



Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

Summer 2022 Quarterly Newsletter

Contra Costa Special Districts Association future meetings

July 11, 2022 Annual joint meeting with Alameda
September 19, 2022
November 21, 2022
January 23, 2023

April, 27, 2023 CCSDA 30th Anniversary Event

The Town of Discovery Bay

The Town of Discovery Bay closed escrow on February 13, 2013 for the purchase of 7.25 acres of land that is now home to the Discovery Bay Community Center. The site was formerly the Discovery Bay Athletic Club, and is located at 1601 Discovery Bay Boulevard, across from the Discovery Bay Shopping Center.

After a short closure, the District reopened the facility on January 2, 2014. The renovation transformed the interior from an athletic club to a multi-use Community Center. The District's Board is still considering options and future uses of the land, including a potential expansion.

The Town of Discovery Bay is currently exploring architecture firms to build a District office for the Town. They are reaching out to you as representatives of our local CSDA chapter for any referrals and/or recommendations from our membership. Could you help with this request?

Thank you, Ironhouse Sanitary District,

The Contra Costa Special Districts Association (CCSDA) appreciates the administrative service and support provided to CCSDA by Ironhouse Sanitary District. We greatly appreciate them for providing the Zoom links for our chapter meetings. They supply all of the chapter's administrative support, including keeping our website up to date. **Thank You Ironhouse!**

Fire District Achieves ISO Class 1 Rating

ISO Class 1 with Gold Lettering The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is pleased to announce that it has received the Insurance Services Office (ISO) top rating of Class 1, which is the designation it reserves for superior

fire protection programs. The Class 1 rating was based on the ISO's independent analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided to the San Ramon Valley community. According to the ISO, out of the roughly 40,000 fire districts they evaluate across the country, only 411 have earned the Class 1 rating, with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District being only 1 of 42 in California to receive the top rating.

The ISO collects information on communities and analyzes the data using its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, which evaluates four primary categories of Fire Suppression - Fire Department Operations, Emergency Communications, Water Supply, and Community Risk Reduction - intended to measure the effectiveness of protecting homes and other structures, with better fire protection leading to better loss experience.

This plays an important part in the decisions insurers make affecting the premiums for property insurance. The price of property insurance in a community with a high ISO rating is lower than in a community with a poor ISO rating.

Mt. View Sanitary District Recognition from Streamline

Streamline, MVSD's website platform provider, delivers a bi-monthly blog on their website to inform consumers of news, tips, and strategies to better their websites. MVSD was recognized by Streamline on March 17, 2022, as one of "3 Districts Getting Community Engagement Right." The blog speaks to MVSD's quarterly newsletter and how it arrives reliably each quarter, its consistent look and feel for every issue, and it is posted directly to the website with the option to subscribe. The Mt. View Monitor Quarterly Newsletter. Mt. View Sanitary uses an online newsletter to quickly and easily keep their community updated about projects, volunteer opportunities, staff updates, and fun tips. The newsletter arrives in residents' email inboxes reliably every quarter, there is a consistent look and feel.

Did you Know?

There are 41 Independent Special districts in Contra Costa County.

Web Accessibility

The U.S. Justice Department (DOJ) has issued web accessibility guidance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). While many courts have historically held that business and public agency websites are required to be accessible under respective provisions of the ADA, there are no enforceable standards on website accessibility, as there are under Section 508 for federal government websites. Because the DOJ has noted that enforcement of website accessibility is a priority, businesses and public agencies should immediately become familiar with this new guidance and ensure that all components of their websites are in compliance.

The new guidance explains how state and local governments (entities covered by ADA Title II) and businesses open to the public (entities covered by ADA Title III) can make sure their websites are accessible to people with disabilities in compliance with ADA.

As the DOJ has stated, the guidance is intended to provide plain language and user-friendly explanations to ensure it is comprehensible for general readership - not just those with a legal or technical background. The guidance explains that businesses and governments can choose how to make their programs and services offered on their websites accessible, since there is no specific standard. However, it also confirms that the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and Section 508 standards should still be considered helpful guidance, and entities should continue to reference these standards for the more technical and detailed guidance on website accessibility.

Contra Costa Water District is making improvements at the Interpretive Center



The Interpretive Center is dedicated to the memory of John Muir, naturalist and preservationist, whose deep respect for nature inspires conservation and stewardship of natural resources.

The District hosts more than 3,000 school children annually at the center for field trips through our education

program. the Interpretive Center to learn about the cultural history of the area, animals, and the unique role Los Vaqueros plays in providing clean and healthy water to more than 500,000 people.

Mt. View Sanitary District May Billboard

May is American Wetlands Month



American Wetlands Month. Every May, the public is encouraged to celebrate and learn about the value of wetlands in our communities. Wetlands are renowned for their ability to remove excess nutrients, toxic substances, and sediment from water that flows through them, helping to improve downstream water quality and the overall health of waters in our communities.

West County Wastewater Board of Directors Announce the Passing of Director Sherry Stanley

It is with great sadness that the West County Wastewater (WCW) Board of Directors announced the sudden passing of Board Member, Sherry Stanley.

Director Stanley was first elected to the WCW Board of Directors in 2016. In 2019 she sat as Vice President of the Board. After WCW moved to a district-based election system in 2020, Director Stanley was elected to District 2, which serves North Richmond and areas of San Pablo. As a member of the WCW Board, Director Stanley contributed to many industry-related organizations including the North Richmond Municipal Advisory Committee, the California Association of Sanitation Agency, and the California Special Districts Association. Additionally, Director Stanley was very supportive of the WCW levee project and the PIPES Program,

Contra Costa Special Districts Association wishes good luck to those running for office this Fall

We wish you the best, from some reports many will have an opposed election, we wish you the best!

Oakley Science Week comes to ISD

Oakley Science Week came to Ironhouse Sanitary District. The District hosts more than 3,000 school children annually at the center for field trips and education programs. Through these events, they learn about Interpretive Center to learn about the cultural history of the area, animals' local wildlife, and the unique role Los Vaqueros plays in providing clean and healthy water to more than 500,000 people. District participants were able to take a hayride tour and learn how Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD) turns dirty water into sustainable, clean recycled water ready for reuse. Get up close and personal with those amazing raptors that fly high up in the sky in your backyard. Learn the importance of conserving water and how water gets from your house to ISD's Water Recycling Facility through a complex system of pipes and pumps. It all happened at this year's Oakley Science Week at ISD on Saturday, April 9.

Young science enthusiasts will have a chance to learn how ISD cleans dirty water without any chemicals using the award-winning, high-tech-driven biological process, microfiltration, and ultraviolet light to make clean, sustainable recycled water that can be re-used to water plants, crops, trees, and more.

There were crafts, exhibits, and more. Each year the ISD puts together a fun craft themed around the exhibits at the program. This year they created little critters that help clean Ironhorse's recycled water. This activity is fun for all ages. The City of Oakley also provided activities at their table. Diablo Water District was on hand with water-saving tips and more.

LAFCo Special District Election Results

The results of the election are in and Patty Bristow, Board Member, Byron-Brentwood-Knightsen-Union Cemetery District, was elected to the LAFCo Primary seat, Stan Caldwell was elected as alternate.

On June 8th, LAFCo welcomed Patty Bristow as the new Commissioner and honored and bid farewell to Commissioner Igor Skaredoff who joined LAFCo in 2014.

California Special Districts Association

CSDA celebrated Special Districts Week while hosting its annual Special Districts Legislative Days in Sacramento on May 17. Over 200 special district officials converged on Sacramento to meet with State Legislators and Capitol Staff. State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara served as opening keynote speaker. The event included State and Federal Legislative briefings, group discussions with Legislators and Capitol staff regarding priority issues facing special districts, and informative sessions including climate adaptation and resilience, infrastructure, cybersecurity and legal briefs.

Park District Receives National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) Facility Award

East Bay Regional Park District was honored to receive the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) Excellence in Park and Recreation Facility Award. The award was given for three Regional Shoreline projects to increase public access, mitigate sea level rise, and restore habitat in 2021: Judge John Sutter, Albany Beach-SF Bay Trail, and Bay Point.



Water District Board Vacancy to be filled by Appointment

During the Board meeting in April, Contra Costa Water District's Board President, Lisa M. Borba, announced that she will resign from the Board effective April 22, 2022, after 12 years representing the community on water issues.

The Contra Costa Water District (District) Board of Directors has decided to fill a vacancy on its Board by appointment, as provided under state law. The vacancy is due to the resignation of Division 1 President Lisa M. Borba. Division 1 includes the District's service area in the cities and communities of Concord, Pacheco, Clyde, Bay Point, and Pittsburg. All applicants must reside within the boundaries of Division 1.

The Division 1 Director's seat will be placed on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 general election. The newly appointed Director will hold the office until the general election results are certified.

SDLF (Special District Leadership Foundation) Recognized Stege Sanitary District with Two Awards

The Transparency Certificate of Excellence and District of distinction. Stege has been a District of Distention continuously since 2009. The District of Distinction 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.

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRSD)

The Transparency Certificate of Excellence was awarded to the CCRCD The district has received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. "This award is a testament to the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District's commitment to open government," said, Chris Lim, Executive Director. "Our staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight."

ALAMEDA - CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT

Alameda - Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) is advancing towards a zero- emission future through clean transit and green jobs.



The California Air Resources Board (CARB) requires that all public transit agencies transition to a 100 percent zero emission bus fleet by 2040.

AC Transit is the first in the country to complete a Zero Emission Transit Bus Technology Analysis along with development of the AC Transit Clean Corridors Plan and Zero Emissions Bus

The cost of transitioning the AC Transit fleet to zero-emissions is currently estimated to be \$1.1 billion for

purchase of zero emission buses and associated infrastructure improvements. This price tag does not include maintenance and operations, nor does it include the workforce development costs associated with this initiative to take the necessary steps to run a 100 percent zero emission fleet.

Celebrating 50 Years of Service



Sept. 11, 2022 marks BART's 50th anniversary serving the people of the Bay Area.

BART began service on September 11, 1972. This golden milestone is also at a time when they are making improvements to the customer experience.

BART is back to full service, and weekend service is better than before for most riders with more trains in service. All BART cars have virus-trapping MERV-14 air filters, and air in cars is replaced and filtered every 70 seconds. BART has a historically high number of safety staff on platforms and onboard trains, and crime is significantly down. Other improvements include mobile payment, station and parking lot lighting upgrades, new escalators unveiled, and the reopening of several underground restrooms.

Wipes

In an effort to address an urgent pollution problem that plagues public wastewater infrastructure, California has passed a law requiring all packaging for diaper wipes, cleaning wipes, cosmetic wipes, and other disposable wipes to prominently display the "Do Not Flush" symbol on packaging.

California's AB 818 was signed into law by Governor Newsom on last October 6, making California the fourth state to require "Do Not Flush" labeling on non-flushable wipes.



National Association Interpretation Sierra Pacific Region Award



National Association for Interpretation is presented to an NAI member who has worked for five or more years in the profession and whose current duties are at least 60 percent supervisory and administrative. They must demonstrate a mastery of interpretive technique, site or program and staff management, and a respected ability to pass these skills on to others.

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) defines interpretation as a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.

Ira Bletz - Master Interpretive Manager East Bay Regional Parks



For over the 35 years, Ira has been dedicated to the East Bay Regional Park District, Ira inspired curiosity in visitors as a Naturalist, encouraged young interpreters and naturalists as a Supervisor, and continues to energize staff and move the agency forward as an Interpretive Manager for the South/East Sector.

When thinking about what it means to excel as an interpretive manager, many think of Ira Bletz.

Reclamation District No. 830 (RD 830)

RD 830 is a 3,520-acre island. At one time the Island was used by Ironhouse Sanitary District as a means of disposal of the district's recycled water. The island located on the west by the San Joaquin River, on the north by the False River, on the northeast by Piper Slough, on the east by Taylor Slough, and on the south by Dutch Slough.

California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD), Awards of Distinction for EBRPD

Outstanding Board Member: Director Ayn Wieskamp. Requirements - any individual serving as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefitted their District.

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP), Distinguished Service Award: Director Ayn Wieskamp

Outstanding New Facility: Dumbarton Quarry Campground on the Bay.

CSDA On Demand Library

See What's New in the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) On-Demand Webinar Library!

Did you know there is a large selection of on-demand webinars available and ready to watch when it is convenient for you? Not only that, but they're FREE for CSDA Members! Whether you need to take some required training like Sexual Harassment Prevention or Ethics, or you'd simply like to update yourself on laws pertaining to special districts, you will be amazed at the variety of topics and issues that are covered in our on-demand library. And we're adding more every week!

Bike Stair Channels coming to BART

New bike stair channels are in the works for eight stations: 19th Street/Oakland, 12th Street/Oakland, Lake Merritt, Coliseum, Walnut Creek, Embarcadero, Civic Center, and 24th Street Mission. These channels will make it easy to roll your bike up and down stairs. New wayfinding signs will be installed at the stations to guide you to entrances and exits with the channels. 19th Street Station will be the first station to get the bike channels and we plan to do extensive user experience testing to ensure the design works for larger bikes before we move forward with the other stations.



Get Ready for the 2022 CSDA Annual Conference and Exhibitor Showcase!



The CSDA Annual Conference and Exhibitor Showcase is the one conference special district leaders can't afford to miss! It is the most densely packed educational and networking experience available to special districts. Come join the oasis in beautiful Palm Desert with other leaders from across the state to connect with industry suppliers, hear from the best in special district-specific topics with over 30 breakout session options, network with your peers, and more! Sign up now to save \$75 on registration!

Ironhouse Sanitary District Evaluates Highest and Best Uses for Jersey Island

The Ironhouse Sanitary District owns a 3600-acre delta island, Jersey Island. The District purchased this island in the early 1990s and, for decades, used the island for land application of treated wastewater. Over the years, the District developed agricultural operations on Jersey Island including a cattle operation with over 2500 head of cattle and growing hay and other crops on 450 acres.

In 2012, the District completed construction of a new, state of the art water recycling facility which utilizes advanced micro-filtration and UV disinfection processes. As a result of the new plant, the District obtained a permit to discharge highly treated water into the San Joaquin River and provide recycled water to residents and businesses. These improvements meant that land application of the treated water on Jersey Island was no longer needed.

As a reclaimed delta island, Jersey Island has 16 miles of levees that require ongoing continual maintenance. The cost of maintaining the levees averages around \$2M per year. Without the regulatory need to use the island for land application of treated water, the District embarked on identifying different uses that would offset the costs of maintaining it, reducing operational costs and finding potential new uses and revenues to best manage our rates to our customers.

Changing Operations:

The District decided to get out of the cattle business. In early 2022, the District entered into a 5-year lease agreement with a private cattle rancher, Auburn Ravine Ranch. This lease brings in an additional revenue of over \$800,000 per year! During 2021 and early 2022, the District sold all of our cattle strategically to get the highest value. Liquidation of our cattle inventory yielded nearly \$3M for the District's reserves, and significantly reduced operational costs.

New Use Evaluation:

In the long-term, the District partnered with a private firm, Montezuma Water, to look at the feasibility of developing innovative new uses for Jersey Island. Potential new uses include the possibility of recreation, conservation, energy production, commercial and even residential developments. Montezuma is currently evaluating regulatory, zoning and environmental requirements associated with these potential new uses.

RETIRED MEMBERSHIP to be considered at the September Meeting

Purpose:

STAY CONNECTED & INFORMED

- Continue to receive CCSDA Newsletter & Email List
- Resources available on CCSDA website
- Serve on any CCSDA committee or feedback team
- Continue to come to our meetings and events

REQUIREMENTS

- Retired from service, as a staff or board member, at a special district and have at least one year of previous service.
- Retired members shall not be affiliated with or serve as a consultant to any agency eligible for regular, associate or business affiliate membership in CCSDA.
- Retired members cannot be employed by a company that provides services or products to special districts.

Knowledge sharing doesn't have to retire when you do! Stay connected and give back to the community you love with a CCSDA retired membership.





REMEMBER TO
SEND US
YOUR
NEWS

**BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE
CONTRA COSTA SPECIAL DISTRICTS
ASSOCIATION**

Our next meeting will be July, 2022 with Alameda Chapter (It will be a picnic)

Join us at 9:30 AM for a meet and greet opportunity. The regular meeting begins at 10:00 AM Lunch will be served at noon.

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Our chapter web site:

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

HAVE A NEWS TIP?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.



It has been difficult at times to find news stories for our chapter newsletter be sure to send press releases and news stories to our editor!