



2007 Major Accomplishments

INFLUENCE – COALITIONS & ADVISORY GROUPS

CSDA participated in a number of coalitions and working groups to ensure special districts have a strong voice in state and local government decision-making. They include:

- Broadband task force advisory group
- California Infrastructure Coalition
- California Regional Blueprint Project
- Californians for Eminent Domain Reform Coalition
- County Service Area law rewrite advisory group
- Other Post-Employment Benefits advisory group
- Public employee legislation task force
- Special District Leadership Foundation
- Workers' compensation legislation task force

LEGAL SUPPORT FOR DISTRICTS

In addition to assisting members with a wide variety of legal questions, CSDA participated in both amicus briefs and requests for publication to provide support in major court cases affecting CSDA member districts. Some of the areas covered in which CSDA became involved included CEQA, federal takings claims and annexation issues that could negatively impact districts.

ADDITIONAL ADVOCACY STRENGTH IN THE CAPITOL

Adding to the advocacy power already in place through current contracts, CSDA brought on additional support via an in-house lobbyist, further strengthening the association's commitment to representing members in the Capitol.

INFLUENCE – LEGISLATION

PASSAGE OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1222 (LAIRD)

CSDA was part of a broad coalition that sponsored AB 1222, a bill that seeks to reform the state mandate reimbursement process. This bill establishes an alternative process, allowing local governments to negotiate directly with the Department of Finance, rather than through the Commission on State Mandates (though that option is still available).

Status: Signed by governor

PASSAGE OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1260 (CABALLERO)

AB 1260, co-sponsored by CSDA, addresses some of the questions raised by the *Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency v. Verjil* decision of 2006. The bill clarifies some of the confusion created by the decision specifically regarding how majority protest notices are sent and who gets to vote.

Status: Signed by governor

PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 162 (NEGRETE MCLEOD)

SB 162, supported by CSDA, adds environmental justice to the list of criteria a LAFCo has to consider when changing the boundaries of a special district or city to ensure certain communities are not unfairly excluded. CSDA was the sole local government association to take a position on this bill, much to the gratitude of the author.

Status: Signed by governor

PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 343 (NEGRETE MCLEOD)

SB 343, supported by CSDA, establishes that staff documents given to the board of directors are also made available to the public at the time when the agenda is made available. In support of openness and transparency but still respecting the operational efficiency of special district administration, CSDA worked closely with the sponsor and authors to craft a number of important amendments that allowed CSDA to support the bill.

Status: Signed by governor

PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 819 (HOLLINGSWORTH)

SB 819, supported by CSDA, removes the sunset date on current law which allows districts formed under different enabling codes to consolidate. Previous to current law, only districts of the same enabling code could merge. Current law has a sunset date of July 1, 2008—SB 819 allows current law to continue.

Status: Signed by governor

ADDRESS OPEB CRISIS

CSDA worked in a broad local government coalition to examine the OPEB crisis. The coalition, working closely with the staff of the OPEB Commission, helped advise the Commission on local government perspectives, created and distributed a survey to better understand the scope of the crisis and developed suggestions to the Commission on moving forward.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS LEGISLATIVE DAYS

The 2007 Special Districts Legislative Days, CSDA's annual legislative conference, was again a successful event. The voices of special district representatives were clearly heard by legislators and other decision makers in the state. There was also a strong program for attendees, featuring speakers such as: State Controller John Chiang, Senate Local Government Committee Chair Gloria Negrete McLeod, Assembly Local Government Committee Chair Anna Marie Caballero, CSDA legislative advocate Ralph Heim and more. We look forward to another great event in 2008.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED – CSDA MAGAZINE & e-NEWS

This year CSDA reached out to keep you informed with our bi-monthly magazine, *California Special District*. Feature articles in the magazine offer the most important information regarding and affecting special districts. Additionally, the *CSDA e-News*, our weekly e-mail publication continues to be a success with new subscribers added daily. The *CSDA e-News* keeps special districts up-to-date on legislative updates, CSDA educational offerings and other time sensitive material important to your district.

EDUCATION WORKSHOP

CSDA's education programs provided a plethora of opportunities throughout the state for special district staff and governing officials to stay current on issues and trends that affect them directly. Courses such as Staying in Compliance, Board Secretary Training, and New Board Member Training, among others, proved to be extremely well-received. Additionally, new courses were introduced in 2007 including Strategic Planning and Generational Diversity Training.

SPECIAL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Endorsed by eight special district-related associations, CSDA's Special District Leadership Academy continued to gain momentum, becoming the recognized governance training course for special district directors/trustees. In 2007, CSDA continued our dedication to assist special district leaders in earning their recognition as Academy graduates.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

Held at the Portola Plaza & Monterey Conference Center, this year's Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase was the best attended in CSDA's history -- a huge success! **More than 500** special district staff, directors and vendors attended the event taking advantage of the exceptional educational opportunities, including more than 35 individual sessions on a variety of topics, inspiring and informative keynote presentations, Chapters Reception and an awards banquet that brought everyone together to celebrate another successful year!

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE – 1,000 MEMBERS

This year brought a huge milestone for CSDA; for the first time ever, membership reached and exceeded 1,000 members! Over the years CSDA has worked hard to continuously evolve to best serve the needs of special districts throughout California. It is with your support that CSDA is able to be the association for California's special districts and we thank you.

CURRENT SPECIAL DISTRICT NEWS – EVERY DAY

CSDA's "members only" website continued to provide members with new tools, information and resources designed to assist both special district staff and governing officials in their outreach & legislative efforts. In addition to the district specific daily updates of special district news and information from across the state, the "members only" section provides districts ease in registering for events, ordering publications and updating district information.

CSDA ALLIANCE

CSDA, the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) and the CSDA Finance Corporation continued to work closely together to be the one-stop resource for members to access a wide variety of services, benefits and resources tailored specifically for special districts.

Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) now offers medical benefits and ancillary coverages. SDRMA is focused on providing special districts with renewable, efficiently priced, cost-effective coverages and risk management services. Information about the programs designed specifically for special districts and online training courses are available on SDRMA's website, www.sdrma.org or by calling 800.537.7790.

The CSDA Finance Corporation saw a tremendous amount of financing activity in 2007, providing funding to different types of special districts for a wide variety of special projects, purchases and capital improvement efforts. This year, the CSDA Finance Corporation helped fund almost \$200 million through the Certificates of Participation, Lease/Installment Purchase, and Counterparty Financing programs.

CSDA is looked to by the governor, Legislature and other key decision-makers as the voice for special districts. The association takes this responsibility very seriously and will continue to work hard to effectively represent and advocate on behalf of all special districts.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



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CSDA ALLIANCE
Serving Special Districts California Special Districts Association | CSDA Finance Corporation | Special District Risk Management Authority

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