

Independent Special Districts of Orange County

Quarterly *ENews*

Orange County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association

July 2014

Welcome to the First Edition of ISDOC *ENews*

With this issue, the Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) is launching a new communications tool for Orange County special districts - a quarterly e-newsletter. The newsletter will spotlight districts and provide information about local events, opportunities and pending state legislation. Please send your ideas and suggestions to I.keane@occrd.com.

What Are Special Districts?

Special districts are a form of local government created by a local community to meet a specific need. Inadequate tax bases and competing demands for existing taxes make it hard for cities and counties to provide all the services their citizens desire. When residents or landowners want new services or higher levels of existing services, they can form a district to pay for and administer them.

There are approximately 2,300 independent special districts in California and 27 in Orange County. All are governed by independent boards of directors who are elected or appointed to a fixed term of office. Each special district performs a specific set of services. Independent districts differ from dependent special districts - such as the Orange County Transportation Authority - which are appointed and controlled by other governmental agencies.

Special districts can serve large regions or small neighborhoods based on need, not political boundaries — no other type of government can cross city and county lines. This offers flexibility to address the unique needs of the state's diverse communities. Special districts are primarily accountable to the voters who elect their boards of directors and the customers who use their services. Although they are not functions of the state, the state provides oversight and special districts must submit annual financial reports to the State Controller and follow state laws pertaining to public meetings, bonded debt, record keeping and elections.

ABOUT ISDOC

ISDOC is a membership association that represents the interests and provides advocacy on behalf of 25 of Orange County's independent special districts. ISDOC was formed more than 30 years ago to serve the needs of Orange County's water, wastewater, sanitary, cemetery, vector control, library, recreation and parks, and other districts that provide specialized services within their communities. A six-member executive committee guides the association, and membership meetings are held on a quarterly basis to provide a forum for member districts to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Orange County Registrar of Voters, Neal Kelley, will be our July 31st speaker.

ISDOC Member Districts

- Buena Park Library District
- Capistrano Bay Community Services District
- Costa Mesa Sanitary District
- East Orange County Water District
- El Toro Water District
- Emerald Bay Community Services District
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Mesa Water District
- Midway City Sanitary District
- Moulton Niguel Water District
- Municipal Water District of Orange County
- Orange County Cemetery District
- Orange County Vector Control District
- Orange County Water District
- Rossmoor Community Services District
- Rossmoor-Los Alamitos Area Sewer District
- Santa Margarita Water District
- Serrano Water District
- Silverado-Modjeska Parks and Recreation District
- South Coast Water District
- Sunset Beach Sanitary District
- Surfside Colony Community Services Tax District
- Surfside Colony Storm Water Protection Tax District
- Trabuco Canyon Water District
- Yorba Linda Water District

Spotlight District



Costa Mesa Sanitary District



The Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) was incorporated in 1944 to provide solid waste disposal services to approximately 4,700 residents in unincorporated Costa Mesa (Costa Mesa became a city in 1953). Currently, CMSD provides solid waste and wastewater collection services to over 116,000 people living in the City of Costa Mesa and portions of Newport Beach and unincorporated Orange County. CMSD is responsible for maintaining 224.2 miles of sewer mainline, 4,650 manholes, 20 lifts stations and transports 10.1 million gallons a day to treatment facilities belonging to Orange County Sanitation District. CMSD contracts residential solid waste collections with CR&R Environmental Services where over 21,500 households are served. The District does more than just collect and transport solid waste and wastewater; it also provided the following programs:

- **Large Item Collection Program** - Three complementary pickups per year, with a limit of 10 items per pickup.
- **Door-to-Door Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection** – Residents can have unwanted paint, antifreeze, batteries, motor oil, pesticide, etc. picked up at their doorstep.
- **Composting** – CMSD offers rotating dual chamber composting bins for \$30.00 and free composting workshops. The same composting bin costs \$100 in retail stores.
- **Residential FOG Recycling Program** – Residents can pour their cooking oil in one of two grease vats at Orange Coast College Recycling Center, where the grease is collected and recycled into reusable products.
- **Sharps & Pharmaceutical Disposal** – Free sharp containers are available for residents using needles or other sharp objects for medical reasons. The containers and/or unwanted prescription pharmaceuticals can be dropped off at one of several pharmacies in Costa Mesa.
- **Sewer Lateral Assistance Program** – A financial incentive program to encourage residents to maintain their sewer lateral. The program will contribute 50% of the resident's cost up to a maximum of \$1,250 and waive all fees.
- **Green Waste Temporary Clean Up Bins (CUB)** – Residents can receive a temporary 3-yard clean up bin at a discounted price of \$50.24.
- **Lockable Trash Containers** – Residents can request one 64-gallon lockable trash container to

help prevent identify theft and to deter scavenging of recyclables.

- **Christmas Tree Recycling** – CMSD's contractor, CR&R, collects and recycles Christmas trees for several weeks following Christmas.
- **GoCMSD Smart Phone App** – Residents can connect directly with CMSD to report an issue fast with GoCMSD! The app is free to the public.
- **Organics Recycling Program** – In January 2015, CMSD will implement a curbside organics recycling program that will include food scraps along with green waste. The organics will be converted into renewable natural gas and fertilizer. CMSD will divert 75% of the waste stream away from landfills.



In 2014, CMSD was awarded gold recognition in local governance from the California Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF); they are the only special district in California yet to receive this award. They also have received the District of Distinction and Transparency awards from SDLF.

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. It offers four certification programs: Special District Administrator Certification; Recognition in Special District Governance; District Transparency Certificate of Excellence; and Districts of Distinction Accreditation.

About the California Special Districts Association (CSDA)

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is a 501c (6), not-for-profit association that was formed in 1969 to promote good governance and improved core local services for all types of independent special districts.

For over 40 years, CSDA has been offering its members cost-efficient programs and representation at the State Capitol; it currently has a membership of over 1,000 organizations. It is the only statewide association representing all types of independent special districts including irrigation, water, sanitation, park and recreation, cemetery, fire, police protection, library, utility, harbor, healthcare and community services districts. CSDA provides education and training, insurance programs, legal advice, industry-wide litigation and public relations support, legislative advocacy, capital improvement and equipment funding, collateral design services, and, most importantly, current information that is crucial to a special district management and operational effectiveness.

CSDA is governed by a 18-member Board of Directors, which consists of three directors from each of six regions throughout California. The Board is assisted by six committees: audit, education, election/bylaws, fiscal, legislative and membership.

Future California Special Districts Events

CSDA Annual Conference
Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel
September 29 - October 2, 2014

2014 Webinars

- Harassment Prevention: AB1825 - July 16
- Legislative Round-Up - July 30
- Improve Your Outreach Skills and Build Bridges - August 6th
- Board Member and District Liability Issues - August 13
- The New Transparent District: Building Public trust - August 19
- Understanding the Brown Act: Beyond the Basics - August 21
- Do's and Don'ts for Employee Performance Evaluations - August 27
- Strategies for Excellent Customer Service - September 17
- Now Is Not the Time for Panic: Emergency - Preparedness - October 29

See www.csdanet.net or contact (877) 924.2732 for registration and/or more information.

Legislation Update

SB 848 - on Senate floor: Would modify the scheduled November 4, 2014 Water Bond amount to \$10.5 billion, including \$3 billion for storage, \$1.3 for Delta restoration, \$1 billion for groundwater cleanup and \$500 million for recycling.

AB 2686 - in Assembly appropriation committee: Would modify the scheduled November 4, 2014 Water Bond amount to an unspecified amount currently under negotiation.

SB 1168 - in Assembly committee - and **AB 1739** - in Senate committee: Would establish a statutory framework to achieve sustainable management of groundwater statewide.

AB 2417 - in Senate committee: Would exempt a project for the installation or repair of a recycled water distribution pipeline, not exceeding 8 miles in length, from full CEQA review; a public hearing would be required.

AB 2280 - in Senate committee: Would allow special districts and other local agencies to invest property tax-increment and other available funding to improve infrastructure in disadvantaged communities; clearly prohibits the shifting of property tax revenue from local taxing agencies without their consent.

AB 194 - on Senate floor: Would require public agencies to provide an opportunity for public comment on items during actual consideration of the item, and would narrow the ability to restrict criticism.

Legislative Calendar

- **June 27** - Last day for policy committees to pass out bills
- **July 3 - August 3**: Summer recess
- **August 15** - last day for fiscal committees to pass out bills
- **August 22** - last day to amend bills
- **August 31** - last day for each house to pass bills

Email Disclosures as Public Records

On March 27, 2014 a California Court of Appeal ruled that the California Public Records Act does not require a public agency to disclose emails and texts of public officials using their own personal electronic devices and accounts. The court deferred to the Legislature, stating "Whether such a duty better serves public policy is a matter for the Legislature, not the courts, to decide." Parties in legal actions may also seek to subpoena private communications.



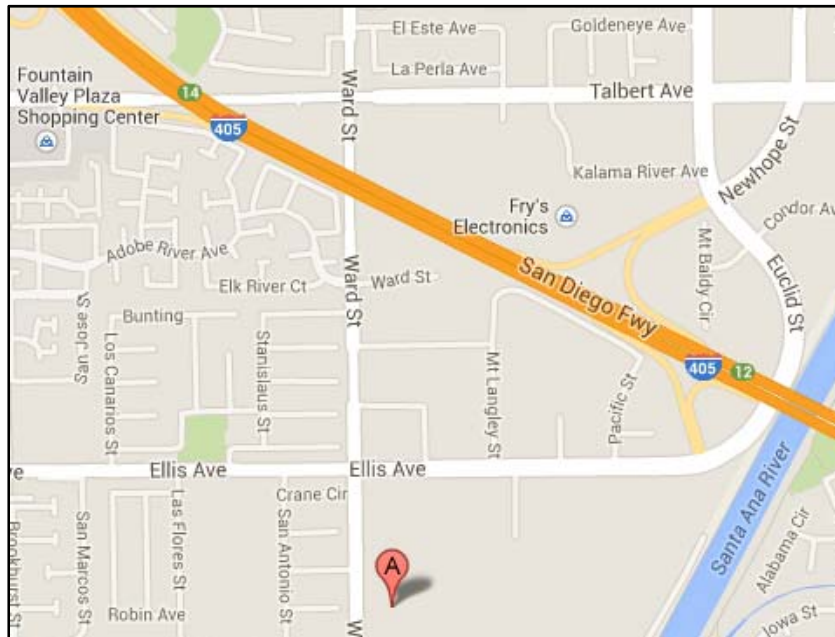
Send us your District News and Press Releases!

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 31 * October 30, 11:30 a.m.

We meet at the MWDOC/OCWD Offices 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA



ISDOC Executive Committee

President: Rich Freschi (Serrano WD) ~ First Vice President: Bob Moore (SCWD)
Second Vice President: Mike Schaefer (CMSD) ~ Third Vice President: Sandra Jacobs (SMWD)
Treasurer: Joan Finnegan (MWDOC) ~ Secretary: Leslie Keane (OCCD)
Newsletter Editor: Leslie Keane (OCCD) ~ Staff: Jessica Ouerkerk (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), Rich Freschi (Serrano WD), Susan Hinman (MWDOC),
Joan Finnegan (MWDOC)