

# Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

Fall 2014

CCSDA

October 2014

## 220 Billion Gallons of Wastewater Treated Without a Glitch

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District's outstanding wastewater treatment processes have once again earned national recognition!

The District received the coveted Platinum-16 Peak Performance Award in September from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Central San was informally notified about the award in June. The official NACWA award was presented to Central San Board President David R. Williams on September 4th.

The award means that the District achieved 100% success in ensuring every drop of more than 220 billion gallons of treated wastewater met federal, state and regional water quality standards as it was discharged into Suisun Bay during the past 16 consecutive years.

The District is one of only eight wastewater treatment agencies – out of 16,000 nationwide – to receive this honor.

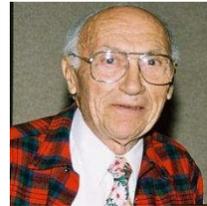
## CSDA Regions to become CSDA District Networks

Starting in 2015, CSDA's regions will have slightly different boundaries and an updated title! Each network is served by three delegates of the CSDA Board of Directors. They are your local point of contact to help you access CSDA resources. The heart of District Networks consists of district leaders – like you – inspiring and catalyzing action and collaboration in their own communities. District NetWorks will help special districts connect and take action on any issues that concern your district, locally or statewide. - See more at: <http://www.csda.net/about-csda/district-networks>

Which network does Contra Costa County now belong to? The Bay Area Network which is served by CSDA board members Sherry M. Sterrett from Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District, Stanley Caldwell from Mt. View Sanitary District, and Vincent Ferrante from Moss Landing Harbor District, in Monterey County. There are 320 total independent special districts in Network 3.

Vince Ferrante was successful in running in his new Network which means he will officially move to Network 5 on January 1, 2015. That will then leave a vacancy in Network 3 (Contra Costa that can be filled by CSDA Board appointment after January 1st, 2015).

## Remembering Primo Facchini



September 1, 1930  
July 12, 2014

A Celebration of life was held  
on Saturday July 19, 2014

Long-Time Special District Board Member Primo Facchini died July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. A dedicated public servant and long-time Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District board member, Primo Facchini at the age of 83 on Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>. Primo was very active in Contra Costa Special Districts Association, the California Special Districts Association, and the California Association of Public Cemeteries. His dedication to public service, enthusiasm, and devotion to special districts will be missed.

Since moving to Alamo in 1958 with his wife, Rosemarie, Primo was dedicated to his community. He served as board member of the Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District for over 37 years. Other contributions include: President and Board Chairman, Walnut Creek Historical Society (25+ years); co-founder, Walnut Creek Sister Cities International (1987); Selective Service Board (20 years); Public Member, California State Bar Planning Directory and Fee Arbitration Office (25+ years); Board Member, Camellia Society (10+ years) and as Member, of Rhododendron Society.

Locally Primo's real estate interests inspired his interest in civic affairs. For more than 40 years, he was a fixture at Walnut Creek City Council, Planning Commission and Design Review meetings. On the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2010, Walnut Creek named him the City Council's "sixth member." The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors honored him for his dedication to the community and commitment to public service to the citizens of Contra Costa County on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Primo was recently awarded the "2010 Cemeterian of the Year" by the California Association of Public Cemeteries. Primo has also worked as an active member of the re-write team for the State Health & Safety Code, "Public Cemetery District Law" to update state cemetery law and create public awareness.

Primo was very active in the community. Over the years he also served as an unofficial event photographer to the above groups. He was definitely someone who supported and had a passion for special districts. He will be missed for sure!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bette Boatmun

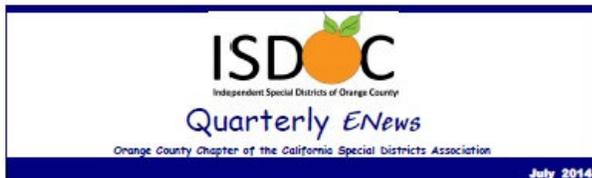
At the October 20th meeting we will be voting on the dues increase and establishing two levels for Associate Membership. The committee members encourage all member agencies representatives and all other interested parties to attend. The proposals will include an increase in Membership dues from \$50 to \$100 annually, an increase for Associate Members from \$50 to \$200 annually. We are also proposing to establish a Sponsoring Associate Member at \$ 500 annually. If you have any questions, please contact Bette Boatmun at 925-689-9255.

We currently just have a few associates; hopefully associates may provide a great opportunity to find additional speakers and information to members.

## Contra Costa Special Districts Help Orange County Create a Newsletter

At Legislative Days in May CSDA chapter leaders from all over the state met to discuss chapter ideas, events, and resources. The Orange County Chapter of CSDA – the Independent Special Districts of Orange County, known as ISDOC expressed an interest in our chapter newsletter. Orange County has never produced a newsletter and requested help from our chapter.

We helped the Orange County special districts by providing our template. Newsletter Editor Stan Caldwell provided the template complete with their chapter logo inserted, as well as information for articles. We also provided Leslie Keane with ideas on how to create news articles and stories. Stan provided them with generic stories about special districts. July 2014 was their very first edition and we thought we would share this information with you.



### Welcome to the First Edition of ISDOC ENews

With this issue, the Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) is launching a new communications tool for Orange County special districts – a quarterly e-newsletter. The newsletter will spotlight districts and provide information about local events, opportunities and pending state legislation. Please send your ideas and suggestions to l.keane@occcrd.com.

### What Are Special Districts?

Special districts are a form of local government created by a local community to meet a specific need.

### ABOUT ISDOC

ISDOC is a membership association that represents the interests and provides advocacy on behalf of 25 of Orange County's independent special districts. ISDOC was formed more than 30 years ago to serve the needs of Orange County's water, wastewater, sanitary, cemetery, vector control, library, recreation and parks, and other districts that provide specialized services within their communities. A six-member executive committee guides the association, and membership meetings are held on a quarterly basis to provide a forum for member districts to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest.

## State Constitution Will Now Require Local Agencies to Follow the Brown and Public Records Acts - Whether or Not the State Reimburses Compliance Costs

In June voters approved Proposition 42, titled "Public Information" during the statewide primary elections. Should we be surprised that Prop 42 passed?

Prominent and vocal proponents (including Governor Brown) focused on the transparency-spin and stayed pretty mum on reducing state cost burdens by passing them on to local agencies. Fortunately (although perhaps not fortunately enough) the ballot summary did capture the new fiscal impact for local agencies statewide – potentially tens of millions of dollars.

California Special Districts Association (CSDA) had advocated against the fiscal provisions of the bill that put Prop 42 on the ballot, State Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 3 by Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). This bill was the legislative fix to move some state mandated reimbursements out of the budget and place the fiscal burden on special districts, cities, counties, and schools for Ralph M. Brown Act open meeting and California Public Records Act (PRA) laws.

The biggest problem with Prop 42 is not the immediate change. Local agencies have upheld the Brown Act and PRA despite the repeated mandate suspensions and decade-delays in reimbursement for incurred costs. The problem is that Prop 42 blows open a door for future mandates on local agencies. The ballot measure states that the no reimbursement is required for any future law that promotes the goals of open meetings or public records access.

This creates a "blank check" scenario, with the state holding the check and local agencies providing the bank account. Proposition 30 (2012) somewhat covertly repealed Brown Act reimbursements, amongst the public safety and statewide tax-levying provisions. This was challenged, though, because the Commission on State Mandates is the designated body that determines which mandated laws are in fact reimbursable, and which agencies can claim cost recovery.

CSDA is looking in to see if Commission on State Mandates will raise the some concerns with Prop 42. This would be just a technical delay in implementation, but still an important step to validating the ballot measure outcomes.

Hopefully Prop 42 is not the first step in a larger move to change all state mandates to a non-reimbursement status. This would counter previous voter activity on Prop 4 (1979) and Prop 1A (2004). Both measures passed with overwhelming support and held the state accountable for costs due to new mandates on local government agencies.

## 2015-17 CSDA Board of Directors - Bay Area District Network Seat C

Stanley Caldwell, Mt. View Sanitary District Director was re-elected to the CSDA Board of Directors. All the newly elected Board Members were introduced at the Annual Conference in Palm Springs, CA in September/October.

Stan enjoys his retirement time and is committed to serving as board member of Mt. View Sanitary District, as well as a representative to the Contra Costa Special Districts Association and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA).

Service to CSDA includes serving on the CSDA Executive Committee as past-president, and several committees, including the Membership and Professional Development committees. Stan is also a board member to the Special District Leadership Foundation.

### The other CSDA Board Election Results

#### Network 1:

(Open seat to be filled by CSDA Board appointment as no nominations were received during this regular election cycle.

#### Network 2:

Dave Pierson, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

#### Network 4:

Steve Perez, Rosamond CSD

(There is also a vacancy left by Steve Esselman, to be filled by Board appointment. Requests for nominations are out

#### Network 5:

Vince Ferrante, Moss Landing Harbor District

(Director Ferrante was successful in running in his new Network which means he officially moves to this Network/seat on Jan. 1, 2015. That will then leave a vacancy in Network 3 that can be filled by Board appointment after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

#### Network 6:

Arlene Schafer, Costa Mesa Sanitary District

## Thank You Central San!

The Contra Costa Special Districts Association wishes to thank Contra Costa Central Sanitary District (Central San) for the use of the Multi-purpose room and their facility for our quarterly meetings.

Central San's contributions and generosity provide a significant cost savings to the Contra Costa Special Districts Association which has helped to keep our dues low.



**State Budget  
Guarantees \$100  
Million State  
Mandate  
Reimbursement**

Sent to the governor's desk hours before the constitutional deadline to pass the state budget, the Fiscal Year 2014-15 State Budget appropriates \$100 million of the \$900 million in pre-2004 state mandate reimbursements owed to local governments.

In the event state revenues exceed forecasts, the budget includes language to pay the additional \$800 million owed. The budget passed along with 16 "trailer bills" appropriating limited grants and revenue for specified local services, including those provided by library, fire, water, and utility districts. State Mandate Reimbursements Appropriates a \$100 million of the \$900 million in pre-2004 state mandate reimbursements owed to local government.

The Department of Finance will have the administrative authority to pull this automatic "trigger" at next year's May Revise, but it is considered funding from the current budget year (2014-15). CSDA joined with the California State Association of Counties, which lead the effort to achieve these reimbursements.

The Ethics Training Mandate maintains the AB 1234 Ethics Training for local agency officials as a reimbursable mandate.

## LAFCO Update –

In June, LAFCO completed its second round Municipal Services Review (MSR) covering water and wastewater services. Through the MSR process we discovered a new independent special district – the Castle Rock County Water District, which provides water to approximately 137 residents in the Walnut Creek area.

In August, Contra Costa LAFCO welcomed a new Commissioner – Igor Skaredoff, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District.

In August, the Commission voted to defer the second round EMS/Fire MSR and instead move forward with the Reclamation Services MSR.

AB 2156 (Achadjian), recently signed by the Governor, allows LAFCO to request information from joint powers agencies (JPAs) for inclusion in special studies, MSRs and for related purposes.

## CCWD Names Conservation Garden after Board Member Bette Boatmun

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Board of Directors named the agency's Conservation Garden in recognition of Board Member Bette Boatmun, who has served on the elected board for 40 years.

Director Boatmun began her service representing the cities of Antioch, Pittsburg and parts of Concord on the CCWD Board of Directors on July 31, 1974. She is the longest serving member in the agency's 78 years.



CCWD board president Joseph Campbell, left, congratulates board director Bette Boatmun, honored with the renaming of the Conservation Garden at district headquarters in Concord, which is now to be designated as the Bette Boatmun Conservation Garden. Also present are directors Lisa Borba and John Burgh.

The Bette Boatmun Conservation Garden covers 35,000 square feet. It was built in 1991 to represent the many landscape styles and drought-resistant plants suitable for California's Mediterranean climate. The garden features more than 70 species of plants and saves an estimated 1 million gallons of water per year.

The Conservation Garden is open to the public seven days a week. Garden guides are available to help navigate the plants and pathways. To find out more about the CCWD Conservation Garden, visit: [www.cwater.com/conserve/demogarden.asp](http://www.cwater.com/conserve/demogarden.asp)



**SEND US YOUR NEWS!**

**We would welcome your contributions for our next newsletter!**

## Meet Our New LAFCO Commissioner Igor Skaredoff



I am very honored and energized to have this opportunity to serve on the LAFCO commission. After attending several meetings, I am even more appreciative of Dwight Meadows' contributions, as his positive influence continues to be reflected in the actions and comments of my fellow commissioners. I will do my best to be an able successor.

In conjunction with the Contra Costa Special District Association quarterly meeting on July 21, 2014, the Independent Special District Selection Committee (ISDSC) held an election to fill the vacant special district regular seat created by the recent passing away of Dwight Meadows.

There were four candidates for the seat. The ISDSC appointed Igor Skaredoff of the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District to be the regular Special District member on LAFCO to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Meadows. The term of office for the seat ends on May 7, 2018.

## CASA's New Officers and Board Members

California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) is honored to announce the new Officers and Board of Directors elected for FY 2015 during the 59th Annual Conference. Joining the Board as President is Dave Williams. Dave is a Director at Central Contra Costa Sanitary District and the Executive Director of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies.

Dave has more than 30 years of experience working in the energy and water industry.

The new Board also elected Kevin M. Hardy, General Manager, Encina Wastewater Authority as the Vice President and Jeff Moorhouse, Board Member, Carpinteria Sanitary District as Secretary - Treasurer for FY 2015.

## CCSDA Associate Members

Organizations and businesses that are not independent special districts can also participate in CCSDA as Associate Members. Associate Members will receive invitations to meetings and other CCSDA activities. They will be featured in the newsletters; and will be listed on the CCSDA webpage. It will be a great way for them to stay up-to-date on local governance issues and engage directly with special districts.

## New Logo and Branding for Delta Diablo

Delta Diablo launched its new website, <http://ddsd.org/> which introduces a contemporary rebranding campaign they adopted a shorter name, Delta Diablo, as well as a new logo, which signifies their geographic location in the San Francisco Bay Area's precious Bay Delta waterway and majestic Mt. Diablo region. The new logo is also accompanied by the tagline, "Transforming Wastewater to Resources".

Same dedication  
to protecting the  
environment.



What began as a process of reflection and analysis across all departments, and with input from customers and the Board of Directors, Delta Diablo unveiled a brand, which they believe truly reflect the essential community services that staff provides when protecting the public health of the people they serve and the environment that they are proud to preserve.

Visit the web site at: <http://ddsd.org/>

## Western Pond Turtle Study

The Western Pond Turtle is the only native freshwater turtle in most of California. Although once abundant throughout the Golden State, populations have drastically declined, and it is now considered a "species of special concern" by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. MVSD is currently undertaking an extensive study on the species.



Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) is working to protect Western Pond Turtles. A 2009 baseline population study revealed that some 90 to 120 western pond turtles depend on habitat provided by MVSD's freshwater wetland, Moorhen Marsh. In 2011, MVSD recognized that in order to provide the best habitat possible, a new Management Plan was required. The Plan was completed in 2013 and identified the need for pond dredging and levee stabilization.

The District Biologist, Kelly Davidson, was concerned about how such activities would affect the turtles. She wanted to know how they were using the habitat throughout the year. Were they breeding and nesting on site? Were they overwintering in the ponds or on land? How the turtles used the wetland throughout the seasons would determine how and when the dredging and levee work would proceed. The best way to figure out what the turtles were doing, and when they were doing it, was a telemetry study.

The first attempt to answer some of these questions began in 2012. With grant funding from the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee, MVSD purchased five very high frequency (VHF) radio telemetry units to monitor the turtle's activity. The VHF units proved unreliable. By switching to GPS units (which is a more effective form of tracking compared with the VHF system) more accurate data has been collected.



**This quarter-sized hatchling was found adjacent to Moorhen Marsh on April 2, 2014.**

MVSD now knows that turtles are nesting in the limited uplands of the marsh. Through monitoring efforts, biologists were able to find five actively nesting females in June and July of 2014. To protect these nests from predators, they were covered with cages designed to allow hatchlings to get out once they emerged. The nests are incubated by the sun, and viable eggs hatch in 80-100 days. Interestingly, most of the hatchlings will remain sequestered in the nests over the winter and will not emerge until the spring. For more information on nest predation in Moorhen Marsh, visit [www.mvsd.org](http://www.mvsd.org) to read a short article published in the Herpetological Review.

The Western Pond Turtle is in serious decline throughout its range, which likely includes Contra Costa County.

## Diablo Water District New Office



*Artist rendering of the new office space.*

With its current office lease coming to an end, the district determined that it could save money over the long run by building its own office. The District found a plot of land across from its current office at below market cost and obtained an excellent construction bid. The building should be complete by summer of 2015.

Benefits of the new office will include lower costs - the building will be paid off in less than eight years, eliminating over \$100,000 per year in lease expenses. There will be a larger public area; the board room will accommodate more members of the public than the current room. A water saving demonstration garden will be featured, the new garden will help customers visualize different drought tolerant plants and learn about them. The building can accommodate future growth and the initial extra area may be able to be leased to offset costs until the space is actually needed.



Work is progressing well; the roof should be completed by the time this newsletter is delivered. The building is scheduled to be complete by Summer 2015

## Los Medanos Community Healthcare District Recipient of the Innovative Program of the Year Award

Los Medanos Community Healthcare District (LMCHD) Summer Intern Program for 2014 has been selected as the recipient for the Innovative Program of the Year award for 2014 from California Special District Association (CSDA).

LMCHD hosted young adults transitioning from foster care to independent living for the past 4 years in their Summer Internship Program. LMCHD ultimate goal is to

introduce the young adults to new and meaningful experiences while positively impacting their local area through community outreach. "LMCHD strives to build a better tomorrow by helping our young adults understand how community service provides the opportunity to bring awareness to community needs and develop personal growth," stated Melinda Harris, LMCHD's Intern Coordinator. The program is designed to provide the young adults with a unique work experience by creating a team based, grassroots community project.

The 5 interns called themselves The Longevity Seekers and organized an outreach campaign entitled "The Heritage Project: Bridging the Gap." The project encouraged seniors and young adults engage in a dialog in order to "Bridge the Gap" between senior and young adult and 'pass down' healthy lifestyle habits that will positively affect the life choices made by today's and future generations. The Heritage Project targeted seniors living in Pittsburg and Bay Point California.

Throughout the summer The Longevity Seekers analyzed demographic data, composed and distributed a survey regarding healthy habits and lifestyles of senior adults, performed on and off camera interviews in Pittsburg and Bay Point California in the following locations: The City of Pittsburg Senior Center, Stoneman Village Senior Residence, Presidio Village Senior Housing, the Pittsburg Health Center (adjacent to LMCHD), and Ambrose Recreation Center in Bay Point where LMCHD interns interviewed Women in Motion Senior Group and CC Café Senior Lunch Group. The interns interviewed a total of one hundred twenty-six senior adults.

Using their research and focusing on public health, The Longevity Seekers created the "The Heritage Project" video which can be viewed on the LMCHD. The LMCHD interns completed their project and presented their findings to the LMCHD Board of Directors and Assembly Member Jim Frazier in Sacramento.



Melinda Harris LMCHD Intern Program Coordinator, Linda Strong Board President, and Bobbi Palmer CEO of LMCHD accepted the award on behalf of the passionate work the interns accomplished.

Congratulations to the Longevity Seekers—Akili Bean, Carl Jean-Felix, Charles Finney, Justin Montanez, and Lamara Whitley.

## Contra Costa Special Districts Association Current Members

The following are our current and active members:

Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery  
Ambrose Recreation & Park District  
BBK Union Cemetery District  
Bethel Island Muni Improvement  
Byron Bethany Irrigation District  
Byron Sanitary District  
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District  
Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District  
Contra Costa Water District  
Crockett Community Services District  
Delta Diablo Sanitation District  
Diablo Water District  
Town of Discovery Bay Community Services District  
Dublin-San Ramon Services District  
East Bay Municipal Utilities District  
East Bay Regional Parks District  
East Contra Costa Irrigation District  
East Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
Ironhouse Sanitary District  
Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District  
Kensington Fire Protection District  
Knightsen Town Community Services District  
Los Medanos Community Healthcare District

Moraga-Orinda Fire District  
Mt. View Sanitary District  
Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District  
Reclamation District No. 800  
Reclamation District No. 830  
Rodeo Sanitary District  
San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District  
Stege Sanitary District  
West Contra Costa Health Care District  
West County Wastewater District

**If your district is not listed above you may be behind in your dues payment.**

***If you have paid your dues and are not listed, or if you have dues questions, contact:***

*Treasurer* Sharyn Rossi. Email: QueenB111@aol.com  
Phone (925) 361-6121

### **CURRENT ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

**BOLD, POLISNER, MADDOW, NELSON & JUDSON**  
Carl P A Nelson and Douglas E. Coty Attorneys

### **WELLS FARGO BANK**

Dale R. Barton, Vice President, Industry Specialist

### **LAW OFFICES OF CURTIS S. KIDDER**

Mr. Curtis S. Kidder

**Mark your Calendars for our future  
CCSDA meetings!**

### **Meeting Schedule:**

- **October 20, 2014**
- **January 26, 2015**
- **April 20, 2015**
- **July 20, 2015**

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### **Contra Costa Special Districts Association Meeting Monday, October 20, 2014**

Our guest speaker will be Thomas Peele Contra Costa Times (Bay Area News Group) Investigative reporter.

We will learn of Thomas Peele's current projects and hear about his insights into the workings of Contra Costa County.

# January 26, 2015 Meeting

## Annual Business Meeting

### Selection of committee's & committee members

Contra Costa Special Districts Association relies on the participation of our members in order to guide the association. Committee involvement is crucial to the success of our activities and the development of CCSDA programs, policies, and events. The talent and energy of the individuals who serve on CCSDA's committees and to the issues that concern special districts in Contra Costa County are the critical components of our association's success.

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## Contra Costa Special Districts Association

C/o Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
5019 Imhoff Place  
Martinez, CA 94553

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District contact Suzette Crayton Email: [scrayton@centralsan.org](mailto:scrayton@centralsan.org)

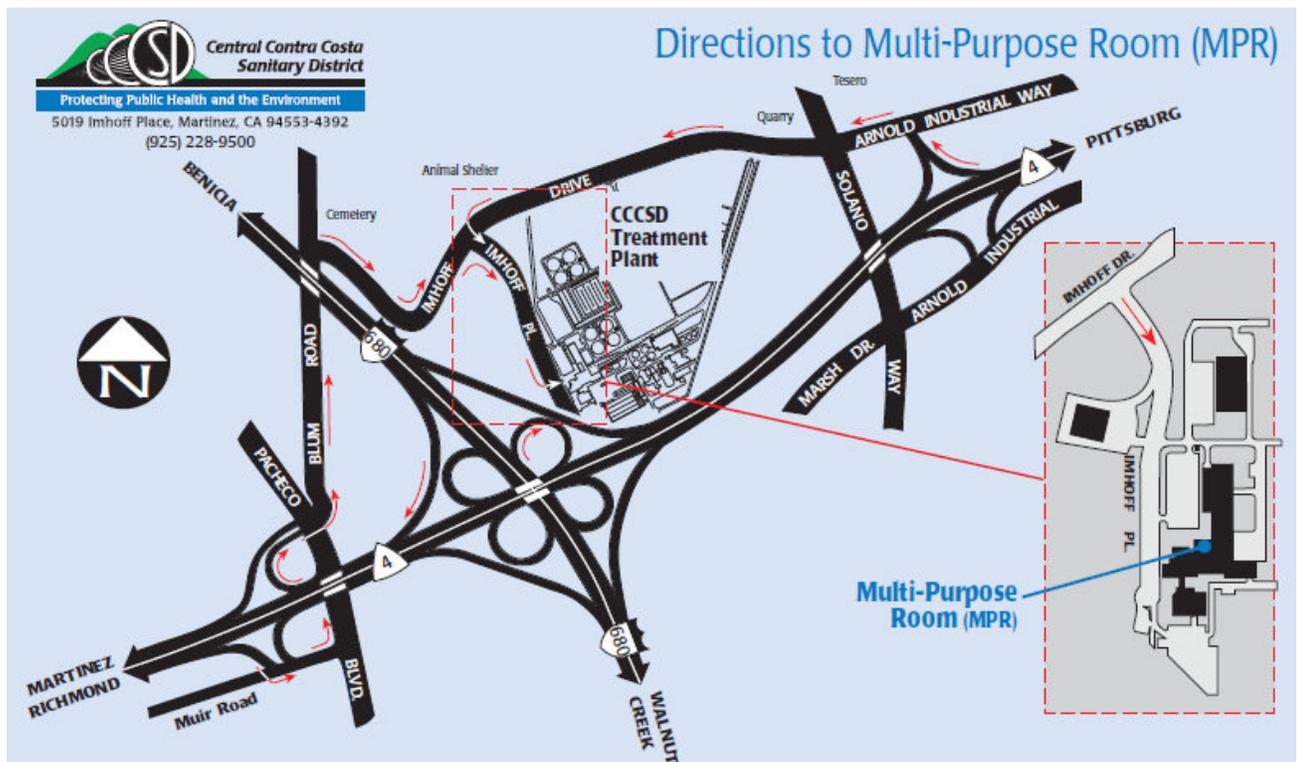
Bette Boatmun, Chair - Email: [bboatmun@yahoo.co](mailto:bboatmun@yahoo.co)

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<http://www.csd.net/about-csda/csd-chapters/contra-costa-chapter/>

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



Remember we always welcome your news contributions to our newsletter!