



Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

April 2019 Quarterly Newsletter

Newly Appointed Lisa Malek-Zadeh Becomes First Woman General Manager to Lead West County Wastewater District

The West County Wastewater District Board of Directors announced at its Board meeting on December 19, 2018, that they had unanimously appointed Lisa Malek-Zadeh General Manager. the General Manager position to Lisa Malek-Zadeh. Ms. Malek-Zadeh who is the first woman to lead the organization in the District's 97 year history, was selected as General Manager after a nationwide recruitment process involving community members, District staff, and the Board of Directors.



Ms. Malek-Zadeh's selection is a clear reflection of the District's current emphasis on creating a progressive work environment based on active communication, information sharing, empowerment and mutual respect.

She embodies the District's vision and core values and has demonstrated the ability to move the District in a positive direction while maintaining its record of excellent service to the community.

This decision is the culmination of a long, thoughtful process which began when the Board updated the District's mission statement, vision statement and core values and then searched for the ideal person to implement them. The Board wanted to make sure that the person they selected would provide alignment between the Board and General Manager, and the General Manager and staff. The Board interviewed several well-qualified candidates. Ms. Malek-Zadeh outshined them all.

Congratulations to the 2019 CSDA Board President and Officers

West Side Cemetery District's Manager Joel Bauer, SDA has been elected as the incoming Board President of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) for the 2019 term starting January 1, 2019.

For over 20 years, Joel Bauer, SDA has represented local government in various capacities, including serving currently as Vice President of CSDA, President of the California Association of Public Cemeteries, and Secretary of the Kern County Special Districts Association. Bauer has also chaired several CSDA Committees and was awarded the Cemeterian of the Year Award in 2015.

"Special districts play an extremely important role in communities throughout California providing local services constituents want and need. Local government is my passion and I believe that districts are the closest form of local government to the people making them accountable and accessible to those they serve" stated Bauer. "Being selected as CSDA's 2019 President is an honor and my opportunity to lead and give back to an association and its member agencies that do so much." Bauer will lead the CSDA Board of Directors that consists of 18 members elected from six statewide networks for 3-year terms. Board Officer positions are elected annually by the CSDA Board of Directors to serve on the Executive Committee.

The 2019 CSDA Executive Committee will include:

- President - Joel Bauer, SDA, West Side Cemetery District
- Vice President - Jeff Hodge, SDA, Santa Ynez Community Services District
- Secretary - Elaine Magner, Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District
- Treasurer - Ryan Clausnitzer, SDA, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District
- Past President - •Greg Orsini, McKinleyville Community Services District

Public Service Announcement Campaign

Five public wastewater processing agencies in East Contra Costa County (Byron Sanitary District, City of Brentwood, Delta Diablo, Ironhouse Sanitary District and the Town of Discovery Bay) have created a regional public outreach campaign to help customers understand how personal hygiene wipes marked “flushable” or “flush friendly” are often not biodegradable. Titled “No Wipes In The Pipes”, a range of communication tools were used to show how disposing of wipes in toilets can damage residential sewer systems, clog underground pipes, and result in expensive repairs to equipment at their local treatment plant.



Check out one of the videos created for the campaign:
<https://vimeo.com/304553019/fc7b611470>

New Laws of 2019 Publication Now Available

A publication of new bills for the 2019 legislative session is currently available at the California Special Districts (CSDA) website. CSDA has developed the publication to help you and your district understand all the laws that took effect with the new year.

The New Laws of 2019 publication was recently released as a reference available on the Knowledge Base at csda.net.

The publication includes each of the articles included in the recent New Laws eNews Series written by CSDA business affiliates and other subject matter experts. The articles provide an in-depth analysis of some of the most significant new laws affecting special districts. Topics include the CSDA sponsored legislation, SB 929 (McGuire) related to websites for special districts, new sexual harassment prevention requirements, and changes to district-based elections.

DSRSD Transitioning from At-Large to Area-Based Elections

The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) is transitioning from an at-large election system to an area-based election system, as required in certain circumstances by the California Voting Rights Act.

At its January 15 meeting, the DSRSD Board of Directors adopted a resolution of intent to transition to an area-based election system, also known as division-based elections. Currently, all five members of the DSRSD Board of Directors are elected by constituents from the District's entire service area. Under area-based elections, DSRSD will be divided into five separate election areas, and voters residing in each individual area will choose one representative from that area to serve on the Board.

Why DSRSD is Transitioning

The California Voting Rights Act was designed to encourage more citizens to run for office by making election participation more accessible. With area-based elections, candidates will be elected by those in their own voting area, which may also reduce their costs by decreasing the size of an area in which a candidate campaigns.

Kensington Fire Protection District Earns Transparency Certificate of Excellence Award

At the Board of Director's January 2018 meeting, Colleen Hayley of the California Special Districts Association attended to announce KFPD's receipt of the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. This award from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) is in recognition of the District's completion of all transparency program requirements designed to promote transparency in their operations and governance to the public and other stakeholders. This is the second time the District has been awarded the designation by SDLF.



Save the date! Moorhen Marsh Grand Re-opening Saturday May 11th

Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) is pleased to announce that the substantial completion of Moorhen Marsh Western Pond Turtle Habitat Enhancement Project is nearly complete.

The Open House will be Saturday May 11th 10 am to 3pm. Free parking and shuttle available from Las Juntas Elementary school 4105 Pacheco Blvd, Martinez, CA Parking is not available at the treatment plant and marsh (limited space).

Moorhen Marsh was closed to the public during construction activities related to Phase B work on the Moorhen Marsh Western Pond Turtle Habitat Enhancement Project. After more than a year of closure due to construction activities, MVSD was excited to announce that Moorhen Marsh re-opened to the public on Tuesday February 19!



MVSD is hosting a free event which will include refreshments, marsh and treatment plant tours, special presentations by wildlife specialists and more. Please save the date and plan to join us for this event.



The marsh has been closed for construction of the Moorhen Marsh Western Pond Turtle Habitat Enhancement Project. This much needed project included construction of wetland and riparian habitat enhancements, the excavation of marsh ponds and Peyton Slough, the replacement of water control structures, levee restoration, and visitor access and facility improvements including a new ADA trail and

boardwalk, several new dip netting areas for students, and a rare wetlands plant garden.



We are excited to share these enhancements with the public and hope you'll make time to visit Moorhen Marsh soon!

2019 Special Districts Legislative Days May 21st and 22nd Plan to Attend!

Gain the edge on policy changes impacting your agency and exchange ideas with California's top decision-makers at the 2019 Special Districts Legislative Days, an interactive and informative two-day legislative conference in our State's Capitol.

Agenda:

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Legislative Briefing

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Capital Visits - Round One

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Lunch Briefing

2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Capital Visits - Round Two

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Legislative Reception

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Policy Briefing with Breakfast

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. In-Depth Policy Breakouts

11:30 - 11:45 a.m. Closing Comments

Where

Sacramento Convention Center 1400 J Street
Sacramento 95814

Pricing:

Early Bird Registration on or before April 26, 2019:

\$275 CSDA Member

\$365 Non-member

For More Information Contact CSDA (877) 924-2732

Does your district have a Policy for Taking Positions on State Legislation?

At our January 28th chapter meeting Neil McCormick California Special District Association (CSDA) Chief Executive Officer suggested each of our districts should consider a Legislative Advocacy Policy. To make sure your district is ready to respond to a Call to Action in the fast-moving legislative environment, make sure that your district has adopted a Legislative Advocacy Policy, governing the process your agency must go through to register your support or opposition to an issue of interest to your district.

CSDA will be asking for your help through Calls to Action on the most important bills, now is the time to make sure you are prepared.

Special districts have the authority to lobby the State Legislature, other agencies, and individual decision makers on legislation and other matters of interest to the district, and to share your position with legislators directly through letters of support or opposition. Throughout the year, CSDA will send out a Call to Action to all special districts regarding a specific bill or issue that significantly impacts the special district community. The Call to Action is a chance for your district to register its support or opposition to legislation that impacts your services.

If your district has not adopted a Legislative Advocacy Policy yet, visit the Take Action page at the CSDA website for a FREE copy of CSDA's Legislative Advocacy sample policy, which can be used by your district as a policy template.

The Legislative Advocacy sample policy is also one of the many resources included in the CSDA Sample Policy Handbook available through the CSDA bookstore



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

John Chiang Elected Co-Chair of CA Forward Leadership Council

Former California State Controller and State Treasurer John Chiang will join the Leadership Council of CA Forward and will serve as Democratic co-chair alongside Republican Pete Weber of Fresno.

Chiang succeeds Lenny Mendonca who has joined the Newsom Administration as the Governor's chief economic adviser.



"I'm honored to join a thoughtful group of leaders who share my values about the importance of a transparent government and who are working on issues critical to the future of California," said Chiang.

Knightsen Town Community Services District has a new website!



THE WEBPAGE HAS MOVED TO:
<https://knightsentowncsd.specialdistrict.org>

2019 Special Districts Make the Difference Video Contest

Districts Make the Difference is excited to announce the upcoming submission period for the 2019 Student Video Contest. This year, the submission period has been extended! High school and college students now have from May 1 to September 30 to submit a short video highlighting how special districts make the difference in California.



It's never too early for students to start working on their videos starring special districts. Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible when making their 60-90 second videos.

Do you know a student who may be interested? Are you a student who is interested? Do you know a teacher, principal, superintendent, or school board member that can help promote the contest? Spread the word!

The 2018 Student Video Contest is part of the Districts Make the Difference public outreach campaign launched by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) to increase public awareness and understanding of special districts.

Once all entries are received, CSDA officials will select the top five finalists and feature those videos on the Districts Make the Difference website. The public will then vote for their favorite video and the top three vote-winners will receive scholarship prizes. Some students may also be automatically entered in a local contest based on their county.

The winners of the 2019 Student Video Contest will receive:

- \$2,000 for first-place
- \$1,000 for second-place
- \$500 for third-place

Annual John Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday April 20, 2019 the John Muir Association & the National Park Service invite you to attend the John Muir Birthday-Earth Day Celebration at the John Muir National Historic Site



Igor Skaredoff President of the board for the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District will be the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Location:

The John Muir National Historic Site
4202 Alhambra Avenue
Martinez, CA 94553

Saturday April 20, 2109 10am - 4pm

Admission is free and there are lots of fun things to do and see! Guests will enjoy interactive activities for children and adults, live entertainment, self-guided tours of the historic home and grounds. There will be plenty of activities & entertainment for the whole Family along with the presentation of the John Muir Conservation Awards.

The event includes over 50 exhibitors, live music, and food available for purchase, demonstrations, and hands-on activities for all ages, and entry is free. Parking is available at Alhambra High School (150 E St.) and Martinez Adult Education center (650 F St.), with shuttles provided to and from to the celebration, which is presented by the John Muir Association and the National Park Service.

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Regional Park District, and Mt. View Sanitary District will have informational booths and exhibits at the event, come out and support our local special districts!

For more information visit the Association's web site at: <http://www.johnmuirassociation.org>.



Please send your district news releases to stan_caldwell@comcast.net keep us informed of all of the exciting things your special district is doing, share you news with other districts by having it as an article in the next newsletter.

Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates:

~ April 15, 2019 ~ July 15, 2019 ~ October 21, 2019 ~

**Come at 9:30 AM for a meet and greet opportunity
To network, with Refreshments available.**

☛ Meeting begins at 10:00 AM

We will meet at the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Collection System Operations building (CSO) located at:
1250 Springbrook Road in Walnut Creek, Ca.

We suggest you review a map for precise directions.

From I-680 Southbound

Follow I-680 South to Olympic Blvd in Walnut Creek, turn left at bottom of the ramp.

Continue on Olympic Blvd.

Take Alpine Rd on the left, and left on Mt Diablo Blvd

Turn right onto Camino Diablo then right onto Springbrook Rd

From I-680 Northbound

Follow I-680 N to Olympic Blvd in Walnut Creek.

Take the State Route 24/Olympic Blvd exit from I-680 N

Use the right lane to take the State Route 24/Olympic Blvd exit toward Oakland/Lafayette

Take Alpine Rd, Mt Diablo Blvd and Camino Diablo to Springbrook Rd

**Contra Costa Special Districts Association
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Our chapter has its own dedicated web site

<https://contracostasda.specialdistrict.org/>