



Quarterly ENews

Orange County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

January 2015

2015-16 Executive Committee Officers

ISDOC Executive Committee officers were elected in October for the 2015-16 term. Subsequently, First Vice President Bob Moore ended his term with South Coast Water District and became ineligible to hold an Executive Committee position. In accordance with ISDOC bylaws and upon a motion and unanimous vote, the second and third vice presidents moved into vacant positions, leaving a vacancy in the Third Vice President position.

Current ISDOC officers are:

President

Mike Scheafer, *Costa Mesa Sanitary District*

First Vice President

Jim Fisler, *Mesa Water District*

Second Vice President

Saundra Jacobs, *Santa Margarita Water District*

Third Vice President

Vacant - seeking nominations

Secretary

Leslie Keane, *Orange County Cemetery District*

Treasurer

Joan Finnegan, *Municipal Water District of Orange County*

The Executive Committee is now seeking nominations for the position of Third Vice President. This position may perform the duties of the President, First or Second Vice Presidents in their absence, and serves as Chair of the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee monitors and reports at Executive Committee meetings on legislative proposals of interest to special districts, and may recommend that the Committee take positions in support or opposition to proposed legislation. Executive Committee meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, with some adjustments in dates due to meeting conflicts.

Any elected or appointed Board Member from a regular member district is eligible to run for this position.

Nominations must be accompanied by a resolution from a candidate's Board authorizing their candidacy.

Nominations will be accepted up to and at the January 29, 2015 Quarterly membership meeting. Ballots will be cast at the meeting. Each Regular Member District is entitled to one vote. The presiding officer of the governing body of each is recognized as the voting representative for his/her district. In the absence of the presiding officer, a governing board may authorize an alternate member to vote. This authorization must be submitted in writing - certified by the Secretary of the Board before ballots are cast.

ISDOC Districts of Distinction

The Special District Leadership Foundation, a nonprofit organization, offers accreditation designed to certify and highlight a special district's ability to effectively operate and govern. There are three levels of accreditation - basic, silver and gold. Congratulations to the Orange County Cemetery District, which joins Costa Mesa Sanitary District with a gold certification - one of only three in the state.

Litigation Update: Parkway Tree Removals

Rossmoor Community Services District recently prevailed in the case of RCSD v. Steven Wickser, et al. O.C. Superior Court Case No. 30-2013-00687577-CU-MC-CJC, regarding the removal of a parkway tree located in the District's right-of-way by an adjacent property owner. The judgment requires the defendants to pay a penalty based on the value of the removed tree as calculated by a certified arborist. The court determined that the unlawful removal of the parkway tree constituted a violation of the District's policies. In its ruling, the superior court affirmed the District's authority to regulate trees located in the parkway.

Spotlight District



Midway City Sanitary District



The Midway City Sanitary District (MCSD) was organized in 1939 for the purpose of providing sewer and solid waste service to the unincorporated areas of Orange County known as Midway City, Barber City, Westminster Colonies and a small part of the City of Garden Grove.

Currently, MCSD provides solid waste and sewer collection services to over 100,000 people living in the City of Westminster and unincorporated Midway City. It provides service to 19,878 residential units per week and manages 178 miles of sewer mains along with four lift stations.

MCSD rates are among the lowest rates in the county and with no foreseeable increases in the future, will remain among the lowest. MCSD currently averages 72% landfill diversion in its residential solid waste service. It contracts out its commercial solid waste service to both Rainbow and CR&R Environmental.

The District also provides its constituents with a number of services other than solid waste and sewer collections:

- **Large Item Collection Program:** MCSD will pick up two large items pickups per month at no charge.
- **Christmas Tree Recycling:** MCSD will collect all Christmas trees placed by the curb during the day of service free of charge, starting the first week after Christmas and continuing for three weeks.
- **Helping Hands Service:** This program is for the elderly that cannot get the solid waste carts to the curb for weekly service. MCSD will retrieve the carts from the yard, service them and return them where they belong. This service is free of charge.
- **Commercial Organic Recycling Program:** Nearly 500,000 pounds of food waste has been 100% diverted through MCSD's AB341 Program since 2012.
- **Going Green:** MCSD has purchased 10 new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) solid waste trucks and is installing a CNG fueling station within its yard. Rates will not be raised for this project.
- **Sewer Lateral Assistance Program:** This program is to encourage residential customers to maintain their sewer laterals. The program

will contribute 50% of the cost up to a maximum of \$1,800 and waive and fees to renovate private sewer laterals.

The FY 2014-15 District budget totals \$14.9 million and includes:

- A major investment in the planning and building of a natural gas fueling station at the District facilities and converting all of the District's existing solid waste fleet trucks to natural gas.
- A new Sewer Monitoring SCADA System for the Lift Stations.
- A joint siphon and parallel sewer line project with the County.
- Continued CCTV and cleaning of all of the District's sewer lines.



The Midway City Sanitary District's budget document has received the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers Excellence Award for the last four years.

The Midway City Sanitary District (MCSD) was recognized by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), a statewide organization, and given the Organizational Excellence Award for 2013 for "Raising Reserves without Raising Rates". With over 108 represented agencies in attendance, the Midway City Sanitary District was one of only two agencies in the State of California to receive this prestigious award.

In addition, the District has achieved District of Distinction status at the silver level from the California Special District Leadership Foundation and in 2013 received the California Special Districts Association Exceptional Public Outreach & Advocacy Award.

California Special Districts Finance Corporation

The CSDA Finance Corporation is a non-profit public benefit corporation formed by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) to provide special districts and other public agencies with affordable, tax-exempt financing for purchases and projects. Its board of directors is composed of managers and directors of special districts from all over the state. Locally, Leslie Keane, from the Orange County Cemetery District, serves as a Board member.

Tax-exempt financing represents one of the lowest-cost funding alternatives available to special districts. Because of the tax-exempt status of special districts, interest payments related to the financing obligations of eligible projects are exempt from state and federal income taxes. The result is that investors (lenders) are willing to accept a lower return on their capital since their interest receipts are not subject to state and federal income taxes.

In addition to being more cost-effective, tax-exempt financing allows a special district to:

- ❖ Retain district reserves for other purposes.
- ❖ Avoid a “phased” approach to constructing projects, as often dictated by pay-as-you-go alternative.
- ❖ Leverage future revenues to fund current capital costs.
- ❖ Preserve balance sheet liquidity and possibly even improve the district’s credit profile.

Over the years, the CSDA Finance Corporation has financed a wide variety of equipment purchases, loan refinancing, property acquisitions and capital improvement projects. Some of these include:

- ❖ Upgrades to water treatment and distribution systems
- ❖ Land acquisitions for parks, cemeteries and many other types of districts
- ❖ Construction of district headquarters and other facilities
- ❖ Installation of solar power systems
- ❖ Purchases of fire engines, ambulances, trucks and other specialized vehicles
- ❖ Refinancing of prior debt

There are no limits to the amount of financing available through the CSDA Finance Corporation. In general, the amount is limited by the district’s budgetary ability to afford the resulting debt service. The length of each loan is dependent upon the “life span” of the asset(s) being financed. Financing terms range from five to thirty years.

Fees are generally quoted in terms of a percentage of the requested loan amount and range from 1.00% to

3.00% depending upon the particular features and circumstances of each loan. Participating agencies save time and money, and avoid the need to gather their own financing team.

For more information on the Finance Corporation visit www.csdafinance.net or contact Program Manager Cathrine Lemaire, Program Manager, at 877-924-2732 or cathrinel@csda.net.

Future California Special Districts Events

**Introduction to Good Governance Principles
MWDOC Board Room, Fountain Valley
January 22, 2015**

**Special District Leadership Academy Conference
Embassy Suites, Napa
January 25 - 28, 2015**

**Board Secretary/Clerk Conference
Embassy Suites, San Diego
February 11 - 13, 2015**

Upcoming Webinars

- Harassment Prevention, 1/14
- Annual Employment Law Update, 1/21
- Rules of Order Made Easy, 1/29
- Essential Guide to the Brown Act, 2/10
- Understanding Board member and District Liability, 2/18
- Must Have Communication Protocols, 2/24
- Introduction to Special District Finance, 2/26
- Required Ethics Compliance Training, 3/4
- How to Comply with the Public Record Act, 3/10
- Fraud Detection/Prevention, 3/19
- Legislative Round-Up, 3/26

2015 CA Legislative Calendar

Jan 1	Most prior session statutes take effect
Jan 5	Legislature reconvenes
Jan 9	Governor plans to submit budget
Feb 27	Last day for bills to be introduced
May 1	Last day for policy committees to report out fiscal bills
May 15	Last day for policy committees to report out non-fiscal bills
June 5	Last day for bills to be passed out of their house of origin
June 15	Budget must be passed by midnight
July 17	Last day for policy committees to meet and report out bills
Aug 28	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report out bills to the floor
Sept 11	Last day for each house to pass bills



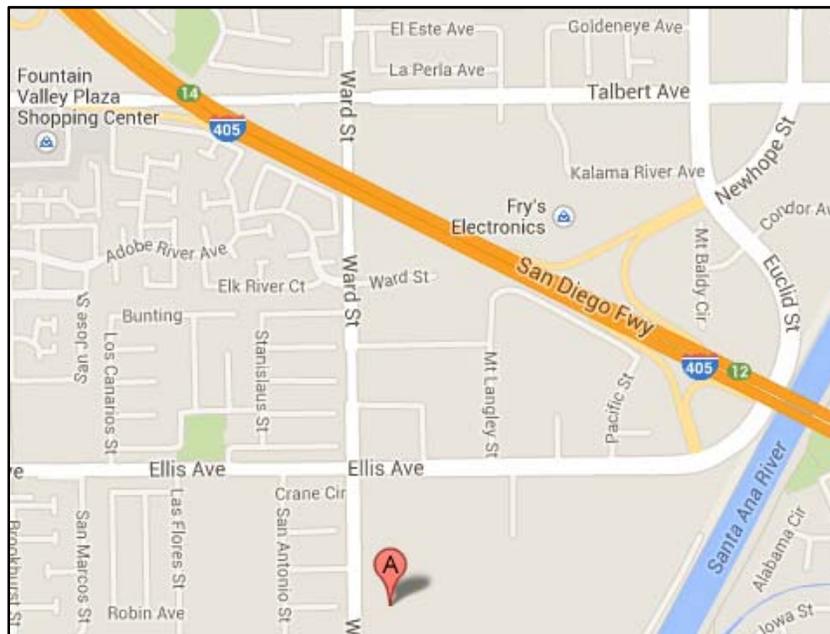
Send us your District News and Press Releases!

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 29 * April 30, 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: Vacant
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)