



Ventura County Special Districts Association

July/August
2014

Offering Quality of Life Services Through Direct Representation



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Elaine Freeman

Hope you are all having a wonderful summer and enjoying our beautiful weather.

First, at the last general meeting, we discussed the possibility of having a joint meeting with Santa Barbara Special District's Assoc. Their next meeting will be in October but will be held in North County. Your board felt this was too long a trip for us and so another time will be looked at for next year.

Secondly, your input is needed if we should expand our membership to include Associates or those companies that do business with VCSDA members. It was thought this may be a great opportunity to provide additional speakers and information to members. This would require a vote of the membership which will happen after the next meeting if there is a positive feeling to proceed with the vote.

Third, put your thinking caps on to select a speaker for the annual meeting in February. I know it sounds like a long way off but here we are half way through the year already. Please e-mail any suggestions you may have to me or other members of the board.

Be on the lookout for nominations for an alternate representative for LAFCo. They should be received within the next couple months. Currently, I am the alternate and filling in for Gail Pringle who was the permanent member. In January, I will become the permanent for a term of 4 years and there will be a new alternate.

For those CSDA members, there is a new Blog. You can get up to date information. Just log into the CSDA web page and arrange to access the Blog.

Please come to Simi Valley for our next meeting in August to visit the District offices of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. For those coming from West County, Grimes Canyon is a good alternate or from Oxnard, 118 or from Camarillo there is Santa Rosa Road. See you on August 5.

VCSDA MEETING

August 5, 2014

5:30 PM Dinner

6:00 PM Meeting begins

RSVP before deadline with enclosed form.

Eric Bergh Manager of Resources Calleguas Municipal Water District



Eric Bergh is the Manager of Resources for the Calleguas Municipal Water District in Thousand Oaks, California and has been with the District since 1991. Among other duties, his responsibilities include oversight of environmental planning activities related to the district's \$300 million capital improvement program, information technology systems, legislative and public affairs, and development services.

Eric is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and life-long resident of Camarillo, where he resides with his wife, Kathy, and which serves as home base for their two children; Aaron and Kelsea, students at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and UC San Diego.

***** NEW *** Contact Info**

Please change your records!

How to reach us!

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Legislative Update



LEGISLATIVE REPORT – July, 2014

Here are some bills that may be of interest:

AB 543 Campos D – Calif. Environmental Quality Act: translation

Would require a lead agency to translate, as specified, certain notices required by the Calif. Environmental Quality Act and a summary of any negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report when a group of non-English speaking people, as defined, comprises at least 25% of the population within the lead agency's jurisdiction and the project is proposed to be located at or near an area where the group of non-English speaking people comprises at least 25% of the residents of that area. By requiring a lead agency to translate these notices and documents, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Currently in appropriations

AB 2417 Nazarian D Calif. Environmental Quality Act: exemption: recycled water pipelines

Would, until 2/2/28, additionally exempt from CEQA a project for the construction and installation of a new pipeline or the maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, relocation, replacement, removal or demolition of an existing pipeline, not exceeding 8 miles in length for the distribution of recycled water within a public street, highway, or right-of-way and would require the lead agency to undertake specified activities, including the filing of a notice of exemption for the project with the Office of Planning and Research and the office of the county clerk of each county in which the project is located. In addition, it would prevent a trench to be longer than 1/2 mile. There is a good possibility that this bill will not move forward.

AB 2040 Garcia D Public official compensation

Would require a local agency to additionally report to the Controller the annual compensation of its public officials. This bill would also require a local agency that is required to submit a financial report to the Controller and that maintains an Internet Web site to post the annual compensation information if its public officials that is posted on the Controller's Government Compensation in California Internet Web site. This bill would require the Controller and local agencies to consult regarding the reporting requirements for disclosure of compensation information. This bill is in appropriations.

AB 2372 Ammiano D Property taxation: change in ownership

Would specify that if 90% or more of the ownership interests in a legal entity are sold or transferred in a single transaction, as defined, the real property owned by that legal entity has changed ownership, whether or not any one legal entity or person that is party to the transaction requires more than 50% of the ownership interests. This bill would require the State Board of Equalization to report to the Legislature, no later than January 1, 2020, regarding the implementation of these changes in ownership. Currently in committee waiting for comments from author.

AB 1527 Perea D Public water systems: drinking water

Would require the State Department of Public Health, in administering programs to fund improvements and expansions of small community water systems and other water systems, as specified, to promote service delivery alternatives that improve efficiency and affordability of infrastructure and service delivery. The concern here is that small districts could be forced to merge by the State if without the normal LAFCo process.

AB 2471 Frazier D Public contracts: change orders

Would require a public entity, as defined, when authorized to order changes or additions to the work in a public works contract awarded to the lowest bidder, to issue a change order promptly and not later than 60 days after the extra work is performed and reasonable documentation has been submitted, except as specified. This bill would, if this requirement is not met, make the public entity liable to the original contractor for the extra work that has already been performed. Referred to Committee on Government Organization



Legislative Update Continued



LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Cont.) – July, 2014

AB 194 Campos D Open meetings: public criticism and comment

Would, under the Ralph M. Brown Act, expand prohibition on the legislative body, to forbid the legislative body, and its presiding officer or staff, from prohibiting, limiting or otherwise preventing public criticism, as well as certain other designated activities related to public comment. In committee

AB 1219 Torres D Public employees' retirement: service after retirement

PERS is subject to the limits established by PEPRA and PERL also prescribes limits on the service after retirement without reinstatement that have been superseded by PEPRA. The bill would repeal the superseded provisions of the PERL described above and would add provisions limiting service after retirement without reinstatement that conform with the requirements of PEPRA, with certain additions. The bill would specify that a retired person appointed without reinstatement, under those limitations, is prohibited from receiving any benefit, incentive, or compensation in lieu of benefits. In Committee

AB 1826 Chesbro D Solid waste: organic waste

Would require a business that generates a specified amount of organic waste per week to arrange for recycling services for that organic waste in a specified manner. The bill would decrease the amount of organic waste under which a business would be subject to those requirements for 8 cubic yards or more during 2016 to 4 cubic yards or more during 2017. It is not clear in this bill that would monitor and what would happen if not followed.

AB 1527 Perea D Public water systems: drinking water

Would require the State Department of Public Health, in administering programs to fund improvements and expansions of small community water systems and other water systems as specified, to promote service delivery alternative that improve efficiency and affordability or infrastructure and service delivery. Would require also, that the WQCB prioritize. Bill not clear if disadvantaged communities would be put ahead of other communities.

NOVEMBER 2014 BALLOT MEASURES

Approval of Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes: Insurance Rate Public Justification and Accountability Act

The measure vests the power to approve health insurance rate changes in the California State Insurance Commissioner before they may take effect. Requires sworn statement to be submitted by each health insurer as to accuracy of information submitted to Insurance Commissioner to justify rate changes. Provides for public notice, disclosure and hearing on health insurance rate changes, and subsequent judicial review. If rates are found to be in excess, health insurance providers must repay excessive charges with interest to effected parties. Exempts employer large group health plans unless rate increases exceed 10%. In addition, prohibits health, auto and homeowners insurers from determining policy eligibility or rates based on lack of prior coverage or credit history.

Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits “Troy and Alana Pack Patient Safety Act of 2014”

Increases the \$250,000 cap on pain and suffering damages awards in medical negligence lawsuits under the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act. The new cap would be \$1.1 million per case with annual adjustments for inflation thereafter.

There are many, many bills going through the process that could have an effect on special districts. At the next meeting, I will bring the entire packet for review and discussion.



Upcoming VCSDA Meeting

SAVE THE DATE: October 7, 2014

Find VCSDA online at www.vcsda.org

*Photos from the June 3, 2014
Meeting at Ventura County Credit Union*

Thank you Lee Martin ,for taking the photos.



Colleen and Elaine



Kara Ralston



Michael Paule



Tully Clifford



Meeting