



Ventura County Special Districts Association

May/June
2014

Offering Quality of Life Services Through Direct Representation



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Elaine Freeman

There are some exciting things happening for special districts. CSDA has organized and launched District NetWorks beginning in April by CSDA Public Affairs Specialist, Miryam Barajas and Editor Nicole Dunn. What is District NetWorks? It is an initiative designed by local special district leaders to connect special districts across California. The heart of District NetWorks consists of district leaders inspiring and catalyzing action and collaboration in their own communities. District NetWorks will help special districts across the state connect and take action on local and statewide issues. One of the major goals is to help in public awareness of special districts and provide unified messaging. This is how it works. CSDA's Regionalization Task Force identified six California regions (networks). Each network is represented by three delegates (CSDA Board Members), with each delegate assigned his/her own service area within his/her network. District NetWorks will facilitate direct, peer-to-peer contact. CSDA will equip each delegate with direct knowledge of local issues and challenges, and each delegate can help deliver special district information and resources.

A district delegate serves as CSDA's local liaison to special districts, key decision-makers and the public at large providing a strategic link between CSDA's activities in the State Capitol and their local area. It's not always easy for district representatives to get to Sacramento or to facilitate effective communication from their agency to the Capitol. The district delegate can help make sure districts are up-to-date on key issues and ensure each agency's voice is heard.

This program will help elevate special districts recognition for the service they provide.

VCSDA MEETING

June 3, 2014

5:30 PM Dinner

6:00 PM Meeting begins

RSVP before deadline with enclosed form.



Jeff Pratt

**Director of Public Works
County of Ventura**



Jeff became the Director of the Ventura County Public Works Agency in October 2008. In his capacity as the Agency Director, Jeff serves as the County Road Commissioner, the Chief Engineer of several special districts and the Executive Officer of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency – which protects the largest groundwater aquifer in the county.

After a tour of duty in the Navy, Jeff worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Climate Change, as an engineer at a construction and a geotechnical firm, and for two cities and two counties. He prefers public sector employment because of the cradle to grave nature of project participation and for the last twenty years has specialized in the area of water resources.

Throughout his 37 years of service, Jeff has demonstrated a passion and talent for process improvement and the elimination of inefficient, redundant, and/or wasteful practices.

Jeff was trained as a structural engineer at Washington University in St. Louis, and has completed several graduate courses in public policy, public administration, and business management at the Universities of Missouri and Washington. He approaches public service with a unique perspective and a sense of humor.

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

Please change your records!

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Legislative Update



LEGISLATIVE REPORT – April, 2014

There is a proposed bill **AB 2040** by Garcia that is currently in the Assembly Local Government Committee. What it does is expand what is considered “compensation” and adds new individuals to list that must be reported to the State Controller’s Office annually. Much of the information that AB 2040 requires is currently captured in the “other” category for wages on employees W-2 forms and on the Controller’s website. However, this measure would require that each type of “other pay” is reported in its own separate category. In addition, it adds new items as follows: Requires reports include the names of elected officials, not just the position; reimbursement for work related expenses (vehicle miles traveled in a personal vehicle); insurance coverage; compensated vacation and leave time (not related to cash-out at end of employment); payment or indemnification of legal defense costs; loan payments and any other item of value received by the public official from the local agency. Compensation reports must be posted online to your agency’s website in a clear, visible and searchable format and updated annually or the local agency website must provide an easily accessible link to the Controller’s Public Pay website.

Feedback would be great from you all on how much time this would require, any new costs associated with financial software for online data posting and maintenance and any other fiscal burdens you would attribute to AB 2040. This bill is being opposed but any data you can provide about the burden your agency would encounter for this proposal would be beneficial.

AB 1527 by Member Perea, would authorize an assuming water system to voluntarily consolidate with another water system. This bill would define assuming water system as a water system that will obtain legal ownership of another water system or systems and that has a permit to operate from the department, and would define subsumed water system as a water system that will transfer legal ownership to the assuming water system. This bill would require the assuming water system to file a voluntary consolidation plan with the department that includes but is not limited to a list of current deficiencies in the subsumed water system, proposed remedies to those deficiencies and a time line for correcting the subsumed water system. This bill would also require the department to adopt regulations relating to the required content of a voluntary consolidation plan and the process for approval. There is no review required by LAFCo which limits public review and broader analysis.



Upcoming VCSDA Meetings

SAVE THE DATES:

August 5, 2014 and October 7, 2014

Find VCSDA online at www.vcsda.org

Photos from the April 1, 2014 Annual Meeting at Ventura County Credit Union

Thank you Lee Martin ,for taking the photos.



Elaine Freeman & George Lange



Darren Kettle from VCTC



Bruce Dandy



Mary Anne Rooney



Dinner