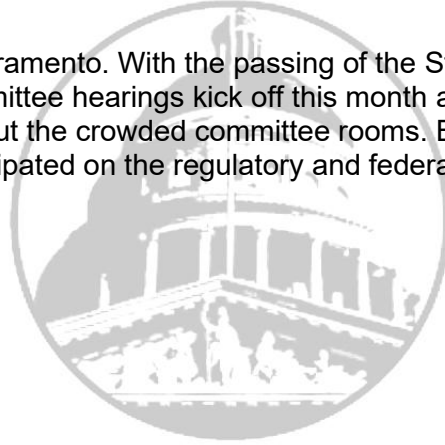




TAKE ACTION BRIEF

March 2026

The seasons are changing in Sacramento. With the passing of the State Legislature’s February 20 bill introduction deadline, policy committee hearings kick off this month and CSDA will ensure the voice of special districts is heard throughout the crowded committee rooms. But the State Capitol isn’t the only place heating up, with more action anticipated on the regulatory and federal fronts as well.



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Contact a local CSDA representative near you!

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Urge CARB Not to Ban Trucks Needed for Emergencies

CSDA anticipates CARB will post its latest amendments to its [Advanced Clean Fleets \(ACF\) regulations](#) in March, following the [previous 45-day comment period](#) where CSDA and our partners requested amendments that would exempt vehicles that support emergency services. Thus far, CARB has not agreed to our request.

CSDA has led numerous meetings and roundtables over the course of recent months with CSDA members and CARB Board Members and staff. CARB staff have indicated that a new “resiliency exemption”, currently the “mutual aid exemption”, should address our concerns. However, based on preliminary review of the most recently shared draft language, CARB’s proposed “resiliency exemption” would not satisfy CSDA’s concerns as it continues to restrict use of medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles needed to prevent and respond to emergencies.

As soon as CARB opens the 15-day comment period, CSDA will update members on the proposed amendments and, if needed, call upon special districts and stakeholders to provide public comment urging CARB not to ban vehicles that support emergency response. If appropriate, CSDA will also release graphics that can be posted publicly for social media and other purposes promoting public awareness and understanding.

Take Action: Upon Opening of 15-Day Comment Period

[CARB Regulation: Flexibility for Vehicles Needed for Emergencies - California Special Districts Association](#)

As soon as CARB opens the 15-day comment period, CSDA will update members on the proposed amendments and, if needed, call upon special districts and stakeholders to provide public comment urging CARB not to ban vehicles that support emergency response. If appropriate, CSDA will also release graphics that can be posted publicly for social media and other purposes promoting public awareness and understanding.





CSDA Champions Audit Flexibility for Small Districts

CSDA, along with the State Association of County Auditors, is co-sponsoring [SB 992 \(Niello\)](#), a bill that seeks to preserve the full suite of audit flexibilities for small special districts.

SB 992 builds on the support for small special districts effectuated by the passage of [Assembly Bill 2613 \(Achadjian, 2015\)](#). AB 2613 was sponsored by CSDA and provided districts with annual revenues not in excess of \$150,000 additional options for fulfilling the annual audit requirement. Specifically, qualifying special districts were permitted to use an agreed-upon procedures engagement or an annual financial compilation, provided certain other qualifications were applicable and that certain procedures were followed.

Absent legislative intervention, small special districts will lose access to the agreed-upon procedures engagement as a means of satisfying the annual audit requirements at the end of this year. SB 992 eliminates the January 1, 2027 sunset that would otherwise remove this audit alternative for districts.

SB 992 also seeks revise the qualification threshold for utilization of the agreed-upon procedures engagement and the annual financial compilation upwards from \$150,000 to \$250,000, reflecting the change in the value of the dollars after the passage of roughly a decade since the original legislation.

Take Action: Has Your Small District Benefited from Audit Flexibility?

- *Has your special district, with less than \$150k in annual revenue, benefited from using an agreed-upon procedures engagement or an annual financial review rather than the traditional audit? How much would your district have otherwise paid to do a traditional audit?*
- *Would your special district, with more than \$150k in annual revenue and less than \$250k in annual revenue be interested in an alternative audit method offered by SB 992? How much does your district pay for a traditional audit?*

Share your experience or inquiries you may have about this bill by email to CSDA Legislative Representative Marcus Detwiler at marcusd@cdda.net.

The first policy committee hearing in the State Legislature for SB 992 is slated for **March 18, 2026**, when it will be taken up in the **Senate Local Government Committee**.



Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act to be Heard March 18

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is scheduled to consider the Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act ([H.R. 2766](#)) on Wednesday, March 18. The bipartisan legislation, led by Pat Fallon (R-TX) and Brittany Pettersen (D-CO), would establish the first formal definition of “special district” in federal law.

The bill, which is the National Special Districts Association’s (NSDA) top federal legislative priority, would also direct the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to federal agencies clarifying that special districts should be recognized as local governments for purposes of ensuring that districts have access to all appropriate forms of federal financial assistance.

It should be noted that H.R. 2766 is identical to legislation that was overwhelmingly approved by the full House of Representatives in 2024, [H.R. 7525](#), with the exception of the title.

CSDA members with [Congressional Representatives serving on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee](#) are encouraged to contact their representative and request their “Yea” vote on H.R. 2766 at the March 18 hearing. These California Congressional Representatives include:

- [Rep. Robert Garcia](#), Ranking Member (Voted “Yea” on H.R. 7525 last Congress)
- [Rep. Ro Khanna](#) (Voted “Yea” on H.R. 7525 last Congress)
- [Rep. Lateefah Simon](#) (Took office January 3, 2025, after the vote on H.R. 7525 last Congress)
- [Rep. Dave Min](#) (Took office January 3, 2025, after the vote on H.R. 7525 last Congress)

If you need help identifying your Congressional Representative, you can use [Find Your Representative | house.gov](#). If you would like support coordinating your efforts or communicating with your Representative, reach out to your CSDA Public Affairs Field Coordinator: [Meet Your Local CSDA Contact - California Special Districts Association](#).

Take Action: NSDA Tools and Resources for CSDA Members

- Attend the March 12 NSDA Federal Advocacy Webinar to learn more and ask questions about H.R. 2766: [Register Now for March 12 NSDA Federal Advocacy Webinar](#) (Registration is free to CSDA members using NSDA Access Code: CSDA 8068)
- Ensure your special district and its stakeholders formally sign-on in support of the Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act: [Support our efforts to pass H.R.2766/S.2014 - National Special Districts Association](#)
- Find all of the resources you need to effectively support the Special District Fairness and Accessibility act: [Spring Push - Call to Action! - National Special Districts Association](#)



Special District Grants: Survey and Webinar Free to CSDA Members

NSDA Grants Survey will Inform Services for Special Districts

CSDA members automatically receive full membership with the National Special Districts Association (NSDA) including [grants services](#). To inform this valuable member benefit, NSDA wants to hear from you. Your input will help NSDA better respond to your federal grants questions and needs.

We want to ensure special districts enjoy access to federal grant opportunities and they are well equipped with the ability to strategize for, apply for, monitor and close out grants to meet their communities' needs.

Please fill out NSDA's Annual Grants Survey here:

[NSDA Grants Survey 2026](#)

April 16 NSDA Grants Webinar Free to CSDA Members

As part of NSDA's services to CSDA members, NSDA will host a Federal Grants Webinar on April 16 at 9:00am. The webinar will review 2025 federal funding activity, provide a 2026 outlook, and offer guidance to special districts on preparing for upcoming grant opportunities.

[Register for NSDA Federal Grants Webinar](#)

April 16, 2026 at 9:00am

Free to CSDA members using NSDA Access Code: CSDA 8068



Oppose Diversion of Local Revenues to CA High Speed Rail

On March 4, CSDA and other local government stakeholders, including the California State Association of Counties, Urban Counties Caucus of California, Rural County Representatives of California, and League of California Cities testified in opposition to certain tax revenue-related and utility-related issues discussed in reports by the CEO of the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) as well as [the California High Speed Rail Authority's draft 2026 Business Plan](#).

In reports to the Authority last year, particularly within the [August 2025 CEO Report](#) in the “*Legislative Support*” section, Authority CEO Ian Choudri identified items for legislative advocacy, including the idea to “[e]mpower the Authority with certain regulatory powers, including zoning and land use permitting controls, over land it owns and land within a one-half mile radius of high-speed rail stations, to facilitate the development of transit-oriented communities, and allow the Authority to capture sales and property tax increment resulting from such development to support station area infrastructure investments.”

The Authority's desired legislative changes are also referenced on pages 32 and XXIV respectively of its [draft 2026 Business Plan](#).

CSDA opposes any attempt to forcibly redirect tax revenues away from affected taxing agencies without their express, meaningful, and freely-given consent. CSDA likewise opposes improperly shifting any costs associated with utility relocations and/or betterments onto local agencies.

Take Action: Comment on CA HSRA Draft 2026 Business Plan

The public comment period is open from February 28 through April 29:

- Online comment form at: [2026 Draft Business Plan Comment Form](#)
- By email at: BusinessPlan2026@hsr.ca.gov
- By U.S. mail to the Authority: California High-Speed Rail Authority Attn: Draft 2026 Business Plan
770 L Street, Suite 1180, Sacramento, CA 95814

When submitting your agency's comments, be sure to provide a copy of your comments to CSDA by emailing advocacy@csda.net.



CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION PRIORITIES

TAKE ACTION BRIEF

Be Part of Special Districts Week April 5-11

The moment we've all been waiting for is quickly approaching!

Let's celebrate another year of Special Districts Week from April 5-11, 2026 coinciding with the annual [Special Districts Legislative Days](#) on April 7-8. Ensure you are registered as you will not want to miss a day full of legislative updates, insightful workshops, meetings with your district legislators and staff, and much more!

This year Assembly Member Dawn Addis representing California's 30th Assembly District has agreed to author the 2026 Assembly Concurrent Resolution marking April 5-11 as the official *Special Districts Week*. As we prepare for another moment in history of creating awareness and sharing the importance of special districts, please understand that your engagement makes all the difference!

Take Action: Spread the Word on Special Districts Week

Access the Special Districts Week Toolkit:
csda.net/TA-Special-Districts-Week

Download all of the resources you need to help promote awareness and understanding of special districts, with more tools and templates coming soon, such as social media graphics, support letters, district resolutions, newsletter articles, and press releases.

CSDA looks forward to seeing familiar and new faces in April and continuing the legacy of special districts in California!



OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Learn More

Don't miss your chance to participate in Special Districts Legislative Days April 7-8 in Sacramento

No matter what type of special district you represent, as local service specialists, we share one cause: **LOCAL CONTROL**. And our voice is stronger when we are united.

With affordability challenges at the forefront in 2026, this is a critical year to educate policymakers on the value of special districts and our priorities.

Learn More and Register at LegislativeDays.csda.net

Join Today

Join an Expert Feedback Team to provide CSDA staff with invaluable insights on policy issues. Email annac@csda.net to inquire about joining one of the following teams:

- Housing and Community Development
- Governance
- Human Resources & Personnel
- Local Revenue
- Public Works and Facilities

Stay Informed

In addition to the many ways you can **TAKE ACTION** with CSDA's advocacy efforts, CSDA offers a variety of tools to keep you up-to-date and assist you in your district's legislative and public outreach. Make sure you're reading these resources:

- CSDA's weekly e-Newsletter
- Districts in the News
- CSDA's *California Special Districts Magazine*

Email updates@csda.net for help accessing these additional member resources.