



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

Maximize Your Membership Series:

Resources for CSDA Members

July 23, 2025

Who We Are

“CSDA is the voice for all special districts, providing members with the resources necessary to best serve their communities.”

- Established in 1969
- Nearly 1400 member organizations
- 18-member Board of Directors



Core Benefits

- Legislative advocacy
- Cost-saving programs
- Connection & information
- Education for your Board and Staff



Value-Added Benefits

Various cost-saving programs:

- Free Amazon Business Prime (\$349 value)
- Investments through CA CLASS
- Risk Management (SDRMA)
- Financing, websites, discounted rental cars, cybersecurity, merchant services, commercial credit cards, and more!



CAPITALIZE on these key finance related Value-Added Benefits

See the full list of benefits at csda.net

INVESTMENTS	SPONSORED BY
California CLASS A New Joint Powers Authority Investment Pool for California Public Agencies Overseen and governed by a Board of Trustees made up of public agency finance professionals	
CSDA COMMERCIAL CARD  Umpqua Bank Together for better	• Improved Cash Flow • Cash Rebates • Expense Management • Virtual Card
MERCHANT SERVICES 	• Choose from 2 member rate options based on average transaction: 1.85% or 2.25% • Guaranteed payment – no charge backs • Payments online, by phone, & on-site

Legislative Advocacy

CSDA's legislative advocate and in-house legislative staff review and monitor every bill introduced into legislation for its potential impact on California's special districts.

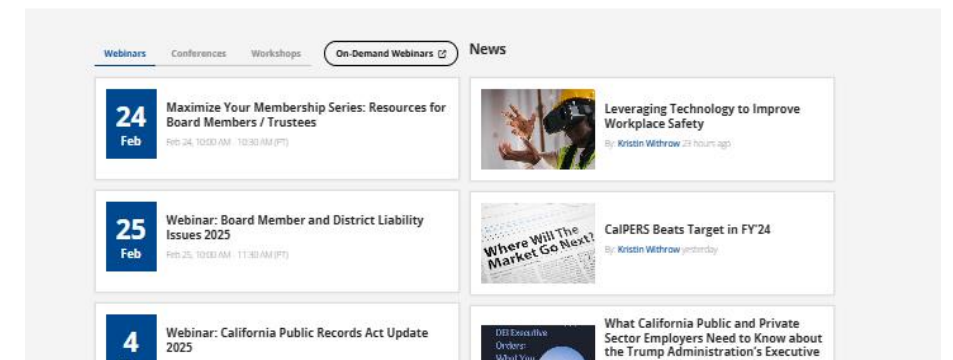
- Real-time Advocacy News
- Bill tracking
- Guidance on how your district can Take Action



www.csda.net

Your go-to source for special district news, educational resources, and community

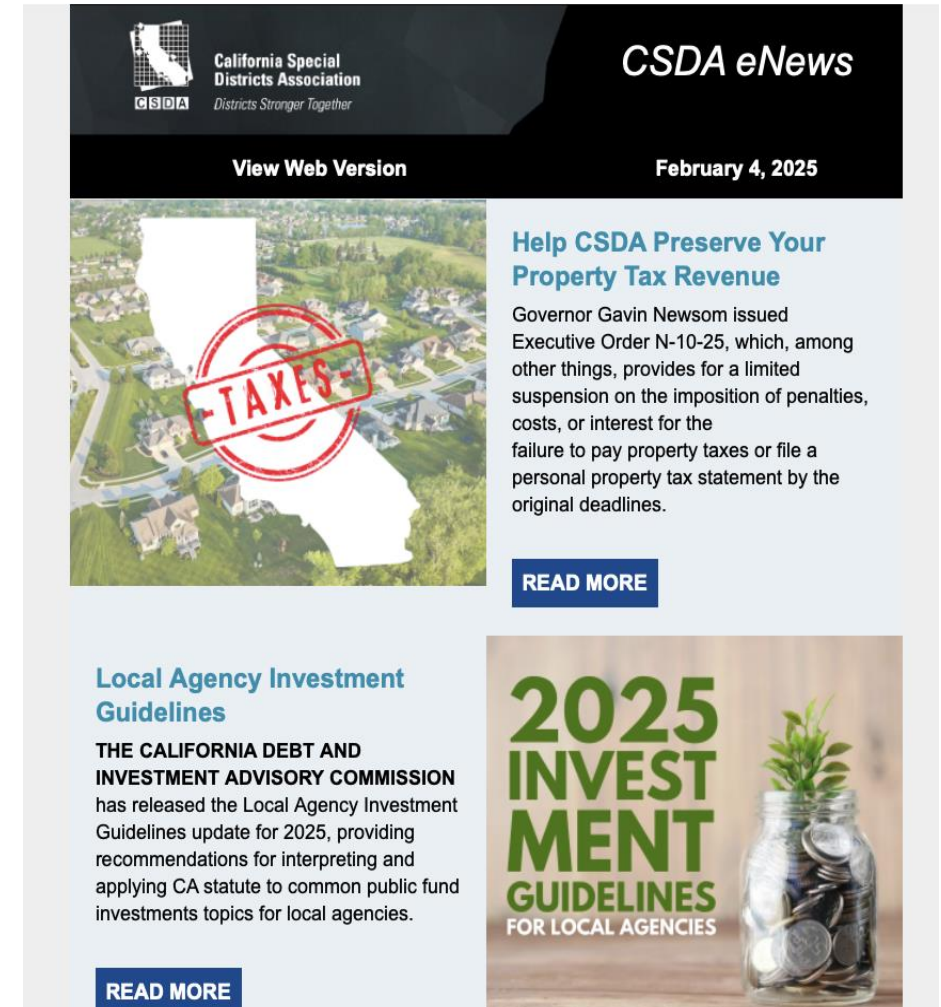
- Available on mobile: CSDA – The Hub
- Agency-wide membership extends to district board and staff



Weekly eNewsletter

Delivered to your inbox every Tuesday

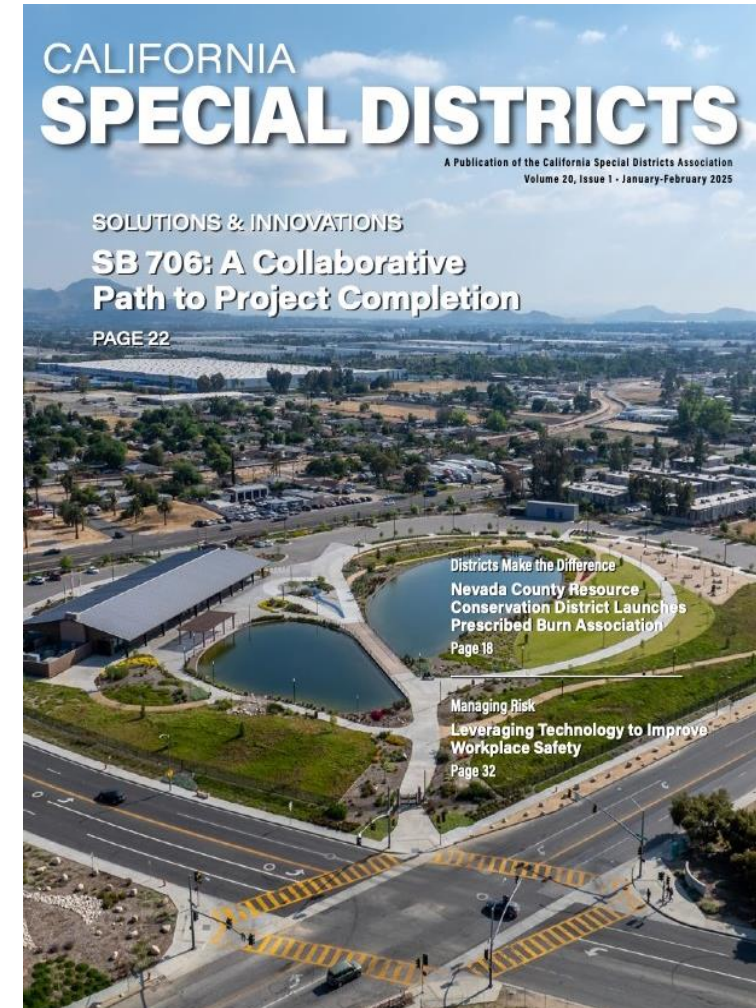
- Legislative updates
- Upcoming events
- Member shoutouts
- Federal grants update from NSDA



Bi-monthly Magazine

Six issues per year, delivered every other month

- Court decisions and opinions
- Individual district news items
- Profiles of district innovations and solutions
- Interviews with government officials
- Major policy and legislative issue articles



Resource Pages

Currently available for Board Members, Board Secretaries, and General Managers, with Finance and HR coming soon!

- Required trainings
- Best practices
- Helpful guides and publications

Board Member Resources

 Required Training	Required Training - <i>required every two years</i> • Ethics AB 1234* • Sexual Harassment Prevention Training* On-Demand Webinars *More Info	Printable Docs and Support Page Information available for print. Member Support Page Brown Act Compliance Manual  Purchase in the CSDA Bookstore. Buy Today Quick Reference  Download a free copy of CSDA's Parliamentary Procedure Quick Reference. Download Today
 Best Practices	Best Practices - <i>during 1st year</i> • Repeat As Needed • Finance, Brown Act, CA Public Records Act, and Liability All Events Board Member Bundle	
 SDLA Conference	Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) Conference • Complete first track within first year in office. • Stay current with returning track. Learn More	
 SDLF Special District Governance	Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) • Earn your Certificate in Special District Governance. Learn More	
 CSDA Annual Conference and Exhibitor Showcase	CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase • Attend annually • Stay current Learn More	

Knowledge Base

- Sample Document Library
- Publications & References Materials
- FAQ's
- Member Helpline
- Articles

The screenshot shows the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Knowledge Base website. At the top is a navigation bar with the CSDA logo and tagline "Districts Stronger Together", followed by links: Advocate Communities, Learn, Member Resources, About CSDA, and About Special Districts. A search icon and a notification badge with the number 10 are on the right. Below the navigation bar is a dark blue header with the text "Knowledge Base". The main content area features four blue cards: "Member Helpline" (with an envelope icon and a "Member Helpline Request" button), "Articles" (with a document icon and an "Articles" button), "Sample Document Library" (with a document icon and a "View Library" button), and "Publications & Reference Materials" (with a book icon and a "View Library" button). Below these cards is a "Search Entries" section with a search bar and a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom is a "Frequently Asked Questions" section with introductory text, a disclaimer, and a list of questions under the heading "Board Meetings".

California Special Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

Advocate Communities Learn Member Resources About CSDA About Special Districts

Knowledge Base

Member Helpline
Occasionally, a situation may arise that calls for more in-depth advice on specific legal or policy issues. In that case, we invite you to contact our Member Helpline:
[Member Helpline Request](#)

Articles
This library of articles covers important topics affecting districts, new innovations and solutions, major policy and legislative issues, and more!
[Articles](#)

Sample Document Library
CSDA's Sample Documents Library has examples from other special districts of important documents for you to reference!
[View Library](#)

Publications & Reference Materials
Find valuable guides and documents in this free resources library:
[View Library](#)

Search Entries
Still haven't found what you're looking for? Search Knowledge Base using the search field or consult our FAQs below:

Frequently Asked Questions
CSDA's Knowledge Base offers many answers to questions about local governance and policies regarding special districts. Our Frequently Asked Questions section offers answers to many of the inquiries we hear from special districts.
Disclaimer: This section is not intended to be legal advice. Members should always seek legal counsel. The information contained here is for general reference purposes only.
Questions are broken up into categories to better assist in finding the answers you need:
[Board Meetings](#)

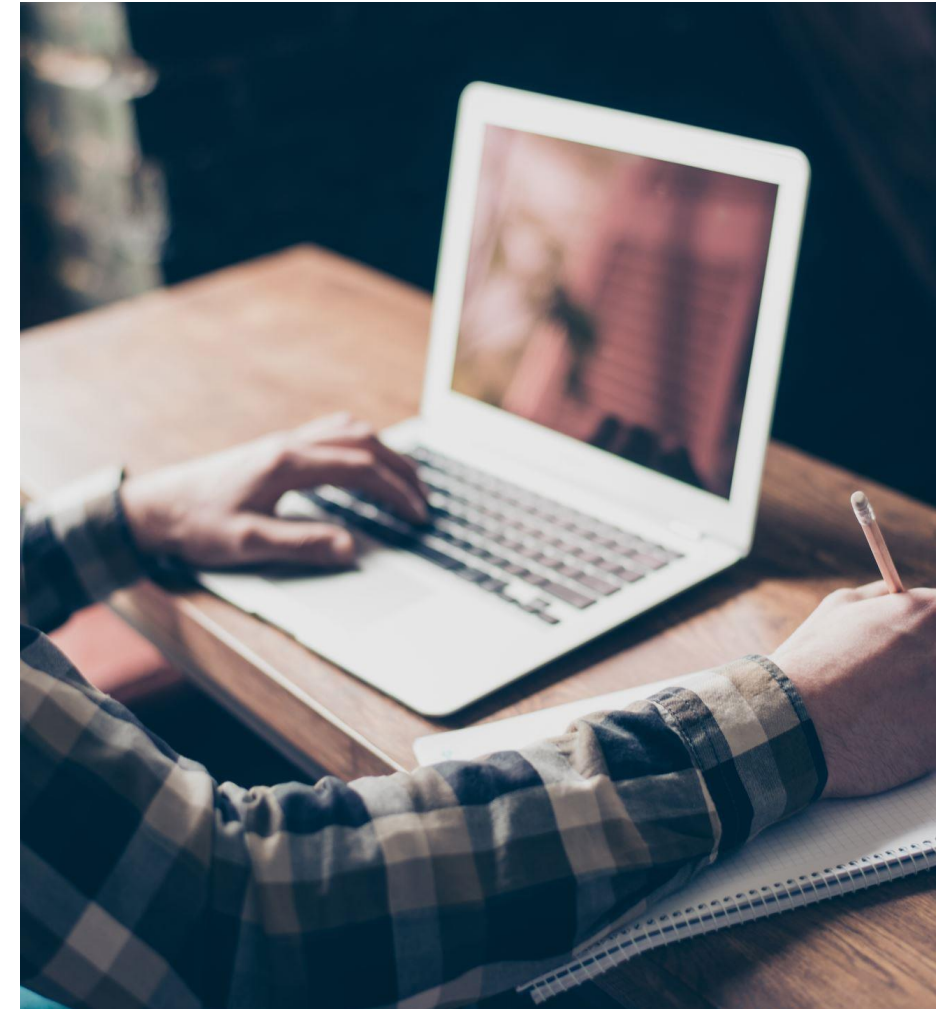
Webinars & Workshops

Webinars (30+ yearly, 80+ on-demand)

- Offered at no charge to CSDA members
- 1–2-hour trainings available live and on-demand

Workshops (20+ yearly)

- Held over two half days (virtual) or one full day (in-person)



In-Person Conferences

- Special District Leadership Academy (3x, varies)
- SDRMA Spring Education Day (March)
- Special Districts Legislative Days (May)
- General Manager Leadership Summit (June)
- Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase (August)
- Board Secretary /Clerk Conference (October)



Member Savings on Conferences and Trainings

- Nipomo CSD saved \$4,320 on 2025 conferences compared to non-member pricing
- District employees have also registered for 10 free webinars in 2025 (\$125/each for non-members)



Online Communities

16,000+ members

- Open Forum
- RFP Clearinghouse
- Board Secretary / Clerk
- Water Community
- Mutual Aid



You Ask We Answer

Questions Appear in CSDA Online Communities

Written Public Comment at Board Meetings

Q: Karen Dean, Director, Cambria Community Services District

In this post-COVID pandemic time, our board and staff are currently discussing whether to continue reading the written public comments aloud, as we did during COVID, since verbal public comments can now be made both in person and Zoom. We would like to know whether other CSDs have ever, or are currently, reading written public comment aloud at their board meetings.

A: Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board, StopWaste

We read aloud any public comments during COVID as well. We now employ the following policy for written public comments and include it on our agenda:

The public may also comment by sending an e-mail to publiccomment@stopwaste.org. Written public comment will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled meeting. Copies of all written comments submitted by the deadline above will be provided to each board member and will be added to the official record. Comments will not be read into the record.

A: Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Office, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

We receive written public comments, they are noted on a list we call "correspondence log" then we link the actual comments to the log. This is an item noted on each agenda and the correspondence log is uploaded to the meeting web page. It is available to all. We do not read comments out loud. <https://www.sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2024-09-05-RTC-agenda-packet.pdf>

A: Adam Cox, General Manager, Indian Valley Community Services District

Although there's no legal requirement to read submitted public comments, we used to make an effort to do so, particularly during the height of COVID. I know of some agencies that still use Zoom for their meetings and only allow staff or parties directly involved with agenda items to comment. In our case, we've transitioned to using CivAssist agenda and minute software, which allows the public to comment directly on specific agenda items. Staff receive



Engage with

Local Chapters

- 27 Affiliated Chapters located throughout the state
- Collaborate among districts in your own community



National Special Districts Association

*CSDA is a founding member of NSDA, and **NSDA membership is included with your agency's CSDA membership***

- Advocacy at the Federal level
- Critical grant and financial resources
- Shared resources and best practices
- Collaboration to address shared challenges across state lines



Contact Us

Membership@csga.net

(916) 442.7887

(877) 924.2732

