

# Ventura County Special Districts Association

Jan/Feb  
2014

**Offering Quality of Life Services Through Direct Representation**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by **Elaine Freeman**

First, I want to thank the members for being supportive and interested in the Association. Special districts are finally coming into their own and it is because we work together and believe in special districts that make us recognized for the services we provide.

For 2014, some of the speakers I will hopefully schedule include Jeff Pratt, Public Works Director for the County of Ventura; Darren Kettle, VCTC, and possibly a representative of VCOG. There will also be a presentation on Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District and the Greenway Project which will be under construction early next year. The plans are for the Arroyo Simi and will provide upgraded recreational opportunities and improved landscape and access.

It has been a fast year and I couldn't have done it without Colleen Janssen. The food and arrangements were great. Thanks Colleen.

We look forward to seeing you all at the February 4 annual meeting where we have an opportunity to recognize very special people associated with special districts.

May 2014 be a great year for everyone.

## **VCSDA MEETING**

February 4, 2014

5:30 PM Registration and Social Time

6:15 PM Meeting & Dinner begins

### MENU CHOICES:

Prime Rib, Cornish Game Hen, and Vegan

More details with the RSVP form

**RSVP before deadline with enclosed form.**

## **Robb Korinke**



Robb Korinke is associated with California Forward and has been working closely with CSDA on transparency for special districts. He has also been involved with the proposed economic workshop and other special projects for California Forward. Robb should be of great interest at our February 4 meeting. He has a diverse background involving candidates and ballot measure campaigns across California and beyond. Throughout his career, Mr. Korinke has honed his skills as a writer and an expert in political communications. He has published op-eds under his own name, as well as under those of clients in the San Francisco Chronicle, the Orange County Register, the Los Angeles Times and the Orange County Business Journal as well as numerous trade and online industry publications. As a web designer, his work includes CaliforniaCityNews.org, CaliforniaPropositions.org and StrongCitiesStrongState.com.

**NOW AVAILABLE! Register for  
VCSDA meetings ONLINE  
at [www.vcsda.org](http://www.vcsda.org)**

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## Legislative Update



### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – December, 2013

The tentative legislative calendar is out for 2014. The Legislature will reconvene on January 6 and January 17 is the last day for policy committees to hear and report to the fiscal committees on fiscal bills introduced in their house in 2013. January 24 is the last day to hear and report on the Floor bills introduced in their house in 2013 and the last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Council. January 31 is the last day for each house to pass bills introduced in 2013 in their respective house. The Governor is to have a budget to the Legislature by this date as well. February 21 is the last day for new bills to be introduced. As is the norm, February and March are extremely busy trying to make sense out of the volume of bills.

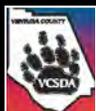
This next year will be very busy with local and State elections. There are numerous initiatives that will include water, transportation taxing and potentially the Transgender initiative to repeal the bill signed by the Governor affecting students from K-12. There will be an initiative on the ballot in June that will affect the Brown Act and California Public Records Act. The act would prevent future changes to these acts from reimbursement by the State even though they are State mandated.

As you may recall, there was a proposal for an initiative reinstating redevelopment agencies. No action has been taken by the proponents and nothing has been submitted. It is unlikely this will appear on the ballot.

Instead, Congressman Eric Swalwell (D- Dublin) has introduced legislation that would use federal funds to replace much of California's Redevelopment Agency development obligations and is called "Restarting Local Economies Act of 2013" and would make it easier for communities in California to obtain federal redevelopment funding.

Just a reminder that it is now law that criminal background checks cannot be made on employee applicants until such time as the individual is in the final hiring list. This rule was signed by the Governor and will become effective on January 1.

There was a bill, SB 594 that would have prohibited associations such as CSDA or the League from advocating or opposing statewide ballot measures. This bill did not affect unions nor teacher's associations. This bill was amended to the satisfaction of CSDA and others so that it does not affect various associations from participating in campaigns.



## Upcoming VCSDA Meetings

### SAVE THE DATES:

April 1, 2014

June 3, 2014

August 5, 2014

Find VCSDA online at  
[www.vcsda.org](http://www.vcsda.org)

# Photos from the November 5, 2013 meeting at Ventura County Credit Union

