



**Stanislaus-San Joaquin  
Bi-County Special  
Districts Association**

**Stanislaus-San Joaquin Bi-County Special Districts Association**

**Date/Time: Thursday, March 6, 2025 9:30- 11:00 AM.**

**Location: Fire Administration Building (835 Central Avenue, Tracy)**

**Chapter Website: [Stanislaus-San Joaquin Bi-County Chapter of CSDA \(specialdistrict.org\)](http://Stanislaus-San Joaquin Bi-County Chapter of CSDA (specialdistrict.org))**

## **Minutes**

**1. Welcome** (*Dana Ferreira, Chapter President, Modesto Irrigation District*)

*Dana called the meeting to order at 9:36am.*

**2. Introductions** (*Group*)

*Attendees Included: Raychel, Katie, Dane, JD, Jeff (Tracy Rural). Josh Weimar (TID), Dana Ferreira (MID), Nicole – Tracy Rural Fire Clerk, Melissa (Asm. Ransom’s Office), Karin (Del Puerto). Adam (Rep Harder’s Office) , Chief Eric Walder – Waterloo-Morado Fire Protection District (President of Fire Districts Association of California). Randy Bradley, Chief of Tracy Rural Fire.*

**3. Review/Approve Minutes from October 11, 2024 Meeting** (*Attachment*)

Karen motioned and Katie seconded to approve the meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

**4. San Joaquin County LAFCO Update:** (JD Hightower, Executive Officer)

**JD mentioned that the LAFCO moved offices to out by the Airport in the Terminal building.** LAFCO is currently working on Fire Service review that was last done in 2011. The discussion was that different fire service models work for different areas and all parties want to find what work for San Joaquin County.

The Current practice is to detach from districts when City annexes territory. Districts of course rely on property taxes and direct charges for revenue. Significant growth projected in San Joaquin County by 2050.

**JD:** Our strategy is to cooperate and collaborate rather than use the sledgehammer of consolidation.

Dane mentioned districts getting on the local LAFCOs and the process to do so for San Joaquin County districts.

**5. Guest Speaker/Federal Representative Update:** Adam Cheshire, District Director, Congressman Josh Harder (CD-9).

*Adam discussed HR 471 – Fix Our Forest Act and mentioned it was key legislation for this part of Rep Harder’s career. The bill speeds up reimbursement for fire districts. It also extends the Good neighbor authority. and authorizes special districts to be part of that authority.*

*Highlighted HR 7525/HR 2766 – special district grant accessibility act and talked about the Rep’s co-authorship and how important it is to him.*

*Adam also encouraged districts to contact the office if they can be of assistance.*

**6. Guest Speaker/State Legislative Update:** Melissa Santos, District Director, Assembly Member Rhodesia Ransom (AD -13)

*Hot Topics for the Assembly Member include securing resources for Central Valley.*

*Another priority is homelessness.*

*Office is concerned about cost of living (gas prices, groceries) for AD 13.*

*Also want to preserve water in the District.*

*Asm’s Legislation includes:*

- 1) Reform for CPUC – AB 13: Priority of cost of living*
- 2) AB 274 – Abandoned vessels in Delta. Costs Port of Stockton millions to remove abandoned vehicles.*
- 3) AB 696 – Disposing of lithium car batteries.*
- 4) AB 988 – Grant program to support wineries to purchase wine bottles inside California.*

*Melissa said the office has been boots on the ground. First town hall in Tracy about two weeks ago. Another town hall in scheduled in Stockton next month.*

*They also want to help Constituents with DMW and EDD.*

*JD: Brought up to Melissa about Rhodesia carrying the LAFCO omnibus bill – cleanup of CKH. Melissa said they would connect.*

## **7. CSDA Legislative Update**

*Dane provided an update on AB 259 (support), SB 496 (support) as CSDA's Calls to Action and HR 2766 (federal definition bill). He took questions from the group.*

## **8. Local District Roundtable/Updates**

**Tracy Rural Fire:** *The district has a New JPA with City of Stockton/City of Lodi. SINCAL Fire and EMS Authority. RFP to get a private ambulance partner. Reason: We are a public agency so we get a chance to access Medi-Cal \$\$\$. Try to put 11% more ambulances on Day 1. AMR is our partner and they are already in the area.*

*Raychel: Beginning budget season. Also looking at strategic plan process.*

*Jeff: Training Tower – in the process of building one. – Phase 1.*

**SSJID:** *Postponed start of water service until we see what is coming.*

*Retail electric project – supposed to be in front of CPUC soon in about a month and a half.*

*Back to managing storm drains.*

*Working on Canyon Tunnel Project. \$80M project. Sharing that with OID. Not seeing a lot of water rights issues legislatively at this time.*

**Del Puerto Health Care:** *Down in Patterson – 40 acres undeveloped. We are in contract to put a healthcare campus there. Independent housing for skilled nursing as well (that is a Phase 2). Longer goal is to put a hospital in Patterson. Total project in today's \$\$\$ is \$330 Million.*

*Ambulance operations continue to grow. West Side Health Care District continues to work with Del Puerto. Karin's Board has loaned her to West Side to do a business assessment.*

**Waterloo-Morada Fire District:** *Chief Walder – Mutual aid system is broken. System that orders the resources was built in the 1970s and is way out of date. Commitment to revamp the system. needs to help and invest because it currently relies on volunteering and it doesn't work. Chief Walder is the President of SJ County Fire Chiefs.*

**MID:** *Holding their Landowner meeting in Modesto on 3/11 and Waterford on 3/13. Allocations have not been set. Working on getting our Lake Don Pedro Federal Relicensing. Took 14 years. Super close. Two more hurdles to get over. February is a busy month. A lot of groundwater bills in the state Legislature.*

**9. Wrap – Up/Questions/Next Meeting Place and Time**

*Karin brought up Stanislaus County LAFCO representation for districts. The Stanislaus districts recognize that conversation is important.*

*Dane will work with the officers to schedule the next meeting.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.*