

California Special Districts Association San Diego Chapter News

Volume 1 - 2017

February • March

SPECIAL DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve

Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve is an award winning, 190-acre park and campground surrounding seven scenic lakes filled with recycled water. The preserve provides a safe and tranquil setting for camping, fishing, picnics, fitness, bird watching and boating, biking and special events in a natural environment.

Santee Lakes has operated as an independent enterprise fund, receiving no ratepayer fees or subsidized tax revenue, since the 1990s.

In 1959 Santee's most pressing water issue was not freshwater supply, but the disposal of wastewater. In 1957 the California Legislature established a State Water Resource Control Board and created strict discharge regulations. Santee's secondary treatment process, which discharged the partially treated sewage into Sycamore Creek, no longer met purity standards for the State. This left Santee with a serious and expensive sewage disposal problem.

Ray Stoyer, the General Manager of the Santee County Water District, had to come up with a plan. The community of Santee had two options: The first was to improve Santee's treatment system so the effluent would satisfy the new discharge requirements. Considering the necessary tertiary treatment technology was not well developed in 1959, this option, initially, seemed too expensive. The second option was to join the San Diego Metropolitan System and abandon its existing sewage treatment process, sending poorly treated sewage into the Pacific Ocean. This option would be also be costly, lock Santee into a 40-year contract with the San Diego Metropolitan Sewer System, and have an undeterminable negative impact on the Pacific Ocean.



Not only was Ray Stoyer faced with the sewage disposal issue, he anticipated that water cost was not going to stay at the low rate of \$19 per acre-foot. He also knew that sewage was not as "dirty" as people thought. In fact, most often, sewage is 99 percent pure.

Stoyer's idea was to offer low-cost reclaimed water for irrigation. He imagined a series of lakes in the lower part of Sycamore Canyon just above the District's current sewage treatment plant and convinced Bill Mast, a mining company owner who had been removing material in Sycamore Canyon for years, to give the town the worked-over gravel pits. Mast's generosity turned out to have tremendous impact on the future of Santee. Stoyer now had an opportunity to solve the town's sewage problem while creating a recreational asset that would produce national interest. The Water Board voted to reject the invitation from San Diego Metropolitan and Ray Stoyer was tasked to find a way to economically clean the town's sewage effluent for use in the proposed lake system.



Project Resource
Specialists

Harry Ehrlich, SDA - Principal



DUDEK



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Treasurer's Report

July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016

Income for the period was from the November 2016 dinner meeting \$1,700.00 for a total of **\$1,700.00**.

Expenditures for the period included Butcher Shop Restaurant for November 2016 dinner meeting \$1,936.55; Weebly for annual video contest website \$99.00; donation to the Special District Leadership Foundation \$307.00; JD Fulwiler & Co. for annual liability insurance \$510.00 for a total of **\$2,852.55**.

The fund balances as of December 31, 2016 were as follows: the Grant Scholarship Fund balance remained unchanged for an ending balance of \$18,934.94; Speaker Program fund remained unchanged leaving a balance of \$4,000.00; and the General Fund balance after income and expenses was \$13,701.21 for a total of \$36,636.15. The **bank balance** as of December 31, 2016, is **\$36,636.15**.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rich Stevenson
CSDA Treasurer

CSDA San Diego Chapter— 2017 Board of Directors

- President** **Tom Kennedy**, Rainbow MWD
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- 1st VP** **Jim Peasley**, Padre Dam MWD,
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- 2nd VP** **Elaine Sullivan**, Leucadia Wastewater District,
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mbardin@sfidwater.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 – February 16, 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:

“Special Districts, Unknown Government”

presented by

Scott Barnett

Little Hoover Commission



Mr. Barnett has spent over three decades in local government, state and local politics and public policy, and has appeared dozens of times on national, state and local media.

In 1984 Barnett was elected to the Del Mar City Council at age 21, becoming the youngest elected city official in California. He also served as the City of Del Mar's representative on the Board of Directors of the North County Transit District and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). In 2010 Barnett was elected and served one term on the San Diego Unified School District Board of Trustees, defeating a five-term incumbent.

Between these elected positions Barnett worked as a political consultant in state and local campaigns and served 7 years as Executive Director of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, and as President/CEO of the San Diego Lincoln Club. In addition, Barnett worked as press secretary to Assemblyman (now Senator) Joel Anderson and served on the RCD of Greater San Diego County.

Barnett has guest lectured on government and politics at UC San Diego, San Diego State University and National University. In 2003 he founded TaxpayersAdvocate.org which studies local government issues. In 2015 Barnett founded Scott Barnett LLC, a public advocacy company, whose clients include local non-profits, public charter schools, organized labor and local businesses. He was appointed to the Little Hoover Commission by the Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins in February 2016.

Please send in your RSVP form to our CSDA Treasurer, [Rich Stevenson at Sweetwater Authority](mailto:Rich.Stevenson@SweetwaterAuthority.org)
RSVP Deadline: Thursday, February 9, 2017.

President Tom Kennedy's Message



Greetings and Happy New Year to all of our San Diego CSDA Chapter Members!

First off, I am honored to serve as your Chapter President for this next term. Even though the field of candidates was limited (to one person), your votes are meaningful and I will do everything I can to advance the position of our Chapter locally and statewide. We have a lot of important issues coming up this year and by working together we can continue our success in making sure our voices are heard.

One theme that I plan to work on during my tenure is to continue the work that has been underway to increase the visibility of Special Districts and emphasize the value that we bring to the everyday lives of our communities. Trust in government seems to be at all-time lows but we need to make sure people know that their local Special District is efficient, effective, and most importantly, responsive to their needs. We will be holding our high school video contest again this year so keep your eyes out for more information on that excellent program. We need all of our members to do some outreach in your local schools to increase participation.

Since many of our Members are in the water/wastewater fields, you all know that there will be no shortage of challenges coming from statewide regulations. While it is starting to feel like déjà vu all over again, we are starting to see that our coordinated efforts are having an impact in Sacramento. Recently, State Senator Anderson echoed his support for our positions related to protecting our investments in local water supplies. This shows that our concerted efforts are having an impact – keep up the good work!

At our February 16, 2017 Chapter meeting we will feature Mr. Scott Barnett, a Commissioner on the Little Hoover Commission. As you may be aware, the Little Hoover Commission is currently studying Special Districts and previous studies have resulted in changes in how Special Districts are viewed at the State level. Mr. Barnett should be able to give us all insight into the current effort and answer any questions that you may have about what the Little Hoover Commission is doing.

Last year, our February speaker was Brian Croom from Padre Dam MWD, who along with Rich Mellor presented timely information about cyber security and SCADA. Brian was later nominated for recognition in the San Diego Magazine Top Tech Exec award which is an annual program that identifies leaders in various industry groups for their work in information technology. I am happy to say that out of the dozens of qualified nominees, Brian was selected as the Top Tech Exec for the Government category! Well done Brian! Nominations for the 2017 event are due by March 3rd so if you have someone great in your organization who should be recognized please submit a nomination form at www.toptechexecs.com. It is important to ensure that Special Districts are well represented in these sorts of programs to increase our visibility in the community.



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

Santee Lakes (continued from page 1)

In April 1961, Stoyer applied for permission with the Health Department to use the northern lake (Lake 4) for public picnicking and boating. The Director of the San Diego County Department of Health initially declined. However, the public saw a beautiful lake surrounded by green grass and could not understand why they could not use it. The Department of Health was forced to pay careful attention to the project due to public pressure. Stoyer devised a way to put the reclaimed water through a third cleaning step, a natural step that would percolate the water from the oxidation pond through soil and then channel it into the recreational lake. Percolation beds (50'x100') were constructed and cleaning began. Stoyer was successful again. The water tests were favorable and the green light was given by the Department of Health. Recreation was made available on Lake 4 in June 1961.

Research Project

In December 1961, the Santee County Water District (Padre Dam MWD) announced that the lakes were to be the subject of an important research project backed by a group of public agencies, including the U.S. Public Health Service, California State Department of Water Resources, the State Water Quality Control Board, the State Department of Fish and Game, the San Diego County Department of Public Health, and, of course, the Santee County Water District. This research project came dangerously close to being canceled due to lack of funding at the State and Federal levels. If not for a letter from Stoyer to President Kennedy explaining the long term benefits of water reclamation, the project may have been abandoned. Thankfully, it was not.

Santee Lakes become the world's first example of how a community's wastewater can be reclaimed and



reused by people, with full public acceptance. Government officials from around the globe including India and Israel have visited this facility.

Expansion Project

In 1997, the District completed an upgrade project at the recycling facility which increased the treatment capacity from one to two million gallons per day. The original activated sludge process was changed to the *Bardenpho*® biological nutrient removal process.

One million gallons per day is used to fill the seven lakes at the Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve Park and Campground. Another one million gallons per day is used for irrigation at the park and at over 225 customer meters in Santee and the surrounding area.

The park successfully:

- Turns wastewater into recreation
- Reduces wastewater stream and processing costs
- Increases local water supply, and does all profitably, with no burden on property taxes or ratepayers

Recycling water allows for a larger percentage of our imported water supply to be used for drinking and human use. It provides a drought-proof supply of irrigation water for a semi-arid region with low annual rainfall. Recycled water may be used during times of drought cutbacks or restrictions. This ground-breaking recycled water project and Santee Lakes received continues to attract visitors in the field of water reuse and reclamation.

State-of-the-Art Recreation Facilities and Recycled Water

Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve is a 190 acre park and campground located in Santee, California just east of San Diego. The preserve is situated on a series of seven lakes and three ponds that collect, treat and store recycled water for use within Padre Dam Municipal Water District. Since 1961, Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve has grown to become an award-winning destination with 7 private stocked fishing lakes, 10 cabins on the water, 300 RV camping spots with full hookups; 7 playgrounds including a sprayground for kids; a general store and weekend grill; picnics, weddings and special events; bicycling, walking paths and pedal boats.

As one of San Diego County's most successful parks, its incorporated, sustainable use of recycled water has put the Preserve in a position to envision an ever-growing and evolving park at a time when many Southern California county parks suffer from a diminished water supply. By covering all its operation costs through guest user fees, the park is also financially self-sustainable, very unique for a park system.



AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



**Atkinson, Andelson
Loya, Ruud & Romo**
A Professional Law Corporation

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) is a full-service law firm with over 160 attorneys throughout California. It began in Southern California in 1979 with four lawyers and one law clerk and has grown steadily ever since, earning a reputation as one of California's leading law firms. The majority of AALRR's clients are public entities, although the firm also has many private sector clients. The firm's practice areas include employment, labor, construction, education, real estate, general business and business litigation, corporate, taxation, bankruptcy, and immigration law.

The firm represents many Special Districts, including water districts such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, transit authorities such as the Orange County Transportation Authority and Long Beach Transit, and fire protection districts such as the Orange County Fire Authority.

AALRR's San Diego office was established in 1997. Ten attorneys and three staff members currently work at this office, located in the Rancho Bernardo neighborhood. The attorneys in the San Diego office represent many special districts and have several decades of experience in government contracting and public works litigation. They assist public sector clients in drafting, procuring, and negotiating government contracts, and handle bid protests, contract interpretation issues, terminations, and litigation of claims at both the trial and appellate level. They also help public sector clients procure and contract professional services, technology, equipment, and personal property. One of the San Diego partners is a former Senior Assistant General Counsel for the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) in Washington, DC. He oversaw a group of 10 trial attorneys who litigated GSA's real property contract claims.

AALRR Supports Special Districts

AALRR is pleased to be a regular sponsor of CSDA's annual conferences. In September 2015, they spoke at the CSDA Annual Conference on "Design Build Delivery and Beyond – Alternate Delivery or Alternate Reality in California Public Works Construction." Additionally, the firm's attorneys also have published numerous articles about legal issues affecting California's Special Districts.



CSDA Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) Conference

February 26 - March 1

Where: La Jolla

Why: Covers all four modules of the Academy in just two and half days

How: Board governance, legal, human resources, and finance experts will share important skills and information you can take home and implement in your district right away!

For more information on the full conference schedule, visit the conference website: <http://sdla.csdanet.net>

SDRMA members can earn valuable credit incentive points based on their agency's attendance at the Special District Leadership Academy Conference, which reduces their total annual contribution amount.



At its January meeting, the Executive Committee approved the 2017 dates for quarterly membership meetings as well as committee meetings. Membership meetings are Thursday evenings 6-9pm at the Butcher Shop Restaurant, San Diego.

Membership Meetings

February 16, Speaker: Scott Barnett, Little Hoover Commission

May 18, Speaker: TBA

August 17, Speaker: TBA

November 16 (annual meeting), Speaker TBA

Executive Committee

Meetings are on Mondays at the Leucadia Wastewater District in Leucadia from 10:30am-12:30pm. Meeting dates: Jan 16, Apr 17, Jul 17, Oct 16.





**FOUR WINNERS WILL RECEIVE*

\$1,500 IN CASH AWARDS!

(\$1000 TO STUDENT(S) & \$500 SCHOOL)



San Diego Chapter

California Special Districts Association

VIDEO CONTEST

Create a 1-2 Minute Entertaining & Creative Video Educating the Public About

“What’s So Special About Special Districts?”



Requirements

- *The High School must be located in San Diego County*
- *Completed and signed Application must be submitted with the video.*
- *Information found online at www.sandiegocsda.weebly.com*
- *Submittal deadline- **April 1, 2017***
- *The Video **must** be about Special Districts and how they serve the community*
- *Animated or non-animated videos acceptable.*

Students can visit www.CSDA.net for information about Special Districts
And are encouraged to contact a local Special District about services such as:
Water, Wastewater, Fire Protection, Healthcare,
Cemetery, Resource Conservation, and Parks and Recreation.