



### Alameda County Special Districts Association

21040 Marshall Street  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

[www.csdanet.net/about-csda/chapters-networks/chapter-alameda-county](http://www.csdanet.net/about-csda/chapters-networks/chapter-alameda-county)

#### Members Serving Alameda County

- ◆ Alameda Contra Costa Transit District
- ◆ Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District
- ◆ Alameda County Resource Conservation District
- ◆ Alameda County Vector Control Services District
- ◆ Alameda County Water District
- ◆ Alameda LAFCo
- ◆ Castro Valley Sanitary District
- ◆ City of Alameda Health Care District
- ◆ Dublin San Ramon Services District
- ◆ East Bay Municipal Utility District
- ◆ East Bay Regional Park District
- ◆ Eden Township Healthcare District
- ◆ Fairview Fire Protection District
- ◆ Hayward Area Recreation and Park District
- ◆ Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
- ◆ Oro Loma Sanitary District
- ◆ StopWaste
- ◆ Union Sanitary District
- ◆ Washington Township Health Care District
- ◆ Zone 7 Water Agency

#### Partner Members

- ◆ Alameda County Industries, Inc. (ACI)
- ◆ Bank of the West
- ◆ Best Best & Krieger LLP
- ◆ HF&H Consultants, LLC
- ◆ Waste Management of Alameda County
- ◆ California CLASS

#### ACSDA Officers (Term: 7/2022 – 6/2024)

- ◆ Ryan Clausnitzer  
President
- ◆ Shelia Young  
Vice President
- ◆ Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold  
Treasurer
- ◆ Mark Friedman  
At-large
- ◆ Sarah Palmer  
At-Large
- ◆ Roland Williams, Jr.  
Past-President

## Alameda County Special Districts Association

Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Hosted by:  
Alameda LAFCO

Located at:  
224 W. Winton Ave, Hearing Room 160  
Hayward, CA 94544

7:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	ACSDA Meeting
10:00 a.m.	Adjourn
10:00 a.m.	ISDSC Meeting

Presiding: Ryan Clausnitzer, ACSDA President

## AGENDA

### 8:00 A.M.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Ryan Clausnitzer, ACSDA President
- 1.2. Thank you Alameda LAFCO for hosting and Commission Clerk, April Raffel, for taking minutes.

#### 2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS (Name & District)

- 2.1. Self-introductions

### 8:15 A.M.

#### 3. SPEAKERS

- 3.1. Rachel Jones, Executive Officer Alameda LAFCO
- 3.2. CSDA Advocacy report

### 9:25 A.M.

#### 4. UPDATES

- 4.1. Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission Chapter Representatives: Ralph Johnson, Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold, and Executive Officer, Rachel Jones
- 4.2. East Bay Regional Park District Park Advisory Committee Chapter Representative: Roland Williams
- 4.3. East Bay EDA Chapter Representative: Ryan Clausnitzer
- 4.4. CSDA General Updates: Colleen Haley



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**9:45 A.M.**

**5. BUSINESS**

- 5.1. Approval of January 2023 membership minutes (**Action Item**)
- 5.2. Member dues to be emailed late May, payable by check OR credit card, due July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 5.3. Financial Report: Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, Treasurer

**6. UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

- 6.1. Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Joint Meeting with Contra Costa Chapter
- 6.2. Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Host: Fairview Fire District

**10:00 A.M.**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

***The Alameda LAFCO Independent Special District Selection Committee meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 A.M.***

**Alameda County Special District Association (ACSDA)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday January 11, 2023**  
**8:00 A.M.**

**Hosted by: Alameda County Resource Conservation District**  
**Presiding: Ryan Clausnitzer, President**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ryan Clausnitzer, ACSDA President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 A.M. President Clausnitzer welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended thanks to ACRCDD for hosting the meeting and to Jennifer Trevis, ACRCDD, Project Assistant, for taking the minutes.

**2. WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS (Name and Districts)**

The attendees introduced themselves and provided information on localized rain/flood conditions.

**3. GUEST SPEAKERS**

3.1 Katherine Boxer, Chief Executive Officer, ACRCDD

CEO Katherine Boxer provided an overview of the current projects and some innovative new work at the ACRCDD. She presented a PowerPoint presentation available here:

Ms. Boxer stated that there are about 90 RCDs in California and ACRCDD is one of the larger RCDs. Ms. Boxer highlighted that Climate Change Mitigation is a top priority at the ACRCDD. The ACRCDD is an independent, non-regulatory district, established by division 9 of the Public Resources Code. The ACRCDD provides services to multiple entities such as EBRPD, Zone 7, the AC Flood Management District, etc. Ms. Boxer detailed the Board of Directors and interest in bringing in new members.

Ms. Boxer stated the ACRCDD is involved in multiple projects focused on ecosystem management and habitat restoration, including wildlife and botanical surveys, and monarch monitoring, among others. Grazing management is also a significant part of the ACRCDD services including RDM and plant composition monitoring for the SFPUC and more recently for Zone 7. The ACRCDD and NRCS have developed pond restoration protocols, and species composition surveys. The California Red Legged Frog, the California tiger salamander, and other forms of wildlife rely on ponds for their water source. The ACRCDD manages the Sunol Ag Park and provides mini-grants to multiple farmers. Other education & outreach programs include various professional workshops on conservation. It is an ACRCDD goal to extend education, however it is challenging to locate grant funds to support these types of programs.

Ms. Boxer stated that Governor Newsom has made a clear priority to focus on mitigating climate change and enhancing California's environment. The ACRCDD is working to enhance vegetative cover and species biodiversity. It's vitally important to create contiguous habitat because species become divided and their genetic health declines significantly. The ACRCDD has been working with compost additions and carbon farming to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. The ACRCDD created a Regional Priority Plan in partnership with Contra Costa RCD, that was funded by the Coastal Conservancy. Its purpose was to identify, prioritize, and implement forestry and wildfire protection projects. There were many agencies and

stakeholders involved. Ms. Boxer presented three maps showing 1) Fire Hazard Severity Zones, 2) Historic Fires, and 3) Community Resources & Infrastructure. Ms. Boxer described the grant-funded Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation (SALC) program that conserves agricultural lands, promotes infill development, and increases local food programs, specifically in disadvantaged communities.

A second presentation was discussed regarding Wildlife Presence along Interstate 680. This project looks at species diversity and richness in collaboration with Fraser Shilling, Director of UC Davis Road Ecology Center.

### 3.2 Drew Engstrom, Stream Restoration Specialist, ACRC

Mr. Engstrom presented a brief presentation and discussed stream restoration and maintenance, fee for services. The Arroyo Mocho at Concannon Road showed significant damage from the recent flooding. Mr. Engstrom discussed the partner organization Living Arroyos. Mr. Engstrom also discussed habitat restoration at Springtown 1) Arroyo Las Positas including riparian and wetland plantings, 2) 2020 Golf Drive Creek Improvements, including additional riparian and wetlands plantings, 3) Robertson Park, riparian plantings and invasive plant management goals, which includes goat grazing. More focus will be on larger projects that include wetland complexes and creating a more united stream corridor. Benny Lee asked about challenges. Mr. Engstrom responded that these projects require a lot of communication and coordination with Zone 7, CalTrans, and the City of Livermore. A link to this presentation can be found here.

Ms. Boxer continued and presented information on eDNA. The ACRC is embarking on Environmental DNA collection and analysis. It is less expensive compared to other technologies like trapping, visual surveys, etc. eDNA can be collected through water sampling then sending the sample to the appropriate lab for testing. Individual species or multiples can be determined, along with its richness. Depending on where the collection is obtained, both plant and animal information is received. eDNA breaks down so timing and frequency of specimen collection is important. If there are questions, please contact Farley Connelly. A link to this presentation is found here.

Mr. Lee asked if ACRC is destroying habitat of any protected species? Ms. Boxer replied that eDNA could be helpful in determining what species are present but doesn't destroy habitat. Typical biological surveys will provide additional information. A link to Ms. Boxer's presentations can be found here.

President Clausnitzer thanked Ms. Boxer for her presentation. A link to the ACRC website is available here: [Alameda County Resource Conservation District](#)

### 3.3 Kyle Packham, CSDA Advocacy & Public Affairs Director – Topic: State of California Budgetary Report

Last year California had a significant financial surplus and this year will have a 22B-dollar deficit. About 35B is in reserves and will be kept in reserve. The focus is to buy time until revisions and California's economic status is determined. Mr. Packham will give a summary of the budget. 2, 3, and 5-year projections of budgets are estimated and forecasted. If less funds are spent than anticipated, some reserves can be released for various funding needs. General or special funds can be borrowed or moved to different items, others can be delayed, worst case scenario projects will be postponed. Most cuts are coming from transportation and environmental budgets, but a focus has been to keep the education budget preserved through universal TK, along with Health and Human Services funding. Large spending bills came out of

Congress including Inflation Reduction Act, these are trillion-dollar investment acts, with the goal of utilizing Federal over State dollars. There is a 297B dollar total budget, which is an ~10% shortfall from 2022. California Resources Board has an advanced clean vehicle sweep program that has been put on hold, although there has been a heavy push to reduce emissions. Drought response & water resilience – the budget includes 184M in general funds reduction, with over 200M given to flood reduction. Housing and homelessness didn't have a large commitment in the budget (additional 1B for a 5<sup>th</sup> round of grants for Homeless Housing and Prevention Program). Continuums of Care (COCs) are a focus, getting homeless off the street and into programs. There is a new Director of Finance and a very cautious budgeting approach going into this financial year.

#### **4. UPDATES**

##### 4.1 Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Chapter Representatives: Ralph Johnson and Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold

Ralph Johnson reported that LAFCO is seeking a Special District Member.

Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold stated there is a LAFCO meeting tomorrow 1/12/2023. Ms. Vonheeder-Leopold stated her interest in the Special District Member position as opposed to her current position as the alternate.

##### 4.2 East Bay Regional Park District Park Advisory Committee Chapter Representative: Roland Williams

##### 4.3 CSDA Representative: Colleen Haley

Colleen Haley, CSDA was missing from the Board Agenda. There is a new product development catalogue, several tracts for those who have attended in the past, upcoming workshops – virtual and in-person trainings, new Board Member section. If there are questions, please contact [ColleenH@CSDA.net](mailto:ColleenH@CSDA.net).

#### **5. Business**

5.1 Mr. Clausinitzer discussed saving the date for the Annual Dinner on March, 20, 2023. A link can be found [here](#).

5.2 Mr. Clausinitzer announced there will be no dues for fiscal years 2021/2022 & 2022/2023.

5.3 Financial Report: Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold, Treasurer

Ms. Vonheeder-Leopold announced that there is a current fund balance of \$7,010, hence why dues are not being charged. The fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> for both 2022 and 2023 and there will be no dues for either year.

##### 5.4 Action Item: Approval of the December 2022 Membership Minutes

James Wheeler moved approval of the minutes and Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Lee questioned "How are we tapping into the funding dollars for broadband?", are we using those dollars, is it because of a lack of planning or usage? Kyle Packham asked if he was referring to the Cyber Security funding. Mr. Packham further stated CSDA is part of a State committee (100 person), Aaron Avery is the Representative, things are moving very

slowly for filing applications and determining how to spread out 1B per year between 4K local entities. There is a strong need and a hope that there will be more dollars secured. MESAC, IT for both County and Special District, is working on acquiring the funds.

Ryan Clausnitzer asked who was not aware of Initiative (Prop 1A) #21-0042A1: [www.csda.net/take-action](http://www.csda.net/take-action) Mr. Packham stated this was the biggest threat to local government, on par with Proposition 13 and beyond. If this were to qualify, there would be massive lawsuits to contend with. This impacts the State of California, and those who rely on State partnerships. Local governments would have uncertainty for fees, fees would need to be minimum amount necessary to provide the service. This changes from a preponderance to clearance of the evidence. This will lead to a race to the bottom, how can you prove this is the minimum amount necessary? This will be very problematic.

James Wheeler, HARD – Noticed a type-o: The flyer has a different day stated, it is on Monday because of an assumed backlog. Mr. Wheeler suggested a different venue if needed.

#### **6. Next Membership Meeting**

Monday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 annual dinner.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 A.M