



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 3, 2025

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

1. Call to Order

SCCSDA President Sue Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 12:00 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
Mark Shumate, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department
Christine West, Executive Director, South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District
Gene Zambetti, Commissioner, Saratoga Fire Protection District
Brandon Kwan, Director, Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District
Craig Gleason, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Attendees (Non-Voting):

Barbara Keegan, Vice Chair, Valley Water Board of Directors
Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer, Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County
Yoriko Kishimoto, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Dane Wadlé, Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator - Sierra Network, CSDA
Rocelia Kmak, Principal Civil Engineer - Infrastructure Development Division, Santa Clara County

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 September 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Director Bosworth, seconded by Director Gleason, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the September 9, 2024 meeting minutes.



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b. Discussion and Approval of Financial Report

It was moved by Director Estremera, seconded by Vice President Chapman, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the quarterly financial report ending on November 22, 2024.

c. Discussion and Consideration of 2025 Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Director Kwan, seconded by Vice President Chapman, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the 2025 meeting schedule.

d. Discussion and Consideration of 2025 Budget

Executive Director Stephanie Moreno asked the Board if they would consider amending the proposed budget to include funds to send two SCCSDA representatives to the CSDA Annual Conference. There were no objections to this suggestion. It was moved by Director Estremera, seconded by Vice President Chapman, and unanimously carried, that the Board direct staff to amend the budget to include funds to send two SCCSDA representatives to the CSDA Annual Conference and approve the 2025 budget as amended.

5. Partner Agency Reports

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

LAFCO Executive Officer Neelima Palacherla thanked SCCSDA for the opportunity to report out on the proposed revisions to the current LAFCO policies at their last meeting and thanked the special districts for submitting their comments. She reported that LAFCO has prepared responses to all comments received and took questions from the SCCSDA Board.

b. California Special Districts Association (CSDA)

Dane Wadlé, CSDA Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator, reported that CSDA completed their annual end-of-year legislative report. He reported that CSDA reviewed 5,562 measures during the 2023-24 Legislative Session, tracked 1,531 bills, and maintained priority positions on 195 measures. He also reported that, of the 78 bills opposed by CSDA, only 13 became law, and of the 117 bills supported by CSDA, 62 became law.

6. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

Director Kwan reported that Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park District is developing their new master plan. VTA Senior Policy Analyst Aaron Quigley announced that VTA has a new Chief Government Affairs Officer, Beverly Green. Chief Government Affairs Officer Beverly Green introduced herself and stated that she was looking forward to working with SCCSDA. Vice President Chapman reported that the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority was happy about the passage of Proposition 4, which will bring \$25 million to the work on the Coyote Valley Master Plan; she also reported that they received \$5 million from the Wildlife Conservation Board, which will go towards purchase of properties in Mid-Coyote Valley. She also thanked Director Barbara Keegan for working so closely with the Open Space Authority and wished her all the best in her future endeavors. Director Logan reported that the Los Altos Hills County Fire District is in the middle of preparing their budget for the upcoming fiscal year and are also increasing their Firewise USA programs. Director Keegan thanked SCCSDA for working with her and Valley Water and announced that, after 12 years of serving on the Valley Water Board of Directors, she has decided



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to step down and will be succeeded by Shiloh Ballard. Director Craig Gleason reported that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has opened the Phase II trails at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, which now provides public access to a previously closed area of the 1,400-acre preserve.

Director Van Dyke reported that the Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District was in the final stages of prescribed burn planning in South County for CAL FIRE and is in the process of helping growers with paperwork for flood damage. Santa Clara County Fire Department Deputy Chief Mark Shumate reported that they had a very busy fire season and there were over 80 people deployed from various departments at various fires throughout the state. He also reported that Santa Clara County Fire Department recently held their open house for the Redwood Fire Station. Montana Cruz introduced himself as the new Peninsula Division Regional Public Affairs Manager and provided his contact information. President Fitzpatrick invited the Board to consider serving as an SCCSDA Officer in 2025, and to contact her if there are any questions.

7. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

a. Action Item Review

Valley Water staff will amend the proposed budget to include funds to send two SCCSDA representatives to the CSDA Annual Conference scheduled on August 25-28, 2025, in Monterey, CA. Staff will bring back the amended budget to the first quarterly meeting scheduled on June 2, 2025.

b. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.