

Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

January 2020 Quarterly Newsletter

January 27, 2020 Annual Meeting

We will be back at the Central Sanitary District Hedquarters Multi purpose Room!

At the January 27, 2020 meeting (our annual business meeting) we will have the Election of Officers - President, Vice President and Member at Large.

We will be voting on possible date changes (bi-monthly meetings), chapter bylaws amendments, and conduct other annual chapter business. Come prepared to vote on this item.

For the January meeting we will meet back at the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District located at: 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA. (see map last page).

Governor Vetos Bills

October 13th marked the final day for Governor Gavin Newsom to sign or veto legislation passed by the Legislature in 2019. For the year, there were 3,033 bills introduced by the California State Legislature and reviewed by CSDA in 2019. CSDA actively tracked 787 of those bills. Of those, CSDA supported 67, opposed 63, and "watched" the remainder. Many of the bills signed into law will affect how special districts serve their communities in 2020 and beyond.

In his final action of the 2019 legislative season, the Governor vetoed a number of bills that would significantly increase costs outside of the state's regular budget process. In total, Governor Newsom vetoed bills this year costing \$1.2 billion, increasing to \$3 billion annually at full implementation. He also took action on a number of other bills.

Public Agency Email Retention Requirements Vetoed by Governor

Governor Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill 1184 by Assembly Member Todd Gloria (D-San Diego). If signed, the bill would have required public agencies to keep all emails sent and received by the agencies for at least two years before they could be deleted or destroyed.

CSDA led the opposition coalition efforts to stop the bill's passage and with the help of many of our members sending in veto request letters CSDA was successful in having the bill vetoed. In the Governor's veto message, he wrote that "[t]his bill does not strike the appropriate balance between the benefits of greater transparency through the public's access to public records, and the burdens of a dramatic increase in records-retention requirements, including associated personnel and data-management costs to taxpayers."

Save the Dates for 2020 Conferences!

Dates for the 2020 CSDA conferences have been set! Here are the 2020 dates for upcoming conferences:

April 19-22: SDLA (South), San Diego

May 19-20: Special Districts Legislative Days, Sacramento

June 28-30: General Manager Leadership Summit, Olympic Valley

August 24-27: CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase, Palm Desert

September 27-30: SDLA (North), South Lake Tahoe

October 26-28: Board Secretary/Clerk Conference, Anaheim

East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

Congratulations to the e East Contra Costa Fire Protection District wh received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

"This award is a testament to East Contra Costa Fire Protection District's commitment to open government," said, Fire Chief Brian Helmick. "The entire district staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight."

To receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

"I am ecstatic to hear that we have worked through the process, to acquire this certificate of excellence," said, President Brian Oftedal. "It is extremely important to me, that we are accessible, promote transparency and maintain public trust." The application process to obtain this certificate is not easy. There is an extensive list of requirements. "I am thrilled that we are now able to showcase East Contra Costa Fire Protection District's commitment to transparency."

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs. Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as water, wastewater treatment, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation,

mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

Our July meeting will be a joint meeting with Alameda County chapter of Special Districts.

Treasury Oversight Committee Apointee needed

On November 13, 2019, Robert Leete gave notice of his resignation from the Contra Costa Special Districts Association Alternate seat on the Treasury Oversight Committee effective immediately..

Contra Costa Special Districts Association will nominate an alternate to serve on the Treasury Oversight Committee for the four year term ending April 30, 2022.

Purpose

The Board of Supervisors established the Treasury Oversight Committee on January 1, 1996 with the purpose to:

- Review the county's investment policy,
- Regularly monitor the county investment pool's performance,
- Report on the pool's performance to the board of supervisors, and
- Ensure an annual audit is conducted to determine the County Treasurer's compliance with Government Code Section 27130-27137

For more information, and if interested in serving let CCSDA President Stan Caldwell know so we can appoint you at the January 2020 meeting.

Contra Costa Special Districts Association

**SEND US
YOUR
NEWS**

Our newsletter is always looking for news to share. Do you have anythingto share? If so please send to the newsletter editor so we can get it in our next newsletter.

California Special Districts Association 2020 Board President and Officers Elected



Santa Ynez Community Service District General Manager Jeff Hodge, SDA (left) has been elected as the incoming CSDA Board President for the 2020 term starting January 1, 2020. Congratulations to him and the rest of the 2020 California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Executive Committee: Vice President Ryan Clausnitzer, SDA, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District; Secretary Stan Caldwell, Mt. View Sanitary District; Treasurer Elaine Magner, Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District; and Past President Joel Bauer, SDA, (right) West Side Cemetery District.

Steve Welch is the New General Manager of Contra Costa Water District



The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Board of Directors unanimously approved Assistant General Manager Steve Welch to become the new General Manager. Welch is a Martinez native with over 30 years of experience in the water industry.

“CCWD has a strong workforce in place and the Board is confident that Steve will lead the team to many future successes,” said Board President Lisa M. Borba following the Board’s decision. “Steve’s experience, knowledge, and drive reflect priorities that the Board has set for serving our customers and making wise investments for the future.”

Currently, Welch oversees Engineering, Planning, Watershed & Lands and Operations & Maintenance. In this role, he leads approximately two-thirds of the employees at the District. Welch assumed his new role on December 2, 2019.

Throughout his career, Welch’s experience has focused on design, construction, operations and maintenance, and organizational management. Welch has a Bachelor and Master of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from U.C. Berkeley, and is a California registered Civil and Structural Engineer. He started work at CCWD as a Principal Engineer in 1997, became the Director of Engineering in 2001, and was promoted to his current position in 2007. Prior to CCWD, Welch worked at East Bay Municipal Utility District and in the private sector.

California Special Districts Association Membership

To find out more about CSDA
Membership contact CSDA
Member Services at (916)
442-7887 or toll free at (877)
924-2732 Visit www.csda.net
for more information

BARTFare Increase Update

A 5.4% inflation-based fare increase will take effect on January 1, 2020 as part of a program that has been in place since 2003 to raise fares every other year to keep up with the cost of inflation. For a short trip like Downtown Berkeley to 19th St./Oakland, the Clipper fare will increase by 10 cents, and a longer trip like Antioch to Montgomery will increase by 40 cents.

Hot Off the Press! CSDA’s 2020 Professional Development Catalog

Looking to attend some educational events this year? Browse the newly released Professional Development Catalog for all CSDA 2020 offerings! Inside you will find detailed information regarding our various conferences, workshops, and webinars. New webinar topics have been added for 2020 such as, How to Collect Unpaid Bills: New Restrictions on Discontinuing Water Service Under SB 998, Online ADA Compliance and Transparency: What You Need to Know, and Cybersecurity: Foundations Build The Future. You can secure your spot by using the registration form at the end, or register online for all 2020 offerings. Can’t wait to receive your copy in the mail? Check out the online version [HERE!](#)

Contra Costa LAFCO Commissioners win award

On October 30th, Contra Costa LAFCO Commissioners were named "Most Effective Commission" in California at the annual California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Conference.



Contra Costa LAFCO Commissioners were recognized for their diligence and leadership. Their endeavors to promote healthy and sustainable local agencies through analysis and assistance and intervene when needed to restructure or dissolve struggling agencies supports the goal of LAFCOs to promote efficient service delivery which is essential to the fiscal, economic and social wellbeing of Contra Costa County and California. Since 2010, Contra Costa LAFCO Commissioners have assisted three special districts to improve their operations and transparency, encouraged one district to revise its governance structure, reorganized one special district, and dissolved four special districts due to lack of or poor performance.

This is the latest of many State awards received by Contra Costa LAFCO. Other Contra Costa awards include 2016 Outstanding Commissioner - Don Tatzin, 2013 Outstanding LAFCO Professional - Lou Ann Texeira, 2013 Outstanding LAFCO Clerk - Kate Sibley, 2011 - Government Leadership Award - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, 2007 - Lifetime Achievement Award - John T. Knox, 2007 and several others from earlier years. Contra Costa LAFCO is a State regulatory commission responsible for encouraging the orderly formation of local government agencies, preserving agricultural and open space lands, and discouraging urban sprawl. LAFCO is governed by a seven-member commission comprised of two County Supervisors, two City Council Members, two Special District Board Members, and one Public Member, plus one alternate member in each category. CALAFCO is a statewide organization dedicated to assisting member LAFCOs and serves as a resource to the California Legislature and other government agencies and organizations.

Historical Society Project Update

At prior Contra Costa Special Districts Association meetings the membership voted to proceed with the project of -creating a curriculum-friendly history of the special districts in Contra Costa County.

The goal is to create a curriculum friendly history of the independent special districts that could ultimately be used by school teachers. Work with the Contra Costa County Historical Society which would produce a document of 2 to 3 pages per District (including maps) that would reflect the description and history of each District in Contra Costa County in a way that could best be used by a teacher to introduce the various districts to his or her students. It is expected that project will soon be completed. It will then be available on the chapter's website.

Must-Have Resources for Special District Board Members

Whether you are a new special district board member or a seasoned official, you'll be looking for the resources to help you best serve your community in the coming year.

California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is the only statewide association representing all types of special districts and serving more than 1,200 members. We are dedicated to the success of your district and your Board. In keeping with our mission, we offer:

Newly updated Special District Board Member Handbook is full of essential information for the effective and productive official.

Special District Board Member and Trustee Trainings allow officials to demonstrate their commitment to good governance.

And don't forget! If your district renewed CSDA membership by the January deadline, you'll have access to free online Ethics Training for a limited time!

Contact Member Services at 877.924.2732 or membership@csda.net for more information. For a complete calendar of educational offerings, visit csda.net. You can Login using your email address as your username. Call CSDA if you need assistance with your password.



**California Special
Districts Association**

Districts Stronger Together

What Should our Chapter Members Expect?

Members of a special district chapter expect benefits from their involvement with the chapter. When members feel appreciated and involved, they are likely to stay involved.

As members we expect to learn something new. If nothing else you'll learn more about our other member special districts and the things that affect them. We share ideas, and engage in educational opportunities whenever possible.

We provide the opportunity to connect with special district leaders, make valuable contacts, develop new relationships, and connect with other special districts.

Here are some things our members should expect:

Information that keeps them interested and involved, such as regular newsletters (email, or hard copies) or informal updates on activities, advocacy issues, and accomplishments. Members need to feel that they know more than the general public about what the organization is doing, and that they get information sooner.

❖ *Interesting Programs*

Our members expect us to deliver interesting and informative programs.

- To provide programs on issues important to member districts.
- Provide members details with the agenda and supporting materials so those who want more details can request them.
- The program committee is responsible for providing the speakers for our programs. They always welcome your ideas and suggestions.

❖ *Opportunities to network & learn*

- As a local network of special district leaders who come together to share ideas and to promote the efficient, economical, and responsive public services offered by the independent special districts of Contra Costa County
- We strive to act as a local forum of member districts for discussion and consideration of special district issues.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among independent special districts.
- Chapters have a responsibility to provide an in-depth informational program that engages them in chapter activities.

❖ *An effective system to mobilize for action*

E-mail notifications give our members as much notice as possible when advocacy or other member involvement is needed. It is an effective and economical way to deliver important updates, our agendas, reports, and our newsletter.

❖ *Evidence of appreciation*

Active members are like other volunteers and donors - they want to feel appreciated. This requires providing public recognition for members.

❖ *Fiscal Accountability*

Regular updates from the treasurer and the Executive Committee on chapter accounting and finances.

❖ *A voice in organizational decision making*

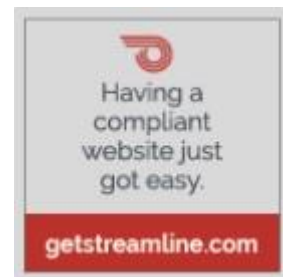
Our members have the right to meet and elect all members of the governing board of the organization and to set policies (Executive staff election is held every two years).

❖ *Regular renewal requests*

Your dues are the financial resources that enable us to operate.

Newsletter Editor Comments

Thank you to Al Miller, Susan Morgan, John Burgh, and Ed Duarte for proofreading, grammar, spelling, and other comments to help produce our newsletter.



STREAMLINE

Streamline Web is the only content management system designed specifically for special districts, with a meeting dashboard, agenda reminders, transparency guidelines, and an easy to use interface. Stay compliant with all existing and upcoming State and Federal Website requirements. Visit their website:

<https://www.getstreamline.com/>



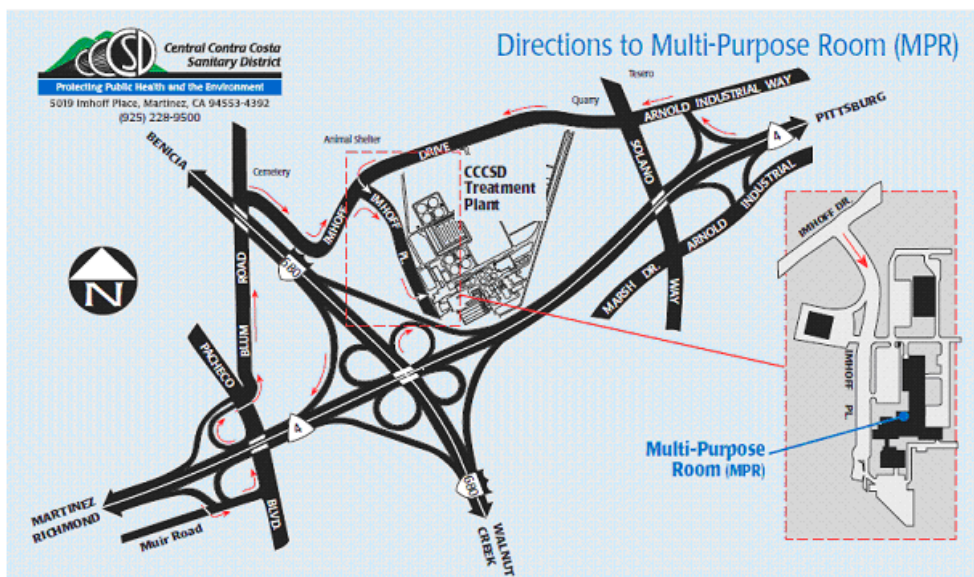
Please send your district news releases to stan_caldwell@comcast.net to keep us informed of all the exciting things your Special District is doing and to share your news with other districts by having it appear as an article in the next newsletter.

The January meeting will be our bi-annual elections of officers. We will also vote on expanding or meetings to bi-monthly. Bylaws changes will also be voted on. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Plan to come early there will be a meet and greet opportunity to network, with refreshments available 9:30 AM.

☞ Meeting begins at 10:00 AM

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



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

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

Our chapter web page is powered by Streamline. Streamline is the host and creator of the web page. We thank them and appreciate the services they provide our chapter.