



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

Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2022

Contra Costa Special Districts Association future meetings

The chapter meetings are typically the 3rd Monday of a month. Here are the following dates for 2022 meetings:

May 16, 2022
July (11 or 18) 2022 (Our annual joint meeting with Alameda County Special Districts Association)
September 19, 2022
November 21, 2022

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.

Other CSDA Upcoming events

Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase
August 22 -25, 2022 Desert Springs

Special District Leadership Academy Conference
September 18-21, 2022 Napa

Did you Know?

THE FREE WEBINARS FOR CSDA MEMBERS CONTINUE IN 2022. 2021 brought new benefits for CSDA Members including free live and on-demand webinars, and members are using it!



California Special Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

Contra Costa Special Districts Association Anniversary Logo



This is the logo the planning committee has chosen for our anniversary celebration in 2023!

Contra Costa Special Districts Chapter Leadership

Congratulations to Chad Davisson our new President, Susan Morgan our Vice President, Mike McGill and Dan Muelrath our new Director's at Large. Past President Stan Caldwell was asked by the Executive Committee to provide prior knowledge and experience as a part of their team. I look forward to continuing to be involved in any way I can. I will continue to write the Newsletter.

PHR & Park Awarded Special District Covid Relief Funds

In January 2022, the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District was awarded \$1.3 million from the State of California's Independent Special District COVID-19 Relief Fund. These relief funds will serve to address pandemic-related revenue losses, incremental expenses, and staff reductions.

"On behalf of the PHRec & Park Board of Directors and staff, we're extremely grateful for this financial support," said Michelle Lacy. "We appreciate Governor Newsom and our Legislature for recognizing the value special districts provide our local communities."

What is a Citizen's Academy?

A Citizen's Academy is an informational and/or instructional program designed to provide constituents of a district with the education needed for them to gain a strong working knowledge of the functions and operations of the district. Academies organized by local governments seek to inform residents broadly about their respective local agencies. They may focus more broadly on community leadership development. You are allowing them to get to know your staff and their functions, all while increasing your District's transparency

Districts Benefits:

When your constituents have a deep understanding of your operations, they form a greater appreciation for the services you provide. With that appreciation, they begin advocating for you and sharing their experience with others in the community.

Community Benefits:

By opening your doors to the community, you are providing them with a deeper understanding of the services you provide and the important role you play in the community. You are allowing them to get to know your staff and their functions. All while increasing your District's transparency.

Tips for starting a Citizen's Academy at your district:

Consider funding and possible grants.
Create a plan outline - decide how many sessions to hold including the schedule and timing of each session, select your topics and presenters, consider hosting a facility tour, plan hands on activities.

Create a marketing plan - Social Media, Website, Newsletters

Two great examples can be found at Central San and the Dublin San Ramon Services District web sites:

<https://www.centrialsan.org/education>

<https://www.drsrd.com/outreach/citizens-water-academy>

East Bay Regional Parks District Launches New Website

East Bay Regional Parks District recently launched a new District website with improved design, navigation, and accessibility. With the new tools, you can now search for parks and activities by zip code; use filters to narrow down your search results; and use the translator tool to view content in several languages. Visit and peruse www.ebparks.org They would welcome your feedback and suggestions.



BART has set an ambitious goal to get at least half of its power from renewable sources by 2025 but the Bay Area likely won't have to wait that long. BART Energy Manager Paul Bostrom who is spearheading the District's clean power efforts. BART is well known for its impact on the Bay Area environment by taking thousands of cars off the roadways.

The District is already greenhouse gas emission free. But now the focus is on increasing BART's reliance on wind, solar, and hydroelectric power sources. Bostrom recently visited the Sky River Wind Farm, one of the District's newest sources of energy. Innovative projects like the Sky River Wind Farm are expected to help BART increase its reliance on renewable energy from 5% to as much as 50% over the next year.

DSRSD Board Adopts Voting Divisions Map

The "Ruby" map was the final plan adopted by the Board in December 2021.



Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) began transitioning from an at-large election system to an area-based election system in 2019. Previously, all five members of the Board were elected by constituents from the District's entire service area. With area-based elections, DSRSD is divided into five separate election areas referred to as "divisions," and voters residing in each individual area elect one representative to the Board.

The District is required to redraw election division boundaries to reflect new data from the 2020 Census.

At the December meeting, the Board selected the "Ruby" plan map. Some factors under consideration for election divisions were having nearly equal population, communities of interest (such as neighborhoods or school district boundaries), natural and manmade geographical features, and contiguity.

Welcome Town of Discovery Bay's new Manager Dina Breitstein



Dina became the new General Manager for the Town of Discovery Bay in October 2021.

She has been with the District for 10 years and started her career at Discovery Bay as the Finance Manager, then was promoted to the Assistant General Manager.

"I work and live in the District and look forward to continuing to serve my community."

2022 CSDA Annual Awards Timeline

On Tuesday, January 25: CSDA eNews announcement - award nominations open

On Friday, April 29: CSDA creates and presents awards evaluation tool to Professional Development Director and CEO.

Monday, May 2 will be the Award nomination application deadline. May 3 - 13: Vanessa compiles electronic packet of nominations Monday, May 16: Professional Development Committee packet goes out. Friday, June 3: Professional Development Committee Meeting and Awards Selection

CSDA Submit Award Nominations Deadline: May 2, 2022

The CSDA Annual Awards showcase our members' most valuable contributions to the communities they serve. This year make sure your district is among those being honored. The winners will be celebrated at the CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase August 22-25, 2022 in Palm Desert.

The award categories are:

- Board Member of the Year
- General Manager of the Year
- Staff Member of the Year
- Ralph Heim Exceptional Outreach & Advocacy
- William Hollingsworth Award of Excellence
- Chapter of the Year
- Innovative Program/Project of the Year (Large and Small District categories)
- Exceptional Public Outreach & Advocacy (Large and Small District categories)
- Excellence in Technology

Email Vanessa Gonzales at awards@csda.net. CSDA looks forward to recognizing your efforts

Consider Applying for Institute of Local Government Beacon Award Program

Ilg will present Beacon Awards again at the CSDA Annual Conference.



Consider applying for awards. Leadership & Innovation Awards Awards Application <https://www.cailg.org/webform/leadershipinnovation-awards>

Stan Caldwell Update

It has been a great pleasure to serve as CCSDA president these past years. It was hard to fill the role of Bette Boatman, thankfully she was a good mentor and example of the leadership that was needed for me to serve as president. Our chapter has accomplished much while I was president, we became a 501 (c) 6 nonprofit, developed and deployed the chapter webpage, first at the CSDA website and when chapters could utilize Streamline, we were the first chapter to do so!

I thank you for the confidence you all had in me. It has become time to embrace and develop new chapter leadership, I am confident Chad will be an excellent President. I will be still involved as the Executive Committee has asked me to provide my prior knowledge and experience as a part of their team.

As many of you may know my declining health has made it more difficult to be involved with the activities that I have been able to in the past, in 2021 I resigned from the Special District Leadership Foundation board and the Institute for Local Government boards of directors.

For the past 5 years I served on the tour committee for the Martinez Senior Center and also gave that up. This year and last year, I had to give up being a client Facilitator/greeter for AARP Tax Aide, I just can't trust how I will feel from day to day to commit.

In June of 2021 I had a cornea transplant which my doctor said I should not do any of my woodworking hobby to avoid possible sawdust getting in my eye. So, I have also given that up temporarily, hoping that I can return to woodworking this spring. I am still active, when possible, with the Diablo Woodworks Club.

It was quite devastating to break my lower back in September and I am still recovering from that. I have been reinstated to the National Transplant list for both a Liver and Kidney, I am hopeful that this can occur sometime this year.

Who are you connecting with? CSDA News

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is a 501(c)(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.

Take advantage of these targeted opportunities to network with special district leaders. Specialized training enables you to tailor your message and product to the most appropriate audience. Smaller conference sizes encourage one-on-one networking in unique settings.

All specialized conference sponsorships include: your logo on event website, pre-event publicity in the weekly CSDA eNews, ability to donate a prize to the raffle, tabletop display area for your promotional items, one conference registration including meals, your logo on event signage, special thank you from the stage, networking at two breakfast events, networking at evening reception(s), and post conference attendee list (electronic copy).

2022 Trial Membership Program

CSDA is now actively promoting the Trial Membership Program. Sign-ups will be taken through March 31 and program benefits will be available to participants from April 1 through June 30. Historically, CSDA has seen about 50% of the trial participants transition into dues paying members.

FREE 90-day trial membership for your special district!
There's a reason why more than 1,300 special districts and other local agencies belong to CSDA. For over 50 years we have provided our members with strong legislative representation, high quality educational programs, and a host of cost-effective services and products designed for special districts. Now your district can experience membership in CSDA...FREE! ***Special bonus: Join CSDA between June 1 - August 31, 2022 to get 20% off your first-year dues!***

CSDA launched a couple of new member benefits in 2021 that have extended to 2022. Starting in 2021 ALL webinars both live and on-demand became FREE Also, the CSDA Administrative Salary & Benefits Survey is FREE to members!

East Bay Regional Parks 2022 Board Officers Named



Colin Coffey of Hercules will serve as president; Beverly Lane of Danville will serve as vice president; Dennis Waespi of Castro Valley will serve as treasurer; and Elizabeth Echols of Berkeley will serve as secretary. The additional Board members are Ayn Wieskamp of Livermore, Ellen Corbett of San Leandro, and Dee Rosario of Oakland.

Pay-What-You-Can (PWYC) Membership Promotion Still Available

CSDA is continuing the PWYC promotion for small districts with annual budgets of \$250k or less to join CSDA at a price they choose. There is still a lot of opportunity out there (non-members in this category), so if you have a relationship with any in our area, please connect with them or introduce the concept and a CSDA staff member can take it from there! More information and resources on this promotion can be found here: <https://www.csdanet/pwyc>

FEBRUARY 9, 2022 CONTRA COSTA LAFCO

At this meeting LAFCO selected the new 2022 Chair and Vice Chair, Rob Schroeder (city member) was elected chair, and Federal Glover (County member) vice chair. A resolution was passed reconning outgoing chair Igor Skaredoff (special districts) for his service as chair in 2021.



Rob Schroeder



Federal Glover

Ironhouse Sanitary District wins several prestigious awards!

Ironhouse has won awards of excellence for Plant of the Year and Community Engagement.

The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) works to enhance the education and effectiveness of California's wastewater professionals through training and certification, dissemination of technical information, and promotion of sound policies to benefit society through protection and enhancement of the water environment. CWEA's awards program seeks to recognize outstanding achievements within the wastewater field, improve the professional status of all personnel working in the wastewater industry and related fields and stimulate public awareness of the importance of wastewater treatment to public health and the water environment.

The "Plant of the Year" award recognizes the district's accomplishments in compliance, innovative practices, cost-effectiveness, and superior plant performance. This is not the first time the District has received this honor. Ironhouse was awarded the San Francisco Bay Section top award in 2016, 2017, and 2019. The District was also awarded the 2017 CWEA California State award for "Plant of the Year."

This year CWEA-SFBS also awarded Ironhouse the "Community Engagement and Outreach: Project of the Year" for the District's Strategic Plan development. The Strategic Plan nomination provided information on the procedure Ironhouse Sanitary District's Board of Directors and staff used in putting together its five-year plan.

Welcome New Board Director Melody LaBella



Mt. View Sanitary District welcomes Melody LaBella to the Board of Directors.

Melody LaBella is a professional engineer with over 20 years of public agency wastewater experience that has focused on preventing pollution, implementing sustainable practices and helping shape and develop regulations, legislation, and policies in support of the wastewater industry. Mt. View Sanitary District looks forward to her guidance and support in the District's mission.

Update on Los Medanos Community Healthcare District

The California Supreme Court denied an appeal by the Los Medanos Community Healthcare District which resulted in the dissolution of the District effective March 9th. The court decision does not affect the operation of the Pittsburg Health Center, which is operated by the Contra Costa County Health Services department and remains open with no changes to regular, ongoing services for patient care. The California Supreme Court denied the Los Medanos Community Healthcare District's petition requesting review of the Court of Appeal's decision in Los Medanos Community Healthcare District v. Contra Costa LAFCO, and Contra Costa County. In December 2021, the Court of Appeal found in favor of the County and LAFCO, ruling that an election is not required to dissolve the healthcare district because the district did not obtain enough valid signatures to trigger an election. With the Supreme Court's decision, the dissolution of the district was finalized when LAFCO recorded the certificate of completion.

LAFCo approved the annexation of ECCFPD to CCCFPD and dissolving ECCFPD

On March 9th LAFCo approved the annexation of East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCFPD) and dissolved the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District. Annexation Will Provide Improved Fire and Emergency Response Throughout the County, Particularly in East Contra Costa County

CSDA Announces New and Expanded Partnership with Streamline for Special District Websites and Compliance

The California Special Districts Association and Streamline have renewed and expanded their endorsed affiliate agreement, bringing new technologies to special districts in California with significant negotiated discounts and prices exclusively for CSDA members.

The digital landscape for special districts has changed dramatically over the past few years. With new laws mandating everything from ADA compliance (AB 434) to public transparency (SB 929), they have had to up their digital game within lean budgets.

More than 20% of special districts in California are already using Streamline, with the number growing each year. It is the only dedicated web platform for special districts.

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New ADA Tools to Protect Districts Are Now Included

The new partnership includes several extraordinary benefits for CSDA members. Faced with increasing pressure to be ADA compliant, they'll get free access to a new accessibility scanning tool through Streamline to scan their website and publish a report on the new compliance page. This first-of-its-kind integrated tool takes care of publishing a website accessibility plan, compliance policy, requests for accommodation, annual platform testing by users with various disabilities and monthly sitewide scans with public remediation reports.

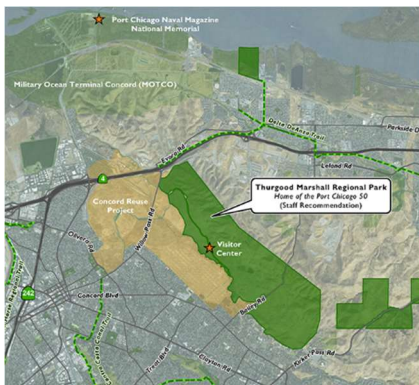
"We've never seen a tool this comprehensive and perfectly fitted to the needs of our members," said CSDA Membership Services Director Cassandra Strawn. "Now, districts can easily show their communities that they are aware of, and complying with, ADA on their websites."

East Bay Regional Parks News



Creating a World Class Regional Park on a Former Military Base

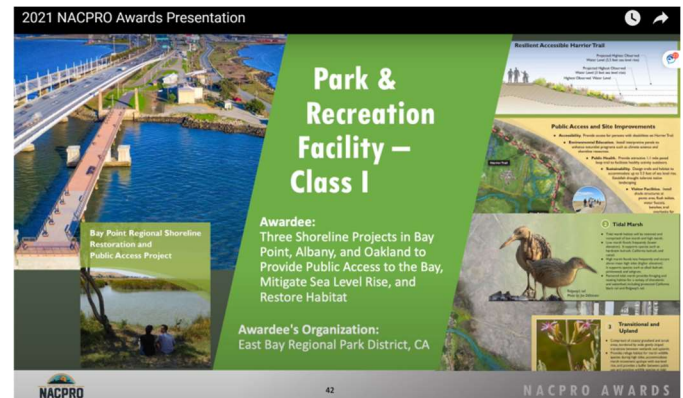
The future Regional Park is in the Los Medanos Hills between Concord and Pittsburg. The 2,500-acre site, along with undeveloped land along this border, forms a greenbelt between the municipalities. The Regional Park site is divided into two sections north and south of Bailey Road.



PARK DISTRICT RECEIVES NACPRO FACILITY AWARD

The Park District is 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.



Tilden Park Golf Course Turns 85

85 years ago, Tilden Park Golf Course in Tilden Regional Park opened to the public with much fanfare and excitement. The course was built during the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), that included Civilian Conservation Corps' (CCC) Company 2940-C, a segregated group of 182 young African Americans from California sent to the East Bay to construct park roads and picnic grounds, park beautification, water-shed protection, and fire hazard reduction. From 1933 to 1942, the WPA and CCC were key parts of the country's recovery from mass unemployment, providing labor for infrastructure projects throughout the country.

The golf course was first envisioned in the 1910s by Roy Butler, an Oakland businessman and former member of the UC Berkeley golf team. The vision became a reality when the East Bay Regional Park District was formed and received national assistance for a public course.



Did you know that the East bay Regional Park District is the largest regional park agency in the nation and has 85 years of preserving land for habitat and outdoor recreation in the East Bay?



California Special
Districts Association
CSDA
Districts Stronger Together

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 District chapters, they host the website and do not charge chapters for this service! Thank You Streamline.

The web site committee has been busy trying to make the web site more user friendly, please take a look at make any suggestions you think may provide improvement. We already made enhancements to for use with a smart phone or tablet, added some content, deleted some content.



Email newsletters, once thought of as low-tech and unfashionable, are proving increasingly valuable to build strong direct relationships with audiences.

Inspiration can't be turned on like a lightbulb. So that is why we ask you to send us your press releases and help us by providing articles for the newsletter.

Notice From Colleen Haley

Colleen Haley will be on maternity leave mid-April through mid-August. During her absence, fellow Public Affairs Field Coordinators around the state will be presenting at Chapter meetings in order to ensure members still receive timely CSDA updates. Colleague Dane Wadle will be coordinating the Chapter presentations, Dane's email is DaneW@csda.net

BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE CONTRA COSTA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

Our next meeting will be May 16, 2022

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

Chapter contacts

Chad Davisson - President

Email: davisson@isd.us.com

Susan Morgan - Vice President

Email: smorgan@equilytics.com

Mike McGill - Director at Large

mcgill1951@yahoo.com

Dan Muelrath - Director at Large

draelrath@diablowater.org

Stan Caldwell - Newsletter Editor (past

President) Email: stan_caldwell@comcast.net

Bert Michalczyk - Treasurer

Cecilia Goff Chapter Administrative Services

Email: goff@isd.us.com

Administrative Services

Contra Costa Special Districts Association

C/o Ironhouse Sanitary District

450 Walnut Meadows Drive

Oakley, CA 94561

Colleen Haley CSDA Public Affairs Field

Coordinator Bay Area Network

Email: colleenh@csda.net

Cell Phone: (530).902.3932

California Special Districts Association

1112 "I" Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone 877.924.2732