



Quarterly *E*News

Orange County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

July 2016

ISDOC Seeks Nominees for Executive Committee Officers

ISDOC is seeking candidates for the positions of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer on its Executive Committee. Terms are for two years, commencing on January 1, 2017.

The election will be by mail ballot during the month of September and new officers will be announced at the September 29, 2016 general membership meeting.

Nominations will close on August 19, 2016. Any Board Member/Trustee of a regular ISDOC member agency is eligible for nomination to any of the open positions. Individuals who wish to be considered for a position should submit a letter of interest for that position, together with a resolution from their Board authorizing their candidacy.

All Executive Committee officers are "working" positions and each has distinct responsibilities:

President: The President is the chief executive officer of ISDOC. He or she presides at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee; appoints all committees, and represents ISDOC as its official spokesperson.

First Vice-President: The First Vice President chairs the Program Committee, and in the absence of the President, serves as the President. The Program Committee plans and secures speakers for quarterly general membership meetings.

Second Vice-President: The Second Vice President chairs the Membership Committee, and in the absence of the President and First Vice President, serves as the President. The Membership Committee makes recommendations for the recruitment and retention of regular and associate members.

Third Vice-President: The Third Vice President chairs the Legislative Committee, and in the absence of

the President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President, serves as the President. The Legislative Committee reports on legislation of interest to special districts and recommends support and opposition positions.

Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for all correspondence and the distribution of information to members. The Secretary prepares and disseminates agendas and minutes for the Executive Committee meeting, and edits and publishes the quarterly newsletter.

Treasurer: The Treasurer maintains ISDOC financial records and bank accounts, collects dues and other receipts, and pays all bills duly approved by the Executive Committee.

If you are seeking nomination to a position on the Executive Committee, please send your letter/email of interest and a copy of your Board's authorizing resolution to Heather Baez at HBaez@mwdoc.com. All nominations must be received by August 19.

If you have any questions about any of the positions or the election process, please contact either Heather Baez (HBaez@mwdoc.com) or Leslie Keane (l.keane@occd.com).



Congratulations El Toro Water District!

The WateReuse Association, California Section, has named El Toro Water District its 2016 Recycled Water Agency of the Year, and as its awardee for the WateReuse Award for Excellence in its size category. This award recognizes agencies that have developed recycled water, on a significant level, as an alternative water source within their service area, regionally or statewide.

Spotlight District

Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District



The Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District (SMRPD) was formed on March 22, 1961; it covers 65 square miles of East Orange County, including Silverado, Modjeska, Black Star, Williams and Baker canyons. Traveling here is like going back in time.

These canyons first appear in historical record in 1769 when the Governor of Lower California, Senor Don Gasper de Portola, called the area "Canyon de la Madera" (Canyon of Timber). The area was mainly used for grazing cattle and logging trees, which were used to build San Juan Capistrano Mission.

The canyons achieved notoriety throughout history:

- 1831 – Black Star was the site of the last Native American massacre in California. Registered CA Historic Landmark #217 and OC Landmark #93.
- 1870 – Homesteaders trickled into the canyons until all canyons housed people.
- 1877 – Two hunters found silver, and within a week up to 300 people rushed into Silverado; eventually 500 claims were filed.
- 1878 – Coal mines were discovered, which yielded six to 10 tons daily.
- 1879 – Boom Town: Spurred by silver and coal, the population increased to 1,500 and the area included three hotels, three general stores, two blacksmiths, two meat markets, two post offices and seven saloons. Stagecoaches traveled three times daily to Santa Ana and twice daily to Los Angeles.
- 1881 and 1883 – the coal ran out and the silver faded away, respectively. All that remains is Registered California Historical Landmark #228.
- 1888 – World-renowned actress Helena Modjeska purchased 16 acres and built a home, which is now the heart of Modjeska Canyon.
- 1893 – Trabuco Reserve was named by Presidential Proclamation.
- 1908 – President Theodore Roosevelt named 122,168 acres of open space in honor of President Grover Cleveland. Today the 567,000 square acre Cleveland National Forest encircles the District.
- 2016 – Silverado, Modjeska, Black Star, Williams and Baker canyons have a population of around 1,900 and the area includes one post office, one restaurant and approximately 1,000 homes.

SMRPD owns two properties: Silverado Community Center and Fairgrounds and Modjeska Community Center and Park. Both have basketball courts, children's playgrounds, grass areas and gazebos. The Silverado Fairgrounds is home to the Silverado Summer Concert Series, now in its 10th year. The District also sponsors and hosts an annual Chili Cook-Off in the spring and a Country Fair in the fall, along with recreation programs for Adults, Youths, and Seniors, including Summer Movie Nights, TaiChi, Zumba, Yoga, Pilates and the Senior Lunch Bunch.

SMRPD also operates the Silverado Children's Center, a preschool that is rapidly becoming Orange County's premier nature-centered preschool. It attracts children from both inside and outside the canyon area.

All District facilities are available to rent at discounted prices to canyon residents. Flatlanders (an endearing term for non-canyon residents) may also rent the facilities for a fraction of something comparable "downtown".



The SMRPD Board is all about transparency and community involvement in every aspect of governing. The District logo was developed through a contest, which brought out some great talented artists, professional and amateur alike. A committee was formed, a winner selected and the new logo has seen active duty going on four years. The logo represents the canyons and is shaped like an Oak Tree acorn.

SMRPD 's beautiful natural setting is a truly unique location. We are the last rural area in Orange County, come on over and check us out!





CSDA LISTSERV

Do you want to get feedback from other districts about an issue, but don't want to make 25 phone calls? If so, you should be subscribed to the CSDA listserv.

CSDA's email listserv is a powerful communication tool for CSDA members. It makes it easy for members to share information and ideas, and ask questions and get answers from those most qualified to answer. Once you are subscribed, you can send your question or issue to one email address and it will automatically be delivered to everyone else on the list. There are currently over 200 members subscribed.

To subscribe to the Listserv, go to <http://www.csda.net/login/listserv/> and complete the form on the page. If you have trouble signing up or have any questions about the listserv, contact Cassandra Strawn at cassandras@csda.net or 877.924.2732

DEPENDENT or INDEPENDENT?

Independent special districts are formed under California law for the performance of local governmental functions within specific boundaries. Special districts range in size and often cross political boundary lines, such as city and/or county borders, to serve a common good. There is a clear identification of services provided, which results in a high level of accountability to the public, and a high degree of customer satisfaction.

Districts are governed by board of directors, or trustees, elected or appointed to fixed terms, and are directly accountable to the public. Boards are subject to initiative, referendum, recall, the Brown Act and other related public agency statutes. The directors/trustees are members of the communities they serve and must reside in or own property within their respective service areas. They often work and interact within the community in which they reside.

Independent special districts are separate local agencies, created by local petition or through popular election. They are directly accountable to their constituents, not another layer of government. **Independent special districts** are further characterized as enterprise and non-enterprise districts. Non-enterprise districts provide those governmental services on a district-wide basis which cannot be economically funded solely through user fees, such as fire protection, parks and libraries. For this reason, non-enterprise districts rely primarily on a portion of local property tax revenues to fund their facilities and services. Enterprise districts, on the other

hand, usually provide direct, site specific services to property within their district and may recover most or all of their service delivery costs through rates imposed on users of the service.

Dependent special districts are administrative extensions of cities or counties. They depend on another unit of government for their existence, and are only accountable to this layer of government.

Did You Know... Voters have approved 2,162 independent special districts in California. It is important to note that while the State Controller's 2010-11 report lists 4,772 "special districts," over half of these are actually non-profit corporations or components of other governments. In Orange County, there are 27 independent special districts and five dependent districts.

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

Deadline: December 2030 (currently accepting applications via FFAST 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.

Eligibility: local public agencies.

For more information/application process see:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/water_recycling/proposition1_funding.shtml

There are two programs within this fund:

- **Planning Grants:** Planning grants 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:** 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 and federal recognized Indian tribes, and mutual water companies.



Special District Risk Management Authority

In January 1986, representatives of over 60 special districts throughout California met in Sacramento, at the invitation of the California Special Districts Association, to study the feasibility of developing a self-funded liability risk financing pool designed specifically for "Special Districts". At that time, even after commercial rates doubled and tripled, commercial insurance companies began canceling coverage for public agencies. In response, the Special District Insurance Authority (SDIA) was formed. This organization developed into the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA).

SDRMA is a public agency formed under California Government Code Section 6500 et seq. For 30 years, SDRMA has provided members comprehensive coverage protection for workers' compensation, general liability, public officials errors and omissions, employment practices liability, auto, property, boiler and machinery and crime and fidelity coverage. Its combined membership totals over 660 individual public agencies, with over \$4 billion in member insured property.

SDRMA also partners with several companies to provide special programs at no cost to its members including, TargetSolutions™ online training, Company Nurse telephone triage program, Lapidus Safety Consulting for loss prevention and safety visits and an Employment Law Legal Hotline using Best Best & Krieger!

Since November 2005, SDRMA has been accredited with Excellence by the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA). The CAJPA accreditation program has been operating since 1989 and reviews the organizational structure and activities of a joint powers authority (JPA) comparing the JPA with standards adopted by the Association believed to be advantageous to the preservation and performance of the individual JPA and JPAs in California as a whole.

SDRMA is a partner agency with the California Special Districts' Association. ISDOC President Mike Schaefer is a member of its Board of Directors.

Future California Special Districts Events

Special District Leadership Academy
July 10-13, 2016, Embassy Suites, Napa Valley

Annual Conference
October 10-13, 2016, Sheraton, San Diego

Board Secretary/Clerk Conference
November 14-16, Embassy Suites, Monterey Bay

Upcoming Webinars

- Avoiding Construction Payment and Performance Problems - July 19
- What is Public Engagement and Why Do It - July 21
- New Tools to Pay for Infrastructure - July 27
- Legislative Round-Up - August 11
- Understanding Property Taxes and Your Budget - August 16

Legislation Update

AB 2613 - amended and ordered to third reading. Would authorize a small special district, until January 1, 2027, by unanimous vote of its governing board and unanimous approval of the board of supervisors, to replace the annual audit with an annual financial compilation of the special district to be performed by the county auditor, or an agreed-upon procedures engagement, in accordance with professional standards. **CSDA sponsored bill.**

SB 1292 - held in committee/failed deadline. Would require a grand jury to conduct at least one exit interview with each agency to which recommendations will be directed; would authorize the grand jury, with the court's approval, to provide to the exit interviewee a copy of the draft findings related to that agency and would allow agency at least 5 working days to provide written comments concerning the draft findings; would allow the agency 6 working days to respond to the final report before publication; and would allow agencies to meet in closed session to discuss draft findings. **CSDA sponsored bill.**

SB 885 - held in committee/failed deadline. Would have required a public agency to defend the actions of design professionals by creating a "reimbursement only" process that would have resulted in the public agency shouldering all of the associated costs upfront. The public agency would have then had to seek reimbursement from the design professional, to the extent the design professional was found negligent, once a settlement was reached.

SB1170 - in Senate Appropriations. Would prohibit a public entity from delegating the development of a plan to prevent or reduce water pollution or runoff on a public works contract to a contractor; would also prohibit a public entity from requiring a contractor on a public works contract that includes compliance with a plan to assume responsibility for the completeness and accuracy of a plan developed by the agency.

2016 CA Legislative Calendar

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| July 1-31 | Summer Recess |
| Aug 12 | Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report out bills to the floor |
| Aug 19 | Last day to amend bills on the floor |
| Aug 31 | Last day for each house to pass bills |
| Sept 30 | Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills |
| Oct. 2 | Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2017 |



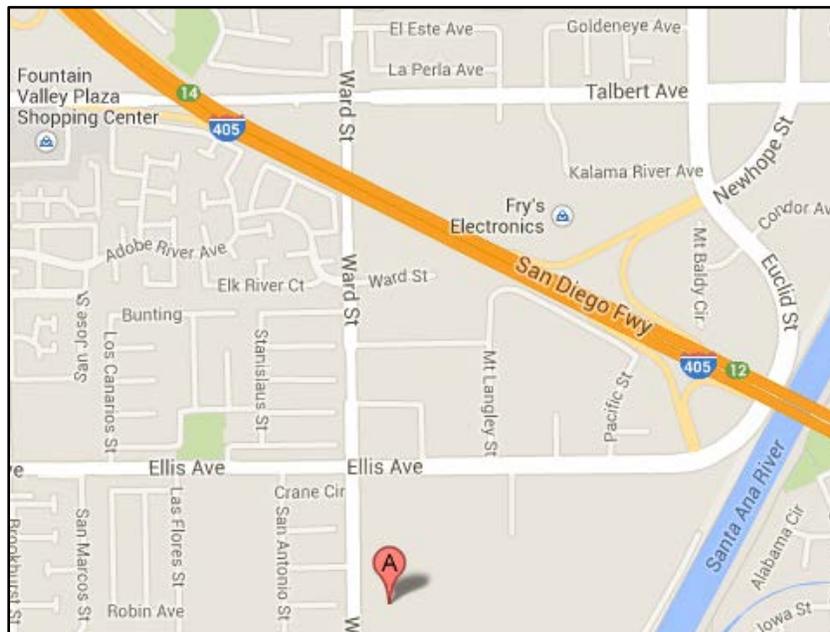
Send us your District News and Press Releases!

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!

Mark your calendars with our future Meeting Dates:

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

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)
Immediate 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)