



Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

September 2022 Quarterly Newsletter

Contra Costa Special Districts Association future meetings

September 19, 2022
November 21, 2022
January 23, 2023

RETIRED MEMBERSHIP to be considered at the September Meeting

Purpose:

STAY CONNECTED & INFORMED

- Continue to receive CCSDA Newsletter
- Continue to receive Email Listings
- Continued access to all Resources available on CCSDA website
- Serve on any CCSDA committee or feedback team
- Continue to come to our meetings and events

REQUIREMENTS

- Retired from service, as a staff or board member, at a special district and have at least one year of previous service.
- Retired members shall not be affiliated with or serve as a consultant to any agency eligible for regular, associate or business affiliate membership in CCSDA.
- Retired members cannot be employed by a company that provides services or products to special districts.

Knowledge sharing doesn't have to retire when you do! Stay connected and give back to the community you love with a CCSDA retired membership.



Doug Siden Honored

Honoring Former Board Member Doug Siden



On June 11, the Crab Cove Visitor Center was renamed for former Park District board member Doug Siden. The longtime Alameda environmentalist retired from the board in 2017, following nearly 25 years of service. An ordained minister who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Siden also advocated for farmworkers with César Chávez and worked to protect and restore Crown Beach and San Leandro's Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline. Pictured above, L to R: Former GM Bob Doyle, Board Director Dennis Waespi, GM Sabrina Landreth, Board President Colin Coffey, former Board Director Doug Siden, Board Directors Beverly Lane, Ellen Corbett, and Dee Rosario, and former GM Pat O'Brien.

California Special Districts Association Election Results

Bay Area Network:

Ryan Clausnitzer, CSDM, General Manager, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District

At the annual conference the new executive committee was voted on and the results are; Elaine Magner president, Pete Kampa vice president, Don Bartz, secretary, and Lorenzo Rios treasurer.



California Special Districts Association
CSDA
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CSDA Announces Launch of New Member Benefit: California CLASS

California Special Districts Association proudly announced their newest value-added benefit at the General Manager Leadership Summit in Coronado, California June 19-21. The association's relationship with Public Trust Advisors, LLC (Public Trust) was the impetus for the creation of a newly created local government investment pool (LGIP), California Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (California CLASS).

The investment program is a California Joint Powers Authority governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of special district and city finance professionals. The purpose of the California CLASS is to provide California public agencies with an additional diversification option for their daily liquidity and strategic reserve investments. Public Trust, in its capacity as investment advisor and fund administrator, is committed to providing California CLASS Participants with an exceptional user experience and professional portfolio management. The fundamental purpose of California CLASS is to develop and sustain an investment program wholly committed to the tenets of safety, liquidity, and yield for the benefit of participating public agencies.

The California CLASS Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (the JPA) was fully executed earlier this month by the California CLASS Founding Participants, including CSDA. The initial Board of Trustees was subsequently established, including Chairperson Christina Turner (City of Morgan Hill), Vice Chairperson Ryan Clausnitzer (Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District and CSDA Board President), Treasurer George Harris (City of Lancaster), and Secretary Margaret Moggia (West Basin Municipal Water District).

Grand Opening Held for Pleasant Hill Library

The Grand Opening for the new facility, located at 2 Monticello Avenue, was 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on July 30, 2022.

Many came and enjoyed opening remarks, followed by a 10:30 a.m. ribbon cutting. Once the ribbon had been cut the doors opened to the community. Visitors were able to tour the new, state-of-the-art, facility, and check out demonstrations of the amenities in the building like the 3-D printer and laser cutter. Outside the library, guests were able to enjoy light refreshments, crafts, and music.

The Pleasant Hill Library is a multi-million-dollar project made possible through voter-approved Measure K funding, as well as assistance from the Pleasant Hill Library Foundation, and the Friends of the Library. It is being built on approximately five acres of land donated by Contra Costa County.

Ride the New Train Rail Loop at Ardenwood Historic Park



All aboard the farm train! Ardenwood Historic Farm celebrates the addition of a new loop of its train track, more than doubling the current length of the popular ride. The new stretch of track increases the overall length from 1/2 mile to 1-3/4 mile and takes passengers on a journey to a previously unvisited area of the park. The track runs by an actively used eagle's nest, so the new train loop will open each year once the eagle fledglings have left the nest, usually in July.

East Bay Regional Park District Receives Outstanding Park Award and JEDI Impact Award from the California Parks and Recreation Society District 3

On Tuesday, June 21, 2022, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors was presented with the 2021 California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) District 3 Outstanding Park Award for Dumbarton Quarry Campground and the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Impact Award for its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. The Park District is the first-ever recipient of JEDI Impact Award.

"The Park District is honored to be recognized for the Dumbarton Quarry Campground project and our DEI efforts to ensure parks remain safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for all," said Board President Colin Coffey. "Our dedicated park staff should be commended for their contributions that helped make these projects and other happen."

The awards were presented by CPRS District 3 Board President Nicole Roa at the June 21, 2022 Park District Board of Directors meeting.

"The CPRS District 3 Annual Awards Program is designed to recognize those who assist in the critical role of facilitating and creating community, professionals, collaborative partners, and businesses, as well as outstanding facilities, parks, programs, and special events," said CPRS District 3 Board President Nicole Roa. "The CPRS District 3 Annual Awards Program recognizes excellence of agencies, individuals and

professionals in the Park and Recreation field who demonstrate the spirit of 'Parks Make Life Better' and the missions of parks and recreation."

Outstanding Park Award - Dumbarton Quarry Campground on the Bay

Dumbarton Quarry Campground on the Bay is the District's first urban campground along the San Francisco Bay and one of the newest large campgrounds opened in California in three decades. The campground is located in Fremont on the site of a former rock quarry that provided aggregate for critical infrastructure projects throughout the Bay Area from the 1950s to 2006, including San Francisco International Airport, Oakland International Airport, highways, and other major infrastructure projects. Over 15 million tons of rock were removed during its operation, creating a large pit that at one point was the lowest elevation in the entire United States at approximately 310 feet below sea level.

The process to convert Dumbarton Quarry into a public park started in the 1970s when the quarry's landowner DeSilva Gates applied for a mining permit and began negotiating with public agencies to turn the quarry into a public park after it closed, which it did in 2006. However, instead of simply closing the quarry, a plan was developed to refill the quarry pit with excavated dirt and use the proceeds generated to construct the campground at no cost to taxpayers.

Today, the re-envisioned rock quarry includes 63 family campsites (60 with recreational vehicle hookups). Other amenities include a camp store, two shower buildings, a playground and day use area, reservable picnic sites, and access to scenic trails in Coyote Hills Regional Park and Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge.

Dumbarton Quarry Campground on the Bay is an example of a successful public-private partnership. Dumbarton Quarry Associates, a DeSilva Gates Company, provided \$15 million for the construction of the campground.

Outstanding JEDI Impact Award - Reaffirming Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for All

In 2021, the Park District reaffirmed its commitment and efforts to ensure regional parks were safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for all. The District listened to those who have felt overlooked and unheard, and enacted several changes in policy and procedure to make the Park District more equitable and inclusive. DEI efforts included special programs and the naming of the District's new regional park at former Concord Naval Weapons Station, "Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of Port Chicago 50." DEI programs included staff implicit bias training, survey and listening sessions, UN International Day of Peace, and numerous interpretive programs promoting and putting into practice DEI principles.

BART contracts falconer to deter pigeons at El Cerrito del Norte Station



At El Cerrito del Norte Station on a recent weekday morning, heads turned and eyes widened at an unusual sight along the station platform. An adult male Harris hawk, named Pac-Man, sat serenely perched atop his handler's gloved wrist preening himself.

Though Pac-Man doesn't know it, he's got a very important job to do: manage the pigeon population at the above ground BART station.

Pigeons are non-native, non-migratory, and invasive. Their droppings can carry bacteria, fungal agents, and ectoparasites that can impact humans (Note: El Cerrito del Norte Station is cleaned daily, starting at 6 a.m.). The city-loving birds, if left unchecked, can roost in a single location for years.

The pigeons have come to El Cerrito del Norte Station seeking shelter from the elements. When the birds have nested, they aren't eager to pack up and leave.

Over the years, BART has taken numerous steps to mitigate the pigeon population at the station. Hundreds of bird-repellant spikes and netting can be seen fastened to ledges, pipes, fare machines, and other surfaces in the station, which received a total makeover in 2021.

Multi-Year LAFCO-Special Districts Collaboration Signed Into Law

On Friday, July 1, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 938 (Hertzberg) into law, a bill developed through an inclusive, thorough, multi-year working group process between CSDA, the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), and other stakeholders in response to recommendations by the Little Hoover Commission.

Importantly, SB 938 creates a new voter protest threshold for LAFCO-initiated dissolutions of special districts that meet specified criteria. Special districts meeting this criteria include those that: have one or more documented chronic service provision deficiencies; spent public funds in an unlawful or reckless manner inconsistent with the principal act or other statute governing the district; have shown willful neglect by failing to consistently adhere to the California Public Records Act and other public

disclosure laws; have failed to meet the minimum number of times required in its principal act in the prior calendar year; have consistently failed to perform timely audits in the prior three years, or failed to meet minimum financial requirements under California Government Code; or have recent annual audits showing chronic issues with the district's fiscal controls

Special districts meeting one or more of the criteria above are entitled to a fair and procedurally-equitable process, where determinations for the proposed dissolution must be documented in a municipal services review (MSR) and presented at a public hearing. As part of this process, the affected special district will receive a one-year period to resolve the documented deficiency.

Additionally, SB 938 simplifies the statutes related to the conducting authority for LAFCOs to implement reorganizations of special districts, significantly reducing the number of cross-referenced statutes.

Grazing goats were back and reducing fire danger on BART property



If you're a goat, there's one thing you really like to do: eat. And for the past few years, BART has put goats' proclivity for munching to work to reduce fire danger on its grassy properties.

BART's goats are contracted by the Coalinga-based, family-owned business Living Systems Land Management, which owns about 4,000 goats. The animals are a cross between Spanish and Boer goats, breeds ideal for this type of work because they typically eat every edible morsel in sight. The goats also work faster than any human could, clearing about one acre each day.

BART has used goats to mow its properties for about five years. They mow from anywhere five to 25 acres at each location where they're grazed. The goats' work typically costs BART about \$800 to \$1,200 an acre, and they usually work for about six weeks in the fire-prone summer months.

BART has a history of getting creative with land and station management. Earlier this year, the transit agency began contracting a falconer and his hawk at El Cerrito del Norte Station to mitigate the station's pigeon population. The falcon has been a hit with passengers - and has markedly improved the presence of pigeons on the property.

West County Wastewater swears in new District 2 Director



The WCW Board of Directors voted Annie King-Meredith as District 2 Board Member at its meeting in June. Director King-Meredith is a long-time Richmond resident who brings a wealth of experience in engineering and community service to the Board.

District 2, stretches throughout North Richmond and parts of San Pablo, the seat was left vacant with the passing of Director Sherry Stanley on April 24, 2022. Director Stanley had served on the Board since 2016.

Contra Costa Special Districts Association 30th Anniversary Event - Save the date!



The Contra Costa Special Districts Association will celebrate their 30th anniversary on April 27, 2023 in Pleasant Hill! Please be sure to save the date! More information to come.

Helping Monarch Butterflies and Other Pollinators in Contra Costa County



Supporting pollinator health is an essential part of how the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) encourages biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability in Contra Costa County. In order to best support pollinator conservation efforts in our area, we rely on the latest scientific research on pollinators to ensure the practices we teach and implement are safe and effective. A few of the resources we depend upon for information include the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Monarch Joint Venture, and several local scientists with expertise in pollinator conservation. Xerces Society has planted on CoCo San Sustainable Farm.

The CCRCD Monarch Conservation Program web page delves into the importance of pollinators and ways you can help them right now. It is packed with helpful resources for learning more about monarchs and other pollinators. Please note that the information on this page is specifically tailored to be most helpful to people who live or work in Contra Costa County and for supporting pollinator populations in the West.

The CCRCD has been awarded a grant from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to fund monarch conservation projects in Contra Costa County. The CCRCD will provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who want to create and/or restore monarch habitat on their land - helping with planning, design, permitting, planting, monitoring, and more.

The western monarch butterfly population has declined over 99% in the past 20 years. Western monarch counts in 2020 were the lowest yet, and the next several years will be a critical time to bring back the butterflies from a path to extinction.

East Bay Municipal Utility District Wastewater Story Map



The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) recently released their newest online educational resource,

“From your tap to the San Francisco Bay”, a virtual tour of the Main Wastewater Treatment Plant. The virtual tour features a variety of engaging videos and interactive maps to help audiences of all levels learn how EBMUD’s wastewater treatment protects public health and the San Francisco Bay. See: <https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/education-resources>



Private Leadership & Governance Trainings

California’s local governments face myriad of challenges from housing and homelessness, to climate, budget shortfalls and aging infrastructure. Elected leaders and staff cannot effectively address these challenges without a strong foundation of good government - trust, accountability, responsiveness and transparency. ILG’s Leadership & Governance pillar helps local government leaders build that foundation, develop leadership skills, operate with civility and decorum and increase public trust.

ILG offers customized Leadership & Governance workshops for local government jurisdictions statewide. These private sessions are available virtually and in-person upon request. The session topics are specifically tailored for your agency’s unique situation and can cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Effective Councils and Boards
- Strategic Planning & Goal Setting
- Team Building
- Roles and Responsibilities of Staff vs. Elected
- Governance Tools: Policy Handbooks and Codes of Conduct, Ethics and/or Civility
- Advancing Civility in Public Meetings
- Communicating for Success
- Building Trust through Public Engagement

Alameda County Special Districts



At the July meeting Ryan Clausnitzer was elected president. "This will be a nice transition from CSDA president to chapter president. I look forward to serving in this new role," said Ryan.

A Peaceful Place



Nestled under a peaceful canopy of oak trees in Brookwood Park, park visitors will discover a hidden gem, a beautiful labyrinth (circular maze) with a stunning mosaic center. This labyrinth was originally conceived by Pleasant Hill Kindred at Home Hospice as a gathering place for a yearly service to be held for families whose loved ones have gone through hospice. In 2015, this idea became a reality through a culmination of efforts by Kindred at Home, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, and the generous support of The Madrone Foundation and other community donations. Since completion, the Brookwood Park labyrinth continues to serve the entire community as a peaceful place for contemplation, meditation, and fun.

This year, a new center mosaic was installed to replace the older, crumbled tiles, retaining the labyrinth beauty. A special thank you to the new mosaic artist, Kim Jensen and to community member, Derek Wurst for spearheading this facelift project.

To enjoy the labyrinth, visit Brookwood Park at 3250 Withers Ave.

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park Update



In April 2022, the East Bay Regional Park District officially received ownership of 2,216 acres of the former Concord

Naval Weapons Station, which is part of the planned Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50. The Park District previously held constructive possession of the property, allowing access for naturalist-led public access programs. The land transfer represents the largest ever public conveyance through the National Park Service.

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park is also set to receive \$3 million from the 2022-2023 California state budget thanks to the leadership of Assembly Member Tim Grayson for construction of the park's first public access, a new staging area off south Bailey Road in Concord. The Park District plans to open the new staging area in 2024.

Mt. View Sanitary District P2 (Pollution Prevention) billboard



Mt. View Sanitary District Fall 2022 billboard.

Newest California Special District Association Executive Committee elected at the Annual Conference

Elaine Magner President, Pete Kampa Vice President
Lorenzo Rios Treasurer, Secretary

Chapter of the year (CCSDA)

Chad Davisson chapter president accepted the California Special Districts Association chapter of the year award.



On Thursday August 25th at the CSDA Annual Conference breakfast our chapter was awarded the "Chapter of the Year" award.

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) Director elected as California Association of Sanitary Agencies (CASA) President



DSRSD Director Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold was installed as president of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies at its annual conference in August in Olympic Valley, Calif.

Vonheeder-Leopold is a long-time member of the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors, and she has been an active member of CASA for more than 15 years. She previously served as vice president of CASA until the official passing of the gavel on Friday, August 12, during the conference's closing session. Her term as president is for one year on the 13-member board.

"I'm excited to lead the CASA Board of Directors and communicate the value of proactive advocacy to the association membership," Vonheeder-Leopold said. "Our goal is to educate policymakers with real-world examples of the role wastewater agencies play in our communities."

CASA represents more than 125 local public agencies engaged in the collection, treatment, and recycling of wastewater and biosolids to protect public health and the environment. The association serves as the leading voice for member agencies on regulatory and legislative issues.

News of Coleen Haley Introducing Baby Cara



Coleen Haley
CSDA Public Affairs
Field Representative
&
Baby Cara

As some of you know, I was out on leave for a few months. The reason was that this little munchkin had just entered the world. Stan Caldwell asked me to provide an update to let everyone know that mom, dad, and baby are doing just fine. She was born on April 15th and is the first grandchild on both sides of the family. The name "Cara"

is reflective of her parents' ancestry. It means "friend" in Gaelic and "beloved one" in Italian/Latin. As far as looks go, she very much resembles her father with all the dark locks. In fact, she was born with a full head of hair to the surprise of her doctors.

Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act Update

Colleen Haley
CSDA Public Affairs Field Representative

The CSDA Board of Directors OPPOSES Initiative #21-0042A1, otherwise known "Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act," by the California Business Roundtable (CBRT), because it limits the ability of voters and state and local governments to raise revenues for government services. The California Secretary of State's deadline to submit signatures to counties to qualify for the November, 2024 statewide general election was August 2, 2022. Unfortunately, it looks as if the initiative WILL qualify for the ballot. Therefore, CSDA is requesting district boards consider passing a resolution in opposition to the measure.

CSDA opposes initiative #21-0042A1 because it would result in the loss of billions of dollars annually in critical state and local funding, restricting the ability of local agencies and the State of California to fund services and infrastructure. It specifically does this by:

- Adopting new and stricter rules for raising taxes, fees, assessments, and property-related fees. Amending the State Constitution, including portions of Propositions 13, 218, and 26 among other provisions, to the advantage of the initiative's proponents and plaintiffs; creating new grounds to challenge these funding sources and disrupting fiscal certainty.
- Restricting the ability of local governments to issue fines and penalties to corporations and property owners that violate local environmental, water quality, public health, public safety, fair housing, nuisance and other laws and ordinances.
- The initiative also includes provisions that would retroactively void all state and local taxes or fees adopted after January 1, 2022 if they did not align with the provisions of this initiative. This may also affect indexed fees that adjust over time for inflation or other factors. Effectively, it would allow voters throughout California to invalidate the prior actions of local voters, undermining local control and voter-approved decisions about investments needed in their communities.

CSDA has a sample opposition resolution and sample press release on their Take Action page. As far as the deadline goes, CSDA recommends passing the resolution as soon as is feasible in order to curtail any momentum by the campaign's proponents. Once approved, please email your resolution to advocacy@csda.net and consider issuing a press release to local media.

For more information on the initiative, including background analysis, and opposition coalition please also see CSDA's Take Action page.



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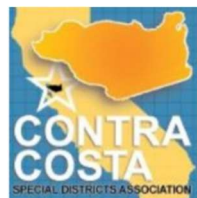
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Contra Costa County Chapter



California Special Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

September meeting

The Retired Membership will be briefly discussed at the September. The Sept agenda is fairly full; Hence, we'll talk a little about the concept at this meeting but wait until the November meeting to pre-distribute bylaw changes and take the vote.

One of our speakers will be LAFCo executive officer LouAnn Texeira (LAFco101) and Jim LeVine will be our other speaker he was in a recently published in Mercury New. The article was about him. He will be speaker on saving the planet through environmental efforts.

Also, we are recognizing Brian Helmick at this meeting for his contributions and service to CCSDA.

The meeting will be held via Zoom



HAVE A NEWS TIP?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.



It has been difficult at times to find news stories for our chapter newsletter be sure to send press releases and news stories to our editor!

