



SANTA CLARA COUNTY

SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

5770 Almaden Expressway • San Jose, California 95118 • (408) 265-2600

Meeting Minutes

Santa Clara County Special Districts Association

March 4, 2024

12:00 p.m. -1:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

SCCSDA President Sue Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Members:

Sue Fitzpatrick, Trustee, Saratoga Cemetery District (President)

Helen Chapman, Director, Santa Clara Valley Open Space District (Vice President)

Tony Estremera, Director, Valley Water Board of Directors (Treasurer)

Bill Bosworth, Director, Cupertino Sanitary District

Jo Anne "J" Logan, General Manager, Los Altos Hills County Fire District

Jonathan Cowan, Director of Government & Community Relations, El Camino Healthcare District

Peter Van Dyke, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District

Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District,

Brian Glass, Assistant Fire Chief, Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District

Gene Zambetti, Commissioner, Saratoga Fire Protection District

Brandon Kwan, Director, Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District

Rita Delgado, Director, South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District

Attendees (Non-Voting):

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer, Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County

Yoriko Kishimoto, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Caroline Hernandez, Clerk of the Board, Open Space Authority

Victoria Bebee, Emergency Services Manager, Los Altos Hills County Fire District

Eugenia Woods, District Planning & Grants Manager, Los Altos Hills County Fire District

SCCSDA Support Staff:

Genevieve Yip, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water

2. Public Comment

None.

3. State Legislative Office Updates

None.

4. Business

a. Discussion and Approval of December 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Director Bosworth, seconded by Vice President Chapman, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the December 4, 2023 meeting minutes.

b. Discussion and Approval of Financial Report

It was moved by Director Bosworth, seconded by Director Vice President Chapman, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the quarterly financial report ending on March 1, 2024.



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c. Discussion and Possible Action on 2024 SCCSDA Officers

President Fitzpatrick opened this item for discussion and ask the Board to nominate SCCSDA officers for 2024. The Board discussed having the current officer serve for one more year.

It was moved by Vice President Chapman, seconded by Director Estremera, unanimously carried, that the Board reappoint President Fitzpatrick as SCCSDA President.

It was moved by Director Bosworth, seconded by Director Estremera, unanimously carried, that the Board reappoint Vice President Chapman as SCCSDA Vice President

It was moved by Director Bosworth, seconded by Vice President Chapman, unanimously carried, that the Board reappoint Director Estremera as Treasurer.

d. Discussion on Future Presentations

Chair Fitzpatrick inquired if any of the members would like to suggest topics for future presentations. Director Kwan commented the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District would be willing to present at a future meeting.

5. Partner Agency Reports

a. Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO)

Neelima reported that LAFCO is compiling Countywide Fire Service Review responses received from agencies and they are targeting to bring the report at LAFCO meeting scheduled on April 10, 2024.

b. California Special Districts Association (CSDA)

None.

6. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

Director Bosworth provided an overview of the history of the Cupertino Sanitary District. Director Estremera reported Nai Hsueh is the new Chair of the Valley Water Board of Directors and Richard Santos is serving as this year's Vice Chair. Director Estremera also reported on the latest developments on the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project and Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project, as well as on the coordination between Valley Water and the City of San Jose during the recent rain season. Director Logan provided an overview on the Los Altos Hills County Fire District's community outreach and education programs. Director Logan then introduced Los Altos Hills County Fire District Emergency Services Manager Victoria Bebee to share about the District's Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. BeBee shared that the Teen CERT Program is focused on training teens in emergency preparedness and basic response to ensure that they have the skills they may need to protect themselves and assist others in an emergency, and aims to help teens develop and broaden their leadership skills while collaborating with others to benefit their community. Director Logan then introduced Los Altos Hill County Fire District Planning & Grants Manager Eugenia Woods, who reported on the completion of Upper Page Mill Escape Route and collaboration with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, South Skyline Fire Safe Council, MidPeninsula Open Space District, and CalFire, to make it happen. Director Zambetti reported that Saratoga Fire Protection District is working on speed bumps in high fire zones and completing evacuation routes, and that the District will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary. Director Gleason reported Margaret MacNiven is serving as MidPen's Board President this year and thanked Yoriko Kishimoto for her leadership in 2023. Director Gleason reported on MidPen's Highway 17 Wildlife and Trail Crossings project, which aims to help animals safely find their way to the wildlife crossing



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and a number of regional trail connections that will link the following Santa Clara County parks and MidPen open space preserves together across Highway 17, and also reported on MidPen's Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage Project, which is moving to the design phase. Director Kishimoto reported on MidPen's Wildland Fire Resiliency Program. Vice President Chapman reported on Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's 30-Year Impact Report as well as on their grant application efforts. Director Kwan reported that he is serving as this year's Chair for Rancho Riconada Recreation & Park District and that the District will be celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2025. Director Van Dyke reported on Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District's work to assist new farmers with an organics system plan, soil health planning, and soil testing, as well as on his recent participation at the Pajaro River Watershed Group Discussion. Director Delgado reported on South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District's services for veterans, including providing assistance to veterans with reviewing and opening claims with designated service officers twice a month. President Fitzpatrick reported that Saratoga Cemetery District is working on developing on their last parcels of land, and invited the group to visit Madronia Cemetery and Arboretum and highlighted notable gravesites, including artist William Thomas Kinkade III.

7. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

a. Action Item Review

None.

b. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.