



Ventura County Special Districts Association

SEPT/OCT
2013

Offering Quality of Life Services Through Direct Representation



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Elaine Freeman

First I want to point out we will be meeting at the Ventura County Credit Union in Thousand Oaks. The Executive Committee thought this may be a better location than Oak Park because of the traffic situation. Oak Park has a beautiful center which I hope to show off to all of you some time but to ease your drive we thought we would give this a try. Thank you Mike Paule for arranging the new location. Hope you can all come on October 1 and hear a great presentation that will benefit all agencies.

Congratulations to Jim Friedl who has been appointed as a special district representative to the Advisory Council of the Davenport Institute, School of Public Policy at Pepperdine. Also appointed is Kathy Tiegs who is a District 5 CSDA board member representative from the Inland Empire. CSDA has been working with the Institute to have special district representation.

CA Forward: Transparency – CSDA staff has been working with CA Forward to insure that special districts are accurately represented and that any reporting is fair and balanced. This is extremely important that accuracy is presented when dealing with special district financial matters.

CalPers – In looking for a new way to ensure contribution payments from employee agencies are received on time and in full, beginning in August, any invoice not paid within 30 days, CalPers will levy a 10% annual interest rate beginning with the original date of the late contribution payment. Contributions must be paid to CalPERS within 15 calendar days of the end date of each pay period. If CalPERS determines the payment is less than 90% of the contributions have been made, then CalPERS will invoice the employer for the full amount of the contribution payable. The employer will then have 30 days to pay or they will begin charging 10% annual interest rate on the amount due.

**NOW AVAILABLE! Register for
VCSDA meetings ONLINE
at www.vcsda.org**

VCSDA MEETING

OCTOBER 1, 2013

5:30 PM Dinner

6:00 PM Meeting begins

RSVP before deadline with enclosed form.

**Las Virgenes Municipal Water
District will provide an overview of
the EPA's TMDLs for the Malibu
Creek watershed.**



Please update your records:

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Legislative Update



What a busy time as the deadline arrived for bills to be out of both houses and to the governor.

Starting with SB 594, this is a union bill related to campaign finance disclosure by local government associations. The bill targets non-profit association with public agency members and seeks to limit their ability to advocate on ballot measures. It creates a much broader definition of public resources restricted for use on advocacy campaigns. This limits the potential resources that associations could pool for their effort. SB 594 would assume nearly every asset of an association is still a public resource if the source was at one time a public agency dollar (dues). It creates an audit and report requirement for any private resources based on the new broad definition. This could mean using computers, e-mail accounts or telephones to share a position. It should be noted that school related associations and unions are exempted.

At this writing, the final language is not available but special districts should oppose. It is being opposed by CSAC and the League of California Cities.

SB 556 (Corbett) Contracted Services - As of the close, this bill had third reading. This bill creates a laundry list of information that must be included on health and public safety contracted service provider's uniform or vehicle if they display the contracting public agency's logo. The phrase "Service Provided By" or Contracted By" and Name of firm or corporation subcontracted with the public agency and state or federal tax designation of that firm or corporation and city, state and country (if not the US) or where firm or corporation is organized or formed. Strong oppose position.

AB 115 (Perea) Local Water Flexibility – Third reading. Allows multiple water systems to apply to the Dept. of Public Health for clean water funding and to do so on behalf of a disadvantaged communities water system. This legislation empowers local systems with additional flexibility to develop the most compelling efficient solutions to their local challenges.

Continued on page 3



Legislative Update *continued*



AB 217 (Dickinson) Hiring Practices for Public Agencies – Third reading

This measure restricts the ability of local agencies and the state to request criminal history information for potential new hires until the second phase in the hiring process, undermining local control and creating new liabilities for public agencies. Even the Sacramento Bee continues to publish articles that highlight why this is a bad idea.

SB 1 (Steinberg) Sustainable Communities Investment Authorities – Third reading Provides a new mechanism for special districts and other local agencies to invest property tax increment and other available funding to improve infrastructure in a manner that promotes sustainability, and clearly prohibits the shifting of revenue from local agencies without their consent.

SCA 3 (Leno) Public Information – Third reading – As you may recall when the budget was at a stop, the issue of reimbursement to public agencies for Brown Act and Public Records Act was a key part of the process. If SCA 3 successfully earns the support of the voters, the state could force local agencies and local taxpayers to pay for unlimited future mandates, so long as the proposals contain “findings demonstrating that the statutory enactment furthers the purposes of the Brown Act or Calif. Public Records Act.

The CSDA Annual Conference will begin on September 17 so there will be more information will be provided on October 1.

Any questions, please call or e-mail me. Elaine (805) 320-8615 or freemanelf@aol.com



Upcoming VCSDA Meetings



November 5, 2013

Location: TBA



February 4, 2014

*Las Posas Country Club
Camarillo*

Find VCSDA online at www.vcsda.org

Photos from the August 6, 2013 meeting at McCrea Ranch in Thousand Oaks

Photos courtesy of Lee Martin

