



# Ventura County Special Districts Association

May/June  
2016

*Offering Quality of Life Services Through Direct Representation*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mike Paule

Greetings VCSDA members!

I think we can agree that this election year will certainly go down as one of the most memorable ones in a generation. The California primary election falls on the same day as our next bi-monthly meeting so makes sure you have voted before joining us at Calleguas Municipal Water District in Thousand Oaks on June 7th.

There is a lot of activity — not only on a national level but also here in California... and locally in our County. It looks like the proposed 1/2 percent transportation sales tax for Ventura County will be on the November ballot, as well as one or more SOAR initiatives. We are working to get a speaker on the transportation tax measure to address VCSDA at our August regular meeting.

The State legislative is also busy with a number of proposed legislative items that we should all be watching closely and taking active measures to write or contact our legislators to voice support or opposition where these issues impact our members' respective districts and constituents. The CSDA monthly Grassroots Action Brief is good way to stay abreast of important proposed legislation.

Our next bi-monthly meeting will be held at Calleguas Municipal Water District. Eric Bergh will be providing us with the latest in changes to the state and local drought water restrictions. El Nino provided some encouraging rain and snow totals in Northern and Central California but failed to bring needed precipitation to Southern California. California is entering its 5th year of drought and the reality is that we must continue to actively conserve this precious resource.

I hope you can all join us on June 7th to get the latest on how local water agencies and consumers will be impacted by proposed changes to the State water allocation plan—driven by improved water supply in parts of the State.

## How to reach us:

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## VCSDA BI-MONTHLY MEETING

June 7, 2016 at

Calleguas Municipal Water District  
2100 E. Olsen Road  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

5:30 PM Dinner  
6:15 PM Meeting

Guest Speaker:  
Eric Bergh—Manager of  
Resources (Calleguas MWD)

More details with the RSVP form  
*RSVP before deadline with enclosed form*



**Eric Bergh**

Eric Bergh is the Manager of Resources for the Calleguas Municipal Water District in Thousand Oaks and has been with the District since 1991. Among other duties, his responsibilities include oversight of environmental planning activities related to the District's capital improvement program, information technology systems, new development programs, legislative and public affairs, and drought response and conservation.

Eric is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and a life-long resident of Camarillo

# VCSDA Board Members



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## Legislative Update



### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Ventura County Special Districts Assoc. (May 2016)**

Here are some highlights from the May 2016 CSDA Grassroots Action Brief.

#### **Revenue, Finances and Taxation**

##### **AB 2476 (Daly) Parcel Tax Notification—CSDA Position (Oppose)**

Requires local agencies, including special districts, before adopting any new parcel tax, to provide notice to affected property owners of the public vote to enact the proposed parcel tax. The bill specifies information to be included in the notice and requires local governments to provide a telephone number and address of an individual, office, or organization the public may contact for more information about the parcel tax. This measure is redundant to the current public elections process and will significantly increase costs associated with enacting a parcel tax.

#### **Governance and Accountability**

##### **AB 2257 (Maienschein) Website Mandate—CSDA Position (Oppose)**

Micro-manages how special districts and other local agencies design their websites by mandating they place their online agenda postings on their homepage.

#### **Human Resources and Personnel**

##### **AB 2650 (Nazarian) CalPERS Divestment —CSDA Position (Oppose)**

Mandate CalPERS to divest from certain funds for political purposes. Regardless of the cause, it is not the legislature's place to determine how retirement funds for public employees should be invested, the California Constitution has granted that authority solely to CalPERS.

#### **Infrastructure, Innovation, and Investment**

##### **SB 885 (Wolk) Public Works —CSDA Position (Oppose)**

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 a decision is rendered by the court..



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- SB 885 favors litigation over negotiation—SB 885 actually encourages new litigation and manufactures unnecessary conflict in public works contract negotiations.
- SB 885 forces taxpayers and ratepayers to front the costs to defend the private sector even for claims that allege the negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct on the part of a private business.
- Every dollar spent on litigation spawned by SB 885 will be one less dollar to support vital public services and infrastructure (fire, police, schools, libraries, etc.). Infrastructure funding that employs hard-working Californians will go toward high-paid attorneys.
- SB 885 circumvents market conditions and the freedom to contract, and simply forces taxpayers to insure private entities; even when they are 100% liable to the claim.

**SB 1170 (Wieckowski) Public Works Liability — CSDA Position (Oppose)**

Requires special districts and other local agencies to directly manage and implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan on every public works project exceeding one acre in size. Allows for the agency to contract this work with a design professional, but prohibits doing so with the contractors managing and implementing the day-to-day construction of the project.

**SB 1318 (Wolk) Disadvantaged Communities — CSDA Position (Oppose)**

Prohibits a special district or other public agency from extending drinking water or wastewater infrastructure or services until the agency has extended those same services to all disadvantaged communities within or adjacent to its sphere of influence.

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**CSDA Member Benefit**

The final report from the 2015-16 CSDA Administrative Salary and Benefits Survey is now available. More than 400 districts of all types and sizes responded to the survey, providing valuable, up-to-date information on salary, health insurance practices, and retirement plans for 20 of the most common administrative positions. The report enables districts to compare their own data to that submitted by similar agencies, based on criteria such as district type, region, number of employees, and operating revenue. Agencies that participated in the survey receive special pricing on the report.

Contact CSDA member services to order your copy.

# Photos from the April 4, 2016 Meeting at the Pleasant Valley Rec and Park—Senior Center

