

The President's Page

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Of the

Ventura County Special Districts Association

September 2008 Greetings from George Lange. The President's Page

is alive & WELL! It continues to communicate info relating to our VCSDA organization, highlights from our individual Special Districts & more. If there is specific information that might be of importance to you & your district, please contact me or any of your Executive committee members. Your Executive Committee is committed to OUR Special Districts Association & improving our performance!

I need to share with you that VCSDA is ALREADY RECOGNIZED at the State level as one of the TOP six –(6) CSDA associations! We are being utilized as a “resource for improvement” for other special district associations that might need assistance. It is gratifying that OUR COMBINED EFFORTS as an association has been recognized & that we can offer our experience as a resource to others. **Please join your Executive Committee in adding to our recognized success... at a minimum, ATTEND our bi-monthly meetings!**

LAFCO CANDIDATES FORUM to be held at our October 7th meeting to be

held at the Camarillo Health Care District: ALL Ventura County Special Districts LAFCO Candidates who have been officially nominated & accepted as a candidate by Ventura LAFCO will be provided the opportunity to speak before our general membership.

“VCSDA Member Carrie Mattingly makes a career change”... she will be resigning from the Meiners Oaks Water District & moving to San Luis Obispo.

Many of you have had the pleasure of being with Carrie at most ALL of our VCSDA meetings... she is

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THE BEST example of what has contributed to our successful Special Districts Association. We will miss her & ESPECIALLY her wonderful smile. (Below photos demonstrates that smile for sure!) We wish you God's speed & the VERY BEST for your new career & entire future!

Below is her communication on her new career opportunity:

Dear George and my VCSDA friends:

I have resigned my elected position with the Meiners Oaks Water District as of September 22 although I have 2 years left on my term of office. In my "unelected" life I have accepted a position with the City of San Luis Obispo as its Utilities Director and will be starting work there on September 22.

It has been a special privilege to serve with all of you and I wish you and VCSDA a robust future.

Sincerest regards,

Carrie Mattingly



At left, another beautiful smile by Carrie... we'll miss you!



BIG beautiful smiles from Judy Cofer & Carrie Mattingly... WHO will be in the "smile photo" at our October meeting? Will it be YOU?

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George Lange Elected to the CALAFCO Executive Board... Your VCSDA President, having been nominated by the Ventura LAFCO Commission was subsequently elected to the State Executive Board of LAFCO as a Special District Representative. As you might know there are 17 board members from throughout the State of California; 5 representing Counties/County Supervisors, 5 representing Cities/City Councils, 5 representing Special Districts (That's us!) & 2 representing Public Members.

There were 3 Special District open seats & 5 Candidates including 2 incumbents... & I along with the incumbents were elected. Of all of the new Executive Board members elected, I was the only one from Southern California.

I look forward to this latest challenge at the State level & will do my BEST to continue to represent ALL Special Districts, Ventura LAFCO, So. California LAFCO'S & THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORINA.

The Latest "Scoop from Sacramento"...

Elaine Freeman of Rancho Simi Rec & Park District, our Association's

Legislative Analyst is enjoying her vacation in Hawai'i & will provide her latest report AT OUR October 7th meeting IN PERSON! Don't miss it.

As we all know a LOT of "ugly information" is coming out of Sacramento these days regarding the State Budget, but at least for now NO raiding of District or other local government agencies funds is expected. There are certain Legislation that WILL IMPACT SPECIAL DISTRICTS & Elaine will cover those Bills on **October 7th at Camarillo Health Care District.**

Below is a copy of an article on the Budget topic that appeared in today's Sacramento Bee newspaper:

Overriding Schwarzenegger's promised budget veto won't be simple

By Jim Sanders -

jsanders@sacbee.com

Published 12:25 am PDT

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Lawmakers who assumed an override of a governor's budget veto would be easy learned differently Wednesday.

As they sent Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger a budget he opposed this week, legislative leaders of both parties said they were confident they could override a gubernatorial veto. That takes a two-thirds vote, the same threshold required to pass the budget bill in the first place.

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But complications surfaced Wednesday because the linchpin of the spending plan – an attempt to raise nearly \$4 billion by accelerating tax payments – was passed in separate legislation using a procedural maneuver that required only a majority vote. That allowed Republicans to sidestep an action that political opponents could call a tax increase.

To override, Republicans will have to cast votes on that measure.

Assemblyman Alberto Torrico, a Newark Democrat who serves as majority floor leader, said the controversy adds to an "absolute mess" surrounding the state's record 80-day budget standoff.

"I think it's going to be a significant problem," he said of garnering enough GOP votes – at least six in the Assembly, two in the Senate – to override a veto of the tax bill.

The development gives Schwarzenegger substantially more leverage as he seeks to alter the deal lawmakers struck without him over the weekend.

If Republicans were to stand firm on their Tuesday votes, the lawmakers' budget wouldn't balance and they would be forced back to the drawing board. California's constitution requires a balanced budget. Schwarzenegger spokesman Aaron McLearn said the governor's goal is passage of a state budget that does not push fiscal problems into next year and cracks down on future spending.

"We'll work with them to do the right thing," he said of lawmakers.

Legislative leaders, who met with Schwarzenegger on Wednesday, were hesitant to speculate on how events will play out.

"We cross that bridge when we get there," said Steve Maviglio, spokesman for Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles.

"Everything is wait and see," said Alicia Trost, spokeswoman for Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata.

The tax-acceleration bill opposed by Republicans calls for raising billions this fiscal year by advancing collection of income taxes, then refunding overpayments later. The state essentially would receive a short-term, interest-free loan from taxpayers.

Schwarzenegger called the measure a smoke screen that cuts paychecks.

"It's really increasing the taxes, and they're putting a burden on taxpayers," he said at a Capitol press conference Tuesday. Supporters of the measure disagree.

They argue taxpayers would not pay more in taxes but would just remit payments sooner – and they could avoid any impact by altering the withholding forms they file with employers.

GOP legislative leaders have publicly supported overriding a gubernatorial veto on the primary budget bill. Prospects for the tax-acceleration bill are less certain.

"It does create some heartburn for Republicans," Sen. George Runner, R-Lancaster, said of a second vote on the trailer bill. "Will it create enough that they wouldn't go up on an override? I don't know."

Senate Republican leader Dave Cogdill of Modesto, who voted against the tax-acceleration bill Tuesday, is willing to help line up GOP votes for it if necessary for an override, spokeswoman Eileen Ricker said. Assembly Republican leader Mike Villines of Clovis could not be reached for comment. Because the bill did not actually raise taxes, only accelerated collection, state law allowed it to be passed Tuesday by a simple majority of each legislative house as part of a special session on budget matters.

Assemblyman Anthony Adams, R-Hesperia, voted against the tax acceleration Tuesday

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but said he would be willing to reconsider, if pressed.

"It's not desirable, but at the same time, the governor is playing games with California families – and if we have to step in and provide the only real leadership in the Capitol, then so be it," Adams said.

Republican Assemblyman Chuck DeVore of Irvine characterized the tax-acceleration bill as "taking money out of people's pockets." He has not decided, however, whether he would support an override as a last resort to save the budget package.

Adding to complications at the Capitol, the Assembly has sent to Schwarzenegger the primary budget bill but not its tax acceleration, one of about two dozen trailer bills.

The strategy prevents the governor from vetoing both at the same time.

After Wednesday's session with Schwarzenegger, legislative leaders expressed hope that a showdown will not be necessary.

"We'd like to avoid a veto," Bass said. "We'd like to avoid a veto override. Conversations are ongoing."

"Get to Know a District"

*This **FEATURE** in the President's Page is intended to provide information that focuses on a different VCSDA Member district in each issue...*

UNFORTUNATELY the information on the Saticoy Sanitary District was not available at "press time" for this President's Page Newsletter... they promised I'll have it for our next issue in November.

[Lee Martin, VCSDA Web Master will provide an exciting Website Status report at our November meeting...](#)

REMEMBER TO REGULARLY VISIT THE VCSDA WEB PAGE (www.vcsda.org) to keep up with your association's news!

DECEMBER 2ND VCSDA MEETING AT THE CONEJO RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT OFFICES, 403

Hillcrest Dr, T.O... ABOVE & NORTH OF THE OAKS

"Nordstrom's" MALL!

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Communicating with YOUR VCSDA Officers is important for a healthy association. You are encouraged to share YOUR ideas and comments...

Judy Cofer, Vice President (jcofer@portofhueneme.org), **Jack Curtis**, Treasure (vrcwd@ojai.net), your's truly, **George Lange**, President (glange@crpd.org), and Board Secretary **Shirley Ohren** (sohren@crpd.org). So throughout the year contact us ... we are here to work with YOU for a better VCSDA!

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