



Contra Costa County Special District Association Meeting Minutes

1.23.2023	Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.	In order to comply with State and County Health Orders, this meeting was held via teleconference.
Call to Order / Breakout Session	<p>At 9:30 a.m., a Meet and Greet session was held via Zoom for an open discussion among Association Members.</p> <p>At 10:02 a.m., the meeting was called to order.</p>	
Minutes	Cecilia Goff, District Secretary, Ironhouse Sanitary District	
Link to Zoom Recording	1.23.2023 CCSDA Meeting Recording Link	
Attendees	Attendees signed-in via Zoom	
Welcome		
<p>Mr. Chad Davisson, CCSDA President, called the meeting to order and welcomed members. He explained that Mr. Stan Caldwell passed away. Mr. Caldwell was influential and extremely involved in the development of our local chapter and was a longtime Mt. View Sanitary District Board Member. He will be missed.</p> <p>The Association approved the November 21, 2022 CCSDA meeting minutes.</p>		
Guest Speaker – Presentation by Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia: Update on Activities for 2023		
<p>Mr. Davisson introduced Contra Cost County Supervisor John Gioia. Supervisor Gioia explained that he started on a special district Board before being elected as a County Supervisor in West County. He has served the County for 24 years and has been Chair of the Board six times.</p> <p>Supervisor Gioia explained that the County provides services to everyone and, as agents of the State, runs health and social service programs. Federal funding is received to run categorical programs. The County provides the criminal justice departments, animal services, libraries, head start preschool programs and serves as the municipal form of government for unincorporated areas.</p> <p>Supervisor Gioia explained that having a special district association like CCSDA is really important to provide information about district services and he encouraged special district</p>		

representatives to reach out to their local Supervisor for supportive services.

In November 2020, mid-pandemic, Contra Costa County passed its first ever general sales tax measure (Measure X) that brings in about \$110M a year. This allowed the County to reopen several fire stations throughout the County, fund increased vegetation management on public properties. The County is working on a program to assist private owners in vegetation control. With Measure X funds, the County is also providing an innovative program offering a 24/7 mental health crisis team that will provide behavioral health specialists who will respond within fifteen minutes. This program will be up and running in a year.

The County is also doing a major update to its General Plan that includes policies for local land use items, environmental justice, health, sustainability and economic development.

Supervisor Gioia explained that the County is now offering hybrid meetings and has found that this allows more public participation.

After the presentation, a question and answer session was held. Mr. Davisson thanked Supervisor Gioia for his presentation.

Guest Speaker: Presentation by Edric Kwan and Blair Aas: “Show Me the Money: Current Trends and Challenges for Increased Funding for California’s Special Districts”

Mr. Davisson welcomed Edric Kwan and Blair Aas, SCI Consulting Group, who provided an overview on the current trends and challenges for increased funding for California’s Special Districts.

Mr. Kwan explained that SCI Consulting Group was established in 1985 and is a recognized economic consulting firm for California public agencies. Services include Prop 218 ballot measures, financial consulting, surveys and feasibility studies and GIS.

Mr. Aas explained that agencies should review their fees lists and update regularly ensuring that that they are adjusted for inflation. He recommended that districts impose impact fees as they are valuable fee programs that will allow extended infrastructure. Growing trends regarding impact fees are new requirements for increased transparency, properly noticing changes to fee programs, determining fees and encouraging impact fees to be more favorable to affordable housing projects. He explained that these added elements will make the impact fee process more complicated and encouraged districts to be prepared.

Mr. Kwan explained that surveys conducted by SCI show that voters believe that tax

revenues will be used appropriately. He explained that affluent to disadvantaged cities are both as likely to support measures to improve their communities with the appropriate outreach, timing and effort to better understand the pulse of each community.

Mr. Aas explained that early last year the California Business Roundtable proposed a statewide initiative that limits state and local government's ability to establish taxes, assessments, fees and to modify or expand them. He explained that a voter initiative to establish a special tax currently only requires a majority vote and that some special interest groups are working to close the gap on this to require two-thirds vote.

After the presentation, a question and answer session was held. Mr. Davisson thanked Mr. Kwan and Mr. Aas for their presentation.

CCSDA 30th Anniversary Ad-Hoc Committee Update – Chad Davisson

Mr. Davisson explained that the CCSDA 30th anniversary committee is in the process of confirming a speaker. Invitations will be distributed digitally later this week to allow for electronic tracking and payment. Sponsorship requests are in progress. Questions were solicited and answered.

Approval of 2nd Quarter Treasurers Report – Bert Michalczyk

Mr. Bert Michalczyk, CCSDA Treasurer, provided the second quarter Treasurers Report to the Association. The insurance policy will need to be reinstated when the Association returns to in-person meetings. The Association approved the second quarter Treasurers Report.

Approval of Bylaw Updates on adding a new membership category and necessary clean up

Vice President Susan Morgan provided an overview of the Bylaws revisions and explained that an option for retired members to pay a membership fee of \$50 to still have an active role, in a non-voting, informational or advisory capacity is included. The proposed Bylaws were emailed to members in advance of the meeting. The Association voted to approve the Bylaws updates as presented.

Initiative to increase membership

Mr. Davisson explained that the Association is working on an initiative to increase membership of reclamation districts by focused outreach and updated brochure information. He suggested that the executive committee meet with trustees of the lesser represented districts to provide Association information.

LAFCo Update – Mike McGill

Mr. McGill, LAFCo Commissioner, explained that commissions ended for Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder and Richmond Mayor Tom Butt. Two new Commissioners were welcomed, El Cerrito Mayor Gabriel Quinto and San Ramon Councilmember Scott Perkins. With the sad passing of Mr. Caldwell, an alternate special district member will need to be elected. Formal notice will be distributed by email. The third round wastewater MSRMs will be released in March and includes thirteen districts and seven cities. LAFCo Executive Assistant Sherrie Weis is retiring at the end of the month and Clerk Analyst Anna Seithel was hired. A LAFCo directory update request will be distributed this week.

CSDA Update and Legislation in Progress – Colleen Hayley

Ms. Colleen Hayley, California Special Districts Association (CSDA), shared that Governor Newsom’s state budget proposal guards reserves in face of a \$22.5 billion shortfall. The California Business Roundtable Taxpayer Protection intends to place the Government Accountability Act on the ballot in 2024. Ms. Haley advised Association members to take a stance against it now and to educate the public with accurate information. She explained that the goal is to stop the initiative before it gets to the ballot. An overview of the January *Take Action Brief* was provided. An updated Brown Act training is available on the CSDA website. Interest in serving on CSDA committees was solicited.

Announcements and Member Comments

The Association discussed having hybrid and in-person meetings. The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District has tentatively offered to host in-person meetings provided that there are less than 30 attendees.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2023.