

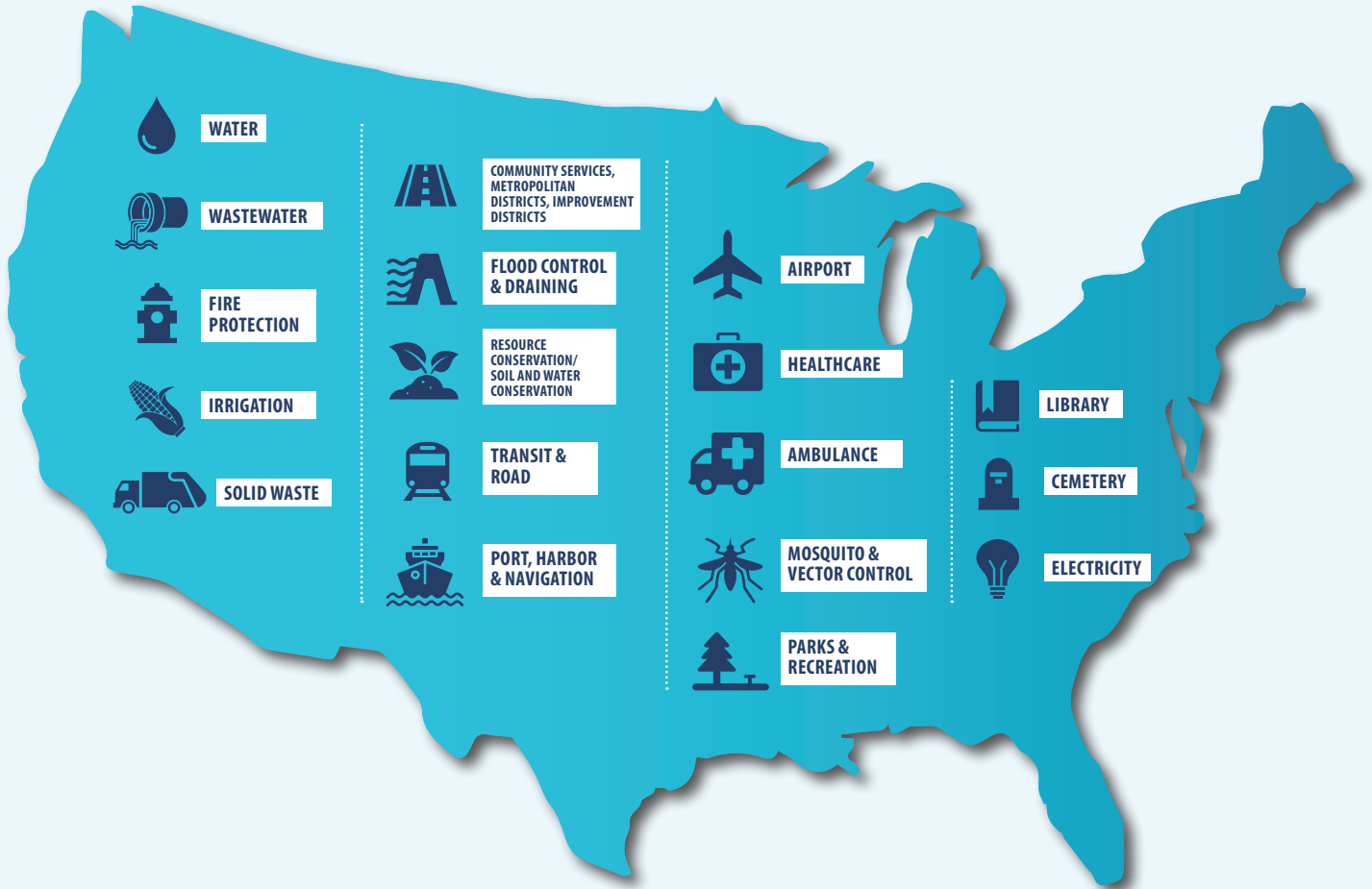


California Special Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

WHAT ARE SPECIAL DISTRICTS?

There are Approximately 30,000 special districts in the United States.

Special districts are local governments created by the people of a community to deliver specialized services that are essential to their health, safety, economy, and well-being.



Special districts are political subdivisions of states, authorized through enabling acts in statute and formed by the communities they serve.

Like cities and counties, special districts are local governments that deliver municipal services; however, **they provide specialized services that their general-purpose counterparts do not provide to their residents.**

Districts are subject to sunshine laws and **governed by a board of directors accountable directly to their residents.**

Special districts serve all kinds of communities from agricultural, rural, and disadvantaged unincorporated to incorporated cities and major metropolitan regions, **driving innovation and achieving efficiency through focused-service and economies of scale.**

HOW ARE SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUNDED?



SPECIAL DISTRICT SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL NEEDS ARE FUNDED THROUGH A VARIETY OF SOURCES.

- Revenue sources include fees for services, and each state varies on property tax or sales tax revenue.

- Most states demand a strict process for voter approval of the taxes and fees that fund district services.
- Due to strong local oversight and stringent Constitutional provisions enacted in most states, special districts often must find a way to do more with less than other government agencies.

WHY ARE SPECIAL DISTRICTS NECESSARY?



SPECIAL DISTRICTS ARE FORMED BY COMMUNITIES WHEN IT'S SOMETHING:

- The community wants
- The community wants done well
- The community wants done with local control

30K

Approximately 30,000 special districts provide services and infrastructure to **millions of Americans** in all 50 states.

Many districts **provide infrastructure services the U.S. Department of Homeland Security deems "critical"**, such as water, irrigation, wastewater and agriculture services.



Special districts seek partnership with the state and federal governments to:

- Ensure safe and reliable services our communities depend on.
- Build resiliency to face adversity, such as wildfires and other natural disasters.
- Grow the economy through investment in local and regional infrastructure.