



**Ventura County Special
Districts Association**

**VCSDA
MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 6, 2020
Videoconference Via Zoom

*Approved
Minutes*

Approved: _____
Date: _____
Motion: _____
Second: _____

**VENTURA COUNTY
SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

MEMBERS

- Bell Canyon Community Services
- Calleguas Municipal Water
- Camarillo Health Care
- Camrosa Water
- Casitas Municipal Water
- Channel Islands Beach Community Services
- Conejo Recreation & Park
- Hidden Valley Municipal Water
- Ojai Valley Sanitary
- Oxnard Harbor
- Pleasant Valley County Water
- Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks
- Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks
- Saticoy Sanitary
- Triunfo Water and Sanitation District
- United Water Conservation
- Ventura County Resource Conservation
- Ventura Regional Sanitation
- Ventura River Water
- Ventura Port

The August meeting of the Ventura County Special District Association was held via videoconference.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm by President Thom Slosson, followed by the flag salute.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL: Thom Slosson

Thom Slosson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees included:

- Thom Slosson, Andres Santamaria, Scott Quady, Tony Goff, Kara Wade - Calleguas Municipal Water District*
- Rod Brown, Kara Ralston - Camarillo Health Care District*
- Al Fox, Cindy Fox - Camrosa Water District*
- George Lange, Nellie Cusworth, Chuck Huffer, Doug Nichols - Conejo Recreation & Park District*
- Charlotte Holifield - California Special District Association*
- Jacque McMillan - Metropolitan Water District*
- Mark Malloy, Mike Mishler, Mary Otten, Elaine Magner - Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District*
- Mary Anne Rooney (Speaker) Celina Zacarias, Cameron Spencer, Dona Lacayo – Port of Hueneme*
- Elaine Freeman, Kathleen O'Brien - Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District*
- Bruce Dandy – United Water Conservation District*
- Todd Mitchell, Brian Pendleton – Ventura Port District*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of August 4, 2020:

Thom Slosson

Motion by Al Fox, Seconded by Elaine Freeman, to approve the August 4, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Presented by Rodger Brown

Beginning Balance as of 02/07/20 was \$14,062.47 Ending Balance as of 08/24/20 was \$16,113.37 *Motion* by Al Fox, *seconded* by George Lange to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. *Motion carried.*

President—Thom Slosson
Vice President—Al Fox

Treasurer—Rodger Brown
Secretary to the Board—Kara Wade

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CSDA Report and Legislative Update : Elaine Magner (Coastal Network Board Member) introduced Charlotte Holifield, Coastal Network Public Affairs Field Coordinator. Charlotte said that September 30th was the final day for Governor Newsom to sign or veto hundreds of bills. The State Legislature managed to pass many bills in the midst of COVID-19 like the CSDA sponsored AB2107 related to small, medium-term loans. Also \$50 million in funding, CSDA advanced, for special districts and other local agencies to prepare for public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) as part of the state budget. The California Supreme Court approved that the two-thirds voter approval requirement for local special taxes enacted by Prop 218, a 1996 state ballot measure, applies only to taxes proposed by a government body, such as special district board of directors, and not to initiatives placed on the ballot by local initiative of citizens living within the Jurisdiction. She said that CSDA will make all webinars free in 2021 to their members. United Water Conservation District was recognized for receiving their District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. Conejo Recreation and Park District was recognized for the 2020 Board Member of the Year, George Lange, as well as Exceptional Public Outreach and Advocacy award-Large District. Charlotte said that on November 10/20 CSDA will offer a webinar: American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Risk Assessment and Emergency Response Plan.

Legislative Update: Elaine Freeman, Ventura LAFCo Board Member, provide an email update on 10 Assembly Bills (AB) and 3 Senate Bills (SB) worth noting for Special Districts. AB 831-Planning and zoning: housing development application modifications, AB 2017– Employee sick leave and kin care, AB 2107– Local government securitized limited obligation notes, AB 2151-Political Reform Act of 1974 on-line filing and disclosure systems, AB 2257– gives relief for contract employees to government agencies, AB 2399– committee on insurance paid family leave qualifying exigency, AB 2560 water quality notification levels and response levels procedures, AB 2967-public employees retirement system contracting agency exclusions from membership, AB-2992 employment practices leave time, AB 3216-unemployment rehiring and retention: state of emergency, SB 974– California Environmental Quality Act: small disadvantaged community water system: state small water system exemption, SB 1003-skateboard parks and other wheeled recreational devices: safety and liability, and SB 1286-fire hydrants.

Ventura LAFCo Update: Elaine Freeman, Ventura LAFCo Board Member, said that LAFCo's meeting was held September 16, 2020. The Board approved that no sphere of influence updates or municipal service review reports are necessary for Conejo Recreation and Park District, Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. There was a closed session regarding Kai Luoma, Executive Officer, performance review. LAFCo's next meeting will be November 18, 2020.

County Oversight Board Update: Mike Mishler said that there was a brief meeting. Cities are to provide annual updates at the next meeting.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bruce Dandy, United Water Conservation District Board Member, said that United Water Conservation District will be launching their new website. George Lange, Conejo Recreation and Park District Board Member, said Thousand Oaks is undergoing revitalization. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District paid off their headquarters building and are now debt free. Ventura Port District received a Coastal Conservancy Grant to buy a crane and new container storage.

PRESENTATION: Mary Anne Rooney, Commissioner, The Port of Hueneme, gave a presentation entitled “ Delivering Cargo in the Year of the Crisis”. Commissioner Rooney gave an overview of the historic trend regarding increased cargo from 2007-2019 which saw a 25% increase beginning in 2013. She said that the Port has only seen a 1.8% decrease, compared to 2019, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. She was happy to report that the Ports bond debt has been steadily decreasing from \$35 million down to \$8 million as of August 2020. The Ports economic prosperity has been steadily increasing as well to 113% since 2013. In Ventura County, the Port is the 4th largest employer with many employees living directly in Oxnard and surrounding cities.

Some of the impacts of COVID-19:

- the Ports was declared essential and remained open 24/7 to deliver essential cargo and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),
- 55% of the Port’s revenue comes from automobile imports and exports was down by 20%,
- produce and other cargo saw initial congestion but has adapted and cargo has remained consistent.

Recovery efforts and crisis response:

- PPE distribution
- community emails and social media posts
- COVID-19 page on Port website-continually updated
- Everbridge - alerting all stakeholders via text/phone/email in real time
- Weekly briefings to elected officials on City, County, State and Federal levels
- Feeding the frontline food distributions and pivoting towards community support
- 35+ feeding the frontline events
- 250,000 lbs of fresh produce and grains have been delivered directly to farmworkers and their families
- On June 6, 2020, the 10,000th carton of food was distributed

The future:

- 2030 Strategic Plan
- Port modernization
- Containerization
- Port deepening
- Greenest US Port-transitioning to a carbon free world/green equipment

The Port has received recognition from: American Association of Port Authorities-Award of Excellence, Government Finance Officers Association-Excellence in Financial Reporting, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce-2020 Chairperson’s Award of Excellence to name a few.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be on December 1, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted, *Kara L. Wade*

Kara Wade, Secretary to VCSDA