

# Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

Spring/Summer 2012

March/April 2012

## What is the story behind your District's logo?

Your logo is your identity. It helps you stand-out from the competition. Without a logo, you won't be able to create a unique image. The goal of a logo is always to project the entities' intended image.

A well-designed logo can create a strong identity, convey organizational values, improve public image and motivate action.

A logo is the simplest and most direct way in promoting a presence; it's a "what we're about" statement without the long-winded speech.

A logo provides instant visual identification of an organization. Logos can convey a message, make small organizations appear established, and help gain instant recognition. Read on to learn about some of the logos in our chapter.

### Contra Costa Central Sanitary District



The original logo was introduced in the early 1970s – with just the initials "CCCS" in black in the familiar design in the forefront of the current logo. A few years later, about 1975, the pipe design was added to the initials. The designer of both versions is lost to time and no one at Central San is certain of who may have designed either logo.

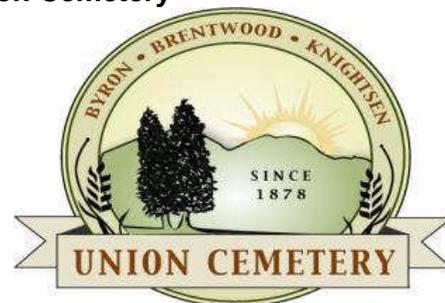
The current logo - which took the pipe and initial motif and added the outline of Mt Diablo as a background was introduced around 1982 at the same time the headquarter building on Imhoff Place opened. That element was probably designed by graphics design Ken Grubbs who has since retired.

### Contra Costa Water District



The Contra Costa Water District's logo represents a lot in its 13 blue and green bars. The logo was introduced in 1988. The slanted bars represent energy and commitment. The horizontal bars symbolize order and solution. The green represents land and concern for the environment. The blue -- you guessed it -- water and also purity. The upper portion is a stylized profile of Mt. Diablo, but also represents the Sierra, the ultimate source of CCWD water. The energy of the logo suggests an ongoing or progressive attitude.

### Union Cemetery



The logo was created about 4 years ago. The district was in the process of creating a pamphlet describing Union Cemetery and services offered. The district realized that having a logo would be a great compliment to add to the pamphlet and to their letterhead.

The designer used to create the pamphlet also created this logo. The Trustees described what they felt should be represented. The trustees wanted Mt. Diablo and the cypress trees. These trees are pretty common in cemeteries and very common in the Union Cemetery.

## Contra Costa LAFCO votes to dissolve Mt. Diablo Health Care District

The Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission voted unanimously Wednesday January 11th, 2012 to adopt a zero sphere of influence signaling dissolution of dissolve the Mt. Diablo Health Care District (MDHCD).

The district includes about 205,000 residents in the cities of Concord, Lafayette (portions), Martinez, and Pleasant Hill (portions), along with the unincorporated communities of Clyde and Pacheco.

Advocates implored commissioners for a stay during the three-hour hearing. The district's past performance is imperfect but holds great potential, they urged.

The LAFCO commissioners ultimately agreed with critics, four civil grand juries and LAFCO consultants, who said eliminating the district will free up tens of thousands of dollars for unmet community health needs.

The MDHCD attorney indicated there was much legal uncertainty surrounding the impact of dissolution on its community benefit agreement with John Muir Health. The private nonprofit organization took over the district's Concord hospital in 1996 after the public agency ran into financial troubles.

The commission, which consists of local elected officials and a public member, rejected an option that would have restored the roughly \$240,000 a year the district receives to the countywide property tax pool for distribution among the 143 public agencies that receive a share. Under no scenario would taxpayers pay less.

Much of the \$240,000 is now used to pay for administration, legal bills, elections and the highly publicized lifetime health care benefits for a current and a former district director, according to the consultants' analysis.

The dollar amount is small, but it adds up over the years, and if most of it were spent on community grants, it would serve a valuable role, commissioners said.

"We can provide grants for worthwhile community programs without the additional costs associated with maintaining the elected health care district," said Contra Costa

Supervisor Federal Glover, a member of the LAFCO commission.

The LAFCO commission must now decide to which agency to hand over the task. "We know we want to assign a successor agency," said Lafayette Councilman and commission Chairman Don Tatzin. "But depending on which agency we select, it will require a different process. We need more information about that process before we choose."

Consultants had recommended the countywide emergency medical services district (governed by the county); take over the district; however, the city of Concord would like to take it over. The health care district is larger than the city, and state law bars an agency from spending tax dollars generated outside its boundaries unless 70 percent or more of the registered voters and land area of the bigger entity are within the city's jurisdiction.

To meet the legal standard, the city is looking at filing a petition with the commission for the formation of a smaller subsidiary health care district. The new district would likely exclude Martinez on the grounds that its taxpayers have not paid into the district at the same rate as its neighbors.

LAFCO is scheduled to make its choice in March. Once the commission completes the next step, dissolution could take six months or longer. It is unclear whether the health care district will mount a legal battle or even if it could afford one.

MDHCD projects reserves of nearly \$700,000 in its preliminary 2012 budget, but the amount roughly equals its unfunded liability for health and dental benefits. The district banked the cash during the years it spent little or no money on community grants, and it has had no contested elections in six years.

There are four seats available in the next election cycle, but the election cost is out of line with the revenue of the district.

Frank Manske current MDHCD Director spoke during public comment saying that he would prefer dissolving the district, saying this would be the right thing to do.

News of our local districts is of interest to us all. Please send news stories to newsletter editor Stanley Caldwell. Stan can be contacted by phone at (925) 228-8922 or by email at [stan\\_caldwell@comcast.net](mailto:stan_caldwell@comcast.net).

## Delta Diablo Sanitation District receives CWEA Award

The 2011 Laboratory Person of the Year award from the California Waster Environment Association (CWEA), San Francisco Bay Area Division, was awarded to Mary Anne Johnson from Delta Diablo. This award recognizes an individual's involvement with projects that have advanced the science of laboratory technology.

## New Facilities dedicated in Walnut Creek

The new "green" facility will serve Central San customers now and into the future.



Central Contra Costa Sanitary District's new Collection System Operations (CSO) Department facilities located on Springbrook Road in Walnut were completed last fall and dedicated on Wednesday November 16th, 2011 with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new facility combines the administration/crew building and warehouse, expanding both and increasing the total square footage by about 10,000 square feet.

The original facility built in 1956 was way too small for current district needs. As the District and staff grew, so did the equipment, and technological needs. The old facilities became inadequate; the building was not wired for computers; the layout was inefficient for its current use; and it didn't meet today's seismic standards and building codes.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is an internationally recognized green building certification system that verifies a building was designed and built using strategies to improve performance in energy savings, water efficiency, carbon dioxide emissions

reduction, indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources. Here are some of the features that will allow the new facilities to be LEED certified:

- Permeable paving for the parking lot and landscaping that incorporates bioswales (improves stormwater quality and reduces runoff).
- Low-flow toilets and showers, drip irrigation and drought- tolerant plants (conserves water).
- Skylights, glass and aluminum on exterior walls (uses more natural light).
- Energy-conserving automatic window shades that lower when a specific temperature is reached.
- Green roof (vegetation on the roof) (reduces building heat in summer and reduces rainfall runoff in winter).
- Energy-efficient heating & air- conditioning (improves indoor air quality while using less energy).
- Energy-efficient solar heat collectors to supplement water heating for showers.
- Hydronic heating in the warehouse floor (reduces energy use).
- Recycled materials used in countertops and some cabinets.



## Upcoming Special District General Manager Summit

On July 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 CSDA will hold a General Manager Summit in Napa California at the Napa Valley Marriot. Watch your email inbox for additional information and details from CSDA as they become available.

## East Bay Regional Park District Mourns Conservationist and Trail Advocate, Hulet Hornbeck

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) notes with sadness the recent death of Hulet Hornbeck, 92, former Chief of Land Acquisition, EBRPD and a longtime advocate for parks and recreational trails.



Before the park district hired him, Hornbeck helped galvanize support for the 1965 ballot measure when Contra Costa County voted to join the park district. Hulet lived in Martinez for 55 years.

"We would not have many of the regional parks we have today if not for Hulet Hornbeck," said Bob Doyle, the park system's general manager. "There are many places like Briones Park that would be developed with houses today if not for Hulet."

Hulet enjoyed a distinguished career as Chief of Land Acquisition of the EBRPD from 1965 through 1985, serving legendary leaders William Penn Mott and Richard Trudeau. Hulet is credited with overseeing the acquisition of 49,000 acres of parkland, expanding the District's land holdings from eight parks (13,000 acres) to 46 parks (62,000 acres) thus securing the unique position that the East Bay Regional Park District still enjoys today as being the largest regional park system in the nation.

Bob Doyle, who now serves as the general manager of the East Bay Regional Park District and worked for many years with Hulet Hornbeck, considered him a mentor. Doyle reflected on his many achievements within the East Bay Regional Park District and open space park agencies nationwide. "Hulet shared a vision of growth for the Park District, and he knew how to carry it out. Always innovative and visionary, he could really push everyone to get things done, one step at a time. A member of the Greatest Generation, he

was always looking to the future, at what could be. He had a sharp legal mind; even at 92, he was still giving advice. Hulet truly loved this District and its people," said Doyle.

Doyle also credits Hornbeck with envisioning the Park District's interconnected trail system which, at over 200 miles, is now a national model in urban planning.

A lifetime conservationist and outdoorsman, Hulet held many positions in local trail and conservation organizations, receiving many honors and awards. He provided leadership for such organizations as the California Conservation Council, the American Hiking Society, the National Trails Council, the Martinez Land Trust, the Trails and Greenways Foundation, American Trails, Heritage Trails Fund, Amigos de Anza, the California Recreational Trails Committee, the East Bay Area Trails Council, the American Trails Association, Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation, and the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club.

East Bay Regional Park District Board Member, Ted Radke who has served on the board for over 30 years worked directly with Hornbeck. Radke says, "Hulet made major contributions to the District with his commitment to public service. But it really was his integrity that is most memorable. He set the tone for the District which is still reflective in everything this agency does."

In recognition of his tireless efforts in parkland development and management on behalf of the East Bay Regional Park District, the California Riding and Hiking Trail segment in Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline was renamed in honor of Hulet Hornbeck. The Hulet Hornbeck Trail was dedicated on October 14, 2005 on the occasion of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The late Martinez resident and East Bay Regional Park District VIP Hulet Hornbeck was given an affectionate and emotional send-off on Sunday February 26th 2012, with folks from all walks of life packing into the Brazilian Room at Tilden Park to remember, honor and gently rib the widely-beloved trailblazer.

Rep. George Miller began the two-hour service with his recollections of Hornbeck. EBRPD General Manager Bob Doyle joked that although the former land acquisition manager officially retired in the mid-80s, that fact wasn't readily evident as Hornbeck continued to regularly show up at board meetings, drop into Doyle's and other District officials' offices without appointment to offer up advice and generally kept involved in District business until his last years. Hornbeck died in January at the age of 92, and his family and friends celebrated him for a long life "well-lived."

## Stege Sanitary District News

Last August Stege Sanitary District Manager Doug Humphrey retired. When the district hired District Engineer Rex Delizo to be the new manager, the District Engineer position became vacant. Paul Soo engineer from the City of Alameda was hired to fill the vacant engineering position.

When Jay James Stege Sanitary District Director retired to teach in Korea, the Stege board had several candidates interested in filling the vacancy. Paul Gilbert-Snyder was chosen after a round of interviews. Welcome new board member Paul Gilbert-Snyder!

## Jim Kelly Central San Manager to retire March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Contra Costa Central Sanitary District manager Jim Kelly announced his retirement to be effective March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Ann Farrell, Deputy General Manager/Director of Engineering has been selected to be the new manager.



**Jim has worked at Central San for 28 years, 5 and a half as the General Manager**

## CCWD Los Vaqueros Reservoir Open House & Ceremony

The Contra Costa Water District Los Vaqueros Reservoir is planning an open house and dedication ceremony on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, to commemorate the reopening of the newly completed dam project. Look for an announcement soon in the districts On Tap newsletter or on their website:

<http://www.ccwater.com>

## Ironhouse Sanitary District

Ironhouse Sanitary District is the newest Contra Costa Special District Association chapter member to become a California Special District member. Congratulations!

## CCMVCD to celebrate 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Contra Costa Mosquito Vector Control District (CCMVD), a public health agency, is celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year; CCMVD has been protecting public health since 1927. They have free services to the public in the areas of mosquitoes, skunks, rats, yellow jackets, and ticks.

Deborah Bass, Public Affairs Manager, says "We are so proud that we have weathered the many political, economic, and seasonal challenges through the years. Here we stand - a credit to our leadership and dedicated employees."

CCMVCD will be sending out a media release later in the year, when people have mosquitoes on their radar.

## CSDA Legislative Days In Sacramento May 16th & 17th, 2012

Special Districts Legislative Days is a dynamic two-day legislative conference that features a lively and insightful lineup of speakers and activities. Interact with and hear from some of California's key elected officials and leading policy experts on the most important issues facing special districts. Take advantage of this opportunity to join together with districts of all types and engage in the important legislative issues facing the special district community.

## Contra Costa Special Districts Association Landing Page

The Contra Costa Special Districts Association Chapter Landing Page is located on the CSDA website and is available to the public. Visit our chapter webpage at:

<http://bit.ly/ContraCostaChapter>

## Contra Costa Special District Association Member Dues

Twenty-one of our chapter members are now CSDA members! We have Thirty fully paid chapter member districts. We value your membership in CCSDA. We look forward to you continuing your membership. The dues are only \$50 a year. Members may elect to pay for one, two or three years at a time (\$50, \$100, \$150). Dues renewals for some of our districts will be arriving soon in your mailboxes.

## **Dorothy M. Sakazaki Environmental Endowment Fund**

Dorothy Sakazaki was extremely active in the community, and was a longtime Mt. View Sanitary District board member (retiring in 2008 after 29 years of service, Dorothy died in August of 2009). She fully embraced the ideals of community service and public leadership. She lived an unselfish and giving life. She was dedicated, diligent, and devoted in her quest for good public service.

Dorothy was involved in public programs benefiting the Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) and had a special interest in protecting the environment and was actively involved in the creation and development of the District's Wetland's Field Trip Program.

The curriculum, designed in partnership with the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek, CA, addresses many of the California State Science Standards for third, fourth and fifth grades with an emphasis on pollution prevention and wetlands conservation.

During the four-hour long program, students are divided into small groups that rotate through four stations including a treatment plant tour, a dip-netting activity, an exploratory wetlands hike and either an animal study activity for younger students (1st-3rd grades) or a water quality assessment activity for older students (4th grade and above).

MVSD was proud of the pioneering efforts and accomplishments that have taken place during Dorothy's terms in office. Dorothy's attendance, knowledge of constituents, and leadership were exceptional. She gave unselfishly of her time and wisdom for the benefit of the residents and property owners MVSD. Dorothy's contributions toward the acquisition, restoration and rehabilitation of the McNabney Marsh will continue to be of benefit to hundreds of children, students, residents and visitors from around the world each year.

The growth and accomplishments of the district during her tenure in office will stand as a testament to her loyalty, dedication, and service. There are many contributions Dorothy has made; the one that she was most proud of was the Interpretive Center Program, and the In-Class Education Program in the schools the growth and accomplishments of the district

during her tenure in office stand as a testament to her loyalty, dedication, and service.

The Board of Directors of the Mt. View Sanitary District directed the creation of the Dorothy M. Sakazaki Environmental Endowment Fund to posthumously honor Dorothy for her devotion to the environment and in particular, the District's Wetlands Field Trip Program.

At the December 8th, 2011 Regular Board Meeting, MVSD staff presented a detailed report outlining the results of its research and a suggested plan of action in order to establish the creation of the nonprofit organization.

Creating this nonprofit public benefit corporation would allow the District to more actively seek grants and other gifts to support the District's Environmental Programs and to clearly account to the public for the expenditure of donations. An endowment is generally defined as a financial asset donation made to a nonprofit group or institution in the form of investment funds or other property that has a stated purpose as suggested or requested by the person or entity making the donation.

At the January 12, 2012 regular board meeting of the Mt. View Sanitary District the board adopted a resolution honoring Dorothy M. Sakazaki and created the Dorothy M. Sakazaki Environmental Endowment Fund.

Director Stan Caldwell was elected President of the Dorothy M. Sakazaki Environmental Endowment Fund, and Director David Maggi was elected Secretary.

For the past 16 years the Wetlands Education Program has been funded primarily by corporate sponsors, not the ratepayers. As the program continues to grow we will now need to seek additional sponsors and donors. One of the primary benefits of being considered tax-exempt under IRC Section 501(c) (3) is the ability to accept contributions and donations that are tax-deductible to the donor.

MVSD hopes that future contributions to the Dorothy M. Sakazaki Environmental Endowment Fund will increase and possibly open the door for additional corporate sponsors, grants, gifts, and individual donations.

## Kensington Fire Protection District Award



L to R in the photo is: Director Nina Harmon, Manager Brenda Navellier, Chief Lance Maples, Vice President Joe Deville and SDLF Board member Sherry Sterrett.

At the Contra Costa Special District Association January meeting Special Districts Leadership Foundation (SDLF) board member Sherry Sterrett presented the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) with re- accreditation as a District of Distinction.

The District of Distinction is an "accreditation award" from the Special District Leadership Foundation. It enables districts to demonstrate to their communities a commitment to operate in a sound, and responsible manner.

All of the board members and executive staff must have completed governance training. KFPD had to provide a copy of their policy and procedures manual, along with meeting minutes showing that the documents had been reviewed and adopted by the board of directors. The District of Distinction designation is valid for two years and is renewable.

KFPD became a District of Distinction through the Special District Leadership Foundation in October 2009.

The District of Distinction accreditation is one of the most prestigious local government awards in the state of California. This award clearly validates Kensington Fire's commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices.

Kensington Fire Protection District met a list of requirements involving policies, procedures, continuing education and audit standards to receive this accreditation. They are the 12th District of Distinction since the program began in 2006.

The Kensington Fire Protection District pursued the District of Distinction accreditation to demonstrate their level of understanding and fiscal responsibility in providing essential public services.

## Delta Diablo Sanitation District receives national platinum award



East Contra Costa County residents and the Bay Area/Delta habitat have long benefited from the work of the Delta Diablo Sanitation District (DDSD). This month, its efforts were recognized nationally by a Platinum Peak Performance Award. Achieved by only 2 percent of wastewater treatment operations nationwide, the award acknowledges public wastewater treatment facilities for 100-percent operating compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Presented by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), Platinum Peak Performance Awards reward zero violations over five consecutive years.

"Delta Diablo Sanitation District's recognition by NACWA in Milwaukee this past week not only confirms they are meeting all EPA requirements, but shows them as a benchmark agency that does an outstanding job of protecting the precious Bay Delta system," said Supervisor Federal Glover.

DDSD has long been recognized by the wastewater industry at the state and national level for operational excellence and environmental stewardship.

According to Glover, "This award nationally acknowledges DDSD's continued commitment to providing the highest quality service while safeguarding the environment and our community.

## 90th anniversary of the West County Wastewater District

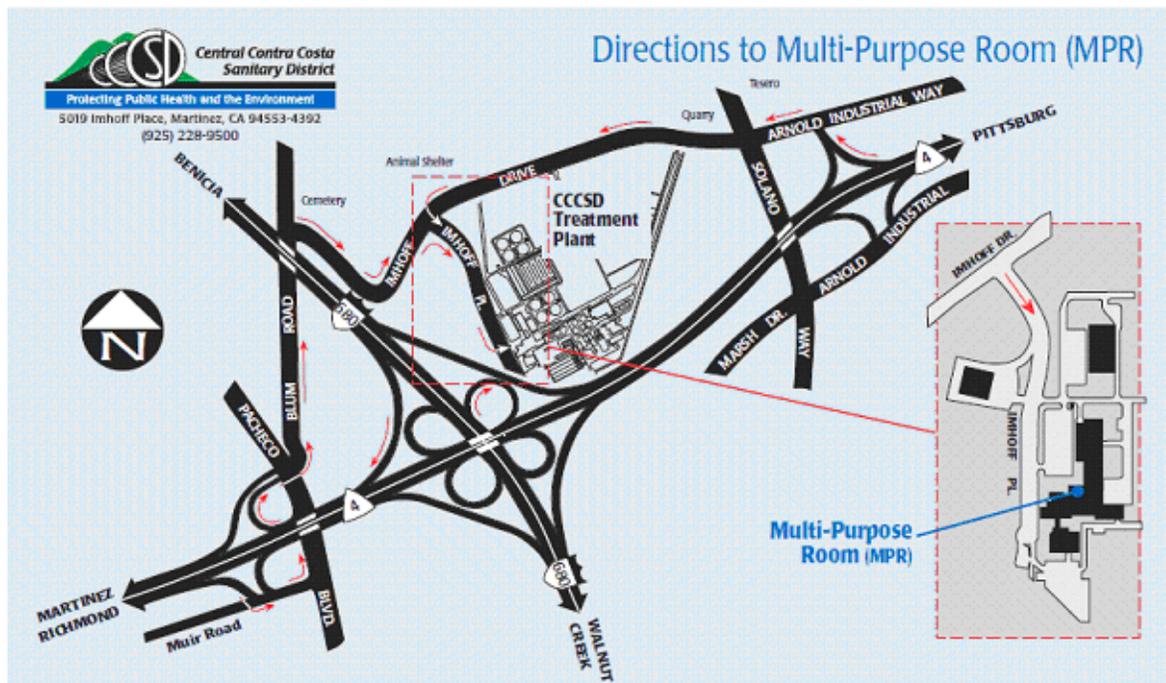
On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 West County Wastewater District (District) held an open house and reception at their headquarters building in Richmond.

The District has existed since 1921 for the purpose of protecting public health and the San Francisco Bay by providing the community with wastewater collection and treatment for reuse or disposal in an environmentally responsible, efficient and reliable manner. It also provides contract services to neighboring communities to maintain various local government facilities.

In its commitment to promote clean renewable energy, the District had a 1 megawatt solar energy facility built in 2007 at its Water Pollution Control Plant (the largest dual-axis, sun-tracking solar power project in the United States), providing 35% of the Plant's electrical power need.

Recognized with numerous awards for outstanding performance in wastewater treatment and financial reporting, the District credits its success to its dedicated and experienced management and staff as well as the leadership of its knowledgeable Board of Directors.

All of our 2012 meetings will be in the morning with an optional lunch following. At the October 2012 meeting we will review adjusting meeting times and decide if we want to return to the alternating schedule of morning and evening meetings. For now we will meet at **Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA.**



### Contra Costa Special Districts Association

C/o West County Wastewater District  
2910 Hilltop Drive  
Richmond, CA 94806-1974  
Phone: (510) 222-6700  
Fax: (510) 222-3277

West County Wastewater contact Maria Sena Email [msena@wccd.org](mailto:msena@wccd.org)

Bette Boatmun, Chair - Email: [bboatmun@yahoo.com](mailto:bboatmun@yahoo.com) Mark Cornelius, Vice Chair - Email: [mark@markcorneliuslaw.com](mailto:mark@markcorneliuslaw.com)

Stanley Caldwell Member at Large and Newsletter Editor Email: [stan\\_caldwell@comcast.net](mailto:stan_caldwell@comcast.net)

California Special Districts Association – 1112 "I" Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814 877.924.2732