



SANTA CLARA COUNTY

SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

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

F1 Meeting Minutes

Santa Clara County Special Districts Association
Monday, September 13, 2021
12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Join via Zoom Web Conferencing:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/85996995323?pwd=VHdzbTZvQUxUUGl2Z1NoY2RUSUJ3QT09>

Meeting ID: 859 9699 5323; Passcode: 859999

Dial-in: + 1-669-900-9128,, 85996995323 #,, * 859999#

A. **Call to Order – (12:04 PM) : By Steve Wesolowski**

Welcome and Introductions.

Members (Voting):

Steve Wesolowski, Director, Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District (SCCSDA President)
Bill Bosworth, Director, Cupertino Sanitary District
Dwight Good, Assistant Chief–Cooperative Protection (CalFire), South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District
Helen Chapman, Director, Santa Clara Valley Open Space District
J. Logan, General Manager, Los Altos Hills County Fire District
Lea Rauscher, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Rocelia G. Kmak, Principal Civil Engineer, Infrastructure Development Division, Santa Clara County Department of Roads and Airports
Sue Fitzpatrick, Saratoga Cemetery District

Other Attendees (Non-voting):

Anurag Pal, District Director for Assemblymember Alex Lee
Colleen Haley, Bay Area Public Affairs Field Coordinator, California Special Districts Association
Ryan Clausnitzer, Board President for California Special Districts Association
Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Yoriko Kishimoto, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Special District Representative at LAFCO and SCCSDA Alternate)
Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer, Santa Clara County LAFCO

SCCSDA Support Staff:

Domingo Candelas, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water
Lisa Flores, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water
Kathy Nguyen, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water

B. **Public Comment**

Opportunity for members of the public to make comments or ask questions (3 minutes/speaker)

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District's Ryan Clausnitzer introduced himself to the group. He is the CSDA Board President for 2021 and 2022.



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C. SCCSDA Guest Presentation

Domingo Candelas gave a drought presentation on behalf of Valley Water Board Director, Gary Kremen. The presentation addressed several topics including: the status of our county's water supply, insight on local water usage, water origins and challenges (including environmental challenges), the county's drought status, existing conservation measures, Valley Water conservation programs and rebates, and insight on the county's water future. He also answered questions from attendees.

D. State Legislative Office Updates:

Anurag Pal, District Director for Assemblymember Alex Lee (Assembly District 25) stated that the legislative session ended and all previously active bills are on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature. Mr. Pal also shared an update on the legislature focused on exempting government agencies from holding in-person meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislature passed, but it is only applicable in major cities of a population of 250,000 or more (not required for special districts). Mr. Pal also shared information on a town hall hosted by Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee, Assemblymember Alex Lee focused on the COVID-19 pandemic (booster shots, next steps, etc.) occurring 9/13/2021 at 6 p.m. Finally, Mr. Pal shared the Assemblymember is back in the District and will possibly be requesting tours and meetings with some entities.

E. Business

At 12:35pm, President Wesolowski noted that quorum was not present.

1. Minutes – Page 3-6 (Discussion and Approval of June 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes)

Minutes for June 7, 2021 was not approved due to quorum was not present.

2. Financial Report – Page 7 (Discussion and Approval)

Financial report was not approved due to quorum was not present.

3. SCCSDA Website (Information Only)

Domingo Candelas gave an update on the previously approved SCCSDA website, which is now live, and will be updated by Kathy Nguyen and Stephanie Moreno. He also informed us about the creation of an ad hoc committee that will discuss the intricacies of the website.

F. Partner Agency Reports

1. Local Agency Formation Commission – Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer Santa Clara

Neelima Palacherla provided an update on the fire service review. The fire service review consisted of three community workshops held during the month of August. The meetings provided an outlet for the community to voice their concerns and as a forum for unaffected agencies to provide input about the fire service review process. The next steps will consist of holding a public hearing on the draft service review, which will be available for public review and comment on the LAFCO website as the date for the public hearing approaches. Apart from this, LAFCO also interviewed and requested information from service providers in order to conduct a community survey. At the end of September, LAFCO will hold a technical advisory committee meeting to analyze preliminary findings of the community survey.

Yoriko Kishimoto, Special District Representative at LAFCO, expressed her gratitude for chairing the technical advisory committee for the fire service study and the participants.

2. California Special Districts Association – Colleen Haley, Bay Area Network Field



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Coordinator

Colleen Haley gave a legislative update on CSDA's sponsored bill having to do with brown act remote meetings which passed both houses and is currently awaiting the governor's signature. Colleen hopes to have the bill signed before September 30th, which is deadline for the current order that allows for remote meetings during state emergencies. Colleen also alerted us of the recent passage of the bill package that allowed for COVID-19 relief funding (\$100 million in funds). Currently, there are currently two periods of eligibility (1) apply for revenue loss that will be calculated by comparing revenue from all fund sources for FY2020-2021 against revenue from the previous year and (2) unanticipated costs experienced between March 4, 2020 and June 15, 2021, which are the eligible claims under the program. It should be noted that all special districts are eligible to apply. Arrearages in the amount of \$2 billion are also available for water and wastewater districts, with the first portion to be distributed to water districts. A survey was distributed for arrearages consideration; however, the deadline has passed and only those who completed the survey will be considered. Specific guidelines on funding eligibility will be available soon. On a similar note, CSDA is highly encouraging folks to contact the County CAO's office for available funding. Due to the surplus of funding they received from two previous federal funding packages, it is possible that they might be able to transfer funding with the granted transfer authority, to special districts. If needed, Colleen can send template guidelines on how to ask for funding from the County.

Colleen also thanked those who attended the CSDA Conference and informed us about the upcoming October Board Clerk Conference.

G. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

1. Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park District--- Steve Wesolowski

Steve Wesolowski said that his district stayed open for the last three months following the County guidelines and provided aquatic recreation to the public such as swimming lessons and facility availability on weekends. Apart from this, the District held its first public meeting for a small group in September 2021.

2. Cupertino Sanitary District--- Bill Bosworth

No further updates from the previous meeting.

3. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District--- Yoriko Kishimoto

Yoriko said that MROSD is working to keep trails and preserves open during this time and thanked staff for their work. The Midpeninsula District is also utilizing resources on wildfire preparedness.

4. Saratoga Cemetery District --- Sue Fitzpatrick

Sue gave no further update.

5. Santa Clara Valley Open Space District--- Helen Chapman

Helen Chapman shared that OSA was awarded \$6 million from the State Government's Flood Protection Grant Program for acquisition property in North Coyote Valley. She also mentioned that legislature passed a budget trailer bill, SB 170, that allocates another \$10 million for purchase.



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6. Los Altos Hills County Fire District---J. Logan

J.Logan reported that the Fire District is working on various water vegetation mitigation measures (removal of hazardous fire fuels). The Fire District is also working with Mid-Peninsula Open Space Authority on common boundaries between the District and Mid-Peninsula to examine community strategic fuel break. The joint project is currently undergoing discussions with the Board of Commissioners.

7. South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District---Dwight Good

Dwight Good said the Fire Protection District just finished their five-year financial plan which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the near future. The District is also soliciting bids for a solar project in one of the District's fire stations. Finally, the District just finished a few ISO reviews for contract fire agencies in the area.

8. Santa Clara County Department of Roads and Airports---Rocelia G. Kmak

Rocelia G. Kmak gave no further update.

9. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District---Joshua Hugg

Joshua Hugg shared that MROSD received two member requests for this year's budget. They are: (1) \$8 million for land acquisition in San Mateo County and (2) \$2 million to assist with Highway 17 wildlife and trail crossing project.

10. Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority---Lea Rauscher

Lea Rauscher reported that Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority will be kicking off their Coyote Valley Master Planning process. The Space Authority will be holding webinars during the next three weeks (September 16th, 23rd, and 30th).

H. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

By next meeting, the SCCSDA will provide a more detailed update on the website and Domingo will reach out to legislative offices to request a representative at SCCSDA meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:04pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 6 2021.