



SANTA CLARA COUNTY

SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

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

Meeting Minutes

Santa Clara County Special Districts Association

June 2, 2025

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

1. Call to Order

SCCSDA President Helen Chapman called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Members:

Helen Chapman, Director, Santa Clara Valley Open Space District (President)
Brandon Kwan, Director, Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District (Vice President)
Jim Beall, Director, Valley Water Board of Directors (Treasurer)
Frank Maitski, President, North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District
Sue Fitzpatrick, Trustee, Saratoga Cemetery District
Peter Van Dyke, Board President, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District
Mark Shumate, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department
Jo Anne "J" Logan, General Manager, Los Altos Hills County Fire District
Craig Gleason, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Gene Zambetti, Commissioner, Saratoga Fire Protection District
Bill Bosworth, Director, Cupertino Sanitary District

Attendees (Non-Voting):

Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director, North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District
Yoriko Kishimoto, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Ryan Clausnitzer, Director, California Special Districts Association
Colleen Haley, Public Affairs Field Coordinator, California Special Districts Association
Dina Iden, Executive Director, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District

SCCSDA Support Staff:

Genevieve Yip, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water
Kalah Williams, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water
Alan Zheng, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water

2. Public Comment

None.

3. District Overview: North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District (NSCRCD)

Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director of the North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District (NSCRCD), provided an overview of the district's history, funding, and key initiatives. She shared that modern conservation efforts originated in response to the Dust Bowl, leading to the formation of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the creation of local Resource Conservation Districts. NSCRCD is one of two RCDs in Santa Clara County and is supported by a property tax base of approximately \$380,000, with a total FY 2024–2025 budget of \$1.2 million.

She shared that NSCRCD's mission includes promoting agricultural resilience, climate adaptation, habitat restoration, research, and public engagement through collaboration



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with local agencies and partners. Key programs include the Farm and Ranch Resilience Program, which helps producers access federal conservation funding; the San Jose Community Composting Network, focused on public education and resource sharing; and the Zero Emissions Neighborhood (ZEN) Project with the City of San Jose, which aims to replace lawns with native plantings and install irrigation systems in community gardens. Moreno also highlighted the Open-Source Pond-IT Program, which helps land managers model pond conditions to support native species, and the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Restoration Project, conducted in partnership with San Jose Water and South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition. She also reported that NSCRCD's research efforts include a recent habitat suitability study for Tule Elk in the Bay Area and Monterey Bay regions. Executive Director Moreno also highlighted the district's role in advancing local conservation through science-based solutions and community partnerships.

4. **State Legislative Office Updates**

None.

5. **Business**

a. **Discussion and Approval of March 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Vice President Brandon Kwan, seconded by Director Bill Bosworth, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the March 3, 2025 meeting minutes.

b. **Discussion and Approval of Financial Report**

It was moved by Director Sue Fitzpatrick, seconded by Director Craig Gleason, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the quarterly financial report ending on May 30, 2025.

c. **Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing Two Representatives to Attend California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Annual Conference on August 25-28, 2025, in Monterey, CA**

Vice President Brandon Kwan and Director Sue Fitzpatrick offered to represent Santa Clara County Special Districts Association in the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Annual Conference on August 25-28, 2025, in Monterey, CA.

It was moved by Director Gene Zambetti moved, seconded by Director Craig Gleason, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve Vice President Brandon Kwan and Director Sue Fitzpatrick to attend the CSDA Annual Conference and represent the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association.

6. **Partner Agency Reports**

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

Yoriko Kishimoto, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Director, mentioned that the work plan for the coming year is on LAFCO's agenda. The fire services study review's implementation is currently ongoing, and the countywide water and wastewater service review is most likely to come up next.



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b. California Special Districts Association (CSDA)

Colleen Haley, Public Affairs Field Coordinator for the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), provided a legislative and events update. She reported that SB 496, which would establish an appeals advisory committee for the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation, has become a two-year bill and is currently held in the Appropriations Committee, despite previously receiving unanimous support. AB 259, which extends alternative teleconferencing provisions under the Brown Act to January 1, 2030, has passed the Assembly and is progressing in the Senate. H.R. 2766, the Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act, mirrors last year's effort to improve grant access for special districts.

She also shared upcoming CSDA events: the General Manager Leadership Summit (June 29–July 1, Olympic Valley), Special District Leadership Academy in Redding (October 5–8), the Board Secretary/Clerk Conference (October 27), and the Special District Leadership Academy in Monterey (November 16–19).

7. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

Director Craig Gleason reported that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District raised the pride flag at its Los Altos administration office. He also shared that the district is partnering with the Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network to plan a one-day science and stewardship symposium in January or February 2026, featuring completed projects on public and private lands, as well as emerging research. Director J. Logan noted that the Los Altos Hills County Fire District published its June newsletter. She reported that nearly all communities in the district are now designated Firewise and that work is ongoing on the Moody/El Monte Roads Evacuation Route Project. Director Bill Bosworth shared that there has been discussion among regulators about requiring sanitary districts to test wastewater for COVID. Vice President Brandon Kwan reported that the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District proclaimed May 16 as Rancho Day and hosted its Summer Splash Market on May 25. He noted the district has maintained a 5-10% budget surplus annually and continues to offer staff benefits that help attract top talent. Director Sue Fitzpatrick reported that the Saratoga Cemetery District is conducting additional tree and plantings and is working toward Level II arboretum accreditation. Director Jim Beall shared that work is underway on Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050. He also reported that Valley Water is preparing to go to bid for the final phase of the Anderson Dam construction, expected to take 3-4 years. President Helen Chapman reported that the Santa Clara Valley Open Space District, in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency and Peninsula Open Space Trust, opened a new 14-mile segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail near Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve.

8. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

a. Action Item Review

Valley Water staff will coordinate with the two designated SCCSDA representatives to the CSDA Annual Conference scheduled on August 25-28, 2025, in Monterey, CA. Staff will bring back the expense reports to the next quarterly meeting.

b. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.