

California Special Districts Association San Diego Chapter News

Volume 3 - 2017

August • September

SPECIAL DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District

What's in a name? Translated literally as the Corner of the Devil Municipal Water District, one has to wonder, "What gives?" But, with a name as unique as the talented staff that works here, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District (Rincon Water) is also known as the little District the DOES!

PAST - Rincon Water derives its name from a land grant, named Rancho Rincon del Diablo. In 1843, Juan Bautista Alvarado received the Rancho after the area fell from the auspice of the Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The land, no longer part of the mission system was considered unblest, or the devil's lurking place, hence the translation.

In 1884, a group of businessmen purchased the Rancho and subdivided it into unincorporated farm tracts and the City of Escondido. During this period, agricultural operations included row crops, tree crops, and cattle. One year later, an irrigation district was formed and bonds were sold to develop a water supply system from the local San Luis Rey River. A dam was constructed at Lake Wohlford and by 1905 the Escondido Mutual Water Company, a private entity, acquired the irrigation district facilities. The company continued to improve the diversion canal and distribution system to supply its stockholders with irrigation and domestic water.

From its incorporation in 1888 until 1951, the City of Escondido consisted of a three-mile area which today lies within the center of Rincon's Parent District. Following World War II, the Escondido Valley experienced a period of rapid growth. As Escondido grew, Escondido Mutual continued to serve water obtained through local sources until demand outpaced supply. Also during this post-war growth, the valley experienced drought, which heightened the need for an imported supply of water to supplement and support the growing residential community, both inside and outside the City limits. Colorado River and Northern California water imported by public agencies (the San Diego County Water Authority, and its supplier, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California) became the best option. However,



Rincon Water's nostalgic logo circa 1970

because the local supplier, Escondido Mutual Water Company, was not a public entity, it was prohibited by law, to purchase water from a public supplier. So, to provide residents legal access to imported water, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District was incorporated in February 1954, under the provisions of the Municipal Water District Act of 1911.

General powers and authority were granted to Rincon Water and the boundaries created by this incorporation are known as the Parent District. The Board members then declared its intent to construct a distribution system, and thus a special election was called for voters to approve the issuance of debt to build such a system. The non-government entity, Escondido Mutual Water Company, was operating partially within the Parent District, so at that time there was only an interest in constructing a public distribution system in two areas, now known as Improvement District 1 (ID1), created in 1955 and located in the western part of the Parent District; and, Improvement District A (IDA), created in 1961 and located in the southern part of the Parent District. Rincon Water's water source for ID1 is the San Diego County Water Authority's First Aqueduct. Water supplies delivered to IDA originate from the City of Escondido.

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**Project Resource
Specialists**

Harry Ehrlich, SDA - Principal



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aa/r Atkinson, Andelson
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Treasurer's Report

April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017

Income for the period was from the May 2017 dinner meeting \$1,330.00 and 2017-18 Membership Payments \$2,450.00 for a total of **\$3,780.00**.

Expenditures for the period included Butcher Shop Restaurant for May 2017 dinner meeting \$2,269.09; 2017-18 membership dues postage costs \$23.46; and the following awards:

2017 Video Award Students (\$1,000 each):

Scotland Muir, Tana Zapf, Jack Hopper, and Zach Pagakis

2017 Video Award Schools (\$500 each):

La Costa Canyon HS, Clairemont HS, Helix HS, and North County Trade Tech

The above expenditures for the month totaled **\$8,292.55**

The fund balances as of June 30, 2017 were as follows: the Grant Scholarship Fund balance was reduced for the video contest awards leaving a balance of \$12,934.94; the Speaker Program fund remained unchanged leaving a balance of \$4,000.00; and the General Fund balance after adjustments for income and expenses of the video contest awards was \$14,923.47 for a total **Fund balance of \$31,858.41**.

The bank balance as of June 30, 2017, is \$31,858.41.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rich Stevenson
CSDA Treasurer



San Diego Chapter Quarterly Dinner Meeting

Thursday – August 17, 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:



“SANDAG’s Regional Plan”
Presented by: Philip Trom



Join us for an enjoyable and informative evening as we hear about the comprehensive long range integrated transportation planning for our area through 2050.

Philip Trom, AICP is a Senior Regional Planner at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the transportation planning, financing, and coordination agency for the San Diego region. Philip is SANDAG’s Project Manager for San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan, the long-range integrated transportation and comprehensive plan for the San Diego area through 2050. Prior to managing the Regional Plan, he managed the Short-Range Transit Division at SANDAG and also has previously worked for transportation consulting firms in the Bay Area and San Diego. Philip is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, and has a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning from San José State University. Mr. Trom’s contact information is: Phil.Trom@sandag.org and 619/699-7330 (office number).

Please send in your RSVP form to our CSDA Treasurer, [Rich Stevenson at Sweetwater Authority](mailto:Rich.Stevenson@SweetwaterAuthority.com)
RSVP Deadline: Thursday, August 10, 2017.



Lessons for Leaders

Quick Tip

Efficient Meeting?

People are sometimes surprised to learn that members have a right to an efficient meeting. This principle was enunciated by Jim Lochrie in his fine book, Meeting Procedure. Robert's Rules expresses it by saying that it is the duty of the presider—the person running the meeting—to expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of members (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th edition, p. 434).

<http://www.jurassicparliament.com/>

President Tom Kennedy's Message



Greetings CSDA members!

If you have not made plans to attend our August 17, 2017 Quarterly Dinner Meeting, now is the time to do so. We will have a great evening in store for you! Our speaker will be Phillip Trom, Senior Transportation Planner from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Mr. Trom will give us information about San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan. This is a comprehensive plan for long range integrated transportation planning for our area through 2050. This is a topic that affects all of us in one way or another, so it will be great to hear what our regional planners are working on. RSVP today!

We received a lot of positive feedback on our recently concluded "What Makes Special Districts Special" high school video contest. Those in attendance at our April Quarterly Meeting saw firsthand the creativity that was unleashed by the winners of this year's contest. One of the main goals of our organization is to inform the public about the role of Special Districts in local governance, and the feedback from the students and the school officials indicated that the video contest was helpful for them in their limited Civics programs. In this era of school budget cuts, properly educating our youth about basic governance structures can be a challenge, so this program helps bring some understanding to kids who may not hear about it otherwise.

Your San Diego CSDA Executive Board held a special meeting in June to discuss the video program and how to make it even more effective. At the August meeting, I will be seeking input from our membership about how to make this program even more effective. Many ideas are on the table, including expanding the video contest into more communications forms. Under consideration are categories for posters/inforgraphics, essays, or any other form of communication that can help bring a greater understanding of the role of Special Districts in providing vital public services. Bring your ideas to the meeting as we will want to get your input.

In an email last month, I asked for volunteers to help with this effort and several of you stepped up to the plate. For this sort of outreach program to be truly effective, we need a broad base of support. Of key importance is to have emissaries into each of the school districts to publicize the program. Remember – we are trying to inform students and the public about Special Districts. If we don't put the work in at the schools we won't succeed in getting this program expanded. I will be looking for volunteers to engage with their local school districts directly. I will take on Bonsall Unified – what district will you champion?

The Executive Board is also working on the development of a Strategic Plan for the Chapter. I think it is important for any organization to have such a plan so that we can make sure that we are using our resources wisely and moving in a direction that is clear and focused. If our goal is to have dinner four times a year and call it a day, that is fine, but I think that there is more that can be done. Creating a Strategic Plan will help your current, and all future Executive Boards function more effectively.

Tom

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

Rincon Water (continued from page 1)

The California Water Code allows Municipal Water Districts to serve other purposes such as recreation; sewage; water and storm water disposal; fire protection; water replenishment assessment; and sanitation service. In 1976, the Rincon del Diablo Fire Protection District (IDE) was formed under these powers to provide a source of local fire protection and representation for residents outside the city limits. In 1989, Rincon Water contracted with the Escondido Fire Department to provide fire protection services, enhancing emergency response and saving taxpayer money. Today, Rincon Water collects the revenues which are then forwarded to the City to cover the operational expenses of providing fire and rescue services to 13,000 people, and also collects fees for, as well as manages, the annual Weed Abatement Program.

PRESENT - Once serving water to chiefly agricultural customers, today Rincon Water serves over 8,000 metered connections consisting of residential and commercial customers, with its agricultural customers now representing less than one percent of the customer base. Even though its potable meter connections have increased over the years, Rincon Water has risen to the challenge to hold flat its potable water demands on regional wholesalers by expanding and implementing various ambitious projects. Working with the San Diego County Department of Health Services and local fire agencies, Rincon Water was the first water district in the county to provide recycled water for fire suppression in both fire hydrants and fire sprinklers within its commercial sector. Rincon Water also excels with its recycled water sales and supplies one of the county's largest recycled water user, a power plant operated by San Diego Gas & Electric. Known officially as the Palomar Energy Center, it is a natural gas combined-cycle plant that produces 550 megawatts of power. The plant uses about 2,700 AF of non-blended recycled water per year for its cooling towers.

Back in 2012, Rincon Water was one of the first water districts in the state to implement an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) program with the purpose of reducing time spent on meter reading and to increase field staff safety. AMI is simply a mechanical meter, along with a radio transmitter which sends consumption data to a collector, which is then forwarded on to the District. Although only one meter read per month is necessary for customer billing purposes, AMI produced hourly consumption data, which Rincon Water staff identified as a benefit for its customers. As such, in 2015 Rincon began its WaterSmart program, funded by grant monies from the Department of Water Resources, making this data available to its customers through a

web-based portal. Beyond providing hourly water use history, WaterSmart now identifies and notifies customers of potential water leaks. Since the commencement of the WaterSmart program, over 26,000 customer leaks have been identified and over two million gallons of water have been saved through early notification of leaks.

FUTURE – What's in store for the little District that DOES? The County of San Diego approached Rincon Water about expanding its services to include wastewater treatment, proposing that Rincon Water assume operation of the future wastewater facilities within the Harmony Grove Village development in Escondido, currently under construction. Once the facility becomes activated, it will have the capacity to process 180,000 gallons of waste water per day. The resulting tertiary recycled water will then be conveyed to Rincon Water's recycled water storage and distribution system, further adding to Rincon Water's water supply portfolio.

Staff continues to actively search, investigate, and incorporate new technology whenever and wherever feasible. This year, Rincon Water's administrative staff was proud to add the *Public Sector Excellence Award* to its growing list of achievements. This particular award recognizes end-users of Tyler Technologies' comprehensive enterprise resource planning system, based on organizational efficiency and productivity, organizational responsiveness, business value, and innovation. Rincon Water was also recognized by the California Chapter of Water Reuse as the medium-sized *District of the Year* in 2014 as well as being a recipient of CSDA's *Certificate of Transparency* and recognized as a *CSDA District of Distinction*.



Rincon Water, Escondido, California • rinconwater.org



UPCOMING CSDA EVENTS

(Mark Your Calendar)



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

August 17 - **SANDAG's Regional Plan**
Presented by: Philip Trom

November 16 – TBD

CSDA Annual Conference

Sept 25 – 28, 2017 - Monterey

Sept 24 – 27, 2018 - Palm Springs

Sept 25 – 28, 2019 - Anaheim

Board Secretary/Clerk Conference

Oct 22 – 24, 2017 - Garden Grove

Special Districts Legislative Days

May 22 – 23, 2018 - Sacramento

CSDA Educational Webinars:

Aug 17, 2017 - Fraud Environment – Tips for Detection and Controls

Aug 22, 2017 - Customer Service in the Public Sector

Aug 31, 2017 - Legislative Round-Up

Sept 1, 2017 - Maximize your Membership – Online Resources

Oct 11, 2017 - CalPERS-Actuarial Reports and Trends

CSDA San Diego Chapter — Executive Board Meetings - Leucadia Wastewater District, Leucadia 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

October 16 – Regular meeting

2017 Civic Engagement Grant Program

Apply Today

Does your California community have a public engagement project on the back burner that could use a bit of extra consulting or facilitation support? Not sure where to find the funds? You may be the perfect candidate for a **Davenport Institute Public Engagement Grant!**

This year the Institute is specifically prioritizing low-income and diverse communities and will be offering extra support throughout the process. For the past decade, the Davenport Institute has supported communities seeking to constructively engage their citizens – from discovering their informed opinions to inviting their participation in actual solutions. The Institute has supported projects throughout the State of California, working with cities, counties, special districts, and civic organizations seeking to engage their residents on a variety of issues.

Grantees will receive Davenport Institute Training to help their organization prepare to engage, as well as some technical support around the criteria outlined in our How are WE Doing Platform? The deadline for applications is Monday, September 11 and decisions will be announced October 1. For more information, visit the **Davenport Institute Website**.

CSDA San Diego Chapter 2017 Board of Directors

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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.