



CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION PRIORITIES

TAKE ACTION BRIEF

April 2026

State lawmakers returned from Spring Recess April 6 and on April 7 CSDA organized over 200 special district leaders from across the state into 30 groups to meet with over 90 legislative offices. Learn more about the legislative priorities we focused on and also be sure to visit csda.net/ZEV-Flexibility to download a sample “15-day comment letter” due April 17. Every community must urge CARB: Don’t Ban Our Trucks!



Inside this edition of the Take Action Brief:

April 17 Deadline to Comment on CARB Truck Ban.....2

Hundreds of District Leaders Visit Over 90 Legislative Offices to Advocate on Critical Issues.....3

Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act Passes House Committee.....4

Share the Special Districts 101 Challenge with Your Community.....5

Contact a local CSDA representative near you!

Chris Norden
 Dane Wadlé
 Colleen Haley
 Erasmo Viveros
 Richelle Noroyan
 Chris Palmer

Northern Network
 Sierra Network
 Bay Area Network
 Central Network
 Coastal Network
 Southern Network

chrisn@csda.net
danew@csda.net
colleenh@csda.net
erasmov@csda.net
richellen@csda.net
chrisp@csda.net



April 17 Deadline to Comment on CARB Truck Ban

On April 2nd the California Air Resource Board (CARB) posted their latest [proposed amendments to their Advanced Clean Fleets \(ACF\) regulations](#), opening a new 15-day public comment window. **Comments will only be accepted until April 17, 2026 at 5:00pm.**

CARB's 15-day amendments follow the previous 45-day comment period in September where CSDA and our [partners requested amendments](#). CSDA is reiterating our request that vehicles that support emergency response need to be categorically excluded from the ACF regulation, which otherwise mandates all state and local government fleets of medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEV). ACF impacts vehicles Class 2b and above (8,500lbs gross vehicle weight and higher).

Visit csda.net/zev-flexibility to Download Sample 15-Day Comment Letter

Emergency Response Vehicles Should Be Excluded from the ACF Mandate

Vehicles reasonably anticipated to respond to emergency situations, or that support those efforts, should be excluded from the regulations in the same manner as the current regulation excludes snow removal vehicles.

Some examples of vehicles that should be excluded from ACF:

- Vehicles used for fire prevention/mitigation, public safety, search and rescue, medical response, and poacher prevention should be excluded.
- Vehicles that are essential to the delivery, repair, and maintenance of electricity, water, wastewater, stormwater, and flood protection should be excluded.
- Vehicles used to prevent and respond to the spread of disease and dangerous vector outbreaks should be excluded.

Take Action: 15-Day Comment Period Ends April 17

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

Download a [sample letter](#) you can submit to CARB urging the exclusion of all vehicles that support emergencies. Also, download [graphics and sample social media posts](#).





Hundreds of District Leaders Visit Over 90 Legislative Offices to Advocate on Critical Issues

On April 7, CSDA assembled more than 200 special districts leaders in 30 groups to meet with more than 90 legislative offices in the State Capitol as part of [Special Districts Legislative Days](#). Participants advocated for local flexibility in the use of emerging technology that makes local service delivery more affordable, as well as protecting special districts from the looming threat of local property tax diversions.

2026 Special Districts Legislative Days Priorities Included:

Assembly Bill 1898 (Schultz) WORKPLACE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS – OPPOSE

Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee (Referred on 3.25.26)

Places restrictions on the use of AI in surveillance, operations, and decision making conducted by an employer by requiring significant, repeated notices.

- The notice must contain, among other things, detailed information on the workplace surveillance tool or automated decision system, justification, categories of employment-related decisions likely to be affected, and worker data information, as specified.
- The bill could compromise the security and operations of public agencies by putting routine workplace technologies at risk and exposing sensitive information that may compromise security.
- Contains enforcement provisions that expose public employers to significant litigation risk.

Assembly Bill 2027 (Ward) WORKER DATA PROHIBITIONS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – OPPOSE

Status: Assembly Labor and Employment Committee (Referred on 3.17.26)

Establishes significant limitations on the use of AI for public and private employers, specific to worker data.

- The bill could effectively ban most AI tools in the workplace. The bill prohibits an employer from using an AI tool trained with worker data to replicate, automate, or replace a worker's job. This could cover tools trained with data from the employer's employees or any other employer's employees. For example, innocuous AI search tools work off of data very likely trained, in part, by workers, while its functionality replicates certain tasks of workers.
- Contains enforcement provisions that expose public employers to significant litigation risk

CHRA DRAFT 2026 BUSINESS PLAN: DIVERSION OF LOCAL REVENUE

Status: Issued February 28, 2026 with a 60-Day Comment Period

Proposals under consideration by the California High-Speed Rail Authority include seeking statutory permission for the Authority to form and lead tax-increment financing districts that would capture property tax and sales tax growth within a one-half (½) mile radius of high-speed rail stations.

- Though seemingly similar to other tax-increment financing tools such as enhanced infrastructure financing districts (EIFDs), participation by affected taxing agencies (including special districts) may be compulsory, resulting in the unconstitutional diversion of local property tax revenue to the state.
- CSDA opposes any attempt to redirect tax revenues away from local governments and the communities they serve without their express, meaningful, and freely-given consent. Depriving special districts of property tax revenue will undermine affordable essential service delivery.
- While the exact language of the proposals has not yet been made public, the legislation to implement the Authority's proposals is widely anticipated to be included in a forthcoming budget trailer bill.



Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act Passes House Committee

In a victory for special districts across the country, last week, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved the Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act. The legislation ([H.R. 2766](#)), which is sponsored by Representatives Pat Fallon (R-TX) and Brittany Pettersen (D-CO), cleared the committee on a strong, bipartisan vote of 32-8.

To view the committee's action on H.R. 2766, please click [here](#). The discussion on the bill begins at the 8:15 mark.

All [Congressional Representatives serving on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee](#) voted “Yea” vote on H.R. 2766 at the March 18 hearing. CSDA members serving these Congressional districts are encouraged to thank their representative for their support.

- [Rep. Robert Garcia](#)
- [Rep. Ro Khanna](#)
- [Rep. Lateefah Simon](#)
- [Rep. Dave Min](#)

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](#).

The Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act embodies NSDA's longstanding objective of codifying in federal law a first-ever, formal definition of special district. In addition to establishing such a definition, H.R. 2766 would direct the White House Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations.

Looking ahead, the legislation is expected to be considered by the full House of Representatives at some point in the near future. As of this writing, it is unclear exactly when House leaders will schedule the bill for a floor vote. In the meantime, special districts are encouraged to reach out to their House delegation members to urge them to support H.R. 2766.

Take Action: NSDA Tools and Resources for CSDA Members

- 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](#)



Share the Special Districts 101 Challenge with Your Community

CSDA is pleased to launch a free online course where special district officials and the public at-large can enjoy a fun, interactive resource for learning more about the most popular form of local government in California.

Gain a better understanding of the local agencies providing essential services to our communities and download a personalized certificate if you enroll and complete the course.

Visit csda.net/learn-about to:

[Access Free Online Course: Special Districts 101](#)

Course participants will learn:

- What a special district is
- What services do special districts provide
- How special districts are governed and funded
- What makes special districts special



OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Learn More

The early bird deadline for the Special District Leadership Academy Conference May 11-14 is April 10. This training includes the required SB 827 Finance and Fiscal Training Certificate. Register for the Special District Leadership Academy near you at sdla.csdanet.net.

SOUTHERN LOCATION

NORTHERN LOCATION

COASTAL LOCATION



MAY 11 - 14, 2026
SAN DIEGO

Embassy Suites - San Diego Bay
601 Pacific Hwy
San Diego, CA 92101

JULY 19 - 22, 2026
SAN RAFAEL

Embassy Suites - San Rafael - Marin
County
101 McInnis Pkwy
San Rafael, CA 94903

SEPTEMBER 13 - 16, 2026
SAN LUIS OBISPO

Embassy Suites - San Luis Obispo
333 Madonna Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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.