



Alameda County Special District Association & Contra Costa County Special District Association Joint Chapter Meeting Minutes

7.20.2021	Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m.	In order to comply with State and County Health Orders, this meeting was held via teleconference.
Call to Order / Breakout Sessions	<p>At 9:00 a.m., the meeting began with breakout sessions organized by District types via Zoom rooms for focused discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water/Wastewater, Irrigation, Reclamation Districts • Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Districts • Community Service Districts • Public Safety (Fire, Police and any others) • Mosquitos and Conservation Districts 	
Minutes	Cecilia Goff, District Secretary, Ironhouse Sanitary District	
Attendees	Attendees Signed-In Via Zoom	
Welcome and Introductions		
<p>Mr. Roland Williams, ACSDA President, Castro Valley Sanitary District General Manager and Mr. Stan Caldwell, CCSDA President, called the meeting to order and welcomed ACSDA and CCSDA members. The Associations are looking forward to in-person meetings next year and are planning for a possible joint dinner in March 2022.</p> <p>Mr. Frank Mellon, EBMUD, noted that EBRPD lost long-time director, John Sutter. There will be a celebration of Director Sutter on July 24th at the foot of the Bay Bridge and the public is welcome.</p>		
Updates		
<p>Ms. Rachel Jones, Alameda LAFCo provided an update on the Countywide MSR for water, wastewater and stormwater. Utilities are being researched and recommendations for interagency cooperation will be provided. A countywide MSR for fire protection and medical services are in progress. Alameda County LAFCo is working on special studies related to Measure D and South Livermore Valley.</p>		

Updates cont'd.

Mr. Mike McGill, Contra Costa LAFCo, explained that the MSR for cemetery districts and a special study for consolidation of ECCFPD, RHFPD and ConFire is in progress.

Mr. Stan Caldwell, CALAFCo, explained that the 2021 CALAFCO conference will be held in Newport Beach from Oct. 6-8.

Mr. Roland Williams, EBPRD, explained that the Park District stayed strong during COVID-19; usership remained strong.

Guest Speaker - Dr. Blake Simmons – Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory: Director of the Biological Systems and Engineering Division

Ms. Susan Morgan, Vice President – CCSDA and Ironhouse Sanitary District introduced Dr. Blake Simmons – Joint Bioenergy Institute (JBEI) – *Driving the Future: Advanced Bioenergy Solutions for the Bioeconomy*.

Dr. Simmons explained that petroleum is a major source for transportation fuels. Renewable resources available as alternate fuel options are Biomass and Bioeconomy. The Joint Bioenergy Institute is currently working on a 20-year project funded by DOE that started in 2007, with several universities, labs, and other funding sources.

Current focuses include replacing oil using ionic liquids with a “one-pot” solution, to convert biomass to biofuel and other bioproducts while remaining economically viable, affordable and sustainable. Identifying an effective and inexpensive process to breakdown biomass – extract sugars is in progress. JBEI is working on converting woody biomass to stock biofuels by fermenting the sugars with yeast to convert them to ethanol.

JBEI is now building pilot plant with USDA funding in Modesto. Goals are to convert a dry ton per day to dry ton per hour that can be sold on the marketplace, reduce wildfire risk with a mobile “biorefinery”, make woody conversion as efficient as switchgrass/corn ethanol process and to convert mixed feedstocks.

CALFire provided a \$5.8M grant that is funding this part of project, along with Berkeley Labs, SUNY and others.

- Wildfires emit huge greenhouse gasses
- 2021 and 2022 – Build 10-20 mobile gasifier units that can fit on the back of a truck
- Deployable system for biopower, biofuels, biochar
- Unit built and deployed at Westpoint and is testing with woody biomass feedstock
- Can also be used for solid waste conversions
- PG&E interested in using for areas around power lines to reduce PSPS shutdowns
- June 2022 – should be able to deploy and demonstrate capabilities

Guest Speaker – Marguerite Patil – Contra Costa Water District: Assistant General Manager, and Sherri Ferronato – Contra Costa Water District: Communications

Ms. Marguerite Patil, Assistant General Manager, CCWD, provided an update on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project. Los Vaqueros (LV) is operated by CCWD, in conjunction with EBMUD. Local agency partners (LAP) – ACWD, CCWD, EBMUD, GWD, SFPU, BBID, City of Brentwood, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, Del Puerto Water District, Panoche Water District, Westlands Water District, Santa Clara Valley Water District and Zone 7 Water Agency. The goal is to improve water quality, drought and emergency supplies. The reservoir will be expanded from 160 to 275 acre-feet and the transfer facility will be upgraded. The project is focusing on storage and conveyance, provided by Prop 1 funding. Project Cost share consists of \$470M in State funds, \$223M Federal funds, \$202M in local funds. A new JPA is being formed with CCWD and the LAPs. Compliance and Feasibility Reports are complete. The permitting is ongoing. Execution of the CWC final funding agreement is expected in Fall 2022.

CSDA Update and Legislation in Progress: Colleen Haley

Ms. Colleen Haley, CSDA, explained that the state Legislature included \$100M in COVID-19 relief funding for Special Districts. Beacon awards, offered by the Institute Local Government are available for Special Districts. SDLF awards and scholarships are available. The CSDA Annual conference will be held in Monterey in the end of August 2021.

Announcements and Member Comments

Mr. Caldwell shared that his cornea transplant went very well and thanked CCSDA for flowers sent to him.

Mr. Steve Smith received a full report on the potential consolidation of ECCFPD, RHFPD and ConFire.

Ms. Claudia Burgos, AC Transit, explained that they are looking to welcome back ridership. TransBay lines will be restored August 8, 2021 and resume supplementing school districts. Social distancing is no longer required onboard.

Mr. Williams shared that Ryan Clausnitzer was elected as the CSDA Board President.

Mr. Chad Davisson explained that CCSDA is preparing for the 30th Anniversary Event.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

- ACSDA Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.
 - Hosted virtually by Oro Loma Sanitary District
- CCSDA Next Meeting– Monday, September 20, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.
 - Meeting location TBD