November 2007, Greetings &
“Happy Thanksgiving” from
George Lange…
The President’s Page is here for YOU &
YOUR Association... its activities and
information related to the wellbeing of
VCSDA.

From what I have seen over these past 8
months since I was elected your
President, the observations are that we
have a healthy and vibrant association,
which will only improve in the up-coming
months. How will it IMPROVE you ask?
Well, if YOU who have attended recent
meetings continue to attend & participate,
& those of YOU who have not been able
to attend start attending, then the
“participation formula” equates to:
YOU + YOU = IMPROVEMENT. In
addition YOU will have the satisfaction
knowing that YOU ARE making a
difference in VCSDA.

You can also make a difference by
having your District featured as one of
our programs, or even become the host
of a VCSDA meeting at your District
offices &/or facilities. Notify our
Secretary, Shirley Ohren for available
dates.

Thanks & we hope to see YOU in
attendance at our December 4, 2007
regular meeting.

“Special Districts Do It Special &
E’Special’ly Good”
Once again I want to remind you that
each Ventura County Special District has
a positive story to tell about of the
expertise & services provided to our
communities. Each one of our Districts
needs to do their part in communicating
the unique and important work & service
they provide their community. And as a
result of such an effort, VCSDA will in
turn be known & become more viable!

Once again you’ve heard that “you have
strength in numbers” and as your
Association’s President I would like to
have each Special District Representative
attend meetings on a REGULAR basis!
Attending a regular dinner meeting every
2 months should NOT be a major
scheduling problem, but if your Districts
Representative can NOT attend, then
THEY NEED to notify their Alternate to
attend the meeting as your District’s
representative. With sincere appreciation
… GML

Our December 4th regularly
scheduled VCSDA meeting at the
Conejo Recreation & Park
District will feature Guest Speaker
“Dennis Gillette” former Assistant
Sheriff of Ventura County, former
Vice President of California University & current Council Member & previous Mayor of the City of Thousand Oaks.

Important: Our Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at the Tower Club… Guest speaker will be Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority.

Special Highlights & photos of our October 9, 2007 Bi-monthly Meeting held at the Conejo Rec & Park District offices…

VCSDA gives special thanks to our presenter Jim Kentosh from the United Water Conservation District & to Ken Breitag for making the introduction… Jim provided an interesting program & Power Point presentation on the United Water Conservation District & its role in preserving the water supply for areas of Ventura County. Thanks also to Jim & Ken for being persistent dealing with computer glitches…all turned out WELL. Jim discussed early water development in California, success stories of the 1950’s, current successes, water diversion, and recharging water. He said that the need for water is driven by seawater intrusion on the Oxnard plain. He highlighted current and future projects including Forebay Recharge Project, importation of more state water, Piru Diversion Project, Santa Paula Basin Recharge Study, Santa Felicia Dam Outlet Project, Habitat Conservation Plan, Seawater Intrusion Barrier and Pumping Trough Pipeline Project.

For more information go to VCSDA’s Website (www.vcsda.org) and then “link” to the United Water Conservation District’s Website for more detailed information.

Three LOVELY LADIES Jane, Kara & Shirley enjoy dinner & conversation prior to the meeting.
Only a “photo-op” keeps VCSDA attendees from eating.

CSDA President Jim Acosta receives gift of a CSDA Alliance shirt from George.

Carrie Mattingly studies notes for her Legislative report on behalf of Elaine who could not attend the meeting.

Ken Breitag gets ready to introduce Guest speaker Jim Kentosh. (It’s the Ken & Jim show!)

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!!!!**

As noted the Ventura County Special Districts Association’s Annual Dinner is scheduled for February 4, 2008 at the
The President’s Page
Bi-Monthly News Letter
Of the
Ventura County Special Districts Association

Tower Club in Oxnard. This is a very special event you will not want to miss!

At the Annual Dinner, awards will be presented to the 2007 “Director of the Year” and the 2007 “General Manager of the Year”. The Shirley Turner award for outstanding service may also be presented if there is a deserving candidate. The Shirley Turner award is not presented every year. It is reserved for those recipients who have rendered service to special districts above and beyond expectations.

Please submit nominations for awards to the Awards Committee Chair, Judy Cofer by email at jcofer@portofhueneme.org, by fax at 805.488.2620 or by mail to Judy Cofer, Oxnard Harbor District, and PO Box 608, Port Hueneme, CA 93044. The nomination must describe the accomplishments, activities, contributions and reasons why the nominee should receive the award. Submit you nominations no later than January 7, 2008.

This is your opportunity to let the Ventura County Special District’s Association members know about the worthy efforts of the people who contribute to the success of your district and all special districts. Don’t let this opportunity pass you by!

NOMINATE SOMEONE!

A BIG Welcome to Lee Martin, VCSDA’s New Web Master

Lee Martin has agreed to assist VCSDA in its Web-Site enhancement efforts. Lee is the “Computer Support Specialist” for the Rancho Simi Rec & Park District who will facilitate each special district to contribute to the Web-Site. We all want to thank

This VCSDA Newsletter is also available as part of our Webpage at www.vcsda.org
VCSDA Office located at the Conejo Recreation & Park District Offices
403 West Hillcrest Dr. Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Contact Shirley Ohren, Board Secretary at 805-495-6471
Larry Peterson & the Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District Board for allowing Lee to devote some time to this important effort. Your Executive Committee along with our ZestNet Web-Master, Ric Ruffinelli has met with Lee & we’ll all hear more from Lee at our December 4th meeting.

REMEMBER TO VISIT THE VCSDA WEB PAGE (www.vcsda.org) regularly to keep up with your association’s news.

VCSDA’s December 4th Regular Meeting will feature Dennis Gillette... Councilman & past Mayor for the City of Thousand Oaks, former Board Member of the Conejo Recreation & Park District, & former Assistant Sheriff of Ventura County. The title of Mr. Gillette’s presentation is Inter-Agency Cooperation, Essential in Today’s Political Environment. He will present information on past, current & future challenges of local government & the importance of collaborative efforts between Cities & Special Districts.

The Latest “Scoop from Sacramento”... Elaine Freeman of Rancho Simi Rec & Park District is our Associations

Legislative Analyst & this is the latest from Sacramento: The last meeting of the year for the CSDA Legislative Committee was held on October 26. At that time, a review of all the legislation that has been followed throughout the year. The Legislature session ended on September 14, however, there have been many meetings regarding specific issues such as water and health care. Both of these issues seem are not yet resolved, or so it appears.

A bill that has been chaptered that may benefit special districts is AB-1222 For those agencies that are implementing mandated programs can now submit and negotiate their claims directly with the Deportment of Finance rather than going through the State Mandate Committee. If there is a disagreement, then the claim can be negotiated with the State Mandated Committee.

The California Property Owner and Farmland Protection Act (Jarvis HJTA) has been modified to include that land can’t be taken to benefit any private person.

The State Legislative Analyst has stated that the 07/08 budget is now at 131.5 billion, a 4.3% increase over 06/07. Based on the 2007-08 budget plan and policies, the State could once again find
operating shortfalls of more than $5 billion in both 08/09 and 09/10. This shortfall is without a ruling from the courts on the prison overcrowding. It is clear that Prop 1A could be played out with the State defining an emergency and therefore, coming back to local government to make up the difference. WATCH YOU WALLETS.

There are other bills that have been chaptered. These include how agencies purchase cars and light trucks (AB 236), Stormwater Discharge design and financing and Public Water Systems (AB 783).

Anyone have a specific issue regarding the status of a legislative issue?, please give me a call… Elaine Freeman, VCSDA Legislative Representative

Elaine will provide a summary of this & other important Assembly and Senate Bills that impact Special Districts of Ventura County at our upcoming December 4th meeting.

“Get to Know a District”
This is a NEW FEATURE in the President’s Page & it is intended to provide information that focuses on a different VCSDA Member district in each issue… this newsletter features the Calleguas Municipal Water District.

Agency Profile
The Calleguas Municipal Water District is a special district formed in 1953 by ballot measure for the purpose of providing southern Ventura County with a reliable supply of high quality supplemental water. Calleguas provides water service to a population of nearly 600,000 through 22 retail water purveyors. The district’s 360-square-mile service area includes the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, and Moorpark as well as surrounding unincorporated areas.

Calleguas’ entire drinking water supply is obtained from the State Water Project (SWP), a system of reservoirs, aqueducts, and pumping facilities that conveys water originating from the northern California Sierras to central and southern California. State water is piped into the Calleguas service area through a system connection with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a SWP contractor. Prior to delivery to Calleguas, Metropolitan treats SWP water at the Jensen Filtration Plant in Granada Hills to ensure that all federal and state water quality standards are met. Treated water is then conveyed to Calleguas which in turn delivers water to its purveyors through 130 miles of pipeline.
Given Ventura County's growing population and expanding economic base, the region’s water demands continue to rise. As such, Calleguas, working together with other local agencies, is developing a number of innovative local water management projects including groundwater storage programs, brackish groundwater recovery projects, and recycled water facilities that will produce over 40,000 acre feet of water annually. When completed over the coming decade, these projects will reduce the region's reliance upon vulnerable imported water supplies thereby enhancing supply reliability for three-quarters of Ventura County’s residents.

Communicating with YOUR VCSDA Officers is important for a healthy association. You are encouraged to share YOUR ideas and comments…

Judy Cofer, Vice President (jcofer@portofhueneme.org), Jack Curtis, Treasure (vrcwd@ojai.net), your’s truly, George Lange, President (glange@crpd.org), and Board Secretary Shirley Ohren (sohren@crpd.org). So throughout the year contact us if you have any questions or concerns… we are here to work with YOU for a better VCSDA!