

## Quarterly *ENews*

Orange County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

October 2016

### New ISDOC Executive Committee Officers

New ISDOC Executive Committee Officers were announced at the September 29, 2016 annual meeting.

- President:** Jim Fisler - Mesa Water District  
**First Vice President:** Saundra Jacobs - Santa Margarita Water District  
**Second Vice President:** Mark Monin - El Toro Water District  
**Third Vice President:** Mary Aileen Matheis - Irvine Ranch Water District  
**Secretary:** Leslie Keane - Orange County Cemetery District  
**Treasurer:** Joan Finnegan - Municipal Water District of Orange County  
**Immediate Past President:** Mike Scheafer - Costa Mesa Sanitary District

New Committee members will take office in January 2017.

### MWDOC's Expanding Water Education Program

More high school students in Orange County will receive lessons about where water comes from, the importance of the California Water Fix and water efficiency tips as the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) launches its second year of its high school program.

MWDOC's high school program, "What About Water," is a partnership with the Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors (ITO) and Orange County water agencies. Under the program, ITO sends instructors into classrooms to teach students key water concepts, and then guide them as the students organize a school-wide Expo to teach other students about the value of water.

MWDOC launched the high school program to build on the success of its long-running elementary education

program. In both programs, Orange County water agencies determine if they want to participate in the effort.

The lessons learned in the elementary program are carried into the high school effort. The initial high school program drew 14 high schools; this year the program will reach 23 schools.

In addition, OCDE is working with MWDOC and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) to host a teacher training for a water-quality curriculum and software package MET has developed with Caltech. MWDOC and OCDE are working with MET to ensure the MET program is introduced for possible use in Orange County, offering another avenue for water education.

### CSDA Student Video Competition

In an effort to increase the understanding and awareness of special districts, the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is hosting a video competition for California high school and college students. Students are invited to learn more about special districts and enter the contest by creating a 60-second video. The main focus of the video must be on an individual special district, a type of special district, or a service provided by a special district.

Submissions will be accepted until October 31, 2016 at which point five finalists will be selected and featured on the Districts Make the Difference website for statewide voting. Starting November 1, the public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite video and the top three winners will receive scholarship prizes - \$500 to \$2,000.

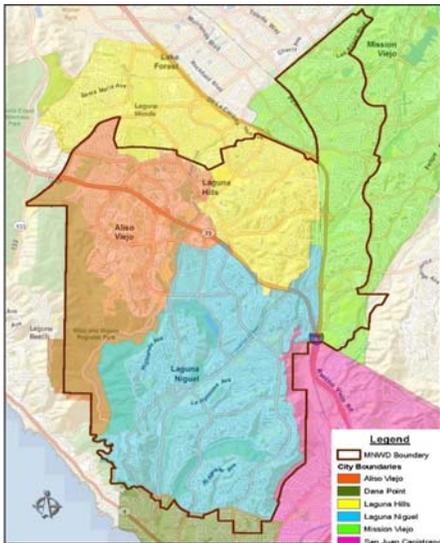
For additional information and official rules see the Districts Make a Difference website or contact CSDA's Public Affairs Specialist, Bernice Creager via email [bernicec@csda.net](mailto:bernicec@csda.net) or by calling 916-442-7887

# Moulton Niguel Water District



Prior to becoming one of Orange County's most bustling coastal communities, the areas served today by the Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) were once part of two sprawling Spanish land grants used primarily for ranching: Rancho Niguel and Rancho Mission Viejo. Lacking a reliable water supply to maintain their herds, the area's ranchers banded together in 1960 to create their own water agency – and MNWD was formed.

Over the next several decades as the area developed further and its customer base increased, MNWD also expanded its water supply portfolio by investing in local reliability projects such as storage reservoirs, building emergency



interconnections, partnering on wastewater treatment and providing recycled water. Fast forward to today, MNWD serves more than 170,000 customers in Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills, Mission Viejo, and Dana Point and remains committed to ensuring that its communities have a reliable, sustainable and economical water supply for the future.

To uphold this commitment, MNWD has invested approximately \$75 million dollars in reliability projects just in the last 10 years, forming partnerships throughout the region to enhance resiliency during drought and emergency conditions. In light of the current, unprecedented drought conditions, MNWD's industry-leading demand management strategies, which have been recognized statewide as innovative and effective, are successful in serving its customers to achieve cost-effective, long-term water savings and enhanced water reliability. The overarching goal of the strategies is to achieve conservation through increased awareness and informed decisions by customers about how they choose to use water, and ultimately, using water in the most efficient way possible.

MNWD's water budget-based rate structure is an example of an ongoing demand management strategy that empowers customer preference in how they maintain and live within their water budgets. The water budgets are calculated based on efficient indoor and outdoor water use for individual customer needs. In times of emergency, our Water Shortage Contingency Plan provides the groundwork for actions that reinforces the need for long-term conservation behavior and prompts customers to stay within their water budgets. To face today's and future challenges, the Board of Directors and staff work together to promote innovative thinking, integrated planning and a diverse workforce.

The cornerstone of MNWD's success is collaboration, internally within the District and through external partnerships as well – both of which are a testament to the District's success in implementing water use efficiency programs and projects. From engineering and operations, to customer service and conservation, to human resources and accounting; every employee at the District plays a significant role in providing water reliability services to its customers. This effort is further elevated through the role of external partnerships and collaboration with neighboring water agencies, cities, civic and community organizations, academic institutions, and more. These partnerships emphasize the importance of teamwork and the notion that we as organizations, and Californians, need to work together to help make water conservation a California way of life.



For more information, please follow MNWD on social media or visit [www.mnwd.com](http://www.mnwd.com)

## IRWD Partners with Private Company on Energy Storage

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and the clean tech energy storage company Advanced Microgrid Solutions have announced a public-private partnership to install the largest network of energy storage systems at a public water agency in the nation.



The grid support project will enable IRWD to store energy, making it available to reduce demand from the grid when requested by the utility without interrupting water treatment operations. The project also will reduce the need for additional supply from fossil fuel generation in a region challenged by the closure of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

It is estimated that the system will save IRWD more than \$500,000 per year and help stabilize and balance demand on the strapped Southern California electrical grid. These energy savings advance IRWD's sustainability efforts.

The partnership allows IRWD to address one of California's great environmental challenges – the "water/energy nexus." Water and energy use are inextricably intertwined in that the pumping, treatment and distribution of water requires significant amounts of electricity. Public water agencies throughout the state are exploring how best to smooth high energy demands, decrease costs and reduce their carbon footprints.

The 7 MW/34 MWh network will utilize Tesla batteries, installed at 11 of IRWD's largest and most energy-intensive facilities, as part of a major grid modernization project for Southern California Edison. The facilities that will utilize the batteries include three water treatment and recycling plants, a deep aquifer treatment system, a groundwater desalter facility and six high-energy pumping stations. The energy storage systems will be linked together as a network providing IRWD facility managers real time visibility and

operational flexibility in responding to utility requests for demand reduction.

The IRWD-AMS Project is supported by a 10-year power-purchase agreement with SCE. Under that agreement, AMS will design, finance, install and operate energy storage systems at IRWD facilities and manage requests from SCE for load reduction at IRWD's facilities when needed to balance the grid.

## Senate Bill 272: Software Catalogues

Senate Bill 272, which became effective in July, requires all local agencies, except schools, to create a catalog of their software enterprise systems and post the catalog to their website if they have one, or make it available to the public if requested. Special districts - no matter their size or complexity or whether they have a website or not - must comply with this law.

The bill - chaptered as Government Code Section 6270.5 - defines an enterprise system as a software application or computer system that collects, stores, exchanges, and analyzes information that the agency uses that is a multi-departmental system or system that contains information collected about the public *and* a system of record. A system of record means a system that serves as an original source of data within an agency.

For each enterprise system included in the catalog list, agencies must disclose:

- Current system vendor
- Current system product
- The purpose of the system and what kind of data is stored in it
- The department that serves as the system's primary custodian
- How frequently system data is collected and updated

Enterprise systems do not include cybersecurity systems, infrastructure and mechanical control systems, or information that would reveal vulnerabilities to, or otherwise increase the potential for an attack on, a public agency's IT system.

The Senate Governance and Finance Committee will be holding an informational hearing to discuss this bill on October 7th. The goal is to hear about agency compliance rates, issues with compliance, and if the legislation requires amendments. Additionally, the Committee will be hearing from third party data collectors about what additional information they would like to see provided in order to make the information more valuable to them, and if there is a better way to report the information from their perspective.



## The Little Hoover Commission

The Little Hoover Commission, is an independent state oversight agency that was created in 1962. The Commission's mission, which is enumerated in statute, is to investigate state government operations and through reports, recommendations and legislative proposals promote efficiency, economy and improved service.

By law, the Commission is a bipartisan board composed of five citizen members appointed by the Governor, four citizen members appointed by the Legislature, two Senators and two Assembly members. No more than five of the nine public members may be from the same party and legislators from each body must be from different parties.

The Commission selects study topics that come to its attention from citizens, legislators and other sources. In addition, it has a statutory obligation to review and make recommendations on proposed government reorganization plans.

The Little Hoover Commission is currently reviewing California's network of special districts. The Commission previously studied special districts in 1999 and issued a report in 2000, titled ***Special Districts: Relics of the Past or Resources for the Future?*** The Commission's recommendations at that time included empowering Local Agency Formation Commissions to help consolidate districts, finding ways to make special districts more transparent and accountable to the public, requiring more prudent management of financial reserves and making it tougher for special districts to simultaneously collect fees and property taxes.

The Commission held a public hearing on special districts on August 25, 2016. It heard testimony and discussed: how changing times are affecting special districts, consolidation and the role of LAFCOs in governing special districts, how climate change is affecting special districts, public awareness/engagement/ oversight, and the role of property taxes and fees in funding special districts. Following the hearing, the Commission decided to focus its current review on the need for special districts to prepare for changes in the environment due to climate change; a second hearing is scheduled for October 27. Additionally, the Commission will hold a less formal "advisory committee" meeting on healthcare districts November 16.

### Future California Special Districts Events

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

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

**How to be an Effective New Board Member**  
**December 12, Fallbrook Public Utility District**

### Upcoming Webinars

- Responding to Data Breaches - December 6

**CSDA also has 39 on-demand webinars available to members on its website.**

## Legislation Update

**AB 1680** - signed and chaptered. Makes it a misdemeanor for someone operating a drone to impede emergency personnel from performing their duties.

**AB 2389** - signed and chaptered. Permits a special district, through a resolution adopted by its governing board, to change the method of electing its governing board members from an at-large to a by-district method of election.

**AB 2476** - signed and chaptered. Requires special districts and other local agencies to notify a property owner of an approved parcel tax following its successful passage, if the property owner does not reside within the jurisdiction where the parcel tax is levied. Notification must be done by mail and local agencies may rely on the parcel tax revenues to recover reasonable costs associated with providing the notice.

**AB 2613** - signed and chaptered. Authorizes 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.**

**AB 2853** - signed and chaptered. Authorizes a public agency that posts a public record on its Internet Web site to refer a person that requests to inspect or obtain a copy of the public record to the public agency's Internet Web site where the public record is posted.

**SB 1207** - signed and chaptered. Extends the operative date of the State Energy Conservation Assistance Account (ECAA) program from January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2028. The ECAA program provides low interest loans to public entities, including special districts, for eligible energy efficiency projects.

**Help CSDA prepare for the upcoming 2017 Legislative Session - which will be convened on December 5 - by taking a legislative priorities survey (available on the CSDA website) and sharing your ideas for new legislation. CSDA's Legislative Committee will develop the association's 2017 priorities based on your response to this survey.**



## 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!

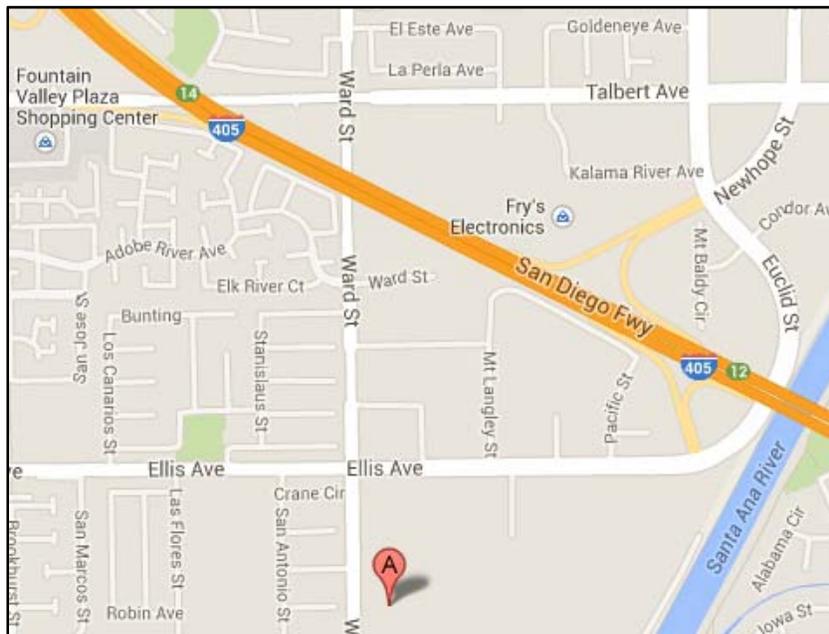
---

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

**Executive Committee: First Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 a.m.**  
**General Membership: 2017 Schedule Announced in December**

---

### 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), Mike Scheafer (CMSD)  
OC Operational Area: Kelly Hubbard (MWDOC), Susan Hinman (MWDOC), Joan Finnegan (MWDOC)