



California Special Districts Association

Highlights of 2016

ADVOCACY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS • MEMBER SERVICES • PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT • VALUE ADDED BENEFITS

CSDA's Membership

Stronger Than Ever

CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ALLIANCE: YOUR DISTRICT'S PREMIER RESOURCE

The Partners of the **California Special Districts Alliance** continued efforts to provide special districts with the best in resources and services. CSDA, CSDA Finance Corporation, and Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) collaborated on numerous educational opportunities including specialized conferences, regional workshops, and webinars. Many of these opportunities were available at a discount or even free for SDRMA members.



CSDA
Finance Corporation

The **CSDA Finance Corporation** hosted two free webinars related to capital improvement projects and financing options. With interest rates at historic lows, the staff and consultants of the CSDA Finance Corporation responded to dozens of inquiries from districts seeking financing for mission-critical projects or refinancing of prior debt. In the past five years, the CSDA Finance Corporation facilitated over \$117 million in financings for special districts.



Special District Risk Management Authority

Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA)

continued to focus on providing special districts the most cost-effective risk management

solutions possible, including property/liability coverage, workers' compensation and health benefits. For 2016-17, the SDRMA Board of Directors kept rates flat for property/liability for the seventh year in a row and also kept rates flat for the workers' compensation for the second year in a row. There were 101 attendees at SDRMA Safety/Claims Education Day in Newport Beach on March 28-29, 2016. This free event for SDRMA members and CSDA members included the Annual Membership Meeting, special guest speaker Scott Bloom, SDRMA General Safety Specialist Certificate Program and sessions on Employment Law Updates, Target Solutions, Catastrophic Injuries, Dangerous Conditions, Return to Work, and Workplace Violence.

ENDORSED AFFILIATE PROGRAMS ADD MORE VALUE TO MEMBERSHIP

Designed with special district needs in mind, the CSDA Endorsed Affiliate programs have expanded and grown to save our members even more time and money.

Streamline, the endorsed website design system, collaborated with CSDA in the development of a tool to help members comply with SB 272. The free online tool has been utilized by more than 260 special districts and dozens of other local governments to publish their required Enterprise System Catalog.

The new Government Money Market Fund offered by **CalTRUST**, the local agency investment pool endorsed by CSDA, proved to be a popular addition to the slate of available products and has shown strong growth in its first year. Special district assets in CalTRUST now represent over 1/3 of the total \$2.5 billion in investments!

MORE PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The **2015-16 CSDA Administrative Salary and Benefits Survey** was released this spring. More than 400 districts of all types and sizes responded to the survey, providing valuable, up-to-date information on salary, health insurance practices, and retirement plans for the most common administrative positions. Thank you to CPS HR Consulting for their assistance in this project.

The newest additions to CSDA's collection of free, downloadable publications include the **California Public Records Act Compliance Manual and the Special District Formation Guide**. CSDA also collaborated with the Institute for Local Government (ILG) in the development of two co-branded publications: **Understanding the Basics of Municipal Revenues in California and Sustainability in Special Districts**.

SPECIAL DISTRICT MAPPING PROJECT

CSDA's online map of independent special districts got a fresh new look this fall. While the map continues to be updated regularly, it now contains shape files for more than 2,000 districts. Thanks to California CAD Solutions, the map is more user friendly and includes search options such as assembly and senate districts. This project benefits all districts in CA to provide for greater transparency and access for the public to learn more about districts.

CSDA's Advocacy and Public Affairs

The Voice of Special Districts

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Launched Public Outreach Campaign – Called “Districts Make the Difference,” this campaign built a robust website platform providing members, media, and the public with a toolkit that includes fact sheets, talking points, and other information, including a dozen professionally produced videos about special districts.

Promoted Social Media Engagement – Actively managed Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube accounts pushing original content and driving activity towards DistrictsMakeTheDifference.org.

Conducted Statewide Video Contest – Received 20 videos from high school and college students educating the public about how special districts make a difference in their communities, and awarded scholarships to the top three after more than a thousand votes were cast in the online competition.

LEADING WHEN IT MATTERS MOST: LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION REVIEW

Represented all Special Districts – Issued a 19-page written testimony and delivered the lead oral testimony at the Commission’s August hearing on special districts in follow-up to its 2000 report, *Special Districts: Relics of the Past or Resources for the Future*.

Organized an Effective Response – Managed conference calls and meetings with special district officials and stakeholders, and spoke frequently with Commission staff to foster a mutual understanding of concerns and opportunities.

Encouraged Desirable Outcomes – While the Commission’s report is not due until 2017, it has largely focused its attention toward constructive issues facing special districts, including climate-change adaptation, State permitting, and forest management.

STRENGTHENING NETWORKS AND GROWING GRASSROOTS

300

Special District Visits

Increased the number of site visits to CSDA members by 12% from last year, listening to the concerns and needs of the membership, sharing the latest information from Sacramento, and strengthening the foundation of CSDA’s advocacy efforts.

Tripled

Chapter Participation

Nearly tripled CSDA staff attendance of chapter meetings over last year, visiting 61 CSDA affiliated chapter meetings throughout California.

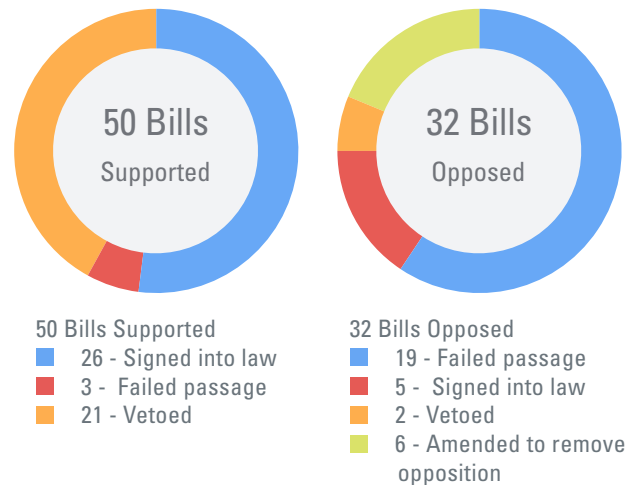
Amplified

Grassroots Action

More than quadrupled the average number of statewide responses to CSDA “Calls to Action” from last year, intensifying our impact on legislation in Sacramento.

SUMMARY OF CSDA 2016 LEGISLATIVE STATISTICS

Reviewed 2,331 bills, Actively tracked 619 bills, Directly lobbied on 82 bills



PROTECTING CRITICAL LOCAL FUNDS

Guarded Public Works Contracts – Led a coalition in the successful opposition of legislation that would have made it illegal to require contracted architects and engineers to defend legal claims related to their work on behalf of special districts and other public agencies (SB 885).

Saved Money for Small Districts – Successfully sponsored legislation that established a new, more affordable, alternative to annual financial audits for special districts with less than \$250 thousand in annual revenue (AB 2613).

Blocked Employee Orientation Mandate – As part of a coalition, successfully opposed legislation that would have required special districts to provide employees various orientations in an overly prescriptive fashion, including union membership orientations on paid-time (AB 2835).

REPRESENTING SPECIAL DISTRICTS IN THE COURTS OF LAW

Defended State Mandate Reimbursements – Fought against the State Mandates Commission’s actions to deny mandate reimbursements to special districts with fee authority (amicus brief: *Paradise Irrigation District v. Commission on State Mandates*).

Supported Local Boards’ Fee Authority – Argued against efforts to circumvent the established Proposition 218 and local initiative processes and special district board decisions related to necessary fees (amicus brief: *Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers’ Association v. Board of Directors of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District*).

Established Reasonable Brown Act Interpretation – Successfully petitioned the State Attorney General to opine that the Brown Act is not necessarily violated when a local agency’s website experiences technical difficulties that cause an agenda to become inaccessible.

CSDA's Professional Development

Timely and Relevant Information You Can Use

SPECIAL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CONFERENCE

CSDA completed two Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) Conferences in 2016, one in La Quinta and the other in Napa. The SDLA conferences focus on the necessity of the board and general manager to work closely toward a common goal and covered all four modules of the SDLA over the course of the two-and-a-half day conference. In 2017, attendees will have three opportunities to participate in the SDLA Conference: February 26 – March 1 in La Jolla, April 23 – 26 in San Luis Obispo, and July 9 – 12 in Napa.

BOARD SECRETARY/CLERK CONFERENCE

Our 2016 Board Secretary / Clerk Conference is our largest in its six-year history with over 250 attendees. The previous high, just last October, was 200 attendees. Over 70 attendees participated in the first pre-conference workshop associated with this conference, a full-day "Policy and Procedure Writing" workshop.

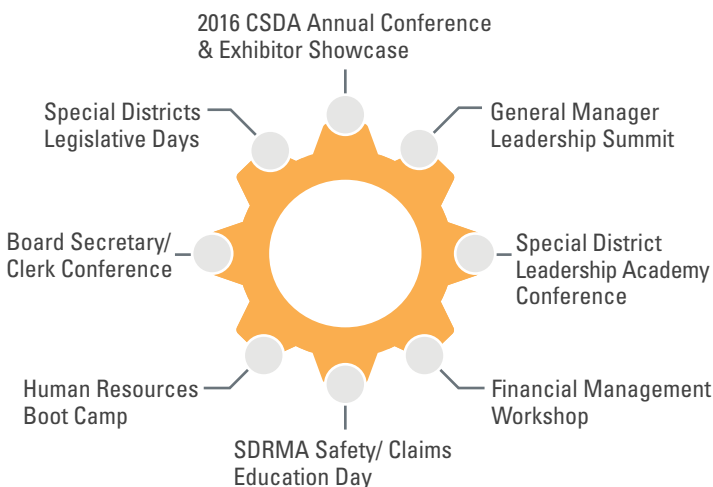
GENERAL MANAGER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Attendance at the General Manager Leadership Summit continues to grow with well over 200 attendees again this year. Popular session topics included Coaching for Performance, Finding Funding, and Medical Marijuana in the Workplace. Save the Date! The 2017 General Manager Leadership Summit is returning to Newport Beach, June 25 -27, 2017.

2016 CSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

Held October 10 - 13, this year's conference was another record setting event, topping 800 attendees for the first time. Over 40 breakout sessions provided attendees with valuable information covering a variety of topics including CEQA, ethics in elected office, drones, workers' compensation claims and more. Don't Miss Out! The 2017 CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase is coming to Monterey, September 25 – 28, 2017.

MAJOR CONFERENCES FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS



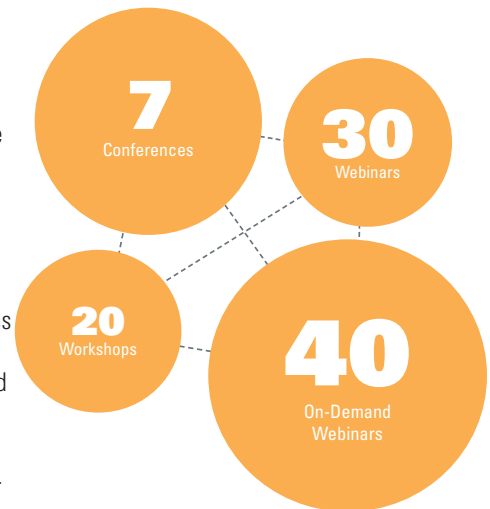
ON-DEMAND WEBINARS

In 2016 CSDA fully launched our On-Demand webinar service that enables attendees to participate in many of CSDA's most popular webinars at a time and place that is most convenient for them. Participants are able to login, watch the webinar of their choice and even print their certificate of completion all on their own time. Approximately 40 titles will be available by the end of 2016, in addition to our regularly scheduled "live" webinars, with more being added all the time. Visit the professional development section of the CSDA website and click on "On-Demand Webinars" for more information.

MORE SPECIALIZED WORKSHOPS FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS

In 2016 CSDA partnered with the Special District Risk Management Authority and Liebert Cassidy Whitmore for two more Human Resources Boot Camps for Special Districts and two new Financial Management for Special Districts workshops. These one-day workshops are designed to maximize an attendee's time and featured substantive information for attendees to use right away. CSDA also partnered with CPS HR Consulting on two sold-out Supervisory Skills for the Public Sector workshops in 2016. All three of these workshops will be held again in 2017 along with a new workshop "Hammering Out a Legal Framework for Construction & Business Matters" covering key aspects of business and construction that your district's management personnel should know.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



MORE WORKSHOPS...CLOSER TO HOME

With the growth of CSDA's District NetWorks program, we continue to support the six different Networks throughout the state through a variety of professional development opportunities. In 2016 we had a total of six District Network workshops, including education and a lunch sponsored by the California Special Districts Alliance. We will expand this program in 2017 with a total of 12 District Network workshops; six board member focused workshops in January and February from Anderson to Claremont and all the Networks in between, followed by six more Network focused workshops in the second half of the year.

CSDA's Membership

Stronger Than Ever

CSDA's total membership reached an all-time high of 1,127 this year, with 76 new members joining the association. Additionally, retention rates remain high as member districts recognize the ever-increasing value of advocacy services, professional development opportunities, information sharing, and all the other benefits they've come to count on.

CSDA is also grateful for the support of 129 Business Affiliates. These vendors and service providers share a commitment to special districts. We are grateful to these companies not only for their financial contributions, but for lending their expertise to our educational sessions, publications, advisory committees, listserv, and more.

A special acknowledgement goes out to Diamond and Platinum Business Affiliates, including: **Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo - CSDA Finance Corporation - Hanson Bridgett - Meyers Nave - Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA).**

