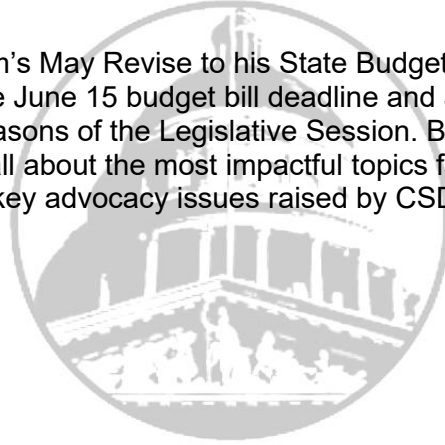




# TAKE ACTION BRIEF

## May/June 2026

Between Governor Gavin Newsom’s May Revise to his State Budget proposal and the May 29 house of origin bill deadline, followed by the June 15 budget bill deadline and July 2 policy committee deadline, this is one of the most action-packed seasons of the Legislative Session. Buckle up and open up this edition of the CSDA Take *Action* Brief to learn all about the most impactful topics facing special districts in the Capitol, including some early wins on the key advocacy issues raised by CSDA members at Special Districts Legislative Days in April!



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### Contact a local CSDA representative near you!

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## Feedback Needed on Governor’s Development Related Fees Budget Trailer Bill

The Governor’s 2026 May Revision proposes statutory changes aimed at reducing state costs related to state subsidized affordable housing projects. The [development impact fee budget trailer bill proposal](#) would pressure local governments to waive development related fees on state affordable housing programs. It would also bar local governments, when acting as a lead applicant or co-applicant on certain housing projects receiving state funding, from charging development impact fees on those projects as a condition of receiving state funding.



CAPTION: Slide presented by Governor Gavin Newsom at May 14, 2026 May Revise Press Conference in Sacramento.

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### Take Action: Share input on proposed development impact fee State Budget Trailer Bill

*As CSDA continues to analyze the Governor’s development impact fee proposal closely, members with input on the proposal and its potential impacts on special districts are encouraged to contact CSDA Legislative Representative Anthony Tannehill at [anthonyt@csla.net](mailto:anthonyt@csla.net).*

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Development related fees fund the very infrastructure necessary to provide affordable essential services. Reducing access to such fees results in costs shifted from developers to existing residents or reduced levels of service needed to protect the health, safety, and wellness of all Californians.

Read the agenda items for this proposed State Budget Trailer Bill as taken up May 20, 2026 in [Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5](#) and [Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4](#), respectively.



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## Examples Requested for Revived Information Practices Act (IPA) Mandate Bill

Despite having failed passage last year in the Senate Judiciary Committee, a significant mandate bill opposed by CSDA is once again active and moving forward.

[Assembly Bill 1337 \(Ward\)](#) would revise [the Information Practices Act of 1977 \(IPA\)](#), a comprehensive privacy statute that currently only applies to the State, to newly obligate special districts to observe the IPA.

The IPA prescribes various requirements impacting the receipt, retention, and sharing of personal information. In effect, the routine handling of common information (e.g., names, telephone numbers, residential addresses) provided to special districts would become dramatically more resource-intensive, requiring countless ongoing hours of staff time to ensure compliance and exposing districts to additional legal liability. CSDA and a coalition of local government stakeholders opposed the bill last year and continue to do so.

Notably, the operations that would most acutely be impacted by this legislation are those programs that directly benefit the public—these programs rely on personal information sharing among and within various governmental entities, embodying a “no wrong door” approach to making services accessible. CSDA has cited examples like low-income water rate assistance programs (WRAP) and low-income home energy assistance programs (LIHEAP) as examples of district initiatives that utilize personal information sharing that would become sharply inhibited by the passage of AB 1337. Awareness of such initiatives helps demonstrate to policymakers how current privacy practices facilitate increased public access to government programs.

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### Take Action: Provide examples of privacy practices increasing access to government programs

*Districts with additional distinct examples are encouraged to provide them to CSDA Legislative Representative Marcus Detwiler at [marcusd@cdda.net](mailto:marcusd@cdda.net).*

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On April 27, 2026, AB 1337 was withdrawn from the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#), where it had fallen one vote short in 2025, and on May 6 it was re-referred to the [Senate Committee on Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection](#).

July 2, 2026 is the last day for policy committees to meet and report bills.



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## Two Priority Oppose Workplace Tech Bills Defeated Following Advocacy at Legislative Days

The efforts of special district officials attending this year's Special Districts Legislative Days in April paid off last week when the two workplace technology bills opposed during the event's 90 legislative office visits organized by CSDA were held under submission, effectively killing the legislation.

California lawmakers advanced hundreds of bills on May 14, 2026, as the State Senate and Assembly Committees on Appropriations held their respective Suspense File hearings. This is one of the Legislature's key deadlines for determining which measures will continue moving through the legislative process.

During the hearings, leaders of both committees acknowledged the difficult decisions involved in weighing policy priorities against the state's fiscal constraints. In the Assembly, 637 bills were on the Suspense File, with 468 of those bills advancing out of the committee. In the Senate, 332 bills were on the Suspense File, with 242 bills advancing. Bills that were held under submission are dead for this Legislative Session.

CSDA has been a leader advocating on workplace technology issues for the benefit of the communities special districts serve. CSDA and its coalition partners have advocated for preserving flexibility in public agency uses of artificial intelligence (AI), automated decision systems (ADS), surveillance, and other technologies that enable special districts to deliver affordable essential services like water, wastewater, fire protection, resource conservation, healthcare, parks and recreation, and more, while protecting critical infrastructure, and keeping employees and communities safe.

**CSDA elevated two priority "Oppose" measures that would have unduly restricted workplace technology and organized 200 special district leaders to advocate directly to their legislators at Special Districts Legislative Days in April. Both measures were held on suspense and defeated for the year:**

- [AB 1898 \[Schultz\] Workplace artificial intelligence tools](#)
- [AB 2027 \[Ward\] Worker data: prohibitions: artificial intelligence](#)

CSDA and its coalition partners opposed these measures because they would have placed unreasonable restrictions on workplace technologies such as AI and ADS, and they failed to account for existing protections and unique aspects of the public sector workforce and public sector service delivery.

**Despite these early wins, significant work remains before the end of the August 31 close of the 2025-2026 State Legislative Session. CSDA and other stakeholders will continue advocacy on numerous remaining technology measures that passed out of the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees, including:**

- [SB 947 \(McNerney\) Employment: automated decision systems.](#)
- [SB 951 \(Reyes\) Employment: technological displacement: notice.](#)
- [AB 1883 \(Bryan\) Workplace surveillance tools.](#)
- [AB 2656 \(Petrie-Norris\) Public employees: notice: artificial intelligence performing service within scope of work.](#)



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## Awaiting Outcome of CARB 15-Day Comment Period on ACF ZEV Mandate

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) now has until August 1, 2026 to finalize its Final Statement of Record (FSOR) and submit its final rulemaking package to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for its current rulemaking process on the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. The timing of the FSOR depends in part on the volume and complexity of public comments submitted. CARB is required to summarize and respond to every unique, relevant comment received during both the 45-day and 15-day periods.

Under the California Administrative Procedure Act (APA), CARB must complete its regulatory process within a one-year period or the rulemaking is void and must start over. CARB first-initiated the 45-day notice for amendments to its ACF regulation on August 1, 2025.

OAL has 30 working days to approve or disapprove a final rulemaking package once it has been submitted by CARB. Once approved and filed with the California Secretary of State, regulations generally take effect on a quarterly schedule (January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1), depending on the date upon which they are filed.

To learn more, visit the [CARB rulemaking page](#) and [csda.net/ZEV-Flexibility](https://csda.net/ZEV-Flexibility). Also, in case you missed it, see last week's article in CSDA eNews: [MUST READ: Details Emerge on CARB Truck Ban – Last Chance to Help](#)

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## Action Pending on High-Speed Rail Property Tax Diversion Proposal

On April 29, 2026, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) convened a meeting of its board of directors. On their agenda was an item to consider the adoption of the draft 2026 business plan – a plan, that, among other provisions, contains elements related to tax increment financing and land use authority that are opposed by CSDA and a coalition of other local government association stakeholders.

Rather than approve the business plan, HSRA directors opted to delay the vote until May 20. Board Chair Tom Richards relayed that the decision to delay the vote was necessary "to address a large volume of public comments as well as to have the authority to continue coordinating with the administration." The HSRA then cancelled the May 20 meeting and is now expected to take up the business plan at its upcoming June 1 meeting.

Notably, the HSRA's business plan earned highly critical comments from the high-speed rail project's Office of the Inspector General and the Legislative Analyst's Office. Concerns centered on an ongoing lack of transparency and suspect accounting methods that made various assumptions based on actions that had yet to happen.

Later on April 29, KCRA's Ashely Zavala reported that a spokesperson for the HSRA said the Authority would formally send the finalized version of its plan to the California Legislature by June 1, and that the Authority intended to review the feedback it has received on the plan and also align it with State Budget negotiations that are finalized by the end of June between lawmakers and the Governor.



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## CSDA Weighs in on Eminent Domain and CA Public Records Act Court Cases

CSDA's efforts to represent the voice of special districts reaches beyond the Capitol and into the courts. Amicus actions filed by CSDA can be found in the Legal Tracking Library on the CSDA website: <https://www.csdanet.net/viewdocument/2026>. Recent CSDA amicus actions include:

### [Town of Apple Valley v. Apple Valley Ranchos Water, et al.](#) (Supreme Court of California)

The Supreme Court of California has granted review in this case to resolve the following question:

“When a public entity files an eminent domain action seeking to take privately held public utility property, and the owner objects to the right to take, ***what is the proper standard of judicial review*** for the trial court to apply to determine whether the property owner has rebutted the presumptions under Code of Civil Procedure sections 1245.250, subdivision (b) and 1240.650, subdivision (c)?” (Emphasis added.)

CSDA joined an amicus brief in support of the Town of Apple Valley, arguing that: legislative actions such as an eminent domain resolution of necessity are entitled deferential review, and that a gross abuse of discretion standard should be applied by any court reviewing a local agency determination for eminent domain taking purposes. The case has been fully briefed, however oral arguments have not been scheduled yet. CSDA will continue to monitor the case for developments.

### [San Diego Unified Port District v. Castanares](#) (Fourth District Court of Appeal)

CSDA became involved in this case to highlight the importance of upholding the attorney-client privilege of reports of confidential workplace investigations including exhibits counsel transmit to their public agency clients. The trial court in this case erred in finding the privilege covered an attorney's report to the district, but somehow not the attachments transmitted with the report to the district as confidential attorney-client communication, which it declared must be produced pursuant to a request under the California Public Records Act. As stated in the local government amicus brief, this result is not only incongruous and contradicts settled law but, if upheld, it would undermine public policy in protecting confidential communications between attorney and client in the course of their relationship regardless of the content and regardless of whether the communication includes information or documents that might be discoverable through some other means. Allowing courts to parse exhibits to attorney-client communications for privilege would be significantly detrimental for lawyers conducting confidential workplace investigations as well as their public agency clients.

In this case, the Port argued that two records and all 102 attachments are protected by the attorney-work product and attorney-client privileges and therefore are not subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act. The Court ordered the preparation of a privilege log and two amendments to the privilege log to reflect a description of each record, date, who prepared the record, and in the case of the interviews, who was interviewed and whether there were any third parties present.

CSDA joined a brief in support of the Port, arguing that the confidential summary report and associated attachments are protected by the attorney-client privilege, and the CPRA does not require the disclosure of records attached as exhibits to a privileged attorney-client communication. In addition, public policy favors maintaining exhibits to confidential communications as exempt from disclosure under the CPRA. The case is now pending in the Fourth District, with additional supplemental briefing requested by the court.



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## 2026 GM Leadership Summit in Newport Beach, CA

General managers and emerging leaders from special districts across California gather at the General Manager Leadership Summit to engage in meaningful peer networking, gain fresh insights, and strengthen their leadership skills. This dynamic event features inspiring keynote speakers and expert-led breakout sessions covering governance best practices, legal updates, human resources, budgeting, operations, and more—all tailored to the unique challenges of district leadership.

Attendees enjoy interactive networking opportunities throughout the summit, including receptions, meals, and collaborative discussions that foster lasting connections. You'll return to your district energized and equipped with new strategies to elevate your board relationships, staff engagement, and organizational impact.

Learn More and Register at: [GMSummit.csdanet](https://GMSummit.csdanet)  
Early Bird Registration – On or Before May 29, 2026

- CSDA Member: \$890 Early Registration / \$990 Regular Registration CSDA Member
- Non-Member: \$1,780 Early Registration / \$1,980 Regular Registration

## OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

### Join Today

Join an Expert Feedback Team to provide CSDA staff with invaluable insights on policy issues. Email [annac@csda.net](mailto: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](mailto:updates@csda.net) for help accessing these additional member resources.