



Contra Costa County Special District Association Meeting Minutes

9.20.2021	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 breakout session was held via Zoom for a focused discussion about starting in-person meetings, beginning with the November 2021 meeting.</p> <p>At 10:00 a.m., the meeting was called to order.</p>	
Minutes	Cecilia Goff, District Secretary, Ironhouse Sanitary District	
Link to Zoom Recording	9.20.2021 CCSDA Meeting Recording Link	
Attendees	Attendees Signed-In Via Zoom	
Welcome		
<p>Mr. Stan Caldwell, CCSDA President, welcomed members.</p> <p>The Association approved the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 17, 2021 Minutes and the July 12, 2021 joint meeting minutes. <p>Ms. Morgan provided a summary of the breakout session discussion regarding resuming in-person meetings as early as the November 21, 2021 meeting. Association members generally prefer teleconference meetings and most are not comfortable with indoor meetings. County Mask requirements are still in place. Most agencies are still teleconferencing into meetings and planning to do so going forward. Recent Brown Act changes will allow remote meetings through 2022, provided that agencies pass a resolution to adopt AB361 as long as the following are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide declared emergency (by the Governor) • Periodic finding that in-person meetings presents risks • N-29-20 – every 30 days, finding must be made 		
<p>Guest Speaker - Brian Helmick, Fire Chief, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District - Presentation on Consolidation with Contra Costa Fire</p>		

Brian Helmick, Fire Chief, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD), was welcomed by the Association. Chief Helmick began his presentation by explaining the historical challenges ECCFPD experienced. The Fire District was a volunteer organization from 1924 – 2002 and in 2002, the ECCFPD was created out of several smaller entities, with an appointed Board. In 2018, the District changed to an elected board.

Chief Helmick explained that the ECCFPD service area covers 249 square miles and 149,000 people, utilizing just three fire stations, which is inadequate to support the level of service needed. Six fire stations minimum are necessary for current sustainability and an additional three more as growth continues. Proposition 218, established in 1978, determined the 1% cap on funding based on the costs of the volunteer fire district back then. Any higher cost needs required a tax measure to be adopted by the residents. Because of this, ECCFPD is substantially underfunded and receives an average of 7% of the ad valorem tax revenue, whereas most fire agencies receive an average of 14% - 28%.

Chief Helmick discussed actions taken to address challenges and explained that additional revenue measures were established, including Impact Fees and Community Facility Districts (CFD). Increases in staff pay of 35%-40% were implemented to halt the massive exodus of particularly experienced employees. Chief Helmick explained that without senior employees with proper qualifications, such as, being able to drive the fire truck, stations would have to be closed. Errors found in the CCERA formula saved \$9M in pension liabilities and \$1.3M-\$1.5M per year going forward. Measure X funds were implemented to address existing service level deficits.

Chief Helmick explained that next steps for ECCFPD are to staff station #55 in March of 2022. Stations #51 and 54 will be staffed next. A feasibility study for a Joint Training Facility with Ironhouse Sanitary District is in progress. The Consolidation with Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ConFire) is in Phase II and intent to annex into ConFire has been submitted and is complete. Phase III, wherein LAFCO will consider the annexation is expected to occur from October 2021 – April 2022. Phase IV will consist of the completion of property transfer and District wind-down from May 2022 – October 2022. The ECCFPD Board will be dissolved after all is completed.

The consolidation with ConFire will eliminate three station deficits over the next five to six years. Measure X will provide funds for the sixth station to open. All ECCFPD personnel will be absorbed into ConFire and no layoffs are expected.

Questions were solicited and answered. The Association thanked Chief Helmick for his presentation.

Accept CCSDA Fiscal Audit Committee Report for Fiscal Year Ending 2021 – Bert Michalczyk

Bert Michalczyk, CCSDA Treasurer, presented the Audit Committee Report to the Association and the report was accepted.

Discussion of Proposed Membership Dues Increase – Stan Caldwell

The Executive Committee proposed increasing dues from \$100 per member to ~\$150 per member. The proposal will be formalized and presented at the November meeting for formal action. Mr. Mike McGill requested that the Treasurer provide a budget with and without the increase.

Executive Committee Member Elections

The Executive Committee proposed to expand its members to include a second Member-at Large. This will require an amendment to the Bylaws, which will be presented at the next meeting for formal action.

The executive Committee also proposed the formation of a Nominating Committee. Mr. Mike McGill and Mr. Igor Skaredoff will form the Nominating Committee. Others were invited to join. Members wishing to run for Executive Committee officers (President, Vice-President, and Members-at-Large (2)) should contact the Nominating Committee with their interest. The candidate slate will be announced at the November meeting.

The association will nominate one representative for the Special Districts Oversight Board (for Redevelopment) and one alternate. Interested candidates should contact the Nominating Committee.

LAFCo Update – Mike McGill

Mr. McGill provided a brief update on LAFCo. He explained that after the consolidation, ECCFPD would no longer be an independent district, and no longer an association member. ConFire could join as a Dependent District.

Mr. Skaredoff read a proclamation that LAFCo provided to Stan Caldwell for his selection by CSDA to receive the William Hollingsworth Award of Excellence.

CSDA Update and Legislation in Progress – Colleen Haley

Ms. Colleen Haley, California Special Districts Association (CSDA) legislative representative, explained that over 500 people attended the Annual CSDA Conference. Mr. Ryan Clausnitzer is the CSDA board president. She encouraged Districts to apply for COVID relief funds. Funds are available and most districts should qualify to receive some reimbursements. Funds are expected to be distributed early to mid-January 2022. AB361 was signed last Thursday, changing the Brown Act to allow remote meetings if in a state declared emergency and the district passes a resolution. The resolution must be passed every 30 days. CSDA has sample resolutions available. The Governor will clarify requirements today.

Announcements and Member Comments

Ms. Morgan announced that CCSDA will continue to hold teleconference meetings for now, and will reevaluate until mandates and health issues are improved.

Colin Coffey, EBRPD, announced that an Open House at Roddy Ranch Golf Course, Antioch, will be held on Saturday, September 25th, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., to showcase the first phase of the future Deer Valley Regional Park.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.