



Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

July 2021 Quarterly Newsletter

Contra Costa Special Districts Association future meetings

July 12, 2021 Annual joint meeting with Alameda Special Districts

September 20, 2021
November 15, 2021
January 24, 2022

Corona Virus Challenges

This past year has brought unprecedented challenges to special districts, especially for those who were struggling before the coronavirus pandemic began. But today, even with the hopes brought by the vaccines, the situation for far too many districts remains very challenging.

Much has been written about the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the shutdowns it has caused, and the effects on state and local government budgets and revenues. Special districts are government entities that are uniquely vulnerable but have not received the same level of attention. These include parks, fire, sanitary, water, entities responsible for operating, and are reliant on revenues from, property taxes and fees have been severely affected by the pandemic.

The pandemic's impact on how special districts deliver services were just as sweeping—and likely just as permanent. Districts moved everything from public meetings, to client intake processes, to recreational programs onto digital platforms.

In many cases, these new digital offerings didn't just respond to the need for social distancing, they sometimes increased citizen engagement. District leaders often saw greater attendance at public board meetings, community planning sessions, rate increases proposals, and other

board business, the enthusiastic reception means once digital services are turned on, it's unlikely they'll be turned off.

30th Anniversary -Ad Hoc Committee

Based on input during the Breakout session, the following people have been invited to form the initial 30th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee:

- O Chad Davisson - ISD and RD830
- O John Burgh - CCWD
- O Igor Skaredoff - CCRC
- O Angela Lowrey - ISD
- O Mike McGill - Central San
- O Emily Barnett - Central San
- O Colleen Haley - CSDA

Anyone else wishing to join the Ad Hoc Committee should send email to CCSDA@isd.us.com



Contra Costa Special
Districts
Association

1993 - 2023

- Remember to Save The Date -

Plan to attend, next year, in person, the
Special Districts Legislative Days, May
17 - 18, 2022 in Sacramento.

Legislative Session

It's a new year, a new legislative session, and the same COVID-19 with many of the top issues of 2020 back on the agenda, including wildfires, climate, housing, and homelessness just to name a few. In anticipation of the work ahead, legislative leaders established several new committees, including the Joint Committee on Emergency Management.

On January 8, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled his 2021-22 State Budget Proposal outlining his funding priorities for the year and setting in motion the Legislature's budget process.

CSDA will update members via Advocacy News as details emerge and as the association continues to represent special districts and the communities they serve.

East Bay Regional Parks District

The Park District Receives Three Awards of Distinction from the California Park & Recreation Society. Despite the many challenges we faced in 2020, the Park District persevered and was recognized by the California Park & Recreation Society for some of last year's many achievements. Congratulations to the entire Park District staff for their accomplishments in 2020!

✦ Excellence in Design - Park Planning: The Park District received this award for three shoreline projects in Bay Point, Albany, and Oakland to provide public access to the bay, mitigate sea level rise, and restore habitat.

✦ Excellence in Marketing & Communications - Marketing Campaign - COVID-19 Communications Campaign

✦ Excellence in Marketing & Communications - Digital Media (Web/social media) - #LoveEBRPD Social Media Campaign.

The Public Affairs Division received two awards in this award category, which recognizes excellence in communications that promotes the parks, facilities, recreation, or leisure services programs, and demonstrates an increased level of public awareness.



No District Budget Limits for Education Scholarships



Need help paying for CSDA workshops, webinars, conferences or even a district website? The Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) is committed to helping special districts obtain current and relevant continuing education and increasing transparency among California's special districts. To that end, SDLF is offering \$60,000 in scholarship funds for special districts, directors/trustees, and special district staff for 2021.

To assist districts during the financial challenges of the current pandemic - there is no district budget limit for education scholarships. The budget limit for website scholarships has been raised to \$2 million.

Visit: <https://www.sdlf.org/home> for details and apply online today!

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) welcomed Steve McDonald as its new Director of Operations on January 11, 2021



McDonald brings over 30 years of environmental engineering experience and is a licensed professional civil and mechanical engineer in six states.

As Director of Operations, he will oversee operations and maintenance for Central San's collection system and its regional wastewater treatment plant in Martinez.



Meet Martin Rauch



Martin serves as a public member for the Special Districts Leadership Foundation. I have known Robert and Martin for years and can highly recommend them and the services they perform for special districts.

Martin Rauch, is President of Rauch Communication Consultants, in charge of all outreach and strategic planning activities. He has 20 years' experience working with dozens of public agencies. Rauch has served as a speaker and seminar leader for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). He is a regular faculty member of the Special District Leadership Academy, and has been invited as a speaker to many other statewide associations.

The Rauch Communications team offers over 65 years of direct experience with special districts, strategic planning and public engagement. Exceptional Customer Service. We focus on making every customer happy. A long term satisfied customer is far more important to us than a quick finish or extra profit.

We Know Special Districts. We focus exclusively on special districts and understand special district governance, finance, operations, community relations, and the many issues faced by them.

Wide Ranging Experience. We have worked with over 220 local governments and a number of private companies and non-profits in and around California: water, sanitary, fire, vector control, harbor, Park & Rec., and many others.

Update and Modernize Web/Online Presence. Do you need help building, updating, improving, adding new features, functionality or content to your website? Get-To-The-Point Approach. We have refined our approach to get maximum results quickly. We know you are busy, and we make every minute count.

Contact information: Phone 408/374-0977

Email: info@rauchcc.com Web: www.rauchcc.com

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

Did you know there are over 300 species of invasive plants that threaten California's native flora? Contra Costa county's varied ecosystems contain a wealth of botanical diversity, but aggressive invasive plants such as Armenian blackberry, star thistle, and Arundo threaten to take over these native plant communities. The Ecostewards work to keep these non-native plant populations at bay by using a variety of maintenance methods. Visit their website: <https://www.ccrdc.org/>

The district mission statement - Our Mission at the CCRCD is to facilitate conservation and stewardship of the natural resources of Contra Costa County.

Celebrating Drinking Water Week

Contra Costa Water District celebrated Drinking Water Week, from May 2 - 8, to recognize the vital role tap water plays in daily life, the infrastructure that is required to carry it to and from homes and businesses, and the important and often unnoticed work of water professionals. CCWD's water system plays a critical part in the community's health, hygiene, and hydration. CCWD employees keep your water flowing 24/7 so it's there when you need it!



Drinking Water Week
May 2-8, 2021

Special Districts Are Special

For over 100 years, local service agencies known as special districts have kept the lights on, kept the water flowing and provided access to a multitude of services that enhance our communities.

California's special districts provide vital services like water and energy, fire protection and public safety, treatment of waste water, garbage removal, and much more. They safeguard our communities, they work to keep our families healthy, and they help our state thrive.



Ironhouse Sanitary District opened its Recycled Water Fill Station

While most of California is experiencing mild drought conditions, State officials have reported that Contra Costa County is experiencing severe drought conditions. To help residents reduce the water use in gardens, landscaping, and lawns, Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD) has decided to open its Residential Recycled Water Fill Station early this year. The Fill Station is now open.

DSRSD's Levi Fuller, who retired on June 8, made a mark on the industry

Dublin San Ramon Services District's (DSRSD) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Superintendent Levi Fuller presented how the district manages biosolids (land application) on May 27 as part of a national training webinar on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Approximately 800 people from around the country participated in the webinar, which has the recording available online: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3912379446242348816>

Levi retired from DSRSD on June 8, 2021—just over 21 years after joining the District in January 2000. With a background in desalination on an aircraft carrier while in the US Navy, Levi worked for the City of Pinole's wastewater treatment plant as plant supervisor before joining DSRSD.

While he managed wastewater and recycled water treatment at DSRSD's Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, Levi's favorite project was encouraging others to join the wastewater industry. He served on the Executive Committee for the Bay Area Consortium for Water and Wastewater Education (BACWWE) and was a regular instructor for the college-level Wastewater Treatment I course. He estimates about 75% of the wastewater treatment plants in the Bay Area have one of his former students on staff.



Levi Fuller, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor for Dublin San Ramon Services District.

"It's a neat feeling to have made that contribution to the industry," Levi said.

Levi also served as Chair for the Staff Preparedness Committee for Baywork (a consortium of utilities working to ensure a reliable workforce), has served on the Operations & Maintenance Committee for BACWA (Bay Area Clean Water Agencies), and has been a member of the California Water Environment Association, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). In 2019, Levi spoke at a WEF conference and at a statewide Association of California Water Agencies conference to promote recruitment of more underrepresented populations to the field.

Levi was recently quoted in a June 2 USA Today article about infrastructure jobs, saying, "Despite the fact that people have water in their house and flush the toilet every day, not very many people think about water or wastewater as a career. We have to market these jobs and make sure high school kids who are smart consider it."

Thank You Membership



Your President Stan Caldwell thanks you for your gift of flowers. I am on the UCSF liver and kidney transplant list. Some days I do fine and others I have difficulty with. Sorry I missed the last two meetings. Your gift of flowers did much to cheer me up. Thank you.

On June 17th I had a cornea transplant on my left eye, not sure how long the recovery will be.

What a difference a year makes! The past 12 months have been a whirlwind for all of us. Looking back, I feel immense pride when I think of the commitment and the resolve of our local government leaders during these trying times.

Today is a day to relax, reflect, and recharge for the coming year. Spend your day with the people you love the most, filling every moment with laughter if possible. I hope the coming year is full of health and happiness for you and your family!

How To Spot a Fake Email Message?

Fraudulent email messages designed to cheat, steal, and defraud the recipient out of their credentials, money and sensitive identification continue to plague computer users throughout the United States and world!

Thieves leverage both nationally recognized brands, as well as, regional and local brands to achieve the same goal, steal your money! The criminals use these brands in phishing schemes to target users.

What is a phishing scheme? We see it as a fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from a reputable company, in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

Once hackers have information like a username and password, for example, they will use it to further the spread of their scams and steal from you. In the worst cases they will clean out financial accounts, steal sensitive photos, or rob the victim of crypto currency. While these types of crimes are quick and painful, there are lingering impacts to your life because the hackers now have access to the restricted part of your life and often trade or sell your information on the dark web, to other hackers.

In other examples you might get an unexpected invoice

It happens to all of us, we receive an email from trusted brands like Amazon, USPS, FedEx, Norton anti-virus, Godaddy, and Microsoft, only these are not the actual senders of the email. The invoices are totally fraudulent. They can even include toll free numbers that lead to overseas call centers that will take a payment from you for the fake invoice.

How to quickly spot a fake

If you know where to look, the fake emails are easy to spot. Most often in the header of the email, where the "from name" is located, an email address will NOT match the supposed company sending the message. Read that Again! The "from name" email address will NOT match the supposed company sending the message. Often you will see a name in the "from name" that is close to a real company and an email address that is completely inaccurate.

The extension will be from a free email hosting account like @gmail.com, @outlook.com, @hotmail.com, or sometimes it will be from a random domain that has been compromised, something like 'xyzlook.org'. That is your signal to immediately report as spam and delete the message.

DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS IN THE EMAIL or call the number. The email can infect your computer or cost you money. At the very least it can notify the hackers that you are a person who will engage with their scam attempts and they will triple down on their efforts.

Special District Leadership Foundation Fund Raising



At this year's annual conference instead of a wine cooler and wines they plan to have a raffle for "My favorite things" which will include gift cards, swag meaning "Stuff we all get". All CSDA chapters have been asked to help by providing funds. Our chapter committed to \$500 and has sent it.

Governor Newsom expands drought emergency to most of California including parts of Bay Area

The statewide snowpack is well below normal. When the Department of Water Resources (DWR) last conducted the snow survey at the Phillips Station snow course, the manual survey recorded 49.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent (SWE) of 21 inches, which is 83 percent of average...

Byron-Brentwood-Knightesen Union Cemetery District

The Union Cemetery District's goal is to provide perpetual service to their community. They recently began using Streamline for web services and have a new web site: <https://www.bbku.cd.org/>

CCSDA Associate Members

Organizations and businesses that are not independent special districts can also participate in CCSDA as Associate Members. Associate Members will receive invitations to meetings and other CCSDA activities. They may be featured in the newsletters; and will be listed on the CCSDA webpage. It will be a great way for them to stay up-to-date on local governance issues and engage directly with special districts. If you know of any firms interested have them, contact the chapter leadership.

SUCCESS OF COCO SAN SUSTAINABLE FARM

By Michael R. McGill, P.E. (Central San Board Member) and photos by Carolyn Phinney



Poster from 2019 water reuse conference

I'm an ardent supporter of this Farm; volunteering to work on site on Saturday mornings and many Wednesday mornings, I also donate and help fund raise.

My initial interest was to showcase the value of the recycled water that Central San produces; now that interest has grown to embrace all the foci of Aglantis, the non-profit running the Farm. These foci are: 1. Food Equity and Public Health, 2. Environment, 3. Education and 4 Economic Development and Job Training. These align with Central San's Mission of Protecting Public Health and the Environment.

Aglantis leased, for \$1/year, about a 15 acres of Central San buffer land. The site was a barren, sterile area. Aglantis, using donated wood chips and "organic" horse manure, produced "soil".



Mike McGill and Bahman Shiekh (known as the grandfather of recycle water for agricultural use)

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic initially adversely impacted farming efforts, as all other volunteers stayed sheltered, but soon created positive impacts: starter plants were donated by DVC Horticulture, Master Gardeners and others that were not able to hold their plant sales and many, both old and new volunteers joined a few months later where outdoor work with great social distancing was possible.

Aglantis wrote in their annual report to Central San "Our years of building soil fertility paid off with productivity many times greater than normal for an urban farm. We grew a wide variety of crops including: zucchini, winter squash, tomatoes, potatoes, kale, lettuce, pumpkins, chard, peppers, eggplant, melons, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, leeks, green onions, parsley, sage, thyme, dill, basil, rosemary and other herbs. We were excited to see that our crops flourished in our amended soil and grew abundantly in recycled water. The quality of this produce was very good."



In 2020 over 25,000 pounds of fresh produce were donated to the Food Bank and White Pony Express, both 501c3 food distributors. This was from only a half-acre of land.



In 2019 a hoop greenhouse (for plant propagation) was erected but not covered since so many starter plants were donated in spring 2020. This year the plastic roof was installed and plants started. The irrigation system is being expanded and ultimately 100,000s pounds will be annually donated.

Central San's recycled water, California Title 22 approved for agriculture use, is a major reason for the success. This water is full of nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous and micronutrients so no added fertilizer is needed.

National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) Updates

The National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) adopted its first-ever federal legislative platform, providing a guide for special districts' national advocacy.

The document serves as the foundation for NSDC's legislative priorities and outlines key policies impacting the nation's more than 30,000 special districts across the country. Special districts, or special purpose units of government, are local governments created by the people of a community, as authorized under state statutes, to deliver public services that other units of government do not otherwise provide.

Overarching components of the platform include securing a "special district" definition in federal law; ensuring all special districts have equitable access to state and local pandemic assistance; supporting climate adaptation and community resiliency policies benefitting special districts; developing sound solutions to harden infrastructure and safeguard funding mechanisms for infrastructure projects; pressing for easier access to federal funding opportunities; fostering development and enrichment of disadvantaged communities; and ensuring special districts' concerns are considered in regulatory processes.

Significant activity continues around the NSDC. Some highlights in May included:

- Hosted an NSDC webinar on May 20 to provide details to special districts about the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act's pandemic relief resources, including the recent U.S. Department of Treasury guidance on the \$350 billion State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which special districts may access by transfer from states, counties, or cities. Nearly 600 participants attended throughout the nation.
- Sent two congressional letters urging the state to share ARP funds with special districts
- Assisted in developing and coordinating a coalition letter signed by 15 congress members and sent to the Governor, Pro Tem, and Speaker.
- Coordinated 2 press releases from electret's highlighting the above letter as well as the need.
- NSDC signed on to a letter and coalition urging for \$30 billion in federal infrastructure funding (over the course of a decade) to investment in necessary forest management/health and protection of critical watersheds.
- Developed system to track NSDC priority legislation.
- Further developed NSDC membership categories to be launched in the coming months.

- Sent formal invite letters to the Wyoming and South Carolina special district associations to join the NSDC.

Historical Society Project Update

The project of -creating a curriculum-friendly history of the special districts in Contra Costa County is completed and has been uploaded to the chapter web page.

The goal was to create a curriculum friendly history of the independent special districts in Contra Costa County. This document can be used by a teacher to introduce the various districts to his or her students. It is available on the chapter's web page check out the student teacher resources tab for this document and other resources.

<https://contracostasda.specialdistrict.org/student-teacher-resources>



Progress on chapter web site

We have made a few changes to the chapter web site, please take the time to explore the website and provide feedback. We have added:

- A radio button for educators/teachers
- Included links to ILG, CSDA, Others
- Added the new special districts document from the Contra Costa Historical Society
- Added a link to Associate Member form

We are working on adding Information on frontpage that potential vendors, speakers, new members could utilize. We welcome your comments and thoughts.

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

Did you Know?

With consolidations and several special districts closing their doors or being absorbed by the county there are now only 42 Independent Special Districts in Contra Costa County.



Contra Costa Special Districts Association
California Special Districts Association
Contra Costa County Chapter



California Special
Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Is keeping their parks green with recycled water

For over 15 years, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District has kept their local parks green by using recycled water.

The district recently congratulated all of their Park Maintenance Crew (who help preserve and protect the natural resources of California by conscientiously and proactively maintaining the district's 269 acres of parkland).

More News from Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District

On February 2, 2021, Zac Shess, Board of Directors Chair presented an annual update of the state of the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District at the State of the City (previously Mayor's Breakfast) event hosted by the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce. The event was virtual this year due to the pandemic.



MVSD revamps website

Mt. View Sanitary District The district recently moved their website over to Streamline. In mid-June they began using Streamline for web services visit the improved web site: <https://mvsd.org/>

"Mt. View Sanitary District Mission Statement
To protect Public Health and the Environment, in a safe and reliable manner, at a reasonable cost."

2021 CSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 2 MONTEREY, CA

Going to the conference is always an excellent opportunity to network, meet new people, and learn more about so many topics. I never come without learning something new. Hope to see many of you there!

CSDA Urges Supreme Court to Provide Special Districts Relief from At-Large Election System Litigation

A case currently pending in the Supreme Court of California concerning the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) may have wide-ranging impact on any special district that elects its Board of Directors in an at-large election system.

On June 15 the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) joined the League of California Cities ("Cal Cities") to file an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of Santa Monica, urging the court to consider the practical concerns guiding special districts' decision to switch to by-district elections, and seeking clarity in how the CVRA is applied to legitimate, non-discriminatory at-large election systems.

CSDA will continue to monitor this case and inform our members when an opinion is issued in the matter.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District

As California businesses begin the process of reopening and expanding capacity, the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District (district) is happy to announce the district is once again open to the public. The district is located at 155 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520, Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

In 2020, the district received 131 requests for Mosquitofish Service. Halfway through this year, the district has already received 133 requests. According to District Operations Supervisor David Wexler, the service has not only proven to be popular with residents, but it is also beneficial when it comes to the district's efforts to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease.



If you are a Contra Costa County resident who needs mosquitofish for your backyard pond, fountain, retired swimming pool, or other residential water feature, request the District's Mosquitofish Service today.



East Ba Regional Park District Approves Lease with Dig Deep Farms for Organic Heritage Farming at Ardenwood Historic Farm

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors unanimously approved a 5-year lease with Dig Deep Farms to continue organic heritage farming at the Park District's 205-acre Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont. Dig Deep Farms is a nonprofit enterprise of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League. Ardenwood Historic Farms has been operation by J.E. Perry Farms since the mid-1980s. J.E. Perry Farms ceased operations in 2020 due to retirement.



Ardenwood Historic Farms is a working farm that provides a journey back to the 1850s Patterson Ranch - a prosperous, 19th-century country estate with a beautiful Victorian mansion and elaborate Victorian Gardens. The farm still grows the same kind of produce grown in the region over the last 100 years, utilizing historical agricultural practices from the 1870s to present. Park District interpretive staff and volunteers guide guests through the Victorian house, demonstrate historical farming practices and chores, and describe what life was like in the early 1900s. Ardenwood receives over 120,000 visitors annually.

"The lease is an important step to continue the historical farming at Ardenwood and provide the public, especially youngsters, an opportunity to learn about the history of science and agriculture and what life was like in the late 1800s and early 1900s," said Ayn Wieskamp, who represents Fremont on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors. "The farming operation provides the mechanical labor that produces all of the traditional heritage fruits and vegetables, all of which helps educate visitors about the history of agriculture in the region."

Ardenwood Historic Farm is owned by the City of Fremont and operated by the Park District on a long-term

management lease. Established in the 1996 Ardenwood Business Plan, the purpose of Ardenwood Historic Farm is to preserve agricultural land, provide an opportunity to demonstrate historical and current farming practices, and offer educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities to the community related to historical and heritage farming and horticultural practices. The Park District's 2005 Land Use Plan for Ardenwood Historic Farm requires preservation of the land through agricultural use.

"I would like to first express my thanks to the members of the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors for awarding the lease agreement to Dig Deep Farms to operate Ardenwood Farms," said Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle. "Alameda County has invested in and partnered with Dig Deep Farms and other stakeholders to strengthen the local food system, increase food security, and provide training and employment to disadvantaged residents by building local capacity to harvest, process, and distribute fresh and sustainable specialty crops."

"Dig Deep Farms uses traditional farming methods and applies years of Certified Organic Farming experience to work harmoniously with the land, minimizing waste and maximizing nutrient rich soil and produce," added Valle.

Dig Deep Farms is expected to begin site preparations this June, with the first crop harvest in late summer/early fall. Dig Deep Farms exists to create jobs and healthy food through a network of food businesses where access to both has historically been limited.



CCSDA Dues

The Contra Costa Special Districts Association (CCSDA) dues invoices were sent in May. Thank you to those districts that have paid their dues. If you did not receive a dues reminder, or if you have questions or need more information, contact:

Treasurer Bert Michalczyk
32 Leeds Ct E Danville CA 94526
leedscourt@comcast.net

Celebrating 85 Years of Service

From their rural beginning on May 9, 1936 Contra Costa Water District began serving diverse communities in central and eastern Contra Costa County. Contra Costa Water District is proud to continue keeping water flowing 24/7!



**CELEBRATING
85 YEARS OF SERVICE**



Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District



The Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District was formed as an independent California Special District in 1937. They consist of two pioneer cemeteries, one located in Lafayette and the other in Danville. The Lafayette Cemetery's first burial was in 1854 and the Alamo Cemetery's first burial was in 1856.

The Alamo and Lafayette cemeteries have some of the oldest pioneer families and local historical figures buried within the grounds. Below, we have self-guided tours that guide you through the cemeteries. Each self-guided tour contains a map to help you find your way and historical information on some of our most prominent local figures.

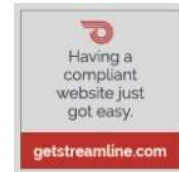
The Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District also has a new website by streamline you can visit it here: <https://www.alamolafayettecemetery.com/>

East Bay Regional Park District

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board of directors voted to rename the former Concord Naval Weapons Station "Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50"

On June 1, the Park District Board of Directors approved naming the new Regional Park at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station "Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50" in recognition of the history and social justice significance of the deadly Port Chicago explosion and the bravery of the 50 men who took a stand against unsafe and unjust working conditions. The new park name also recognizes the significant contributions of Thurgood Marshall in advocating for the Port Chicago 50 and desegregation of the U.S. military.

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. We build tools to help special districts with online compliance, internal and external communication. Accessible and compliant websites, intranet software, and communication tools to help districts promote the important work they do.

Stay compliant with all existing and upcoming State and Federal Website requirements.

Visit their website: <https://www.getstreamline.com/>

Are Public Agency Remote Meetings Coming to an End?

With the planned reopening of the State on June 15, many public agencies have been asking if the Governor plans to rescind his Executive Orders (N-25-20 and N-29-20) that suspend certain provisions of the Brown Act and allow public agencies to hold teleconferenced or remote meetings.

The Governor's office has announced that Executive Order N-29-20, which relaxed some Brown Act requirements to facilitate virtual meetings, will temporarily remain in effect beyond June 15, 2021. Governor Newsom has stated that on June 15 he intends to terminate California's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" to permit a full re-opening of the State.

In response to questions from local government groups, Cabinet Secretary Ana Matosantos issued a letter confirming the Governor's desire to achieve "an orderly return to the ordinary conduct of public meetings of state and local agencies and boards." The letter declares that the Governor plans on terminating COVID-19 executive orders "at the earliest possible date at which conditions warrant...." But Secretary Matosantos promised that the Governor's office will provide advance notice of the rescission of Executive Order N-29-20 in time for agencies and boards to meet "statutory and logistical requirements." So, as of now, it is unclear for how long this Executive Order will remain in effect after June 15.

Executive Order N-29-20 waived certain provisions of the Brown Act, including requirements that meetings be conducted in physical locations, and that public agencies identify the locations from which board members participate. It has provided the basis for most virtual public meetings during the pandemic.

Additionally, the Governor could rescind the Executive Orders outright and immediately require public agencies hold in-person public meetings of their governing boards. This would create significant challenges for agencies that have already scheduled remote meetings and for those agencies that are not prepared to hold socially-distanced in-person meetings.

Mt View Sanitary District Billboard

Every May and September the Mt. View Sanitary District has a billboard up to celebrate Wetlands Month or Pollution Prevention. This was the billboard for May 2021. They often partner with Contra Costa Central Sanitary District.



Late Census: Redistricting

Many special districts have generally defaulted to a long-standing statute that calls for new maps to be adopted at least 180 days prior to a general election.

SB 594 (Glazer) Local Redistricting - an urgency bill would mitigate issues surrounding the potential delay in the release of data from the US Census and the effect of that delay on local redistricting. The measure will call for special districts to adopt their post census re-districting maps prior to 180 days before a general election.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau was delayed in completing its constitutional mandate to provide census data. This will cause the release of the official census data to be delayed by as much as six months to the states and local governments.

Without this data, state and local electoral divisions cannot be adjusted to reflect the new population changes or comply with various state and federal voting laws.

Census Bureau Definition of Special District Governments

The Census Bureau defines special district governments as: "All organized local entities (other than counties, municipalities, townships, or school districts) authorized by state law to provide only one or a limited number of designated functions, and with sufficient administrative and fiscal autonomy to qualify as separate governments; known by a variety of titles, including districts, authorities, boards, and commissions." (Census Bureau Federal State and Local Governments Definitions)

ELIGIBLE DISTRICTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A FIRST-EVER SPECIAL OFFER TO JOIN CSDA!



Benefits of CSDA Membership

Join the growing network of special districts through the Pay-What-You-Can membership offer. Simply choose the amount you can afford to pay to become a member of CSDA, and your entire district will receive access to CSDA's member benefits and value-added programs through December 2022!

California's special districts are stronger together. Through CSDA membership districts can connect and collaborate like never before. CSDA is committed to providing members with special programs and resources that can save them time and money. Take a moment to explore the Core and Value-Added benefits.

Is Your District Eligible?

Be an independent special district (as defined by Government Code section 56044) and/or public agency whose legislative body is composed of representatives from two or more public agencies. District's annual operating revenue/income as of June 30, 2020 is less than \$250,000, the answer is YES!



BART Service Increased June 7th

On Monday June 7th, BART doubled the number of 15-minute frequencies on weekdays and now offers more trips on Saturdays.

While trips have been added to increase service, BART hours remain 5am-9pm on weekdays and 8am-9pm on weekends. Midnight service Monday-Saturday will return on August 30th BART will add 26 additional trips to the Monday-Friday schedule. The additional trips will serve the busiest lines: Yellow (Antioch-SFO), Green (Berryessa-Daly City), and Red (Richmond-Millbrae + SFO). Most of the added trips will be during the morning and evening commute periods where car occupancy data has demonstrated a need to increase service to help avoid crowding.

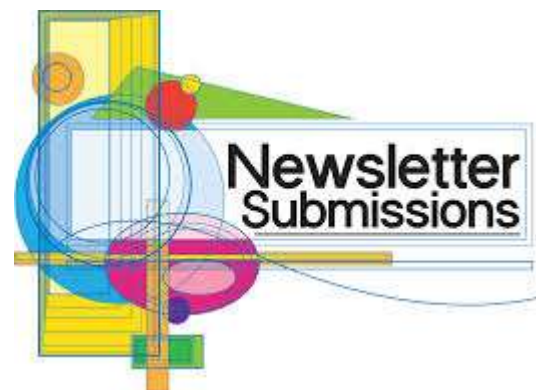
Saturdays will get more frequent service with the addition of 16 trips added throughout the day. Saturday ridership has recovered at a faster rate than weekday ridership with Saturday, May 29, 2021, posting the highest Saturday ridership since the pandemic.

This spot could have had your story

There could have been a picture here and information about your district. Please send your news to editor Stan Caldwell.



We welcome submissions to the newsletter please send them to Stan Caldwell.



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.csdanet.net for more information

Don't let poorly managed technology harm your productivity

Nerd Crossing was our chapter speaker in May and provided a Cyber Security 101 webinar for CCSDA. Nerd Crossing provides award-winning IT services.

Nerd Crossing offers computer repair services.

Think Local First - Nerd Crossing is the local alternative to big chain stores in the Bay Area. They offer honest, friendly PC and Mac computer repair, computer help and IT support for personal computer issues. Whether you need a virus removal and PC tune-up or would like a personalized training session on how to operate your new computer, the Nerds are there to help. They provide friendly in-home and remote computer support to help alleviate your computer problems. Need a quick PC fix, tech support or laptop repair? Does your district need IT services and repair?

IT Support

If you're interested in a consultation from Nerd Crossing, or are curious about their services, please contact them via email at info@nerdcrossing.com

Marketing & Web Services

Nerd Crossing has a full stack of online marketing, branding, web, and Search Engine Optimization solutions for businesses large and small, home computers, and districts IT services



Jim founded Nerd Crossing with a simple mission in mind-to provide the world with a trustworthy, customer service-focused technology & web service provider. Nerd Crossing was founded on the principles of "giving back," and therefore, we strongly believe in our vision to offer honest, high quality information technology, website and computer repair services to all businesses and residents in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

(888) NERD-XING or (510) 275-3475



Here are some Cybersecurity Tips For Special Districts and home computer users:

1. Set up IT security audits at least once a year with IT solutions experts. Even if you have an IT department, it's always best to have a second professional opinion.
2. Update your software and operating systems. (It is sometimes best to consult with your IT solutions provider first, as they stay up-to-date on issues related to certain software updates not properly integrating with certain devices.)
3. Passwords -
 - A) Create strong passwords with upper case letters, numbers and symbols
 - B) Use different passwords for different logins
 - C) Make login attempts have a limit
 - D) If possible, use double authentication logins (for example, you login and then are sent an SMS pin code to enter)
 - E) Find the best method of storing your passwords safely (e.g., online password managers and pocket-sized password vaults)
4. Secure your Wi-Fi networks from unauthorized access -
 - A) Encrypt your access point
 - B) Scan your network on a regular basis
 - C) Hide your SSID
 - D) Disable access from outside of the network
5. Back up your data through an external hard drive and the cloud
6. Always use anti-malware on company devices. We highly recommend ESET (though it is not available for iPads or iPhones—if your employees use those devices for your company, please contact an IT consultant so we can find the best anti-malware solution for you)
7. E-waste old hard drives so old data cannot be accessed
8. Utilize firewalls in your company, whether it's from software providers or hardware-based firewalls
9. Disable file and media sharing if it's not needed
10. Enable HTTPS on your website with an SSL certificate

CSDA has an on-Demand Webinar -

Addressing Cybersecurity Risks: Best Practices to Keep Your Special District Secure

No organization is safe from digital privacy and security risks. In this presentation, Best Best & Krieger LLP Privacy & Cybersecurity attorneys Leeann Habte and Glen Price discuss ways special districts can keep their information and personnel safe. They also address current cybersecurity risks, like phishing, device loss or theft and prevention strategies, and organizational risk and insurance and business continuity strategies. In addition, they advise on security incident response plans: what to include and why, and the importance of having the plan in place before an incident incurs. (2 hours)"



**BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE
CONTRA COSTA SPECIAL
DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION**
Future Meeting Dates:

~ July 12, 2021 ~ September 13, 2021 ~
November 15, 2021 ~

Join in at 9:30 AM for a meet and greet
opportunity
And network opportunities within a Zoom
breakout room. The regular meeting begins at
10:00 AM

The Meeting will be held via Zoom.



Contra Costa Special Districts Association
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We thank Ironhouse Sanitary District for providing
chapter administration services to our association.

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**Our chapter now 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
Districts and chapters.

*Be sure to visit our website and provide
input/feedback to the executive
committee.*

We are hoping our September meeting
can be held in person. We are working
with Central San to see if we can return
to the multipurpose room at the
headquarters building in Martinez, or
the CSO in Walnut Creek