

# California Special Districts Association San Diego Chapter News

Volume 1 - 2018

February • March

## SPECIAL DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

### Wynola Water District

*“The altruistic activity of individuals providing services for no financial or social gain other than to benefit the District.”*



According to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Wynola Water District (“District”) was formed as a California Water District and established in 1969 to support a community water system within the approximate 0.4 square mile Wynola Estate development, a small residential development in the unincorporated east county. Because imported water is not available in the area, the District relies solely on local groundwater to provide service to its population of 87 people, all of whom live within the Wynola Estates. The District is located in an area adjacent to the Cleveland National Forest, west of the community of Julian.

In years past the District had 10 working wells, but over time the well count has decreased to five that are currently producing. The untreated water from the wells is pumped into two storage tanks that have a combined capacity of 111,000 gallons. Water is then delivered to customers through 2.5 miles of 6” AC water mains that are 40 years old. Total Coliform (TC) testing is performed monthly as well as the customary Dept. of Environmental Health regulatory testing. The majority of the above ground system has been replaced over the past three years at a cost of over \$300,000. In 2017 the District spent over \$11,000 in lab costs for required testing for minerals, turbidity, inorganic constituents, nitrite, VOCs, nitrate, etc.

LAFCO approved a sphere-of-influence for the Wynola Water District in 1984 that is coterminous with the District boundary. District characteristics include other interesting facts, such as its 76

connections, a volunteer staff of four, and its revenue sources consist of property taxes and fees. Additionally, the District is run by a 5-member elected Board of Directors required to reside in the community. The District has a unique situation as Board members, like the volunteer staff, receive no compensation. Some board members are D1 or D3 certified, or have electrical certifications. They have a willingness to serve their community free of charge, as well as offer their technical skills without any monetary compensation.

During the 80s and 90s, three of the drilled well sites were “witched” and proved to be good producers. Before a vote of the property owners led the way to paving the roads within the District, a couple of board members would pull a drag behind a Jeep to maintain the dirt roads. And before large capacity meters were installed to monitor water flow to the storage tanks from various wells, volunteers in the Water Watcher Program did all the calculating; monitoring the system, logging the amount of water pumped to the storage tanks, and the amount of water everyone used each day.

Throughout its history, Wynola Water District can credit its successes and progress to the diligent work of its board members, past and present, and other community volunteers who have contributed in building a good basic water system that includes mains, shut off valves, fire hydrants, fire sprinkler systems inside pump houses, fire hose connections outside pump houses, and paved roads.

**Kudos to Wynola Water and welcome!**



#### \* Meet Our Affiliates \*

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



**DPMC**  
Devaney Pate  
Morris & Cameron LLP

**DUDEK**



**San Diego LAFCO**  
Local Agency Formation Commission

**suez**  
Utility Service Group is now  
SUEZ Water Advanced Solutions



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## Treasurer's Report

October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

**Income** for the period was from the November 2017 dinner meeting \$1380.00 (62 attendees) for a total of **\$1,380.00**.

**Expenditures** for the period included Butcher Shop Restaurant for November 2017 dinner meeting \$2,345.37 and JD Fulwiler & Co. for annual liability insurance \$510.00 for a total of **\$2,855.37**.

The fund balances as of December 30, 2017 were as follows: the Grant Scholarship Fund balance remain unchanged with a balance of \$16,209.94; 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 \$13,458.46 for a total **Fund balance of \$33,668.40**.

The bank balance as of December 31, 2017, was \$33,668.40.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rich Stevenson  
CSDA Treasurer



## San Diego Chapter Quarterly Dinner Meeting

Thursday – February 15, 2018

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:

### “San Diego’s Current Economic Outlook”

By: Dan McAllister

San Diego County Treasurer—Tax Collector



Dan McAllister has served San Diego County residents since as the County’s Treasurer-Tax Collector since 2002. He was re-elected to his fourth term in June 2014 by an overwhelming 99% majority of the vote. Dan oversees the collection of more than

\$5.5 billion in property taxes each year, the management of more than \$10 billion in the County’s Investment Pool, and the administration of the County’s \$1 billion defined contribution program. Since assuming office, he has worked extensively to improve customer service, enhance communications and outreach initiatives, and ensure the fiscal stability of the treasury. Under his direction, his office collected nearly 60% of property tax payments electronically for the first time, while maintaining a 99% collection rate for the past three years. He is also a strong advocate for diversity, a value reflected in his staff that comes from all walks of life and backgrounds. His office now delivers service in 17 different languages.

As part of his duties, Dan serves as a member of the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA), which manages more than \$10 billion of investments; he also serves as President of CalTRUST, which manages a portfolio of \$2.8 billion. Additionally, he is a former chairman of the Board of Directors of the internationally recognized San Diego Convention Center Corporation. Prior to his election as San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector, Dan was a successful financial consultant and investment broker.

Please send in your RSVP form to our CSDA Treasurer, [Rich Stevenson at Sweetwater Authority](#)  
**RSVP Deadline: Thursday, February 8, 2018.**

## Jurassic Parliament

### Quick Tip

#### Putting it “on the record” is a privilege, not a right

Sometimes a member of the board makes a statement and says, “I want this on the record!” expecting that the secretary will immediately transcribe the comment into the minutes.

Don’t be fooled by the movies and TV, or congressional hearings. Putting something “on the record” is a privilege of the body itself. Single member does not have the right to have something included in the minutes.

When this happens, the chair should ask, “Does the body wish to have this statement included in the minutes?” and take a vote. And of course, in accord with our longstanding argument, we discourage accepting such requests, since minutes should include what is DONE and not what was SAID.

Visit <http://www.jurassicparliament.com/> for more info on what to include in your minutes!

## President Tom Kennedy's Message

### Greetings CSDA members!



As all of us begin a new year, so too does the San Diego CSDA Chapter. Your personal resolutions may or may not be going according to plan, but I would like you and your agency to make a resolution to help our Chapter grow both in size, but also in terms of our mission. As the advocates for Special Districts in our region, collectively it is up to us to make sure that our efficient, service based forms of government are understood by not only our customers but also by other State and local leaders.

We have many ways for you to help. First, reach out to some of the districts in your area that are not members yet. Joining the San Diego Chapter is not expensive but there is a wealth of information available for those districts to receive from joining our organization. Further, we can help them apply for statewide CSDA scholarships to help their board members attend the great training events held by CSDA all year round.

Secondly, our video and essay contest information has been sent to each of you. We need you to be our advocate in your local school districts to publicize these programs. If we can consistently get these programs into the schools, over time through these programs our messages will become ingrained into the curricula of our schools. Even though we think things go in one ear and out the other in our own kids, the reality is that many of them are learning and will potentially become new leaders in our own organizations.

Third, consider participating in CSDA events outside of our quarterly dinner meetings. The CSDA Legislative Days event is always a great way to get in front of elected officials and do the leg work that is needed to help push the CSDA agenda across the finish line in Sacramento. There is a solid delegation from San Diego that usually makes the trip, but we can always use more!

Finally, make sure that you have made connections with your other state and local leaders and that they know about your district and your value in the community. If you have one New Year's resolution make it this one. Make sure your county supervisor, local mayor/city council, assembly member, senate member and even other neighboring special district know you, and what your District is all about. Sometimes they have no idea that effective services are being managed by a great organization that is invisible to them. Step into the light and present yourself because if you don't you will remain invisible.

Our February quarterly meeting will feature the Tax Man, Dan McAllister. As our County Tax Collector I am sure he will be a favorite guest for you, although last February's guest will be hard to top. Dan will give us some insight on economic trends in our region and the outlook on housing and the overall economy. Don't miss it!

Tom



Nine out of ten times, when asked, people do not know what a special district is. School district? Sure. City or county? Of course! A *special district*? Never heard of them. BUT, they do know their local water district, fire service provider, parks, cemeteries, and hospitals, all which, of course, are **special districts**. In fact, statewide polling shows that constituents place a very high value on districts and the services they provide, although they may not always make the connection between these vital services and special districts.

As a special district leader, make sure you spread the word about Special Districts by supporting and promoting the 2018 Video contest and Field Trip Grant program!

### 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](mailto:esullivan@lwwd.org)



## SPECIAL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION UPDATE

### DISTRICTS OF DISTINCTION

The following districts have earned recognition in SDLF's District of Distinction Accreditation Progression:

**Platinum** --- Highest level of recognition for a district incorporates completion of all SDLF programs --- Certificate of Transparency, District of Distinction, Full Board and General Manager receiving Recognition in Governance, and the General Manager completing the Special District Administration program. Districts at this level demonstrate a comprehensive approach to excellence in district operations and governance.

*Chino Valley Independent Fire District  
Costa Mesa Sanitary District  
Leucadia Wastewater District  
Orange County Cemetery District  
Kern County Cemetery District*

**Gold** --- Districts have received the District of Distinction and the Transparency Certificate and the full Board of Directors and the General Manager have received Recognition in Governance. These Districts demonstrate a commitment to transparency and comprehensive governance training.

*Town of Discovery Bay Community  
Services District  
Vista Irrigation District*

**Silver** --- Districts have received the District of Distinction and the Transparency Certificate and a majority of the Board of Directors have received Recognition in Governance. By incorporating governance training as a core value, these districts are committed to take their districts to the next level.

*McKinleyville Community Services District  
Palmdale Water District  
Temecula Public Cemetery District*

### LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION AUG 2017—REPORT 239

#### Recommendation 9: The Legislature should require that every special district have a website.

New Legislation implementing the Little Hoover Commission's recommendation is being authored by Senator McGuire, Chair Senate Governance & Finance Committee. CSDA is working closely with the Senator in crafting the legislation so that exemptions will be considered for districts that fall within specific parameters.

For those districts that presently have websites, there are four items that have been legislated to be included on the website:

1. Meeting agendas must be posted 72 hours in advance. (GCS 54954.2(a)(1) and 54956(a))
2. Link to State Controller's webpages for districts reported board member and staff compensation (GCS 53908)
3. Link to State Controller's webpages for district's reported Financial Transaction Report (GCS 53891 (a))
5. SB 272 compliance enterprise catalogs (GCS 6270.5)

#### 2019 Additional Website Requirements:

1. Home page link to agendas/board packets (GCS54957.5)
2. Machine readable/searchable agendas

The Special District Leadership Foundation has created a scholarship this year to assist districts that have a budget of \$500,000 or less and do not have a website. The goal of this fund is to provide scholarships to cover the cost of a website for 12 months in order to increase transparency and accountability among some of California's smallest special districts. There are specific requirements that a district has to meet in order to receive the scholarship, such as the website has to be on the Streamline Platform (a CSDA Preferred Benefit provider) who will provide the first 3 months of service for free.

### 2018 SDLF SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Special District Leadership Foundation will be awarding over \$50,000 in scholarships for all districts with budgets less than an \$8M. These scholarships are designed to help special district elected/appointed officials and staff participate in the foundation's programs and other educational offerings. The various applications can be found at [www.sdlf.org](http://www.sdlf.org). The next Special District Leadership Academy Conference will be held February 4-7 at La Quinta. This conference meets the major requirement for SDLF Recognition in Special District Governance. The conference also meets the requirement for 6 hours of governance training for SDLF District of Distinction. Do not delay-apply today. Deadlines are the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Scholarships will be awarded until the funds are expended.

For more information on Special District Leadership Foundation programs: [www.sdlf.org](http://www.sdlf.org)





**Mark Your Calendar!**

## **SDCSDA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

- January 15, 2018
- April 16, 2018
- July 16, 2018
- October 15, 2018

## **SDCSDA QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING SCHEDULE**

- February 15, 2018
- May 17, 2018
- August 16, 2018
- November 15, 2018

### **CSDA San Diego Chapter 2018 Board of Directors**

- President** **Tom Kennedy**, Rainbow MWD  
[tkennedy@rainbowmwd.com](mailto:tkennedy@rainbowmwd.com)
- 1st VP** **Jim Peasley**, Padre Dam MWD,  
[jfpeasley@cox.net](mailto:jfpeasley@cox.net)
- 2nd VP** **Elaine Sullivan**, Leucadia Wastewater District,  
[esullivan@lwwd.org](mailto:esullivan@lwwd.org)
- Secretary** **Diana Towne**, Rincon del Diablo MWD  
[dtowne@rinconwater.org](mailto:dtowne@rinconwater.org)
- Treasurer** **Rich Stevenson**, Sweetwater Authority  
[rstevenson@sweetwater.org](mailto:rstevenson@sweetwater.org)
- Past President** **Mike Bardin**, Santa Fe Irrigation District  
[mbardin@sfidwater.org](mailto:mbardin@sfidwater.org)
- State CSDA Representative**  
**Jo MacKenzie**, Vista Irrigation District  
CSDA Rep [mackgroup@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:dtowne@rinconwater.org).

## **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.sandiegoocsd.com](http://www.sandiegoocsd.com).



### **2018 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 3/16/18.**

### **2018 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 \$1,000 for 1st place, \$750 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 4/1/18.**

**Please promote by forwarding program details to Elementary and High Schools. We are counting on you to help get the word OUT!**



**Click the button to go to the California Special District Association's website.**