



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

\$100M
FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS

CSDA SECURES \$100 MILLION FOR DISTRICTS STATEWIDE

CSDA dedicated significant resources in 2021 to ensure no district was left without access to COVID relief funding. As a result of our efforts, a \$100 million State General Fund allocation exclusively for independent special districts affected by the pandemic was secured.

**FREE
WEBINARS** 
in 2022

FREE WEBINARS FOR MEMBERS CONTINUE IN 2022

2021 brought new benefits for CSDA Members including free live and on-demand webinars. AND... members are using it!
103 On-Demand Webinars available - 3,200+ viewers in 2021
38 New Webinars offered - 1,800+ attendees in 2021



NEW BENEFIT IN 2021...SPECIAL DISTRICT ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION IN D.C.

Leading the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC), for the first time, CSDA and our state partners secured formal representation for special districts at the national level in Washington D.C. This new benefit will continue to grow as will our efforts in this space in years to come as we work to ensure districts are at the table, included, and have access to funding like other local governments.

ADVOCACY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RECORD SUPPORT



- Sponsored Federal legislation to provide billions of dollars in relief to special districts across the country (S. 91 and H.R. 535). The legislation led to Federal authorization for states, cities, and counties to transfer relief funding to special districts. With support from CSDA, special districts have sought and attained millions of dollars in CARES and ARP dollars through this avenue.
- Supported the approval of \$2 billion in relief funding to address utility arrearages and \$250 million in funding for ports and harbors.
- In concert with the National Special Districts Coalition, supported special district eligibility for \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure package.



BUSINESS AFFILIATES

DIAMOND LEVEL

- CSDA Finance Corporation
- Special District Risk Management Authority

PLATINUM LEVEL

- Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
- Best Best & Krieger
- Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
- Richards Watson Gershon
- Umpqua Bank

 **\$2B**

Supported the approval of \$2 billion in relief funding to address utility arrearages and \$250 million in funding for ports and harbors.

Protection from Costly Mandates and Restrictions

- Averted a renewed threat of property tax deferrals in the middle of the pandemic
- Blocked misguided unfunded mandate for special districts to catalog on their website every district bathroom. (AB 1017)



AB 339

Removed special districts from unwieldy new Brown Act meeting unfunded mandates.

AB 361

Sponsored remote Brown Act meeting legislation to provide special district boards with the flexibility to meet virtually during a declared emergency such as a pandemic or wildfire.

FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY FOR LOCAL SERVICES

- Garnered amendments to extend the deadline for special districts to approve redistricting maps following the delayed 2020 U.S. Census and avoid new mandates related to the redistricting process. (SB 594 and SB 443)
- Partnered with a coalition of employers to hold the line against efforts to roll back the cost-saving reforms CSDA helped enact under Governor Jerry Brown. (AB 399, AB 1465, SB 213, and SB 335)



ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

95+ JOINED CSDA IN 2021

1,300 + organizations using Member Services.

739 actively tracked bills

6,000+ Followers on Social Media



MEMBERS SAVE MORE WITH NEW CSDA ENDORSED AFFILIATES BENEFITS



The Ferguson Group
- Save 15% on grant writing services & free access to resources

Actuarial Retirement Compliance - Competitive and discounted flat fees on GASB reporting compliance for districts

CPS HR - Exclusive pricing for Human Resources advice and resources



Urban Futures - Special rates for pension modeling, developing pension funding policies, and pension advisory services



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT 2021 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTHERN CA EDISON

4

IN-PERSON CONFERENCES

16

REPRESENTING DISTRICTS IN THE COURTS

CSDA seeks desired legal outcomes for special districts by filing amicus curiae (or "friend-of-the court") briefs in cases of interest that could impact special districts' governance or operations.

CSDA took the following action on behalf of districts:

- Actively tracked 16 cases in the Courts of Appeal and California Supreme Court, involving legal issues affecting special districts.
- Filed 6 briefs on behalf of special districts as of September 2021, with another 2 pending for filing by year end. You can find them online at: www.csdanet.net/advocate/legal-advocacy.

Issues addressed in CSDA amicus briefs include:

- California Voting Rights Act
- Employee Relations
- Rate-setting under Proposition 218
- Government Claims Act

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED GROWTH



DISTRICT STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

38

new webinars offered in 2021

103

On-Demand Webinars available - 3,200+ viewers

2,776
BILLS REVIEWED

750 Statewide coalition of over 750 signatories for relief funding

Board Member & General Manager Resource Pages Developed on Website

26 VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

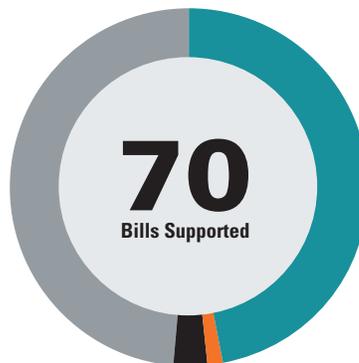
2 VIRTUAL CONFERENCES

DIRECTLY LOBBIED ON 120 BILLS **122** BILLS



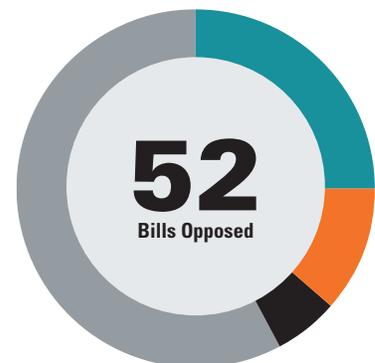
RELIEF FUNDING

- Built statewide coalition of over 750 signatories.
- Conducted over 100 meetings with State Legislators and their staff.
- Held more than 60 meetings with administration officials, Department of Finance, committee staff, and Legislative leadership.
- Brought forward over 200 special district officials to tell their stories following a prep session with CSDA
- 49 State Legislators, 16 Members of Congress, and both U.S. Senators in California endorsed sign-on letters to the Governor.



BILLS SUPPORTED

- 33 – Signed into law
- 1 – Amended to remove support
- 2 – Vetoed
- 34 – Failed passage



BILLS OPPOSED

- 13 – Signed into law
- 6 – Amended to remove opposition
- 3 – Vetoed
- 30 – Failed passage