



# SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

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Mailing Address: 5750 Almaden Expressway • San Jose, California 95118 • (408) 265-2600

## Santa Clara County Special Districts Association

Monday, September 13, 2021

12:00–1:30 p.m.

Join via Zoom Web Conferencing:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/85996995323?pwd=VHdzbTZvQUxvUjI2Z1NoY2RUSUJ3QT09>

Dial-in: +16699009128,,85996995323#,,, \*859999# US

**A. Call to Order**

Welcome and Introductions

**B. Public Comment:**

Opportunity for members of the public to make comments or ask questions (3 minutes/speaker)

**C. SCCSDA Guest Presentation:**

Valley Water Presentation on the Drought Response - Vice Chair Gary Kremen, District 7

**D. State Legislative Office Updates:**

Opportunity to hear updates and ask questions of attending legislative staff

**E. Business**

1. Minutes – Page 2 (Discussion and Approval of June 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes)
2. Financial Report - Page 8 (Discussion and Action)
3. Website Update (Information Only)

**F. Partner Agency Reports**

1. Local Agency Formation Commission:
  - Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
  - Yoriko Kishimoto, Special District Representative on LAFCO
2. California Special Districts Association - Colleen Haley, Bay Area Network Field Coordinator

**G. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports**

**H. Review of Action Items and Adjournment**

1. Action Item Review
2. The next meeting is scheduled for: **Monday, December 6, 2021**
3. Adjourn

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**Officers:** Steve Wesolowski, President • Stephanie Moreno, Vice President • Linda LeZotte, Treasurer

**Members:** Cupertino Sanitary District • El Camino Healthcare District • Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District • Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District • Los Altos Hills County Fire District • Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District • Purissima Hills Water District • Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park District • San Martin County Water District • Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District • Santa Clara County Roads & Airports • Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority • Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority • Santa Clara Valley Water District • Saratoga Cemetery District • Saratoga Fire Protection District • South Santa Clara County Fire District • South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District • West Bay Sanitary District • West Valley Sanitation District of Santa Clara County



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## F1 Meeting Minutes

Santa Clara County Special Districts Association  
Monday, June 7, 2021  
12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Join via Zoom Web Conferencing:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/87990003505?pwd=NTFibIV5djY0eGVGYjdRb2UzYS9tdz09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 879 9000 3505; Passcode: 889389  
Dial-in: +1-669-900-9128,,879-900-03505#,,,,\*889389#

### A. **Call to Order – (12:00 PM) : By Steve Wesolowski**

Welcome and Introductions. Temporarily skipped welcome and introductions to hold a moment of silence for VTA workers, but roll call was ultimately not taken.

#### **Members (Voting):**

Steve Wesolowski, Director, Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District (SCCSDA President)  
Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director, Guadalupe-Coyote RCD (SCCSDA Vice President)  
Linda LeZotte, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) (SCCSDA Secretary-Treasurer)  
Bill Bosworth, Director, Cupertino Sanitary District  
Helen Chapman, Director, Santa Clara Valley Open Space District  
Jonathan Cowan, Director of Government & Community Relations, El Camino Healthcare District  
Sue Fitzpatrick, Saratoga Cemetery District  
Rocelia G. Kmak, Principal Civil Engineer, Infrastructure Development Division, Santa Clara County Department of Roads and Airports  
Dwight Good, Assistant Chief–Cooperative Protection (CalFire), South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District  
Suwanna Kerdkaew, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection  
Joe Long, Commissioner, Saratoga Fire District  
J. Logan, General Manager, Los Altos Hills County Fire District  
Pete Siemens, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Peter Van Dyke, President, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District  
Christine West, Executive Director, South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District

#### **Presenter(s):**

Brian Schmidt, Legislative Advocacy Director, Green Foothills  
Shiloh Ballard, Executive Director, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

#### **Other Attendees (Non-voting):**

Anurag Pal, District Director for Assemblymember Alex Lee  
Brian Glass, Acting Fire Chief, Santa Clara Fire Department  
Colleen Haley, Bay Area Public Affairs Field Coordinator, California Special Districts Association  
Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Yoriko Kishimoto, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Special



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District Representative at LAFCO and SCCSDA Alternate)  
Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer, Santa Clara County LAFCO

## **SCCSDA Support Staff:**

Domingo Candelas, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water  
Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water  
Lisa Flores, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water  
Kathy Nguyen, Office of Government Relations, Valley Water

## **B. Public Comment**

Opportunity for members of the public to make comments or ask questions (3 minutes/speaker)

None.

## **C. SCCSDA Guest Presentation**

Panel Discussion: *How the intersection of special district and nonprofit services can leverage resources and provide benefits to our constituencies.*

Brian Schmidt, Legislative Advocacy Director at Green Foothills:

Director Schmidt gave a five-minute presentation and responded to questions and comments regarding Green Foothills, an organization that advocates for open space and natural resource protection in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Green Foothills engages in local land use issues and provides support and information for the decision makers and community leaders. Director Schmidt described how Green Foothills is committed to supporting the environmental activism of marginalized communities, and it is currently partnering with the Amah Mutsun tribal band to protect the sacred landscape called Turistac from a proposed sand and gravel mine. In addition, Green Foothills has established an 8-month community advocates leadership academy to train diverse groups of environmental activists. The program began in 2013 and has had over 200 participants (about 20 graduates per year).

In terms of advocacy, Green Foothills has worked with the state to protect wildlife in Coyote Valley and are now focusing on protecting farm and ranchland from urban sprawl. They are also working to stop development in high-fire areas, and have recently stopped a major hotel in Saratoga. In San Mateo County, they will be organizing to bring back tidal wetlands and to halt development of the area between the Water Pollution and Control Plant, which is a habitat that is close to creeks. Although there are three types of special districts that they've been most involved with – water districts, open space districts, and resource conservation districts – they noted that they are relevant to any district related to open space, and they want to stay in touch with the districts to support their environmental efforts, including writing support letters for grant applications to the state and federal government.

Shiloh Ballard, Executive Director of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition:

Director Ballard gave a presentation and responded to questions and comments regarding the activities of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. She explained that their mission is to improve the community, economy, and environment through normalizing the everyday use of bicycles in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. The group advocates for bike-friendly city designs and has commissioned several public opinion studies. She presented data from one of these studies and explained that even though roads are unsafe (40,000 people are killed in car accidents per year), most people choose cars because they provide the fastest transportation. Director Ballard also explained that the number one reason people do not choose bikes is safety, but that people do report feeling safe when riding bikes on trails. Consequently, the Coalition has



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been focused on legislation that will make roads feel more like trails by expanding bike lanes and bike infrastructure. The Bicycle Coalition has been working with the VTA on Measure B and implementing adult education programs to make people feel safer. They have also worked with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, and Valley Water to expand access to open space and have encouraged kids to attend cleanups. They hope to continue their work with special districts in the future, and they also urge the special districts to act on their preferred issues. The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition plans to encourage Valley Water to provide more points for trail access and request that the VTA allocate funds through a different formula.

Steve Holmes, Executive Director of South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition

Steve Holmes was unable to attend the meeting.

## D. CSDA-Endorsed Business Affiliate Introduction

Urban Futures, Inc. Pension Advisory Services, Julio Morales

Julio Morales provided an overview of the pension advisory services his organization offers to special districts. His service would help the special districts analyze and work through their pension liabilities. He explained how many agencies, including Valley Water, have large pension liabilities and high annual payments. He then described his services and business process. He would help agencies determine funding strategies and risks and then develop a plan to implement the financial policies. Mr. Morales also indicated the company is a CSDA-endorsed affiliate and has negotiated discounted set fees through them for members.

## E. State Legislative Office Updates:

Anurag Pal, District Director for Assemblymember Alex Lee (Assembly District 25) gave a quick update on Assemblymember Lee's upcoming emergency preparedness Town Hall that will take place on June 25 from 12 pm -1:30 pm.

## F. Business

1. Minutes: Page 2 (Discussion and Approval of March 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes)

Action: S. Wesolowski moved to approve as presented, H. Chapman seconded; approved unanimously.

2. Financial Report: **Page 6** (Discussion and Action)

Action: L. LeZotte moved to approve, S. Wesolowski seconded approval; approved unanimously.

3. Officer Titles: Page 8 (Discussion and Action)

S. Wesolowski noted that the bylaws state that the names of the officers are President, Vice President, and Secretary Treasurer rather than Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer.

Action: S. Moreno moved to approve as stated in the agenda packet, S. Wesolowski seconded approval; approved unanimously.

4. SCCSDA Website (Discussion and Action)



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S. Moreno explained that last year the membership created an ad hoc committee that set up the form and content for a new website. The committee requests permission for the website to go live urgently because the host of the old website has suspended service, meaning the old website cannot be updated. The format, content, and administration of the new website will be discussed in the September meeting. S. Moreno also encouraged other members of the ad hoc committee to take the Streamline training that is required to edit the website. The ad hoc committee will also have another meeting to finish the process of formalizing the website, and several more seats on the ad hoc committee are available. A request will also be sent out to update the roster. S. Wesolowski noted that several voting members have not paid their dues to the SCCSDA during Covid and reminded organizations to do so.

Action: SCCSDA membership had no objections for the website to go live.

### G. Partner Agency Reports

#### 1. Local Agency Formation Commission – Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer Santa Clara

Neelima Palacherla stated that the SCCSDA received notification of LAFCO's adopted budget for FY22, which is 10% lower than the past year. She also gave an update on the Countywide fire service review. They have a consultant and have sent a fact sheet to the special districts. To increase its outreach to the community during the review, LAFCO is developing a website and will hold three community workshops around July and August. She thanked the cities and fire districts for participating in the study. LAFCO previously established a technical advisory committee (TAC) composed of members from LAFCO, the Fire Chiefs Association, and the City Managers Association. The goal of the TAC is to serve as a liaison with the agencies and LAFCO and to provide expertise and guidance to LAFCO and the consultant. TAC meetings are public. S. Moreno suggested that Yoriko Kishimoto, the Special District Representative on LAFCO, have a standing report included on the agendas. S. Wesolowski suggested it be in the same area of the report as N. Palacherla's report. Executive Officer Palacherla and Director Kishimoto responded to questions and comments.

#### 2. California Special Districts Association – Colleen Haley, Bay Area Network Field Coordinator

Colleen Haley gave a legislative update on the Covid relief funding. Although CSDA made significant leeway in its first attempt at federal lobbying, the congressional bills and Senate companion bills did not pass. However, the federal government included the definition of a special district in its federal code for the first time, a significant step that will allow special districts to receive funding in the future. The federal government also granted transfer authority to federal, state, and local governments, meaning each of these governments can transfer federal funds to the special districts. After the American Rescue Act was passed, CSDA began to lobby every state legislative team in the state. CSDA was ultimately able to get state government to propose \$2 billion for all utilities, \$5 billion for water and wastewater infrastructure projects, \$250 million for relief funding, and \$3 billion for zero emission transit, which is around 20% of CSDA's ask. These apportionments represent all the funds granted, but they are available to special districts. Unfortunately, these grants left out funds for fire, healthcare, libraries, veterans, pollution, and open spaces, meaning these special districts were not allocated funds. The state assembly has proposed \$100 million in funding to special districts for their June 15 budget, and CSDA is working with special districts to determine their needs. They will then report these numbers to the California Department of Finance and the Governor's Office, who will create a plan to distribute the funds.

CSDA also reached out to Bay Area counties to ask if they had leftover funds and if they would



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sign a coalition letter in support of special districts being funded by the state. However, most counties have policies that dictate that it is not within their legislative platform to provide support for special districts or ask the state to do so. As of now, Alameda County is considering signing, and so far Assemblymember Evan Low, state Senator Becker, and Congressman Ro Khanna signed on to the letter. Currently, to be eligible for a piece of the \$100 million funding, special districts must demonstrate financial need. She noted that the special districts should not demonstrate their need with PPE costs, and should instead focus on the services they were unable to provide for communities due to the increased costs of Covid. In the future, CSCDA will focus on building relationships with legislators and County supervisors, and it hopes to potentially include some of these elected officials in these meetings.

## H. Santa Clara County Special District Association Member Reports

### 1. **Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park District--- Steve Wesolowski**

Steve Wesolowski said that his district is opening up and is preparing for further reopening on June 15. The district is now providing lessons and is reaching out to Cupertino to work together during the reopening.

### 2. **Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) --- Linda LeZotte**

Linda LeZotte reminded the SCCSDA that California is in an exceptional drought and the water district will be holding a special meeting on June 8. Valley Water will be asking Santa Clara County to declare a water emergency and will call on retailers to implement water use restrictions that will result in an over 30% reduction in water use. She notes that the resolution attached to the district's Wednesday meeting provides further information. She wants to stress that this drought accelerated faster and more severely than the last drought, and she reaffirmed that water conservation is way of life going forward.

### 3. **Cupertino Sanitary District--- Bill Bosworth**

Bill Bosworth reminded the SCCSDA that the Cupertino Sanitary District operates a major sewage treatment plant own by Santa Clara and San Jose, and the district owns capacity rights. All of the sewage from the district flows into the plant, and with the increases in population, the district is approaching limitations on how much sewage they can send through the pipeline into the treatment plant. The district will have to come up with ways to increase capacity, and they are hoping to put new caveats into developments, especially since the state just ordered Cupertino to build 5,000 new homes.

### 4. **El Camino Hospital--- Jonathan Cowan**

John Cowan informed the SCCSDA that El Camino Hospital is continuing to run its vaccination site in North Sunnyvale that is open from 10 am to 4 pm and takes walk-ins between 9 am and 3 pm. In addition, another local vaccination clinic will start operating in June. He asked the other districts to forward him recommendations of groups who have not had enough access to vaccines, and he will conduct outreach to those groups.

### 5. **Los Altos Hills County Fire District --- J. Logan**

J. Logan notified the SCCSDA of a regional partnership between the Los Altos Hills County Fire District, Central Fire, and the City of Palo Alto that will provide funding to allow fire crews to expand services at an underutilized fire station called Fire Station 8 in Foothills Park. The station will provide fire and emergency medical services during the high fire season starting June 13 through October 31. Suwanna Kerdkaew, the acting assistant chief, explained that





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Santa Clara County Fire and the Palo Alto Fire Department will alternate staffing the station, and Kerdkaw is going over expectations and coordinating between them. This station will help lower dispatch times to that area, which is more difficult to serve.

## **6. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District--- Pete Siemens**

Pete Siemens noted that his district had finished up a major multi-year study of environmental documents relating to fire resilience. This study gives the district a structure for future and how it will conduct fire prevention activities that include forest-thinning and fire road clearances. They are currently working to increase their staff numbers in order to remove hazards in their property, and their new staffing models will take into account the fact that fire resiliency work has increased significantly. They are currently in a good position to apply for federal and state grants, and they will be doing many cooperative projects with the fire agencies in the future. They also notified the SCCSDA that remodels to the headquarters building in Los Altos are coming along on schedule, and they will be able to move in and have in-person meetings there during the spring of next year.

## **7. Santa Clara Valley Open Space District--- Helen Chapman**

Helen Chapman reported that her district has entered a partnership with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and is managing two new properties in Coyote Valley. Tomorrow, the County Board of Supervisors will hear an item about the climate change overlay zone on the county level. The City of San Jose has already approved the overlay, so after the meeting both County and City policies will be in alignment. With this item, jobs would be passed out of Coyote Valley and into Diridon Station, and the district is also looking at the historical preservation of significant portion of land.

## **8. Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District--- Stephanie Moreno**

Stephanie Moreno informed the SCCSDA that throughout last year, the district has worked on diversity and inclusion being present in all of their policies and procedures. They have adopted an environmental and social justice policy recognizing that social justice is essential to everything that they do. The Board President asked for an update what other special districts doing, so she will be reaching out to other districts about their policies. Secondly, they are going to reapply for Cal Recycle Farm and Ranch grant in August. The grant will allow them to provide illegal dumping cleanup services to special districts who have public land used or zoned for agricultural purposes. She informed the districts that her district could get funding to clean up illegal dump sites on their property, and she encouraged the districts to reach out.

## **I. Review of Action Items and Adjournment**

By next meeting, the SCCSDA plans to have a working website up and running, and they invite others to join the ad hoc committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021.

# UFI Pension Advisory Services

*Urban Futures Inc. (UFI) is an independent financial advisory firm, registered with the SEC & MSRB. Urban Futures Inc. (UFI) is a leader in providing financial advisory services to the public sector since 1972.*

## What Sets UFI Apart



**Industry Leader:** In-depth understanding of Pension Liabilities, POBs, and CalPERS Administrative Process

- **#1 Municipal Advisor** in California – 4 consecutive years
- **#1 Pension Advisor:** 40 engagement / 16 POBs - \$1.5 Billion



**Comprehensive Approach:** Evaluate Multiple Strategies Develop Customized Plan with Creative Solutions for managing liabilities



**Unmatched Technical Expertise:** Pension Modeling, Projections, Risk/Scenario Analysis & Monte Carlo Simulation



**Evaluate & Understand Risk:** Ability to analyze and quantify risk and provide risk mitigation strategies

**We convey complex financial issues in easy-to-understand terms**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SANITATION DISTRICTS**  
*Converting Waste Into Resources*

UFI is a CSDA Endorse Affiliate, as member, you receive special rates for pension modeling, developing pension funding policies, and pension advisory services.

**Julio Morales (626)298-9583 cell / (714) 923-3562 office**  
[juliom@urbanfutureinc.com](mailto:juliom@urbanfutureinc.com)



**CSDA Member Discounted Fees**

District Operating Budget	Pension Modeling Services	Pension Funding Policy
\$1-\$1 Million	\$5,500	\$1,500
\$1 - \$2.5 Million	\$6,000	\$2,000
\$2.5 - \$5 Million	\$6,500	\$2,500
\$5 - \$10 Million	\$7,000	\$3,000
\$10-\$15 Million	\$7,500	\$3,500
415-\$25 Million	\$8,500	\$4,000

**Base Model Fee = \$10,000**  
**Pension Funding Policy \$3,000-5,000**

**Bond Financing - MA Services**

District Operating Budget	UFI Standard fees	CSDA Bond Fees
\$0-\$2.5 Million	\$30,000	\$27,500
\$2.5 - \$5Million	\$32,500	\$30,000
\$5 - \$10 Million	\$35,000	\$32,500
\$10 -\$15 Million	\$40,000	\$37,500
\$15-\$25 Million	\$45,000	\$42,500
\$25 Million +	\$50,000+	TBD

*Assumes Private Placement*  
*Public Offering \$2,500 more*

**Hourly Fees**

Additional analysis, scenarios, board, community & stakeholder meetings

	Standard	CSDA
Managing Director	\$325	\$300
Analyst	\$175	\$150



**Julio Morales**  
**Director**  
[juliom.@urbanfutureinc.com](mailto:juliom.@urbanfutureinc.com)  
**626-298-9583**

Julio has over twenty-five years of working in the areas of public and corporate finance, city management, municipal budgeting and financial leadership. He is a MSRB Municipal Advisor Qualified Representative (Series 50).

He served as the City Manager and Finance Director for the City of Huntington Park and the Finance Director for the City of El Monte, guiding both cities through “structural deficits”.

Most recently, Julio worked for the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Technical Assistance (OTA), providing financial advice to the Treasurer of Paraguay, helping to streamline and automate their operations. Mr. Morales also has experience in public and corporate finance, having served as an investment banker with Bank of America, a financial advisor at PFM & Fieldman-Rolapp, derivative/ GIC for Transamerica, and managed the debt for the City of Oakland. Julio started his career working for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA).

Julio earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, a Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and an MBA from UCLA, where he was a Dean’s Fellowship Recipient.



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## E1. Financial Report

Balance as of 07/2021	\$5,416.97
Balance on hand as of 08/31/2020	<u>\$5,416.97</u>