

# Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

April 2020 Quarterly Newsletter

## Reminder we have changed from Quarterly to Bi-monthly meetings!

The following are our scheduled meetings:

May 18<sup>th</sup> (*most likely will be deferred to July due to the countywide shelter in place order*)

July 13<sup>th</sup> (Joint Meeting with the Alameda County Special Districts) Note this is the second Monday of July

September 21<sup>st</sup>

November 16<sup>th</sup>

We are considering making the May meeting a virtual meeting with a couple of speakers, we will send out an invite as soon as we finalize the plans.

## COVID-19 is CHALLENGES FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS

The shelter in place and social distancing is difficult for each of our agencies, it poses additional burdens on our staff, our meetings, and access to the public. Many of us are using a virtual meeting to be able to do our important business. This has been a challenging time.

For non-emergency questions regarding the County-wide shelter in place order, please call 1-844-729-8410. This number is staffed from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

## The Contra Costa LAFCO office is currently closed

Due to the shelter in place order, the office is currently closed, through May 3, 2020 (or until rescinded or extended).

The Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020 is cancelled.

## Note most all County Offices are closed or have reduced hours

County Department Closures and  
Service Modifications

As the county continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, many non-essential county functions from across departments have been temporarily suspended to comply with the Bay Area-wide Shelter in Place Order. Please find below a list of closures and service modifications for County Departments:

## COVID-19-RELATED FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS

CSDA is committed to working with our federal, state, and local counterparts to help our members to meet their short and long-term challenges. While this is an exceedingly fluid situation, we've tried to compile some of the latest background affecting special district revenues for your information:

In addition, I'd like to share some insights I received from CSDA's Legislative Team in Sacramento. Please accept the disclaimer that this is not legal advice and that CSDA has yet to formalize any of these preliminary notes as formal guidance for wide distribution.

## 2020 CSDA Award Nominations Now Open!

Each year, CSDA presents various awards during the CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase. There are several different categories to enter your district, chapter, and/or an individual. All nominations must be received by May 29, 2020. Start thinking of stellar individuals, projects, and programs

## Special District Legislative Days

Special District Legislative Days is the opportunity for district leaders to join together to hear from and influence California's top decision-makers on the issues that affect our members and the communities they serve.

CSDA's Special District Legislative Days is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19-20. CSDA is transitioning our in-person Special Districts Legislative Days Conference to a virtual event - 2020 Virtual Special Districts Legislative Days. Attendees will have even more access to important information using this new format with no travel or hotel costs...

New lower registration fees and no travel costs make it easy to attend 2020 Virtual Special Districts Legislative Days. Get all of the same great content of Special Districts Legislative Days in a new VIRTUAL format!

Here's What's Included:

April 16 - May 29

Access to an exclusive 2020 Virtual Special Districts Legislative Days online community

Monday May 18 - Friday, May 22

Access to three on-demand Policy Expert Webinars

Prudently and Proactively Managing Pension Liabilities in Today's Volatile Environment 2021: When Redistricting and the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) Collide

Navigating Legal Attacks, Legal Shifts and Public Protests on Pro 218 Rates and Fees  
Tuesday, May 19

*LIVE* Legislative Briefing from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. - will also be made available on-demand following the event for a limited time

Senator Jim Nielsen shares a brief message with attendees after receiving CSDA's Legislator of the Year Award

Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot  
Learn the latest on the proposed \$4.75 billion Climate Resilience Bond and other emerging issues facing special districts related to water, wastewater, fire protection, open space and resource conservation, climate adaptation, and more.

*CSDA Advocacy Team*

Take Action: Get your briefing on the Calls-to Action  
CSDA is leading in Sacramento and Washington so that your district can join together with all special districts to

make a difference on public policy and better serve your community.

**Legislative Overview.** Additionally, learn how the State of California is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and what affect it will have on the priority legislation and budget items facing special districts. Hear an overview of the hottest issues affecting special districts including the Brown Act, Public Records Act, labor force, local revenue and financing, public works regulations, community resilience, and of course, community preparedness and response.

## Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) Update: Program Names

Last year, the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) Board of Directors and staff spent considerable time reviewing all of the programs, requirements, and scholarships offered in an effort to keep the organization and its mission moving forward. Additionally, a comprehensive focus group was held to solicit feedback from a broad spectrum of stakeholders which produced a significant amount of great ideas and changes that the organization should consider.

One of the resounding take-away centered on the current program names for the Special District Administrator (SDA) designation and Recognition in Special District Governance certificate. Specifically, the feedback received indicated that the names didn't adequately describe the recognition that has been earned. Consequently, SDLF initiated follow-up with some individuals that currently hold the designations to make sure we were on the right track.

The Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) Board of Directors approved the following updated program names to be effective March 1, 2020:

- Special District Administrator (SDA) designation will now be Certified Special District Manager (CSDM)

- Recognition in Special District Governance will now be Certificate in Special District Governance

## Note from Central San

Due to the precautions that need to be taken in light of the COVID-19 situation, Central San temporarily closed to outside large public meetings. Therefore, the CSO Facility and Multipurpose Rooms are not available for the meetings. Central San sincerely apologizes for the inconvenience but we believe this precaution is warranted at this time.

Thank you for your understanding.

## Contra Costa Special Districts Association



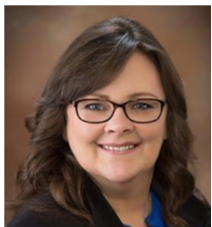
Our newsletter is always looking for news to share. Do you have anything to share? If so please send to the newsletter editor so we can get it in our next newsletter

### CSDA Partner Update

Every two to four years, community members bravely put their name on a ballot, signing up for the chance to serve as a leader on a special district board. But how did those candidates get started? Where did they learn about the opportunity to serve? Where did they go for more information? In late 2019, CSDA partnered with our affiliate, the Institute for Local Government (ILG), to help special districts answer those questions and respond to a recommendation from the Little Hoover Commission.

In August 2017, the Little Hoover Commission issued a report entitled, Special Districts: Improving Oversight & Transparency. Recommendation 11 from the report called upon CSDA, working with experts in public outreach and engagement, to develop best practices for independent special district outreach to the public on opportunities to serve on boards. In response, CSDA turned to ILG to establish Best Practices for Recruiting Candidates for Local Government Boards and Councils

### ISD announces new Board roles



Dawn Morrow was recently elected 2020 president of the Ironhouse Sanitary District Board of Directors, replacing Director Peter Circle who wrapped his role as Board President for 2019.

Dawn was unanimously selected by the organization's Board of Directors on December 3, 2019 for the position. Morrow served as the District's vice president in 2019.

"We are excited to have Dawn lead the team," said Ironhouse's general manager, Chad Davison. "She is a leader with the experience and commitment to lead the District into the future."

## California Special Districts Annual Conference 2020 Annual Conference

Plans are well underway for the 2020 Conference and CSDA is working to finalize all content/breakout sessions. Kevin Brown has been selected as the opening keynote speaker and CSDA is in the in-process of finalizing his contract. CSDA is meeting with the hotel and various vendors in Palm Desert to finalize pre-conference items, event logistics, and special event needs.

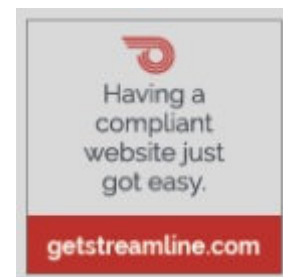
The COVID-19 travel and meeting restricts will determine if the conference is going to be delayed, moved to another date, or possibly even cancelled.

Keep the dates available for now and plan to attend August 24 -27, 2020 in Palm Desert.

### Did you Know...

CSDA's Knowledge Base offers many answers to questions about local governance and policies regarding special districts. The Frequently Asked Questions section offers answers to many of the inquiries CSDA hears from special districts. Some of the subjects include:

- Board Meetings
- Board of Director General Information
- Budget, Finance and Taxation
- Public Records
- Public Contracting and Purchasing
- Ethics and Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC)
- Local Powers.

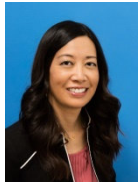


## STREAMLINE

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

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

## DSRSD Hires Jan Lee as Assistant General Manager



Dublin San Ramon Services District has hired Jan Lee as the Assistant General Manager.

Lee started Monday, March 3, and comes to the District with 24 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. Most recently, she was the Assistant Director of Public Works–Utilities for the City of Hayward, and before that, Hayward's Water Resources Manager.

Lee worked at the East Bay Municipal Utility District for 13 years, serving as a supervising engineer in the Water Supply Improvements department where she managed the development and implementation of the water transfers program and other complex multi-agency supplemental water supply projects. She was also the project manager for EBMUD's Richmond Advanced Recycled Water Project, a \$55 million public-private partnership. Additionally, Lee has seven years of private sector engineering design and planning experience working at West Yost & Associates and Carollo Engineers.

"Jan stood out in a very competitive field for this position," said General Manager Daniel McIntyre. "Her outstanding experience on interagency partnerships over the last decade and her success in teambuilding in her last position were particularly impressive."

Lee's DSRSD assignments include the following: spearhead the effort to diversify the District's water supply; evaluate and update DSRSD's long-standing interagency agreements; and lead future interagency collaborative efforts, emergency preparedness, and the continued implementation of the District's Asset Management Program.

Lee earned her bachelors of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California at Davis and is a registered Civil Engineer.

### Cheers to special districts!

On February 26, Assembly Member Randy Vowel (R - Santee) introduced Assembly Concurrent Resolution 179, which would proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2020 Special Districts Week.

Recall that last year, Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D - Rancho Cordova) introduced Assembly Concurrent Resolution 89, which proclaimed the week of September 22, to September 28, 2019, to be Special Districts Week. It encouraged all Californians to be involved in

their communities and be civically engaged with their local government.

Just like last year, the Assembly and Senate are encouraging Californians across the state to engage with their local communities and to be actively involved with their government, particularly with special districts and the areas they serve. Unlike last year however, Special Districts Week will coincide with CSDA's midyear advocacy event, Special Districts Legislative Days.

During Special Districts Week, special district representatives will come to Sacramento to make their voices heard throughout the state legislature on issues of importance to California's special districts as part of Special Districts Legislative Days.

Remember to register to attend Special Districts Legislative Days, held May 19-20.

### LAFCo shares updates for CCSDA

Mike McGill was nominated to the LAFCO seat by seven districts, was unopposed, and was reappointed to Contra Costa LAFCO.

The 2nd round Municipal Services Review/Sphere of Influence updates covering parks & recreation services is underway. The week of March 16th the consultants and LAFCO staff are visiting Ambrose Rec & Park District, Green Valley Rec & Park District and Pleasant Hill Rec & Park District.

On March 11th, the Commission approved the FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget. The Final LAFCO budget will be presented to the Commission on May 13, 2020.

Contra Costa LAFCO is pleased to welcome Sherrie Weis as the new Executive Assistant/LAFCO Clerk. Sherrie previously worked for Dublin San Ramon Services District and CCCSD.

### Note from Suzette Crayton

Hello all. I want to let you all know that my duties with the Contra Costa Special Districts Association (CCSDA) have provided a great career enhancing opportunity. Thanks so much for your kindness and allowing me to be a part of CCSDA, and learn so much in the process. It is appreciated.

Ironhouse Sanitary District will take over many of the chapter administrative duties beginning in April 2020.

I will work with Ironhouse and the chapter executive team to assist in any way that I can.



## Oakley considers recycled water use

In partnership with the Diablo Water District (DWD), the Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD) is examining the potential to reintroduce treated wastewater into the drinking water supply through a process called indirect water reuse.

"This is the way of the future," said Tyson Zimmerman, ISD assistant general manager. "As populations grow and water supplies are scarce, it's just making the best use of what we've got to work with. The science is behind it, and the science has been behind it for quite a while. I think it's an opportunity for agencies like us to be able to promote that and say, 'Look, we're trying to be the most responsible with resources as we can.'"

A bill, H.R.5302, co-authored by Rep. Jerry McNerney (CA-09) and introduced at the end of 2019, could provide up to \$5 million toward the design, planning and construction of the infrastructure necessary to achieve that goal. ISD is one of 12 agencies that will receive funding if the bill is passed into law. A press release issued by the bill's sponsors stated that these projects would provide a combined total of nearly 20,000 acre-feet of new water when fully functional. That's approximately 6.5 billion gallons of water.

The objectives of both agencies involved are closely aligned said Dan McEllrath, DWD general manager.

"For the water district, we're really after water resilience, especially in the time of drought," he said. "Recycled is virtually as drought-proof a source of water as you can get. And we're looking at groundwater levels, making sure that the groundwater stays stable in the local aquifer here."

While a process design has not been completed, Zimmerman said groundwater recharge is one way to introduce treated wastewater into the drinking water system.

"Water starts on the surface and it's percolated through (the ground)," he explained. "As it percolates through, it's filtered or polished, if you will. With groundwater recharge, that would be a similar type of thing. You put it into a percolation pond and it percolates down into the water table. Then it gets pumped out and treated further so it can be drinking water."

At the end of the wastewater process, ISD has a volume of Title 22 recycled water, a standard established by the state that allows the water to be used for irrigation and other applications but not for direct human consumption. Title 22 water can also be discharged into streams and rivers if no other use is available. Some districts and municipalities have installed a network of purple pipe that distributes water to locations like parks, landscaping and fountains where it can be used in place of drinking water.

The City of Oakley does not currently have a purple pipe network. As a result, up to 2 million gallons of recycled water is pumped across Jersey Island and discharged into the San Joaquin River every day. "Every city in the Bay that dumps water into the Delta, that water is pulled out by another city, and it's used again for potable water. In some sense, all the recycled water and all the treated wastewater gets additional use and becomes potable water at some point."

A grant from the State Water Resources Control Board is presently funding half the cost of a study to start an indirect water reuse program within the ISD service area. ISD and DWD are funding the remaining cost of the report.

"A lot of agencies are moving away from purple pipe and moving toward reuse. Reuse is where you're taking highly treated recycled water and you're treating it additionally, and even putting it into the ground so it can be drawn out, and then putting it into systems for potable or drinking water uses."

## New All-Abilities Playground Has Opened!

Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation district is thrilled to open the first all-abilities playground in Pleasant Hill where people of all skill levels can play in the great outdoors! Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation gives a special thank you to Autumn Green, Founder & CEO of the All In Need organization that supports families who have children with special needs. The park district appreciates their vision and advocacy to make the Pleasant Hill community better.

This \$350,000 colorful playground was designed to allow people of all skill levels to enjoy active play. This project represents the last piece of the comprehensive renovator to Pleasant Oaks Park funded by Measure E passed in 2009. Time ends fell short; the playground was put on the back burner until enough funds could be generated to complete implementation. The Recreation & Park Board of Directors earmarked capital project funds and followed through on the commitment to complete the playground. The playground is now open. Come get out and play!

The new park is located at Pleasant Oaks Park  
2 Santa Barbara Rd, Pleasant Hill. (Note this park has been closed due to Corona Virus shelter in place orders)

**Keep the date open for our Joint Meeting with the Alameda County Special Districts on July 13th. Note this is the second Monday of July.**

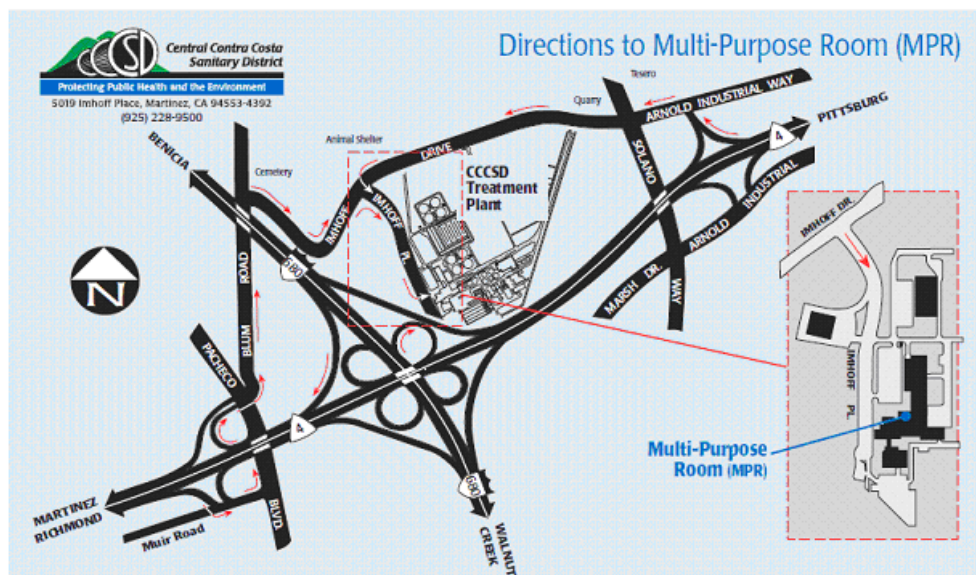
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**Plan to come early there will be a meet and greet opportunity to network, with refreshments available 9:30 AM.**

**☛ Meeting begins at 10:00 AM**

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



**Contra Costa Special Districts Association  
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**Our chapter has its own dedicated web site  
<https://contracostasda.specialdistrict.org/>**

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

*For all future meetings please RSVP via the website if you will be attending*