

# Ventura County Special Districts Association

September/October 2021

Offering quality of life services through direct representation

## President's Message by Bruce Dandy



WOW!!! I have attended numerous conferences over the last 20 years while I have served as a Board Member of a Special District, but this was my first CSDA Conference....and it was "Outstanding!"

The keynote speakers were both informative and remarkable and I was especially impressed that every speaker recognized that all the attendees had stepped up to serve on a Special District and were also committed to shaping the future through their Special District efforts. "HEROES ALL."

The breakout sessions were well organized and varied sufficiently to address the diverse interests of the participants, be that Finance, Legislation, and even Board Norms. Needless to say, it was a very busy three plus days.

Of course, the crowning event came on Thursday morning, when VCSDA was recognized as CSDA Chapter of the Year!!! In addition, Jim Friedl, CSDM, Conejo Recreation and Park District received the CSDA's *Ralph Heim Public Outreach & Advocacy Award*. Quite a haul for Ventura County.

For this upcoming meeting we have turned our spotlight on Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and its District Manager Dan Paranick, who will provide an overview of the district, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this month.

I look forward to seeing all of you either virtually or in person at Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District on Tuesday, October 5.

*Bruce E. Dandy*

Please join me at Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
4201 Guardian Street,  
Simi Valley 93063  
or via Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82281575814>  
[pwd=NW5rMlovYzJqODhGR2h1MGUxWHdwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82281575814?pwd=NW5rMlovYzJqODhGR2h1MGUxWHdwQT09)

**Meeting ID: 822 8157 5814 Passcode: 20211005**

**VCSDA October 5, 2021 meeting  
when we welcome  
GUEST SPEAKER  
Dan Paranick**



District Manager

### **Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District**

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District's District Manager Dan Paranick oversees the day-to-day operations of the Park District which encompasses the communities of both Simi Valley and Oak Park and includes 51 parks, 2 traditional golf courses, 3 disc golf courses, 2 equestrian centers, 2 dog parks, 2 historical parks, 80 miles of maintained trails, a community pool, and when fully operational, 11 before & after school clubs, dozens of community events, 3300+ classes and activities, nearly 350 employees, and an equal number of volunteers.

Earlier this year, Paranick was named VCSDA's General Manager of the Year, recognized for his visionary leadership and community commitment after doing an outstanding job for the residents of Simi Valley and Oak Park.

In 2020, under the leadership of the Board of Directors, Paranick and District staff completed the move to the District's new main office, secured a \$1million grant to extend the Arroyo Greenway Trail, completed multiple projects including Woolsey and Easy Fire recovery, Berylwood Skate Plaza, and Strathearn Colony House. The District also began televising Board Meetings to increase transparency, implemented a new community outreach and promotion plan, moved forward with new projects for Rancho Santa Susana Community Park and the Activity Center, all while maintaining a balanced budget despite the \$3.5 million negative budget impact due to COVID.

Paranick, who joined the District in August 2018, previously served in county and city government with the cities of Ventura, Camarillo and Simi Valley for nearly 25 years.

# # #



Pictured (from left to right): CSDA's Member Services Director Cassandra Strawn; VCSDA founding member George Lange (Director – Conejo Recreation and Parks District); VCSDA Member Doug Nickles (Director- Conejo Recreation and Parks District); VCSDA President Bruce E. Dandy (Board Vice President – United Water Conservation District); VCSDA founding member Elaine Freeman (Director – Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District); VCSDA Treasurer Brian Pendleton (General Manager – Ventura Harbor District); VCSDA member James Friedl (General Manager- Conejo Recreation and Park District); VCSDA founding member Elaine Manger (Board member - CSDA

**Quotes of the Month**

**“Great team leaders attract great team players.”**

- Glenn Shepard

**VCSDA Board Members**



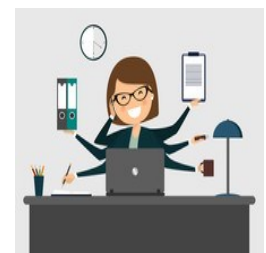
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Bruce Dandy  
United Water  
Conversation Dist.**



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**Treasurer  
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Ventura Harbor**



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Kris Sofley  
United Water  
Conversation Dist.**