



**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](http://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

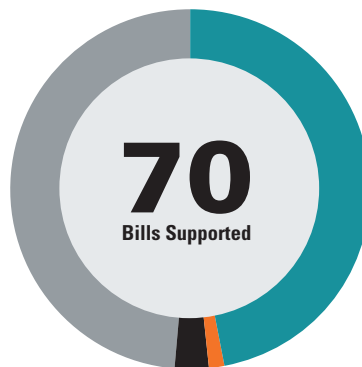
**2** VIRTUAL CONFERENCES

**DIRECTLY LOBBIED ON 120 BILLS** **122** BILLS



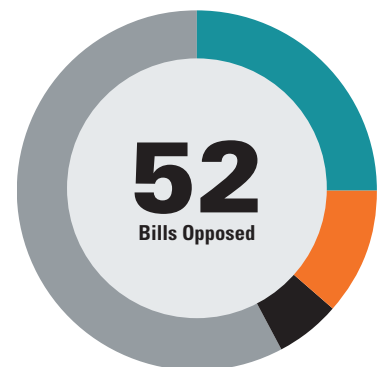
## RELIEF FUNDING

- 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