



**California Special
Districts Association**

Districts Stronger Together

Getting to Know CSDA

January 23, 2019

Nevada Irrigation District Board Meeting



Dane Wadle

CSDA Public Affairs Field Coordinator

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About Me

- **First Field Coordinator hired in 2015**
 - Cover Sierra and Northern Networks for CSDA
 - Nevada Irrigation District = CSDA's Sierra Network
- **Professional Background:**
 - Legislative Director/Consultant in State Assembly and Senate
 - Financial Analyst at Placer County Water Agency
- **Currently a Board Member for my local water district**
 - Georgetown Divide PUD

CSDA Overview

● **Our Purpose**

- California Special Districts Association was founded in 1969
- Promote good governance and best practices
- Protect local government funds, special district autonomy, and core services in the community

● **CSDA Strategic Plan – focus on member needs**

- Legislative advocacy
- Quality educational offerings
- Timely information sharing
- Cost saving programs & services
- Regional opportunities



Advocacy & Public Affairs

- **CSDA: Districts Stronger Together**

- Only association representing special districts of all types, all sizes, all over the state
- Staff includes 4 in-house lobbyists, legislative analyst/attorney and public affairs specialist
- At the table with CSAC and League of CA Cities in local government discussions
- Please complete Grassroots Mobilization Survey (handout)

- **Districts Make the Difference Campaign**

- Public facing campaign to raise awareness of special districts
- www.districtsmakethedifference.org



2019 Legislative Issues

- **Take Action Brief (Handout)**
- **Resurrection of Redevelopment?**
 - Redevelopment abolished in 2012;
 - Desire among some legislators to bring it back to fund affordable housing and other infrastructure;
 - Diverted property tax revenue from districts to fund;
 - CSDA opposed; Governor does not seem keen on idea.
- **Other Issues to Watch**
 - Legislation to reduce impact fees and other “barriers” to create accessory dwelling units/affordable housing;
 - Bills to have CalPers divest retirement funds from certain industries.

2019 Legislative Issues

- **Water Tax Proposal:**

- Governor appears to support proposal with water tax to be collected by local agencies for certain areas;
- CSDA part of opposition coalition.

- **Various Property Tax Initiatives**

- Proposal to allow property tax base year transfers from less expensive property to a new property for certain individuals;
 - Proposition 5 on November 2018 ballot; failed passage.
- SCA 3 (2019) - Proposal to limit property tax inheritance exclusion;
- Potential for “split-roll” property tax measure in 2020?

CSDA Activity in Gold Country

- **Enhance collaboration and communication between districts in the region**
- **CSDA Gold Country Chapter**
 - Great opportunity to network, engage in advocacy and receive local training
 - Next Meeting on January 30 in Cameron Park
 - Workshop on Special District Finance for Board Members
 - Roundtable Panel for New Board Members: Hear from “tenured” Board members
 - Hear from Assemblymembers Brian Dahle and Kevin Kiley (scheduled)

Professional Development

- **Educational opportunities**
 - Training for Board and staff
 - Required ethics and harassment prevention training
 - Cost-effective webinar series now includes on-demand
 - Regional workshops
- **Specialized conferences and workshops**
 - Special District Leadership Academy
 - General Manager Leadership Summit
 - Board Secretary/Clerk Conference
- **Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase**
 - September 25-28 in Anaheim

Recognizing Good Governance

Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF)

- **Special District Administrator (SDA) Certification**
 - For General Managers/Administrators
- **Recognition in Special District Governance**
 - Special District Leadership Academy
 - For Board Members/Trustees
- **District of Distinction**
 - Recognizing excellence in districts
- **Transparency Certification**
 - Promoting transparency in governance
 - NID has earned this certificate 3 times



Information Sharing

- **Timely, relevant information**

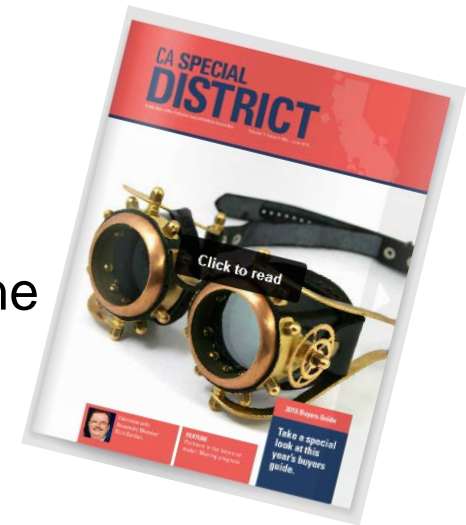
- Weekly e-News with legislative updates
- Email alerts on time-sensitive issues
- Bi-monthly California Special District magazine

- **Publications**

- Online bookstore with more than 80 titles
- Sample Policy Manual, Salary & Benefits Survey
- Free downloadable publications

- **Members Section of CSDA website**

- Career Center – job postings
- Sample doc library, equipment exchange, RFP/RFQ site



Finding the Expertise You Need

- **CSDA Communities**

- District peer-to-peer helpline

- **Legal Advice**

- On staff legislative analyst
- Free hour legal advice
- Bond counsel through CSDA Finance Corporation

- **Consultant Connection**

- Grant research/writing
- HR management
- Public outreach
- State mandate reimbursement



Cost Saving Programs

Adding Value to Membership – Saving Time & Money

- Website design/hosting – Streamline
- Discounted group purchasing – US Communities
- Diversified investment pool options – CalTrust
- Discounted first aid & safety supplies – Cintas
- Utility Cost Analysis – UCM
- District Purchasing Card
- And more!



UCM[®]

UTILITY COST MANAGEMENT LLC

Districts Stronger Together

Sierra Network Resources

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CSDA



January 2019

The holidays are over and now it's time to get back to work. On January 7, the California State Legislature reconvened for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session and Governor Gavin Newsom was sworn in as California's 40th Governor. Governor Newsom introduced his first budget on January 10 and touched on topics such as housing, property taxes, developer impact fees and water taxes. Throughout the legislative year, CSDA will continue to monitor new legislation and updates to the budget for any changes that may impact special districts.



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Contact a local CSDA representative near you!

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➤ REVENUE, FINANCES, AND TAXATION

CSDA's long range policy priority on revenue, finances, and taxation is to ensure adequate funding for special districts' safe and reliable core local service delivery. Protect special districts' resources from the shift or diversion of revenues without the consent of the affected districts. Promote the financial independence of special districts and afford them access to revenue opportunities equal to that of other types of local agencies.

Governor Newsom Proposes First Budget, Calling for "California For All"

On January 10, Governor Gavin Newsom [unveiled](#) his first state budget proposal, announcing significant one-time expenditures in health and education, and also addressing several topics with significant impact on special districts. Calling his budget one that seeks "discipline" while building a strong financial foundation, Newsom announced a total budget of \$209 billion, a 4% increase over the prior year, with general fund spending totaling \$144 billion (a 3.6% increase). Additions to the state Rainy Day Fund will bring the balance to \$15.3 billion in 2019-2020, gradually increasing to \$19.4 billion by 2022-2023.

Governor Newsom broadly addressed many topics of interest to special districts, including the likelihood of the return of redevelopment agencies (RDA). His comments appeared to signal a resistance to the idea of resurrecting traditional RDAs, favoring enhanced infrastructure financing districts (EIFD) as a "legitimate successor agency to redevelopment as we have known it." Newsom suggested eliminating the 55% voter threshold for EIFD debt obligation as a strategy to promoting the formation of EIFDs.

Newsom's budget also seemingly embraced a statewide water tax to fund access to safe and affordable drinking water. According to the Governor's Budget Summary, the administration is looking to take the same approach proposed last year by [SB 623 \(Monning\)](#), potentially placing the burden of tax collection on local agencies already strained by other state mandated programs and services. The Budget includes \$4.9 million General Fund one-time spending for the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Food and Agriculture to take initial steps toward implementation of this new Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Program. This weekend, the Governor followed his call for a water tax with a visit along with his cabinet at the Monterey Park Tract in Ceres, where he participated in a roundtable discussion with members of the community who are paying for water that is unsafe to drink.

Other notable items in the Governor's budget proposal include:

- A focus on development impact fees, calling them "out of control" and "usurious" as a cause for driving up the cost of housing, indicating that he would form a task force to consider the issue.
- \$13.6 billion dedicated to paying down the state's unfunded liabilities, including an "unprecedented" \$3 billion supplemental contribution to pay down the state's liabilities within CalPERS.
- \$25 million for mutual aid to support local governments in their pre-deployment work in response to emergencies.
- \$50 million one-time spending for local grants and to immediately begin a comprehensive, statewide education campaign on disaster preparedness and safety.
- \$31.3 million to back-fill wildfire-related property tax revenue losses for cities, counties, and special districts.

With a new administration in the Governor's Office, CSDA will continue to closely monitor the budget process for relevant issues related to special districts. You can find a full summary of the Governor's Budget Proposal at ebudget.ca.gov. Legislators will conduct Budget Sub-Committee Hearings over the coming months, with the Governor's May Revise due out in mid-May following analysis of the April tax receipts. The budget, which must be passed by a June 15 Constitutional deadline, takes effect July 1.



2019 Special District Revenue Measures

The Governor released his first budget on January 10th and it had a robust package to tackle homelessness and affordable housing. Of interest to special districts is that the Governor seems committed to **not** restoring traditional redevelopment agencies (RDAs) as part of that package. As you know, RDAs were a revenue drain on special districts and hindered their ability to deliver services and infrastructure to our constituents.

In contrast to the calls for “RDA 2.0” that we saw in 2018, Governor Newsom called for more use of enhanced infrastructure finance districts (EIFDs). EIFDs are tax increment tools that land use authorities like cities can use. Special districts can join EIFDs voluntarily, unlike RDAs which were forced upon special districts.

The Governor is seeking to entirely eliminate the current 55% voter threshold for EIFDs to borrow against the increment, among other changes to incentivize their use. That same day, [SB 128 \(Beall\)](#) was introduced to that end.

Of potentially great interest to special districts, the Governor also alluded to revisiting the issue of developer impact fees. The fees are currently paid by developers to local governments to mitigate impacts of development, provide for essential service connections, infrastructure, parks and other costs and impacts due to growth.

While the budget is light on specifics, the [budget summary](#) and the Governor’s presentation point to a task force on impact fees to study fees that are, according to the Governor, “driving up the cost of housing.” Obviously, this will be of great interest to all local governments.

[ACA 1 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) **Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval**

This measure would allow for local government to pass special taxes for certain purposes with a 55 percent voter threshold instead of the current two-thirds requirement. This measure also would allow general obligation bonds for certain purposes to be passed at 55 percent, but only for cities and counties. CSDA is engaged with the author’s office regarding this issue and will keep you updated.

[AB 11 \(Chiu\)](#) **Community Redevelopment Law of 2019**

This measure picks up where [AB 3037](#) left off last year; which is a new twist on traditional RDAs that attempts to create a pass-through for special districts to be made whole for any revenue losses. CSDA had an “Oppose unless Amended” position on this version of redevelopment and were successfully working with the author when the measure stalled in the Appropriations Committee. CSDA is still engaged with its local government partners and the author’s office regarding some of the technical and policy details of this measure.

[SB 15 \(Portantino\)](#) **Redevelopment**

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to redevelopment. This is a “spot bill” or a placeholder. CSDA is engaged with the author’s office and will continue to monitor this measure.

[SB 5 \(Beall\)](#) **Local-State Sustainable Investment Incentive Program**

This bill would authorize most local entities to apply to a new state-level “Sustainable Investment Incentive Committee” to participate in the program created by this measure to fund housing development and



.....

related infrastructure. The program is voluntary and uses property tax monies that are paid into the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) to leverage dollars for certain projects. Special districts are not specifically authorized to voluntarily participate. CSDA is engaging the author's office to not only thank them for their innovative approach that would leave special districts whole but also to remind them of the important role that special districts could voluntarily play in development projects.

[SB 128 \(Beall\)](#) Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts

This measure will remove the requirement that enhanced infrastructure financing districts (EIFDs) go to the voters to bond against their tax increment. The current threshold is 55 percent. This measure is related to the Governor's plan to incentivize use of EIFDs rather than use traditional RDAs to fund housing programs and projects.

If you have any questions or comments about these bills, please contact CSDA Legislative Representative Anthony Tannehill at anthonyt@csla.net.

Governor Newsom Embraces State Water Tax

In his 2019-2020 budget proposal, Governor Newsom endorsed the creation of a state tax on water bills to fund access to safe and affordable drinking water. According to the Governor's Budget Summary, the administration is looking to take the same approach proposed by [SB 623 \(Monning\)](#), which was strongly supported by the previous administration. [SB 623 was opposed by CSDA and many others](#), in part because it would have placed the burden of tax collection on already strained local agencies. SB 623 and its parallel bills failed to pass last year when many Assembly Democrats withheld their votes.

From the [Governor's Budget Summary](#):

"Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund—Establish a new special fund, with a dedicated funding source from new water, fertilizer, and dairy fees, to enable the State Water Resources Control Board to assist communities, particularly disadvantaged communities, in paying for the short-term and long-term costs of obtaining access to safe and affordable drinking water. This proposal is consistent with the policy framework of SB 623, introduced in the 2017-18 legislative session. The Budget also includes \$4.9 million General Fund on a one-time basis for the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Food and Agriculture to take initial steps toward implementation of this new Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Program, including (1) implementation of fee collection systems, (2) adoption of an annual implementation plan, and (3) development of a map of high-risk aquifers used as drinking water sources."

If you have any questions or comments, please contact CSDA Legislative Representative Rylan Gervase at rylang@csla.net.



➤ INFRASTRUCTURE, INNOVATION, AND INVESTMENT

CSDA's long range policy principal regarding infrastructure, innovation, and investment is to encourage prudent planning for investment and maintenance of innovative long-term infrastructure. CSDA supports the development of fiscal tools and incentives to assist special districts in their efforts to meet California's changing demands, ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of core local services.

Senator will Pursue Limits on Accessory Dwelling Unit Fees in 2019

As the Legislature returns from the winter holidays, CSDA Legislative Representatives met with Senator Bob Wieckowski's (D-Fremont) office to discuss his Senate Bill 13. SB 13 is [a spot bill](#) that declares it the intent of the Legislature to "enact legislation that would reduce impact fees and other existing barriers for homeowners seeking to create accessory dwelling units for the purpose of creating additional residential housing within their neighborhoods".

Although the Senator's office offered few details, staff indicated that the Senator plans to continue his previous efforts to reduce fees charged by local agencies on new accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Substantive language is expected to be inserted into the bill in the coming weeks.

SB 13 appears to be a reintroduction of 2018's [SB 831](#), which would have eliminated all impact, connection, and capacity fees for ADUs under 1,200 square feet. CSDA [strongly opposed](#) this attempt to shift the costs of development onto existing residents served by local agencies. While SB 13 lacks substantive language, it is likely that the bill will seek to lower or eliminate these fees.

Assembly Member Ting (D-San Francisco) introduced a pair of bills, [AB 68](#) and [AB 69](#), which appear to be a follow up to 2018's [AB 2890](#). CSDA [opposed AB 2890](#) in its original form, which would have eliminated developer impact fees on small ADUs. At this stage, the bills deal with the ministerial approval of ADU permits and other land use issues surrounding ADU approvals. While these issues do not directly affect special districts, CSDA will keep an eye on them in case efforts are made to address developer fees. The Assembly Member's office has indicated that they intend to defer to Senator Wieckowski to take the lead on the fee issue.

In 2017, introduction of multiple ADU bills by authors in the Senate and Assembly led to rivalry on the issue among the leadership of the houses. This, and the fact that local agencies were still implementing ADU mandates from 2016, ensured that no measure was sent to the Governor. CSDA will be monitoring these bills and any others that are introduced and will likely take positions this spring.

If you have any questions or comments about these bills, please contact CSDA Legislative Representative Rylan Gervase at rylang@csda.net.



➤ HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

CSDA's long range policy priority on human resources and personnel is to promote policies related to hiring, management, and benefits and retirement that afford flexibility, contain costs, and enhance the ability to recruit and retain highly qualified, career-minded employees to public service. As public agency employers, support policies that foster productive relationships between management and employees, both represented and non-represented.

Sexual Harassment Remains a Legislative Hot Topic in 2019

Last year we saw an abundance of legislation related to sexual harassment following the #MeToo movement that resulted in four significant bills being signed into law. With four more bills introduced at the beginning of the 2019 legislative session, it appears sexual harassment remains a hot topic in the Legislature. Interestingly, each of the four new sexual harassment prevention bills are reintroductions of bills that were vetoed by Governor Brown in 2018. We can assume that the authors of the bills listed below are hopeful that this year's legislation will fare better with the newly-inaugurated Governor Gavin Newsom.

2019 Sexual Harassment Prevention Legislation:

[AB 9 \(Reyes\)](#): Extends the statute of limitations for filing a Fair Employment and Housing Act claim with an employer from one to three years. This bill is similar to vetoed bill [AB 1870 \(Reyes, 2018\)](#).

[AB 51 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#): Prohibits a person from conditioning employment, continued employment, the receipt of any employment-related benefit or a contractual arrangement on preventing the disclosure of an instance of sexual harassment or otherwise opposing any lawful practice, or from exercising any right or obligation or participating in any investigation or proceeding related to unlawful harassment or discrimination. This bill is similar to vetoed bill [AB 3080 \(Gonzalez Fletcher, 2018\)](#).

[AB 170 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#): Requires a client employer to share with a labor contractor all civil legal responsibility and civil liability for harassment for all workers supplied by that labor contractor. This bill, combined with AB 171 below, make up vetoed bill [AB 3081 \(Gonzalez Fletcher, 2018\)](#).

[AB 171 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#): Prohibits an employer from discharging or in any manner discriminating or retaliating against an employee because of the employee's status as a victim of sexual harassment and establish a rebuttable presumption of unlawful retaliation based on the employee's status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or stalking if an employer takes specific actions within 90 days following the date that the victim provides notice to the employer or the employer has actual knowledge of the status. This bill combined with AB 170 listed above make up vetoed bill [AB 3081 \(Gonzalez Fletcher, 2018\)](#). However, one difference between AB 171 and AB 3081 is that in AB 171 the rebuttable presumption is for actions taken within 90 days, whereas in AB 3081 the presumption was based on actions taken within 30 days of an employer becoming aware of an employee's status.

If you have any questions or comments about these bills, please contact CSDA Legislative Representative Dillon Gibbons at dillong@csda.net.



➤ GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CSDA's long range policy priority on governance and accountability is to enhance special districts' ability to govern as independent, local government bodies in an open and accessible manner. Encourage best practices that avoid burdensome, costly, redundant, or one-size-fits all approaches. Protect meaningful public participation in local agency formations, dissolutions, and reorganizations, and ensure local services meet the unique needs, priorities, and preference of each community

Dollars for Districts to Handle Fire Relief and More

Last week, Governor Newsom presented his proposed State Budget, which included funds for local governments, including special districts, in areas impacted by last year's wildfires. As proposed, the California State Budget included over \$30 million for property tax backfill, which will go to counties, cities, and special districts. The proposal would allocate:

- \$11.5 million to backfill entities in Butte, Lake, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Shasta and Siskiyou counties for losses estimated to be incurred in 2019-20 as a result of the 2018 wildfires.
- \$16.1 million would go to backfill entities in Butte County for losses estimated to be incurred in 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the 2018 Camp Fire.
- \$3.6 million would go to backfill entities in Lake County for losses estimated to be incurred in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 resulting from the wildfires in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The Budget also includes an additional backfill amount for Butte and Lake counties due to the magnitude of the fire damage in those counties which will require additional time to reconstruct the impacted properties and restore them to the property tax rolls.

Additionally, the Governor has proposed \$172.3 million to improve the state's emergency response and preparedness capabilities.

- \$60 million would go towards improving the State Emergency Telephone Number Account (SETNA) and 9-1-1 advancements.
- \$16.3 million to build-out the California Earthquake Early Warning System
- \$25 million towards mutual aid for repositioning of existing Office of Emergency Services and local government resources that are part of the statewide mutual aid system with the goal of enhancing disaster response readiness.
- \$50 million to begin a comprehensive, statewide education campaign on disaster preparedness and safety.
- \$20 million to increase the amount of funding available through the California Disaster Assistance Act, which is used to repair, restore, or replace public real property damaged or destroyed by a disaster, and to reimburse local government costs associated with certain emergency activities undertaken in response to a state of emergency. This augmentation increases total CDAA funding to \$82.6 million in 2019-20.

This State Budget is a reflection of the Governor's priorities, and it is clear from his proposal that he is committed to addressing not only the impacts of wildfires, but also preventing and reducing the size and scope of future fires. CSDA will continue to monitor the State Budget as it moves through the budget process and is ultimately voted on by the State Legislature prior to the June 15 deadline to pass a balanced State Budget.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact CSDA Legislative Representative Dillon Gibbons at dillong@csda.net.



➤ DISTRICTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Districts Make the Difference was created to increase public awareness and understanding of special districts across California. The campaign website, www.districtsmakethedifference.org provides a public place to learn more about special districts and the positive effect they have on their communities, while also serving as a resource for districts to download useful materials, collateral, and information.

Scholarship Award Presented to 1st Place Student Video Contest Winner

On January 14, Districts Make the Difference held an award presentation at the Leucadia Wastewater District to recognize Heath Dunbar, the first-place contest winner. Heath was presented with the \$2,000 first-place scholarship prize and received additional recognition for his achievement from the City of Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall and from the Office of Senator Pat Bates. Leucadia Wastewater District Board President David Kulchin, CSDA Board Member Jo Mackenzie, and San Diego Chapter President Tom Kennedy from the Rainbow Municipal Water District were also at the award presentation to congratulate Heath.

The 2018 Districts Make the Difference Student Video Contest was a close competition. After the month-long public voting period, the winners were:

- 1st Place: “Special Districts Make the Difference” by Heath - \$2,000 scholarship
- 2nd Place: “Delta Diablo” by Jason and Haley - \$1,000 scholarship
- 3rd Place: “CV San Special District” by Angelina - \$500 scholarship



Thank you to all the districts that promoted the contest and encouraged participation at each stage of the contest!

The 2019 Student Video Contest will have a slightly different timeline. Look for upcoming news about the adjusted schedule and encourage your local chapter to participate. The video contest is a great opportunity to engage with students in your community and promote the important work and essential services your district provides. Watch the 2018 winning videos on the [Districts Make the Difference website](http://www.districtsmakethedifference.org).



➤ OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Win Lunch for Your Staff! Take the Special District School Engagement Survey

Special districts throughout California are being asked to take a short 3-question survey about their engagement with students and schools in their communities. Survey responses will help CSDA develop resources for special districts looking to be more involved with their local schools. Whether your district has a robust internship program, awards an annual scholarship, conducts an outreach event, or is simply interested in how to get started, CSDA needs you to [take this survey!](#)

Each survey response* will be entered for a chance to win lunch for staff at your special district.†

CSDA appreciates how important your time is, that's why we made sure the survey will only take a couple of minutes. If you have not received a link to the survey, contact your CSDA Public Affairs Field Coordinator to request the survey and enter for your chance to WIN lunch!

*Limit one response per person. Multiple responses from single district permitted. Survey ends 2/28/2019.

†Value not to exceed \$100. CSDA will make arrangements for lunch with winning entry upon conclusion of survey.

Learn More

The 2019 CSDA Professional Development Catalog has been released. You can find it [here at csda.net](#).

The 2019 schedule features two District Network Workshops in each network. The Board Member Best Practices Workshop offered in each network during the first half of the year is no charge to SDRMA members and only \$50 to CSDA members – includes lunch sponsored by the California Special Districts Alliance.

The Special District Leadership Foundation has released \$60,000 in scholarship funds for 2019. Applications are now available at [sdlf.org](#). Funds can be used to cover 2019 professional development events and/or district websites. The next deadline is January 15, 2019.

Give Feedback

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

- Budget, Finance and Taxation
- Environment
- Formation and Reorganization
- Human Resources and Personnel
- Governance
- Public Works and Contracting

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 CA Special District Magazine

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