



## Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

September/October 2021 Quarterly Newsletter

### Contra Costa Special Districts Association future meetings

September 20, 2021  
November 15, 2021  
January 23, 2022  
March 21, 2022  
May 16, 2022  
July (11 or 18) 2022 Annual joint meeting with Alameda

For November we will try to meet again in person! Central San will allow us to use the CSO building in Walnut Creek. It will require that all attendees be vaccinated. You will be screened and will need to show proof of vaccination.

### Honoring Judge John Sutter



Judge Sutter passed away on May 10, 2021 at the age of 92.

Judge Sutter's 60 years of public service, including 24 years serving on the Board of Directors for East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), without question influenced and impacted many community and civic leaders. On July 24 EBRPD will paid homage to his legacy of work, tireless advocacy to support Oakland and the East Bay communities and selfless commitment as a role model for public service leadership. We welcome your attendance at this memorial event.

Judge John Sutter was a lifelong conservation champion. Over many decades, Judge Sutter was able to see firsthand the results of his and others' staunch advocacy with the significant expansion of public access

to the Bay shoreline including creation of Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline as well as his namesake park Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline, and restoration and beautification of Lake Merritt and the Earthquake experts estimate that approximately half of all earthquake-related injuries can be prevented by taking appropriate safety measures during the quake. Oakland estuary over the last two decades. Judge Sutter received numerous accolades and awards for his community service and conservation efforts, recognizing his tenacity and persistence. He was elected to serve as Oakland City Councilmember for two terms; was appointed by former Governor Edmund G. Brown as a Bay Conservation and Development Commissioner, and by former Governor Jerry Brown as an Alameda County Superior Court Justice; and he was publicly elected five times to the East Bay Regional Park District's Board of Directors where he served for 20 years (1996-2016). He has also been recognized and honored for his role as one of the co-founders of Citizens for Parks, now known as the Greenbelt Alliance.

Meanwhile John and his beloved wife Ellie raised three daughters in Oakland and enjoyed a loving extended family. Ellie Sutter passed away earlier this year. They both will be sorely missed.

### CCSDA Board Elections are coming up!



Please submit your interest to the nominating committee, Mike McGill is the chair along with Igor Skaredoff. Mike McGill email: [mcgill1951@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgill1951@yahoo.com)

## CSDA election results

CSDA counted ballots from each Network on August 16, 2021.

Congratulations to Chad Davisson, CSDM, GM, Ironhouse Sanitary District Bay Area Network! Chad has been reelected; His term will be for the 2022-24 term.

## Returning to our parks

As Labor Day approaches, it seems as if the world has opened up to new possibilities with restrictions still affecting us around the covid issues, it has been great to be able to see friends and family, going to our favorite restaurants, getting dressed in real clothes (goodbye sweatpants!), haircuts, and just leaving the house. This has been a unique time to enjoy the simple pleasures of our community that so many of us have missed.

Our parks have been reopening one step at a time as public health safety regulations allow. Since we have been able to emerge from shelter in place into a summer of socializing, it feels good to be able to return to our parks.

## What Districts Need to Know About Redistricting

*by the Institute for Local Government*

Local governments across the state are beginning the redistricting process. Because this process only happens once every decade, the stakes are high, especially for those doing it for the first time. However, the redistricting process is also an opportunity to create a fairer democratic process at the local level.

Redistricting is integral to ensuring that our residents are meaningfully represented and that our elected officials reflect the diversity of our communities.

Legal Parameters and Key Deadlines both federal and state law provide guidelines for how this process unfolds. The federal Voting Rights Act and now FAIR MAPS Act are key and some of the legal components include:

- o Requiring districts to be substantially equal in population - in general this means a deviation of less than 10% of the population in each district
- o Suggesting that local agencies add verbiage to redistricting ordinances to ensure the protection of minority voting rights
- o Prohibiting practices that effectively dilute the power of minority populations, including:

- o “Packing” or concentrating large numbers of minority populations into as few districts as possible, and
  - o “Cracking” or diffusing minority populations among multiple districts to dilute their influence or voice
- In addition to the legal parameters, there are also a few key milestones that districts will need to consider. For most special districts, the updated maps need to be adopted by May 2022. This year’s process has been further complicated by the delay in the release of the census data. The Census Bureau currently estimates that the data will be released by September 30, 2021, however, the corresponding deadlines for the adoption of maps has not changed. To ensure your local agency meet these deadlines, you may want to contact an attorney (if outside counsel is needed), a demographer and outreach firm (if desired) right away in order to make headway in advance of the release of the census data.

To avoid any legal missteps, you should also consult with your agency’s counsel or an attorney that specializes in redistricting.

**Engaging Your Community in the Redistricting Process**  
Before adopting new district lines, local governments need to generate outreach plans, collect data, conduct community engagement and draft maps. Here are some tips to consider when designing and implementing your community outreach plan.

- Rotate the days and times of your public meetings and other engagement activities to allow more community members to participate.
- Leverage community partnerships and /or partner with non-profits and community-based organizations to reach a broader, more diverse audience.
- Offer translation or interpretation produce materials in numerous languages, as needed
- Utilize a wide range of outreach and communication channels - your agency’s website, social media, local newspapers, ethnic media, etc. - to share information and promote key deadlines and engagement opportunities.
- Invite the public to submit their own maps.

For more resources and tips on authentic community engagement, visit the Institute for Local Government’s website at [www.ca-ilg.org/engagement](http://www.ca-ilg.org/engagement) or consider registering for ILG’s public engagement training for local governments - TIERS. Visit [www.ca-ilg.org/TIERS](http://www.ca-ilg.org/TIERS) for more information. You may also email [info@ca-ilg.org](mailto:info@ca-ilg.org).



## Los Vaqueros Reservoir

### Interpretive Center Open Weekends

The Interpretive Center is now open to the public. Visitors can enjoy an impressive view of the dam and learn about the reservoir, cultural history of the area, and local wildlife and habitat.



### Visit the Interpretive Center

Visitor hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. year-round. The Interpretive Center is accessible from the North entrance in Brentwood

### Marina Serving Visitors Indoors

The Marina is currently serving visitors indoors. California Fishing Licenses, bait and tackle available for purchase, as well as refreshments and Los Vaqueros gear.



### Preparing for Wildfire Season

California is experiencing drought conditions following two critically dry years - locally and statewide. At Los Vaqueros, we plan and prepare for wildfires and take actions to minimize the possibility of wildfires by managing dry vegetation throughout the watershed. We are prepared for the National Weather Service's Wind Advisories and Red Flag Alerts, and PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. Restrictions may be in place during high-risk weather. Before visiting the watershed, you can call the Marina at 925-371-2628 for updates. Also, visitors can expect to receive updates at the entrance kiosks when these events occur, as well as on our website. <https://www.ccwater.com/losvaqueros>

## Leadership in Sustainability Award

Judges have selected CoCo San Farm as a winner of the Leadership in Sustainability award for 2021!



The Sustainable Contra Costa for the 13th annual Leadership in Sustainability Awards celebration is on September 22nd. County Supervisor John Gioia and special guest environmental scientist Andrew Gunther with an interactive discussion on the latest progress on climate action. This online event supports and celebrates local individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions and commitment to climate change work, a healthy environment, economy, and society - so that Contra Costa remains a wonderful place for generations to come.

## AC Transit Introduces New Contactless Payment Options

Riders have many choices when paying their fare on AC Transit. Next time you ride, consider contactless payment! It's more efficient and reduces bus boarding time—getting riders to their destinations faster.



AC Transit has over 630+ buses, including double decker's that provide service from East Bay to San Francisco.



You can learn more about AC Transit on their website: <https://www.actransit.org/>





## BART Increased Service 4 Weeks Early and Offered Late-Night Limited Trains Beginning July 15th.

BART returned to near-pre pandemic service on August 2 instead of August 30 as originally planned. The August 2 change included extending closing times to midnight Monday through Saturday.

On August 2, 2021, BART expanded service hours and significantly increase service systemwide:

- Weekday service will be 5am-12am with 15-min frequencies on all lines from 5am-8pm and 30-minute frequencies from 8pm-midnight.
- Saturday service will be 6am-12am (currently 8am-9pm) with 5-line service offering more options for Saturday riders, and for the first time, offering four trains per hour on most lines.
- Sunday service will remain 8am-9pm with 3-line service and 30-minute frequencies to accommodate BART's critical cable replacement project and other infrastructure rebuilding work.

BART was able to advance the major schedule change by working collaboratively with labor partners to accelerate the hiring, training, and shift sign-up process. Late-night limited trains on Thursday, Friday, Saturday Beginning July 15, 2021, BART will run four trains leaving either Embarcadero or Civic Center at 11:30pm serving limited stops after regular BART service ends on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. These trains are in addition to the special service for A's night games and the limited service provided for Giant's night games.

The late-night limited service picks up passengers and departs at Embarcadero and Civic Center with limited service to the following stations: 16th Street Mission, and Daly City in San Francisco and West Oakland, MacArthur, Pleasant Hill, El Cerrito del Norte, and Bay Fair stations in the East Bay.

Four trains will leave Embarcadero or Civic Center at 11:30pm.

- One train will take riders from Embarcadero and will stop at Civic Center, 16th Street Mission and Daly City stations only. No other stops will be made along the

line. This train will be labelled: Civic ctr-16th St-Daly City ONLY.

- A second train will stop at Civic Center and Embarcadero and will take riders to West Oakland, MacArthur, and Pleasant Hill only. No other stops will be made along the line. This train will be labelled: West Oak-MacArthur-Pleasant Hill ONLY.

- A third train will stop at Civic Center and Embarcadero and will take riders to West Oakland and Bay Fair only. No other stops will be made along the line. This train will be labelled: West Oakland-Bay Fair ONLY.

- A fourth train will stop at Civic Center and Embarcadero and will take riders to West Oakland, MacArthur, and El Cerrito del Norte only. No other stops will be made along the line. This train will be labelled: W Oak-MacArthur-El Cerrito del Norte ONLY.

## Other Bart News

BART is targeting stretches of trackway in the system that are in the greatest need of replacement and prioritizing work on those sections. This critical work is replacing nearly 50-year-old track infrastructure. Many of these aging track components have been in operation since the beginning of BART service in 1972 and have outlived their design lives.



Bay Area  
Rapid Transit

## "Voices of the Delta" Photography Exhibition

Big Break Visitor Center invites you to visit the "Voices of the Delta" photography exhibit. Enjoy visitors' photos captured throughout the Park District parklands and the Delta. Photos and stories that will be on display now through September 30 in the Big Break Visitor Center.



## 2021 William Hollingsworth Award of Excellence

The most prestigious honor bestowed by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), this award celebrates distinguished, ongoing service and exceptional contributions to special districts and the communities they serve. The criteria for this award include a demonstration of significant leadership for, or in partnership with, special districts regionally or statewide.



Stan has served as a consistent advocate for CSDA and special districts throughout his years of service. He is always one of the first to volunteer to serve and represent CSDA on committees, task forces, and boards.

Stan has been a very active participant at California Association of Sanitation Agencies, California Special District Association, and the Contra Costa Special Districts Association for many years. Further, he has faithfully served as the special district alternate to the LAFCo in Contra Costa County and the Contra Costa Special Districts Association (CCSDA). Stan also currently serves as the CCSDA President and prepares the chapter newsletter as the editor.

The award was presented at the Annual Conference on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 during the Legislative Update Luncheon (12:15 - 1:45 p.m.) in the De Anza Ballroom at the Portola Hotel & Spa in Monterey, CA.

## Possible Dues Increase

The Contra Costa Special Districts Association is considering raising dues. We have annual fees to pay (insurance, newsletters, refreshments, etc.). We would like to continue to have funds available for contingencies such as donations (we have given funds to the Special District Leadership Foundation) and other worthy causes promoting special districts.

We are planning a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary get together and celebration which may deplete all of our current savings. If we have our 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration we will need to pay many upfront costs from our savings account. We are considering an increase of \$50 more to regular and associate member dues. This will require a vote by our membership. Your Executive Committee will provide more information at the November meeting, it may be part of our November meeting agenda.

We have also considered having an annual dinner since we no longer have a meal function along with our meetings. This also will be an additional cost to our members.

## The Ambrose Recreation and Park District



Ambrose Recreation and Park District

The district mission statement;

In order to serve the diverse recreational needs of individuals and families and to enrich the quality of life for all residents, the Ambrose Recreation and Park District is committed to providing park facilities, programs and activities for all ages.



Ambrose Community Garden



The district offers garden boxes for community members to rent yearly, as well as host many clean up days, senior harvest days, and they teach preschool classes. The district looks forward to planting with members of the community!



The garden plots are a great success, and used by many.

"The Ambrose Recreation & Park District's Community Garden is gaining interest as more community members are discovering this hidden gem. Led by an enthusiastic group of volunteers the garden hosts a variety of events and activities for current and future green thumbs." Quote by General Manager Doug Long.

## BART used grazing goats to reduce fire danger on its right-of-way property

As the Bay Area endured another hot, dry summer, BART used goats to graze and cut firebreaks on its right-of-way property, which reduces reliance on fossil-fuel-powered equipment, decreases the chance of sparking fires, and increases safety for workers.



"This is the smartest way for us to deal with the vegetation in these areas," said Josh Soltero, an irrigation/grounds worker in BART's grounds maintenance department who was keeping an eye on some 700 goats grazing near Fremont Station on a recent hot June day.

The Spanish-Boer cross goats, contracted from a herding business, chomped away at the dry brush on a steep hillside, the type of terrain that can be hazardous to human groundskeepers using mowers, weed whackers and other power tools.

"Goats are active and explorative eaters, often climbing trees in pursuit of food and nutrition," Jared A. Lewis, Natural Resource Program Manager/Outreach Director for Living Systems, wrote on the company's website. "This propensity towards variety coupled with an uncanny ability to consume unlikely feedstuffs such as low-lying branches, small trees, grasses, weeds, chapparal, shrubs and a panoply of fire-hazardous exotic and invasive species, creates the unlikely but nonetheless perfectly suited fire-fighting tool in the goat."

## Take Advantage of Scholarship Funding

The Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting excellence in local government. SDLF offers a number of scholarships to help special district Board Members and staff participate in CSDA and SDLF programs and educational offerings.



Take Advantage of Free Education!

Your district can take advantage of scholarship programs, including:

- CSDA Conferences & Workshops
- SDLF Programs
- Website Design

View the variety of scholarships available on the [SDLF Scholarships Page Today!](#)

\*You may also reach out to SDLF at [membership@csla.net](mailto:membership@csla.net) or 877.924.2732 for more information.

## Special District Leadership Academy

September 26 - 29, 2021

Register for CSDA's groundbreaking core governance training for district board members.

Location:  
Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel  
4130 Lake Tahoe Blvd  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Need help paying for this conference?

The Special District Leadership Foundation has scholarships available regardless of annual budget and for Members or Non-members

## Save the Date!

CSDA Legislative Days will be May 17 & 18, 2022

Now more than ever special districts need to advocate on behalf of the communities they serve. From the pandemic to climate adaptation, lawmakers in Sacramento and Washington D.C. are making critical decisions that will impact the budget, infrastructure, and operations of your district. At the time this was written it is scheduled to be a virtual event.



## The Tri-Valley's water agencies news



Zone 7 Water Agency treats and manages water supplies for eastern Alameda County, including the city limits of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon. Drinking water service is provided to these regions by the Tri-Valley's water retailers - Cal Water, the Cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, and Dublin San Ramon Services District.

The Tri-Valley's water agencies asked customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by ten percent after Governor Gavin Newsom included Alameda County in his emergency drought declaration. The Governor later issued an Executive Order N-10-21, calling on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels. Tri-Valley water agencies are now asking customers to do a little more and voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent. "Because outdoor irrigation is 60-70 percent of an average homeowner's water use, the easiest way to reduce overall water use is to irrigate when the outdoor temperature is cooler (9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) and to reduce the length of time and frequency of your irrigation," says DSRSD General Manager Dan McIntyre, "A little change can make a big difference."

For homeowners without landscapes to irrigate, only run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads and repair water leaks immediately. Toilets can be a source of sneaky leaks and toilet flappers only have a useful life of 1-2 years. "The Tri-Valley has multiple sources of water supply storage, including its local groundwater supplies, so we can withstand the occasional dry winter," says Zone 7 Water Agency General Manager Valerie Pryor. "However, after two especially dry years in a row, we cannot rely on storage alone."

"There is now a need to augment ongoing water conservation and drought resilience investments with additional action to extend available supplies, protect water reserves in case drought conditions extend to a third year and maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife," Governor Newsom stated in his Executive Order N-10-21. As drought conditions evolve, the Tri-Valley's water agencies will continue to provide water use updates.

**Send Us Your News!**

Got a story we should know about?  
Have an event you want to share?

Email us at:  
[stan\\_caldwell@comcast.net](mailto:stan_caldwell@comcast.net)

## Celebrating 30+ years of Pollution Prevention

September 19-24 is Pollution Prevention (P2) Week and Mt. View Sanitary District is celebrating 30+ years of P2!

Prevention means reducing or eliminating sources of pollution to prevent damage to the environment while also eliminating the need for costly controls and cleanup.

Through education and action, our community is striving to make a difference and Mt. View Sanitary District is proud to be a part of the solution!

Have you seen our billboard supporting Pollution Prevention Week on 680?



## CELEBRATING OUR PAST, BUILDING OUR FUTURE



When Central San was founded in 1946, we had a service area population of about 15,000 people, 16.5 miles of pre-existing pipe, and no treatment plant. There have been a few changes since then! Over the past 75 years, Central San has grown along with the communities we serve. Today, we collect and clean more than 13 billion gallons of wastewater every year from nearly 500,000 people and more than 3,000 businesses. We also maintain more than 1,500 miles of neighborhood sewer pipes to carry wastewater to our treatment plant in Martinez.



## Local Agency Bathroom Mandate for Homeless Population

Within the next few weeks, the California State Legislature will decide whether to place an unfunded mandate on every local public agency in the state, including special districts, to report information about their restrooms on their website to enable access for the homeless population

If a district does not have any publicly available restrooms, they are still required to produce a report to the state, post that information on their website, create a PDF and other materials saying they don't have any restrooms, and disseminate that information.

It does not provide any funding for local agencies to comply with this new mandate.

## What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Many products found in your home are potentially hazardous substances. They consist of chemical compounds and can poison, corrode, explode or ignite when handled improperly. These substances are considered household hazardous waste and can threaten human and environmental health. This is why it is illegal to dispose of household hazardous waste in the trash or down household and storm drains.

## Wetlands Field Trip

Mt. View Sanitary District and the Lindsay Wildlife Experience are excited to continue their partnership with the Wetlands Field Trip Program. The program benefits local students with a curriculum that aligns with California education standards as well as increasing awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the wastewater treatment process, and its effects on the local wetland habitats and the wildlife they support.

Students throughout Contra Costa County have enjoyed this program since 1996 and the experience remains complimentary thanks to various grant programs, private donations, and revenues from MVSD's cell tower and billboard leases. The 4-hour program features a tour of the MVSD wastewater treatment plant and a wetlands hike in Moorhen Marsh.



## Special District Leadership Academy

Governance Conference for Elected and Appointed Directors/Trustees

SEPTEMBER 26 - 29, 2021 - LAKE TAHOE  
Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel  
4130 Lake Tahoe Blvd  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Don't miss out on the best learning opportunity for Special District Board Members AND network with your fellow board members at CSDA's 2021 SDLA Conference.



## Golden State Model Railroad Museum Reopens

The Golden State Model Railroad Museum, located at Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, reopened to the public in July. GSMRM will now be open with trains running on Sundays from noon to 4pm..



A visit to the 10,000 square foot Museum of operating model trains provides an inexpensive, fun-filled outing for young and old, with plenty of room for youngsters to stretch their legs and expend energy as they follow trains along the 200+ feet of public walkway.

The Museum is located at 900-A Dornan Drive, Point Richmond, CA. The highly-detailed model train layouts represent prototypical scenery in Northern and Central California. They run both freight and passenger trains typical of the steam era.



## CSDA to get you where you need to go

CSDA has provided California's special districts with information, training, and resources to keep them moving in the right direction. Let CSDA show you how our membership can help you navigate the changing landscape in 2021.

California's special districts are stronger together. Through CSDA membership districts can connect and collaborate like never before. CSDA is committed to providing members with special programs and resources that can save them time and money.

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is a 501c (6), not-for-profit association formed in 1969 to ensure continued existence of local, independent special districts. CSDA offers its members cost-efficient programs, support to local agencies, and representation at the State Capitol. CSDA is the only statewide association representing all types of independent special districts and other local governments.

Special districts are local government agencies that provide essential services to millions of Californians. They are formed and governed by local residents to establish or enhance essential community services and infrastructure. Each special district focuses on providing specific types of services which allows for innovation and long-term planning to meet the community's needs.



**California Special  
Districts Association**

*Districts Stronger Together*

**Our September  
meeting will be a Zoom  
meeting.**

**Our November meeting  
will be in person at  
Central Sanitary  
District.**





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**BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE  
CONTRA COSTA SPECIAL  
DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION**  
Future Meeting Dates:

~ September 20, 2021 ~

Join in at 9:30 AM for a meet and greet opportunity  
And network opportunities within a Zoom breakout  
room. The regular meeting begins at 10:00 AM

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November 15, 2021 ~ January 24, 2022

Beginning in November 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

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

Our website was designed by Streamline. We  
thank them for the services they provide to  
Special Districts and chapters.

We welcome submissions to the newsletter  
please send them to Stan Caldwell

**Here's what to do when an earthquake hits**



Earthquake experts estimate that approximately half of all  
earthquake-related injuries can be prevented by taking  
appropriate safety measures during the quake.

