



Contra Costa County Special District Association Meeting Minutes

5.16.2022	Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.	In order to comply with State and County Health Orders, this meeting was held via teleconference.
Call to Order / Breakout Session	<p>At 9:30 a.m., a Meet and Greet session was held via Zoom for an open discussion among Association Members.</p> <p>At 10:02 a.m., the meeting was called to order.</p>	
Minutes	Cecilia Goff, District Secretary, Ironhouse Sanitary District	
Link to Zoom Recording	5.16.2022 CCSDA Meeting Recording Link	
Attendees	Attendees Signed-In Via Zoom	
Welcome		
<p>Mr. Chad Davisson, CCSDA President, called the meeting to order and welcomed members.</p> <p>The Association approved the March 21, 2022 CCSDA meeting minutes.</p>		
Guest Speaker – Fire Chief Brian Helmick, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District		
<p>Mr. Davisson introduced East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) Fire Chief Brian Helmick.</p> <p>Chief Helmick provided an overview of the historic challenges ECCFPD has faced, paths taken to correct historic challenges, current status and next steps, locations for additional ECCFPD / CCCFPD stations and information for upcoming ceremonies.</p> <p>Chief Helmick explained that from 1924 to 2002 the District was a volunteer organization. ECCFPD was established as an independent special district in 2002 by the Board of Supervisors. Its service Area consists of 249 Square Miles, two cities and unincorporated East County with approximately 132,400 residents. There are approximately 8,481 – 10,606 incidents serviced per year.</p> <p>Chief Helmick explained that challenges for the District included serving its existing population as well as preparing to serve projected future growth. Because ECCFPD is</p>		

currently funded at volunteer firefighting levels, funding does not adequately cover the costs to serve the existing population in its service area. Three stations are currently staffed and providing services 24/7/365 days per year, although six stations are needed to provide sufficient coverage.

Chief Helmick explained that the District transitioned from a non-sustainable four-to-five station model to a sustainable three station model, resolved ECCFPD's staffing retention issues and improved Public perception through constant public outreach. A Strategic Plan and succession plan for all District positions were developed and Station 55 was opened. Staffing needs were addressed and personal protective equipment and engines were replaced. CCCERA pension challenges were resolved and impact fees in Oakley, Brentwood and the County were updated.

Chief Helmick provided an overview of the ECCFPD dissolution and annexation process into Contra Costa Fire Protection District (CONFIRE). ECCFPD will be dissolved as June 30, 2022 and the annexation into CONFIRE will be complete on July 1, 2022.

Questions from the Association were solicited and answered. Mr. Davisson thanked Chief Helmick for his service and commitment to the ECCFPD.

District Highlights – Cemetery District Update, Patricia Howard Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery and Byron-Brentwood-Knightsen Union Cemetery

Mr. Chad Davisson introduced Ms. Patricia Howard, District Manager, Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District (ALCD) and Byron-Brentwood-Knightsen Union Cemetery District (BBKUCD).

Ms. Howard explained that there are over 256 public cemeteries in California. There are over 80 private cemeteries in the Bay Area, but only three public cemetery districts located in Lafayette, Danville, Brentwood and Saratoga. Lafayette's first recorded burial was in 1854, Alamo's 1856 and BBKUCD 1878. Both cemeteries have some of the first pioneers of Contra Costa County and have walking tours available. She explained that public cemeteries are not permitted to sell headstones, construct mausoleums or own and operate crematoriums. The average cost to purchase a burial plot in a private cemetery is typically two-to-three times the amount to purchase in a public cemetery. Ms. Howard explained that in order to purchase in a public cemetery you must be a ratepayer of the district.

Ms. Howard provided an overview of the costs associated with purchasing burial plots today, versus twenty years ago. Both Bay Area public cemeteries are members of CCSDA. Board Members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Questions were solicited and answered. Mr. Davisson thanked Ms. Howard for her presentation.

CCSDA 30th Anniversary Ad-Hoc Committee Update – Susan Morgan

Chad Davisson explained that the CCSDA 30th Anniversary Adhoc committee was able to secure an event planner who will volunteer her services. The anniversary dinner will be held in March of 2023 at the Pleasant Hill Recreation Center. Committee members plan to produce a program for the event. Questions were solicited and answered.

Update on Ad-Hoc Committee for CCSDA Website Revision

Mr. Davisson explained that an ad-hoc committee was created to update the content and structure on the CCSDA website, hosted by Streamline. Mr. Davisson will be meeting with Ms. Barbara Hockett to go through the website and determine the necessary website revisions. Changes have been made to make the site more tablet and phone friendly. Input from the Association was solicited.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Review and Adoption – Bert Michalczyk

Mr. Bert Michalczyk, CCSDA Treasurer, provided an overview of the fiscal year 2022-23 budget. Membership dues increased to \$150, the donation and scholarship budget items were removed and the anniversary dinner budget category was added. He explained that as the Association meets virtually, insurance is not required. If in person meetings resume, the insurance policy will be reinstated.

Discussion Item – Consider Adding a New Membership Category

Mr. Stan Caldwell explained that currently the Association does not provide an option for retired members with institutional knowledge to still have an active role. Formal action will be taken on this item at the September 19, 2022 Association meeting.

Update on CCSDA/ACSDA Joint Meeting

Mr. Davisson explained that the CCSDA/ACSDA joint meeting will be held on July 11, 2022 at 10 am at the Shannon Center located at 11600 Shannon Avenue in Dublin.

LAFCo Update – Mike McGill

Mr. McGill explained that at the last meeting, LAFCo voted to dissolve the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) and to annex the ECCFPD territory into the Contra Costa Fire Protection District. MSR's for Resource Conservation and Mosquito and Vector Control Districts, both on-going, will be released this summer.

Mr. Davisson provided an update on the LAFCo election special district seats. Mr. Caldwell retained his seat as the incumbent. There were five nominations for Mr. Igor

Skaredoff's seat. As a result of the vote, Ms. Patty Bristow was elected to the LAFCo seat. She will start her term as a Commissioner on June 8, 2022. Ms. Bristow explained that she is delighted to be on the LAFCo Board. She currently holds seats on the BBKUCD, Byron Sanitary District and Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) Boards. She explained that she was raised by a farmer and was always told to give back to the community and that she felt it was time for East County to have a voice. Ms. Bristow was welcomed by the Association.

Mr. Davisson commended Mr. Igor Skaredoff for his many years of dedication and contribution to LAFCo. Association members expressed their gratitude for his service.

Contra Costa Treasury Oversight Committee Special District Representative Appointment

Mr. Davisson explained that the Association reappointed Mr. Philip Leiber to the Contra Costa Treasury Oversight Committee as the Special District Representative. Currently, the alternate member is an ECCFPD Board Member who will not be able to retain the seat due to the dissolution and consolidation. Interest from the Association for an alternate member was solicited.

CSDA Update and Legislation in Progress – Dane Wadle

Mr. Dane Wadle, California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Senior Field Coordinator, explained that they are in the process of finalizing the Special District Legislative Days which will be held in person. Mr. Wadle explained that CSDA opposed the proposed initiative 21-0042A, the "Tax-Payer Protection and Government Accountability Act." Not enough signatures were obtained by its authors to put the bill on the November ballot. CCSDA members were encouraged to research the bill. An overview of CSDA's key budget requests and upcoming supported bills was provided. The District's Make the Difference student video contest voting is open. Members were encouraged to vote.

Announcements and Member Comments

Mr. Davisson solicited input regarding resuming in-person meetings. The Association will consider having a "hybrid" meeting in September possibly at Central San. Mr. Caldwell requested that Association Members forward news and updates to him for the newsletter.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting will be a joint meeting with CCSDA/ACSDA held on July 11, 2022, in person at the Shannon Center in Dublin on July 11, 2022.