



Quarterly ENews

Orange County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

January 2016

Governor's Proposed Budget

On January 7, 2016, Governor Brown introduced his proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget plan in the amount of \$170.7 billion, \$122.6 billion of which relates to General Fund expenditures. The proposal provides significant increases in funding for education, health care and state infrastructure, and makes a supplemental deposit of \$2 billion into the state's Rainy Day Fund – boosting the balance from 37 percent to 65 percent of its constitutional target. Under the main economic scenario in this year's LAO Fiscal Outlook, 2016-17 would end with reserves of \$11.5 billion, assuming the state makes no new budget commitments through next year beyond those in the Governor's proposal.

The Governor's budget letter to the Legislature notes that relative to years past, the state budget is in good shape. He cautions, however, that 69.5 percent of the state's General Fund revenues come from the volatile personal income tax and continued budget restraint is required.

The proposed budget includes a one-time sum of \$323 million to address drought in the coming fiscal year - funding to protect water supplies, conserve water and provide emergency assistance to farm workers, fish and wildlife. The budget also includes \$215 million to fight wildfires as a result of drought, including a significant number of trees dying throughout the state.

Eighty-two bills have been introduced related to the budget - 41 in each house.

Prop 218 Initiative Submitted

A proposed initiative to amend the Proposition 218 process for water and sewer rates has been submitted to the Attorney General (AG) by the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, and the Association of California Water Agencies. Specifically, the proposed initiative would amend the California Constitution to do the following: 1) establish optional funding methods to allow water

providers to set conservation based rates; 2) levy fees and charges through the Proposition 218 process for flood control and stormwater management and 3) Create low-income rates for water and sewer fees. Local agencies that choose to utilize these new, optional methods would be subject to strict accountability, transparency, and other ratepayer protection standards. The full language of the proposed initiative can be found on the AG's website.

ISDOC Website

Looking for more information about ISDOC bylaws, meeting schedules, programs or past newsletters - check out our Facebook page and our webpage <http://mwdoc.com/isdoc>

Hazard Mitigation Grants

Special districts statewide are eligible for hazard mitigation grants and have until the end of January to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The grants are made available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) due to a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Districts can apply for funding to implement hazard mitigation activities, including measures to mitigate hazards due to floods, earthquakes, and fires. Applicants must file a NOI by midnight on January 29, 2016 in order to participate.

The NOI can be found at www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/disaster-mitigation-technical-support/404-hazard-mitigation-grant-program. NOIs must be submitted electronically. For more information, visit www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-program-guidance

Frank Kim, Orange County CEO, will be the January 28th Quarterly meeting speaker.

Buena Park Library District



The Buena Park Library District (BPLD) is an Independent Special District organized in 1919 under the Education Code of California to provide free and equal access to library services for all community residents. It is one of twelve Independent Special Library Districts in California and is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees. The first Buena Park Library building was 18 X 20 feet and was constructed for \$820. It housed 283 books.

Move forward almost a century and the Buena Park Library District is now a 45,000 square foot facility with a collection of over 120,000 items, serving a population of over 80,000. The Library checked out over 330,000 items to 280,000 visitors last year. More than just a building with books, the Library continues to play an essential role in the community by providing free resources and a space where the community can come to learn, explore, and connect. The Library serves not only the Buena Park community, but also residents from surrounding areas.

The Library provides access to computers and the Internet. Free Wi-Fi access is also available. Some patrons come into the Library for a quick visit, while others stay all day.

Early Literacy is also a priority for the Library. Programs include weekly story times for babies and preschoolers that encourage parents and caregivers to read and play with their children to support early literacy development. The children's area includes Early Literacy computers, a light table, and lots of books and toys.



Additional Library programs include adult book clubs, an adult coloring club, a knitting club, educational programs for school aged children, and for Teens, a weekly game and craft program.

The Library's website (www.buenaparklibrary.org) provides free access to eBooks, eMagazines, downloadable audiobooks, and has several additional eResources to help you learn a new language, update your resume, study for an exam, or get help with homework. All accessible from the comfort of your home with your free library card.

As an Independent Special District, local property taxes are the primary revenue source for the Library. Additional revenue comes from the Library's designation as a U.S. Passport Application Acceptance facility. Last year over 8,000 people applied for their passport at the Buena Park Library. The Library also relies on donations from members of the community and from the Volunteer Guild whose volunteers operate a used bookstore inside the Library.



The Library is currently working on a project to increase broadband speed as part of the *High-Speed Broadband in California Libraries* project. The Library will be dramatically expanding connectivity from 8Mbps to 1 Gbps, which will allow for greater bandwidth intensive programs and services such as video-streaming, teleconferencing, online learning, and far more efficient online access to digital content such as eBooks and eAudiobooks.



The Buena Park Library District is focused on innovative lifelong learning for everyone in the community. Come check us out!

CSDA Legislative Process

In December, the state legislatures ended the first of a two year session; 2,772 bills, amendments and resolutions were introduced during this session; 344 of these were sent to the CSDA Legislative Committee for review and 63 were prioritized - 37 were support and 26 oppose bills. CSDA was successful defending 28 of the bills it prioritized.



The Process

- Newly introduced legislation is reviewed by CSDA's Legislative Department as it is introduced, and bills of note are tagged and presented to the Legislative Committee with a staff recommendation. Committee members may bring additional bills that they think are relevant to the Committee for consideration.
- The Committee decides whether to take or not take a position on the bill and assigns a priority. All Committee decisions are determined by a majority of members present at a meeting once a quorum of the committee has been established.
- These positions and priorities may change throughout the year, depending on circumstances such as amendments taken to bills. The Committee is updated on the status of bills, and decides whether to change the position and priority.
- In time sensitive situations, CSDA Legislative Department staff may take a position or change a current position on a piece of legislation with the approval of the CSDA Executive Director. The Committee is updated as soon as possible. Such positions are only taken when necessary due to urgent circumstances.
- If a bill is particularly controversial, the CSDA Board of Directors will make the final decision.

Formal Positions

- **Support:** A position given to bills and propositions that the Legislative Committee believes would benefit special districts in one way or another, or is a good public policy.
- **Oppose:** A position given to bills and propositions that the Legislative Committee believes would be a detriment to special districts in some way.

- **Neutral:** A position given to bills that have been sufficiently amended to remove CSDA's support or opposition.
- **Watch:** A position given to bills that special districts have an interest in, but do not directly affect districts; bills that are in spot bill form but are on a subject area that concerns special districts; bills that are of interest to track, but do not warrant a position.

Priorities

- **Priority 1:** Bills given a 1 priority have major importance and a direct impact on special districts statewide. These bills receive comprehensive advocacy by CSDA staff and contract lobbyist. This may include extensive testimony in committee, lobbying of the Legislature, and grassroots mobilization, as appropriate.
- **Priority 2:** Bills given a 2 priority have a significant impact on the special district community, set a critical precedent that is relevant to all special districts and/or have major importance to a CSDA member or group of members and are not harmful to other groups of special districts. Position letters are sent from CSDA and testimony is given in committee as time permits.
- **Priority 3:** Bills given a 3 priority have a substantive effect on special districts, but are determined to be a low priority for CSDA resources. CSDA will not write a position letter on these bills, but may sign on to a coalition letter. Neither committee testimony nor lobbying of the Legislature will be conducted, except in rare circumstances.

The following staff provide research, lobbying and information to special districts on proposed legislation:

Kyle Packham, Advocacy and Public Affairs Director
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Budget, Finances, Taxation, Formation and Reorganization

Christina Lokke, Senior Legislative Representative
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Revenue, Environment, Transportation, Energy and Emissions

Dillon Gibbons, Legislative Representative
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Human Resources, Personnel, Governance, Health and Safety

Jimmy MacDonald, Associate Legislative Representative
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Formation and Reorganization, Public Works and Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries, Community Enrichment, Water, Conservation and Open Space

"Districts Make the Difference" Campaign

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) has announced the launch of its public outreach campaign, **Districts Make the Difference**. The campaign is aimed at educating the public about special districts and the crucial services they provide to communities throughout California.

As part of its public outreach and awareness efforts, CSDA has developed a website based platform that will feature valuable information about special districts and tell the story about each type of district. Additionally, there are links to various tools like a comprehensive map that assist the public in identifying and connecting with districts that serve them.

CSDA's goal is to make sure everyone knows and understands the important role special districts play in their communities.

Future California Special Districts Events

Special District Leadership Academy
January 24 - 27, 2016, Embassy Suites, La Quinta

Proposition 28/218 Rate Setting Seminar
February 9, 2016, MWDOC/Fountain Valley

HR Boot Camp for Special Districts
March 9, 2016, Vista

SDRMA Safety/Claims Education Day
March 29, 2016, Newport Beach Marriott

CSDA Legislative Days
May 17-18, Sacramento

Upcoming Webinars

- Who Does What? Best Practices in Board/Staff Relations - Jan 20
- Intro to Special District Finances for New Boards - Jan 26
- Public Meetings and the Brown Act - Feb 2
- Annual Employment Law Update: Recent Cases & Trends - Feb 4
- The Affordable Care Act in 2016 - Feb 11
- Workplace Violence Prevention - Feb 18
- Paying for Capital Projects: Key Considerations - Feb 24
- Rules of Order Made Easy - Feb 25
- Understanding Board Member & District Liability - March 1
- Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training - March 3
- Financial Management for Special Districts - March 10
- Grassroots Advocacy and Public Outreach - March 15

- Completing Statement of Economic Interest- Form 700 - March 17
- Conflict of Interest & When One Must Step Aside - March 24
- How to Prepare for Your District's Annual Audit - April 5
- New Developments in the Brown Act - April 7

Legislation Update

SB127 - in Senate committee; would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish a program to provide low-interest loans and grants to homeowners who are reliant on their own groundwater wells.

AB350 - in Assembly committee; would prohibit the use of a district-based election in a political subdivision if it would impair the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice. The bill would require a court to implement specified remedies upon a finding that a district-based election was imposed or applied unfairly.

AB1362 - in Assembly committee; would authorize the board of supervisors and a city selection committee to appoint persons to the board of trustees of a Mosquito or Vector Control District, if the district is located entirely within a single county and contains both incorporated and unincorporated territory.

AB1589 - just introduced; would, for the duration of a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor due to drought, flood, or fire, exempt from the requirements of CEQA projects that are undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to mitigate the effects of, or conditions caused by, drought, flood or fire.

2015 CA Legislative Calendar

- Jan 1** Prior year statutes take effect
- Jan 4** Legislature reconvenes
- Jan 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor - 2016-17; **budget was submitted on January 7**
- Jan 15** Last day for policy committees to hear and report to Fiscal Committees fiscal bills introduced in their house in 2015
- Jan 22** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house in 2015
- Jan 22** Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in 2015
- Feb 19** Last day for bills to be introduced
- Mar 17** Spring Recess begins upon adjournment
- Mar 28** Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess



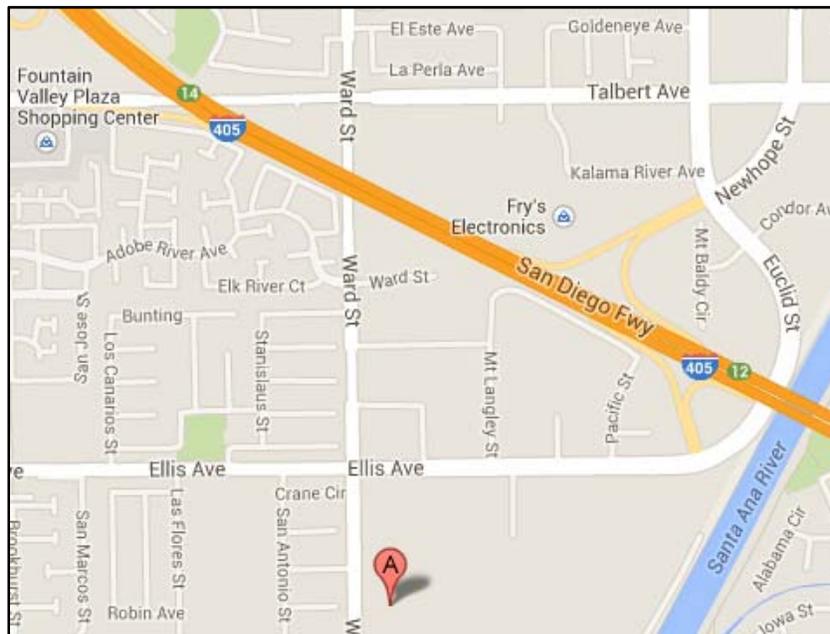
Send us your District News and Press Releases!

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: January 28 * March 31, 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: Leslie Keane (OCCD)
Newsletter Editor: Leslie Keane (OCCD) ~ 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)