

# California Special Districts Association San Diego Chapter News

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Harry Ehrlich, SDA - Principal



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## SPECIAL DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

### Encina Wastewater Authority

*"Together, we are a model of excellence and innovation."*

The Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA) is a wastewater treatment agency based in Carlsbad, California. EWA serves over 400,000 residents and regulates approximately 600 businesses in a 125 square mile service area of Northwest San Diego County. A model of excellence and innovation, EWA protects public health and the Pacific Ocean in a cost effective and transparent manner. Six (6) public agencies own EWA through a Joint Powers Agreement that facilitates cost sharing and enables economies of scale the owners could not achieve independently. EWA's member agency owners include: the City of Carlsbad; the City Vista; the City of Encinitas; the Vallecitos Water District; the Buena Sanitation District; and, the Leucadia Wastewater District.

EWA was founded in 1961, and operates and maintains the Encina Joint Sewerage System, which includes the:

**Encina Water Pollution Control Facility.** The EWPCF currently treats about 22 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater, with a capacity of over 40 MGD. It also functions as a resource recovery facility:

- Over 5 MGD of water is recycled for onsite use, while treated water is sent to member agency facilities for reclamation.
- Methane gas produced by the solids treatment process is used to generate over 80% of the plant's electrical demand.
- Alternative fuel from restaurant grease traps and breweries is fed to the solids digesters to generate additional energy.
- Wastewater solids are converted into



Class A Exceptional Quality biosolids that are registered and sold as PureGreen fertilizer.

**Encina Ocean Outfall.** Treated wastewater from the EWPCF that isn't recycled is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through the Encina Ocean Outfall (EEO), which extends approximately 1.5 miles offshore to a depth of about 150 feet.

**Agua Hedionda and Buena Vista Pump Stations.** These pump stations, which are owned by the Cities of Carlsbad and Vista, are operated and maintained by EWA.

EWA also manages and operates other regional water recycling and pumping facilities for their owners, including the Carlsbad Water Reclamation Facility, Buena Creek Pump Station, and the Raceway Basin Pump Station. The EWA System represents a significant infrastructure investment. Since 1980, the members of the Joint Powers Authority have invested over \$600 million to protect the economy and quality of life for North County residents and businesses. EWA's pledge is to be a model of excellence and innovation. This pledge is exemplified with

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## Treasurer's Report

July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017

**Income** for the period was from the August 2017 dinner meeting \$2,050.00 and 2017-18 Membership Payments \$4,100.00 for a total of **\$6,150.00**.

**Expenditures** for the period included Butcher Shop Restaurant for August 2017 dinner meeting \$2,364.64 and a donation to the CSDA Special District Leadership Foundation \$500.00 for a total of **\$2,864.64**

The fund balances as of September 30, 2017 were as follows: the Grant Scholarship Fund balance received 50% of annual membership payments and increased to a balance of \$16,209.94; the Speaker Program fund remained unchanged leaving a balance of \$4,000.00; and the General Fund balance after adjustments for income, expenses and fund transfer of 50% of annual membership payments was \$14,933.83 for a total **Fund balance of \$35,143.77**.

The bank balance as of September 30, 2017, was \$35,643.77 with one outstanding payment of \$500.00 has yet to be deducted from that balance.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rich Stevenson  
CSDA Treasurer



## Jurassic Parliament

### Quick Tip

## Motions

One of the most important ways to make sure that your board of directors runs good meetings is to insist that all motions (proposals for action) be written down before they are discussed and decided. We have attended too many meetings where, once the vote is taken, someone asks "What did we just vote on?" and nobody is certain. By asking for a motion in writing, everyone can be clear on the specific proposal that is being considered.

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



## San Diego Chapter Quarterly Dinner Meeting

Thursday – November 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:

### CSDA Program Review

Megan Hemming



Megan is the Professional Development Director for CSDA as well as the Program Manager for the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). She will be presenting an update on all SDLF programs including scholarship opportunities for 2018, a CSDA update including value added benefits for members, and will have advocacy update handouts

### LAFCO Update

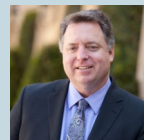
Keene Simonds, LAFCO Executive Director



As the Executive Officer for San Diego LAFCO, Keene's central duties involve managing the day-to-day regulatory and planning activities and current oversight therein of 108 cities, towns, and districts in San Diego County. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Pepperdine University (political science) and University of Southern California (public administration), respectively.

### Legislative Advocate, Townsend Public Affairs

Christopher Townsend



Christopher founded TPA in 1998 and has over 35 years of experience in public affairs, legislative advocacy, and grant writing. Christopher and TPA have represented 293 clients, including 225 local public agencies, such as cities, counties, transportation agencies, water and sanitation districts, school districts, community college districts, park and recreation districts, and other special districts, as well as several nonprofit organizations.

Please send in your RSVP form to our CSDA Treasurer, [Rich Stevenson at Sweetwater Authority](#)  
**RSVP Deadline: Thursday, November 9, 2017.**

## President Tom Kennedy's Message

### Greetings CSDA members!



While the last few weeks may not have seemed like it, summer is over and fall is here. We all welcome the relief of odd numbered years because it is not an election year. Last year was a doozy and 2018 campaigns will likely start ramping up soon.

However, there is an important election going on this year. Earlier in October, each member of the San Diego CSDA Chapter received an email with information on nominations for interested parties to serve

on our chapter's Board of Directors. We are looking for individuals who are interested in helping chart the chapter's path forward. The Board meets once a quarter with a certain amount of communications in between meetings. Occasionally we have a special meeting to manage a particular topic. Some Board members also handle specific tasks such as the video contest or membership.

This year we will be electing individuals to serve as Secretary and First Vice President, Membership. These important roles help our chapter be one of the, if not the best chapters in the entire State!

If you missed the email and the stated deadline on the email, don't worry! We accept nominations from the floor at our November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, so contact me if you need a form. We welcome your participation!

By now most of you have probably heard that the Little Hoover Commission has filed its report on Special Districts. Our Chapter played a starring role in this effort, starting with Commissioner Scott Barnett's lively discussion with the chapter at our February meeting. Working with CSDA staff, I communicated several times with Commission Chair Nava about Commissioner Barnett's positions and how we felt there were better ways to approach his issues of concern. CSDA staff did a great job in making our point of view clear through a long series of hearings and deliberative processes.

Thankfully, when the report was completed, the Commission agreed with our position that there is no advantage to some sort of statewide control of Special Districts. Their report indicates that local LAFCOs are in a better position to manage districts than bureaucrats in Sacramento. This was our argument all along and we applaud the Commission for its great work.

Tom



### *Chapter Announces the Upcoming Sponsored Scholarships*

The 2017-2018 Scholarship Committee met over the summer, put their collective heads together and came up with an award winning agenda for our Chapter's 2018 scholarship campaign. Chair Bardin presented the proposed recommendations at the executive board meeting in October and was given a resounding vote of approval. The recommendation is for a total budget request of \$4,500 encompassing two programs. \$3,000 for the video contest for high schoolers with first, second and third place winners and a school award of \$250 per prize. A field trip adventure targeting 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade children at a cost of \$1,500, which covers the transportation for the top two winners to take a field trip to a special district facility of their choice.

The hard-working and dedicated scholarship committee members are gearing up for a 2018 January launch for the video contest, and a spring launch for the grade school field trip essay contest. Stay tuned! This is going to be an exciting year for our scholarship 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)

## Encina (continued from page 1)

its commitment to meet or exceed the requirements of its ocean-discharge permit 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year. The result: Encina has achieved over 3,000 consecutive days of compliance. Meeting these high standards calls for a workforce that is not only highly qualified and trained, but certified to perform their technical and managerial duties.

A number of EWA's achievements have consistently been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the water industry, receiving over 40 awards during the past decade. For example:

- The EPA has recognized EWA as a national leader in green power production since 2011 and the agency is on the Top 30 list for onsite power generation.
- The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) named the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility "California's Plant of the Year" in 2005, 2011, 2013 and 2015.
- The EWPCF has received multiple Platinum Peak Performance Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for five consecutive years of perfect compliance with its ocean discharge permit.
- The EPA recognized EWA's Biosolids Management Program as the nation's best in 2006.
- *On August 10, 2005, EWA became the ninth agency in the nation to receive certification of its Biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS) from the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP).*

**Protecting Public Health and the Ocean.** EWA protects public health by ensuring that wastewater is always contained and is processed through the wastewater treatment plant. This means that pumping stations and the main treatment plant must be highly reliable. High treatment-plant reliability is also essential for protecting the Pacific Ocean, which ensures that anyone visiting local beaches enjoys a fishable and swimmable marine environment. Furthermore, protecting the ocean and the recreational use of beaches is essential to maintaining the region's economy and quality of life. Given what is at stake, EWA meeting its standard of 24/7/365 treatment plant reliability and meeting its Pacific Ocean discharge permits are of utmost importance. Protecting public health also applies to air quality, specifically by meeting EWA's standard of no discernible odors coming from its treatment plant, and, the production of recycled water which meets or exceeds all regulations for irrigation and other non-potable uses.

**Developing EWA's Water Resources.** With drought, increased stress on water supplies, and the uncertainties that come with systematic climate change, EWA's water resources will increase in value and will inevitably provide a locally produced supplement to the region's water supply. Although EWA is not a water utility, the region needs a collective approach to developing EWA's water resources. Consequently, EWA has begun facilitating a collaborative dialogue with its member agencies and the water community on regional water reliability and the timing for developing EWA's water resources.

**Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility.** EWA is committed to continuously increasing efficiency and operating in a fiscally responsible manner, and regularly reports on efficiency activities and improvements. This commitment includes: effectively maintaining assets; conducting long-range planning to ensure appropriate investment; implementing cost-effective resource recovery programs; and developing additional revenue sources for the agency. EWA's commitment to efficiency is complemented by strong internal financial controls, which are designed to meet the financial and budgeting needs of member agencies, comply with governmental accounting standards, maintain appropriate financial reserves, and ensure fair and equitable allocation of costs. These standards for efficiency and finance mean that EWA is a cost-effective supplier of services and value.



Encina Wastewater Authority—California Water Environmental Association's Large Plant of the Year 2015.



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## CSDA Helps Prevent Over 50 Bad Bills from Becoming Law

In total, 2,980 legislative measures were introduced in the California State Capitol in 2017. CSDA actively tracked 854 of those bills and directly lobbied on 123 measures. With direction from its Legislative Committee, CSDA identified 51 bills that would have had negative impacts on special districts and, working with members and allies, killed or amended all but eight of those bills. On the other hand, CSDA officially supported 72 bills where more than half (37) became law.

### New Laws Affecting Special Districts in 2018:

- CSDA-sponsored **Assembly Bill 979** by Assemblymember Tom Lackey (AD-36) which simplifies special district representation on Local Area Formation Commissions.
- **Senate Bill 450** authored by Senator Bob Hertzberg (SD-26) that requires special districts to obtain and disclose bond information in an open meeting.
- **Senate Bill 496** by Senator Anthony Cannella (SD-12) on indemnity for special districts working with design professionals.
- **Senate Bill 96** from the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review dealing with contractor registration requirements on public works projects.
- **Assembly Bill 22** authored by Assemblymember Rob Bonta (AD-18). This new law deals with how special districts store electronic media.
- **Assembly Bill 804** by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (AD-58) that allows the State Controller's Office to audit special districts' internal controls to prevent financial errors and fraud.
- **Assembly Bill 1008** authored by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (AD-7) which, with certain exceptions, prohibits an employer from asking an applicant for employment to disclose information regarding a criminal conviction.
- **Assembly Bill 168** authored by Assemblymember Susan Eggman (AD-13) which prohibits a special district from seeking the salary history information of an applicant for employment as a factor in determining whether to offer an applicant employment or what salary to offer an applicant.
- **Senate Bill 63** authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (SD-19) that deals with unlawful parental leave employment practices.

**Transparency.** As a service organization committed to protecting the public interest, EWA must understand and meet the needs of the communities it serves. EWA strives to be extremely clear about the motivations and standards driving its activities, policy decisions, and proposed investments. Information about EWA's roles, value, and standards is easy to find and understand, and EWA responds quickly to requests for information. The result is a dialogue focused on standards of reliability and quality that are consistent with the values of the member agencies and that help protect the quality of life that North County residents have come to expect. Due to its comprehensive strategic planning efforts and asset management plan EWA is positioned to continue providing exceptional excellence in all services for the foreseeable future.

For more information, visit the website at <https://www.encinajpa.com/>. Additionally, EWA offers facility tours to the public. **To arrange a tour, please contact: Operations Department (760) 438-3941.**

### CSDA San Diego Chapter 2017 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@sfdwater.org](mailto:mbardin@sfdwater.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).

