

**CONTRA COSTA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION**  
**July 20, 2009**

**MINUTES**

The quarterly meeting of the Contra Costa Special Districts Association was held at 10:00 a.m. on July 20, 2009, at the Pleasant Hill Community Center in Pleasant Hill. Chairperson Bette Boatmun led the meeting with 29 members in attendance, representing 14 special districts.

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Boatmun called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Introductions and comments followed with each representative giving an update on their respective agencies.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of April 20, 2009, were approved.

**Committee Updates:**

Program Committee

Paul Soltow, West County Wastewater District, had wanted to have today's meeting at West County Wastewater District in order to view their new solar energy system. However, because of a miscommunication, this did not come to fruition. It was suggested to have a guest speaker presentation on how the future is looking for the Peripheral Canal and the Delta. It was also suggested to have a guest speaker presentation on recycled water. Mr. Soltow asked that members forward their ideas for guest speakers to either Tom Williams, Ironhouse Sanitary District, or to Mr. Soltow.

Bylaw Committee

There was no presentation. The Committee will begin revising the Bylaws in the Fall of 2009.

Membership Directory Committee

David A. Requa, Dublin-San Ramon Services District, and his staff have been working diligently to update the Membership Directory. They are contacting special districts for updated information. Mr. Requa read the "Early History of Contra Costa Special

Districts Association" section that will be included in the Directory. The Directory is approximately 70% completed. Prior to distribution, the Directory will be distributed to each special district for review.

### **West Nile Virus and Mosquito & Vector Control Activities in Contra Costa County**

Chairperson Boatman introduced Craig Downs, Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control. Mr. Downs has 27 years with the District, nine years as General Manager.

West Nile virus is a viral disease of birds that is transmitted from bird to bird by mosquitoes. Horses are susceptible to West Nile virus and about 1/3 of the horses that develop symptoms will die. Most people who contract the virus will have few or no symptoms and will recover completely. About 1 in 150 people who contract the disease may develop serious complications. Elderly people are more at risk of these complications. There is currently no vaccine or specific treatment available.

Reporting of dead birds is important in order to help predict where the virus will spread and it also gives Mosquito & Vector Control a six week window as to when it may show up in humans. Certain birds, especially crows, ravens, jays, hawks, owls and sparrows/finches, are highly susceptible to West Nile virus. Frequently dead birds are the first indication of virus transmission in a particular area. If you find a bird that has died recently (within 24 hours) with no obvious cause, the California Department of Health Services requests that you call 1-877-WNV-BIRD to report it. If the bird is a candidate for testing, they will arrange for a District technician to pick it up.

How do you protect yourself?

- Clean up any standing water on your property that might breed mosquitoes (unkempt pools/spas, buckets, old tires, clogged gutters etc.)
- Keep window and door screens in good repair
- Avoid being outside around dusk when mosquitoes are active
- If you need to be outside, wear long sleeves and pants and use an insect repellent

### **CCSDA's Recommendation for Proposed Revisions to the CSDA Bylaws**

A memo from the CSDA regarding the proposed Bylaws Amendments was distributed. It is important to note that most of the changes in the 2009 revision of the Bylaws are the re-arrangement of wording. Notable changes are:

- The Election and Bylaws Committee has been given the authority to set the timing of the dates for the nomination and election of directors and the meetings of the members.
- Thirty day notices have been changed to forty five days.
- A brief paragraph describing the responsibilities of each of Standing Committee.

It is recommended that the changes be adopted. Ballots are due on July 31, 2009 at 5:00 PM.

**LAFCO Representative Report:**

Dwight Meadows, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, reported that the Fire and Emergency Medical Services are the last Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) to be completed. The reviews of the Reclamation Districts have been completed. George H. Schmidt has been chosen to fill LAFCO's Special District Member Alternate position.

**Legislative Committee Report:**

Stan Caldwell, Mt. View Sanitary District, distributed the CSDA Bill Index dated 07/17/09. Special Districts need to be prepared for Prop 1A suspension.

**East Bay Regional Park District – Park Advisory Committee Report:**

E. J. Shalaby, West County Wastewater District, distributed Park Advisory Committee meeting minutes for March and April. The District Board is reviewing the 1997 Master Plan, and recommendations from the Park Advisory Committee will play a major roll in the revisions. As environmental remediation projects are completed, additions to the Bay Trail additions will begin.

**CCSDA's Financial Report:**

Mark Cornelius reported that the group's finances are in good shape. Pat Keeble has cashed the \$3,000 check for 2005-2007 newsletters.

Savings Account – Ending Balance \$8,618.93  
Checking Account – Ending Balance \$1,313.29

**California Special Districts Association Activities Update:**

Sherry Sterrett, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, attended the July 17, 2009, CSDA Board Meeting. The possible suspension of Prop 1A and the State Budget were the main topics for discussion. There is a seat up for election in Region 3 / Bay Coastal (currently held by Dr. Jim Kohlen, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District). Ballots for the proposed 2009 Bylaw Amendments are due on July 31, 2009 at 5:00 PM. The CSDA Annual Conference in Indian Wells, CA, will be held September 21-24, 2009. CSDA Chapters will be featured at the conference. There is a new CSDA / Chapter Membership Incentive Program. Ms. Sterrett urged special districts to join. One of the exceptional benefits of joining is the educational programs offered by CSDA. If you want more information regarding the program, please contact Ms. Sterrett for an application packet. Ms. Sterrett applauded Contra Costa LAFCO for joining CSDA. There will be no due increases this year.

**Mayors' Conference Report:**

John Burgh, Contra Costa Water District, was not available to give the report. Therefore, Chairperson Boatman stated that she attend the July conference in Brentwood. The guest speaker was Congressmen Jerry McNerney.

**Other Business**

- Barbara Hockett, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, stated that Central Contra Costa Sanitary District opposes the proposed statewide private sewer lateral (PSL) legislation and wondered if CSDA had taken a position.
- The next CCSDA meeting will be held October 19, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Boatman adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Angela Taliani