

California Special Districts Association San Diego Chapter News

Volume 1 - 2019

February • March



* Meet Our Affiliates *



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PUBLIC AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

A Bit About LAFCO



*Keene Simonds
Executive Officer, LAFCO.*

LAFCOs were created in 1963 in all 58 counties to coordinate local government services with the original task of regulating the formation and evolution (annexations, detachments, consolidation, etc.) of cities and special districts.

LAFCO law has proven to be dynamic and its tasks/responsibilities have greatly expanded since 1963 and highlighted by all of the following:

Beginning in 1971

LAFCOs establish spheres of influence for all cities and special districts to demarcate the area LAFCO believes represents the appropriate current and future jurisdictional boundary and/or service area. (Jurisdictional changes must be comply with spheres with limited exceptions.)

Beginning in 1993

LAFCOs were given the authority to initiate certain reorganizations involving special districts, including formation, consolidation, and dissolution. Also beginning in 1993, **special districts** provided the opportunity to establish membership on LAFCOs through a majority vote.

Beginning in 1994

LAFCOs were given regulatory powers over the extension of municipal services provided outside agencies' jurisdictional boundaries by contract or agreement (Closed a loophole in which some cities/districts would circumvent LAFCO and respond to annexation denials by working out a contract with a the landowner/developer to secure the necessary services.)

Beginning in 2001

LAFCOs were tasked with regularly preparing independent studies of the adequacy/need of local governmental services every five years as part of the "municipal service review" directive. (Studies directly inform the concurrent need to update spheres as needed.) Also beginning in 2001 the following organizational changes were enacted:

- All LAFCOs now must appoint their own EOs (Executive Officers)
- Funding formula changed from 100% counties to proportional shares divided between counties, cities, and – if represented - **special districts**.

Beginning in 2008

LAFCOs now regulate the ability of special districts to activate a latent power or divest itself from an active power.

(LAFCO continued on Page 5)



San Diego Chapter Quarterly Dinner Meeting

Wednesday – February 20, 2019

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Dinner served at 6:45 pm

Location

The Butcher Shop Steakhouse
Kearny Mesa
5255 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA (858) 565-2272

<http://butchershopsd.signonsandiego.com>

Please send in your RSVP form to our CSDA Treasurer, [Rich Stevenson at Sweetwater Authority](#).

**RSVP Deadline:
Wednesday, 02/13/19**



Join us for a dynamic, interactive, and educational evening as SDCSDA welcomes its guest speaker, **David Berry**, Founder and Principal of Rule 13 Learning, who's presentation's title: ***“What to Remember in the Middle of Change”*** promises to be enlightening.

David Berry has been coaching and teaching executive leaders since 2001. He got started in the world of professional training and development by leading programs for BlessingWhite, Inc. This led to an invitation to join TaylorMade-Adidas Golf Company where he became the company's first Vice President for Leadership and Organizational Development. David and his team established TaylorMade's Learning Center, the heart of which was a leadership coaching initiative in support of the company's extraordinary growth from \$600M to \$1.6B in revenue.

In 2013, David founded RULE13 Learning, LLC to serve leaders who want to build more resilient, effective and change-ready organizations. He currently works with a diverse group of clients that includes Callaway Golf Company, Hawthorne Machinery, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Ariat International and Realty Income. In 2016, David published his first book, *A More Daring Life: Finding Voice at the Crossroads of Change*.

Later that year, he was invited to join the faculty of California State University San Marcos as a lecturer in the College of Business Administration. He has taught courses in entrepreneurship, innovation and organizational behavior in addition to advising in the Senior Experience program. He also serves as an “Executive in Residence,” advising students in a professional development curriculum.

David's professional contributions have been featured in the *Training Magazine* article, “Crafting a Coaching Culture” and he is a past contributor to the *International Journal of Coaching in Organizations*, an article from which is featured in *The Completely Revised Handbook of Coaching* (Jossey-Bass, 2012).

David holds certifications from the Hudson Institute of Coaching and the Institute for Conversational Leadership. He was educated at Loyola Marymount University where he earned a Bachelor's in Humanities and a Master's in Education.

David lives in Vista, California with his wife, Theresa, and their three children.



President Tom Kennedy's Message



Happy New Year San Diego CSDA Members!

I hope all of you are sticking to your New Year's Resolutions – especially the one where you committed yourself to become more active in CSDA! As one of the leading chapters in the State, the San Diego Chapter only thrives because you get involved. If you have colleagues that do not attend our regular dinner meetings please invite them to attend! As we all know, this is the best place to network with leaders from other organizations and learn some of the best practices that will help those that we serve each day.

As some of you may have noticed in recent emails from Chris Palmer, the San Diego Chapter once again has generated a champion in the "Districts Make the Difference" statewide video contest! This is only fitting because this program started here in San Diego thanks to Kathleen Coates-Hedberg. This year, the entry that won second place in the San Diego region won first place statewide. The video by La Costa Canyon High School freshman Heath Dunbar won him an additional \$2000 from CSDA. A brief ceremony awarding Heath this scholarship was held on January 14 at Leucadia Wastewater's offices. The Mayor of Carlsbad, Matt Hall presented Heath with a commendation. In addition, Matthew Phy of State Senator Pat Bates' office presented Heath with an additional commendation.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our **February 20th** Quarterly Dinner Meeting – just a few weeks away! We will have another busy night with informative updates from Keene Simonds, Executive Officer at San Diego LAFCO, Chris Palmer with CSDA, and a new update will come from Matthew Phy from Senator Bates' office. These short updates are a powerful reason to attend CSDA quarterly meetings because you can get information that you need directly from the source – and have an opportunity for meaningful interactions.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be David Berry, founder of Rule 13 Learning, who's presentation's title: "*What to Remember in the Middle of Change*" promises to be enlightening. David's work focuses on coaching and training executive leaders in organizations. He is an author, lecturer, and now a faculty member at Cal State San Marcos. David will help us understand what we need to do in order to get the most out of ourselves and our organizations. Managing change is a challenge we all face, and David's specialty is helping individuals and organizations deal with change. Make sure to bring your GMs with you this month!

~ Tom

Treasurer's Report

October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018



Income for the period was from the November 2018 dinner meeting \$1,600.00 (55 attendees) and 2018-19 Membership Payments \$250.00 for a total of **\$1,850.00**.

Expenditures for the period included Butcher Shop Restaurant for November 2018 dinner meeting \$2,082.12 and Gales Creek Insurance for annual liability insurance \$510.00 for a total of **\$2,592.12**.

The fund balances as of December 31, 2018 were as follows: the Grant Scholarship Fund remained unchanged with a balance of \$16,649.94; the Speaker Program fund remained unchanged with a balance of \$4,000.00; and the General Fund balance after adjustments for income and expenses was \$13,263.43 for a total **Fund balance of \$34,655.49**. The bank balance as of September 30, 2018 was \$33,913.37 pending two outstanding checks in the total amount of \$500.00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rich Stevenson, CSDA Treasurer



San Diego Chapter CSDA Offering Two Educational Opportunities for Students and Teachers!!

This year, we are excited to announce that our chapter has two educational opportunities for students and teachers. Both programs are designed to increase the familiarity of special districts for a wide range of kids, their parents, and their teachers. **Fliers, details, rules, and applications can be found on our website at www.sandiegocsda.weebly.com.**

2019 Field Trip Grant (4th - 8th grade)



Two grants will be awarded this year. Each award will include a field trip to the Special District selected from the list on the back of the grant brochure, and up to **\$800 to cover the cost of up to two buses to transport the lucky students**. A Special District liaison will also be assigned to assist with the field trip planning. **Applications are due by 4/01/19.**

2019 High School Student Video Contest (9th - 12th grade)



Students are asked to create a 1-2 minute video with the purpose of educating the public about, "What's So Special About Special Districts?" **Prizes are \$1,500 for 1st place, \$1,000 for 2nd place, \$500 for 3rd place and a school award of \$250 per each prize winner.** Videos must be about Special Districts and how they serve the community. The students are encouraged to contact a special district in their community for insight. **Video submissions are due by 4/1/19.**

2019

Special District Leadership Academy San Diego

When: 4/7/2019 - 4/10/2019

Where: Embassy Suites San Diego Bay
601 Pacific Highway, San Diego

Comprehensive Governance Leadership Conferences for Elected and Appointed Directors/Trustees.

This conference content is based on CSDA's Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) groundbreaking, curriculum-based continuing education program, which recognizes the necessity for the board and general manager to work closely toward a common goal. SDLA provides the knowledge base to perform essential governance responsibilities and is designed for both new and experienced special district board members.

First time attendee or returning attendee tracks are available. First time attendees must attend all first-time sessions to receive their certificate at the conclusion of the conference.

For more information visit the website:
<https://www.csda.net/home>

2019 SDC CSDA Meeting Calendar

Executive Board and Quarterly Dinner Meeting Schedule

- Jan 21 – Executive Board Meeting
- Feb 20 – Quarterly Dinner Meeting
- Apr 15 - Executive Board Meeting
- May 16 – Quarterly Dinner Meeting
- Jul 15 – Executive Board Meeting
- Aug 15 – Quarterly Dinner Meeting
- Oct 21 – Executive Board Meeting
- Nov 21 – Quarterly Dinner Meeting



(LAFCO continued from Page 1)

Facts About San Diego LAFCO

- One of the most active LAFCOs and marked by having consolidated and/or dissolved more than 100 special districts in the last 30 years. (The end result is the remaining special districts are the best of the original lot.)
 - ◆ Last special district dissolution... CSA No. 115 in December 2018.
 - ◆ Last incorporation... City of Encinitas in 1986.
 - ◆ Last special district formation...Rural Fire Protection District in 1983 (which was subsequently dissolved in 2015 as part of a consolidation with San Miguel FPD).
 - ◆ Special legislation in 1983 added two additional seats (regular and alternate) on SD LAFCO for City of San Diego.
 - ◆ Only a few executive officers in its history:
 - Robert Small (1963 to 1970)
 - Skip Schmidt (1970 to 1976)
 - Mike Gotch (1976 to 1979)
 - William Davis (1979 to 1984)
 - Jane Merrill (1984 to 1992)
 - Mike Ott (1992 to 2017) * Side note: until Mike Ott retired, all previous EOs were internal hires
 - Keene Simonds (2017 to Present)
- Presently staffed with 8.0 full-time employees and a budget of \$1.9 million.
- Special District representatives currently serve as Chair (Jo MacKenzie) and Vice Chair (Ed Sprague).
- Current adopted work-plan target 25 specific projects for 2018-2019.
- Recently adopted a 5-year study schedule to calendar municipal service reviews and their subsequent sphere of influence updates.

San Diego LAFCO Current Executive Officer

- Previously served as LAFCO EO in Marin County.
- Immediate connection made with recruitment committee – Dianne Jacob (representing County), Sam Abed (representing Cities), Jo MacKenzie (representing Districts), and Andy Vanderlaan (representing Public) – coupled with SD LAFCO’s strong reputation among LAFCO peers made jump from Marin to SD relatively easy decision.
- Believer in the MSRs and putting resources into them.

- Believer in insourcing work and hiring analysts to replace services previously provided by consultants.
- Goals for SD LAFCO in 2019:
 - ◆ Expand work of 16-member Special District Advisory Committee.
 - ◆ Explore – and if merited facilitate – the reorganization of CSA No. 135 (County Fire Authority) into Fire Protection District.
 - ◆ Carve out a good/useful role in implementing State Groundwater Management Act or SGMA.

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Keene Simonds serves as Executive Officer for San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO); a regional planning subdivision of the State of California responsible for overseeing the establishment, expansion, consolidation, and – if merited – dissolution of local government agencies. Central duties involve managing the day-to-day regulatory and planning activities of San Diego LAFCO and current oversight therein of 108 cities, towns, and districts in San Diego County. Mr. Simonds holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Pepperdine University (political science) and University of Southern California (public administration), respectively. Additionally, he serves as a board member for the California Urban Forest Council and resides in Escondido with his wife Candice and three boys – Avery, Andrew, and Alexander.

Quick Tip

Don't say "majority of the quorum"

The outmoded and unfortunate phrase "majority of the quorum" is still sometimes found in bylaws and other policy documents. Such a phrase can lead to problems when it's time to count the votes.

While a quorum is "the minimum number of voting members who must be present for business to be conducted," there may be more than a quorum present at a meeting. In such a case, if everyone votes, it will take more than a "majority of the quorum" to pass a motion. Avoid the resulting confusion by avoiding this phrase.



For more go to:
jurassicparliament.com



Video Contest Winner Heath Dunbar Wins Again!

CSDA's *Districts Make the Difference* public outreach campaign held an award presentation at the Leucadia Wastewater District in Carlsbad in January. The event recognized local student, Heath Dunbar, as the first-place winner of the statewide Districts Make the Difference 2018 Student Video Contest.

Heath was presented with the state agency's \$2,000 first-place scholarship prize and received additional recognition for his achievement from Mayor Matt Hall, of the City of Carlsbad. A commendation was also presented from Senator Pat Bates' office by Matthew Phy.

The California Special District Association's annual contest provides high school and college students the opportunity to express their creativity and learn about the local special districts that provide essential services such as water, electricity, fire protection, healthcare, and more. Our Chapter's annual video contest is open to high school students. Additionally, we have an essay contest for middle-school students who are rewarded with a field trip to one of the many participating special districts in our region.

Heath's video provided an overview of the many ways special districts make a difference for California's communities.



Photo above, left to right: Trisha Hill, Jo MacKenzie, Richard A. Duffey, Elaine Sullivan, Tom Kennedy, Heath Dunbar, Mayor Matt Hall, Matthew Phy, David Kulchin, Donald Omsted, and parents Cheryl and Ed Dunbar. Photo below, left to right: Heath Dunbar and Mayor Matt Hall.



CSDA San Diego Chapter - 2019 Board of Directors

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| President | Tom Kennedy , Rainbow MWD, tkennedy@rainbowmwd.com |
| 1st VP | Jim Peasley , Padre Dam MWD, jfpeasley@cox.net |
| 2nd VP | Elaine Sullivan , Leucadia Wastewater District, esullivan@lwwd.org |
| Secretary | Diana Towne , Rincon del Diablo MWD, dtowne@rinconwater.org |
| Treasurer | Rich Stevenson , Sweetwater Authority, rstevenson@sweetwater.org |
| Past President | - - - |
| State CSDA Rep | Jo MacKenzie , Vista Irrigation District, mackgroup@cox.net |

CSDA San Diego chapter newsletter is printed quarterly. If you have any comments or suggestions, please direct them to Diana Towne, SDCSDA Board Secretary at: dtowne@rinconwater.org.