

Contra Costa Special Districts Association

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

Fall 2016

October 2016

East Bay Regional Parks District



East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) and the Union Pacific Railroad agree to trail improvements in Contra Costa County

Six key segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail and Wildcat Creek Trail in Contra Costa County will be completed and made accessible to the public thanks to an agreement between the East Bay Regional Park District and Union Pacific Railroad.

The agreement, approved unanimously by the Park District board in May 2016, will provide for the development of several bicycle and pedestrian bridges, improved at-grade crossings and permanent trail easements at six locations along the San Pablo Bay and Carquinez Strait shorelines.

“These additions to our regional trails will improve safety conditions for thousands of bicyclists and pedestrians, and make the shoreline more accessible for everyone who lives in the East Bay,” said East Park District Board Member Whitney Dotson, whose district includes many of the future crossings. “We’re pleased to have reached this agreement with Union Pacific.”

The six new trail improvements are in addition to three completed under an earlier agreement with the railroad.

The new improvements are:

- Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park in Pinole Easement to close a Bay Trail gap Bridge over tracks to ensure safe crossing
- Martinez Shoreline/Nejedly Staging Area in Martinez Easement to close a Bay Trail gap
- Lone Tree Point in Rodeo Bridge over tracks to connect Lone Tree Point parkland to the Bay Trail
- Carquinez Strait/TXI “Brickyard” in Port Costa Safe track crossing to connect Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline to the Park District’s TXI property
- Wildcat Creek Trail in Richmond Bridge over the tracks to complete segment of the trail
- Seaview School in Pinole Easement to close a Bay Trail gap along San Pablo Regional Shoreline

Three improvements have already been completed:

- Bay Trail crossing at Eckley Pier in Crockett
- Delta-De Anza Trail crossing at Neroly Road in Oakley
- Bay Trail easement at Atlas Road in Richmond

The agreement is a result of an objection the Park District filed in 1996 regarding Union Pacific’s merger with Southern Pacific. The Park District argued that the increased rail traffic due to the merger would hinder recreational access to the shoreline. As a condition of its approval of the merger, the U.S. Surface Transportation Board ordered Union Pacific to provide right-of-way and funding for trail connections. The Park District and railroad recently updated the agreement to reflect current trail priorities.

The Park District expects to complete the projects over several years, as trail connections are developed. Design is almost complete for the project at Pinole Shores with construction anticipated for spring 2017.



Ironhouse Sanitary District

Ironhouse Sanitary District was presented with their Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) District Transparency Certificate of Excellence on June 7th, 2016 by SDLF board member Stan Caldwell.



Doug Scheer, President accepting the award.

There are no fees for this certificate and recognition is for two years. There are three main subject areas required: Basic Transparency Requirements; Website Requirements; and Outreach Requirements.

District of Distinction Honors

On August 2, 2016 Ironhouse was also presented with their Special District Leadership Foundation District of Distinction. This accreditation is designed as a way for districts to highlight their prudent fiscal practices along with other areas important to effectively operate and govern a special district. Districts of Distinction earn the right to use the program's seal on district materials. The District of Distinction seal is visual proof that your special district stands out from others.

Chapter tax exempt status

On June 2, 2016 the IRS mailed our Notice of Exemption, we are now officially exempt from Federal Income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (6). Contributions to Contra Costa Special Districts Association are not tax deductible.

On June 23rd we completed the paperwork (form 3500A) to submit to the State of California and mailed it. We heard back that we should withdraw form 3500a and submit form 3500 which we did on September 8th.

The law firm of Turner, Huguet, Adams, & Farr has been providing guidance and support regarding the chapter tax liability & filings. We thank Attorney Dan Adams for assisting the chapter Pro Bono. We greatly appreciate the services he and his law firm have provided to us.

Groundbreaking ceremony for Ambrose Park Pool Renovation Project

The Ambrose Recreation & Park District hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Ambrose Park Pool Renovation Project. The ceremony took place at the Ambrose Park on Saturday, June 11, 2016.



Ambrose Aquatic Center

In addition to a newly renovated pool the project also includes new bathhouse/restrooms, new landscaping, fencing, and decking. The pool will host recreational swim, learn to swim classes, water aerobics, and special events for the entire family. The pool will also be available to rent for private parties and events.

The pool is scheduled to open to the public on Memorial Day, 2017.

This project is funded by Measure WW, Contra Costa County, the City of Pittsburg, and the Ambrose Recreation & Park District.

Ironhouse Sanitary District launched new website

The web address, www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com has not changed. The newly designed website allows the District to publish all meeting agendas and related documents, reports, etc. for easy download by interested parties.

The District's website also provides the public the opportunity to register. Registering on the new site provides web users with the ability to customize their website viewing experience and sign up to automatically receive newflashes, meeting agendas, job postings and a myriad of other information from the District. In addition, members of our community can report concerns and conduct District business more efficiently.

Iron Horse Trail Pavement Project

Work to improve pavement conditions on the Iron Horse Regional Trail through the San Ramon Valley, for the East Bay Regional Park District.

The \$341,000 summer project on a 16-mile stretch of the trail between Alamo and Dublin included resurfacing, removal and replacement of damaged asphalt, crack-sealing, leveling, micro-surfacing, slurry-sealing, and seal-coating.



The project began mid-June and continued into August, covers the trail from the Rudgear Staging Area in northern Alamo to the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station. Parts of the trail needed to be shut down at various times during the project.

The work on Contra Costa portions of the trail will be funded by Measure J, and the Alameda County segments will be financed through the Park District's general fund. Overall, the project will cost \$341,000.

Park District Board Changes Meeting Times

Beginning with the July 5, 2016 meeting, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors began its meetings at 1 p.m., instead of 2 p.m. Any closed sessions will begin at 11:30 a.m., instead of 12:30 p.m.

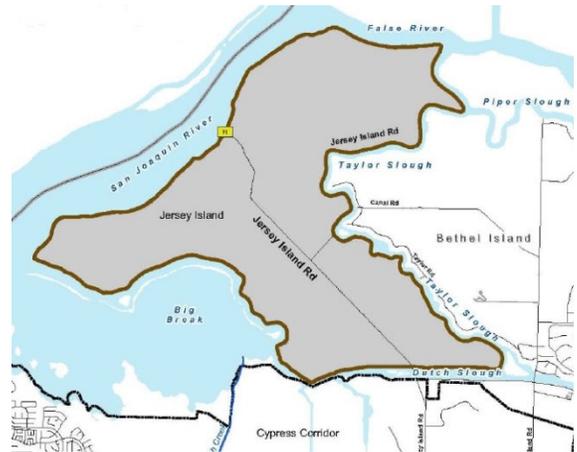
The changes were approved unanimously at the Board's May 17 meeting, as a way to increase efficiency.

The 7-member Board meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month at District headquarters, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. Committee meeting times remain unchanged.



The 105th anniversary of Reclamation District 830

Jersey Island sits right on the outskirts of Oakley and consists of approximately 3,200 acres and 16 miles of levee. What makes this island so important to Oakley residents is that it is where the Ironhouse Sanitary District sends its wastewater. However, long before ISD purchased that property in 1992, the land was part of a major farming corporation and owned by live-in farmers Ted and Helen Halsey.



Today the only structures that stand are the Halsey's ranch house and the ISD headquarters. ISD runs a cattle operation on the island. The district uses reclaimed water to irrigate hay fields. In turn the hay is then fed to the cattle. Both excess hay and cattle are sold, and monies are used to offset ratepayers' fees.



Jersey Island is one of the eight islands listed in the Delta Flood Protection Act as critical to preserving water quality in the Delta. Other islands include Sherman Island, Webb Track, Twitchell Island, Holland Island, Bradford Island, Bethel Island and Hotchkiss Track.

McNabney Marsh Bird Release

On May 31st, staff from International Bird Rescue (IBR) in Fairfield, CA released a rehabilitated Great Blue Heron in McNabney Marsh.



Photo by Cheryl Reynolds

The adult Great Blue Heron came to IBR from the Native Animal Rescue in Santa Cruz after being found April 14th hanging from its right wing by fishing line. Upon arrival the bird had substantial skin damage and edema midway out the wingtip, the bones felt possibly fractured under the swelling. They splinted and wrapped the wing for support to make the bird more comfortable, and scheduled x-rays for a few days later when the bird was more stable.

The x-ray showed the wingtip had not been fractured – but rather had ligament and bone damage at one of the two wingtip joints. The bird's primary flight feathers were also damaged and severely crimped which put them at high risk of breaking. With all the bird's issues it was not looking good for this bird ever flying again.

In treatment IBR used a feather repair method where the feathers are soaked in extremely hot water to soften them. Then our staff veterinarian 'ironed' the feathers to reshape the crimped zones and thus restore the feather's normal shape.

The skin and joint injuries were more complicated. IBR vet treated the heron by surgically removing dead tissue and closing the main defect with adjacent skin. Another area of skin necrosis that exposed the infected joint which was debrided, flushed, infused with an injectable antibiotic, and managed as an open wound.

The wingtip injuries finally healed, and IBR was confident the bird was out of the woods. So, with great pleasure, IBR released the gorgeous Great Blue Heron and watched it gracefully fly into the marsh!

According to Cheryl Reynolds with IBR, the release went very smoothly and MVSD staff hopes the heron is enjoying its new wetland home!

Sherry Sterrett Recipient of the CSDA Hollingsworth Award of Excellence



Sherry Sterrett Pleasant Hill Recreation and Parks District has over 20 years of special district leadership experience.

Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award!

Sherry Sterrett serves as member of the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District (PHR&PD). She is an active and effective leader with the Contra Costa Special District Association.

The Hollingsworth Award of Excellence recognizes individuals "who exemplify what it means to go above and beyond the call of duty and advocate extensively both for CSDA and special districts."

Sherry has served with distinction on the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) board, and on the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) board of directors. She has faithfully served 19 years on the Board of Directors for CSDA.

Sherry is a graduate of the CSDA Leadership Academy and her district was the first recreation and park district to earn a "District of Distinction" award from the Special District Leadership Foundation. The California Association of Recreation and Park Districts selected Sherry as the "Outstanding Board Member of the Year" in 2003. In 2007 CSDA honored Sherry as their "Board President of the Year".

Sherry had decided not to run for re-election to the CSDA board of directors. She has also announced that she was not seeking re-election to PHR&PD. This award is a great way to end an outstanding special district career, and a testament to her service.

After 36 years in three elected offices (8 yrs. Mt. Diablo Unified School District; 8 yrs. Pleasant Hill City Council; 20 yrs. Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District) Sherry has decided to retire. Her parting words to all of us are "Thanks for all of your support and friendship during my elected career".

Central San Open House



July 15th 1946

July 15th 2016

Central San commemorated their 70th Anniversary by hosting an Open House for their customers. The family-friendly event showcased their services, offered tours of the treatment plant and other facilities, and included interactive games, educational exhibits, equipment & truck displays, free food, live entertainment, and most of all FUN!



It was on July 15, 1946, that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution officially creating the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD).

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) is a special district responsible for the collection and treatment of wastewater in a 146 square mile area of central Contra Costa County.



More Webinars Available On Demand

Have you checked out the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) on-demand webinar library lately? With 38 different on-demand webinars covering topics like the Brown Act, Public Records Act, and board orientation, you are sure to find something that interests you! Questions regarding on-demand webinars can be directed to Emily Cha @ CSDA (877) 924.2732

Consider Joining One or More CSDA Committees for 2017

If you or any others from your district would like to become even more involved as a member of CSDA, please contact CSDA (877) 924.2732. Committees need dedicated participants who are able to expend the time to provide their expertise in directing the activities and policies of CSDA. Note CSDA does not reimburse for committee-related travel expenses.

Four Incumbents Will be Returning to DSRSD Board

Four current directors of the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) will be reappointed after the Nov. 8 election because they were the only candidates to file for four open seats. Edward Duarte, Madelyne "Maddi" Misheloff, and Richard Halket will serve four-year terms and D.L. "Pat" Howard will serve a two-year term.

"I like to believe our customers think this board of directors is doing a good job for them and this is a strong mandate to keep up the good work," says Board President Howard.

With no need to hold an election, DSRSD will save the \$135,000 in the budget to cover election costs, which average four to six dollars per voter.

Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Board of Directors Appoints New General Manager

On August 3, 2016: Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District (PHRPD) and the Board of Directors named Michelle Lacy as its new General Manager.



Lacy assumed the General Manager duties on August 29.

Lacy brings more than 26 years of park and recreation experience, including 14 years at a senior management level. She started as a Recreation Supervisor II for Elk Grove Community Services District, before serving as Recreation Services Manager for the Town of Danville for nine years. Most recently, Lacy served as the Park & Recreation Director with the City of Orinda.

"With her extensive recreational background, solid financial acumen and an enthusiastic, can-do spirit, Michelle is the right person to lead the District going forward," said Zac Shess, Chairman of the PHRPD Board of Directors. "I feel very confident in her ability to build upon the District's legacy of outstanding programming, facilities and staff and lead us to even higher levels of quality offerings and customer satisfaction."

In her new role, Lacy says she plans to proactively collaborate with community partners and work with staff to develop an organization that is able to more seamlessly respond to changing economic conditions and community recreational needs.

"As just the third general manager in the District's history, I am thrilled with this rare opportunity to work with a phenomenal organization and extremely dedicated staff who share my passion for providing the best possible recreation services, facilities and parks to this community," Lacy said.



MOFD to Consider Prefunding Retirement Costs

To mitigate the fluctuations of the required payment to fund its retirement plan, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) board agreed to consider establishing a pension stabilization program, an irrevocable trust fund designed to prefund pension costs and offset net pension liability. The district entered into a similar program in 2015 to prefund its other post-employment benefits and to offset its OPEB liability.

MOFD is required to contribute an actuarially determined payment each year to the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association (CCCERA). That payment funds the retirement benefits earned during the year, plus any unfunded district pension liability.

The payment required by CCCERA can be volatile, based largely on its investment rate of return. The lower the discount rate, the higher the payment. The district contribution to CCCERA in 2014 was \$3.1 million; last year, the payment rose to \$4.5 million. By entering into a pension stabilization program, the district hopes to avoid all CCCERA payment fluctuations.

In 2015 the district reported a net OPEB obligation of \$6.5 million; MOFD prefunded \$84,000 that year into its health care trust fund.

"In principle, I think this is the right way to go," director Brad Barber said, as director Fred Weil cautioned the board not to get carried away with prefunding because of the district's improved financial situation.

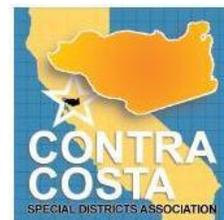
"We still have a district to run," Weil said. "We have responsibilities to the community and to our employees."

Visit our chapter website!

You will find information about our chapter, meeting dates, current and past newsletters (from 2010 to present), our Membership Directory, and the Updated Addendum to the Directory (January 2015). There is also some information about our districts.

Contra Costa Special Districts Association web site:

www.csdanet.net/contracosta-special-districts-association



East Bay Regional Park District - Park Advisory Committee

The Park Advisory Committee (PAC) is a 21-member citizens' advisory group appointed by the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors. Candidates are nominated by individual Board members and a variety of other public entities, such as Special District Chapters of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The PAC studies issues and makes recommendations and comments on a spectrum of policy issues, such as grazing, dogs, horses and bikes in parks, the Park District budget, naming park facilities, park land use plans, new concessions, and more.

Members are appointed for two-year terms and may serve a total of four consecutive terms, or eight years. Service is voluntary and members receive no compensation. Meetings are held in the evenings on the fourth Monday of each month at the Park District Headquarters in Oakland.

The PAC provides members with a great opportunity to learn more about the Park District.

Responsibilities of Park Advisory Committee Members

As a PAC member you will be expected to attend regular meetings

Participate in meeting discussions

Keep an open mind in formulating recommendations on agenda

Visit parks to be discussed at a meeting

Choose to participate on a special committee or subcommittee

Lou Ann Texeira the current Contra Costa Special Districts appointed member will not be seeking another term and she will be stepping down in December. If you have an interest let Bette Boatmun or Lou Ann know.

CSDA Chapter of the Year award

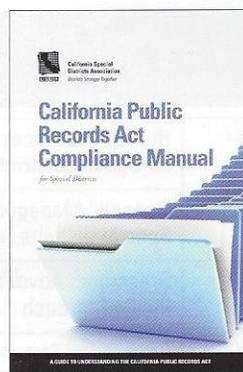
We are pleased to announce that the Contra Costa Special Districts Association has been selected as the recipient of the California Special District Association's 2016 Chapter of the Year Award! The award will be presented at the 2016 CSDA Annual Conference Thursday, October 13th at the Closing Program. Member at Large Ed Duarte will be accepting the award for our chapter.

Uncover the Importance of Public Engagement

This year CSDA has been focused on reaching out to various communities throughout California to increase the understanding and perception of special districts and the important role they play in their communities.

Your CSDA representatives, Stan Caldwell, Sherry Sterrett, and Dane Wadlé would like to invite all our members to learn more about our public outreach campaign by visiting the Districts Make the Difference website.

<http://www.districtsmakethedifference.org/>



NEW RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT COMPLIANCE MANUAL

The newest addition to CSDA's collection of free, downloadable publications is a guide to understanding the California Public Records Act (CPRA). This 35-page manual includes a summary of CPRA and how it applies to special districts, as well as dozens of helpful

compliance tips. CSDA thanks contributor Donald Davis, Esq. and the firm Burke, Williams and Sorensen. To download your copy of the California Public Records Act Compliance Manual, visit the Free Resources/Publications section of www.csdanet.org.

CSDA Consultant Connection

When your agency needs the expertise of a consultant in areas like strategic planning, human resources, public outreach or board development, do you know where to turn? California Special Districts Association (CSDA) offers a member benefit designed to get you the assistance you need. The Consultant Connection was developed to give CSDA members access to experts who provide free consultations and exclusive discounts and benefits. Visit the CSDA website for more information or to submit a consultant request form.

Governor Signs CSDA Sponsored Legislation

Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 2613 (Achadjian) into law August 22nd. The legislation, sponsored by CSDA, will provide small special districts with some financial relief in regard to their annual audit requirements while maintaining proper oversight and accountability. It will take effect January 1, 2017.

AB 2613 will reduce the overall costs associated with annual audit requirements by authorizing special districts with revenues under \$150,000, who utilize their counties' financial system for revenues and expenditures, to replace their annual audit with an annual financial compilation of the special district or with an agreed-upon procedures engagement. Both of these new options will reduce the time needed for auditors to perform their work, thereby reducing billable hours and lowering the overall costs of meeting the state's auditing requirements.

By reducing the administrative costs for small special districts, AB 2613 will help to ensure that districts' limited funds are directed towards providing essential local services.

Announcing the Contra Costa County 2016 CASA Award of Excellence Winners

And the winners are.....

Outstanding Capital Project Small agency: Mt. View Sanitary District and West Yost Associates for Influent Pump Station Improvements

Public Outreach/Education Small agency: Ironhouse Sanitary District for It's A School Tour Like Never Before!

This year proved yet another tough task for the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Awards Committee as numerous worthy efforts competed for a handful of awards. All nominees and their projects were highlighted in a brochure.

Committee Chair Jack Hoagland presented the nominees and winners, including videos of the winning projects.

Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) was honored with a 2016 Award of Excellence by (CASA). The award for Small Agency Outstanding Capital Project acknowledged the Influent Pump Station Improvement

Project which MVSD recently completed. The Project design met financial and physical space limitations with an innovative design by West Yost Associates (WYA). This video provides more information about the MVSD project. <https://youtu.be/9elk0Pw7mxs>



CASA presenting Award of Excellence to MVSD's Neal Allen and WYA's Kathryn Gies



CASA presenting Award of Excellence to Ironhouse members Chad Davisson, David Contreras, Roni Ghelke, Dr. Michael Painter and Doug Scheer

The award was received for a program the District ran in March where 700 sixth-grade students and chaperones toured ISD's Water Recycling Facility in two days.



Ted Radke, former East Bay Parks director dies



Director Radke, a longtime Martinez resident, died Sunday August 28th at age 71. He was the longest-serving board member in the history of the East Bay Regional Park District.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Ted Radke, who served on the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board of Directors for 36 years and was a key part of the East Bay Regional Park District's expansion.

Director Radke was elected to the Park District board in 1978. During his tenure on the board, the Park District's acreage more than doubled, with large expansions into the Delta area and eastern Contra Costa County – a move for which he strongly advocated.

Director Radke was also instrumental in the Park District strengthening its legislative ties in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.,

Director Radke taught political science at Contra Costa Community College until he retired in 2004. Prior to serving on the Park District board, he served on the Martinez City Council and the Association of Bay Area Governments board.

The Memorial Celebration of Ted Radke was on Sunday, September 25th. The ceremony was held at the Martinez Regional Shoreline Park.



Pollution Prevention Billboard



Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) and Central Contra Costa Sanitary District have teamed up again to sponsor a pollution prevention billboard. The billboard could be seen going northbound on 680 freeway just prior to Marina Vista exit.

Pollution Prevention Week is the third full week in September each year. This time is an opportunity for individuals, businesses, and government to emphasize and highlight their pollution prevention.

Dublin Recycled Water Station Closed September 30th

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) closed its recycled water fill station in downtown Dublin at the end of September. A larger fill station, located at the district's water recycling facility in Pleasanton, will remain open with expanded hours.



Friday, September 30, was the last day recycled water was available at the fill station in downtown Dublin.





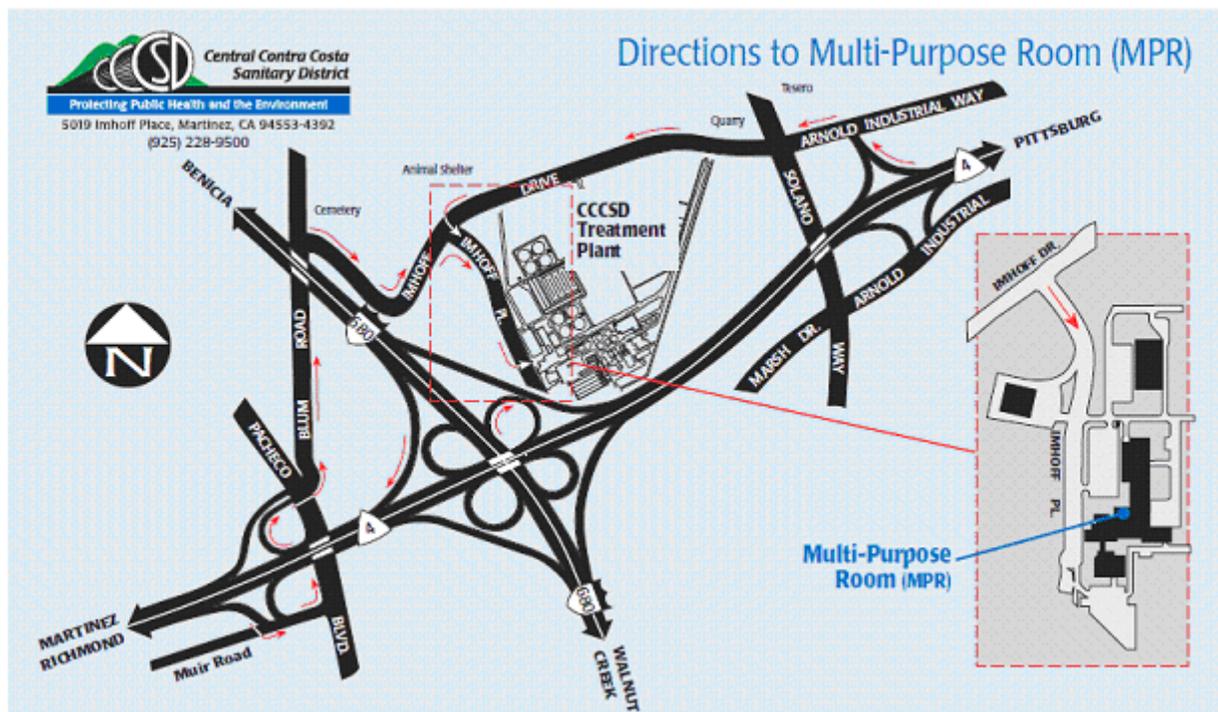
Please send your district news releases to stan_caldwell@comcast.net keep us informed of all of the exciting things your special district is doing. Share your news with other districts by having it as an article in the next newsletter.

Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates:

October 17, 2016, January 23, 2017

Meetings begin at 10:00 AM – we are out by 12:30PM

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



Contra Costa Special Districts Association
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