

Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

Fall/Winter 2012

October 2012

Central San Board Member Retires After Twenty Years of Service



Mario M. Menesini, Ph.D. has been a Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) Board Member since 1992.

Elected to the Board of Directors of the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) in 1992, he has served as Board President four times, and has served on a wide variety of Board Committees including Capital Projects, Hazardous Waste, Human Resources, Recycled Water, and Outreach Committees. Throughout his tenure on the CCCSD Board, two of Dr. Menesini's chief interests have remained education of the young and public outreach to the community at large.

Recycled Water Use Sets New Record

Golf courses, parks, schools and other large green spaces in Dublin and San Ramon soaked up a record 6.155 million gallons of recycled water on a single day in mid-July, saving enough drinking water in one day to serve 59 households for an entire year. The last daily record of 5.98 million gallons was set last year.

Schools and parks built in Dublin and Dougherty Valley since 2006 have been plumbed from the start to irrigate with recycled water. The Central Dublin Recycled Water Retrofit Project is the Dublin San Ramon Services District's first major retrofit in older parts of its service area and is expected to be completed later this fall.

California Special Districts Association Region 3 (Seat A)

CSDA Board member Dr. Jim Kohnen passed away at his home in Dublin on Tuesday, May 29, 2012. Jim was up for re-election this year. For those that worked closely with him, you know what a thoughtful, friendly, and all-around nice man he was.

Jim Kohnen was the chair of the CSDA Professional Development Committee (formerly the Education Committee). Jim was very active with the Alameda County Chapter of Special Districts.

In addition to being extremely supportive of CSDA and special districts Jim also served on the Special Districts Leadership Foundation Board as well as the Alliance Executive Council. He contributed significantly and will definitely be missed.

CSDA ballots were counted on August 3rd and the Region 3 Seat A (term ends 2015) was won by Vincent Ferrante, Moss Landing Harbor District.

CSDA Affiliation Agreement

For the past several years, CSDA has been evaluating the concept of a formalized Chapter Affiliation Agreement between the State Association and Chapters. Contra Costa Chapter was the first chapter to sign and return the CSDA Affiliation Agreement!

The purpose of an affiliation agreement is to clearly define the relationship between the Association and local special district groups, and clarify expectations and obligations. From a risk management perspective, the agreement clearly outlines the level of liability for both parties. It would also protect the CSDA logo and brand.

Chapters were encouraged to sign the agreement if they wanted use of the CSDA name and logo. By signing chapters can receive enhanced access to CSDA resources. One of the enhancements includes the hosting of chapter web sites.

California Special District Association General Manager Summit

Over 120 people gathered for the first General Manager Leadership Summit July 15 – 17 at the Napa Valley Marriott Hotel & Spa. Attendees consisted mainly of special district general managers and other special district staff members from throughout the state.

Monday July 16, the keynote speaker author of *The Imperfect Board Member*, Jim Brown, discussed the pivotal role that GM's play in governance excellence. Attendees also focused on topics such as: pension reform, reducing liability exposures, engaging the public, a strategic approach to meetings, policy and procedure review and writing and much more.

Another conference highlight was Beth Ziesenis, everyone's new "Nerdy Best Friend." Beth's popular session, "Upgrade to Free – Top Tech Tools for General Managers and District Staff Today", had everyone scrambling to try out the latest and greatest tools she mentioned during an exciting round of nerdy bingo! Beth covered helpful tools to schedule meetings, manage contacts and create videos.

The Summit was outstanding! The volume of activities available were paced well for attendees to be fully involved. Sessions were intense and informative, the speakers well informed and engaging. The professional development opportunities offered to GM's were high caliber and valuable, it was a great forum for GMs to network with peers and gather resources to take back to their Districts.

CSDA chapter of the year!

Contra Costa Special Districts Association received the CSDA Chapter of the Year award at the annual conference this year! It was presented during the closing brunch on Thursday, September 27th, 2012.

Great News!

Thanks to all of you that have paid your dues through 2013. We now have 35 active and current members of Contra Costa Special Districts Association!

New California Association of Sanitation Agencies Executive Director

California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) announced Director of Legal & Regulatory Affairs Roberta L. "Bobbi" Larson will serve as CASA's Executive Director starting July 1, 2012. Bobbi will leave her law firm and focus solely on CASA's leadership position. Bobbi will continue to oversee CASA's regulatory program and will now be responsible for directing all of the association's programs and other professional service providers.

Bobbi will be supported by CASA's current professional service provider, Catherine Smith's firm, Smith Moore & Associates, and other staff members working with CASA.

CSDA invites you to join one or more Committees for 2013!

California Special Districts Association (CSDA) strength and effectiveness as an organization is directly related to its ability to involve member district/agency board members and staff in the work of the association. The talents and energy that both groups bring to CSDA and to the issues that concern special districts in California through committee involvement are critical components of CSDA's success.

With this in mind, CSDA welcomes volunteers from your district (staff and/or Board members) to participate and contribute on one or more of their committees and/or expert feedback teams to assist in shaping CSDA. If you are able to spend the time providing expertise in directing the activities and policies of CSDA contact CSDA or your Region 3 representatives, Stan Caldwell or Sherry Sterrett.

In regards to CSDA's Expert Feedback Teams, when a need for feedback arises on a particular policy matter, CSDA legislative staff will send an email to an expert feedback team asking for their input. Team members need only reply with their thoughts, opinions and experiences. The workload of a team member will ultimately be what he or she makes of it. Team members will not be required to travel; they should expect to receive a handful of emails each month and on rare occasions they may be contacted by phone.

Note: CSDA does not reimburse for committee related travel expenses.

MOSQUITO DISTRICT MOURNS PASSAGE OF TRUSTEE NANCY BROWNFIELD



BROWNFIELD SERVED NEARLY 29 YEARS

The staff and trustees of the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District grieve the passage of trustee Nancy Brownfield who died on May 5, 2012. Nancy served on the board of trustees for the District for nearly 29 years, beginning her tenure on August 16, 1983.

"Nancy really knew our business--that was her expertise," said Craig Downs, general manager with the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District. "She served the District very well because she really understood the science and the biology. She was such a strong, technically savvy trustee. She will be missed."

Over the decades, Nancy has served on nearly all of the board's committees and was president of the board in 1990. She was well known to District staff for her genuine and strong dedication to the District, as well as her proficiency in and support of their education and public relations efforts.

THANK YOU CENTRAL SAN

The multi purpose room has been a great place for the Contra Costa Special Districts Association to meet. The furniture layout and the audio equipment available certainly make it easy for everyone to hear well.

We thank you for the use of the facility and appreciate Central San's efforts to help our association. We look forward to our future meetings being hosted at Central San as well.

Your district does much to assist Contra Costa Special Districts Association. All the past contributions, and present support, are much appreciated. Your generosity provides a significant cost savings to our association. Central San helps to make our organization a success. Thank you Central San.



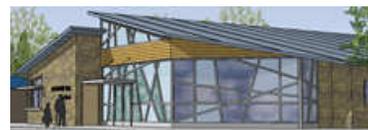
**PLEASANT HILL
RECREATION &
PARKS
DISTRICT
UPDATE**

The Pleasant Hill Recreation & Parks District (PHR&PD) placed a bond measure on the ballot in August 2009 for the residents to consider funding for a new Senior Center, Community Center, Teen Center, Pleasant Oaks Park upgrade, and additional restrooms at Pleasant Hill Park, Rodgers-Smith Park, and Brookwood Park.

At a special meeting on May 29th the District went out for rebidding after the board rejected all bids for the Community Center. Their decision to rebid was due to the lowest bid coming in \$1.6 million over the set construction budget of \$8.2 million. At the board meeting on Wednesday, July 25th, PHR&PD awarded the Community Center bond project to DL Falk Construction, Inc.



The official groundbreaking ceremony for the District's new Community Center took place August 8th; the new replacement Community Center will be built at its former location, 320 Civic Drive, located adjacent to the Pleasant Hill Police station and the YMCA. Construction is expected to begin in August, with the goal of opening the new Community Center in the winter of 2013.



The Open House and Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new Teen Center will be Saturday October 20th, 2012. 11 am - 3 pm, 147 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. There will be tours, BBQ, and entertainment.



The Pleasant Hill Senior Center closed on April 1, 2011 in preparation for a brand new Pleasant Hill Senior Center, the estimated construction completion date late 2012.

WCWD OFFERS A BETTER WAY TO DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDS

Whatever you do, do not flush or pour unwanted medications down the toilet or down the drain. Pharmaceuticals are now being detected in water and soil by scientists worldwide. As early as 2002 U.S. Geological Survey studies found pharmaceutical and personal care product contaminants in 80 percent of 139 streams sampled in 30 states.

Pharmaceuticals enter wastewater treatment plants through either excretion or flushing of unused medications. These pharmaceuticals may not be completely degraded or removed at the wastewater treatment plant. Regardless of the level of treatment, most conventional wastewater treatment cannot effectively eliminate pharmaceutical compounds.

As a result, studies have shown that continuous exposure to low levels of medications has altered the behavior and physiology of fish and aquatic organisms. Short and long term human health effects are currently unknown.

So what do you do with the meds? Well, if you live in the West Contra Costa County area, you can now go to the West County Wastewater District (WCWD) office and dispose of them in the drop-off box provided for free. WCWD Office is located at 2910 Hilltop Drive in Richmond and is open weekdays from 8:00 am to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except for holidays).



General Manager E.J. Shalaby demonstrates the Pharmaceutical Disposal Drop Box located at the WCWD District Office.

Submitted by Maria Sena, WCWD Secretary to the Board.

CENTRAL COUNTY AND EAST COUNTY PHARMACEUTICAL DISPOSAL



Flushing drugs down the toilet is the least desirable of all disposal alternatives. Scientific studies show the chemicals in many drugs can harm aquatic life. Wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to remove all traces of pharmaceutical chemicals. If you flush your drugs, a portion of those contaminants will reach local waters.

CENTRAL COUNTY

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District has expanded its Pharmaceutical Disposal Program by partnering with the Sheriff's Department and eight local police departments in central Contra Costa County. Households may now use any of the eleven collection sites to safely dispose of unused medications. These sites are open to all county residents Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit the district website for additional information at:

<http://www.centrsan.org>

EAST COUNTY

The Delta Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is not able to accept controlled substances.

The Drug Enforcement Agency holds an annual National Drug Take Back event each year. In 2012 this event was identified as an anonymous disposal, no questions asked program at several East County police stations. For information on future events, go to:

<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov>

Or call them at 1-800-882-9539.

The Delta Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility's free pharmaceutical collection program is made possible by a partnership of the following agencies:

- California Integrated Waste Management Board
- City of Antioch
- City of Brentwood
- City of Oakley
- City of Pittsburg
- Contra Costa County
- Delta Diablo Sanitation District

Never dispose of syringes or needles with medications.

Did you know EBRPD Operates State Parks?

California's budget is a serious concern to all, and Governor Brown is making some difficult choices. But closing a number of state parks this year is truly regrettable. Parks provide revenue, tourism dollars, a healthy environment, and inexpensive opportunities for public recreation. East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has been operating, maintaining, and improving three state parks - Del Valle, Crown Beach, and Eastshore for many years, using their own funds, with little or no financial assistance from the state.

For more than three decades Del Valle Regional Park has provided 20 percent of the state's reservoir recreational use, with an estimated 458,000 visitors annually. Crown Memorial State Beach is another popular high-use park that EBRPD also keeps open year-round. Last year more than 682,000 people enjoyed this park. Eastshore State Park provides public access to more than eight miles of San Francisco Bay coastline parallel to the most heavily traveled corridor in the East Bay, Interstate 80 with an estimated 1.4 million visitors annually. EBRPD funds 100 percent of the operating cost for this complex urban park.

Diablo Foothills Regional Park and Morgan Territory Regional Preserve are two other parks that EBRPD manages which are partly owned by the state. EBRPD is working hard to keep some of California's most accessible natural and recreational resources open for public enjoyment.

East Contra Costa Fire District gets \$7.8 million grant to rehire firefighters

The East Contra Costa Fire District (ECCFD) has received a \$7.8 million federal grant that will enable it to restore previous cuts.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security has awarded the ECCFD agency the two-year grant.

The grant money cannot be used to pay for operational costs such as utilities to reopen closed stations or pay for fuel that goes into fire engines. The grant money also can't be used to pay overtime costs or for training of new firefighters.

AMBROSE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Ambrose Community Garden is located on donated land from the Ambrose Recreation and Park District (ARPD) next to the Ambrose Community Center on Willow Pass Rd in Bay Point, Ca.



The garden consists of 40 raised garden plots, each measuring 4 foot by 10 foot. The plots rent for \$20/year.

The garden has been financed by several Bay Point residents and local organizations including the ARPD, Bay Point Garden Club, Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund (KCMF), Mt. Diablo Landscape Center and The Ambrose Lions Club. The idea for the garden originated with Mike Kerr (Bay Point resident) in conversations among feeding the homeless community. With permission from the ARPD, the garden was created in May-June 2009 with several thousand donated hours of labor from the Bay Point homeless community, Bay Point Garden Club and friends. Recently a fence and additional raised garden beds were constructed using a grant from the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund and amended soil from Mt. Diablo Landscape Center. A picnic table has been constructed from donations by the Ambrose Lions Club. The Garden hopes to secure additional funding for an arbor over the picnic table and storage shed. In the future the garden hopes to have a greenhouse and gazebo.

WHAT ARE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS?

Resource Conservation Districts (RCD's) have been around since the 1940's and were originally formed in response to problems resulting from the Dust Bowl (poor tillage and planting practices, runoff, loss of soils, etc.). RCD's were formed under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code.

There are approx. 103 RCD's just in California. RCDs' mandated federal partner is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service which provides technical assistance to private land users in areas of all natural resources, including soil, water, agriculture, pollution, flora, fauna, etc.

Important distinctions regarding RCD's from other special districts:

- RCD's are non-enterprise special districts (sort of like an 'unfunded mandate).
- RCD's are not regulatory, hence their value to federal and regulatory partners in program delivery, outreach, and project implementation.
- RCD's no longer serve only rural areas; many RCD's serve urban, rural and wild land-urban interface areas as well—pollution knows no boundaries.
- RCD's have extensive historic ties to the land users of their areas.
- RCD's conduct programs and deliver services that are specific to the needs of their individual areas.
- Less than half of California's RCD's receive tax apportionment dollars and only a handful of those receive sufficient funding to aid with overhead expenses.
- Most, if not all, RCD projects are funded by grants from federal, state and local partners, private foundations and donations.
- Partnerships are the cornerstone of all RCD projects. They enable leveraging of dollars, expanded awareness of the value of projects/programs, and networking to maximize staffing and project implementation.
- Most RCD's have boards of directors that are appointed (as opposed to elected) to save election costs, per Div. 9.



The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) was formed in 1941. The CCRCD service area is consistent with the

political boundaries of Contra Costa County and covers 516,191 acres.

The mission of the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District is to facilitate conservation and stewardship of the natural resources in the county. CCRCD is a non-regulatory agency – working with individuals, growers, ranchers, public agencies, non-profit organizations and corporations to accomplish goals. CCRCD's federal partner is the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, which provides technical support for CCRCD programs.

Crockett Community Services District

One of Contra Costa County's newest special districts is the Crockett Community Services District (CCSD) which was formed in 2006 through the reorganization of three agencies: Crockett-Valona Sanitary District, County Sanitation District No. 5 (Port Costa), and County Service Area P-1. CCSD serves two separate and distinct communities, Crockett and Port Costa, and is authorized to provide the following services:

- Wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal
- Public recreation
- Street lighting & landscape maintenance
- Graffiti abatement
- The construction and maintenance of library buildings and in cooperation with other governmental agencies for library services.



Busiest Day Ever at John Muir Interpretive Center

July 14th celebrated the reopening of the north side of the Los Vaqueros watershed near Brentwood. It was the busiest day in the 11-year history of the John Muir Interpretive Center. All who came had a great time.

It was nice to see people with walking shoes and floppy hats, instead of steel-toed boots and hard hats, enjoying the trails again. The north side was closed for nearly 16 months due to the expansion of the reservoir. (See the article on the next page).

The center is now open on Saturdays and Sundays only from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (no longer open Fridays).

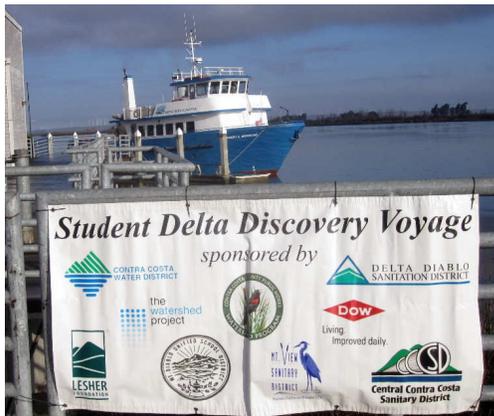
The research vessel Robert G. Brownlee



Each year, the Robert G. Brownlee carries close to 5,000 students to the Delta for a voyage of discovery, education, and pleasure.

Classroom science lessons come alive for fifth graders on the research vessel Robert G. Brownlee, a 90-foot-long research vessel that was custom built in 1998 to provide a safe and stable floating laboratory for students.

The ship is owned and operated by the Marine Science Institute in Redwood City, and the program is sponsored by the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Delta Diablo Sanitation District, Mt. View Sanitary District, Contra Costa Water District, the Leshner Foundation, Dow Chemical, and others.



On this three-and-a-half hour excursion on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, students learn about the source of their drinking water.

The research vessel Brownlee features activities where young people study the Delta's animal life, oxygen and salt content, chemicals, currents, as well as navigation.

Students join the Marine Science Institute crew for a four-hour expedition of the Delta. They spend a half-day as scientists, discovering the

Delta's ecosystem and discussing their own roles within it. Students collect and examine plankton, run hydrology tests, and observe wetland ecology from the ship. They delve through mud samples, discovering the fascinating invertebrates that thrive at the river's bottom. Students also use a trawl net to catch a wide variety of fish species. They then identify the fish with a dichotomous key, and measure each fish before releasing.

This program offers students the chance to enjoy the natural vitality of this area while learning valuable scientific skills. They also see first hand the relationship between inappropriate human behavior (e.g., dumping paint or oil into drains) and their watershed.

CCWD's Expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir Will Ensure High Quality Water, Reliability & Environmental Protection

The capacity of Los Vaqueros Reservoir has now been expanded from the original 100,000 acre-feet to 160,000. The Los Vaqueros Dam reached its new height of 226 feet in December; one year after the construction contract was approved by the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Board of Directors. The dam is now 34-feet higher than when it was originally completed in 1998.

The additional water storage will help ensure high-quality water deliveries to customers, reliability during drought and protections for Delta fisheries and the environment.



The vast majority of the work on the dam is now done, and it was dedicated on July 13 with a toast of CCWD water led by General Manager Jerry Brown.

The John Muir Interpretive Center at Los Vaqueros is open to the public two days a week, located next to the dam, the center tells the history of the Los Vaqueros area shows how the dam was built and describes the many animals that make the watershed their home. A trail next to the center goes up to the top of the dam. The Los Vaqueros Marina is expected to reopen on Monday, Oct. 15, slightly more than a year after it was closed.

Dublin San Ramon Services District Saves Money with eBay

When Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) needed to purchase a large piece of equipment to aid in its daily operations, it turned to a unique marketplace in order to save money - eBay. DSRSD was in need of a 22,500 pound dredge for its solid waste harvesting.

"This was not something you could buy at your local (auto) dealer," said district Operations Manager Dan Gallagher. "We have been searching for one for a couple of years." Through their search on eBay DSRSD was able to purchase a dredge, and it did so at a far lesser dollar amount than expected. The

equipment cost \$23,000, about 10 percent of what a new dredge would have cost.

For years, DSRSD had contracted dredging of its lagoons for \$140,000 a year. By having its own dredge, this will allow the district to accomplish the task itself. The district board had authorized \$200,000 to find a used dredge - money that can now be used to fulfill other important district operations.

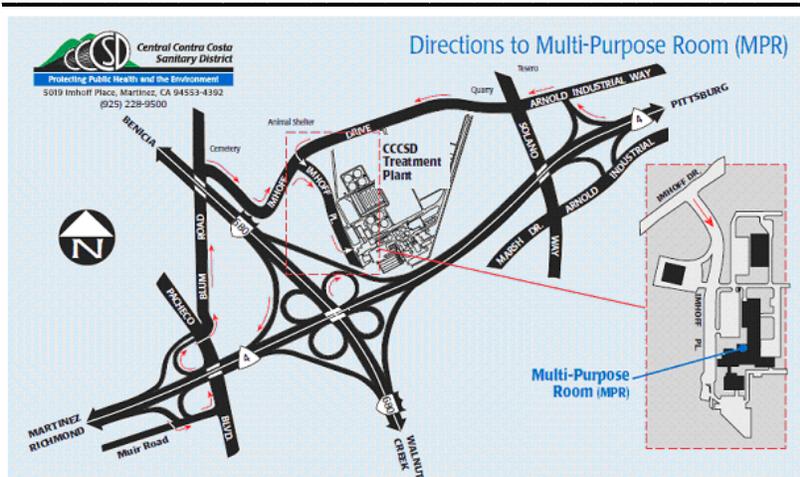
Mark your Calendar now for CSDA Legislative Days 2013

May 14-15 in Sacramento

Our next chapter meeting date is October 15th 2012

Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates:

January 28th 2013, April 15th 2013, July 15th 2013, October 21st 2013



We meet at Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

5019 Imhoff Place,
Martinez, CA.

We meet in the morning
beginning at 10:00 AM –
out by noon.

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

Bette Boatmun, Chair - Email: bboatmun@yahoo.com Mark Cornelius, Vice Chair - Email: mark@markcorneliuslaw.com

Member at Large Stanley Caldwell & Newsletter Editor Email: stan_caldwell@comcast.net

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

www.csdanet/contracosta-special-districts-association