



SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address: 5750 Almaden Expressway • San Jose, California 95118 • (408) 265-2600

Santa Clara County Special Districts Association

Monday, June 6, 2016

12–1:30 p.m.

A. Call to Order

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Opportunity for Public Comment (3 minutes)

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Discussion and Approval of March 7, 2016, Meeting Minutes (**Action**)

C. Time Certain at: 12:10

1. Guest Speaker: Jennifer Loving, Executive Director, Destination: Home

D. Business

1. Financial Report – **Page 7 (Discussion and Action)**
2. 2016 membership dues update
3. Newsletter – Spring article (**Attachment D3**)
4. Marketing plan (**Discussion and Action**)

E. Partner Agency Reports

1. Local Agency Formation Commission – Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
2. League of California Cities – Nancy Hall-Bennett
3. CSDA – Dane Wadle, Public Affairs Field Coordinator

F. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

1. Round Robin

G. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

1. Action Item Review
2. The next meeting is scheduled for: **September 12, 2016**
3. Adjourn

Officers: Steve Wesolowski, Chair • Stephanie Moreno, Vice-Chair • Nai Hsueh, Secretary/Treasurer

Members: Cupertino Sanitary District • El Camino Healthcare District • Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District
• Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District • Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District • Purissima Hills Water District
• Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park District • San Martin County Water District • Santa Clara County Fire Department
• Santa Clara County Library District • Santa Clara County Open Space Authority • Santa Clara County Roads & Airports Department
• Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority • Santa Clara Valley Water District • Saratoga Cemetery District • Saratoga Fire Protection District
• South Santa Clara County Fire District • South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District • West Valley Sanitation District



SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

B1. Meeting Minutes

Santa Clara County Special Districts Association

Monday, March 7, 2016

12:00–1:30 p.m.

A. Call to Order

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Steve Wesolowski called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. and declared a quorum was present.
2. **Opportunity for Public Comment:** None

Santa Clara County Special District Association Attendees:

- Cupertino Sanitary District: Bill Bosworth
- El Camino Healthcare District: Brenda Taussig
- Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District: Stephanie Moreno
- LAFCO of Santa Clara County: Neelima Palacherla
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District: Yoriko Kishimoto, Pete Siemens
- Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District: Steve Wesolowski
- Santa Clara County Fire Department: Ken Kehmna
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority – Sequoia Hall
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority: Scott Haywood
- Santa Clara Valley Water District: Tony Estremera, Nai Hsueh
- Saratoga Fire Protection District: Joe Long, Mark Hynes
- South Santa Clara County Fire District: Ryan Michaels
- South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District: Christine West

Guest Speaker: Vice Mayor Teresa O'Neill, City of Santa Clara;

Guest Attendees: Dane Wadle, California Special Districts Association (CSDA); Doug Muirhead, member of public and Morgan Hill resident

Santa Clara County Special District Association: (support staff): Rachael Gibson, Jordan Eldridge, Ferlina De La Cruz

Discussion and Approval of Minutes

Chair Wesolowski moved, and Bill Bosworth seconded, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.



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D1. Officer Elections

Sequoia Hall moved, and Bill Bosworth seconded, to elect Steve Wesolowski as Chair, Stephanie Moreno as Vice Chair, and Nai Hsueh as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion carried unanimously.

D2. Financial Report

Rachael Gibson reported that the SCCSDA's current balance is \$3,225.97. Chair Wesolowski moved, and Bill Bosworth seconded, to approve the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

D3. 2016 Membership Dues Update

Rachael Gibson reminded members that 2016 membership renewals are due, and thanked those who had already sent theirs in.

D4. Newsletter- Spring Article Deadline

Rachael Gibson informed members that Spring Newsletter submissions are due to Cheryl Togami by April 1st.

D5. Marketing Plan

Vice Chair Moreno introduced the Community Awareness Plan to the Association. Discussion ensued on the proposal. Dane Wadle reminded members that the California Special Districts Association also provides resources regarding community awareness initiatives. The Association decided to continue working on this plan. No official action occurred.

C. Guest Speaker: Teresa O'Neill, Vice Mayor, City of Santa Clara

Vice Mayor O'Neill discussed the recent success of Super Bowl 50 and the importance teamwork played in making it a success. The City of Santa Clara is still waiting on the economic impact report but it should be received in the near future. Vice Mayor O'Neill wanted to commend the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for stepping up to help the city when thousands of Super Bowl attendees and concession stand volunteers were stranded at the Convention Center and Levi Stadium. The advance planning for Super Bowl 50 took two and a half years prior to the big event and Vice Mayor O'Neill is thankful for the many local, state, and federal security agencies, local fire departments and public organizations for coming together to ensure a safe, smooth event. Sanitation utilities were in full force helping coordinate garbage and recycling efforts.

Vice Mayor O'Neill had several interesting takeaways from the Super Bowl 50 experience, including that all Levi Stadium-specific advertising was covered if the companies were not NFL-wide sponsors; and the NFL blocked the city's ability to gain sponsorships from local groups and businesses because these local groups and businesses were not official NFL sponsors. Communication was a big problem with the soccer field right next to the stadium and Vice Mayor O'Neill believes the city could do much better in the future to minimize the concerns surrounding the soccer field. There were minimal complaints from neighbors even though there was more security than for any other events the city has hosted previously.

Ken Kehmna thanked Vice Mayor O'Neill for the wonderful collaboration with the Santa Clara County Fire Department and other local agencies surrounding the event. Sequoia Hall talked about the high impact events like Super Bowl 50 have on our region.



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D6. SB239 – Local Agency Formation Commissions and Fire Protection Service (Hertzberg)
Neelima Palacherla discussed SB239, which has been signed into law by Governor Brown. The new law removes the exemption that allowed fire protection districts to enter into contracts with other fire protection districts without having to seek LAFCO approval. The new rules regulate what contracts now need to be approved by LAFCO between two or more fire protection districts.

E1. Local Agency Formation Commission- Neelima Palacherla, Executive Director
LAFCO is holding a special hearing this Friday, March 11 at 10 a.m. in the County Board of Supervisors Chamber regarding the Morgan Hill Annexation. City of Morgan Hill is requesting an expansion of their urban service area. Palacherla stated that LAFCO expects a lot of public testimony on the request. Sequoia Hall (SCCSDA representative to LAFCO) mentioned that board members wanted LAFCO to send information packets long in advance of this Friday's meeting, and wanted to thank Palacherla and LAFCO staff for their work.

E2. League of California Cities – Nancy Hall-Bennett was not in attendance.

E3. CSDA- Dane Wadle, Public Affairs Field Coordinator
Wadle introduced himself to the membership and spoke about his background working for the State Assembly, and in local government before CSDA. Wadle mentioned to the group that CSDA is here to assist SCCSDA and its membership. Wadle discussed CSDA's support of Senate Bill 885 (Wolk) which deals with contracting for public works projects, and asked local special districts to take a support position on the bill.

Legal Development on the Paradise Irrigation District (PID) lawsuit against the Commission on State Mandates: The commission stated that PID did not qualify for state mandates reimbursements. A judge ruled against PID stating that pure enterprise districts were not eligible. These types of districts, like PID, have to first try to pass the costs of state mandates onto their ratepayers through fee hikes. The PID is appealing the decision to the California Supreme Court.

CSDA released a media advisory regarding an event they are sponsoring at the El Camino Healthcare District recognizing Assemblymember Rich Gordon (AD-24) as the 2015 Legislator of the Year. It is being held on March 11, 2016 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and CSDA is hoping elected officials and staff from local special districts will consider attending.

The CSDA Legislative Day is in May. CSDA will send out notices to special districts in the next several weeks.

F. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

Steve Wesolowski (Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District) wants to thank other members of SCCSDA for their feedback on the district's proposed replastering project for their pool. The district's Board of Directors decided to hold off on the project until this fall.

Pete Siemens (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District) said that their district is working on staff development as the district moves towards taking on construction projects instead of just doing planning work. The district is also working on opening more open space to the general public, including Cooley Landing, Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve, and La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.



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Ryan Michaels (South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District) stated that the district was glad to be a part of SCCSDA. The district is preparing for budget season and has applied for a \$650,000 grant for communications equipment.

Ken Kehmna (Santa Clara County Fire Department) reported that their department's finances are strong and is proud of the work fire protection agencies have done on regional cooperation.

Joe Long (Saratoga Fire Protection District) is pleased to have Chief Kehmna as a huge resource to their district and Board.

Scott Haywood (VTA) mentioned that VTA is looking into having a serious discussion about putting a half cent sales tax on the ballot.

Brenda Taussig (El Camino Healthcare District) reported to the membership that everyone should have automated external defibrillators in their district buildings. If any district is looking to apply for a grant, the county has a fund that can provide help, and districts can contact Brenda if they are interested.

Tony Estemera (Santa Clara Valley Water District) announced to the membership that the Board has appointed Barbara Keegan as Chair, and has appointed him and Director Hsueh to represent the district on SCCSDA. The Board of Directors also has selected Norma Camacho as Interim CEO, and will be officially appointing her at the Board meeting tomorrow night. The recent rain this past weekend has helped the water supply for the county; however the drought is nowhere near being over. Nai Hsueh mentioned that notices went out to well owners regarding public hearings on proposed rate increases for the next fiscal year.

Sequoia Hall (Santa Clara County Open Space Authority) mentioned that the Authority was spending Measure Q money. The Authority released the first batch of Measure Q funds including a grant given to the Children Discovery Museum, and projects to increase diversity in the use of parks. On March 18th, the Authority is making a public statement on the 1800 acre Coyote Ridge land that cost the Authority only \$7,000. The rest of the cost of Coyote Ridge was funded through grants. The Secretary of the Interior may attend.

Mark Hynes spoke on behalf of Bill Bosworth (Cupertino Sanitary District). The district takes up 20% of the San Jose Santa Clara Sewage Treatment Plant use, and the district is in conflict with the City of San Jose regarding their requirement to pay for plant upgrades.

Christine West (South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District) mentioned that they need assistance looking into capital grants.

Stephanie Moreno (Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District) mentioned that their board policies are now online. They have just entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District, to help GCRCD with their financial books. They are looking into applying for grants.



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G1. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

Action Item Review: Wesolowski mentioned that there were three action items.

1. The association will send their Hi-Res Logo to the membership;
2. Spring Newsletter entries are due to Cheryl Togami by April 1st; and
3. Reminded members that if they have not paid their dues to please do.

G3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2016 from 12–1:30 p.m.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

D1. Financial Statement

Balance as of 04/01/16		\$3,638.72
Expenses		
Service Fee		16.00
<u>Items reimbursed to SCVWD:</u>		\$562.75
Togo's, December Meeting	\$161.46	
Lunch Stop, December Meeting	\$56.02	
Domain Renewal (3 years)	\$51.51	
Personal Website Builder Renewal	\$143.76	
Togo's, March Meeting	\$150.00	
Deposits		
<u>2016 dues @ \$100 per year:</u>		\$200.00
Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District		
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District		
Balance on hand as of 04/30/16		<u>\$3,259.97</u>

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Santa Clara County Special Districts Association

This electronic newsletter is designed to keep you updated on the valuable work special districts provide to our local community.

Spring Issue 2016

Dear

This Santa Clara County Special Districts Association is an organization consisting of special districts within the County of Santa Clara. Special districts are a type of local government that perform important work in your community. We hope you find our biannual newsletter to be informative in learning about what we do as well as our current issues and activities!

South Santa Clara County Fire District Protecting Our Community



You may not be aware that the South Santa Clara County Fire District (SSCCFD) includes all of the unincorporated areas in South Santa Clara Valley, the foothills east of the Santa Clara Valley, and the Santa Cruz Mountains southeast of Mount Umunhum. SSCCFD's service area is approximately 320 square miles or 205,066 acres. We serve approximately 39,000 County residents and thousands of travelers and visitors through a busy transportation corridor. We also participate actively in automatic aid agreements (the closest resources always respond regardless of jurisdiction) with Gilroy, Santa Clara County Central Fire District, Morgan Hill Fire, Pajaro Valley, San Benito County and San Jose Fire Departments.



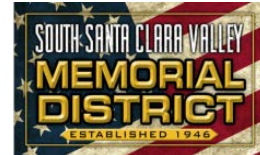
SSCCFD provides a comprehensive level of service beyond just fire suppression, including Advanced Life Support (Paramedics), swift water rescue, vehicle extraction, hazardous materials response, and earthquake and flood response. The Fire District also provides fire prevention



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education, code enforcement and engineering services to the public. For more information of the South Santa Clara County Fire District visit www.SSCCFD.com.

Local Civil War Author Hosted by the South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District



The South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District (SSCVMD) recently hosted local Civil War author and historian Meg Groeling for a lecture and book signing for her newly released book, "The Aftermath of Battle: The Burial of the Civil War Dead." Her book will now be available for sale at the Veterans Memorial Hall for \$15.

For more information about booking the Hall or to purchase a copy of the book, contact Christine West at 408/842-3838 or Christine@sscvMemorialDistrict.org.

California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and Santa Clara Chapter Honor Assembly Member Rich Gordon as 2015 Legislator of the Year



On March 11, 2016, representatives from CSDA and the Santa Clara Chapter (the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association) gathered at the El Camino Hospital in Mountain View to recognize Assembly Member Rich Gordon as CSDA's 2015 Legislator of the Year. Assembly Member Gordon was selected for his non-partisan spirit, support of local control, and close work with local districts responsible for delivering water, fire protection, parks, healthcare, and other essential services.

CSDA's President of the Board of Directors Bill Nelson presented the award and stated, "As a member of the Assembly Local Government Committee, Assembly Member Gordon has served as a thoughtful and considerate voice for CSDA members. His record on local issues has demonstrated his willingness to support local control."

Assembly Member Gordon was recognized for fostering close relationships with special district officials in his Assembly District, including members of the Santa Clara Chapter.

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Left to Right: CSDA President of Board of Directors Bill Nelson; Dr. Peter Fung El Camino HCD; Assembly Member Gordon; Ken Kehmna Fire Chief Santa Clara County Fire District; Tomi Ryba President/CEO El Camino Hospital; Julia Miller Board Member El Camino HCD.)

"Healthcare districts vary enormously across the state," said Dr. Peter C. Fung, Chair of the El Camino Healthcare District Board of Directors. "Assembly Member Gordon has shown a deep understanding of the complexity of healthcare delivery in diverse communities, and has championed legislation which truly benefits consumers."

"Assembly Member Gordon has served our community with remarkable effectiveness, integrity, and respect for others," said Tomi Ryba, President and Chief

Executive Officer of El Camino Hospital.

Additionally, Assembly Member Gordon has supported various measures to assist special districts in providing essential services.

"Special districts play an important role in closing critical service gaps to communities," said Assembly Member Gordon. "Special districts allow local leaders who are highly informed about a specialized service, and about the specific needs of an area, to make decisions that best serve the people in the community."

Special thanks to Brenda Taussig and the staff at the El Camino Healthcare District for their assistance in organizing this event. Furthermore, CSDA appreciates the attendance of a number of individuals from the Santa Clara Chapter. The turnout helped convey the importance of this award to the Assembly Member.

Santa Clara Valley Water District Reminds Us to Continue to Fight the Drought - Inside and Out



Many people are wondering, perhaps hopefully, if the drought is over. While water supply conditions have certainly improved, the drought continues to affect our region and the state of California.

On the positive side, the Sierra snowpack in April was far better than the prior year, when Governor Brown joined Department of Water Resources employees to an empty field to measure a non-existent snowpack. And two key reservoirs, Shasta and Oroville, finished the winter with above-average storage. Locally, rainfall was

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near normal, and our overall reservoir storage nearly reached average levels. As a result, the Santa Clara Valley Water District plans to use much of that water to begin the process of replenishing our groundwater supplies which have carried us through four years of drought.

This brings us to the less positive side-our groundwater basins have a long way to go before they rebound to normal. Even with increased groundwater recharge activities, the district projects that groundwater levels will still end up far below normal at the end of 2016.

Continuing the excellent efforts to reduce water use will help these groundwater aquifers rebound quicker. This is important if next winter turns out to be dry. The more we save this summer, the better prepared we will be if the drought continues.

Making water conservation a way of life was a theme echoed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors on April 24, when board members chose to continue their call for a 30% water use reduction at least through May. In 2015, county residents and businesses reduced water use by 27% compared to 2013. Impressive savings have continued through the winter and early spring months. Clearly, most people are getting the message: let's continue to fight the drought, inside and out.

Everything You Need to Know About Special Districts

What is a Special District?

Special districts are a form of local government created by a local community to meet a specific need. Inadequate tax bases and competing demands for existing taxes make it hard for cities and counties to provide all the services their citizens desire. When residents or landowners want new services or higher levels of existing services, they have in the past and may still form a special district to provide additional needed services and to pay for and administer providing those services.

What do they do?

Nearly 85% of California's special districts perform a single function such as sewage, water, fire protection, pest abatement or cemetery management. Multi-function districts, like community services districts, provide two or more services.

How do they operate?

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There are approximately 2,109 independent special districts in California, meaning they are governed by an independent board of directors elected by the districts' voters or appointed to a fixed term of office by either the city council or board of supervisors. Dependent districts are governed by other existing legislative bodies like a city council or board of supervisors. Larger independent districts have a professional manager, similar to a city manager or county administrator, to assist the governing officials. The governing boards adopt policies that the general managers carry out.

How are they funded?

Just over a quarter of California's independent special districts are enterprise districts. Enterprise districts operate more like a business enterprise, charging customers for their services. For example, a hospital district charges room fees just to their patients, not the district's other residents. Water districts charge water rates to their customers. Virtually all water, waste and hospital districts are enterprise districts. Non-enterprise districts provide services that don't lend themselves to fees because they benefit the entire community, not just certain residents. These districts provide services like parks, police and fire protection, pest abatement, libraries, and cemeteries and rely overwhelmingly on property taxes to fund their operating budgets. Although some non-enterprise districts like parks and libraries may charge fees for some services, these fees usually generate only a minor portion of their revenue. Additionally, both enterprise and non-enterprise districts can issue either general obligation or revenue bonds to help pay for capital improvements.

Accountability

Special districts are primarily accountable to the voters who elect their boards of directors and the customers who use their services. However, although they are not functions of the state, the state also provides critical oversight to special district operations. Special districts must submit annual financial reports to the State Controller and must also follow state laws pertaining to public meetings, bonded debt, record keeping and elections.

County Grand Juries also audit special districts, just as they regularly audit all local governmental entities.

To learn more, please see these [fact sheets](#).

Source: California Special Districts Association <http://www.csgda.net>

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Santa Clara County Special Districts Association Members:

[Cupertino Sanitary District](#)

[County Sanitation District 2-3](#)

[El Camino Hospital District](#)

[Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District](#)

[Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District](#)

[Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District](#)

[Purissima Hills Water District](#)

[Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District](#)

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[South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District](#)

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To send a message to the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association, click [here](#).

To view our website, click [here](#).