



Ventura County Special Districts Association

Jan/Feb
2016

Offering Quality of Life Services Through Direct Representation



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mike Paule

Welcome to the 2016 New Year!

Our highly anticipated Annual Awards Dinner Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, February 2nd and we hope that you will all attend. The dinner will be held at the Wedgewood at the Tower Club in Oxnard which has always been a wonderful venue with good food and stunning views from the top of the Tower.

Please make your reservation as soon as possible since we need to provide a count by January 20th. Awards will be given out at the meeting to the Director of the Year, GM of the Year and a special award for service to VCSDA called the Shirley Turner award. Let's recognize those that have done a great job with their respective districts by submitting their nominations to our awards committee (Elaine Freeman and Mike Mishler). Nominations are due by January 15th.

I think you will enjoy our speaker this year, Dr. Terry Paulson—PhD, who is a local syndicated columnist (appearing in the Ventura County Star), author of 10 books and highly acclaimed Keynote speaker. Dr. Paulson will be speaking on "Claiming your Optimism Advantage." His down-to-earth style and humor has earned him many accolades. Business Digest called him "the Will Rogers of management consultants."

For 2016 we will continue to strengthen our relationship with CSDA and encourage all are members to stay on top of important legislation that may impact our districts and constituents.

I am looking for 2016 to really be a "sweet 16" year and look to all of you to help make VCSDA a successful chapter. Your input is crucial to our success so please reach out to our executive committee with suggestions on how we can improve the organization and our bi-monthly programming. See you at the Tower Club on February 2nd!

How to reach us:

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VCSDA ANNUAL MEETING

February 2, 2016 at

Wedgewood at The Tower Club
22nd Floor
300 E. Esplanade Dr.
Oxnard, CA 93036

5:00 PM Registration and
Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM Dinner

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Terry Paulson, PhD



Dr. Terry Paulson, PhD

Dr. Terry Paulson is a PhD psychologist, an op-ed columnist with the Ventura County Star, and a leading authority on leveraging optimism to make change work. He has inspired audiences as an award-winning professional speaker for 30 years, including Amgen, Kaiser Permanente, Boston Scientific, Starbucks, 3M and many others.

Dr. Paulson is a past President of the National Speakers Association and Global Speakers Federation and has been inducted into the National Speakers Association Speaker Hall of Fame along with Zig Ziglar, Ronald Reagan and Colin Powell. He is the author of 10 books and his tasteful humor and down-to-earth style have earned him the deserved reputation as one of the nation's best keynote speakers.

Get Ready to Learn and Laugh!

VCSDA Board Members



PRESIDENT
Mike Paule



VICE PRESIDENT
Mike Mishler



TREASURER
Kate O'Brien



SECRETARY
Mary Anne Rooney



PAST PRESIDENT
Elaine Freeman



Legislative Update



LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Ventura County Special Districts Assoc. (January 2016)

As we begin a new year, The legislature will be gearing up shortly for the new session. Here are some highlights from the January 2016 CSDA Grassroots Action Brief.

Property Tax Restoration to Special Districts:

In fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16, \$221 million of property tax revenue is estimated to be restored to special districts due to the dissolution of redevelopment agencies. This money is expected to grow in future years. The restored revenue can be used to fund the essential local services and infrastructure provided by special districts

2015 Compromise Budget Trailer Bill. As the RDA wind down continues, the governor's administration pursued legislation to add finality to the RDA dissolution process and reduce the administrative burden. The final bill SB 107, included a compromise RDA proposal along with other local government finance to accomplish the administration's goals:

Property Tax Overrides—Specifies that specific pension or State Water Project property tax override revenues will revert in their entirety to the entity that levies the override, provided the revenues are not pledged to RDA debt service.

Single, County-wide Oversight Boards—Delays, until July 1, 2018, the requirement that Oversight Boards consolidate into one, county-wide Oversight Board. Current law requires all RDA Oversight Boards to consolidate into one RDS Oversight Board per county on July 1, 2016. This delay in consolidation will provide time to resolve some of the ambiguities in current law regarding this process and the selection and representation of independent special districts on the county-wide Oversight Boards.

New Laws in 2016

AB 2 (Alejo, E. Garcia). Community Revitalization Investment Authorities (CSDA: Support. Status: Signed)

Authorizes a collaborative and accountable new infrastructure and economic development tool for special districts and other local agencies. Permits these agencies to invest property tax increment and other available funding to improve infrastructure in disadvantaged communities. Participation is completely voluntary and the measure clearly prohibits the shifting of property tax revenue from local taxing agencies without their consent.



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AB 313 (Atkins). Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (CSDA: Support. Status: Signed)

Expands the type of special districts eligible to participate in Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) to include districts that do not receive a share of the property tax if they provide a portion of the funding included in the infrastructure financing plan. Most importantly, the bill leaves intact provisions allowing participants, including special districts, flexibility to negotiate any tax increment diverted as part of an EIFD plan as well as the ability to serve on an EIFD governing board.

Contracting for Local Services

SB 239 (Hertzberg): Local Service Contracts (CSDA: Oppose. Status: Signed)

Requires agencies to providing fire protection to obtain a written agreement validated by each affected public agency and recognized employee organization representing firefighters, or to provide notice at least 30 days prior, when proposing the extension of services outside an agency's current service area. A contract for fire protection services must undergo an independent fiscal analysis and acquire LAFCO approval. Current law allows fire protection agencies to enter into an agreement with another public agency without the additional study and approval. Giving LAFCOs the ability to veto agreements between public agencies would impede local control.

Water Consolidation

On June 24th Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 88, which grants the State Water Resources Control Board unprecedented power to force the consolidation of water systems. CSDA worked to oppose SB 99 and achieved improvements to the bill language first unveiled on May 17th. CSDA requested the Legislature and governor's administration work with local agencies to find real, workable solutions for failing water systems.

Elections

AB 1535 (Committee on Elections and Redistricting). (CSDA: Sponsor. Status: Signed)

Allows all special districts with odd-year elections to consolidate board elections into a statewide general election. Special district election requirements vary widely among special districts with different service types, and AB 1535 will provide consistency and clarity. Additionally, allows a district authorized to conduct an all-mail ballot election to consolidate its election with any other entities that also have such authority, as long as a number of requirements are met.

Photos from the Dec 1, 2015 Meeting at the Conejo Recreation and Park District

