

Heber Public Utility District

Report to the Board of Directors

Date: February 21, 2019
From: Laura Fischer, General Manager
Subject: General Manager's Report to Board of Directors

HPUD EVENTS

Movie Night

Our next movie night will be Friday, March 22nd when we bring you *Ralph Breaks the Internet*. The movie night in April will be held on Friday, April 12th and we will be showing *Peter Rabbit*.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Wednesday, April 17th at 5:30 pm. Once again, the Heber Senior Citizens have volunteered to fill the eggs with candy and prizes. We will ask the 8th grade or ASB students at Heber School to help hide the eggs. They were very helpful last year. Also, I'll ask Diahna Garcia Ruiz to see if she can ask the Easter bunny to show up and delight the children again.

HPUD OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Utility Agreement / County

As we discussed at the last Board meeting, the County needs to enter into a Utility Agreement with HPUD, but we do not have a draft Agreement from their legal team yet. As soon as it is available, I will work with our counsel to review.

IRWMP and LAFCO

I continue to attend meetings of the Imperial Regional Water Management Plan and have discussion with interested parties regarding Special District's joining LAFCO. Recently I met with Chris Palmer, who represents CSDA, and he is interested in organizing a local chapter of Special Districts in Imperial County. **CSDA and IID are hosting a meeting on Thursday, April 11th from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Lunch will be provided.** I'll let you know the location as soon as it has been made known to me. CSDA will provide the lunch. Information is attached.

Catholic Charities / Food Bank

I spoke with Sarah at the Food Bank and assured her that we would continue to pickup and deliver the food to the Heber community through the summer until after August. She stated that they were looking for a new distribution site as the Community Center is getting too busy. She said that she would work on securing volunteer pickup and delivery of the commodities.

Parks Per Capita Funds Available to HPUD in FY 2019-2020

I spoke with a representative at the State Parks and Recreation Department about the Proposition 68 Per Capita funding. He stated that since HPUD is listed on the State Controller's website as a

Parks District we would be eligible for one-time funds of \$200,000 next Fiscal Year. These funds are restricted for capital improvements to our parks.

Water and Sewer Master Plan

You may recall that we applied through the County of Imperial and received funding through Proposition 84 Water grant to fund a water and sewer master plan. The County submitted the Request for Proposals and they received them. I asked to be on the proposal review panel, but I haven't heard when the review will take place.

HPUD PROJECTS

Street Light Repairs

HPUD has made repairs to two separate street lights that required hiring a contractor. As you know, according to the 2012 Settlement Agreement between HPUD and the County of Imperial, the HPUD is charged with the maintenance of street lights. Recently we have had to repair three lights. The first was next to the retention basin at Heber Meadows, the second was on Dogwood Road next to Dogwood School, and the third was on Cherry Avenue just west of Tito Huerta Park. All three required assistance from contractors, and the cost were afforded in the current budget without need for modifications. Staff is tracking the expenditures and will report this information during the budget workshops to ensure sufficient funding is included in future budgets.

Recreation Room at Littlefield/Bloomfield

The project variance request was **approved by the County Planning Commission** on March 13th. The variance application was to reduce the required rear setbacks to allow the Recreation Room to be within 10' of the rear property line instead of 25'. Also, since the County planning documents do not have parking requirements for a recreation room, we asked that onsite parking be allowed at five spaces. All of these variances were approved.

At the Planning Commission meeting, the property owner just to the east made an appearance and stated that she was worried about additional traffic at this location. The Planning Commission discussed the project including crosswalks and to discuss with the County Public Works department to determine if there is a need for stop signs on Bloomfield.

The Planning Commission can't establish conditions on the project, but they did express their concerns about traffic. I address the Commission and told them that we shared their concern, however there is only one entrance/exit to this residential development as Pitzer Road is closed. I assured the Commission, and the resident, that HPDU would include crosswalks in the development and would investigate the need for stop signs.

Our next step is to modify the plans to install a modular building at that site and submit them to the Planning Department for review and approval. After Planning Commission approval, we now know the maximum size of the building and that we only need 5 parking spaces on site.

Water Line Repairs at Hawk/Palm Avenues

As you know, we had a water valve leak at the corner of Hawk and Palm Avenues. HPUD staff exposed the leak and made preparations to repair. They notified 24 customers that they would be without water from 9am to 5pm. However, the repairs that were made did not fix the problem and the coupling shifted when the water was turned back on. This caused a major water leak and staff immediately shut the water off again to these same 24 customers. Staff and Director Nolasco knocked on all of the customer's door and informed them that they wouldn't have water during

the night. We gave them all 6 gallons of water, and if they requested, we filled 5 gallon water bottles for them. Staff secured the area and one staff member stayed during the night to ensure the pumps were working and that the water level was low.

On Saturday morning staff once again delivered 6 gallons of water and offered to fill containers for the effected customers. We gather the parts needed and began working on the repairs. Staff removed and replaced the broken pipes and connections, poured cement with an accelerant, and replaced and compacted the soil. The water was turned back on and staff notified each customer.

There is still a 16' X 16' section of asphalt that needs to be replaced. HPUD is not able to do this work. We are securing bids from three contractors to perform the work. The project cost to date include water for customers, parts and materials, and overtime for employees. This totals \$11,966.17 without the cost for asphalt repairs. The HPUD water distribution maintenance repairs budget line item has been expended (97.1% expended) for prior maintenance and repairs. However, the overall water budget has only expended 66.5% of the funds available. Line item funding can be reallocated by the General Manager as long as the overall budget is not exceeded. We will make the necessary adjustments and report the overall budget information to the Board in April in the Quarterly Budget Review.



Celebrating 50 Years of Service.

IMPERIAL COUNTY CSDA CHAPTER EXPLORATORY LUNCHEON

CSDA chapters play an important role in advancing the interests of special districts at the local level. We ask you to consider joining forces with the other special districts in Imperial County by attending this FREE luncheon to discuss the possibility of forming a local chapter!

There are currently 18 CSDA-affiliated chapters in the state, forming regional networks of special district leaders. Some chapters meet only once a year to elect LAFCo representatives; others meet as often as monthly to share ideas and information, host educational events, and participate in grassroots advocacy efforts.

WHEN: Thursday, April 11 -- 11:30am – 1:00pm

WHERE: Imperial Irrigation District – Water Control Center

333 E. Barioni Blvd, Imperial, CA 92251

COST: FREE (Lunch hosted by CSDA Alliance)

RSVP: Please RSVP with Chris Palmer, CSDA Public Affairs Field Coordinator at chrisp@cda.net or 714-743-7404 cell

Directions:

I-8 East to Forrester Rd;

Turn left onto overpass and continue north to Worthington Rd (about 10 miles);

Turn right – continue east and cross over Hwy 86 (stop lights) for two blocks

IID will be 2nd block on the left

I-10 East to Hwy 86 Expressway

Hwy 86 Expressway to Westmorland (only one stoplight)

Turn right and continue south to Worthington Rd (about 20 miles)

Turn left – continue east and cross over Hwy 86 (stop lights) for two blocks

Entrance to IID Water Control Center will be driving thru the security guard office on the east side of IID headquarters. Each attendee will be required to show their ID (including passengers). As part of IID's security policy, I will need the names of all attendees at least one day prior to the meeting so I can forward it to our guards and make checking in much easier (and quicker).



TAKE ACTION BRIEF

March 2019

Prior to the State Legislature’s February 22 deadline to introduce legislation for consideration in 2019, legislators introduced a total of 2,576 bills. That represents a record number of new bills and a record number of “spot” bills that only provide limited details about the bill’s specific topic or intent. CSDA is currently in the process of reviewing each bill and will be working with our Legislative Committee to adopt positions on legislation that impacts special districts. As we continue to review bills and track amendments to “spot” bills, we encourage you to stay up to date and be ready to take action for your district by responding to our *Calls to Action*.



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Contact a local CSDA representative near you!

Dane Wadlé
 Colleen Haley
 Cole Karr
 Steven Nascimento
 Chris Palmer

Northern & Sierra Networks
 Bay Area Network
 Central Network
 Coastal Network
 Southern Network

danew@csda.net
colleenh@csda.net
colek@csda.net
stevonn@csda.net
chrisp@csda.net



➤ GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CSDA's long range policy priority on governance and accountability is to enhance special districts' ability to govern as independent, local government bodies in an open and accessible manner. Encourage best practices that avoid burdensome, costly, redundant, or one-size-fits all approaches. Protect meaningful public participation in local agency formations, dissolutions, and reorganizations, and ensure local services meet the unique needs, priorities, and preference of each community

Bill Aimed at Reducing Public Records Act Lawsuits

CSDA is supporting the efforts of Senator Ben Hueso (D-San Diego), who has introduced [SB 615](#) to reduce the number of serial lawsuits associated with the California Public Records Act (CPRA). According to the author, and as we've heard from some of our own members, public agencies are increasingly becoming the targets of serial litigants that are abusing the CPRA. SB 615 addresses this issue by requiring potential litigants to meet-and-confer with public agencies regarding their CPRA request denials prior to filing litigation.

The CPRA was created in 1968 to ensure the public can access information concerning the conduct of state and local agencies. The public has a right to publicly held documents. However, the CPRA also properly recognizes that there are some instances when the public good is better served by not disclosing certain documents, such as the private information of residents, details of critical infrastructure, or details of ongoing litigation.

When records are not disclosed, the CPRA grants records requesters the ability to sue public agencies to ensure the public's right to records. Should an agency have improperly withheld any documents requested, the public agency must pay the court and attorney's fees of the plaintiff. The attorney's fees penalty can be quite costly and has been an effective tool in encouraging agencies to comply with CPRA requests.

Unfortunately, this penalty has been used by unscrupulous individuals to shake down public agencies for public dollars. Some CPRA requesters ask for voluminous amounts of records and, if any of the records requested were denied, they immediately file suit rather than work with the public agency to determine if records were improperly withheld from disclosure.

SB 615 looks to end this abusive practice by requiring a CPRA requester to meet and confer in good faith with the agency in an attempt to informally resolve each issue before instituting any proceeding for injunctive or declarative relief or writ of mandate.

If you believe your agency has been the victim of this type of serial litigation, or if you are aware of another district that has been, please share your story with CSDA Senior Legislative Representative Dillon Gibbons at dillong@csda.net.

CSDA is Sponsoring Important Governance Legislation:

[AB 510 \(Cooley\)](#) Video Monitoring records Retention Modernization - SPONSOR

This CSDA sponsored bill will allow special districts, cities, and counties to adopt record retention policies for routine video monitoring recordings as well as radio and telephone recordings that differ from the current standard of one-year for video recordings and 100-days for radio and telephone recordings. If an agency does not adopt their own policies, then the current standard applies. This change in law will allow agencies to save money on unnecessary data storage costs.

[SB 287 \(Nielsen\)](#) Commission on State Mandates: Test Claim Filing Deadline - SPONSOR

A CSDA sponsored bill, this would align the test claim filing period at the Commission on State Mandates (COSM) with the fiscal year rather than the calendar year. Recent regulatory changes at the COSM were changed to have the test claim filing deadline to track with the calendar year to align with the Government



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Code, even though the filing time that tracked with the fiscal year had been out of compliance with the Government code for over a decade. The change resulted in a six-month reduction in filing time for agencies to submit an accurate claim to the COSM. This bill aligns the Government Code with the previous fiscal year deadline so that claims can be filed no later than 12 months following the effective date of a statute or executive order, or within 12 months of incurring increased costs as a result of a statute or executive order, whichever is later. For purposes of filing a test claim based on the date of incurring increased costs, “within 12 months” would mean by June 30 of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which increased costs were first incurred by the test claimant.



➤ INFRASTRUCTURE, INNOVATION, AND INVESTMENT

CSDA's long range policy principal regarding infrastructure, innovation, and investment is to encourage prudent planning for investment and maintenance of innovative long-term infrastructure. CSDA supports the development of fiscal tools and incentives to assist special districts in their efforts to meet California's changing demands, ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of core local services.

Multiple Accessory Dwelling Unit Bills Introduced Before Deadline

The Legislature is taking a hard look at local policies on land use and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in 2019. Developers and housing advocates have pushed ADU construction as an answer to California's affordable housing crisis. ADUs can be considered infill development and do not require opening new land for housing, an advantage for policy makers confronting local "NIMBY" (not in my backyard) movements.

This year, there are seven bills on ADU policy that impact special districts. The bills focus on promoting ADU construction with a combination of slashing local development fees on ADUs, reducing timeframes for ministerial approval of new units, and restricting local agencies' ability to place requirements on ADUs for parking and other considerations.

A further three bills were introduced that would open up surplus public land for affordable housing development. This legislation would make it harder for local agencies to lease land reserved for their future needs.

[SB 4 \(McGuire and Beall\)](#) – **WATCH** – Contains a package of laws aimed to reduce local discretion for permitting infill housing development. Relevant to special districts, the bill includes a ban on impact fees, except connection and capacity charges for sewer, water, and electrical infrastructure, for "neighborhood multifamily" developments. The bill defines neighborhood multifamily developments to include up to a four-unit building in urban communities or up to a duplex in non-urban communities. SB 4 would prevent park and fire districts from collecting impact fees on these developments.

[SB 13 \(Wieckowski\)](#) – **WATCH** – A spot bill that declares the intent of the Legislature to remove obstacles to construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), including developer impact fees. This bill will likely be similar to SB 831 (Wieckowski, 2018) which would have banned developer impact fees on ADUs. SB 831 died in Assembly Local Government Committee. CSDA opposed SB 831.

[AB 68 \(Ting\)](#) – **WATCH** – Establishes restrictions on what limitations local agencies can place in an ordinance on accessory dwelling units (ADUs), including limitations on minimum lot size, lot coverage, and floor area ratio. Requires local agencies to ministerially approve permits for new ADUs within 60 days instead of 120 days. Prohibits capacity and connection fees on ADUs or junior ADUs that are substantially within the existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure, including reconstruction of an existing space with substantially the same physical dimensions as the existing accessory structure. This bill is substantially similar to AB 2890 (2018, Ting), which died in Senate Appropriations. CSDA removed opposition to AB 2890 after amendments were taken to remove language banning developer impact fees on ADUs. AB 68 contains language that prohibits capacity and connection fees on ADUs or junior ADUs that are "substantially" within the existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure, including, but not limited to, reconstruction of an existing space with "substantially" the same physical dimensions as the existing accessory structure. This is an expansion of the exemption previously established in 2016 under SB 1069 (Wieckowski).

[AB 670 \(Friedman\)](#) – **WATCH** – A spot bill related to ADU ordinances.

[AB 671 \(Friedman\)](#) – **WATCH** – A spot bill related to ADU ordinances.

[AB 1074 \(Diep\)](#) – **WATCH** – Creates a \$4 billion bond for ADU construction.



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[AB 1585 \(Boerner Horvath\)](#) – **WATCH** – A spot bill related to ADU ordinances.

[AB 1164 \(Gloria\)](#) – **WATCH** – AB 1164 is a spot bill related to the disposal of surplus land.

[AB 1290 \(Gloria\)](#) – **WATCH** – AB 1290 is a spot bill related to the disposal of surplus land.

[AB 1486 \(Ting\)](#) – **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED** – Requires special districts to offer a right of first refusal to affordable housing developers, school agencies, and park agencies before putting their land out to lease. These provisions leave special districts unable to enter leases to protect their land from development or preserve it for future use. The bill also requires agencies to offer the right of first refusal before conducting any formal or informal negotiations. Additionally, the definition of surplus land is expanded to include any land held by a public agency, rather than land designated as surplus by the agency. AB 1486 is substantially similar to AB 2065 (Ting, 2018), which CSDA opposed. AB 2065 was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

For more information, please contact CSDA Legislative Representative Rylan Gervase at rylang@cda.net.



➤ REVENUE, FINANCES, AND TAXATION

CSDA's long range policy priority on revenue, finances, and taxation is to ensure adequate funding for special districts' safe and reliable core local service delivery. Protect special districts' resources from the shift or diversion of revenues without the consent of the affected districts. Promote the financial independence of special districts and afford them access to revenue opportunities equal to that of other types of local agencies.

Redevelopment Revival with a Twist

Confronting California's housing and homelessness issues has taken center stage in Sacramento. While the state budget is sound, including billions in new monies statewide to tackle these issues, there is an interest in renewing the redevelopment agencies (RDAs) that were dissolved in 2012.

With Governor Jerry Brown, who dissolved RDA, retired and a Governor Gavin Newsom taking the reins, legislators are floating many variations on this theme. Most bills stop just short of traditional redevelopment. But, in a new twist, many of this year's measures attempt to spend the proceeds of the former RDAs on redevelopment rather than pay off the debts of the RDA successor agencies. Since RDAs were dissolved, it has been up to the RDA successor agencies to manage the obligation and outstanding debt until it is resolved. Many still owe from bonds passed prior to the dissolution of RDAs. Some would argue this only prolongs the loss of tax increment available to local government.

Some of the measures we are currently tracking on this topic include:

[AB 11 \(Chiu\) Community Redevelopment Law of 2019](#) - Picks up where [AB 3037](#) (Chiu, 2018) left off. This measure would reconstitute RDA's but contemplates a "pass-through" provision to make special districts whole. CSDA is still working with stakeholders and the author to make sure that should such a measure pass that its pass-through provision provides accountability and the mechanics and timelines to be useful.

[AB 411 \(Stone\) Redevelopment: City of Santa Cruz: bond proceeds: affordable housing](#) - Allows the city of Santa Cruz RDA Successor agency to spend bond proceeds on housing, rescheduling the eventual payoff of existing debts.

[AB 1437 \(Chen\) Community redevelopment: paramedic tax funds](#) – Spot bill introduced "to enact legislation that would revert tax revenues collected to fund paramedics that are currently being used for redevelopment."

[AB 1701 \(Cervantes\) California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank: economic development facilities: redevelopment agencies](#) - Envisions financing through the existing California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (I-Bank) by agreement with a redevelopment agency, should RDAs be revived.

[SB 532 \(Portantino\) Redevelopment: bond proceeds: affordable housing](#) - Allows RDA successor agencies to use bond proceeds for housing rather than the cancellation of existing debt on the open market.

CSDA will continue to monitor and engage on these measures to ensure that special districts voices are heard. If you have any feedback, questions, or comments please contact Legislative Representative Anthony Tannehill at anthonyt@csda.net



➤ HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

CSDA's long range policy priority on human resources and personnel is to promote policies related to hiring, management, and benefits and retirement that afford flexibility, contain costs, and enhance the ability to recruit and retain highly qualified, career-minded employees to public service. As public agency employers, support policies that foster productive relationships between management and employees, both represented and non-represented.

Bill Introduced to Update Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Requirements

Last year Governor Jerry Brown sign [SB 1343 \(Mitchell, 2018\)](#) into law which established new requirements for providing sexual harassment prevention training to all employees. The intent of the law is to require all employers, public or private, with 25 or more employees to provide, at a minimum, one-hour of sexual harassment prevention training to all employees and at least two-hours of training for supervisorial employees at least every two years. The bill requires employers to provide this training by 2020 and at least every other year after that. New employees hired after January 1, 2020 would need to receive the training within six months of being hired.

However, because of the specific language in the legislation, a [California Department of Fair Employment and Housing FAQ](#) states that the bill requires training both by January 1, 2020 and in 2020. That means all employees must be trained by 2020, either in 2018 or 2019, but for those employees trained in 2019, they would receive back-to-back years of training in 2019 and 2020 instead of in 2019 and again in 2021 and every other year after that. This back-to-back years of training was not the intended result of SB 1343, so the Legislature has introduced [AB 778](#) to this issue.

[AB 778](#) authored by the Senate Labor Public Employment and Retirement Committee is intended to allow all employees that receive sexual harassment prevention training in 2019 to not be required to take the training again until 2021. This will allow our special districts to save money on training while still ensuring employees receive proper sexual harassment prevention training.

Important Governance Legislation to Follow:

[SB 142 \(Wiener\)](#) Employees: lactation accommodation - **OPPOSE**

Requires all employers, including public agencies, to install lactation facilities in newly constructed workplaces and in tenant upgrades that cost more than \$1 million and are larger than 15,000 square feet. The lactation facilities need to be at least 50 square feet, contain an electrical outlet, with an additional outlet for a refrigerator where possible, provide access to a sink with hot and cold water, have a door with a lock that can be locked from the inside and contain a place to sit as well as an area to place lactation equipment.

The number of lactation facilities prescribed by the legislation is based on the number of employees, starting at one facility for employers with 50 or more employees and ranging up to 11 facilities for employers with 4,000 employees at a workplace, with an additional facility required for every 999 additional employees. The facilities must be within close proximity to employees' workstations and no more than two floors away from employees at multilevel workplaces. While the bill applies to all employers, those employers with fewer than 50 employees may be exempt from the requirements if they can demonstrate that the requirements pose an undue hardship.

[AB 589 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Employment: unfair immigration-related practices – **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

This bill, similar to AB 2732 (Gonzalez Fletcher, 2018) vetoed by Governor Brown, requires employers to provide all new hires with a copy of the "workers' bill of rights," which will be created by the Department of Industrial Relations, that must be signed by the employee, a copy of the signed document provided to the employee, with a copy of the signed document retained by the employer for 3 years. A failure to comply with the requirements of the bill is a misdemeanor and may result in a fine of up to \$10,000. CSDA would like the bill amended to exempt public agencies from the requirements of the bill.



➤ LEGAL ADVOCACY

CSDA is the leading legal advocacy voice for all special districts regarding public policy in California and actively tracks and reviews cases of significance affecting special districts in state and federal courts. Under the guidance of CSDA's Legal Advisory Working Group, CSDA files amicus briefs and opines on court cases when appropriate.

California Supreme Court Leaves Pension Rule Undisturbed

In a much-anticipated decision, the Supreme Court of California held that the opportunity to purchase additional retirement service (ARS) credit by current members of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) is not a constitutionally protected vested right. The case, *Cal Fire Local 2881 et al. v. CalPERS*, was considered to have the potential to address the key question of whether employers can alter "core pension rights" in their contracts.

Ultimately, the court declined to tangle with the "California Rule," which are past court decisions that have protected public worker pensions from being reduced without new benefits in exchange for the loss of income. It held that the right to purchase ARS (or "air time") is not a right protected by the contract clause of the constitution, and therefore the opportunity to purchase ARS credit could be altered or eliminated at the discretion of the Legislature.

It is important to note that this decision does not alter the rights of employees that have already purchased air time credit.

Beginning in 2003, many public employees were granted the opportunity to purchase up to five years of air time by making appropriate payments to their pension fund. Participating employees could therefore receive pension benefits calculated on the basis of up to five years' more public employment than they actually worked. In 2012, PEPPRA (the Public Employee Pension Reform Act) effectively repealed the statute granting public employees the opportunity to purchase ARS credit, although it did not alter the rights of employees who had already purchased such credit.

Cal Fire Local 2881 joined other parties to sue in an effort to reinstate the perk, arguing that the right to purchase air time could not be withdrawn without breaking the California Rule. Two issues were presented to the California Supreme Court: the first was whether the opportunity to purchase ARS credit was a "vested right" — a right protected by the constitutional contract clause. The second issue, which would arise only if the opportunity to purchase ARS credit is entitled to constitutional protection, is whether the Legislature's elimination of that benefit in PEPPRA constituted an unconstitutional impairment of public employees' vested rights. The court affirmed the decisions of the trial court and the Court of Appeal, concluding that the opportunity to purchase ARS credit was not a right protected by the contract clause.

The court found no indication in the statute conferring the opportunity to purchase ARS credit that the Legislature intended to create contractual rights, and said "[f]urther, unlike core pension rights, the opportunity to purchase ARS credit was not granted to public employees as deferred compensation for their work, and here we find no other basis for concluding that the opportunity to purchase ARS credit is protected by the contract clause."

The court made clear its intention to steer clear of addressing the California Rule, stating in the opinion authored by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, "...we have no occasion in this decision to address, let alone to alter, the continued application of the California Rule."

For more information about this decision, contact Legislative Analyst – Attorney Mustafa Hessabi at mustafah@csda.net.



➤ DISTRICTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Districts Make the Difference was created to increase public awareness and understanding of special districts across California. The campaign website, www.districtsmakethedifference.org provides a public place to learn more about special districts and the positive effect they have on their communities, while also serving as a resource for districts to download useful materials, collateral, and information.

New Timeline for 2019 Student Video Contest

Districts Make the Difference is excited to announce changes to the upcoming submission period for the 2019 Student Video Contest. This year, the submission period has been extended! High school and college students now have from **May 1 to September 30** to submit a short video highlighting how special districts make the difference in California.

It's never too early for students to start working on their videos starring special districts. Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible when making their 60-90 second videos. That's correct, the length of the videos has also been extended! Students can now create videos up to 90 seconds long.

Do you know a student who may be interested? Do you know a teacher, principal, superintendent, or school board member that can help promote the contest? Spread the word!

Promotional material including a flyer and the social media graphic below are available on the Districts Make the Difference website at www.districtsmakethedifference.org/video-contest.

The video contest is a great opportunity to engage with students in your community and promote the important work and essential services your district provides. Watch the 2018 winning videos on the [Districts Make the Difference website](http://www.districtsmakethedifference.org).





➤ OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Learn More

Want to attend a free conference? On Tuesday, March 26, SDRMA will host Spring Education Day in Sacramento, CA. This conference provides free training and information regarding coverages, online training programs, technology, and many valuable MemberPlus Services™. In addition, they also conduct their annual membership meeting at the beginning of the program.

If that is not enough already, SDRMA members who attend Spring Education Day are eligible to earn credit incentive points (CIPs) to reduce their annual contribution for both Property/Liability and Workers' Compensation Programs. This conference is FREE to SDRMA and CSDA members. Additional fee to CSDA members for Governance Foundations workshop on this day. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Utilize Resources

There are dozens of jobs posted in CSDA's online [Career Center](#). With a focus on special district and local government professions, the Career Center provides targeted opportunities for both employer and job seeker. CSDA members can get \$25 off single 30-day or 45-day online job postings with the promo code MAR19. Valid March 1-April 1, 2019.

Join Today

Join an Expert Feedback Teams to provide CSDA staff with invaluable insights on policy issues. Email marcusd@csla.net to inquire about joining one of the following teams:

- Budget, Finance and Taxation
- Environment
- Formation and Reorganization
- Human Resources and Personnel
- Governance
- Public Works and Contracting

Stay Informed

In addition to the many ways you can **TAKE ACTION** with CSDA's advocacy efforts, CSDA offers a variety of tools to keep you up-to-date and assist you in your district's legislative and public outreach. Make sure you're reading these resources:

- CSDA's weekly e-Newsletter
- Districts in the News
- CSDA's CA Special District Magazine

Email advocacy@csla.net for help accessing these additional member resources.