

California Special Districts Association San Diego Chapter News

Volume 2 - 2017

May • June

SPECIAL DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Borrego Water District

Has Returned to the San Diego Chapter & CSDA

In January of 1774, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza and a small group of soldiers, servants, and a herd of about 200 cattle and pack animals left Sonora (now southern Arizona) to explore and open the needed supply route from northern Sonora to California. On March 22, 1774, de Anza and a portion of his expedition arrived at Mission San Gabriel (near what is now the city of Los Angeles), having successfully found a route through near waterless deserts (including the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) and uncharted mountain passes. An overland route to Alta California became available for use in transporting supplies and colonists to the outermost reaches of northern New Spain. Much remained unchanged in the somewhat remote region until the early 1900s when homesteaders discovered the area. Like the Indians and explorers before them, the abundance of easily accessible water overcame the harsh desert heat and other hardships associated with the region.

The Borrego Valley (Valley) became a farming community after the turn of the century. Cattle grazing and row crops began to appear where the water was easy to access. With the invention of the water pump and water well drilling, the area began to flourish with larger farming operations and agriculture. Agricultural uses including citrus groves and palm tree farm uses, currently comprise an estimated 70% of total water use in the Valley which is much larger than the Borrego WD service area. Today, the largest feature of the Valley and surrounding area is the 600,000 acre, world renowned Anza Borrego State Park of which the community of Borrego Springs is the hospitality hub. About 2,000 people call Borrego home full-time and another 3,000 to 4,000 come there for the winter season from areas around the world.



The Borrego Water District - Desert, flowers, and water.

Borrego Water District and the Community

The Borrego Water District (BWD) was formed in 1962 through the consolidation of Golden Sands and Rancho Borrego Mutual Water Companies, and the Borrego Springs Water Company. In 2009, the BWD was reorganized with the Borrego Springs Community Services District into one agency. One of the driving forces behind the consolidation and formation of BWD was to protect the groundwater resources of the Valley from being exported to developments in the Salton Sea area. Currently BWD serves approximately 1,600 acre feet per year thru 2,100 metered water connections, provides sewer treatment for approximately 800 customers, as well as flood control and gnat abatement services in selected areas. The BWD provides all of these services through a team of eleven personnel and contract engineering and legal firms.



Harry Ehrlich, SDA - Principal



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Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017

Income for the period was from the February 2017 dinner meeting \$2,230.00 and 2016-17 Membership Payments \$150.00 for a total of **\$2,380.00**.

Expenditures for the period included Butcher Shop Restaurant for February 2017 dinner meeting \$2,609.86 and Rainbow MWD for reimbursement of dinner meeting supply costs \$35.33 for a total of **\$2,645.19**.

The fund balances as of March 31, 2017 were as follows: the Grant Scholarship Fund balance remained unchanged leaving a balance of \$18,934.94; the Speaker Program fund remained unchanged leaving a balance of \$4,000.00; and the General Fund balance after adjustments for income and expenses was \$13,436.02 for a total **Fund balance of \$36,370.96**. The bank balance as of March 31, 2017, is \$36,370.96.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rich Stevenson

CSDA San Diego Chapter— 2017 Board of Directors

President	Tom Kennedy , Rainbow MWD kennedy@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	Mike Bardin , Santa Fe Irrigation District mbardin@sfdwater.org
State CSDA Representative	Jo MacKenzie , Vista Irrigation District CSDA Rep 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.



San Diego Chapter Quarterly Dinner Meeting

Thursday – May 18, 2017

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>

Join us for a dynamic, interactive, and educational evening as SDCSDA showcases:

“2017 High School Video Contest”



Join us for an exciting and very interesting program. This will be a “do not miss” event for the very first public screening of the winning videos from the 2017 San Diego Chapter High School Video Contest. This is the premiere showing of these amazing and creative video results of the video contest, now in its second year.

Please plan to attend and recognize our 2017 San Diego Chapter High School Video Contest winners:

- Scotland Muir - La Costa Canyon High School
- Tana Zapf - Clairemont High School
- Jack Hopper - Helix Charter High School
- Zack Pagakis - North County Trade Tech High School

In addition to viewing the videos, we will also hear from each winning student about their video and what they learned about special districts.

Please send in your RSVP form to our CSDA Treasurer, [Rich Stevenson at Sweetwater Authority](mailto:rstevenson@sweetwater.org)
RSVP Deadline: Thursday, May 11, 2017.

President Tom Kennedy's Message



Greetings CSDA members!



Spring is upon us – finally – after a record setting winter. This water year is now the wettest on record in California. Virtually all of the reservoirs in the State are topped off and a massive snowpack is getting ready to make its way down as runoff. It seems like yesterday that we were all concerned about drought – and now we are preparing for floods! Of course, our representatives in Sacramento are doing what they normally do in response to anything – writing thousands of bills. Rest assured that our CSDA legislative staff have been tracking all the proposed bills and have developed position papers on many that may interest you. You can get more information at www.csda.net.

By now pretty much everyone has heard about the quarterly dinner meeting of the San Diego CSDA in January. Our speaker, Mr. Scott Barnett from the Little Hoover Commission created quite a stir with some of his comments, especially the ones related to a “sunset” clause for Special Districts. Mr. Barnett suggested that he would like to see all special districts be compelled to hold an election every 10 years for the voters to validate the existence of the district. This concept was not well received by many in attendance to say the least. Mr. Barnett received some passionate feedback from several CSDA members.

While his comments may have been startling, I think that they should come as a wakeup call to many of us. Many special districts toil in relative anonymity, doing work that many of our customers take for granted. Sometimes, flying below the radar gives a false sense of confidence that just because we don't have board rooms full of people means that we are always doing the right thing. Sometimes we don't actively reach out to our customers enough to get their feedback – and not just when it is time to raise rates or fees.

While it is unlikely that Mr. Barnett's concepts will ever come to fruition (CSDA is tracking this carefully -stay tuned), we can all use this incident to reflect on how we serve our customers now and how we can do better in the future. Think about how you interact with your customers and how you can expand the level of communications so that you can get meaningful feedback on how you are doing. This process will also help educate your community about your district and the value that you bring to their lives. CSDA has resources for you to help in this effort including the www.districtsmakethedifference.org website that contains outreach materials customized for a variety of types of special districts.

Rather than wait for someone in Sacramento to create a situation where your district is at a disadvantage due to your anonymity, take actions now to increase your visibility and value to the communities you serve.

Please make sure to come to our May 17th Quarterly Dinner Meeting. We will feature the four winners of our “What Makes Special Districts Special” video contest. We had great entries this year and the winners will be present to give us information about their videos before we all view them on the screen. It will be a welcome respite from last quarter's contentious meeting!

Updated Your Email Contact Info Lately?

Your email is the quickest way to receive important notifications and quarterly newsletters from the San Diego Chapter of CSDA. If you haven't received your newsletter lately or know of someone who did not receive one, you have an opportunity to change that!



Don't forget to update the email addresses for your newly elected Board members!

Please notify Elaine Sullivan by email at: esullivan@lwwd.org

BWD (continued from page 1)



The community of Borrego Springs has a strong connection to the Anza Borrego State Park (Park) and acts as the hospitality hub to support many of the estimated 500,000 annual visitors to the Park. As recently experienced with the flowery Super Bloom of Spring 2017, the service demands of the Park visitors can be significant at times. A growing group of local stakeholders and residents are currently working on ways to improve the connection between the Park and the Community and positioning Borrego as a Sustainable Destination (aka Geo Tourism), which ties in perfectly with BWD current groundwater sustainability planning efforts.

Groundwater Sustainability

After decades of excessive pumping, the Borrego Basin has been designated as “critically over drafted” and dramatic reductions in water consumption by current and future water users has been identified as important. The latest estimates by USGS concluded the over draft is approximately 13,000 acre feet per year (afy) which is derived from the 5,700 afy estimated inflow and 19,100 afy estimated outflow of uses and pumping currently. An estimated reduction in current demands of up to 70% is needed to reach basin sustainability. Water use in the Borrego Valley is currently broken down between the following uses: Agriculture (70%), Recreation (mainly golf courses at 20%), and Municipal (10%). Setting up the systems to equitably apportion water use sustainable yield for the 1.8 billion gallons of annual sustainable yield is one of the primary goals of the anticipated Groundwater Sustainability Plan while maintaining affordable water rates.

As part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act process, BWD and the County of San Diego have applied and were accepted by the Department of Water Resources to act together as the Groundwater

Sustainability Agency for the Valley. The two agencies are now working together on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Valley. The engineering firm of Dudek Inc. of Encinitas, CA, is the Prime Consultant selected by the County for the GSP process.

An Advisory Committee (AC) of local stakeholders representing a wide array of interests in the Valley has been created to assist BWD and the County of San Diego. The California State Parks, SD County Farm Bureau, current Agricultural and Recreational water users, local planning groups and the BWD ratepayers are all represented on the AC.

BWD, the County, and the AC will have their hands full in planning for balancing the need for extensive water conservation with current and future land uses, all the while trying to protect and enhance the “character” of Borrego Springs, including that of local businesses. How does Borrego transition away from water intensive crops, while striving to maintain an economically viable community as well as providing a thriving and sustainable destination hub for the biggest park in California, given the water situation? Stay tuned as the process unfolds..



Quarterly Dinner Meetings – Butcher Shop Steakhouse, Kearny Villa Rd., San Diego 6 - 9 pm.

May 18 - Scholarship/Grant Video Awards

August 17 - San Diego Port Authority (Integrated MasterPlan)

November 16 – Annual Election and presentation by SANDAG

Executive Board Meetings - Leucadia Wastewater District, Leucadia 10:30 am- 12:30 pm.

June 19 – *Special meeting* re scholarship/grant program discussion and planning

July 17 – *Regular meeting*

October 16 – *Regular meeting*

CURRENT SD CSDA CHAPTER MEMBERS CERTIFICATE HOLDERS AND RECOGNITIONS

RECOGNITION IN SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE*

Deer Springs Fire Protection District
Brett Sealey, Board Member

Leucadia Wastewater District
Paul Bushee, GM
Board Members: Judy Hanson, Alan Juliusen, David Kulchin, Donald Omsted, and Elaine Sullivan

North County Cemetery District
Dennis Shepard, GM
Trustees: Sharon Disney, Doug Hudson, Richard Hyde, and Gilbert Turrentine

Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Ed Sprague, Board Member

Padre Dam MWD
Augie Caires, Board Member

Sweetwater Authority
Teresa Thomas, Board Member

Vallecitos Water District
Tom Scaglione, Asst. GM

Vista Irrigation District
Board Members: Paul Dorey, Jo MacKenzie, Marty Miller, and Richard Vasquez



SPECIAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFICATION

- Michael Bardin** - Rancho Santa Fe Irrigation District
- Tish Berg** - Rincon del Diablo MWD
- Paul Bushee** - Leucadia Wastewater District
- Allen Carlisle** - Padre Dam MWD
- Harry Ehrlich** - Project Resource Specialists
- Sheryl Landrum** - RCD of Greater San Diego
- Kimberly Thorner** - Olivenhain MWD

DISTRICT OF DISTINCTION ACCREDITATION

- Leucadia Wastewater District** (2008-2018)
- Olivenhain MWD** (2009-2019)
- Padre Dam MWD** (2015-2017)
- Vallecitos Water District** (2016-2018)
- Vista Irrigation District** (2009-2019)

LEGISLATION UPDATE

INDEMNITY LEGISLATION INTRODUCED AS GUT AND AMEND BILL

In the midst of the flurry of activity to secure a two-thirds vote for the increased gas tax, Senate Bill 496 (Cannella) was gutted-and-amended to require special districts and other local agencies to defend private engineers and architects against lawsuits related to their work. This is similar to last year's SB 885 (Wolk). SB 496 provides that design professionals have no duty to defend claims against public works project owners, even in cases where the design professional is at fault. Under SB 496, public agencies will ultimately have to seek reimbursement from design professionals through the legal system.

CSDA has taken an oppose position on SB 496, and is working to stop the legislation. Read the full text of SB 496 and download a sample oppose letter today.

Senate Bill 496 was sent to the Governor on April 25. Please submit your opposition letter to the Governor today!



DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

- Helix Water District** (2015-2017)
- Leucadia Wastewater District** (2014-2018)
- Olivenhain MWD** (2013-2017)
- Padre Dam MWD** (2014-2018)
- Rainbow MWD** (2015-2017)
- Rincon del Diablo MWD** (2013-2018)
- Sweetwater Authority** (2014-2018)
- Vallecitos Water District** (2014-2018)
- Vista Irrigation District** (2013-2017)

* A fee was required.