



SANTA CLARA COUNTY

SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

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

Meeting Minutes

Santa Clara County Special Districts Association
Monday, December 5, 2022
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

SCCSDA Vice President Sue Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Members:

Sue Fitzpatrick, Trustee, Saratoga Cemetery District (Vice President)
Tony Estremera, Director, Valley Water Board of Directors (SCCSDA Treasurer)
Steve Wesolowski, Director, Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District
Helen Chapman, Director, Santa Clara Valley Open Space District
Bill Bosworth, Director, Cupertino Sanitary District
Pete Siemens, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space 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

Presenter(s):

Cole Arreola-Karr, Federal Advocacy Director, National Special Districts Coalition

Attendees (Non-Voting):

Richard Santos, Director, Valley Water Board of Directors
Gary Kremen, Director, 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
Colleen Haley, Public Affairs Field Coordinator, California Special Districts Association
Joshua Hugg, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Lea Rauscher, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Kevin Davis, Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park District

SCCSDA Support Staff:

Marta Lugo, Assistant Officer for External Affairs, Valley Water
Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water
Nadia Webster, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water
Heather Hamp, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Presentation on Special District Concerns on EPA's Proposed Rule Designating PFAS Under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Federal Updates Pertaining to Special Districts

Cole Arreola-Karr, Federal Advocacy Director for the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC), presented on the EPA's proposed rule designating Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) under CERCLA and its potential implications for special districts. He provided a brief history on key PFAS federal action, and explained that PFAS is an entire



SANTA CLARA COUNTY

SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

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

class of chemicals known as “forever chemicals” because it takes forever to breakdown in the human body and environment. Legacy contamination has occurred on sites where special districts operate their public services (e.g., water, dumps, fire protection). In November 2021, EPA released the PFAS Strategic Roadmap to address PFAS to lay out steps for EPA to enforce public health advisories on PFAS (PFOS and PFOA). The proposed rule is to regulate PFAS as a hazardous substance regulated under CERCLA to strengthen the ability to hold polluters financially accountable.

He reported NSDC has a major concern over the vagueness of the proposal and would like to see cost considerations as a factor for developing these regulations (e.g., it would cost \$370 billion for public agencies to cleanup PFAS from the environment). He added there is no specificity within the regulation on whether the polluter would pay for it, or if the district or agency that has the pollutant pass through just by touching the water.

He reported NSDC commented to EPA that special district facilities should not be subject to being a superfund location and NSDC is advocating for protection from chemicals that are released in the air due to these chemicals. EPA received 62k comments were submitted to proposed rule. The final rule for PFOA and PFOS drinking water regulation is anticipated to come out in Summer 2023.

4. State Legislative Office Updates

None.

5. Business

a. Discussion and Approval of September 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Director Bosworth, seconded by Director Chapman, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the September 12, 2022 meeting minutes.

b. Discussion and Approval of Financial Report

It was moved by Director Siemens, seconded by Director Bosworth, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the quarterly financial report ending on November 30, 2022.

c. Discussion and Consideration of 2023 Meeting Schedule

Vice Chair Fitzpatrick went over the proposed 2023 meeting schedule. It was moved by Director Chapman, seconded by Director Bosworth, and unanimously carried, that the Board approve the proposed 2023 meeting schedule.

d. Discussion and Consideration of 2023 Budget

Vice Chair Fitzpatrick briefly went over the proposed 2023 budget. It was moved by Director Estremera, seconded by Director Davis, and unanimously carried, that the Board approved the proposed 2023 budget.

e. Discussion and Consideration of Membership Dues

Vice Chair Fitzpatrick sought input from the Board on whether membership dues should be raised. Director Bosworth commented that he saw no reason to raise the membership dues. Director Siemens commented that he was in agreement with Director Bosworth. It was determined the membership dues will remain status quo.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY

SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

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

6. Partner Agency Reports

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

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer, reported LAFCO is working with AP Triton Consulting to collect data from local fire service providers for the service review of fire service and emergency medical service (EMS) provision in Santa Clara County. Ms. Palacherla reported the collection of data is difficult, not only due to the broad scope of the study, but also because the variety of CAD services used makes collating the information to standardized data complex and time intensive. As a result, they've had to push out the schedule for the project. She reported data collection phase is nearly complete and consultants will compile a profile for each of the agencies. After LAFCO staff reviews the findings, it will be shared with agencies for validation. The consultant will then create draft public review for comment.

b. **California Special Districts Association (CSDA)**

Colleen Haley, Public Affairs Field Coordinator for CSDA, reported that Congressman Ro Khanna was nominated as Legislator of the Year. Ms. Haley also reported the new CSDA State Representative is Heidi Hannaman. Ms. Haley noted Assemblymember Robert Rivas new Speaker of the California State Assembly, effective June 30, 2023. It was suggested we invite a member of his staff to attend one of our meetings. Ms. Haley also reported on the passage of AB 2449 ("Limited Teleconferencing in Specified Scenarios"), which allows legislative bodies to hold remote meetings in specified scenarios, and SB 1100 ("Removing Disruptive Meeting Attendees"), which allows the removal of disruptive individuals in meetings.

7. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

Director Estremera introduced Valley Water's Board Members, Jim Beall (District 4) and Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7).

Director Chapman introduced new Santa Clara Open Space District Board Member, Garnetta Annable (District 4).

Director Logan reported that the Los Altos Hills County Fire District is working with partners on a vegetation mitigation project to prepare for next fire season.

Director Cowan introduced El Camino Healthcare District's new Board Members, Dr. Peter Fung and Dr. George Ting. He also reported the annual Community Benefit Grant Program application cycle is open now through February 24, 2023.

Director Siemens reported Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has been ramping up the fire prevention work and dedicated a new headquarters building in Los Altos. Director Siemens reported that he will be retiring at the end of the year and Craig Gleason will be the joining the Board of Directors to represent Ward 1.

Director Van Dyke reported out that Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District has been assisting a grower with his pump issues regarding a spill. He also reported they are trying to create a Recycling Program for the plastic drip tape and plastic mulch that growers have a hard time disposing. He also noted they completed a carbon sequestration project in San Benito County.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY

SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

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

Kevin Davis recognized that Director Wesolowski served 30 years on the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District Board and that Wayne Lin will begin serving on the Board in 2023. Vice President Fitzpatrick reported that the Saratoga Cemetery District Board will be changing their President and Vice President in January.

Heather Hamp thanked CSDA on behalf of Valley Water for making homeless encampment resolution funding for special districts one of the legislative priorities.

8. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

a. Action Item Review

The December 5, 2022 meeting had the following action items:

- (1) Invite Assemblymember Robert Rivas to a future meeting to be determined.
- (2) Invite Rep. Gail Pellerin to a future meeting to be determined.
- (3) Look into recognition and send-off for outgoing Directors (Linda LeZotte, Steve Wesolowski, and Pete Siemens).

b. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled on March 6, 2023.