



Quarterly ENews

Orange County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

July 2015

Don't forget to vote

Proposed Bylaws Revisions

Last February, the Executive Committee formed an ad hoc committee, which was tasked with reviewing the bylaws and suggesting modifications for previously unforeseen situations. At its recent June meeting, the Executive Committee approved the amended and restated bylaws and authorized its submission to special district members for a vote. A ballot and copy of the proposed amended and restated bylaws has been mailed to each member district. **To be counted, ballots must be returned by the close of business on Friday, July 25th.**

The proposed amended bylaws contain a number of revisions to the current ISDOC bylaws. Although the majority of the modifications are simply cleaning-up and/or consolidating language and subsequent section renumbering, there are four substantial changes proposed:

1. Official Document Storage (Page 1, Article I, Section III, language added) - All official documents (agendas, minutes, voted ballots, voting authorization and financial records) of the Organization shall be maintained and stored at the administrative office.

2. Election of Single Candidates for Office by Ratification (Page 5, Article III, Section II, Subsection D added) - The Executive Committee shall be elected following a notice of position availability and solicitation for nominations. At the end of the nominating period, if only one candidate is nominated for a vacant seat, that candidate shall be deemed selected. If two or more candidates are nominated, the Secretary shall prepare and deliver one ballot and voting instructions to each eligible district. The ballot shall include the names of all nominees and the office for which each was nominated. Each presiding officer, or his or her alternate as designated by the governing body, shall return the ballot to the Secretary by the date specified in the voting instructions.

3. Process for Filling Midterm Vacancies in Officer Positions (Page 5, Article III, Section II, Subsection

E and F added) - With the exception of the immediate past president, if a vacancy occurs on the Executive Committee, the Committee shall, within 60 days from the commencement of the vacancy, either fill the vacancy by appointment or call a special election to fill the vacancy. A person appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the former incumbent.

If the vacancy is in the offices of President or Vice President, the Executive Committee may, prior to an election to fill the vacancy, move current officers into vacant positions, and proceed then to fill the resulting vacant position in accordance with Section E above.

4. Removal of Officers for Excessive Absences (page 7, Article III, Section III, Subsection D added) - The Executive Committee may consider removing Officers who miss three consecutive meetings. Prior to removing an Officer, the Committee shall consider the reasons for absence and the potential for continued absence. A unanimous vote of the Executive Committee shall be required to remove an officer.

Emergency Operations Training for Directors

Public agencies are required by law to provide assistance during emergency response or recovery operations. ISDOC is pleased to sponsor a training workshop at the Orange County Emergency Operations Center (Loma Ridge) designed specifically for special district elected officials. Your district's entire board of directors is encouraged to attend the 90-minute workshop on either August 11th or 26th. Watch for cost and RSVP information later this month.

Jennifer Muir - incoming General Manager of the Orange County Employees Association - will be the July 30th quarterly meeting speaker.

Spotlight District



El Toro Water District



A spiraling water crisis and mandatory statewide restrictions are leaving California providers with having to undergo extensive conservation planning and make some tough choices about how to manage our current water shortage.

Luckily, smart agencies have seen the writing on the wall for years and had already begun putting processes, procedures and infrastructure in place to make more efficient use of our precious water resources.

One such forward-thinking agency is the El Toro Water District, which recently completed its multi-phase Recycled Water Expansion Project to increase the amount of recycled water produced for irrigation in the cities of Laguna Woods and Laguna Hills.

This \$35 million dollar project entailed construction of a Recycled Water Tertiary Treatment Plant that nearly triples the District's recycled water production capacity, and installation of 19 miles of recycled water pipelines beneath the roadways in Laguna Woods and the northwest portion of Laguna Hills.

"By producing more recycled water, the District will save precious imported potable water for household consumption and sanitary uses," said Bob Hill, general manager of the El Toro Water District.

The process entails treating and purifying wastewater to make it suitable for irrigation—meeting, or exceeding, the stringent water quality requirements of all regulatory permitting agencies. The expansion and new piping infrastructure will also reduce the amount of treated water that is discharged into the ocean.

"Water recycling is a reliable, economically feasible and environmentally sensitive means of maximizing California's water resources," said Scott Goldman, president of the ETWD Board of Directors.

The Recycled Water Expansion Project enjoyed broad political and community support, due to extensive coordination with, and outreach to, the local elected officials and homeowner associations. Much of the work took place within a 55+ community with several very active HOAs. The ETWD team went in very early in the process to explain the project, and address resident questions and concerns.

A variety of outreach tools were used, including a newsletter, website, open houses and project displays,

dedicated project phone line, speaker's bureau, announcements in local newspapers, social media, public access TV presentations, signage with construction alerts, and door-to-door canvassing with construction schedules.

The success of the project outreach can be most clearly appreciated in that despite the noise and unavoidable construction impacts, the project received far more compliments than it did complaints from the affected residents.

ETWD used an innovative funding package to pay for the project, including a state Proposition 50 grant, low interest state revolving loan fund, Metropolitan Water District rebate program, and restricted District reserves.

"We have to give a lot of credit to the State Water Resources Control Board for assisting with financing arrangements," said Goldman. "This project was under planning for several years but could not move forward until the funding piece was worked out."

In April, ETWD officials dedicated the new Tertiary Treatment Plant to Ted F. Martin, the District's 22-year board member and previous board president who passed away in November.



The El Toro Water District is a District of Distinction accredited by the Special District Leadership Foundation because of its commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices.

ETWD provides full service potable water, wastewater and recycled water for use across portions of the Cities of Aliso Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills and Mission Viejo and the entire City of Laguna Woods.

Groundwater Sustainability Plans

By June 2016, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) must adopt a substantial set of regulations addressing implementation and evaluation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), basin management coordination agreements, and alternatives to GSPs. As part of preparing these regulations, DWR has released the first three of ten discussion papers addressing the complex topics associated with implementation of the State Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The papers identify issues that DWR believes it may have to address in the forthcoming June 2016 regulations and DWR's initial thoughts regarding how it may address the issues. Full text of the discussion papers is available at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm>

The [Topic 1 Discussion Paper](#) discusses questions and issues relating to how to define baseline (pre-SGMA) conditions and undesirable results for purposes of SGMA implementation, especially regarding preparation of GSPs and their review for adequacy by DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The paper identifies issues such as how to, or whether to, address reduced aquifers, land subsidence, and depletions of interconnected surface waters that have already occurred prior to enactment of SGMA (and may also be the result of the ongoing drought). Will GSPs be required to address or reverse existing (i.e., baseline) circumstances? How does the current drought and its effects to basins fit in with preparation of GSPs?

The [Topic 2 Discussion Paper](#) discusses SGMA's requirement for GSPs to include "measureable objectives" and "interim milestones." The paper recognizes that flexibility is necessary to allow for local implementation of SGMA, but also that quantitative measures and identifiable triggers and milestones may be necessary to assure that a groundwater basin is on the path to sustainability as required by SGMA. The paper also recognizes that many basins may be faced with a lack of data and uncertainty and asks what steps should be taken by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and DWR to address and reduce uncertainty as SGMA is implemented. Will qualitative objectives and triggers be sufficient to pass muster?

The [Topic 3 Discussion Paper](#) discusses issues regarding the relationship between land use, county involvement, and SGMA implementation. The paper recognizes that GSA and groundwater management may impact land use, and that these special districts have not traditionally regulated land use. It discusses the apparent need for increased communication

between special districts implementing SGMA and counties and cities with land use authority. How much regulatory impact will GSPs and GSAs have, or should they have, on land uses?

DWR will discuss these three discussion papers at a workshop on July 20, 2015 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the Cal EPA Headquarters, Sierra Hearing Room, 1001 I Street in Sacramento. The workshop will also be available by webcast at

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/>.

Proposition 1 Funding Schedule

Proposition 1 authorized \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for water projects including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration and drinking water protection. The Water Resources Control Board will administer funds for five programs.. Specific information about each program is available at www.waterboards.ca.gov.

Small Community Wastewater

Funding amount: \$260 million

Final guidelines: June 2015

Applications are being accepted continuously until available funding is committed

Water Recycling

Funding amount: \$625 million

Final guidelines: June 2015

Applications are being accepted continuously until available funding is committed.

Clean, Safe and Reliable Drinking Water

Funding amount: \$260 million supplement to existing funding

Final guidelines: August 2015

Applications are being accepted continuously until available funding is committed; applicants should only start an application if they intend to submit a complete application within the next 6 -12 months.

Stormwater

Funding amount: \$200 million

Final guidelines: December 2015

Groundwater Sustainability

Funding amount: \$800 million

Final guidelines: December 2015

A pre-Application is the first step in the process to apply for projects requesting funds from Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability or the Site Cleanup Subaccount. WRCB will determine which program, if any, is the most appropriate for projects, therefore, applicants do not need to designate a program preference.

Special District Leadership Foundation

The Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs. SDLF operates four programs:

Special District Administrator Certification: This is a voluntary designation which is designed to demonstrate commitment to the profession and special districts. It reflects achievement and helps document and recognize a candidate's knowledge, skills and capabilities as a special district administrator.

Recognition in Special District Governance: Designed to educate special district board members and trustees, this program is composed of two distinct parts: completion of the Special District Leadership Academy and 10 hours of continuing education.

District Transparency Certificate of Excellence: This program was created in an effort to promote transparency in the operations and governance of special districts, and to provide special districts with an opportunity to showcase their efforts in transparency. Must be renewed every two years.

Districts of Distinction Accreditation: This accreditation program is designed to highlight a district's prudent fiscal practices along with other areas important to effectively operate and govern a special district. Must be renewed every two years.

More information on these programs is available at <http://www.sdlf.org>

Future California Special Districts Events

General Manager Leadership Summit
July 12 - 14, 2015, Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach

CSDA Annual Conference
September 21 - 24, 2015, Marriott, Monterey

Board Secretary/Clerk Conference
October 18 - 20, 2015, Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel

Upcoming Webinars

- Legislative Round-Up, July 30th
- Maximize Your CSDA Membership - Website Resources, August 6th
- Board Member and District Liability Issues, August 18th
- Understanding the Brown Act: Beyond the Basics, August 20th
- The Power of Alliance, October 2nd

Legislation Update

AB2 - in Senate committee. Would authorize certain local agencies to form a community revitalization authority within a community revitalization and investment area, as defined, to carry out provisions of the Community Redevelopment Law in that area for purposes related to, among other things, infrastructure, affordable housing, and economic revitalization.

AB182 - in Senate inactive file. Would prohibit the use of district-based elections in political subdivisions if they would impair the ability of a protected class, as defined, to elect candidates of its choice or otherwise influence the outcome of an election.

AB291 - in Senate committee. Would authorize a local agency, for certain water projects, to file CEQA notices with the county clerk of the county in which the local agency's principal office is located in lieu of the county clerk of each county in which the project is located.

AB327 - passed by Legislature, signed and chaptered. Would extend the prevailing wage payment exemption for volunteers until January 1, 2024.

SB88 - passed by Legislature, signed and chaptered. Would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to order consolidation with a receiving water system of a public water system, or a state small water system within a disadvantaged community, which consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

SB 239 - in Assembly committee. Would require agencies providing fire protection to obtain written agreement from the recognized employee organization representing firefighters when proposing the extension of services outside an agency's current service area. Although currently limited to fire services, this bill could set a precedent for employee union approval of local government agreements.

2015 CA Legislative Calendar

- 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 4** Last day to amend bills on the floor.
- Sept 11** Last day for each house to pass bills.
- Oct 11** Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature.



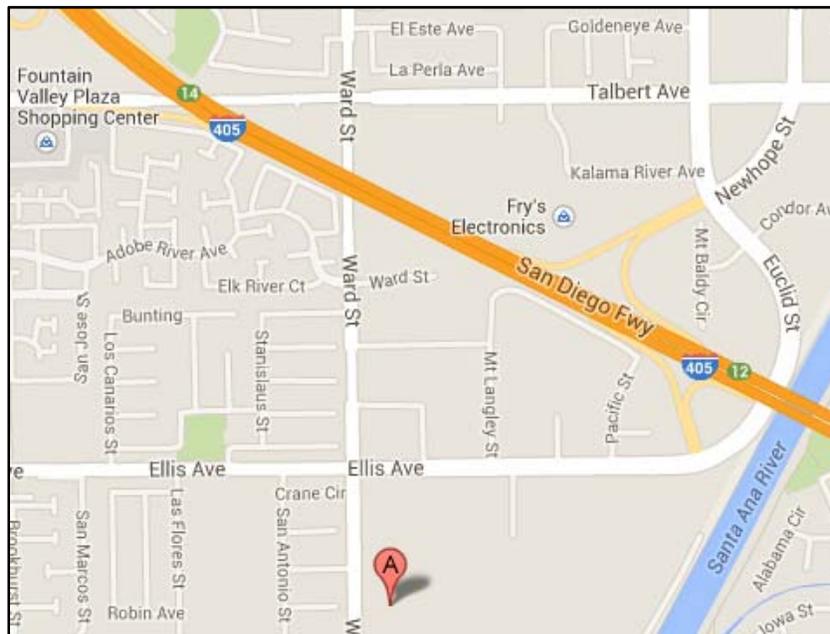
Send us your District News and Press Releases!

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: July 30th * October 22nd, 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)