



Ventura County Special Districts Association

Mar/Apr
2016

Offering Quality of Life Services Through Direct Representation



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mike Paule

On February 2nd, we held our Annual Awards Dinner at "The Wedgewood at The Tower Club" in Oxnard. As we enjoyed the incredible views from that venue, we celebrated the evening by presenting awards to some very deserving individuals.

Congratulations to Rodger (Rod) Brown (Camarillo Health Care District) who was named VCSDA's Director of the Year, and to Bert Rapp (Ventura River County Water District) who was named General Manager of the Year. I would also like to congratulate all of the individuals who were nominated in these categories. We are blessed to have so many hard-working and dedicated people that work in our agencies.

Capping off our evening at the Annual Dinner was the very entertaining and inspirational, Dr. Terry Paulson, who provided all of us with an amazing look at how to "Claim our Optimism Advantage". We hope you enjoyed the evening and look forward to next year's annual event.

Meanwhile, it is back to business. Our next bi-monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 5th and will be held at the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks District—Senior Center. Our speaker is Steve DeGeorge who is the planning director for the Ventura County Transportation Commission. Steve will be presenting to us the result of the recent Naval Base Ventura County—Joint Land Use Study (JLUS).

The goal of the JLUS is to develop land use strategies that preserve the ability of a military installation to perform its assigned mission by preventing the encroachment of incompatible land uses and to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the surrounding community. The findings and recommendations of that study will be presented. I hope to see you all there!

VCSDA MEETING

April 5, 2016 at

Pleasant Valley Rec and Park
District—Senior Center
1605 E. Burnley St.
Camarillo, CA 93010

5:30 PM Dinner, 6:15 Meeting

Guest Speaker:
Steve DeGeorge
Planning Director (Ventura County
Transportation Commission)

More details with the RSVP form



Steve DeGeorge is the planning director for the Ventura County Transportation Commission and has over 20 years of government service assisting the public and local agencies. He is responsible for a wide variety of tasks ranging from the development and implementation of new transit technologies and traffic models to large scale planning efforts such as the Joint Land Use Study with Naval Base Ventura County. Steve is involved in many areas of planning such as intergovernmental transportation planning, airport land use planning, bicycle planning, as well as managing the day to day activities of VCTC's capital projects program, the countywide call box system, and VCTC's rail asset the Santa Paula Branch Line.

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Legislative Update



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

Here are some highlights from the latest CSDA—Grassroots Action Brief

Property Tax Restoration and New Increment Financing Tools

Governor Brown's budget proposal, released January 7th, anticipates special districts will receive \$203 in property tax restoration in 2015-16 and 2016-17 from the continued wind-down of redevelopment agencies (RDAs). This money is expected to grow in future years.

AB 2 (Alejo, E. Garcia): Community Revitalization Investment Authorities

Permits special districts and other agencies to voluntarily invest property tax increment and other available funding to improve infrastructure in disadvantaged communities.

AB 313 (Atkins): Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts

Expands the type of special districts eligible to voluntarily participate in Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) to include special 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.

\$3.1 Billion in Climate Change Funding Proposed

The budget proposal includes \$3.1 billion in cap-and-trade spending, including the following investments:

- Local Climate
- Petroleum Use Reduction by 50 percent
- Short-lived Climate Pollutants
- Water Action Plan
- Carbon Sequestration
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Governance and Accountability

AB 1707 (Linder)

Would require all local agencies who are denying public records request to do so in writing and list out each item that is being denied along with the appropriate code sections that justify the denial.



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Human Resources and Personnel

Mandatory Union Orientations for All New Employees

This year the Legislature will consider mandating public agencies provide union orientation for new public-sector employees. CSDA would like to hear from us on this issue.

Appeal Likely in Case to Determine Right to State Mandate Reimbursement

On February 8th, the Sacramento Superior Court ruled in favor of the Commission on State Mandates in Paradise Irrigation District v. Commission on State Mandates. The court ruled that special districts that do not have revenues subject to the constitutional appropriations limit are always ineligible to receive reimbursement for state mandates. Further, all special districts must first “try and fail” to raise their water or wastewater fees in order to cover the cost of state mandated programs before a district can seek reimbursement from the state.

Infrastructure Innovation and Investment

Contract Indemnity

CSDA opposes Senate Bill 885 by Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis), a bill which would greatly limit local agencies ability to responsibly contract and potentially cost taxpayers millions. In 2010, CSDA opposed a similar bill (SB972).

Specifically SB 885 would eliminate the right of a public agency to contract with design professionals for up-front legal defense against claims related to their work. Instead, public agencies could only ask for reimbursement from the design professionals if the claim is fully litigated and decision is rendered by a court. As a result, SB885 favors litigation over negotiation and forces taxpayers and ratepayers to front the costs to defend the private section even for claims that allege the negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct on the part of a private business.

Retention of Proceeds

SB 293 (Padilla) of 2011 capped fund retention on public works projects at five percent. Previous law required retention of at least five percent, with most agencies choosing to retain ten percent. While the coalition of public agency opposition was unable to stop enactment of the bill, it did result in significant amendments, including a sunset date and an exemption for “substantially complex” projects. CSDA anticipates proponents of SB 293 will soon introduce legislation to make this law permanent.

In opposing SB 293, CSDA argued:

- It will raise project costs, change-order costs, and insurance costs
- It is a false premise that retention rates are based on the complexity of projects.
- Ambiguity of the term “substantially complex” will lead to increased litigation and bid process challenges.

Photos from the February 2nd, 2016 Annual Meeting at "The Tower Club in Oxnard"

