the cost of alum including building a secondary containment for alum storage, which resulted in significantly reducing the cost the District spent alum.

The temporary solution was implemented to take advantage of bulk chemical deliveries until the final permanent design is constructed.

## Recycled Water Plant Upgrades Increase Treatment Capacity and Output

On Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018 Dublin San Ramon Services District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and the City of Pleasanton celebrated completion of the Jeffrey G. Hansen Water Recycling Plant expansion with an open house and tour of the completed project. Seventy people gathered to celebrate.



The partner agencies shared in the cost of the \$18.8 million expansion of the Jeffrey G. Hansen Water Recycling Plant. This expansion increases water recycling capacity from 9.7 million to 16.2 million gallons per day.

DSRSD-EBMUD Recycled Water Authority is a joint powers authority formed in 1995 to distribute recycled water to DSRSD, EBMUD, and Pleasanton customers. Phase one was operational in summer 2006. Pleasanton joined the program in in 2014.



## Rollingwood Wilart Park Recreation & Park District

Contributed by Lou Ann Texeira LAFCO Executive Officer

The Rollingwood Wilart Park Recreation & Park District (RWPRPD) was formed in 1956 to operate and maintain a community center for recreation programs and events. The District serves the unincorporated community of Rollingwood, located east of the City of San Pablo and south of the City of Richmond. The District comprises 113+ acres, with a population of approximately 3,000 residents.

In 2010, LAFCO completed a countywide Municipal Service Review (MSR) covering cemetery, parks and recreation services. In conjunction with the MSR, LAFCO learned that the RWPRPD has struggled for years with service, governance and administrative issues. Specifically, the District provides limited services, has no staff, and Board members are performing administrative and operational functions. Since the late 1990s, RWPRPD also experienced accountability challenges; lack of public interest and uncontested elections (one contested election in 1979); a significant decrease in facility rentals; no audited financial statements in over 10 years; and lack of capital planning documents and administrative records. The District currently functions with only three board members.

In February 2017, LAFCO completed a special study of the RWPRPD. The study found that the District continues to struggle and that the recreation center is no longer in use. The study identified several options including dissolution and annexation to either the City of Richmond or the City of San Pablo; however, neither City expressed interest in annexing the area.

LAFCO worked with the District and the County on a plan to dissolve the RWPRPD and name the County as successor agency. The County is currently working with prospective tenants and with the City of San Pablo for future use of the recreation center.

On August 8, 2018, the Commission approved the dissolution subject to a protest hearing. The protest hearing will be held on September 11, 2018 at 11:00 am at the Rollingwood Lutheran Church located adjacent the Rollingwood Community Center. The Commission will receive the results of the protest hearing at the LAFCO meeting on September 12th, and will finalize its action.

The District, and particularly Board Member Charlotte Rude, is supportive of the dissolution. Charlotte Rude has worked tirelessly for decades to keep the district afloat. However, with limited resources, it has been a constant challenge.

For more information about this project or other LAFCO matters, please contact the LAFCO office at 925-335-1094 or visit our website at <http://contracostalafco.org/>.

## Increased Bid Limits for Agencies Subject to Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act

Assembly Bill 2249, signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown, increases the bid limits for the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act. The new limits go into effect on Jan. 1, 2019.

Currently the Act authorizes public projects of \$45,000 or less to be let without competitive bidding, authorizes public projects of \$175,000 or less to be let by informal bidding procedures, and requires public projects of more than \$175,000 to be let by formal bidding procedures. With the increased thresholds, agencies that have adopted the procurement procedures required by the Act may perform public projects of \$60,000 or less without competitive bidding and will not be required to undertake formal bidding unless the public project exceeds \$200,000.

An agency must affirmatively adopt the procedures of the Act in order to use the alternate procedures, which does come with additional administrative requirements. In exchange for the higher formal bid threshold, the Act requires that agencies comply with certain notice, bidding and accounting procedures set forth in the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission's Cost Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual. Public agencies without sufficient staff resources should balance the benefit of obtaining a higher formal bid threshold against the burden of maintaining annual contractor lists, providing additional notice to contractors under the Act's procedures, and complying with the Act's accounting requirements for work performed with the agency's own forces.

The Act, enacted in 1983 under Public Contract Code section 22000 et seq., provides that the Commission must review the informal bid limits every 5 years for inflation and other factors to determine whether adjustments should be made. The last increase was effective July 1, 2011.

## Note from Newsletter Editor

Stan Caldwell newsletter editor wishes to thank Al Miller, Bert Michalczyk, Ed Duarte, John Burgh, and Susan Morgan, for all of their help with comments, suggestions, minor editing, and proofreading to correct grammar, wording, and formatting of the newsletter.

Thank You Susan Morgan for all the help with the Senator Glazer article.

## CSDA is Accepting Bill Proposals and Gearing up for the 2019 Legislative Season

Contributed by Colleen Haley CSDA Field Coordinator

As you may know, this year's legislative session has ended. The Legislature is on break and won't convene again until December. Therefore, it's a great time to strategize on policy changes for the coming year. So, if you have an idea for a bill, please let us know!

CSDA is in search of bill proposals that promote the interest of all types of special districts, regardless of geographic region, size, type or services provided. This could include creating a new law or removing an outdated law. Alternatively, you may have a desire to create, improve, or eliminate a law affecting special districts throughout the state. All are welcome and will be considered by CSDA for sponsorship in the 2019 legislative session.

### Submitting Ideas for CSDA Sponsored Bills:

You can submit your legislative idea by filling out the Proposal Submission Form at: [www.csdaforms.wufoo.com/forms/2019legislative-proposal-submission-form/](http://www.csdaforms.wufoo.com/forms/2019legislative-proposal-submission-form/) along with any background documents, to CSDA Legislative Analyst - Attorney Mustafa Hessabi at [mustafah@csda.net](mailto:mustafah@csda.net). Bill ideas are then reviewed by CSDA staff and analyzed for relevance to our members, political and fiscal impact. Chosen proposals are then presented to the CSDA Legislative Committee for final approval.

### Recent CSDA sponsored bills:

SB 929 (McGuire), which would require every independent special district, beginning January 1, 2020, to maintain an Internet web site, with exceptions for districts when a hardship exists. This legislation has passed out of the Senate and is currently awaiting a vote on the Assembly floor.

AB 979 (Lackey), co-sponsored by CSDA and CALAFCO, offers a reasonable, proactive step that local agencies can take to better facilitate participation and representation on LAFCOs. Simplifying the LAFCO representation process would empower special districts to more effectively consider their participation on LAFCO, as well as their associated role in the governance and boundaries of special districts and other local agencies.

### Take Action on CSDA Sponsored bills:

Once a bill has been chosen, CSDA will be asking for position letters from our members. Submitting position letters on bills is one of the most effective ways to garner needed votes from the legislature. So, if your district doesn't already have a policy for taking positions on legislation, now is a good time to adopt one! A

sample policy may be found on CSDA's website: <https://www.csda.net/advocate/take-action>. If you have questions about advocating on legislation, please contact CSDA Field Representative, Colleen Haley at [colleenh@csda.net](mailto:colleenh@csda.net).

### Master Plan Community Meeting Revealed Top Recreation Priorities

Pleasant Hill Recreation and Parks District held the Master Plan Community Meeting on July 25, 2018 to review results from the Community Need Assessment Survey mailed out in May 2018 and provided a forum for additional input on future recreation facilities, parks and programs.

The "Big Picture" Master Plan process is a yearlong project to develop a comprehensive picture of the District's future and a clear action plan for the next 10-15 years. Project completion is expected in January 2019.

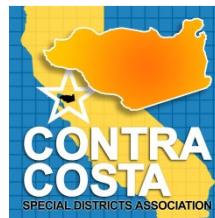
"This second community meeting is an exciting step in our Master Plan process," said Michelle Lacy, General Manager. "Together, we begin to see a clearer picture of community recreation priorities-the top new projects and improvements most valued by District residents." You can read about the survey results at

## January 28, 2019 Meeting Speakers

Getting the Most Out of Your California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Membership (value added programs, website resources, CSDA's Communities, Cal Trust, CSDA's Commercial Card, and CSDA's strategic direction). The planned speakers are Neil McCormick CSDA CEO and Rick Wood CSDA Finance and Administration Director.

If possible we will invite the video contest winners to the meeting and recognize them for their winning videos

As a reminder our January 28, 2019 meeting will not be hosted at the Central San headquarters Multi-Purpose Room; the room will be closed for a remodeling project. We will meet at Central San's Collection System Operations (CSO) for those dates. Location is 1250 Springbrook in Walnut Creek.



## Institute for Local Government (ILG)

California Special Districts Association (CSDA) holds two seats on the Institute for Local Government Board of Directors which is an independent, 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. One seat is designated for CSDA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and one is open for appointment by the CSDA Board of Directors. Stan Caldwell CSDA Board Member is the current ILG appointee.

The purpose of ILG is to assist local leaders to govern openly, effectively and ethically, work collaboratively, and foster healthy and sustainable communities. CSDA is one of three parent organizations to ILG along with the League of CA Cities and CA State Association of Counties.

The CSDA Board of Directors appoints one liaison representative, in addition to the CEO, to the ILG Board of Directors for a three-year term based on interest forms completed by current CSDA Board Members. Liaison representatives may serve more than one term.

## Knightsen Town Community Services District



The Knightsen Town Community Services District (KCS D) was created in 2005, and encompasses approximately 5,100 acres. It was formed to provide flood control and water quality (drainage services) for the community of Knightsen, which is a low area that receives runoff flow from nearby areas.

With the November election coming up it is expected there will be an entirely new board of directors. Mark Whitlock is the new manager for the district it should be an interesting and challenging opportunity to work with a new board. If you see Mark at a future Contra Costa Special Districts Association meeting please be sure to welcome him!

## Park District Board Places No-Tax-Increase Extension Measure on November 2018 Ballot

On June 5, 2018, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors voted unanimously to place an extension measure on the November 2018 ballot to continue local, voter-approved funding in western Alameda and Contra Costa counties - with no increase in taxes.

"Measure CC has provided vital, local funding for regional park services in western Alameda and Contra Costa counties," said East Bay Regional Park District Board President Dennis Waespi. "The Park District appreciates the community's ongoing trust and investment in Regional Parks over the years."

Over the past year, the Park District has received extensive input from the community about regional park and open space needs in the Measure CC area, including wildfire prevention, public access, safe parks and trails, and enhancement and maintenance of natural habitat. Measure CC was passed in 2004 and is set to expire soon.

"Regional parks in western Alameda and Contra Costa counties are better today than they were in 2004 thanks to Measure CC," said East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Robert Doyle. "Measure CC funding has helped thin and remove hazardous vegetation, improve public access and facilities, and enhance natural habitat."

If approved by voters, the No-Tax-Increase Extension Measure would continue existing Measure CC funding for Regional Parks in the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, Alameda, San Pablo, El Cerrito, Albany, Emeryville, and Piedmont. Measure CC is an existing \$12/year (\$1/month) parcel tax.

## California Special Districts Association is working with other similar organizations to form a national coalition

At the August California Special Districts Association (CSDA) board meeting, the board of directors approved a memorandum of understand (MOU) to work with Florida, Washington, and Oregon to begin steps to form a National Coalition of special district associations. Currently Oregon, Washington, and Florida send representatives from their respective associations to each other's Annual Conferences. CSDA continues to work with these other associations to share best practices, information, and ideas.

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## Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates:

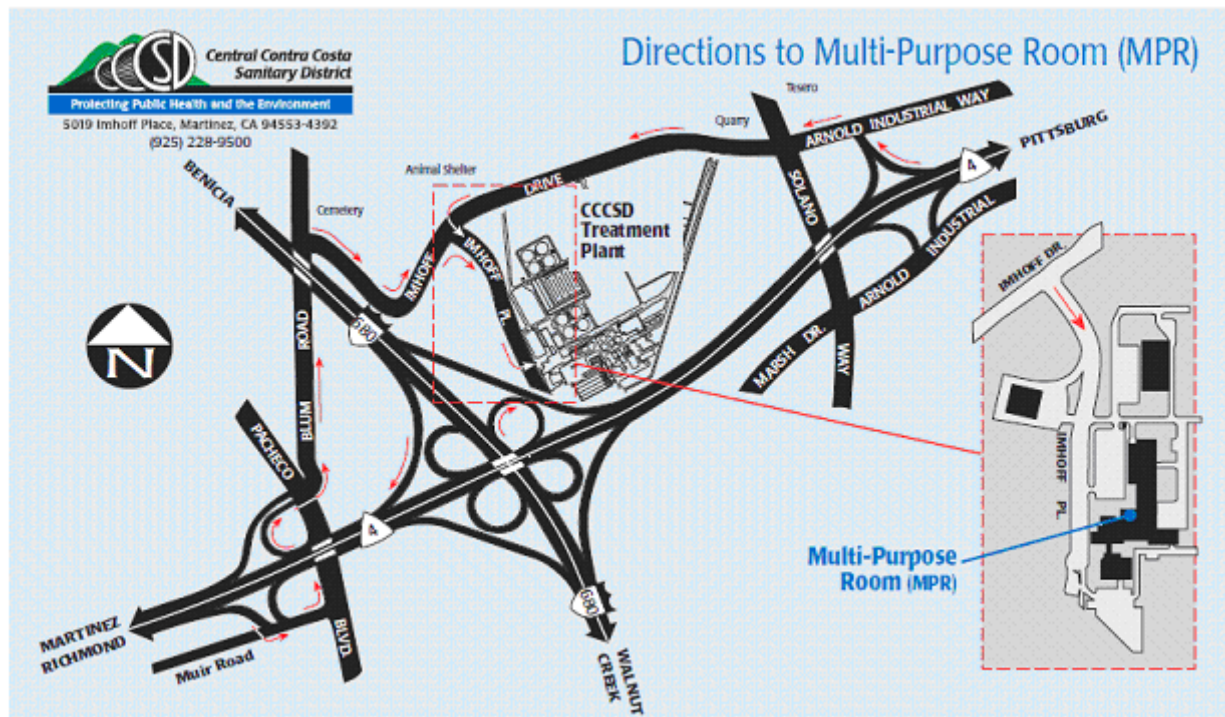
~ October 15, 2018 ~ January 28, 2019 ~ April 15, 2019 ~ July 15, 2019 ~

Come at 9:30 AM for a meet and greet opportunity to network, with refreshments available.

👉 Meeting begins at 10:00 AM

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We meet at Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA.



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Contra Costa Special Districts Association  
C/o Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
5019 Imhoff Place  
Martinez, CA 94553

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California Special Districts Association  
1112 "I" Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814 877.924.2732

Our chapter now has its own dedicated web site  
<https://contracostasda.specialdistrict.org/>