

Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

Spring 2016

March/April 2016

Official Launch for “Districts Make the Difference” Campaign

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) has announced the launch of its public outreach campaign, Districts Make the Difference.

The campaign is aimed at educating the public about special districts and the crucial services they provide to communities throughout California. This campaign was designed to showcase the positive impact of the many services provided by special districts throughout the state.



The Districts Make the Difference campaign will provide an energetic voice showcasing the important role special districts play in the lives of all Californians.

The new website features a simple-to-use toolkit for districts. It is filled with public awareness videos, web banners, posters, factsheets, and other materials that can be easily downloaded. The materials provided on the toolkit may be used by linking to your own website, sharing through social media channels, displaying on your digital newsletters, and by making the posters and fact sheets available at your headquarters.

Mt. View Sanitary District has been highlighted as a sanitary district. See the video about MVSD's role as a special district at <https://youtu.be/CO1P9LfrMo0>

Learn more about special districts by visiting <http://www.districtsmakethedifference.org/>

CSDA invites you to be part of this campaign by visiting the website and liking them on Facebook, following them on Twitter, and subscribing to the YouTube channel.

Ed Duarte Elected as Chapter Member at Large



DSRSD Director Ed Duarte has lived in San Ramon since 1979. He is a member of the San Ramon Rotary and San Ramon Chamber of Commerce; he served on the San Ramon Citizen's Advisory Committee for Redevelopment.

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) Director Ed Duarte was elected to a two year term as Member at Large at the chapters January 25th Annual Business Meeting.

Ed is a retired General Engineering Contractor. He has been active in San Ramon community and was elected to the DSRSD Board of Directors in 2012. "I hope to be a contributing member of CCSDA and look forward to the opportunity to be of service."

Welcome Ed! Also Congratulations to Bette & Stan!

Bette Boatmun was elected to serve another term as President and Stanley Caldwell was reelected to serve as Vice President. These are all two year terms.

Thank you Mike McGill for your service to our organization as Member at Large this past year. We also want to thank Bert Michalczyk for his service as our chapter Treasurer.

~ Just a reminder ~

The chapter dues statements will be going out in May and are due in July. The regular member dues are now \$100 per year and the Associate Member Dues are \$200.

Bob Berggren of Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District plans Retirement!

The Contra Costa Special Districts Association beginnings date back to 1989, when Chuck Beesley, former General Manager of the Contra Costa Mosquito Abatement District, and Bob Berggren, General Manager of the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District, began discussing the need for an organization of a local association of special districts. We can thank them for their vision and early beginnings of the Contra Costa Special Districts Association.



After 40 years with the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Bob Berggren, General Manager will retire at the end of May 2016.

Thank you Bob for all your service to the special districts of Contra Costa County!

The decision to retire is bittersweet. Bob has had an incredibly rewarding experience in his position and will miss the daily interaction with District staff members and community peers.

He admits, however, that verdant golf courses beckon and looks forward to spending more time with his wife, two children, and three grandchildren.

During his years of service, Bob's leadership was instrumental in improving many aspects of life in Pleasant Hill. He played a key role in the implementation of Bond Measure E that brought three new District facilities to the community and the complete renovation of Pleasant Oaks Park sports complex.

Bob hired all of the current District staff members who serve the community in providing outstanding recreation programs and beautiful parks to enjoy. The District was twice awarded the top Recreation & Park District in the state during Bob's years of service.

When asked about special districts, Bob said "Over the years and especially when I became General Manager in 1987, I gained a better understanding of the importance and significance of the role that Special Districts play in local government. I really feel that due to the efforts of our local chapter of the Special Districts Association and the state organization of CSDA that our

Special Districts have gained ground in the never-ending battle to educate the public in the services that we provide for our communities. Things like getting representation on LAFCO, playing a role in legislation in Sacramento, were all important steps in the recognition of the importance and necessity of special districts. As I told the District's Board of Directors, I have enjoyed my journey here at the District and am now ready to start a new journey and excitement of retirement life."

Central San Employee Named CWEA Collection Person of the Year

Jeremiah Walsh, a Maintenance Crew Leader for the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, was named Collection System Person of the Year by the California Water Environment Association's (CWEA) San Francisco Bay Section. He will now go on to compete at the Association's state-level competition.

"Jeremiah is a positive and optimistic team player," said Maintenance Supervisor Ed Silva. "He provides great customer service by treating people with respect, being courteous and thoughtful, and by explaining situations in a clear, understandable way. He leads by example every day and is a great asset for our agency."



Jeremiah has worked at the District for 16 years. "It's such an honor to be nominated," he said. "Central San is a great place to work; the people there help you to grow in your career. I hope I win at the state level!"

Central San will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary this summer!

Watch their website for the announcement. This event will most likely be sometime in July 2016.



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

Ironhouse Sanitary District helped feed animal victims of the Valley Fire

When the Valley Fire devastated Lake County, there were many victims throughout the fire zone that needed help.



In one of the biggest equestrian and ranching areas in the state, many cattle operations as well as owners of horses, goats and other livestock lost their local feed outlets to flames. ISD was able to help by sending 148 bales of hay to fire-stricken communities. The hay was disbursed by the local farm bureau to the ranchers in need.

ISD's 3,600 acre Jersey Island has been using reclaimed water on the agricultural lands for the hay and cattle operation. Currently recycled water is used to grow the hay, which is then is fed to ISD-owned cattle that are ultimately sold to add supplemental income for the district.

Owl Nest Box Program

Mt. View Sanitary District

Barn owls are beautiful birds and tolerant of people and our activities. Barn owls are very effective rodent predators that can help keep your yard free of mice, rats, and gophers. On Saturday February 27th 15 participants made nine owl boxes with two wildlife biologists, and learned about barn owl natural history and breeding biology as they helped to build the nest boxes.



Participants had the opportunity to meet a live Barn owl Western Screech Owl from Native Bird Connections.

Stege Sanitary District wins Collection System of the Year Award

The Stege Sanitary District is the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), San Francisco Bay Section, 2015 Collection System of the Year Award winner for the Small System Category (0-250 Miles).



Left to right, Phil Scott CWEA President, Lani Good West Yost Associates, Fred Bondoc Stege Collection System Worker, Dennis Wright (holding trophy) Stege Maintenance Superintendent, Rex Delizo (holding plaque) Stege District Manager, Adam Clark, Stege Collection System Worker, & Arvin Gonzales Stege Engineering Technician II/Inspector

This award is presented to the collection system that has demonstrated the highest compliance and excellence in the programs and procedures of wastewater collection based on regulatory compliance, maintenance, safety, and training programs, special accomplishments, emergency response procedures, administrative procedures,. This is the third time the District has won this award in the last seven years.

Wetlands Birding Field Trip

Saturday, May 28, 2016 7:30 am – 9:30 am

Join Kelly Davidson the Mt. View Sanitary District biologist for a fun and informative hike around the districts wetlands complex. We will introduce you to the diversity of resident and migrant birds found in and around these historic Contra Costa marshes. Contact Kelly to RSVP at kdavidson@mvsd.org



Some of the Historical Figures of Byron-Brentwood-Knightsen Union Cemetery District

Every community has its share of historical figures and characters – both famous and infamous. And, since death is 100 percent, more likely than not they end up buried in a local cemetery. Union Cemetery has a few of the famous and persons of notoriety. Some are – or were – famous nationally, while others are either locally famous or colorful characters. For example:

Richard R. Veale (1864-1937)

Richard Veale arrived in the Eden Plains region with his family at the age of 4 in 1868. He became a prominent farmer as a young man and is credited with being the first person in the area to use modern methods; such as the steam plow and harvesters. Prior to steam, work had been done with large “gangs” of workers. He was elected as Contra Costa County Sheriff in 1894 when the region was still untamed. He served until 1934, a record for the longest continuous service of any sheriff in the United States. Following that reign, he was elected Contra Costa County Treasurer in 1934, but served only 3 of his 4-year term, having died in 1937. There are several more early pioneers of Eastern Contra Costa County buried at Union Cemetery.

Frances E. (Donner) Wilder (1840-1921)

Frances was one of five daughters of Capt. George Donner, of the ill-fated Donner party which tried crossing the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range during an early winter. This led to the deaths of many of the party's members. Frances was nearly seven in 1846 when 29 men, 15 women, 43 children, 23 ox-drawn wagons became stranded in an area near where what is now known as Donner Lake along Interstate 80. Infamous for reports of cannibalism, the party was found by “Snowshoe” Thompson, a Norseman living at Sutter's Fort in what is now Sacramento. Frances and her sisters were taken to safety with the first rescue party. However, during a second rescue attempt revealed that many of those left behind had died. Later, Frances married William R. Wilder in 1858 and they settled in a farm in the Point of Timber area. Eventually, a portion of that District would become the Town of Byron. Two of Frances' grandsons, Delmar and Donner Wilder lived their entire lives in the small community. Both also have been laid to rest in Union Cemetery.

To learn more about the many historical figures at Union Cemetery visit the district web site at: <http://unioncemeterydistrict.com/historical.php>

Clusters of ladybugs are hibernating in Redwood Regional Park East Bay Regional Park District



Ladybugs have gathered in several locations in the park, forming large clusters on plants, logs, sign posts, and even on the ground.

While there are many species of "Ladybugs," the Convergent Ladybug Beetle is the most common; it is the most common lady beetle species throughout North America. California has about 140 species of Ladybugs. The Convergent Ladybug Beetle is usually between 1/4 inch and 1/2 inch long. Its coloration behind its head is black and white. The wings, called elytra, are red or orange with 13 black spots. Its body is very rounded.

There's only one species in Redwood Regional Park the Convergent Ladybug (*Hippodamia convergens*) between late October and late February, they number in the thousands, they are easy to see but have never been seen in Redwood Regional Park before.

John Muir Birthday Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Admission and parking are FREE!

This is the day to celebrate John Muir's 178th birthday, the 46th Anniversary of Earth Day, and the 52nd Anniversary of the John Muir National Historic Site!

The celebration is presented by the John Muir Association and the National Park Service. Many of Contra Costa's special districts participate in Earth Day activities at this event.

Congressman George Miller, will be receiving the Conservation Legacy Award. The John Muir Association is pleased to honor the Congressman's 40 years of public service and his role as a champion of the environment and conservation in our great country. He was just 29 years old when first elected in 1974. The John Muir Association is pleased to bestow this award in honor of his distinguished career.

The John Muir National Historic Site is located at 4202 Alhambra Avenue at Highway 4 in Martinez, California.

For more information: www.nps.gov/jomu

CoCo San Sustainable Farm Update

Well it is official on January 1st, 2016 the CoCo San Sustainable Farm, the non-profit urban farm utilizing 33 acres of Central Contra Costa Sanitary District buffer land, received its Land Use Permit from the County! It has been a five year journey to get to this point.

The project will consist of row crops with the construction of 6,048 sq., ft. greenhouse, a cargo container will be repurposed as a temporary office building. A 1500 sq. ft. shed/barn is proposed and will store tractor and other farm equipment. Beekeeping will be conducted along the western property boundary.

Educational kiosks will be established on the site at key locations to inform visitors about a variety of related topics, including Central Contra Costa Sanitary District operations, recycled water, sustainable farming, and the Buchanan Fields Airport, the irrigation will be sourced from recycled water from Central San.



Currently efforts include preparing the irrigation plan which is needed by the Department of Public Health to meet the requirements of Central San's recycled water permit. Also additional soil enhancement is needed so manure crops will be planted this year before actual production farming begins. It is hoped that some classes may be able to be held this summer.

Fund raising is underway which will raise the funds to be able begin the greenhouse construction (including related fencing). The first harvest will likely come from the greenhouse. The 140 foot X 42 foot greenhouse construction is estimated to cost at least \$50,000.

Fencing will also be expensive, if you know anyone that can donate fencing (new or used at least 6' high) or money for fencing.....they would be very grateful.

Did you know that it is estimated that there are about 5,000 acres of buffer lands around the states many sanitary districts? Wouldn't it be wonderful for this model program to be repeated at those locations?

Knightsen Town Community Services District

Knightsen is primarily an agricultural area located in the Sacramento - San Joaquin River Delta region. Water supply is provided to the community by Diablo Water District (DWD) and East Contra Costa Irrigation District (ECCID). Knightsen is located within the Delta, making the community susceptible to flooding risk, as well as poor water quality from agricultural runoff.

The town of Knightsen was founded in 1898 when the Santa Fe Railroad began a preliminary survey through the area to determine where tracks would be laid and which right-of-ways should be purchased for a line into Stockton. The railroad spent a year and a half grading the road bed and laying tracks expecting the first passenger and freight trains to arrive during the spring of 1900.

The Knightsen Town Community Services District (KCSO) was created in 2005, and encompasses approximately 5,100 acres. It was formed to provide flood control and water quality (drainage services) for the community of Knightsen, which is a low area that receives runoff flow from nearby areas. The District is authorized to provide flood control and water quality (drainage) services to the Knightsen community, although it is not currently providing these services.

Community Service Districts (CSD) can provide a variety of services that are enumerated in the CSD Law (Government Code §61000 et seq.). The KCSO is authorized to provide only flood control and water quality (drainage services). The District is not actively providing these types of services at this time, but is in the planning stages to do so.

The District is also within the boundaries of the Knightsen Town Advisory Council, which is an advisory council appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to provide advice regarding land use and related issues in Knightsen.

The KCSO has no physical assets. The Knightsen area needs improved drainage and reclamation services, the purpose for which the District was formed.

Knightsen's town advisory council (TAC)

The Knightsen TAC was founded in the mid-1990s to serve as an advisory body to the county on land use and planning issues. The town's CSD, formed in 2005, deals with water issues and flood problems. Funding sources for the TAC and CSD are separate. TAC dollars come from fundraising and from the county's Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund. CSD operations are paid for by a special parcel tax.

The January 26th Meeting Presentation By Digital Deployment

If you missed the presentation by Streamline at the January meeting the contact information is below.

Digital Deployment is the web development company specializing in content management systems where ease-of-use and scalability are required. They are the creators of Streamline – the Special District Website Engine.



Streamline is a website tool that allows districts to be up and running with their own customized site in just 20 minutes, and enables districts to comply with the latest transparency requirements. Streamline is available at one low monthly fee (discounted 50 percent to CSDA members), no long-term commitment and no upfront costs.

Grant Opportunities: There May Be One Perfect for Your District

CSDA's Business Affiliate, California Consulting, recently released a list of grant opportunities for special districts and other local agencies. These grants are available for a range of projects including, land conservation, water and energy efficiency, air pollution control, and many more.

The Special District Grants list provides detailed information regarding the deadline for filing a grant proposal, typical amount of the grant award, which entities are eligible, and a link to find out how to apply for the grant. For more information about available grants, visit www.californiaconsulting.org.

Third Annual Capitol Staff Tour Of Special Districts a Great Success!

This past Fall CSDA partnered with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD), the California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to inform capitol staffers of special districts.

This tour provided legislative staff with a hands-on opportunity to learn more about the governance, infrastructure, and essential local services provided by special districts.

"I was absolutely amazed by the expertise and passion of the people working for the special districts, and I look forward to working with the special districts of the North Coast in the future," said one attendee.

Each of the host districts visited provided attendees with information about their history, their vision to serve the next generation, and the innovative forces behind each district's services and infrastructure.

The tour presented participants with an interactive and collaborative opportunity to observe the way special districts conduct their business and provide efficient and effective delivery of core local services.

East Bay parks names its first deputy General Manager

Ana Alvarez, a San Francisco parks department executive, has been hired as the first deputy general manager of the East Bay Regional Park District. Alvarez begins March 1 and serves directly under General Manager Bob Doyle in overseeing the system with 120,000 acres of parkland. .

As deputy general manager, Alvarez will oversee day-to-day oversight of the four executives responsible for finance, operations, planning, land acquisition, stewardship and development, and human resources. She will also work closely with Doyle to navigate long-term planning, as the Park District continues to expand and be a leader in environmental stewardship.

"We're thrilled to add someone of Ana's caliber to our ever-growing District," said East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Robert Doyle. "Her experience, commitment and expertise – especially in matters related to climate change and professional development - will be a tremendous asset to our District."

Alvarez has worked in San Francisco since 2009, serving most recently as the director of parks and open space at the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department.



If you print this remember to recycle it later!

Contra Costa Waste Services & Delta Diablo Recycled Water Project

Contra Costa Waste Services and Delta Diablo (formerly known as Delta Diablo Sanitation District) are proud to announce a new partnership which proactively addresses California's drought emergency while enabling over nine million gallons of precious drinking water supplies to be saved each year in Pittsburg.

In an effort to become more efficient and improve the water supply in the county, Contra Costa Waste Services and Mt. Diablo Recycling, Garaventa companies, are excited to now access recycled water from their neighbor Delta Diablo (a wastewater resource recovery agency) which serves nearly 200,000 customers in Antioch, Bay Point and Pittsburg.



The tertiary treated recycled water began flowing at Mt. Diablo Recycling on Loveridge Road in Pittsburg in December 2015 for dust control as well as other operations where non potable water can be used.

For over fifty years, recycled water has been providing San Francisco Bay Area communities a wide range of environmental protection benefits and water conservation options. In addition, it is more economically viable with the cost of generating recycled water currently at \$356 an acre foot compared to potable water at \$1,628 an acre foot*

Gary Darling, General Manager of Delta Diablo is equally enthusiastic about the new partnership. "Being able to add another recycled water customer and a new resource recovery service for dust control to our portfolio is a milestone for our agency. This new partnership reflects Delta Diablo's ongoing commitment to spearhead resource recovery opportunities which showcase our East Contra Costa region as a leader in water resource management."

Delta Diablo currently provides recycled water to Calpine Corporation, Pittsburg Unified School District, as well as the cities of Antioch and Pittsburg. They also offered a pilot residential recycled water fill station during 2015 which gave away two million gallons over a six month period.

Los Medanos Community Healthcare District's 2015 Summer Interns

Local Foster Care Youth Diabetes Awareness Campaign won California Special District's Exceptional Outreach and Advocacy Award.



The Healthy Youth Council took their message to Sacramento and met with Assembly members Jim Frazier and Beth Gaines offices.

In August 2015, the California Special District Association notified Los Medanos Community Healthcare District (LMCHD) that their 2015 Summer Internship Program's Impact Project was the recipient of the 2015 Exceptional Public Outreach and Advocacy Award. LMCHD representatives and the Healthy Youth Council accepted the award during the CSDA Awards Luncheon at the 2015 annual conference in Monterey.

The LMCHD location was the ideal environment to conduct the diabetes awareness campaign. The Healthy Youth Council had the opportunity to design an integrated marketing campaign aimed at increasing awareness against diabetes. Awareness efforts completed by the Healthy Youth Council included: information table events to survey community residents, distribution of flyers for local diabetes prevention programs, conducting a focus group at the Pittsburg Senior Center, gathering signatures in support of AB 572, and filming a public service announcement regarding diabetes awareness.

Formal presentations by the Healthy Youth Council were given to the Pittsburg City Council, legislators at the State Capitol in Sacramento, and LMCHD's Board of Directors. The presentations were a unique opportunity for the young adults to develop public speaking and presentation skills, in addition to building self-confidence.

Sherry Sterrett will not seek reelection to CSDA

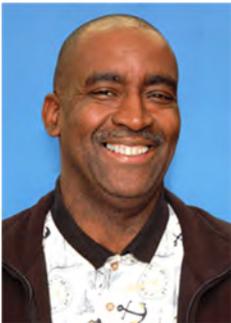
Sherry Sterrett serves as board member of the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). Sherry also serves as the current vice president for the Special District Leadership Foundation. She is active in the Contra Costa Special District Association.



Sherry Sterrett will not seek reelection for the 2016 CSDA board of directors. After 20 years of service, Sherry plans to retire from CSDA activities. Her input and contributions will be greatly missed at CSDA.

Sterrett is a graduate of the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy. Throughout her service on the CSDA Board, Sterrett has held many leadership roles, including service on the Membership Committee, the Local Chapter Committee, the Conference Committee, the Budget/Finance Committee, Elections/Bylaws Committee, the Education Committee and the CSDA Executive Committee, which included two terms as CSDA President. Thank you for your remarkable service to CSDA these past 20 years!

DSRSD Wastewater Operations Supervisor Honored by Bay Area CWEA Local Section



Levi Fuller Supervisor of the Year by the San Francisco Bay Section of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA),

Levi Fuller, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor for Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), has been named 2015 Supervisor of the Year by the San Francisco Bay Section of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), the leading training and certification organization in California for the wastewater industry.

CWEA awards acknowledge outstanding achievement in more than 20 categories, honoring exceptional California water environment professionals, wastewater collection systems, and treatment plants. As a winner at the San Francisco Bay section level, Fuller will compete for the statewide CWEA Supervisor of the Year award, which will be announced in April.

CCWD Board President Joseph Campbell Announces Retirement

At the board meeting on January 6, 2016 Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) Board President, Joseph L. Campbell, announced that he will be retiring after 24 years of representing the community on important water issues.



"I am especially proud to have been part of the hard work and dedication to build and expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir," said Campbell. "Storage is such a key component of a sustainable water supply and the community was wise to invest in a local reservoir."

Campbell will be taking up residency outside of the service area and will retire as of March 1, 2016. For 24 years, he has represented residents of eastern Concord, Clayton and part of Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill; he has never missed a single Board meeting.

Jerry Brown, the District's General Manager, noted, "President Campbell has served his constituents vigorously, dedicating much of his career to ensuring the community has clean, reliable, high-quality drinking water." "We thank him for his years representing the community and helping build a strong and efficient organization."



SEND US YOUR NEWS!
We would welcome your contributions for our next newsletter!

Please remember to add Stan Caldwell to your media and press releases – they may become stories in our newsletter!

Stan_caldwell@comcast.net



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

California Special Districts Association Officers for 2016

Bill Nelson, Orange County Cemetery District –
President

Vincent Ferrante, Moss Landing Harbor District – **Vice
President**

Arlene Schafer, Costa Mesa Sanitary District –
Secretary

Greg Orsini, McKinleyville Community Services District
- **Treasurer**

Steve Perez, SDA, Rosamond Community Services
District - **Past President**

The 18-member board, consisting of three directors
from six networks in California, and are elected by mail.

Future CSDA Events

SDRMA Safety/Claims Education Day
March 29, 2016, Newport Beach Marriott

CSDA Legislative Days May 17-18, Sacramento

**GM Leadership Summit June 12-14, Lake Tahoe,
Resort @ Squaw**

**SDLA Conference July 10-13, Napa, Embassy
Suites**

**Board Secretary/Clerk Conference November 14-16,
Monterey**

Upcoming Webinars @ CSDA

**Learn about topics impacting your district without
leaving your home or the office!**

- Financial Management for Special Districts – March 10th
- Grassroots Advocacy and Public Outreach – March 15th
- Completing Statement of Economic Interest- Form 700 - March 17th
- Conflict of Interest & When One Must Step Aside - March 24th
- How to Prepare for Your District's Annual Audit - April 5th
- New Developments in the Brown Act - April 7th
- Legislative Round-Up - April 14th

- Technology and the Public Records Act - April 26th
- Best Practices in Agenda Prep and Taking Minutes – April 28th
- Communication Protocols for Board Members/Staff – May 12
- LAFCo 101 for Special Districts – June 29

CSDA Consultant Connection

When your agency needs the expertise of a consultant in organizational development, strategic planning or many other areas do you know where to turn?

The CSDA Consultant Connection was developed to give members access to a pool of experts who provide exclusive discounts and special benefits for a variety of services. Some include:

- Leadership/Board Development
- Strategic Planning
- Board Planning/Facilitation
- Succession Planning
- Organizational Assessment
- Public Outreach/Communications
- Change Management

CSDA's Consultant Connection™ is your source for these services and more. Simply complete the form to your right and CSDA staff will connect you with the consultant(s) you select so you can receive exclusive discounts and/or benefits as a CSDA member.

Does your district need translation services?

Avantpage is a full-service translation, localization and interpretation company that helps organizations connect with other cultures through language services. They specialize in Limited English Proficient (LEP) translation, compliance issues and regulatory concerns. With expertise in over 150 languages, they can provide responsive, high-quality, customized services to meet a variety of client needs, from document translations to expansive website, collateral and technology redesigns.

Their team of translators, project managers, IT experts, and support staff will ensure that all work is completed on time and within budget, while clearly communicating your message to your target audience.

CSDA members' receive a 20% discount on standard per-word translation rate. You can reach them at Avantpage (877) ANY-LANG or at www.avantpage.com

CSDA Field Coordinator Update

By Dane Wadlé, Bay Area Network Field Coordinator



Dane Wadlé
CSDA Public Affairs Field
Coordinator

California Special Districts
Association
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Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone 877.924.2732

I looked at the calendar recently and noticed that I am approaching my one year anniversary as the Bay Area Network Field Coordinator! I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Board Delegates as well as the Chapter members. You have helped me learn much more about the issues affecting Contra Costa districts.

Field Coordinator Survey:

We recently distributed a survey to Chapter members as a way to obtain feedback on the Field Coordinator's service over the past year and get suggestions on ways to enhance the service level going forward. I encourage you to complete this survey if you have not already done so. The completed surveys can be emailed to me at danew@csda.net, faxed to (916) 442-7889 or returned to me at a future Chapter meeting.

Legislative Update:

The deadline to introduce legislation for this year was February 19th. CSDA lobbyists have been reviewing many bills assessing the impact they may have on special districts.

As I mentioned at the January meeting, CSDA is requesting feedback from districts on two issues. The first being on the costs of audits; CSDA staff is working on legislation to potentially reduce audit costs on our members.

Costs of audits four questions are:

- 1). How often does your district have an audit or fiscal review?
- 2) Which does your district utilize: an audit or a fiscal review?
- 3) What is the cost of the audit or fiscal review?
- 4) What percentage of your budget is used for conducting the audit or fiscal review?

If you could please email your responses to Dillon Gibbons at CSDA we would appreciate it. Dillon Gibbons at dillong@csda.net.

The second issue relates to public records act requests. There are several new bills this year to the Public Records Act. One bill, AB 1707, would require districts who deny a public records request to do so in writing listing each item that was denied and the relevant code section(s) in law that justify the denial. Staff is specifically interested in what are the most broad public records act requests your district has received. Please email your response to Dillon Gibbons at dillong@csda.net.

Membership Update:

Starting April 1st, CSDA will be offering a free 90-day trial membership to any district not currently a member of the Association. This offer allows districts to experience CSDA membership at no cost for three months. During the period, trial members will have access to significant savings on Special District Legislative Days in May, discounted member pricing for educational workshops, webinars and conferences, access to various members services, including the CSDA listserv, and much more.

The CSDA Trial Membership program is designed to give special districts and other local government agencies the opportunity to experience many of the benefits of CSDA membership.

Apply by March 31, 2016 and receive benefits during April, May and June. This offer is available to prospective regular and associate members only. See more at:

<http://www.csda.net/csda-membership/join-csda/>

Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates: April 18, 2016, July 18, 2016, October 17, 2016, January 23, 2017

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

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

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

Bette Boatmun, President - Email: bboatmun@yahoo.com

Stan Caldwell, Vice President & Newsletter Editor
Email: stan_caldwell@comcast.net

Ed Duarte, Member at Large - Email: eduarte566@aol.com

Bert Michalczyk, Treasurer - Email: leedscourt@comcast.net

CCSDA web site:

www.csda.net/contra-costa-special-districts-association