

Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter

Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

Spring 2013

CCSDA

March 2013

CCSDA Chapter Support Services

The West County Wastewater District (WCWD) has performed the support services task for a couple of years now. The work and effort that Maria Sena has put into all of our chapter functions, meetings, correspondence, and emails is certainly much appreciated.



Maria has done an excellent job in coordinating and setting up the meetings. Thanks to both Maria Sena and the West County Wastewater District.

The WCWD contributions to the Contra Costa Special Districts Association helps our organization be a success, we thank WCWD.

A summary of our CCSDA finances can be described as follows; we receive about \$1500 per year in dues and spend about that much on the newsletter and insurance costs. In the past we have made a few dollars on the meal function, but the trend lately has been toward losing money on meals. We did not have a meal function at our October 2012 or January 2013 meetings.

Currently we are not planning to have a meal function at our 2013 meetings.

Send California Special District Association Photos from Your District!

Beginning in 2013, CSDA will begin highlighting photos from districts throughout the state in the California Special District magazine. Send CSDA interesting photos of your district sites and facilities, from events you have held, or of activities in which you take part. Any photos that make your district stand out - CSDA wants!

Send your digital photos to Nicole Dunn, editor, at nicoled@csda.net and you could see them in an upcoming issue of California Special District Magazine!

New to Local Public Service?

The "New to Public Service" section of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) website offers resources for officials during the initial phase of elected office. The information provided will be beneficial as elected officials begin their role in local agency leadership. The comprehensive list of resources includes topics such as responsibilities and powers, budgeting, decision-making, working with staff, and more.

The "New to Public Service" section of the Institute's website offers orientation materials for newly elected and is a great resource for current locally elected officials. The navigation links include:

- Budgeting and Finance
- Land Use
- Leadership Skills
- Making Decisions
- Public Trust and Transparency
- Responsibilities and Powers
- When Bad Things Happen
- Working with Residents and the Media
- Working with Staff

For more in-depth information explore the website <http://www.ca-ilg.org>

Central San Earns National Excellence Award Again!

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District's Purchasing and Materials Services team recently won the National Purchasing Institute's Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award for 2012.

The award – which CCCSD's purchasing team, has now won four times – recognizes organizational excellence in procurement, with emphasis on innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership.

Central San is one of only 29 special districts in the United States to win this award.

California Special District Association Annual Awards

Do you have board members, staff, or a program that you feel deserves recognition? Now is the time to get in the spotlight!

Consider submitting for a California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Award. Individuals and districts both receive awards acknowledging their achievements in various areas including exceptional public outreach, leadership and innovations. The awards are presented at the CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase. Winners are selected from submissions from each the following categories:

- Board President of the Year
- General Manager of the Year
- Staff Member of the Year
- CSDA Chapter of the Year
- Innovative Program Award
- Exceptional Public Outreach & Advocacy Award

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the awards or the awards process, please contact Charlotte Lowe, executive assistant, at the CSDA office toll-free at 877.924.2732 or by email at charlottel@csga.net

Special District Community Loss

It is with great sadness that the California Special District Association announces the passing of Glenn Reiter, one of the co-founders of CSDA. He passed away January 21, 2013.



Principal of Glenn M. Reiter & Associates one of the co-founders of CSDA, and the founder of the Special District Institute he had spent more than forty years working diligently for a variety of governmental agencies in California. It is said that he helped form CSDA in order to have a voice in Sacramento because at that time, the legislature was questioning the need for special districts. His commitment to the education and working together of special districts was instrumental in where CSDA stands today.

DSRSD Board Creates the James B. Kohnen Scholarship



**DUBLIN SAN RAMON
SERVICES DISTRICT**

Water, wastewater, recycled water

The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) Board of Directors unanimously voted to create the James B. Kohnen Scholarship, an annual award of up to \$2,000 that will be given to a graduating high school senior planning to attend college to study a water resources related field.

Mr. Kohnen served two terms on DSRSD's Board. He also served on the boards of the Zone 7 Water Agency, the Alameda County Special Districts Association, the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, and the California Special Districts Association.

Mr. Kohnen also taught at San Leandro High School, the University of Phoenix, and St. Mary's College. Creating a scholarship in his name seemed like a natural way to honor his memory.

The first scholarship will be presented in June 2013 to a senior graduating from a school in the District's service area.

It is the districts hope that this scholarship inspires young people to follow in his footsteps and make a difference in their communities.

Legislative Conference to Focus on Local Revenue



CSDA has announced the theme for the 2013 Special Districts Legislative Days (SDL):

"Strength in Numbers – Adding Value to Communities." This year's SDL, CSDA's annual legislative conference in Sacramento, will be held May 14-15 at the Sacramento Convention Center.

Be sure to register by Friday, April 26 to guarantee a spot in the scheduled legislative visits.

Stege Sanitary District becomes Re-accredited as a District of Distinction

The Stege Sanitary District recently became re-accredited as a District of Distinction through the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). The District of Distinction accreditation is one of the most prestigious local government awards in the state of California. This award clearly validates the Stege Sanitary District's commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices.



David Aranda & Alan Miller

Alan Miller, Director, and President of the Board for Stege Sanitary District, accepted the award at the California Special Districts Association Annual Conference in September 2012. The award was presented at the Luncheon awards ceremony by SDLF President David Aranda.

As of September 2012, the following three Contra Costa Special Districts are SDLF's Districts of Distinction, Kensington Fire Protection District, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, and Stege Sanitary District.

Is your district interested in Becoming a District of Distinction?

Special districts provide the most efficient, responsive local services to California communities and yet they have been under frequent scrutiny by the media and Legislature, which allege that special districts are often invisible and unaccountable.

SDLF has developed the District of Distinction program to help correct these misperceptions by providing districts with a means for proactively demonstrating their viability as providers of essential public services.

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.

Why become a District of Distinction?

The accreditation criterion gets to the heart of best practices in public agencies, demonstrating that your district:

- Understands and respects the responsibilities inherent in providing essential public services.
- Has clean financial audits and operates in a fiscally responsible and transparent manner.
- Is conscious of the ever-changing operating environment by having current and relevant policies and procedures in place that conform to all statutes and regulations under state law.
- Places an emphasis on continuing education completed by having each of the district's board members and executive staff in ethics, governance and leadership training.
- Focuses on having sound policies in the areas of governance, board conduct, district finances, transparency and reserves.

Your district will receive a plaque honoring the district's accomplishments. SDLF will issue press releases and notify legislators on the district's behalf.

To become a District of Distinction submit your application or contact Charlotte Lowe, SDLF program assistant, at (916) 231-2939.

More Special District Leadership Foundation - Congratulations



Bette Boatmun, Dave Contreras, Sherry Sterrett

David Contreras from the Ironhouse Sanitary District has received the SDLF Recognition in Special District Governance. He has demonstrated his commitment and dedication to providing the best possible service to the community he serves by completing the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy and the other qualifications necessary to receive the Recognition in Special District Governance certificate. Congratulations David!

Central San Wins Two Architecture Awards

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District's new Collection System Operations (CSO) Headquarters in Walnut Creek received two awards for architecture from the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council at its 2012 Community Awards Luncheon on Oct. 16, 2012.



Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Collection System Operations Facility

Opened in fall 2011, the new Collection System Operations Facility is the first building in Walnut Creek to have a green roof that uses drought-tolerant plants to help it stay cool during the summer and absorb rainwater to reduce runoff during the winter. Other energy-efficient features include permeable paving, automatic window shades, solar collectors that supplement water heating, and hydronic (circulating water) heating in the warehouse floor.

The CSO facility won the Sustainable Design award. The new facility incorporates efficient design with the latest 'green' technologies, replacing a 1956 facility which did not meet the District's current needs nor today's building and seismic codes.

The Action for Beauty Council, consisting of a group of citizens independent of the city's political structure, has been issuing design review awards for 40 years. The awards honor projects in architecture, landscaping, and public art. Prominent architects and landscape architects judged the design award nominees.

The facility also won the new "People's Choice" award. The award is voted on by local community members who nominated and voted online for their favorite local architectural design project. The award recognizes local projects that have improved the community through superior design.

California Special Districts Association 2013 Executive Committee

CSDA is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors elected by mail ballots. The Board consists of three directors from each of the six regions throughout California. The Board meets bimonthly in Sacramento to guide the Association's legislative and member benefit programs.

At the September 25, 2012 CSDA Board Meeting elections were held for 2013 officers. The Executive Committee currently consists of:

- President - Stanley Caldwell, Mt. View Sanitary District
- Vice President - Pete Kampa, Tuolumne Utilities District
- Treasurer - Ginger Root, Country Club Sanitary District
- Secretary - Noelle Mattock, El Dorado Hills Community Service District
- Past President - Jo MacKenzie, Vista Irrigation District

Your Region 3 board members are Stanley Caldwell, Mt. View Sanitary District, Sherry Sterrett, Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation District, and Vincent Ferrante, Moss Landing Harbor District.

EBRPD Manager to get 5-year Contract Extension

Bob Doyle, East Bay Regional Park District general manager, has received a five-year contract extension to continue running the system with 112,000 acres of parkland. In a vote of confidence for its top executive, the regional park board voted unanimously to extend Doyle's employment agreement through the end of 2017. Doyle was promoted to general manager at the start of 2011 to succeed Pat O'Brien, who retired.

Succession Planning

Many smaller public agencies can find themselves without critical staffing when someone quits, retires, or is out due to illness or other unplanned reasons. An agency unprepared for such unexpected absences is left with very few options.

BHI Management Consulting Founder & President Brent Ives will be our October 21, 2013 speaker.

BHI offers an analysis methodology that allows your staff to recognize this vulnerability and to identify those key positions. Everyone needs to see the dangers of ignoring what can become a crippling period of inefficiency for your agency.

CCWD Reduces Energy Costs

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is now using water flowing through an existing pipeline in Antioch to generate energy. This new “green” project adds to the portfolio of alternative energy projects that CCWD has invested in.

CCWD has been working on various projects to reduce energy costs and recently completed construction of the Los Vaqueros Energy Recovery Project. This project is a hydroelectric generation facility, including a Francis Turbine and Generator Assembly, which will produce energy to offset up to ten percent of the nearby pump station load and reduce reliance on carbon-based energy.



The \$6.2 million facility captures excess energy from water flowing through the existing Los Vaqueros Pipeline and produces up to 1-megawatt of clean, renewable electricity.

CCWD's other alternative energy projects continue to generate energy including solar panels that have been installed on top of District facilities. CCWD also has agreements with various companies using windmills to generate energy. These projects all contribute savings which allows the District to control costs to the benefit its customers.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming CSDA events

Special Districts Legislative Days

May 14 & 15, 2013

GM Leadership Summit

July 14-16, 2013

CSDA Annual Conference - Monterey, CA

September 16-19, 2013

MVSD Recertified in the Contra Costa County Green Business Program

Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) was proud that they were the very first publicly owned treatment works to be certified as a Green Business in the Bay Area. MVSD has now received its second recertification in the program!

The mission of the Contra Costa County Green Business Program is to strengthen and sustain the quality of the environment in Contra Costa County through a collaborative partnership of public and private organizations that encourages, supports, and recognizes businesses taking action to prevent pollution and conserve resources.

Environmental stewardship is a core MVSD value and MVSD believes in going above and beyond regulatory compliance to protect both human and environmental health. For more information on the Contra Costa Green Business program, please visit:

www.greenbiz.ca.gov/AboutUsCCC.html



District Manager Mike Roe is congratulated by Pollution Prevention Specialist Claudia Pingatore on May 18, 2012 for MVSD's second recertification in the Green Business Program.



CCSDA July 15, 2013 Speaker

District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover will be our guest speaker for July chapter meeting. Federal is current board chair with many years of experience in county and local government. The boundaries of District 5 were changed significantly in the last redistricting resulting in inclusion of many new constituents. He will be speaking on the topic “Representing the Northern Waterfront”.

The Bay Area Consortium for Water and Wastewater Education

The Bay Area Consortium for Water and Wastewater Education (BACWWE) is committed to providing the best educational training for those interested in water and wastewater operator training available in Northern California.

The BACWWE Operator Training Program is currently sponsored by 19 Bay Area water & wastewater agencies, and has grown tremendously since first launched in August 2007. Since then, more than 700 students have enrolled in 35 classes.



This program is sponsored by Bay Area water and wastewater agencies to attract new people to the industry and to encourage current operators to continue their education and training to fulfill an urgent need to replace a retiring workforce.

For more information visit the WEBSITE - www.bacwwe.org

BACWWE Internship Program

Rodeo Sanitary District (RSD) participates in the award-winning operator training program along with a group of public agencies. Rodeo San is currently enjoying a very successful volunteer intern program.

Rodeo San, in conjunction with the Solano Community College, brings in a few volunteer operators each academic semester. Solano has an Associates of Science degree in water and wastewater treatment. However, most agencies will not hire based on education alone, hands on experience is vital. Additionally, the state has strict guidelines for operators at sewage treatment plants and an individual must have 2,080 hours of experience before becoming certified to operate these plants. As a result, many agencies in the area formed the Bay Area Consortium of Water and Wastewater Education (BACWWE). The group is working with Solano to assist in funding and teaching the classes (free to the students) and provide training opportunities for the students.

Rodeo Sanitary District Manager Steve Beall is the volunteer intern committee chair for BACWWE. There have been a total of five volunteers for the District, and so far three have secured full-time jobs.

Discovery Bay Community Services District



The town's logo has a new, more vibrant look!

Discovery Bay Community Services District has changed its rope-trim insignia with a navy blue steamboat in the middle to a brighter-colored seal and logo with a gold and orange sunset scene, steamboat on sky-blue water and a silhouette of Mount Diablo.

Other organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and real estate agencies use the old logo, board Vice President Kevin Graves said.

"(The original logo) has been adopted by everybody, so we wanted something that stands independently," he said.

"I think it gives us a bit more of our own identity, and more of a town logo," added director Jim Mattison. "It's not drastically different, but it's more colorful. We wanted to pizzazz it up a little bit."

The logo includes the phrase "est. 1998," which marks when Discovery Bay's community services district was established.

Graves said the steamboat on the logo likely comes from the Hofmann Development office being located on a vessel when it first started building homes in the Delta community. "We kept it because we didn't want to lose that tradition," he said. "At the same time, we're trying to move the image of the town forward."

West County Wastewater District's Contribution to the Expansion of the San Francisco Bay Trail



L-R: Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, East Bay Regional Park District Board Members Beverly Lane and Whitney Dotson, Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, Trails for Richmond Action Committee Chair Bruce Beyaert, and West County Wastewater District General Manager E.J. Shalaby.

On Saturday, September 8, 2012, more than 60 people, including local leaders, gathered to celebrate the opening ceremony of the latest addition to the San Francisco Bay Trail, the Wildcat Marsh Trail.

When completed, the San Francisco Bay Trail will consist of a 500-mile loop trail that will link the San Francisco and San Pablo bays. To date, about 340 miles has been completed.

West County Wastewater District, which owns the land the trail now occupies, gave the East Bay Regional Park District permission to build the path. The mostly flat trail leads past the District's Water Pollution Control Plant to the Landfill Loop Trail, which offers a panoramic view of the San Pablo Bay shoreline.

The District is pleased to be part of this important community project that gives residents shoreline access for walking or biking.

Other West County Wastewater News

West County Wastewater District has been awarded the San Pablo Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Award.



Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Senior Center Opens!

The new Senior Center Grand Opening & Open House celebration was held on Saturday, January 5th, 1 pm - 4 pm. The event started with the 1:00 pm - Ribbon Cutting followed by Presentations & Video.



The day also included a boutique sale, raffles, class registration discounts, live music, sweet treats, photo booth, and "mini fit" class demo's to join.



Senior Center Grand Opening and ribbon cutting

The new senior center officially opened its doors for business Monday 1/7/2013!

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Seeking A New Manager

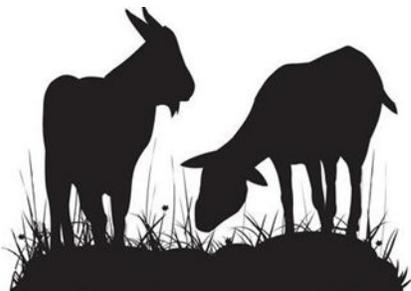
Ann Farrell retired as general manager on Monday January 14, 2013 just nine months after being named manager.

Curt Swanson, Director of Collection System Operations, and a 25-year district employee, has been named interim general manager while the board begins the process of selecting a permanent replacement.



Goats Fight the War against West Nile Virus

Four-legged animals helped the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District get to the bottom of a source of mosquitoes.



During this past year's busy West Nile virus season, the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District focused much time and effort on finding the source of mosquitoes in Brentwood, because the majority of Contra Costa County's mosquitoes and birds that tested positive for the virus in 2012 came from the town. District employees provided inspections, treated underground catch basins, and canvassed neighborhoods by going door to door, but birds and mosquitoes continued to test positive for West Nile virus. The infected mosquitoes raised the possibility people could become ill, so the District fogged the area seven times in an effort to knock down the adult mosquitoes before they could transmit disease to nearby residents.

Inspectors suspected mosquitoes were producing in a storm water detention basin located near Heron Park in the eastern section of the town. The dense vegetation in the basin created a major challenge for district employees who had a difficult time accessing the floor of the pond to look for and treat any water. So, after multiple efforts to conduct efficient surveillance of the entire pond that instead produced limited results, the District turned to Brentwood officials, County Flood Control officials, and property developers to find a way to clear the vegetation.

Using machinery to clear the area was the first consideration, however the soggy ground made it likely the equipment could get stuck. That's when Flood Control officials called in the goats to clear the way. They decided to bring in Goats R Us.

Once the goats got to work they needed only seven days to clear the basin, before moving on to another detention basin nearby. The goats' efforts succeeded in making the area accessible to District inspectors. With easier access, district employees could treat the pond with a time-release bacterial public health pesticide that kills young mosquitoes in the water, but does not harm other insects or animals in the water.

The District is planning on getting a head start on 2013's West Nile virus season by encouraging officials to take necessary steps to maintain the detention basins to

prevent a re-occurrence of the same mosquito issues next year.

It just goes to show we are all in this war against West Nile virus together; a war that requires unique strategies and in this case even called for an army of four-legged goats to fight the bite.

The goats come from Goats R Us – an Orinda-based company that specializes in goat-powered brush reduction.

The CCSDA Program Committee is looking for your feedback

Paul Soltow CCSDA Program Chair and Program Committee members John Wyro and Tom Williams would like to know what you would like to see for future programs.

A range of program topics were discussed including the following - invitations to county supervisors; accomplishments of some special districts, i.e. Las Vaqueros improvements, the Delta Science Center, energy programs at Central San and/or EBMUD; changes from the Pension Reform Act; media i.e. Mosquito Abatement District; water conservation and recycling.

Please provide the program committee feedback; we would like to hear ideas and suggestions from you!

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Appoints New Fire Chief

Chief Paige Meyer is currently the Fire Chief for the City of Vallejo and will join San Ramon Valley Fire on March 18. Chief Meyer fills the Fire Chief position which became vacant when Chief Richard Price retired in December 2012.

Prior to joining the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Chief Meyer spent 15 years with the Vallejo Fire Department. He has over 20 years of fire service experience.

“Chief Meyer possesses a unique combination of skills,” said Director Stamey. “He has proven he can lead during economically challenging times and has demonstrated his ability to focus an organization around a core mission in order to best serve the community. We selected an exceptional leader for an exceptional organization.”



Great News!

We now have 36 active and current members of the Contra Costa Special Districts Association!



Our current members

Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District
Ambrose Recreation & Park District
Byron Bethany Irrigation District
BBK Union Cemetery District
Bethel Island Muni Improvement District
Byron Sanitary District
Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
Contra Costa Water District
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Crockett Community Services District
Delta Diablo Sanitation District
Diablo Water District
Town of Discovery Bay Community Services District
Dublin-San Ramon Services District
East Bay Municipal Utilities District
East Bay Regional Parks District
East Contra Costa Irrigation District
East Contra Costa Fire Protection District
Ironhouse Sanitary District
Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District
Kensington Fire Protection District
Knightsen Town Community Services District
Los Medanos Community Healthcare District
Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Mt. View Sanitary District
Mt. Diablo Health Care District
Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District
Reclamation District No. 800
Reclamation District No. 830
Rodeo Hercules Fire Protection District
Rodeo Sanitary District
San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
Stege Sanitary District
West Contra Costa Health Care District
West County Wastewater District

What Distinguishes an Exceptional Board Member or Board President?

It takes more than just commitment. Your agency, and the Mission of it, relies on your board members to provide intellectual energy, passion, perspective, and leadership to champion the organization and promote its mission and values.

A truly valuable board member should understand that the focus is on strategy and leadership. Board members should be passionate about the Mission and apply their best efforts to improve and enrich their organization.

Here are several important criteria which should be considered by newly elected board members.

Board members should:

- Demonstrate a commitment to serving the public
- Commit to furthering the organizational Mission
- Act as an ambassador, promoting the agency for the greater good
- Use their valuable experience and perspective to improve the organization
- Create and protect a climate of trust within the board to best serve the public
- Work hard to establish and protect a trusting professional relationship with the CEO
- Apply advanced influence and articulation skills to moving their passions forward

CSDA Chapter of the year!

Contra Costa Special Districts Association was named CSDA Chapter of the year on Thursday September 27, 2012 at the CSDA Annual Conference luncheon.



The CSDA "Chapter of the Year" award was accepted by Stanley Caldwell on behalf of Contra Costa Special Districts Association.

Your district should consider submitting for a California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Award. See the article on page 2 of this newsletter. Individuals and districts both are eligible to receive awards.

Send us your District News and Press Releases!

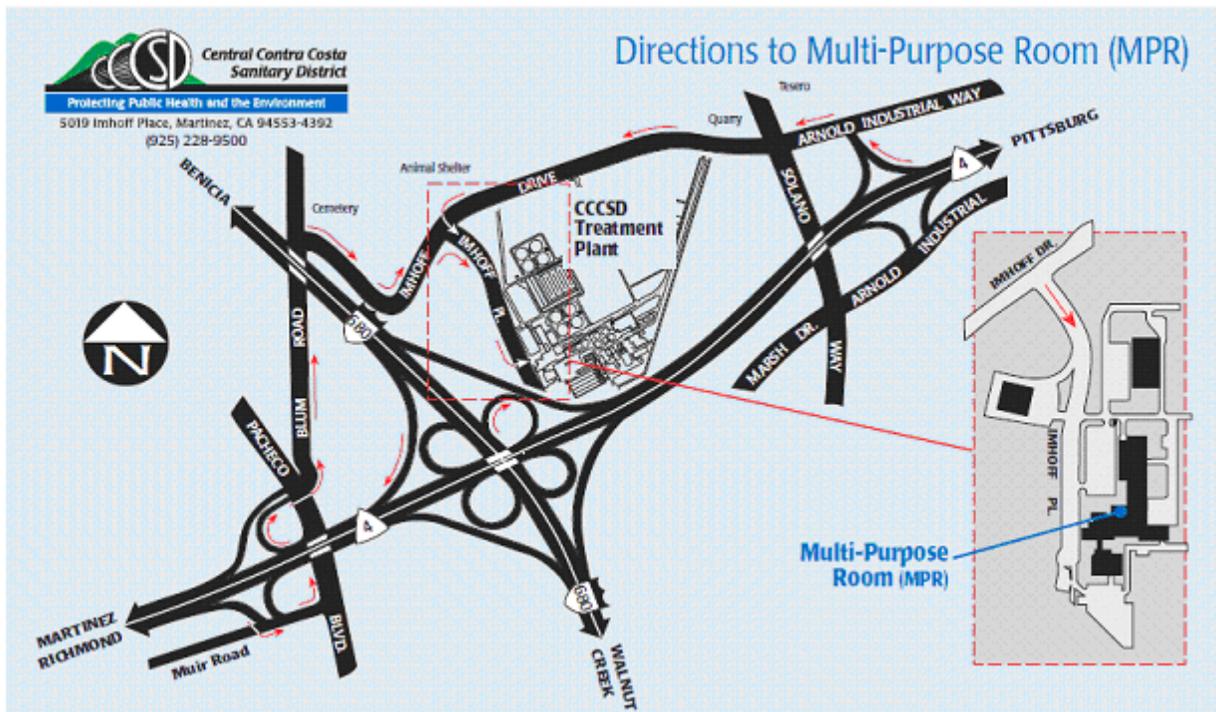
Please send your district news releases to Stan Caldwell at stan_caldwell@comcast.net and keep us informed on all of the exciting things your special district is up to. We welcome your news contributions to our newsletter!

Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates:

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

Meetings begin at 10:00 AM – we are out by Noon

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



Contra Costa Special Districts Association

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