

# Ventura County Special Districts Association

March/April 2021

Offering quality of life services through direct representation

## President's Message by Bruce Dandy



Hello:  
This is my first newsletter  
as the VCSDA President.

First, thank you for considering me worthy of leading such an outstanding organization. While it was never on my agenda, I am honored that Al Fox pushed me into this. Arm twisting and all. Thanks Al! You too, Kara.

I have long believed that VCSDA was an important organization to participate in and, as a Board Member with United Water, I have continued to enjoy VCSDA meetings. My major highlight was to be elected by VCSDA to serve on LAFCo. I found it exciting to be a Commissioner and I stuck to my belief that six years was great for me and the organization. Not being a land use planner, I appreciated staff and fellow Commissioners as I evaluated the future of Ventura County.

As background related to CSDA, United Water Conservation District has "property and liability" insurance programs with CSDA as well as "Workers Compensation." For that reason alone we have been interested in how the organization works and benefits member agencies. We also received help from CSDA on legislative issues of concern to water agencies (in addition to ACWA).

Another example, United Director Daniel Naumann and I recently participated in CSDA's SDRMA Special Education Day, which benefits our agency with a rebate or reduction in our insurance premiums. Now we all can appreciate savings!

I also want to "shout out" to our regional representative Charlotte Holifield. I was unaware that she was formerly with Camrosa Water District, and as such, knows and represents Ventura County Special Districts well. I have appreciated her regular participation since she joined the staff at CSDA. Her participation brings added value and knowledge to VCSDA.

Also, "thank you" to our two Elaines who represent us well at CSDA and on legislative issues in California. They have both made a major mark for Ventura County Special Districts. Thank you for your continued hard work for VCSDA's benefit.

One last thing. Thank you to newly elected County Supervisor Carmen Ramírez for being our guest speaker at this upcoming VCSDA meeting. I have known Carmen for many years and appreciate her work as an Oxnard Council member and as a representative of my Oxnard community. I have also warned Carmen that COVID relief is a "BIG" deal for Special Districts. However we recognize that like us, the County has many issues on their plate and in understanding that, I am glad that Carmen is "involved."

Sincerely,

Bruce Dandy  
"Arm Twisted President"  
Proud to be

**Please join me via Zoom for the  
VCSDA April 6, 2021 meeting**

**when we will welcome our Guest Speaker**

**The Honorable Carmen Ramírez  
Ventura County Board of Supervisors - District 5**



## Meet VSCDA Guest Speaker Supervisor Carmen Ramírez

Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramírez is dedicated to improving greater Oxnard, Ventura County and the region now and for future generations. She has worked in Oxnard since 1978, serving the community as a public interest lawyer for people without the means to hire private counsel. In November 2020, she was elected to serve a four-year term as Ventura County Supervisor for District 5, which includes greater Oxnard, including much of the city, and unincorporated areas of the coast, including Hollywood Beach, SilverStrand as well as El Rio, Nyeland and Strickland. Previously, she was elected to the Oxnard City Council in 2010 and was elected for three terms. Ms. Ramírez was named Mayor Pro Tem in December 2012. During 10 years of service, she never missed a council meeting.

Graduating from Loyola School of Law in Los Angeles in 1974, she was admitted to the California State Bar that same year. For 16 years she was the Executive Director of Channel Counties Legal Services Association, which served the legal needs of the poor in Ventura and Santa Barbara County. For nine years thereafter, she was the coordinator of the Ventura Superior Court's Self Help Legal Center in the Colonia neighborhood of Oxnard, serving the Spanish Speaking community. From 2009, she maintained a private legal practice focusing on Social Security Disability and consumer law matters, as well as Pro Bono assistance.

In her service for the County of Ventura she serves on numerous committees, including the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, is Chair (in 2021) for the Ventura County Animal Services Commission, and Ventura County's Local Agency Formation Commission, is a member of the Beach Erosion and Nourishment Commission (BEACON), Ventura County Transportation Commission, CALCOG, the Gold Coast Health Plan Commission, the Camarillo and Oxnard Airport Authorities, and the Fox Canyon Ground Water Management Agency. Currently she represents Ventura County on the Southern California Association of Governments.

In 1998, she was president of the Ventura County Bar Association and remains active in bar activities. From 2005 to 2008, she was an elected member of the State Bar Board of Governors, overseeing the practice of the legal profession in California. Additionally, she has been active in many community organizations in Ventura County, including Ventura County Community Foundation, El Concilio Del Condado de Ventura, Teatro de Las Americas and is a long standing Board Member for the Center for Civic Education, a national non-profit organization promoting the study and practice of Democracy in the United States and throughout the world.

### **VCSDA Treasurer Wanted**

For details

please contact Kara Ralston via email: [kralston@camhealth.com](mailto:kralston@camhealth.com)

## VCSDA Board Members



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