

# Ventura County Special Districts Association

MARCH/APRIL  
2013

*Offering Quality of Life Services Through Direct Representation*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Elaine Freeman

Hello everyone,

I would like to first thank everyone for your support to lead the Ventura County Special Districts Association. It is an honor. Vice President Mary Anne Rooney and Treasurer Mike Paule feel the same way. We will do our best to make this a good year for Ventura County.

We hope you all enjoyed the speaker Debra Man, Assistant General Manager at Metropolitan Water District at the Annual Meeting. The Legislature is currently working on the proposed bond for 2014 as Ms. Man mentioned, so there will be more information to come.

The next meeting will be April 9 at Calleguas Municipal Water District. CMWD General Manager, Susan Mulligan, will be updating us on what is happening with their brine line and other improvements. We hope you can all attend.

A special thank you goes to Sue Craig for her tenure as President and to Renee who worked tirelessly to organize and set up our meetings over the last two years. A special thank you also to Jack Curtis for serving as Treasurer of VCSDA for many years. Lee Martin has made some changes to the web site and it looks good. Check it out.

The votes are still coming in on the CSDA Affiliation Agreement. An announcement will be made at the April 9 meeting as to the results of the vote. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for special programs or issues that need to be covered by our organization. Ventura County Special Districts is stronger with more input and participation. I look forward to this next year.

**VCSDA MEETING**  
**APRIL 9, 2013**  
**5:30 PM**

*RSVP before deadline with enclosed form.*

CALLEGUAS  
MUNICIPAL  
WATER DISTRICT  
*CONFERENCE ROOM*  
2100 OLSEN ROAD  
THOUSAND OAKS  
CA 91360



Susan Mulligan, General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, will give an update on the Regional Salinity Management Pipeline and groundwater desalters which are changing the water resource portfolio in Ventura County.



**Please update your records:**

**VCSDA, c/o RSRPD,  
Attn: Colleen Janssen  
1692 Sycamore Drive,  
Simi Valley, CA 93065**

**Phone:(805) 584-4453, Fax:(805) 527-2495  
E-mail: colleen@rsrpd.us**



# Meet Your New VCSDA Board



**PRESIDENT**  
**Elaine**  
**Freeman**



**VICE**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**Mary Anne**  
**Rooney**



**TREASURER**  
**Michael**  
**Paule**



**PAST**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**Susan Craig**



## Legislative Update



**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – March 12, 2013:** The CSDA Legislative Committee met on Friday, March 8, to review all of the bills that appear to affect local government and in particular, special districts.

Prior to beginning the discussion on the new most important bills, members of the committee mentioned the following.

**AB 5** – This will go through changes and further discussion will be held at the next meeting. This bill by Ammiano would place requirements on public agencies to provide services even beyond those that may be available to the average person. Even the Sacramento Bee had an editorial that it was one of the worst bills. It was put as a watch.

**AB 57** – This is a spot bill by Yamada regarding agricultural conservation easements. There isn't a lot of detail yet so it was put as a watch.

**AB 738** – This bill by Harkey removes liability regarding bike lanes. It seems pretty straight forward to benefit public agencies. There were concerns so it was agreed to change from a Support 3 to a Watch.

### **New bills not previously reviewed:**

**AB 72** – Holden – Municipal Water District: board of directors. This bill would change the date a new director would take office to the first Friday in December succeeding their election instead of January 1. This has a Support 2 position.

**AB 185** – Hernandez - Would provide that an audio or video recording of an open meeting may be destroyed after 2 years. Now they can be erased after 30 days. Oppose Unless Amended.

**AB 188** – Ammiano – Property taxation – change in ownership. This would affect commercial and industrial properties if ownership changes by more than 50%. Split roll. Watch position.

**AB 218** – Dickinson – Employment applications: criminal history - Would prohibit a state or local agency from asking an applicant to disclose information regarding criminal conviction until after the applicant's qualification for the position have been determined. Oppose 2 position.

**AB 265** – Gatto – Would provide that a city or county that owns or operates a dog park with specified signage is immune from liability. Support if amended to include special districts. Dickenson amended the bill to include special districts so at the next meeting the position will change to a support.

**AB 279** – Dickinson – Financial affairs – This bill would remove the term certificates of deposit and instead authorize a local agency to invest in deposits. This bill would also exclude from public funds reporting requirements a private sector entity that assists a selected depository institution of a local agency's deposits. Under certain conditions – Watch position.

*Continued on page 3*



# Legislative Update (Continued)



**AB 408** – Bonta – Municipal utility districts: elections. This places responsibilities on county elections officials to perform new duties. Support 2 position.

**AB 416** - Gordon – California Air Resources Board: Local Emission Reduction Program Working with the Local Government Coalition. This bill is an effort to have monies set aside by the ARB for local government to access those funds to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction in ways that increase localized energy resources. Support 1 position.

**AB 462** - Stone – Fire protection: residential care facilities for the elderly. Watch position.

**AB 536** - Wagner – Contractors: payments. Last year this was AB 2021 This bill would exclude specified amounts from being considered disputed amounts and would provide that the authorized withholding is not wrongfully withheld. Oppose 2 position.

**AB 683** – Mullin – Local government: fines and penalties: assessment. This bill applies to cities and counties to authorize fines or penalties against real property. THE QUESTION IS - DO SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSESS FINES AND IF SO THEN THE BILL NEEDS TO BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE SPECIAL DISTRICTS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

**AB 741** – Brown – Local government finance: tax equity allocation formula: qualifying cities. This bill would take money from counties and special districts to assist qualifying cities. It is a very complex bill but very detrimental potentially. This has an Oppose 1 position.

**AB 792** – Mullin – Local government open meetings – This is a CSDA sponsored bill. This bill, if a local agency is unable to post the agenda or notice on its internet web site because of software or hardware impairment beyond the local agency's reasonable control, would not preclude a local agency from conducting the meeting or taking action on items of business, provided the agency has complied with all other relevant requirements. Support 1 position.

**AB 941** – Rendon – Controller: reports – Would change the definition of a special district subject to the reporting requirements of the Controller to include a public entity, agency or board provided for by a JPA that is separate from the parties to the agreement is responsible for the administration of this agreement. Watch position.

**SB 338** – Hill – Local agency meeting – teleconferencing – Would require, if a legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing and a teleconference is located outside the boundaries of the local agency, that the agenda be posted at the location at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting rather than 72 hours. Watch position.

**SB 626** –Beall – Workers compensation – removes all of the parts of last year's bill SB 863 that have benefited in cost reductions. Oppose 2 position.

**SB 700** –Wolk – Natural resources: parks: carryout bags – Would require a retail establishment to collect a charge of \$0.05 for each single-use carryout bag provided to a customer. This bill would require the retail establishment to retain \$0.005 of that charge and would allow a retail establishment to retain an additional \$0.005 if the retail establishment credits the consumer no less than \$0.05 for each carryout bag provided by the consumer for packaging his or her purchases and meets other requirements. This would affect not only retail but museums or other public entities. Support if amended to exclude public run retail sites.

**SB 798** – De Leon – California Green Infrastructure Bank Act – Would enact the California Green Infrastructure Bank as a public corporation and would make it responsible for administering the act. The bill would make the bank under the direction of an executive director to be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation. Support 3 position.

**SCA 11**- Hancock – Local Government: special taxes: voter approval – Would change from 2/3 of the voters to 55% for any special taxes but not bonds. Support 1 position.

Please ***mark your calendar*** and sign up for CSDA Legislative Days, May 14 and 15 in Sacramento. You do not need to be a member of CSDA to attend. It is a great opportunity to hear more about proposed legislation and what is happening with other special districts. Registration can done on line by going to California Special Districts Association.

This is only a sampling of the many bills that were reviewed and either put into an oppose, support or watch position. If there is some specific bill that is of interest to your organization, please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 320-8615 - Elaine.



# CSDA Chapter Affiliation Update

The votes are still coming in on the CSDA Affiliation Agreement. An announcement will be made at the April 9 meeting as to the results of the vote.



## Upcoming VCSDA Meetings

### Save These Dates:

- April 9, 2013:** Calleguas Municipal Water District, Thousand Oaks  
**June 4, 2013:** Strathearn Historical Park & Museum, Simi Valley  
**August 6, 2013:** McCrea Ranch, Thousand Oaks  
**October 1, 2013:** Oak Park Community Center & Gardens, Oak Park



**June 4**

*Strathearn Historical  
Park and Museum*



**August 6**

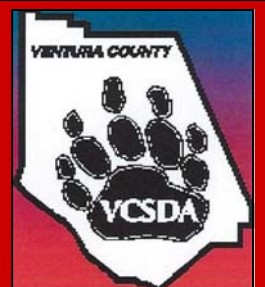
*McCrea Ranch*



**October 1**

*Oak Park Community  
Center & Gardens*

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



# Photos from the February 5, 2013 Annual Meeting

*Photos by Lee Martin from RSRPD*

