



Ventura County Special Districts

Presents the Ventura County Leadership Academy (VCLA)

Susan Lefevre, Executive Director, VCLA

Susan Lefevre spoke at our August 2nd Bi-monthly dinner meeting. She asked, "What critical issue is facing your district?" Some of the water districts answers were upgrading and/or replacing the infrastructures. The sanitation districts stated that pharmaceuticals were posing many problems. The recreation and park districts reply was that water was their highest budget item. A shared concern is that the fundamental purpose of a special district may not be understood.

Susan explained about the VCLA program and its 17 year experience. She pointed out how the cohorts have become integrated with some of the special districts present at the meeting. Each cohort develops a project to improve upon an identified critical issue as part of the curriculum.

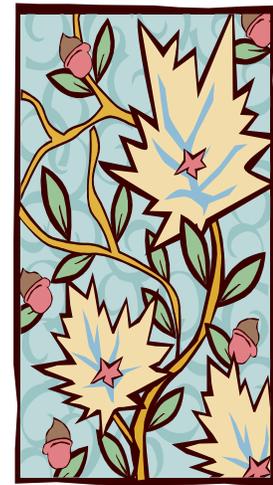
VCLA's unique 9 month program is a county wide initiative of the United Way to bring leaders from all over the county into contact with one another. It provides experiential and in the field exploration of the issues critical to Ventura County. The sessions offer areas as diverse as Government (including a 3 day trip to Sacramento), Water, Education, Agriculture, Recreation, Healthcare, Economic Development and Labor, Environment, Transportation, Public Safety and the Arts.



Susan Lefevre addressed over 30 attendees at our dinner meeting.



Kai Luomo (foreground), sitting with Christine Cohen, Kate O'Brien, Elaine Freeman and Ted Grandsen at the next table appear very interested in the VCLA information!



LAFCo Update

Kai Luomo, Ventura County LAFCo informed us of the updates on their website and its "unveiling" in September. He also announced the dissolution of the Ahmunson Ranch Services which formed in 1992 but has had no development. The state has since bought the property.

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WEB

www.vcsda.org



Ellen Spiegel, Channel Islands Beach Community appreciated the update on the CalForward initiative.

Colleagues from a variety of our Ventura County special districts actively engaged in the discussion.



Lee Martin from Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District updated us on the VCSDA website. The activity has been 250 hits a month with 125 new visitors. And, interestingly, June 23rd had 100 hits (the most hits in one day). The favorite page was "What's So Special about Special Districts?". He added that 20-30% of viewers are adding the website to their favorites.

Our next bi monthly dinner meeting will be Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Lee Martin, Rancho Simi Recreation & Park, Christine Cohen, Ventura County Auditor/Controller & Kai Luomo, LAFCo, listen intently to information on the VCLA program.



Reflecting on Susan Lefevre's question:

"What is a critical issue facing your special district?"

Legislative Update—provided by Elaine Freeman

The CSDA Legislative Committee held their August meeting on the 12th. The primary discussion was on the State budget and the lawsuit brought by the League of California Cities and the Redevelopment Agency Association. The court issued a stay on both bills signed by the Governor so payments to the State are frozen and any projects or expenditures planned by a redevelopment agency were also frozen. September 9 is the date that legal briefs have to be submitted to the court and it is anticipated the issues will be settled by January of 2012. The amount of money that the State will not get if the redevelopment agencies win is estimated to be 1.7 billion. This amount plus the less than expected revenue coming into the State, \$345 million just for July alone, will obviously require major adjustments to the budget. It is possible the Governor will call a special session of the legislature to address the budget.

California Forward has further defined their issues that include three items budgeting, share revenue stream and a requirement for five year action plans. With regard to the budgeting, they are proposing performance budget and it appears this could easily be accomplished but further implementation of the proposal needs to be monitored. The proposal for sharing revenues would require a 2/3 vote of each participating agency governing board and every agency would have to agree to the revenue redistribution. If an agency is just fee based, the agency could voluntarily agree to share in the participation.

Preparation of a five year action plan is something most agencies do as part of the budget process. They are taking it a little further in that the action plan could be a joint agency plan and with approval by the governing boards could potentially allow for waiver of State laws on rules that obstruct what jointly can be done. The good news is that all of these proposals are voluntary at this time. If Think Long does get involved then the proposals would go to the ballot.

Dickenson/LAO Reports—there are public meetings being held in San Diego and San Bernardino on dissolution and merging of special districts. LAFCo is also participating. The purpose is to look at consolidation and the outcomes, process barriers, accountability and transparency. The committee is looking at where consolidations occurred, what was the cause and what was the outcome. CSDA has a LAFCo working group which I will be a part of.

Most bills as of last Friday are not moving. SB 46, the compensation bill, is now a two year bill. This is a costly bill and amends the Political Reform Act. Staff will be watching this closely.

The GASB Committee is working on rules to regulate reporting methods for retirement funding. As proposed at this time, the rules would require a five (5) year projection rather than 20 and several new line items for unfunded liability, amount needed for those already retired and other potential line items. This will be a wait and see and will be policy changes, not legislative enacted.

