

Ventura County Special Districts

June / July 2011



Kyle Packham, Legislative Director, CSDA

At our June 14th Bi-monthly dinner meeting, Kyle Packham updated us on the latest from Sacramento that effects Ventura County Special Districts. Three big issues discussed:

Revenue—how property tax money can be allocated, hopefully voluntary.

Regional collaboration—from coordination with other local agencies.

Consolidation & reorganization—efficiency and effectiveness of someone local making local decisions

Kyle emphasized the importance of special districts “sticking together” to have one strong voice. He also encouraged special districts to become CSDA members, if they have not already done so. And for one more month, new members can take advantage of a 20% discount on the annual fee. Email Travis Wills, CSDA Membership & Chapters Coordinator for more information. You may also request Travis to link your District’s web address on CSDA’s website.(travisw@cstda.net)



Kyle Packham addressing over 40 attendees. Below, John Fox visited from the Santa Barbara Chapter.



LAFCo Update

Kim Uhlich, Executive Director announced that the LAFCo annual budget was adopted in May. Their budget is 1% less than last year. She also gave great news that they are holding their fees on annexation which translates into no increase in costs.



Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks District had a strong showing with all five of their board members in attendance! Now, that’s a unified message of support and engagement!!

Jim Friedl, GM Conejo Recreation and Parks District, is a familiar face to Kyle from the Legislative Sessions attended by Jim.

Ventura County Special Districts Association

c/o 3639 Las Posas Road, Suite 117
Camarillo, CA 93010

Phone: 805-388-1952 ext 102
Fax: 805-482-8957
E-mail: reneem@camhealth.com

By the way, if your district's website isn't already linked on CSDA's website, now is the time. Please email your request to travisw@csda.org and watch how soon the link happens!



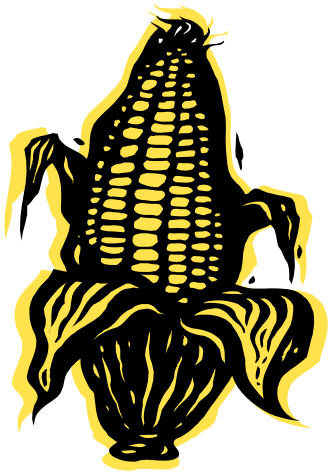
Lee Martin, Rancho Simi Parks and Recreation District, shared information about the VCSDA website and its activity. www.vcsda.org received 244 hits in a month with 162 unique hits. People average 27 seconds on the site. So far, April has been the busiest month for activity. Our thanks to Lee for his ongoing efforts to make our site a success!



Join in congratulating **Rancho Simi Parks and Recreation District** as they look to celebrate their 50th anniversary in August 2011. Fifty years of providing wonderful recreational space, facilities and opportunities to their community!

Our next Bi-monthly dinner meeting will be: Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Ventura County Leadership Academy (VCLA) will present information on their county wide initiative to bring leaders from all over the county into contact with one another. VCLA is a unique program providing experiential and in the field exploration of the issues critical to Ventura County. The 9 month program offers sessions in areas as diverse as Government (including a 3 day trip to Sacramento), Water, Education, Agriculture, Recreation and the Arts.



Hope you're having a wonderful summer!



Renee Murphy, VCSDA Secretary was thanked by Kyle Packham for arranging a great barbeque dinner.

Needed: Prizes for the August meeting drawing: Please let Renee know if you will be able to bring an item to the August meeting.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- Provided by Elaine Freeman

The Governor signed a budget on time. This is the first time in several years that the legislature is actually on summer break and will return to session on August 5. Revenues are down approximately \$350 million from the estimate in the budget but the Treasurer is not particularly worried because this is not the time of year when revenues peak.

With regard to redevelopment agencies (RDA), the Governor signed into law eliminating them. The Statewide organization representing RDAs has filed suit against the budget and how the State was not allowed to take money as a result of Proposition 1A and Proposition 22. The State budget counts on receiving money from RDAs. There is a provision for redevelopment agencies to stay in operation if they pay into a fund every year to the State.

Realignment bills did not make their way out of committee but Senator Dickenson submitted a request to the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) to determine the outcome of consolidating special districts, looking at those that have gone well and where the consolidations did not. There will probably be other outcomes from the research that is being done by the LAO. The focus seems to be on water and fire districts. Also being looked at are elections of board members and are they viable and vibrant. There is concern whether it is a democratic process when the same people are elected year after year.

California Forward has issued changes to their program effective July 11. CSDA staff has successfully been working with CA Forward to get them to acknowledge special districts.. However, working with them and endorsing their proposals are two different issues. CSDA is not endorsing any efforts at this time. California Forward will have their proposed initiatives out in September for next year's election.

The issue of transparency has pretty much died now since the Controller disapproved the first budget and decided not to pay legislators. The transparency measurers would have given the Controller a broader scope in requesting and judging local government activities. It is anticipated the issues will return in next session however.

And briefly, next year the focus will be on Accountability and Administrative Review/LAO report, CA Forward and Transparency Legislation & Regulations and, of course, election issues.

We're on the web:

www.vcsda.org

