



**Ventura County Special
Districts Association**

**VCSDA
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Videoconference Via Zoom**

*Approved
Minutes*

Approved:
Date: April 6, 2021
Motion: Brian Brennan
Second: Al Fox

**VENTURA COUNTY
SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

MEMBERS

- Bell Canyon Community Services
- Calleguas Municipal Water
- Camrillo Health Care
- Camrosa Water
- Casitas Municipal Water
- Channel Islands Beach Community Services
- Conejo Recreation & Park
- Hidden Valley Municipal Water
- Ojai Valley Sanitary
- Oxnard Harbor
- Pleasant Valley County Water
- Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks
- Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks
- Saticoy Sanitary
- Triunfo Water and Sanitation District
- United Water Conservation
- Ventura County Resource Conservation
- Ventura Regional Sanitation
- Ventura River Water
- Ventura Port

The February meeting of the Ventura County Special District Association was held via videoconference.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Vice-President Al Fox, followed by the flag salute.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL: Al Fox

Al Fox welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees included:

- Dennis Zine, Michael Glassman-Bell Canyon Community Services District*
- Thom Slosson-Past President*
- Andres Santamaria, Scott Quady, Raul Avila, Tony Goff, Kayde Wade, Kara Wade - Calleguas Municipal Water District*
- Rod Brown, Kara Ralston - Camarillo Health Care District*
- Al Fox, Cindy Fox, Ian Prichard - Camrosa Water District*
- George Lange, Chuck Huffer, Jim Friedl - Conejo Recreation & Park District*
- Charlotte Holifield, Vince Ferrante, Mustafa Hessabi, Anthony Tannehill - California Special District Association*
- Jacque McMillan - Metropolitan Water District*
- Mark Malloy, Mary Otten, Elaine Magner, Bev Dransfeldt - Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District*
- Mike Mishler-County Oversight*
- Elaine Freeman, Kathleen O'Brien, Dan Paranick (awards presentation-Emma Paranick, Kendall Paranick, Ed Abele, Brian Dennert, Theresa Pennington, Sandee Covone) - Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District*
- Bruce Dandy, Dan Naumann, Mohammed Hasan, Mauricio Guardado – United Water Conservation District*
- Todd Mitchell, Brian Pendleton – Ventura Port District*
- Bruce Kuebler, Bert Rapp– Ventura River Water District*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of December 1, 2020 and January 12, 2021:

Al Fox

Motion by Elaine Freeman, Seconded by Mark Malloy, to approve the December 1, 2020 and January 12, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Presented by Rod Brown

Beginning Balance as of 02/07/20 was \$14,062.47 Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 was \$16,113.37 NO CHANGE Motion by Brian Pendleton, seconded by George Lange to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Motion carried.

President—vacant
Vice President—Al Fox

Treasurer—Rodger Brown
Secretary to the Board—Kara Wade

Vice-President Al Fox said that item 9 on the Agenda would be heard at this time

PRESENTATION: Mustafa Hessabi, CSDA Deputy General Counsel and Anthony Tannehill, CSDA Legislative Representative talked about what is happening on the Special Districts legislative front.

Anthony said that there are over 1000 Bills this past year. He said that the legislature is focused on COVID Bills as they relate to: impact fees, capacity fees, housing, homelessness, affordable housing and development impact fees. Governor Newsome made a blanket property tax deferral. CSDA has been collaborating with other Special Districts in other States regarding Federal law. They have been meeting with the Federal Administration regarding federal funds. Also regarding, PSPS, Climate resiliency & adaptation, wildfires, back rent and utilities and Prop 218 & 286. He said that in the first round of relief funds, Special Districts were not included. Call to action for support so that in the next round Special Districts will be recognized and make sure that they receive relief funds. CSDA is watching carefully any bills in the best interest of Special Districts. Examples include AB 339-Brown Act Requirements, AB 861-Flexibility for Remote Meetings and AB 361-Medi-cal (sponsored by CSDA).

Mustafa said that AB 1486 that was brought before the Assembly in 2019 stated that local agencies must comply with the Surplus Land Act as of 1/1/21, as of 2/2/21 local agencies are still awaiting the final regulations from the Department of Housing and Community Development. There is anticipation that a re-introduced bill regarding surplus land and disposal of surplus land will come before the assembly in 2021. In 2019, CSDA was instrumental in requiring that AB 1486 had a specific exempt surplus land classification for Special Districts. Another legislative act to be aware of is the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) as it is relevant to Special Districts that are still in an at large election system. Since the Act was created in 2003, there has been a wave of litigation towards cities and Special Districts where the plaintiffs have prevailed. Plaintiffs that are suing only had to prove one element as to why there has been a violation and that voting should be by Districts. They just need to prove racial polarized voting. If a local agency receives a letter alleging a violation of the CVRA, they can seek to cap the costs incurred by agreeing to switch from an at large election to a by District election. In some cases it is beneficial to have an at large election. CSDA filed an Amicus Brief regarding Pico Neighborhood Association vs City of Santa Monica. The brief states that jurisdictions should have the control and authority to decide if they want an at large or by district election. The City of Santa Monica said that minorities and under represented groups have had opportunities to run in their at large elections. He said that due to the Governor Newsom's COVID 19 Emergency Order, the 2020 census data has not yet been released. Therefore, there will be a reprieve for re-districting purposes from February 2020 to when the Census data is released. Districts will not need to use 2010 Census data and then re-do their redistricting once the 2020 Census data is available.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CSDA Report and Legislative Update : Elaine Magner (Coastal Network Board Member) mentioned that she is up for re-election to the CSDA Board. She then requested Charlotte Holifield, CSDA Public Affairs Field Coordinator, Central Coast to give the CSDA update. Charlotte said that the Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act Bill will assure that any State or Federal Relief funds of 5% allocation will go to Special Districts within 60 days of receiving the money from the U.S. Treasury Department. Special Districts would need to apply for the funds based on need. There is a call to action to support this bill. She mentioned that there is a 2021 Transparency Challenge and encouraged Special Districts to acquire a Transparency Certificate of Excellence. There are a few upcoming events, Crisis Communications Workshop, Emergency Preparedness Summit in conjunction with USC and Legislative Days.

Legislative Update: Elaine Freeman, Ventura LAFCo Board Member, said that the current legislative update was covered by the presenters and Charlotte Holifield.

Ventura LAFCo Update: Elaine Freeman, Ventura LAFCo Board Member, said that LAFCo’s meeting was held November 18, 2020. She said that the next LAFCo meeting is scheduled for March 2021. LAFCo will vote on a Board Chair at that time.

County Oversight Board Update: Mike Mishler presented his report on the Ventura County Consolidated Oversight Board (VCCOB) meeting that was held January 27, 2021. The VCCOB reduced FY 2020-21 total administrative costs by approximately \$350,000 and reduced FY 2021-22 total administrative costs by approximately \$308,000. He said that County staff is compiling the remaining bond detail breakdown list which should be completed by April 2021. He provided an overview of the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as follows:

City	Total ROPS	included Admin cost	Last bond termination year
Camarillo	\$3,875,646	\$ 55,500	2041
Fillmore	\$3,864,031	\$218,281	2031
Moorpark	\$2,785,428	\$125,000	2039
Oxnard	\$9,976,894	\$175,000	2038
Port Hueneme	\$2,539,806	\$176,000	2023
Ventura	\$1,423,710	\$115,181	2038
Simi Valley	\$2,787,606	\$ 54,502	2033
Thousand Oaks	\$3,655,429	\$101,131	2032

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dan Paranick, General Manager, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, gave an update on COVID relief funds from the County of Ventura to Special Districts.

The committee submitted a letter to Mike Powers, County Executive Officer, to request any un-allocated funds from the first round of Cares Act Relief Funds to Ventura County Special Districts and requested to be included in the second round of Cares Act Relief Funds. The following were instrumental in this effort.

- Jim Friedl-Conejo Recreation and Park District
- Dan Paranick-Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
- Elaine Freeman-Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
- Mary Otten-Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District
- Elaine Magner-Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District
- Kara Ralston-Camarillo Healthcare District
- Brian Pendleton-Ventura Port District

AWARDS PRESENTATION: Elaine Magner presented Thom Slosson, VCSDA Past President, with an Appreciation of Service Plaque. Elaine Freeman presented Bruce Kuebler, Ventura River Water District, with the VCSDA Director of the Year Award. George Lange presented Dan Paranick, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, with the VCSDA General Manager of the Year Award.

ELECTIONS OF NEW VCSDA OFFICERS:

Kara Ralston, Camarillo Health Care District, said that she has been unable to get a commitment from anyone at this time. She asked the members if anyone would be interested. Bruce Dandy from United Water Conservation District said that he will speak to Mauricio Guardado, United's General Manager, and will get back to Kara.

NEW BUSINESS/MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bruce Dandy, United Water Conservation District, announced that United Water Conservation District, City of Ventura and Casitas Municipal Water District have joined together to utilize and receive all of the state water allocations of 20,000 AF. He asked Mauricio Guardado, United's General Manager, to say a few words regarding this historic agreement. Mauricio said that this three party agreement has been for 40+ years. For the first time, United will purchase excess state allocations from the City of Ventura and Casitas MWD to keep the water local. He said this is a good collaboration among Special Districts.

ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be on April 6, 2021. Special Board Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, *Kara L. Wade*

Kara Wade, Secretary to VCSDA