



# 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, December 2, 2013

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### A. Call to Order

1. Welcome and Introductions

### B. Approval of Minutes

1. Discussion and Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2013 **(Action)**

### C. Time Certain at: 12:10

1. Guest Speaker: Steve Van Dorn, President and CEO of Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce and Convention-Visitors Bureau

### D. Old Business

1. CSDA District Transparency Certificate of Excellence Update – Attachment D1 **(Information)**
2. Burbank Sanitary District SCCSDA membership

### E. New Business

1. LAFCO Representatives Report **(Information)**
2. Financial Report – Page 6 **(Action)**
3. 2014 Membership Dues **(Action)**
4. Upcoming Annual Officer Election **(Information)**
5. Calendar Year 2014 Proposed Meeting Dates – Page 6 **(Action)**
6. Purissima Hills' request to withdraw from LAFCO representation **(Information)**

### F. Partner Agency Reports

1. Local Agency Formation Commission- Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
2. League of California Cities – Jessica Stanfill Mullin, Regional Public Affairs Manager – Attachment F2 **(Information)**
3. CSDA – Dorothy Holzem, Legislative Representative – Attachment F3 **(Information)**

### G. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

1. Round Robin

### H. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

1. Action Item Review
2. The next meeting is scheduled for: March 3, 2014
3. Adjourn

---

**Officers:** Steve Wesolowski, Chair • Pete Siemens, Vice-Chair • Tony Estremera, 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 Park & Recreation District • San Martin County Water District • Santa Clara County Library Service Area • Santa Clara County Lighting Service • Santa Clara County Open Space Authority • Santa Clara Valley Water District • Saratoga Cemetery District • Saratoga Fire Protection District • South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District • Valley Transportation Authority • West Valley Sanitation District



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

---

## B1. Meeting Minutes

Santa Clara County Special Districts Association

September 9, 2013

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### Meeting Participants:

- **Cupertino Sanitary District:** Bill Bosworth
- **El Camino Healthcare District:** Chris Ernst
- **LAFCO of Santa Clara County:** Neelima Palacherla
- **League of California Cities:** Jessica Stanfill Mullin
- **Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District:** Susan Meyer
- **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District:** Yoriko Kishimoto, Pete Siemens
- **Purissima Hills Water District:** Patrick Walter
- **Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District:** Steve Wesolowski
- **Santa Clara County Open Space Authority:** Sequoia Hall
- **Santa Clara County Special Districts Association:** Rick Callender, Cheryl Togami, Cathy Paramo
- **Santa Clara Valley Water District:** Tony Estremera, Richard Santos
- **Saratoga Fire Protection District:** Gene Zambetti
- **Valley Transportation Authority:** Scott Haywood, Jim Lawson
- **West Valley Sanitation District:** Jon Newby

Guest Speaker: Cindy Chavez, Santa Clara County Supervisor, District 2

- A. Call to Order: Chair Wesolowski called meeting to order.
- B. Discussion and Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the June 3, 2013, were approved as written.
- C. Supervisor Chavez appreciated the work that special districts perform, and acknowledged that she wasn't aware of our association's existence. She wanted to share with us key issues she found from her campaign trial and opportunities for the Board of Supervisors. Issues she heard from the community: 1) public safety 2) health reform 3) education 4) jobs/economy.



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

---

The Board is in the business of health and human services. She said the County is like a special district to local government – people don't know what they do. There are opportunities for partnerships. Ms. Chavez mentioned the joint purchase of health insurance with VTA. This allows them to pool resources to make a large purchase and also helps them for procurement processes to buy locally, in smaller chunks, which provides more local jobs.

Supervisor Chavez finds most public servants are smart, want to protect people, the environment, and the community and look for opportunities for communication to talk about the important roles of local government. These factors provide a unique opportunity to collaborate. Ms. Chavez gave an example of the City of San Jose working with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to jointly work on cleaning up creeks.

Supervisor Chavez responded to questions from members and thanked us for inviting her and she also welcomes a future opportunity to meet with us.

## D. Old Business

Chair Wesolowski reminded everyone that an email went out on his behalf to all special districts in the county encouraging pursuing the CSDA District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. Rick Callender mentioned that the goal is to have 100% special district certification. El Camino Healthcare District was the first in the county to receive certification. Santa Clara Valley Water District also received certification. Chair Wesolowski also mentioned that there is a CSDA training in Napa he's attending in November.

## E. New Business

1. Minutes approved.
2. LAFCO just completed special district review for several small special districts. Public review draft is out.
3. Gene Zambetti had asked that we amend the agenda to include two letters regarding the Saratoga Fire Protection District. He stated that he preferred the study be called a study and not a dissolution study. His district was formed in 1923 and the community and its residents feel strongly that the district should remain.
4. Although this was not on the agenda. Rick Callender wanted to mention that Burbank Sanitary District is under new leadership and there was a question as to whether they were going to remain a member of the Association. He believes the last communication was they were not going to drop out.



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

---

## F. Partner Agency Reports

1. Neelima Palacherla: LAFCO adopted Phase I of the Special Districts Service Review on August 1. There was one district in which serious concerns were identified. LAFCO has requested changes and implementation of its recommendations. The South Santa Clara County Valley Memorial District has until 9/13 to respond. Letters were sent to other districts with a 9/6 response date. LAFCO has heard back from Rancho Rinconada and received a partial response from SCC. They are waiting for the Lighting District and Cemetery District to respond.

Phase II will include the sanitary/sewer districts and open space. Burbank Sanitary District is being reviewed and some options have been identified.

2. Jessica Stanfill Mullin: This is the last week of the legislative session. SB33 (Wolk) – eliminates voter threshold to set up infrastructure financing District and issue bonds – on Assembly floor. AB1080 (Alejo) is dead. Department of Finance wants cities to go through the RDA dissolution process. SF470, AB440, and SB556 pending. SB594 – bill was changed so League removed oppose and changed to neutral. Governor has until 10/13/13 to sign bills.

ACTION: Jessica will email list of bills. Jessica going to look at uniformity laws (commercial property can't be assessed at different rate than residential) and get back to us.

3. Dorothy Holzem of CSDA was not present but she provided information in the meeting agenda.

## G. Round Robin

Cupertino Sanitary District attended a statewide conference with attendance of about 200-300. Sanitation districts becoming a resource agency, except for the City of San Jose.

El Camino Healthcare District mentioned the Diwali Festival on 10/12 in Cupertino and the 11/12 Health and Wellness Expo in Saratoga. Also mentioned was Pulse Point – San Jose is the only city with enabled software.

Loma Prieta RCD expanded its service contract for mobile irrigation labs. They've received grant money from the NRCS and are conducting outreach and education to ranchers on managed grazing.

Santa Clara County OSA has an event 9/14 at Alum Rock Park from 1-3pm and it's a public event.

Santa Clara Valley Water District said to check its website for information on grants. Also, Coastal Cleanup is 9/21.

VTA kicked off its Bay Area Bikeshare program. There are 280 bikes at 28 kiosk stations.

Purissima Hills Water District is a water district in Los Altos Hills and uses Hetch Hetchy water. They have a \$4.3B improvement project.

Midpeninsula Regional OSA is coming to the end of developing its major vision plan. It has a new public affairs manager who is working to increase public awareness. It also is actively working on grazing leases on a number of properties and is interested in collaborating with Loma Prieta.



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

---

## H. 1. Action Item Review

### ACTIONS:

1. Time/date of Napa Training (November 17-20)
2. Report back on progress of certificate of transparency
3. Report back on status of Burbank Sanitary District membership
4. Get list of bills from Jessica Stanfill Mullin and send to distribution
5. Jessica Stanfill Mullin will look at uniformity laws and let Rick know her findings.



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

---

## E2. Financial Statement

Balance as of 9/8/13 \$3243.60

### Expenses

Check #1008 – Lunch Stop, September lunch meeting \$ 459.21

Deposits - none

Balance on hand as of 11/20/13 \$2784.39

## E4. Calendar Year 2014 Proposed Regular Meeting Dates

March 3, 2014  
June 2, 2014  
September 8, 2014  
December 1, 2014



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

FROM: Steve Wesolowski

DATE: October 16, 2013

TO: Santa Clara County Special Districts

RE: District Transparency Certificate of Excellence

Please share this information with your respective board chairs and agency executive officer:

At our June 3, 2013, regular meeting, the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association (SCCSDA) agreed that we should publicize and encourage all Santa Clara County based Special Districts to obtain a District Transparency Certificate of Excellence.

According to the brochure and handout distributed at the meeting, the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) created this program in an effort to promote transparency in the operations and governance of Special Districts to the public. There are no fees for the certificate and district certification is recognized for two years. Copies of the handout are attached.

Earning a certificate clearly demonstrates a district's commitment to transparency. In order to earn a certificate, a district must satisfy requirements in three subject areas: Basic transparency, website, and outreach. There is a checklist which outlines all the requirements and how to proceed in submitting documentation for review.

As reported in our September 9, 2013, regular meeting, both El Camino Healthcare District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District applied for, and earned their Transparency Certificates from CSDA. Our association's goal is for 100% participation. My district is currently working towards this goal. I hope your district sees this goal as beneficial too.

I encourage you to take action to ensure that your agency submits an application and documentation to the SDLF by March 31, 2014, a date the SCCSDA meeting attendees selected.

I'm looking forward to hearing your agency's status update at our next SCCSDA meeting in December.

Thank you.

## Attachment F2



1400 K Street, Suite 400 • Sacramento, California 95814  
Phone: 916.658.8200 Fax: 916.658.8240

[www.cacities.org](http://www.cacities.org)

### 2014 LEAGUE STRATEGIC GOALS

Meeting in joint session November 7 - 8, 2013 the officers and directors of the divisions, departments, diversity caucuses, policy committees and board of directors of the League of California Cities adopted the following strategic goals for 2014:<sup>1</sup>

- 1. Provide New Options for Infrastructure Investment and Economic Development.** Advocate for new tools, authority and funding to enable increased investment in state and local infrastructure and economic development to support expanded job growth and economic opportunity for all Californians.
- 2. Expand Reform of Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Policies to Better Contain Long-Term Costs.** Build on recent pension reforms and urge the adoption of additional measures to contain and manage the long-term growth of pension and OPEB costs, ensure the sustainability of these employee benefits, and protect the capacity of cities to adequately fund vital public safety and other community services.
- 3. Build Effective Partnerships to Help Respond to Growing Community Needs.** Build effective partnerships with state and local officials and other organizations to promote local authority and funding sufficient to meet growing community needs.

---

<sup>1</sup> These strategic priorities are intended to encompass and supplement the resolutions adopted at the General Assembly at the League's 2013 Annual Conference concerning the important needs of cities in the area of water infrastructure and improved implementation of AB 109 public safety realignment.

# League-Opposed Workers' Compensation Statute of Limitations Bill Vetoed

## Milestone Reached as Gov. Brown Acts on Remaining 2013 Legislation

October 15, 2013

This past Sunday marked the Governor's signing deadline for all 2013 legislation. Upon issuing his last legislative update, the Governor signed a total of 1,003 measures and vetoed 96.

Since taking the helm as the state's top governing official for the third time in January 2011, Gov. Jerry Brown has signed approximately 2,714 measures out of the 3,011 sent to his desk, or about 90 percent. As for vetoes, the Governor has only rejected some 297 bills, or almost 10 percent. Such liberal use of his signing pen this and previous years is of note as it may signal what one should expect during the final half of the 2013–14 biennial session.

### League-Opposed Bill Vetoed

[AB 1373 \(John A. Pérez\): Public Safety Workers' Compensation](#) Death Benefits

Status: Vetoed, Oct. 13

League Position: Oppose, **HOT BILL**

AB 1373 (Pérez) was a labor-supported reintroduction of a [bill vetoed](#) by the Governor last year. Substantially similar to its predecessor, AB 1373 provisions sought to extend the statute of limitations from 240 weeks to 480 weeks for presumptive death benefit claims for cancer, tuberculosis or MRSA to be filed on behalf of a firefighter or peace officer. In his [veto message](#) this year, the Governor reiterated his previous reasons for not signing the bill; which included a lack of substantive information on the subject to “make a more informed policy and research

based decision on this question in the future.”

If AB 1373 had been signed, local governments and agencies would have seen increased costs. While the League believes public safety officers deserve to be fairly compensated for on-the-job injuries, a lack of sufficient data to validate such an extension was of great concern. Even more so, the unknown fiscal implication of the bill was another significant issue.

## **League-Supported Bills That Were Signed**

### [AB 532 \(Gordon\): Local Housing Trust Fund](#)

Status: Signed, Oct. 12

League Position: Support

In 2006 voters passed [Proposition 1C](#) providing \$2.85 billion in bonds for a variety of local affordable housing and other development projects. Under initiative provisions, the Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) Program was established to distribute an allotment of matching funding grants to cities and counties for affordable housing projects. Monies were distributed to fund new and existing LHTFs separately. A sunset date of sorts was placed in the measure requiring that funds not awarded by November 2013 revert to the CalHome program. While the funding for existing housing trust funds has been exhausted, there remains over \$8 million for newly formed trust funds. Without AB 532, the remaining funds would be transferred to the Self-Help Housing Program and this precious funding source would not be available to California’s most needy residents.

### [AB 986 \(Bradford\): Flash Incarceration in City Jails](#)

Status: Signed, Oct. 13

League Position: Support

AB 986 authorizes “flash incarceration” of offenders under post-release community supervision (PRCS) to occur in municipal as well as county jails. [California Penal Code Section 3454](#) defines flash incarceration as a “period of detention in county jail due to a violation of an offender’s conditions of PRCS. The length of the detention period can range between one and 10 consecutive days.” In short, flash incarcerations are more frequent, short-term punishments for

violations of PRCS.

Since the implementation of [AB 109](#) in 2011, county jails, many of which were already operating under self-imposed or court-ordered population caps, have been heavily impacted with increased numbers of offenders who previously would have been incarcerated in state prison. AB 986 is a positive step toward restoring a meaningful deterrent for this class of offenders, without sending them back to state prison.

### **League-Supported Bills That Were Vetoed**

#### [AB 564 \(Mullin\): Local Certainty in Department of Finance Finding of Completion](#)

Status: Vetoed, Oct. 13

League Position: Support, Sponsor

Despite receiving unanimous support in legislative policy committees and both floors, Gov. Jerry Brown still [vetoed](#) AB 564. The bill obtained a high level of bi-partisan support because it simply reinforces the intent of the Legislature that successor agencies would be able to access and rely upon the specific benefits listed in statute once they received a finding of completion from the Department of Finance (DOF).

Sponsored by the League, AB 564 would have clarified statute to reflect legislative intent so successor agencies could rely on access to benefits over the long term. Under AB 564, after the initial approval of oversight board action by DOF, successor agencies and other public and private entities would have been reassured of the decision. Such clarification could prevent unnecessary future disputes, confusion and litigation, and assisted the affected communities in moving on from redevelopment agency dissolution.

#### [AB 1229 \(Atkins\): Local Inclusionary Housing Ordinances](#)

Status: Vetoed, Oct. 13

League Position: Support, **HOT BILL**

AB 1229 would have restored local inclusionary housing ordinances as they pertain to rental housing to address the [Palmer/Sixth Street Properties L.P. v. City of Los Angeles, 175 Cal. App.](#)

4<sup>th</sup> 1396 (2009) decision. In its ruling, the courts took a very broad interpretation of the Costa-Hawkins Act and its application on inclusionary housing ordinances, opining that inclusionary housing ordinances with regards to rental housing conflicted with and were preempted by the Costa-Hawkins Act. Costa-Hawkins was intended to restrict systems of rent control, not preclude rent restrictions on inclusionary housing.

Inclusionary housing programs are an important tool in the production of affordable new homes for working families. Compounded with the state’s dissolution of redevelopment agencies, the vetoing of AB 1229 only exacerbates problems cities are facing surrounding affordable housing.

### **League-Opposed Bills That Were Signed**

#### AB 537 (Bonta): Arbitration and Tentative Agreement Impasse

Status: Signed, Oct. 13

League Position: Oppose, **HOT BILL**

AB 537 deletes the requirement that a governing body adopt a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and introduces new terminology that is not defined, which will result in confusion, likely disputes, and possible delays.

The bill changes decades of local labor relations law by deleting the requirement that the MOU be presented for approval to the governing body after agreed upon by the local agency representatives and ratified by the employee organization. AB 537 requires that the governing body accept or reject a “tentative agreement” reached by the parties. This new practice would drastically change the widely followed procedural requirement that a governing body approve the final MOU implemented once agreed upon and ratified by the parties.

#### SB 7 (Steinberg): Public Works Prevailing Wage Requirements for Charter Cities

Status: Signed, Oct. 13

League Position: Oppose, **HOT BILL**

Under SB 7, state construction funding will be withheld from up to 51 charter cities, with a combined population of over five million people, in an effort to leverage state prevailing wage

policies on projects solely funded by local tax dollars. The Supreme Court recently [ruled](#) that charter cities had the right under the Constitution to decide locally whether to require state prevailing wages for projects funded by local tax dollars. SB 7 nullifies that decision by imposing unconstitutional conditions on state public works grants that the voters in these cities help fund with their own state tax payments. In many cases, this will increase the cost of local projects.

### [SB 313 \(De León\): Procedures for Public Safety Officers on Brady Lists](#)

Status: Signed, Oct. 12

League Position: Oppose, **HOT BILL**

The League believes SB 313 will create a dangerous and burdensome public safety precedent in that it, in some circumstances, prevents cities and public agencies from replacing or reprimanding officers who have been placed on “Brady” lists. The term “Brady” list stems from the legal standard established in [Brady v. Maryland \(1963\) 373 U.S. 83](#) where public safety officer names are identified by local district attorneys as untrustworthy or dishonest and placed on a Brady list. In some circumstances, such officers have engaged in lying in an official capacity or similar acts that can tarnish an officer’s credibility.

This measure ignores the underlying problem, which is the lack of due process or appeal in some jurisdictions. The focus of any legislative efforts should have been on amending the implementation of due process or appeals when an officer has been placed on a Brady list. Instead of addressing these problems, the bill now limits the authority of public agency employers to appropriately address personnel matters.

### **Status Update**

Below is a breakdown on how many League bills have been signed or vetoed this year:

- League-Supported Bills Signed:
  - [AB 440 \(Gatto\): Hazardous materials: releases: local agency cleanup.](#)
  - [AB 483 \(Ting\): Local government: taxes, fees, assessments, and charges: definitions.](#)
  - [AB 513 \(Frazier\): Tire recycling program: rubberized asphalt.](#)

- [AB 532 \(Gordon\): Local Housing Trust Fund.](#)
- [AB 576 \(V. Manuel Pérez\): Revenue Recovery and Collaborative Enforcement Team Act: pilot program.](#)
- [AB 639 \(John A. Pérez\): Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014.](#)
- [AB 719 \(Hernandez\): Energy: energy efficiency: street light pole.](#)
- [AB 748 \(Eggman\): Judgments against a public entity: interest.](#)
- [AB 986 \(Bradford\): Postrelease community supervision: flash incarceration: city jails.](#)
- [AB 1042 \(Hall\): Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund.](#)
- [AB 1090 \(Fong\): Public officers: conflicts of interest: contracts.](#)
- [AB 1253 \(Blumenfield\): Vehicles: mobile advertising displays.](#)
- [SB 31 \(Padilla\): Outdoor advertising displays: arenas.](#)
- [SB 43 \(Wolk\): Electricity: Green Tariff Shared Renewables Program.](#)
- [SB 191 \(Padilla\): Emergency medical services.](#)
- [SB 211 \(Hernandez\): Tax administration: disclosure of information: Franchise Tax board and cities.](#)
- [SB 254 \(Hancock\): Solid waste: used mattresses: recycling and recovery.](#)
- [SB 470 \(Wright\): Community development: economic opportunity.](#)
- [SB 510 \(Jackson\): Land use: subdivisions: rental mobilehome park conversion.](#)
- [SB 684 \(Hill\): Advertising displays: redevelopment agency project areas.](#)
- League-Opposed Bills Vetoed:
  - [AB 729 \(Hé Hernández\): Evidentiary privileges: union agent-represented worker privilege.](#)
  - [AB 1235 \(Gordon\): Local agencies: financial management training.](#)
  - [AB 1373 \(John A. Pérez\): Workers' compensation: firefighters and peace officers.](#)
- League-Opposed Bills Signed:
  - [AB 218 \(Dickinson\): Employment applications: criminal history.](#)
  - [AB 537 \(Bonta\): Meyers-Milias-Brown Act: impasse procedures.](#)

- [AB 562 \(Williams\): Economic development subsidies: review by local agencies.](#)
- [AB 691 \(Muratsuchi\): State lands: granted trust lands: sea level rise.](#)
- [AB 792 \(Mullin\): Utility user tax: exemption: distributed generation systems.](#)
- [AB 1149 \(Campos\): Identity theft: local agencies.](#)
- [SB 7 \(Steinberg\): Public works: charter cities.](#)
- [SB 313 \(De León\): Public Safety Officers Procedural Bills of Rights Act.](#)
- League-Supported Bills Vetoed:
  - [AB 564 \(Mullin\): Community redevelopment: successor agencies.](#)
  - [AB 841 \(Torres\): Junk dealers and recyclers: nonferrous materials: payment.](#)
  - [AB 683 \(Mullin\): Local government: fines and penalties: assessments.](#)
  - [AB 1229 \(Atkins\): Land use: zoning regulations.](#)
  - [SB 804 \(Lara\): Solid waste: energy.](#)

For detailed information regarding bill signings and vetoes, please see the Governor's [press release website](#).

- See more at: <http://www.cacities.org/Top/News/News-Articles/2013/October/League-Opposed-Workers'-Compensation-Statute-of-Li#sthash.d024GkwR.dpuf>



**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*



**GRASSROOTS  
ACTION PACKET**

**November/December 2013**

This Grassroots Action Packet offers a brief overview of some of the top legislative issues that impact special districts, as identified by CSDA’s Legislative Committee. Visit CSDA’s Grassroots Action Center at [csda.net/grassroots](http://csda.net/grassroots) to find all of the latest information on the critical issues affecting special districts, along with grassroots mobilization tools.

**CONTENTS:**

1% Property Tax (Including Tax Increment).....(Page 2)  
 Lower Voter Threshold (55%) for Local Revenue.....(Page 3)  
 Reserve Funds.....(Page 4)  
 Public Employee Pensions.....(Page 5)  
 Transparency & Accountability.....(Page 6)  
 CEQA Reform.....(Page 7)  
 Green Revenue.....(Page 8)  
 How to Get Involved.....(Page 9)

Find a current comprehensive list of every bill that CSDA tracks, download Legislative Committee documents, request a meeting with your legislators, and find many other resources by visiting [csda.net](http://csda.net) and logging in to the Legislative Access Services page, located under Legislative Resources.

**CSDA ADVOCACY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

Kyle Packham, Advocacy and Public Affairs Director  
 Legislative Issues: Budget, Finances and Taxation; Formation & Reorganization  
[kylep@csda.net](mailto:kylep@csda.net)

Dorothy Holzem, Legislative Representative  
 Legislative Issues: Human Resources & Personnel; Transparency & Accountability  
[dorothyh@csda.net](mailto:dorothyh@csda.net)

Christina Lokke, Legislative Representative  
 Legislative Issues: Environmental Sustainability; Public Works & Contracting  
[christinal@csda.net](mailto:christinal@csda.net)

Jimmy MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
[jimmym@csda.net](mailto:jimmym@csda.net)

Miryam M. Barajas, Public Affairs Specialist  
[miryamb@csda.net](mailto:miryamb@csda.net)

Jess Lima, Staff Assistant  
[jessl@csda.net](mailto:jessl@csda.net)

## 1% PROPERTY TAX (INCLUDING TAX INCREMENT)

---

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **RDA Dissolution - Recognized Obligation Payment Schedules**

When the governor and Legislature were drafting proposals to reform or dissolve RDAs in 2011, CSDA advocated that any residual revenue should be appropriately returned to special districts and other local taxing entities in proportion to the amount diverted.

As former redevelopment agencies' (RDAs') enforceable obligations are paid off, the residual revenue is being returned to the core services from which it was diverted. After the June residual payments to special districts, the amount returned to special districts since the initial dissolution of redevelopment agencies totals \$300 million (out of of the nearly \$4 billion returned to all affected local agencies).

#### Total Estimated Return of Local Property Tax Since 2011:

Estimated Total Residual Property Tax Distribution = \$4.024 billion

Special District Share = \$304.7 million

Even with the ongoing dissolution of RDAs, legislative proposals were introduced in 2013 to create a "Redevelopment 2.0" program. CSDA advocated that any new programs should align with current law, which requires local agencies' consent prior to diverting a share of property tax revenue from the core services they provide. Given the high profile nature of this topic, the CSDA RDA Working Group developed a [RDA Fact Sheet](#) and an internal [Membership Memo](#) to offer members best practices and guidance on the local revenue now returning to local agencies from the RDA wind-down process.

#### **Prop 1A Return of 2009-10 Local Property Taxes**

In June, 2013, the State repaid \$1.9 billion of principal, plus interest, borrowed from special districts and other local agencies that did not participate in the Proposition 1A Loan Securitization Program. California's Department of Finance submitted a letter with the official list of repayments per county to the State Controller's Office (SCO) on May 31, and the SCO issued loan repayments to each county auditor-controller's office, which then disbursed lump-sum checks to each affected taxing entity. CSDA obtained an advance draft copy of this information and worked with members to address errors prior to distribution.

**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS:** CSDA takes a strong stand against any renewal of property tax-increment financing without the consent of each participating local agency.

- **AB 690 (CAMPOS): JOBS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRICT** - CSDA successfully opposed AB 690, legislation that would have renewed the diversion of property tax-increment away from districts in order to create a Jobs and Infrastructure District (JID) program. Now a two-year bill, the author has committed to CSDA that she will amend the legislation to require local agencies' consent prior to any property tax revenue diversion.
- **AB 1080 (ALEJO): COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION INVESTMENT AUTHORITIES** – *Support*, Introduced in 2013 and designated as a two-year bill, this model legislation empowers local governments to create a Community Revitalization Investment Authority (CRIA). The bill requires the consent of all taxing agencies prior to the diversion of any property tax revenue and permits each agency to designate the amount and purpose the increment may be used for. It also allows each agency to terminate its diversion at any time, so long as debt obligations are not impaired.

**TAKE ACTION:** Visit the Grassroots Action Center to download the RDA Fact Sheet with talking points that your district can use to educate the public as to how the returned funds are benefiting the local community. Moreover, download the comprehensive RDA residual payment and Prop 1A repayment schedule.

For specific questions, and for a copy of the internal memo sent to all CSDA Members, contact Kyle Packham, CSDA's Advocacy & Public Affairs Director overseeing advocacy efforts on taxation issues, at [kylep@csda.net](mailto:kylep@csda.net)

## LOWER VOTER THRESHOLD (55%) FOR LOCAL REVENUE

---

**BACKGROUND:** Local general taxes, such as city and county sales tax measures, require a simple 50 percent majority voter approval and can be spent on anything. Local special taxes require a two-thirds super-majority voter approval and are dedicated to specific purposes, offering transparency and accountability to taxpayers.

Because all special districts provide limited services, all special district taxes are special taxes. Thus, a city could pass a general tax that is intended to fund its fire department or parks department using a 50 percent vote threshold, while community services districts, parks and recreation districts, fire protection districts and others must achieve a two-thirds vote.

The existing two-thirds requirement for local revenues frequently denies the will of a clear majority of voters. According to the California Local Government Finance Almanac, between 2001 and 2012, over half of local two-thirds vote measures that failed—279 of 475—achieved greater than 55 percent approval.

**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS:** CSDA supports passage of SCA 11 (Hancock) and ACA 8 (Blumenfield), state constitutional amendments that empower local communities to fund core local services and infrastructure through a 55 percent vote threshold if the agency meets new accountability provisions, including:

- ✓ Specifying all purposes of tax proceeds to voters;
  - ✓ Conducting annual independent audits of the proceeds collected and programs funded;
  - ✓ Establishing a citizens' oversight committee to review all expenditures and financial audits;
- **SCA 11 (HANCOCK): LOCAL REVENUE MEASURE THRESHOLD** – *Support*, places a proposition on the 2014 General Election Ballot to allow California's electorate to decide whether special districts, cities and counties may choose to pursue local special taxes with 55 percent approval from their local voters. SCA 11 does not raise a single tax, nor make any direct changes to current law. It simply allows the voters of California to choose whether or not a 55 percent threshold would best empower local communities to make their own local revenue decisions.

CSDA provided key testimony when this measure passed its first two policy committees. It is next scheduled to be heard before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

- **ACA 8 (BLUMENFIELD): LOCAL BOND THRESHOLD** – *Support*, places a proposition on the 2014 statewide General Election ballot to allow California's electorate to decide whether special districts and other local agencies may secure local infrastructure bonds with the same 55 percent voter approval threshold that currently applies to schools.

This measure has passed the State Assembly and is next scheduled to be heard before the Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

**TAKE ACTION:** Visit the Grassroots Action Center to access the latest information on advocacy efforts.

- Download SCA 11 and ACA 8 template support letters, legislative factsheets and talking points.

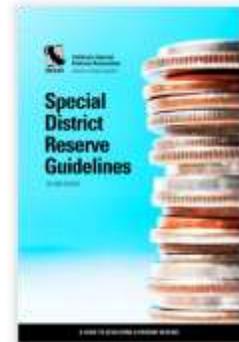
For specific questions contact Kyle Packham, CSDA's Advocacy & Public Affairs Director overseeing advocacy efforts on voter thresholds, at [kylep@csda.net](mailto:kylep@csda.net).

## RESERVE FUNDS

---

**BACKGROUND:** In times of scarce public resources, some are quick to question the amount of reserve funds public agencies have set aside. Just last month, a major southern California newspaper published a story detailing and criticizing the reserve levels at every water and wastewater district in Orange County. Thus, it remains critical for special districts to proactively develop, implement and communicate reserve policies.

CSDA's Special District Reserve Guidelines, Second Edition, incorporates over a decade of new insights gained on improved best practices. Since CSDA's first edition of reserve guidelines, published in 2001, certain accounting practices and terminologies have evolved.



CSDA's Reserve Guidelines Task Force identified both the essential elements of reserve policies and key issues to be discussed during reserve policy development to assist districts in fulfilling their commitment to provide cost-effective public services to their communities. Areas covered in the second edition include: the formation of the Special District Reserve Guidelines, prudent accumulation and management of reserves and developing policy, and fund balance and net position/net assets.

The Special District Reserve Guidelines may be used to evaluate existing reserve policy, develop new reserve policy, and/or promote comprehensive and easily understood policies. Inevitably, public agencies will face scrutiny over whether to raise or reduce rates, taxes or fees. Having reserve policies in place prior to such occasions serves as a valuable tool for both making and explaining difficult decisions.

Prudent reserves make for sound budgeting. For countless families, saving for a rainy day is common-sense. For special districts, reserve funds are not just money in the bank; they are fundamental resources for ensuring reliable core services and community security.

### TALKING POINTS EXCERPT FROM RESERVE GUIDELINES:

- *Emergency Preparation* – In the event of a disaster, communities can't afford not to have savings readily available to quickly repair critical core infrastructure and bring core services back online.
- *Affordable Rates* – With appropriate savings, special districts are able to use resources wisely and smooth out the highs and the lows of volatile economic conditions, rather than spend their entire surplus and then seek new revenue or jeopardize services.
- *Infrastructure Maintenance* – Reserves mean the pipes are fixed, roofs are patched, and worn equipment is replaced without going back to the taxpayers to pay for routine upkeep.
- *Planning for the Future* – A long-term, thoughtful approach to public infrastructure requires the foresight to plan for, and the discipline to save for, future needs.

**TAKE ACTION:** Visit the [csda.net](http://csda.net) to download the Reserve Guidelines or order printed copies through the CSDA bookstore.

- Evaluate current district reserve policy.
- Adopt district reserve policy, if one has not been adopted.
- Promote understanding outside the boardroom and perform outreach on district financial management to facilitate understanding among the public, media and legislators.

For specific questions contact Kyle Packham, CSDA's Advocacy & Public Affairs Director, at [kylep@csda.net](mailto:kylep@csda.net).

## PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSIONS

---

**BACKGROUND:** Public employee retirement systems are an important component of the total compensation package used to attract and retain highly qualified, career-minded employees to public service. Public agencies value long-term career employees who provide institutional knowledge critical to delivering consistent and reliable core local services that benefit and protect communities.

While many special districts vigilantly work to maintain viable pension programs, the ability to support pension costs is an issue confronting public employers throughout the state. Projected increasing costs in the near-term will challenge special districts in their efforts to preserve long-term sustainability of their pension plans for current and new employees. Additional changes to pension programs are inevitable, and CSDA is committed to promoting reasonable, sustainable and transparent solutions.

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' PENSION REFORM ACT:** In January 1, 2013, the majority of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) provisions took effect. However, before many of those provisions could be implemented, the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) board had to first adopt necessary regulations to define terms, account for existing Memorandums of Understanding between employers and employees, clarify final pension benefit calculations, and reconcile state and federal regulations. Each of the regulatory reform proposal will go before the CalPERS Board, followed by a 45 day public comment period. CSDA is working closely with local government partners and CalPERS staff to ensure a smooth transition for employer agencies. This process will continue into 2014 to finalize still out-standing issues and address late-breaking concerns.

**PENSION LEGISLATION:** Relatively few bills impacting pension systems successfully passed through the Legislature. Those measures that were signed were either clean-up measures to the original enacting legislation in 2012 or addressed late-breaking issues.

- **SB 13 (BEALL)** – Primary clean-up bill that addresses technical, non-substantive changes as well as clarifying language to PEPRA enacting bills AB 340 (Furatani, 2012) and AB 197 (Skinner, 2012).
- **AB 1222 (BLOOM)** – Temporarily exempts transit workers from PEPRA to avoid possible conflicts with federal collective bargaining law, until January 2015 or the federal court issues a decision on the conflict. Without AB 1222, California would lose over \$1 billion in funding for local transit systems.
- **SB 39 (DE LEON)** – Protects local agencies from being sued for unpaid pension benefits by dismissed public employees who were terminated due to felony convictions related to their public agency duties.

**BALLOT INITIATIVES:** In October, five mayors lead by San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed filed paperwork with the Attorney General and began the process of pursuing a ballot measure to make significant changes to the recent statewide Public Employees' Pension Reform Act. Specifically, the initiative seeks to grant local agencies greater authority to determine local benefits for existing employees, excluding vested benefits. The proponents are seeking to place this on the November 2014 ballot.

**CALPERS SEEKS LIEN AUTHORITY TO RECOUP DELINQUENT PAYMENTS:** CalPERS will sponsor a bill next year that would allow the system to place a lien on local agencies deemed to be delinquent in their payments. CalPERS currently has this authority over terminated agencies only. CalPERS stated the lien authority will offer a tool to maintain the health of the overall system and avoid risk to other CalPERS member agencies that are current with payments.

**TAKE ACTION:** Visit the Grassroots Action Center to access the latest information on advocacy efforts.

- Latest information on CalPERS newly adopted amortization period and smoothing method.
- Background on the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013.

For specific questions contact Dorothy Holzem, CSDA's Legislative Representative overseeing advocacy efforts on public employee pensions, at [dorothyh@csda.net](mailto:dorothyh@csda.net).

## TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

---

**BACKGROUND:** Special districts are responsible for delivering core services to neighborhoods and regions based on voter-approved actions. As the most local form of government, they are first and foremost accountable to their voters and their ratepayers. Special districts offer exceptionally responsive governance because they directly oversee service delivery to their constituents.

**DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENT:** The Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) is pleased to offer a free recognition opportunity to highlight local good governance efforts related to transparency and public access. Visit [sdlf.org/transparency](http://sdlf.org/transparency) to learn more.

**SUSPENSION OF STATE MANDATES:** The California Public Records Act, Ralph M. Brown Act and AB 1234 Ethics training mandates continue to be under scrutiny following a flurry of action during the adoption of the FY 2013-14 budget and passage of Senate Constitutional Amendment 3 (Leno). Despite potential changes to suspension and reimbursement status, CSDA continues to encourage local districts to adhere to all good governance measures. The following talking points may be useful to respond to inquiries from the media or members of the public:

- We are committed to openness and transparency in all aspects of our district's delivery of core local services to our community.
- We hold in high regard public engagement in government. This requires making public records accessible to ensure the public can participate in an informed, meaningful way.
- We are, and should be, accountable first and foremost to the local residents we serve and the voters in our community.

**NEW LAWS FOR 2014:** Governor Brown signed several bills relating to transparency, accountability, and finances local government.

- **AB 1248 (COOLEY):** Places CSDA at the table with the State Controller, the League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties, to develop best practices for financial internal control guidelines that help ensure good fiscal housekeeping. CSDA successfully lobbied to make the bill's provisions voluntary and not mandatory.
- **SB 594 (HILL):** Creates new restrictions on non-profit associations with public agency members related to ballot measure advocacy. The measure expands the definition of a "public resource" prohibited for use in campaign advocacy. It also creates audit and reporting requirements for associations that contribute more than \$50,000 a quarter to ballot campaigns, or \$100,000 every two years. CSDA's was actively engaged in a broad coalition to amend this measure down from a overly broad effort to silence the collective voice of local government and special districts on ballot measures impacting local operations and finances
- **AB 1149 (CAMPOS):** Creates new requirements for local data management practices for secure personal information. This law takes existing breach notification procedures that applied previously only to private vendors and state agencies, and mandates them for all local agencies. This measure takes effect January 1 and will need to go before the Commission on State Mandates to determine if local agencies are eligible for partial or full reimbursement of related expenses

**TAKE ACTION:** Visit the Grassroots Action Center to access the latest information on advocacy efforts.

- Updates on mandate suspension status and new open meeting and public record legislation.
- Proposals from the State Controller's Office and Legislature on fiscal accountability requirements.

For specific questions contact Dorothy Holzem, CSDA's Legislative Representative overseeing advocacy efforts on transparency and accountability policy, at [dorothyh@csda.net](mailto:dorothyh@csda.net).

## CEQA REFORM

---

**BACKGROUND:** The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a California statute intended to establish statewide environmental protections. It requires state and local agencies to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts of proposed projects and adopt all feasible measures to mitigate those impacts. Special districts have a unique and critical perspective on CEQA as proponents for public works projects and as “lead agencies” conducting CEQA review, making them key stakeholders in the development of CEQA public policy.

CSDA recognizes the value and importance of CEQA to the protection of the environment in California. Any proposed CEQA revisions should improve the efficiency of CEQA procedures without compromising its integrity or weakening crucial environmental protections. Well-designed environmental laws allow public agencies to efficiently construct projects necessary for the delivery of core local services, while implementing environmentally sustainable practices.

This year’s legislative session began as the year of CEQA reform. Legislators introduced close to 30 CEQA-related bills, including bills to strengthen CEQA and bills to implement reforms. However, as the legislative session ran its course and the interest in reform waned, very few CEQA related bills successfully passed through the Legislature.

Included in the bills that did not move forward this year were a number of bills opposed by CSDA that would have created burdensome new requirements for special districts. All of these bills failed to meet the necessary legislative deadlines and are now two year bills, meaning they could come back next year. AB 543 (Campos) would have required a lead agency, under certain circumstances, to translate specified CEQA documents into languages other than English. Both AB 953 (Ammiano) and SB 617 (Evans) would have required CEQA analysis of “significant effect on the environment” to take into consideration the effect of locating people near, or attracting people to, a natural hazard or adverse environmental condition. Finally, SB 731 (Steinberg) was the most comprehensive CEQA related measure and CSDA took an oppose unless amended position on the bill. It would have placed new burdens on public agencies, raising costs and potentially increasing litigation. However, due to CSDA’s advocacy, many of these provisions were amended out in the final days of session.

**SUCCESSFUL CEQA LEGISLATION:** In the end, the year of CEQA reform saw only one major CEQA bill successfully pass the Legislature. It was subsequently signed by the Governor.

- **SB 743 (STEINBERG): LIMITED CEQA STREAMLINING** – Primarily intended to provide CEQA exemptions to expedite the building of a Sacramento Kings basketball stadium in downtown Sacramento. The bill also modifies current expedited judicial review provisions for the very limited environmental leadership projects, as originally enacted by AB 900 (Buchanan, 2011), and includes portions from SB 731 (Steinberg) streamlining certain review provisions for projects in specific infill areas.

**PUBLIC WORKS COALITION:** CSDA took a leadership role in coordinating the Public Works Coalition, comprised of public agencies. In particular, the coalition worked with Senator Steinberg’s office on potential amendments to SB 731 to remove the burdens on public agencies. While the bill did not move forward this year, the coalition did receive a commitment from the author’s office to address our most serious concerns with the bill.

**TAKE ACTION:** Visit the Grassroots Action Center to access the latest information on advocacy efforts.

- Find out how your district can participate in OPR’s CEQA Guidelines update process.
- Share with CSDA how CEQA helped or impeded one of your district’s projects. Your case studies help CSDA better advocate for the CEQA reforms special districts need most.

For specific questions contact Christina Lokke, CSDA’s Legislative Representative overseeing advocacy efforts on CEQA, at [christinal@csda.net](mailto:christinal@csda.net).

## GREEN REVENUE

---

**BACKGROUND:** Funding for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) reducing projects is the latest potential source of new revenue for local agencies.

**CAP-AND-TRADE AUCTION PROCEEDS:** The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) required the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to adopt regulations to help reduce statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. As part of this, the ARB established a cap-and-trade auction program to hold quarterly auctions of pollution allowances. The state's portion of the proceeds from the auction, estimated to be approximately \$500 million a year, will be deposited in a special fund to support programs that further the purposes of AB 32.

This year, the ARB and Department of Finance released a three-year investment plan for the state's portion of the auction proceeds. The proposal recommends allocating funds to enhance existing GHG reduction programs, and targets the largest contributors of GHG emissions, as well as projects with the highest potential for job opportunities. The plan identifies three priority investment sectors: Sustainable Communities Strategies development and implementation, energy efficiency and clean energy, and natural resources and waste diversion. However, it does not specify specific percentages or dollar amounts to be distributed to each investment sector.

Governor Brown's May Revise budget proposed delaying investment of the auction proceeds and instead loan \$500 million of this revenue to the General Fund. Legislators of the relevant budget committees showed their displeasure with this proposal during the budget hearing process. However, the Legislature ultimately voted to support the Governor's plan.

CSDA is continuing its advocacy efforts in support of allocating cap-and-trade revenue to local governments. While CSDA and our local government partners asked for investment this year, the loan is merely a deferral of the investment decision. Our work continues as the ARB revises its AB 32 Scoping Plan and the Administration adds expenditure numbers to its Investment Plan in advance of next year's budget, where the decision on how to invest this revenue is now expected to be finalized.

**PROPOSITION 39:** Last fall, voters passed Prop 39, which closed a tax loophole for out-of-state corporations. This is expected to generate about one billion additional dollars for the state. Prop 39 directs half of the new revenue, through fiscal year 2017-18, to fund projects at schools and other public buildings that create jobs, improve energy efficiency and expand clean energy generation. CSDA advocated that other public agencies should have access to at least part of these revenues. However, the governor and Legislature ultimately agreed to direct all of this funding towards school facilities. The budget agreement also dedicates \$28 million of the \$500 million in annual revenue to supplement an existing revolving loan fund open to all local governments, but currently limits its use to K-14 schools.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT GREEN REVENUE COALITION:** CSDA joined forces with other local governments as part of a Local Government Green Revenue Coalition to collectively advocate for the state to invest cap-and-trade auction proceeds and Prop 39 revenue in local governments. As part of this coalition, CSDA meets with legislators to discuss the importance and benefit of investing green revenue in special districts, takes positions on relevant bills and provides testimony to the budget committees. The coalition is also considering sponsoring a bill next year to direct a portion of the cap-and-trade funds specifically to local governments for GHG reduction projects.

**TAKE ACTION:** Visit the Grassroots Action Center to access the latest information on advocacy efforts.

- Share with CSDA GHG reducing projects your district is planning or considering.

For specific questions contact Christina Lokke, CSDA's Legislative Representative overseeing advocacy efforts on green revenue funding for special districts, at [christinal@csda.net](mailto:christinal@csda.net).

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH CSDA LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

---

**CSDA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** The committee plays a key role in establishing priorities and positions on legislation each legislative session. CSDA members or business affiliate may apply to join.

**CSDA LEGISLATIVE DISTRIBUTION LIST:** CSDA offers an additional distribution list where participants are copied on email correspondence sent to the CSDA Legislative Committee. The Legislative Distribution list provides an opportunity to give feedback on issues before the committee. This is a great way to stay informed of CSDA's legislative efforts without the time and travel commitment of serving as a member of the committee.

**EXPERT FEEDBACK TEAMS:** CSDA established ten teams to provide invaluable expertise to CSDA advocacy staff. The teams are comprised of district staff, management, directors and business affiliates who work within specified disciplines. When a need for feedback arises on a particular policy matter, CSDA advocacy staff sends an email to an expert feedback team asking for input. Team members reply with their thoughts, opinions and experiences. Teams include: Budget, Finance and Taxation; Environmental Sustainability; CEQA; Formation and Reorganization; Human Resources and Personnel; Transparency and Accountability; Public Works and Contracting; and Legal.

**SPECIAL DISTRICTS LEGISLATIVE DAYS:** Special Districts Legislative Days (SDLD) is the premier advocacy event for special district leaders. SDLD provides attendees with the opportunity to hear from and interact with statewide policy makers and legislators. The 2014 event will be held in Sacramento on May 20 and 21. Visit [CSDA.net](http://CSDA.net) to register and obtain more information.

SDLD 2013 featured keynote speeches from State Controller John Chiang, Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird, and Assembly Member Nancy Skinner. In addition, attendees participated in a legislative briefing by CSDA's Advocacy & Public Affairs staff, moderated panel discussions with state legislators and top finance experts, and roundtable conversations covering the most pertinent issues facing specific districts.

**YOUR TOOLS:** In addition to the many ways you can be involved with CSDA's advocacy efforts, CSDA offers a variety of tools to keep you up-to-date and assist you in your district's legislative and public outreach:

- CSDA e-News & Legislative Alerts – CSDA's e-News is a weekly electronic newsletter detailing the most important legislative and regulatory issues affecting special districts. Legislative Alerts notify members of urgent legislative issues and calls to action.
- Legislative Access Services –The CSDA website contains many useful tools for your district, including bill reports, information on your legislator, assistance with setting up a meeting with your legislator, helpful guides and more!
- Grassroots Action Center – An online destination where you can find the most pressing issues facing special districts, including how your district can join ongoing advocacy efforts.
- Social Media – Stay connected to the special district community. Follow @specialdistrict on Twitter and "like" CSDA's Facebook page [facebook.com/specialdistrict](http://facebook.com/specialdistrict)



### TAKE ACTION:

- Join a CSDA Legislative Committee. The approval of committee membership requests takes place at the CSDA Board planning session each fall.
- Join the CSDA Legislative Distribution List.
- Join an Expert Feedback Team. Contact Jess Lima at [jessl@csda.net](mailto:jessl@csda.net) for more information.
- Follow CSDA on Twitter and "like" CSDA's Facebook page.
- If you currently do not receive e-News, email [travisw@csda.net](mailto:travisw@csda.net) and ask to be added.