



## Quarterly *ENews*

Orange County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

April 2016

### President Appoints Program Committee

At its February meeting, ISDOC President Mike Scheafer appointed a program committee consisting of Mary Aileen Matheis (Irvine Ranch Water District), Mark Monin (El Toro Water District) and Jeanette Contreras (Placentia Library District) to assist Program Chair Jim Fisler explore opportunities for memorable and relevant speakers at quarterly membership meetings. If you have a suggestion for a speaker or program, please let Program Chair Fisler know.

### Costa Mesa Sanitary District Awarded Best Wastewater Collection System in the Region

The Santa Ana River Basin Section (SARBS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) named the Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) as the recipient of the 2015 Collection System of the Year award. SARBS, which boundaries include Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, is one of 17 geographical local sections of CWEA that trains and certifies wastewater professionals and promotes sound policies to benefit society through protection and enhancement of statewide water environment.

The designation of 'Collection of the Year' is one of the most prestigious SARBS/CWEA awards. This award recognizes an agency's significant accomplishments, safety record, training program, regulatory compliance, maintenance program, along with documented administrative and emergency procedures.

This is the second time in five years that CMSD has been awarded this award. SARBS recognized CMSD for its innovative use of wireless tablets to download GIS maps and electronic work orders in the field, as well as installing and procuring emergency generators for backup power at all 20 lift stations. CMSD also used key performance indicators to help evaluate the productivity of the Wastewater Division.

In addition to their innovative solutions, CMSD was recognized for their commitment to preventing sanitary sewer overflows by purchasing new wastewater cleaning vehicles and by creating a comic book hero, Sewer Slayer, to educate the public about the dangers of overflows.

### IRWD Wins California 2015 Sewage Collection System of the Year

On March 15th, Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was selected as the winner of the 2015 California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Sewage Collection System of the Year Award. The District took home top honors in the large-agency category, which includes organizations that manage more than 500 miles of sewer pipeline.

Earlier this month, IRWD was chosen as Sewage Collection System of the Year for the Santa Ana River Basin Section, which includes Orange County, as well as parts of San Diego and Riverside Counties. After winning the regional award, IRWD moved on to compete for the title of best sewage collection system in California.

The annual award is presented to the agency that has demonstrated excellence in the programs and procedures of sewage collection. Agencies are judged on factors that include regulatory compliance, administrative procedures, maintenance, safety and training programs, emergency response procedures, and significant accomplishments including funding and investing in capital projects.

IRWD has provided sewage collection services to Orange County residents for over 50 years. The District currently manages more than 1,000 miles of sewer pipeline, operates 2 recycled water facilities with a combined treatment capacity of 35 million gallons per day and maintains approximately 97,000 sewer service connections. The District cleaned more than 660 miles of sewer pipeline last year.

## Spotlight District

# Serrano Water District



Serrano Water District ("Serrano") was established in 1876 initially as an irrigation district to provide water to orchards and groves of various varieties of fruit trees. Today Serrano provides potable water to the City of Villa Park and a small portion of the City of Orange. Serrano receives its water supply from local surface water which is stored in Irvine Lake and groundwater from three wells located within the City of Villa Park.

Serrano water sales were up to approximately 3200 acre feet of water annually prior to the drought mandate. With the current drought mandates in place Serrano has been able to achieve a cumulative reduction of over 38 percent.



Serrano has 43 miles of pipe, 3 wells, a treatment plant, and two reservoirs. The District owns 50% of Santiago Reservoir. Irvine Ranch Water District owns the other 50% of reservoir. Serrano also owns 25% of the native water in Santiago Reservoir. Serrano provides water for a population of 6,500 covering approximately 4.7 square miles, serving primarily half acre single family homes with many over one acre and one commercial shopping center. The District's service area is built out with an opportunity for a small amount of infill.

Although a small district geographically, Serrano provides excellent customer service and a concierge level of water conservation outreach. Serrano is also very proud of its state of the art water treatment plant that has the ability to treat raw native water run-off into Santiago Reservoir (Irvine Lake) as well as treat untreated Metropolitan water that can be purchased and stored in the Santiago Reservoir. This allows its service area an uninterrupted supply of local water

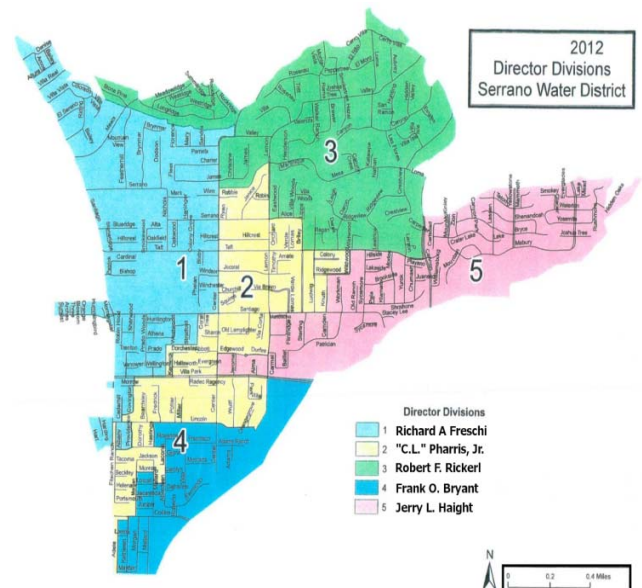
even during an emergency at an advantageous cost to the rate payers of Villa Park.

As a small district providing service to a small city, the community served is proud of the small independent nature of Serrano and all the fantastic services offered that typically exceed that of larger agencies with tremendous value.

Serrano is an "Enterprise Activities" special district and as such it is financed entirely by water related revenues with no collection via ad-valorem taxes. This is a very important point because Serrano is one of the very few water purveyors that have a flat water rate so that the true cost of water is conveyed in every water bill and does not have a hidden ad-valorem tax on the County tax bill.

Serrano is also very proud for the accomplishment specifically related to the State's mandated reductions as mentioned previously. Immediately following the State's emergency declaration, Serrano's Board took the initiative very seriously and instituted an extremely effective penalty structure. The structure gave all users a new adjusted baseline to adhere to and manage their watering accordingly to avoid a penalty.

Additionally, it was put in place at the on-set of the emergency so that there would not be a panic re-action later by not meeting the cumulative requirements resulting in a complete destruction in commercial and residential landscape. The result has been well received and the majority of the customers complied with the restrictions.



# Grant Opportunities



## State Water Resources Control Board: Interim State Water Resources Control Board: Water Recycling Funding Program (WFRP)

December 2030 (currently accepting applications via FAAST system)

Amount: \$75,000 (for Planning Grants); \$15-\$20 Million (for Construction Grants)

Match: 50% (for Planning Grants); 35% (for Construction Grants)

Financing: For Construction applications Interest at 1/2 General Obligation Bond Rate; 30 year term; Allowance following the CWSRF Policy

Eligibility: local public agencies

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/water\\_recycling/proposition1\\_funding.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/water_recycling/proposition1_funding.shtml)

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) provides funding for the planning, design, and construction of water recycling projects that offset or augment state fresh water supplies. There are two programs within this fund:

- **Planning Grants:** The purpose of the planning grant is to assist agencies or regions with completing feasibility studies for water recycling projects using treated municipal wastewater and/or treated groundwater from sources contaminated by human activities. Only local public agencies are eligible to apply for planning grants.
- **Construction Grants:** The Water Recycling Funding Program provides grants and financing to eligible applicants for the construction of water recycling facilities. Construction projects may be funded with grants and low interest financing from a state bond, a CWSRF financing agreement, or combinations of funding sources. Eligible applicants are local public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, state & federal recognized Indian tribes, and mutual water companies.

## California Energy Commission: The Energy Partnership Program

Deadline: Continuous

Amount: \$20,000 of a consultant's costs

Match: Any amount in excess of the \$20,000 provided  
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency/partnership/index.html>

The Energy Partnership Program can conduct an energy audit of existing facilities identify energy saving projects, including: Conduct energy audits and prepare feasibility studies; Review existing proposals and

designs; Develop equipment performance specifications; Review equipment bid specifications;

Assist with contractor selection; and Review commissioning plans. The Energy partnership also provides technical assistance early in the design phase of new facility construction, including: Provide design review consultation; Identify cost-effective, energy-saving measures; Compare different technologies; Review schematics and construction plans; Provide equipment specification consultation; Develop computer simulation models of your planned project; Help select experienced professionals with energy efficiency expertise; and Assist with system commissioning.

## State Water Resources Control Board: Interim Emergency Drinking Water and Drought Related Drinking Water Funding Application

Deadline: Applications accepted until June 30, 2016  
Amount: \$500,000

Match: None

Eligibility: Public Agencies, Community Water Systems, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Tribes  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/caa/dw\\_droughtfund/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/caa/dw_droughtfund/index.shtml)

On March 27, 2015, Governor Brown approved a \$1 billion emergency drought relief package to take effect immediately. As a result of the Governor's action, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved \$19 million in funding from the Cleanup and Abatement Account to meet interim emergency drinking water needs for those communities with a contaminated water supply or that suffer drought related water outages or threatened emergencies. Eligible projects include Bottled Water; Well Repair, Well Rehabilitation, and Replacement; Vending Machines; Point of Use Devices (for example, Filtration); Hauled Water; Emergency Interties; and Treatment Systems.

### For Additional Information

CSDA's Business Affiliate, California Consulting, recently released a list of grant opportunities for special districts and other local agencies. These grants are available for a range of projects including land conservation, water and energy efficiency, air pollution control, and many more. This Special District Grants list provides detailed information regarding the deadline for filing a grant proposal, typical amount of the grant award, which entities are eligible, and a link to find out how to apply for the grant. For more information about available grants, visit: [www.californiaconsulting.org](http://www.californiaconsulting.org).

# Improved Grand Jury Reports



CSDA has sponsored legislation to improve the accuracy and public benefit of grand jury reports. Late last year CSDA sent out a survey asking its members about their experiences with grand juries and their thoughts on opportunities to enhance grand jury reports. The results of that survey show that over half of the districts taking the survey have been the subject of a grand jury investigation, and that 58% of those districts felt that the reports included inaccurate information.

Grand juries and the reports they produce play an important role in California, serving as a watchdog over public agencies and providing the public with information about how their local governments are performing. However, grand jury reports, if inaccurate, can cause unnecessary harm to a districts' reputation and breakdown the public trust. It is for these reasons that CSDA is sponsoring Senate Bill 1292.

SB 1292 aims to improve grand jury reports by requiring grand juries to perform an exit interview with all agencies that are the subject of an investigation in order to review the accuracy of the grand juries' findings. Additionally, the bill will require grand juries to provide final reports to agencies that are the subject of an investigation prior to the reports being publically released. Subject agencies will then have six days to submit comments to the grand jury, which will be released with the grand jury's report when it is released publically. Finally, it would allow the preliminary report to be discussed in closed session.

## Future California Special Districts Events

### Legislative Days

May 17 - 18, 2016, Hyatt Regency, Sacramento

### General Manager Leadership Summit

June 12 - 14, 2016, Resort at Squaw Valley

### Special District Leadership Academy

July 10 - 13, 2016, Embassy Suites, Napa Valley

## Upcoming Webinars

- 4/14 Legislative Roundup
- 4/20 Compensation Earnable - Comply with CalPERS
- 4/26 Technology and the Public Records Act
- 4/28 Webinar: Best Practices in Agenda Prep and Taking Minutes
- 5/26 Communications Protocols for Board Members/Staff
- 6/1 AB 1825 Sexual Harassment Prevention

- 6/29 LAFCO 101 for Special Districts
- 7/17 Avoiding Construction Payment & Performance Problems
- 7/21 What is Public Engagement and Why Do I Do It?
- 7/27 New Tools to Pay for Infrastructure

## "On-Demand" Webinars

CSDA's new Our new on-demand webinar service allows you to participate in webinars at a time when it's most convenient for you. You can even print your own certificate when you are finished viewing. SDRMA members can attend free of charge and earn Credit Incentive Points based on an agency's attendance at many of the webinars. Check back frequently because more webinars are being added all the time.

[http://members.csdanet.net/imis15/CSDA/Bookstore/OnDemandwebinar\\_Search.aspx](http://members.csdanet.net/imis15/CSDA/Bookstore/OnDemandwebinar_Search.aspx)

## Legislation Update

**SB885** - in Senate committee; this bill would specify that for construction contracts entered into on or after January 1, 2017, a design professional, only has the duty to defend claims that arise out of, or pertain or relate to, negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of the design professional. A design professional would not have a duty to defend claims against any other person or entity arising from a construction project, except that person or entity's reasonable defense costs arising out of the design professional's degree of fault.

**SB1318** - in Senate committee; this bill would prohibit LAFCOs from authorizing a city or a district to extend drinking water infrastructure or services or wastewater infrastructure or services until it has entered into an enforceable agreement to extend the same services to all disadvantaged communities within its sphere of influence or adjacent to its jurisdictional boundaries, unless specified conditions are met

**AB1589** - in Assembly committee; this bill would, for the duration of a state emergency proclaimed by the Governor due to drought conditions, exempt certain projects from CEQA that were undertaken, carried out or approved by a public agency to mitigate those drought conditions.

**AB2613** - in Assembly committee; this bill would authorize a special district with annual revenues \$150,000 or less to, by unanimous request of its governing board and with unanimous approval of the board of supervisors, replace the annual audit with an annual financial compilation and an annual review of the internal control procedures of the special district to be performed by the county auditor in accordance with professional standards.



## Send us your District News and Press Releases!

Please send your district news releases to ISDOC Secretary Leslie Keane (l.keane@orccd.com) and keep us informed of all the exciting things your special district is doing. We welcome your contributions to our newsletter!

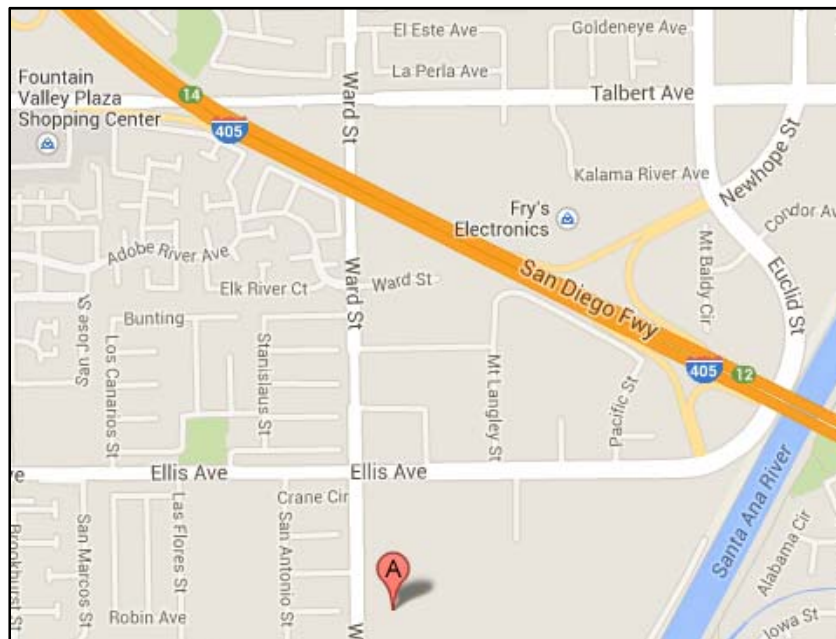
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### Mark your calendars with our future Meeting Dates:

**Executive Committee: First Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 a.m.**  
**General Membership: June 30 ♦ September 29, 11:30 a.m.**

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### We meet at the MWDOC/OCWD Offices 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA



#### **ISDOC Executive Committee**

President: Mike Scheafer (CMSD) ~ First Vice President: Jim Fisler (Mesa WD)  
Second Vice President: Sandra Jacobs (SMWD) ~ Third Vice President: Joel Rattner (RLASD)  
Treasurer: Joan Finnegan (MWDOC) ~ Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Leslie Keane (OCCD)  
Past President: Rich Freschi (SWD) ~ Staff: Heather Baez (MWDOC)

#### **Representatives to Regional Organizations:**

LAFCO: John Withers (IRWD), Charley Wilson (SMWD), Jim Fisler (CMWD)  
OCCOG: Phil Anthony (OCWD), Joan Finnegan (MWDOC)  
OC Operational Area: Kelly Hubbard (MWDOC), Susan Hinman (MWDOC), Joan Finnegan (MWDOC)