



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

**AGENDA  
MESA WATER DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.  
Panian Conference Room**

Committee Members: Marice H. DePasquale, President  
Shawn Dewane, Vice President  
Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager  
Denise Khalifa, Assistant General Manager

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Items Not on the Agenda:** Members of the public are invited to address the Board regarding items which are not appearing on the posted agenda. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. The Executive Committee will set aside 30 minutes for public comments for items not appearing on the posted agenda.

**Items on the Agenda:** Members of the public shall be permitted to comment on agenda items before action is taken, or after the Executive Committee has discussed the item. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. The Executive Committee will set aside 60 minutes for public comments for items appearing on the posted agenda.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

*Items recommended for approval at this meeting may be agendized for approval at a future Board meeting.*

None

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Fiscal Year 2027 Attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings and Events
2. California Special Districts Association Board of Directors Election
3. District Officers

**REPORTS:**

4. Future Agenda Topics
5. Report of the General Manager
6. Directors' Reports and Comments



*In compliance with California law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services in order to participate in the meeting, or if you need the agenda provided in an alternative format, please call the District Secretary at (949) 631-1205. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) to make reasonable arrangements to accommodate your requests.*

*Members of the public desiring to make verbal comments using a translator to present their comments into English shall be provided reasonable time accommodations that are consistent with California law.*

*Agenda materials that are public records, which have been distributed to a majority of the Mesa Water Board of Directors (Board), will be available for public inspection at the District Boardroom, 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA and on Mesa Water's website at [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org). If materials are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior or during the meeting, the materials will be available at the time of the meeting.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee  
FROM: Denise Khalifa, Assistant General Manager  
DATE: July 1, 2026  
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2027 Attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings and Events

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### RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Board of Directors approve the Fiscal Year 2027 attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings and Events.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
- Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
- Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
- Goal #4: Increase favorable opinion of Mesa Water.
- Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
- Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
- Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
- Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

### DISCUSSION

For the Board of Directors' (Board) review and consideration, the following proposed list of attendance considerations is based on Director attendance and is in accordance with Ordinance No. 36, adopted October 23, 2024:

1. Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) Events, Meetings and Trainings:
  - a. Board of Directors meetings
  - b. Legally required training
  - c. Mesa Water Director meetings with the General Manager or staff
  - d. Mesa Water Director meetings with other Mesa Water Directors
  - e. Mesa Water Director meetings with rate payers (residential or business)
  - f. Presentation of resolutions and proclamations
  - g. Various employee events
  - h. Various public outreach events
  - i. Water Issues Study Group meetings
  - j. Water Use Efficiency events/workshops
2. Conferences, Functions, Meetings, Programs, Seminars, Summits and Symposiums of the following Agencies, Organizations and/or Representatives Concerning or Relating to Water, Governmental or Environmental Matters or Issues:



- a. Activist and Community Groups
- b. [American Ground Water Trust](#)
- c. American Membrane Technology Association
- d. American Water Works Association
- e. American Water Works Association California-Nevada Section
- f. Association of California Cities Orange County
- g. Association of California Water Agencies
- h. Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority
- i. [Association of Ground Water Agencies](#)
- j. The Bond Buyer
- k. Building Industry Association of Southern California, Orange County Chapter
- l. CalDesal
- m. California Association Local Agency Formation Commissions
- n. California Association of Mutual Water Companies (Cal Mutuals)
- o. California Data Collaborative
- ~~p. [California H2O Women](#)~~
- q. California Joint Powers Authority
- r. California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
- s. California Municipal Treasurers Association
- t. California Municipal Utilities Association
- u. California Policy Center
- v. California Special Districts Association
- w. California State Water Resources Control Board
- x. California United Water
- y. California Water Efficiency Partnership
- z. California Water Policy
- aa. Captive Review
- bb. Chapman University
- cc. City of Costa Mesa
- dd. City of Newport Beach
- ee. C.J. Segerstrom and Sons, LLC
- ff. [Coastline Regional Occupation Program](#)
- gg. Colorado River Water Users Association
- hh. [Community Water Systems Alliance](#)
- ii. [Continuing Legal Education International \(Law of the Colorado River Conference\)](#)
- jj. Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- kk. Costa Mesa Historical Society
- ll. Costa Mesa Foundation
- mm. Costa Mesa Sanitary District
- nn. Costa Mesa-Newport Harbor Lions Club
- oo. Costa Mesans for Responsible Government
- pp. Ducks Unlimited
- qq. Environmental Nature Center
- rr. Federal, State, and Local Elected Officials
- ss. Festival of Children Foundation



- tt. Foundation for Cross-Connection Control & Hydraulic Research
- uu. Global Water Intel
- vv. Green Technology
- ww. Harvard Senior Executives in State and Local Government Curriculum
- xx. The HERD Foundation
- yy. Homeowners Associations
- zz. Independent Special Districts of Orange County
- aaa. Institute for Conservation Research and Education
- bbb. KOCI
- ccc. Law Seminars International
- ddd. The Lincoln Club
- eee. [Membrane Technology USA Conference](#)
- fff. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- ggg. Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
- hhh. Municipal Water District of Orange County
- iii. National Risk Retention Association
- jjj. National Water Quality Monitoring Council
- kkk. National Water Resources Association
- lll. Neighborhood Community Associations
- mmm. Nevada Water Resources Association
- nnn. Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce
- ooo. Newport-Mesa Unified School District
- ppp. Newport-Mesa Schools Foundation
- qqq. Orange County Board of Supervisors
- rrr. Orange County Business Council
- sss. Orange County Conservation Corps
- ttt. Orange County Council of Governments
- uuu. Orange County Fair and Event Center
- vvv. Orange County Farm Bureau
- www. Orange County Forum
- xxx. Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission
- yyy. [Orange County Taxpayers Association](#)
- zzz. Orange County Water Association
- aaaa. Orange County Water District
- bbbb. [Orange County Youth Sports Foundation](#)
- cccc. Other Government Agencies
- dddd. Pacific Research Institute
- eeee. [Placentia Library Friends Foundation](#)
- ffff. Power of One Foundation
- gggg. Public Utility Elected Officials
- hhhh. Public-Private Partnership Conference (P3C)
- iiii. Residents For Responsible Desalination
- jjjj. Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- kkkk. Save Our Youth
- llll. [Segerstrom Center for the Arts](#)



- mmmm. Share Ourselves
- nnnn. Skytop Strategies
- oooo. South Coast Metro Alliance
- pppp. South Coast Plaza
- qqqq. South Orange County Economic Coalition
- rrrr. Southern California Water Coalition
- ssss. Southwest Membrane Operator Association
- tttt. Stanford University Hoover Institution Summer Policy Boot Camp
- uuuu. Sustain Southern California
- vvvv. Taxpayers Groups
- wwww. University of California, Irvine
- xxxx. Urban Water Institute, Inc.
- yyyy. Vanguard University
- zzzz. Water Advisory Committee of Orange County
- aaaaa. Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference
- bbbbb. [Water Infrastructure Networking Summit \(WINS\)](#)
- cccc. [Water-Related Organizations](#)
- dddd. Water Research Foundation
- eeee. WaterReuse Association
- ffff. WaterNow Alliance
- ggggg. Water & Wastewater Equipment, Treatment & Transport
- hhhhh. Wharton Executive Education
- iiii. ~~———Youth Employment Service~~

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

The costs associated with Director attendance at the events listed above have been budgeted for Fiscal Year 2027.

#### ATTACHMENTS

None.



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Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee  
FROM: Denise Khalifa, Assistant General Manager  
DATE: July 1, 2026  
SUBJECT: California Special Districts Association Board of Directors Election

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### RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Board of Directors approve support of Altadena Library District Director Nikki Winslow for the California Special Districts Association Board of Directors Seat C – Southern Network, authorize President Marice H. DePasquale to be the District's voting delegate, and direct staff to cast the electronic ballot.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
- Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
- Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
- Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
- Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
- Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
- Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
- Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

### DISCUSSION

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is the governing body responsible for all policy decisions related to CSDA's member services, legislative advocacy, professional development and other resources for members. The CSDA Board of Directors (CSDA Board) is crucial to the operation of the association and to the representation of the common interests of all California's special districts before the Legislature and the State Administration. Serving on the CSDA Board requires one's interest in the issues confronting special districts statewide.

The leadership of CSDA is elected from its six geographical networks. Each of the six networks has three seats on the CSDA Board with staggered 3-year terms. Mesa Water District is located in the Southern Network. This year, Seat C in the Southern Network is open for election. Director Nikki Winslow from the Altadena Library District is the incumbent.



CSDA is conducting its Board election via an electronic ballot. The candidates for Seat C – Southern Network are as follows:

- Nikki Winslow, Director, Altadena Library District (incumbent)
- Jason Dafforn, General Manager, Valley Sanitary District
- John Horst, General Manager, Trabuco Canyon Water District
- Melinda Sedmak, Trustee, Twentynine Palms Public Cemetery District

Electronic ballots were emailed June 9, 2026 and all cast ballots must be received by CSDA no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 24, 2026.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2027, \$10,323 is budgeted for the CSDA membership in the District Memberships budget account.

#### ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: CSDA Call for Nominations
- Attachment B: CSDA Electronic Ballot
- Attachment C: Candidate Information Sheets and Statements
- Attachment D: Altadena Library District Correspondence
- Attachment E: Trabuco Canyon Water District Correspondence



**California Special  
Districts Association**

*Districts Stronger Together*

**DATE:** February 9, 2026

**TO:** CSDA Voting Member Presidents and General Managers

**FROM:** CSDA Elections and Bylaws Committee

**SUBJECT:** **CSDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
SEAT C**

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The Elections and Bylaws Committee is looking for Independent Special District Board Members or their General Managers who are interested in leading the direction of the California Special Districts Association for the 2027 - 2029 term.

The leadership of CSDA is elected from its six geographical networks. Each of the six networks has three seats on the Board with staggered 3-year terms. Candidates must be affiliated with an independent special district that is a CSDA Regular Member in good standing and located within the geographic network that they seek to represent.  
(See attached CSDA Network Map)

The CSDA Board of Directors is the governing body responsible for all policy decisions related to CSDA's member services, legislative advocacy, professional development, and other resources for members. The Board of Directors is crucial to the operation of the Association and to the representation of the common interests of all California's special districts before the Legislature and the State Administration. Serving on the Board requires one's interest in the issues confronting special districts statewide.

**Commitment and Expectations:**

- Attend all Board meetings, usually 4-5 meetings annually, at the CSDA office in Sacramento.
- Participate on at least one committee, meets 3-5 times a year at the CSDA office in Sacramento.  
*(CSDA reimburses Directors for their related expenses for Board and committee meetings as outlined in Board policy).*
- Attend, at minimum, the following CSDA annual events: Special Districts Legislative Days - held in the spring, and the CSDA Annual Conference - held in the fall.  
*(CSDA does **not** reimburse expenses for the two conferences even if a Board or committee meeting is held in conjunction with the event)*
- Complete all four modules of CSDA's Special District Leadership Academy within 2 years of being elected.  
*(CSDA does **not** reimburse expenses for the Academy classes even if a Board or committee meeting is held in conjunction with the event).*

**Nomination Procedures:** Any Regular Member district in good standing is eligible to nominate one person, a board member or managerial employee (as defined by that district's Board of Directors), for election to the CSDA Board of Directors. **A copy of the member district's resolution or minute action and Candidate Information Sheet must accompany the nomination. The deadline for receiving nominations is April 10, 2026. Nominations and supporting documentation may be mailed or emailed.**

Mail: 1112 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: 916.442.7889  
E-mail: [amberp@csda.net](mailto:amberp@csda.net)

***Once received, nominees will receive a candidate's letter. The letter will serve as confirmation that CSDA has received the nomination and will also include campaign guidelines.***

CSDA will begin electronic voting on June 9, 2026. All votes must be received through the system no later than 5:00 p.m. July 24, 2026. The successful candidates will be notified no later than July 31, 2026. All selected Board Members will be introduced at the CSDA Annual Conference in Palm Desert, CA in August 2026.

#### **Expiring Terms**

(See enclosed map for Network breakdown)

<b>Northern Network</b>	Seat C – Fred Ryness, Director, Burney Water District*
<b>Sierra Network</b>	Seat C – Pete Kampa, General Manager, Groveland Community Services District*
<b>Bay Area Network</b>	Seat C – Antonio Martinez, Director, Contra Costa Water District*
<b>Central Network</b>	Seat C – Curtis Jorritsma, General Manager, Hilmar County Water District*
<b>Coastal Network</b>	Seat C – Vince Ferrante, Director, Moss Landing Harbor District*
<b>Southern Network</b>	Seat C – Nikki Winslow, District Director, Altadena Library District*

(\* = Incumbent is running for re-election)

**CSDA will be using a web-based online voting system allowing your district to cast your vote easily and securely.** *Electronic Ballots will be emailed to the main contact in your district June 9, 2026. All votes must be received through the system no later than 5:00 p.m. July 24, 2026.*

*Districts can opt to cast a paper ballot instead; but you must contact Amber Phelen by e-mail [amberp@csda.net](mailto:amberp@csda.net) **by April 24, 2026** in order to ensure that you will receive a paper ballot on time.*

**CSDA will mail paper ballots on June 9, 2026 per district request only.**

If you have any questions, please contact Amber Phelen at [amberp@csda.net](mailto:amberp@csda.net).



California Special Districts Association

# DISTRICT NETWORKS



## 2026 Board of Directors by Networks

### Northern Network

Greg Orsini, *McKinleyville Community Service District*  
 Fred Ryness, *Burney Water District*  
 Kevin Phillips, *Paradise Irrigation District*

### Sierra Network

Steve Palmer, *Donner Summit Public Utilities District*  
 Pete Kampa, *Groveland Community Services District*  
 Noelle Mattock, *El Dorado Hills Community Services District*

### Bay Area Network

Kathryn Slater-Carter, *San Mateo County Harbor District*  
 Ryan Clausnitzer, *Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District*  
 Antonio Martinez, *Contra Costa Water District*

### Central Network

Curtis Jorritsma, *Hilmar County Water District*  
 Patrick Ostly, *North of River Sanitary District*  
 Lorenzo Rios, *Clovis Veterans Memorial District*

### Coastal Network

Scott Duffield, *Heritage Ranch Community Services District*  
 Vincent Ferrante, *Moss Landing Harbor District*  
 Elaine Magner, *Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District*

### Southern Network

Don Bartz, *Phelon Pinon Hills Community Services District*  
 Jo MacKenzie, *Vista Irrigation District*  
 Nikki Winslow, *Altadena Library District*

**Last Updated December 2025**

**CSDA Board of Directors Election Ballot - Term 2027 - 2029; Seat C - Southern Network**

**Please vote for your choice**

Choose **one** of the following candidates:

- Nikki Winslow, District Director, Altadena Library District (Incumbent)
- Jason Dafforn, General Manager, Valley Sanitary District
- John Horst, Director, Trabuco Canyon Water District
- Melinda Sedmak, Trustee, Twentynine Palms Public Cemetery District

**Nikki Winslow, District Director, Altadena Library District (Incumbent)**

[Please click here for the candidate information sheet.](#)

[Please click here for the candidate statement.](#)

**Jason Dafforn, General Manager, Valley Sanitary District**

[Please click here for the candidate information sheet.](#)

[Please click here for the candidate statement.](#)

**John Horst, Director, Trabuco Canyon Water District**

[Please click here for the candidate information sheet.](#)

[Please click here for the candidate statement.](#)

**Melinda Sedmak, Trustee, Twentynine Palms Public Cemetery District**

[Please click here for the candidate information sheet.](#)

[Please click here for the candidate statement.](#)



**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*

## 2027-2029 TERM - CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: Nikki Winslow

District/Company: Altadena Library District

Title: District Director

Elected/Appointed/Staff: Staff

Length of Service with District: 6 years

**1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):**

General Managers Summit 2020-2025; San Gabriel Chapter Formation Committee 2024; San Gabriel Chapter Board Vice-Chair 2025;

Legislative Day 2025; Annual Conference 2025; CSDA Board Southern Network Seat C Nov 2025-present

**2. What other state-wide associations have you been involved with? (such as CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):**

California Library Association; CALPELRA; American Library Association;

Public Library Association

**3. List your local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):**

Altadena Town Council, LAFCo

**4. List your involvement in civic and/or non-profit organization:**

Rotary Club of Altadena; Altadena Chamber of Commerce;

Altadena Heritage; Eaton Fire Collaborative

**\*\*Candidate Statement – Although it is not required, each candidate is requested to submit a candidate statement of no more than 300 words in length. Any statements received in the CSDA office after the nomination deadlines will not be included with the ballot.**

## **2027-2029 CSDA Board Appointment – Seat C Southern Network**

### **Candidate Statement – Nikki Winslow**

I am honored to put myself forward as a candidate for the CSDA Board for the 2027-2029 term. Since my appointment to the seat in January 2026, I've familiarized myself further with CSDA Board operations and the incredible individuals who volunteer their time to advocate for the work that special districts accomplish. Being part of this team is inspiring, and I look forward to serving and representing my region on the Board for the 2027-2029 term. I believe deeply in the mission of special districts and the staff and leadership upholding this work. They provide libraries, parks, water, fire protection, vector control – and so many other vital services. Special districts are essential in strengthening California's communities, often serving as a critical connection and filling in gaps for services that would otherwise be unavailable. It is my goal to continue to advocate for policies that support sustainability, innovation, and equity for all districts across our state, and represent the interests of the Southern Seat C region on the Board.

For 6 years I have served as District Director of the Altadena Library District. In this role, I have been proud to guide our community through a period of both tremendous growth and significant challenges. Among my achievements, I successfully led the passage of a ballot measure that secured long-term, sustainable funding for our libraries, a feat accomplished in the first year of the 2020 pandemic. I oversaw the planning of our two major renovations and the reopening of our branch on the westside of Altadena in August 2025. In February of this year, our Main library closed and long-awaited renovation work will finally begin on this property. These projects ensure that our library spaces are welcoming, modern, and adaptable to community needs. And throughout 2025 I helped guide the District and our residents through the devastation of the Eaton Fire, leading recovery and rebuilding efforts while ensuring our library remained a place of connection and resilience during a time of crisis and uncertainty.

Prior to my work in Altadena, I served as Assistant Director of Glendale Library, Arts & Culture and, before that, spent nearly 15 years with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, where I gained deep experience in operations, branch management, and community partnership building. My educational background includes a Bachelor's in Political Science from UNLV, a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas, and a Master's in Public Administration from Claremont Lincoln University. This academic foundation, paired with over

two decades of professional leadership, has shaped my approach to governance—one grounded in strategic leadership, ethical decision-making, and a commitment to inclusive community engagement.

Throughout my career, I have worked with diverse populations and developed programming that directly meets the needs of my community. I have helped launch ESL and citizenship training programs for new Americans, championed the expansion of digital resources, and created equitable access to services for patrons of all ages and backgrounds. In Altadena, I have also been intentional about mentoring and empowering the next generation of library leaders. I am very passionate about professional development, and look forward to advocating for uplifting aspiring leaders in our special districts.

I want to continue to serve on the CSDA Board and spotlight how special districts meet challenges where larger government agencies sometimes cannot— with adaptability and innovation built-in to their structure. Advocating for these institutions is critical in meeting the needs of our California communities and solving problems that sometimes seem impossible. I believe my experiences navigating ballot measures, leading through emergencies, and building strong community partnerships add value to the Board's work. I especially believe my perspective as a library district leader—representing a sector that touches education, workforce development, equity, and civic engagement— is critical to the future of California's social infrastructure.

My involvement with CSDA is not just within my District or on the Board, but also as leadership in my local CSDA Chapter. I currently serve as Vice-Chair of the Special District Association of San Gabriel Valley Chapter Board, and was one of its founding members. In January 2024, I was invited to participate in a meeting to explore the formation of a new CSDA chapter in the San Gabriel Valley. At the group's follow-up meeting in May 2024, I volunteered to serve on the formation committee, which successfully launched the chapter in October 2024... I was honored to host one of our chapter meetings at the Altadena Main Library, featuring Supervisor Kathryn Barger as our invited speaker in September 2025. We recently hosted a chapter mixer to encourage our special district staff and elected officials to meet, network and learn about the vital work our districts provide to fulfill the diverse needs and priorities of residents across our region.

It would be a privilege to serve a full term alongside other committed leaders on the CSDA Board for the 2027-2029 term, advocating for the sustainability of our districts, supporting collaboration across sectors, and ensuring that all voices—large, small, urban, and rural—are represented in statewide conversations. I am ready to bring my passion, experience, and vision to this role, and I would be honored to earn your support.

Sincerely,

**Nikki Winslow**

District Director, Altadena Library District



**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*

## 2027-2029 TERM - CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: Jason Dafforn

District/Company: Valley Sanitary District

Title: General Manager

Elected/Appointed/Staff: Staff

Length of Service with District: 2.75 years

1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):

Attend CSDA Conferences, Leadership Academy, GM Summit, CSDA Legislative Days

2. What other state-wide associations have you been involved with? (such as CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):

ACWA, CASA, NACWA

3. List your local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):

Collaborate with Riverside LAFCO, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)

4. List your involvement in civic and/or non-profit organization:

Desert Recreation Foundation Board of Directors

**\*\*Candidate Statement – Although it is not required, each candidate is requested to submit a candidate statement of no more than 300 words in length. Any statements received in the CSDA office after the nomination deadlines will not be included with the ballot.**

## Candidate Statement

My name is Jason Dafforn, and I am honored to be a candidate for the CSDA Board of Directors representing the Southern Network, including Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial counties.

I am a Licensed Civil Engineer with more than 30 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry, including 17 years as a utility manager for California local governments and more than 10 years serving special districts. I currently serve as General Manager of Valley Sanitary District in Indio, California.

Throughout my career, I have focused on strengthening essential public infrastructure, improving organizational performance, and leading teams to deliver practical, long-term solutions. I have a deep appreciation for the diversity of special districts and the critical services they provide, including water, wastewater, parks and recreation, fire protection, libraries, healthcare, and community services.

Additionally, I have actively represented special district interests through legislative advocacy, participating in multiple policy and legislative trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. over the past several years. These efforts have focused on engaging directly with state and federal policymakers to advance the needs and priorities of special districts across California.

I also serve on the Board of Directors of the Desert Recreation Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting the Desert Recreation District, where we help expand access to quality recreational programs and facilities throughout the Coachella Valley. The Foundation was recently awarded the 2026 California Nonprofit of the Year for Senate District 18.

If elected, I will bring a strategic, pragmatic perspective to the CSDA Board of Directors and work collaboratively to ensure CSDA remains a strong, effective advocate and resource for its members. Together, we can continue to strengthen special districts and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your support.

Jason Dafforn, PE  
General Manager, Valley Sanitary District



California Special  
Districts Association  
*Districts Stranger Together*

### 2027-2029 TERM - CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: John Horst

District/Company: TCWD

Title: Director

Elected/Appointed/Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Service with District: 1 1/2 yrs

1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):

Not at this time. I am assigned as a board representative but have not been given permission to attend yet.

2. What other state-wide associations have you been involved with? (such as CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):

ACWA

3. List your local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):

None at this time

4. List your involvement in civic and/or non-profit organization:

SCRA, TCWD

**\*\*Candidate Statement – Although it is not required, each candidate is requested to submit a candidate statement of no more than 300 words in length. Any statements received in the CSDA office after the nomination deadlines will not be included with the ballot.**

## **Candidate Statement – John Horst**

My name is John Horst, and I'm running as a candidate for the California Special Districts Association in the Southern Network.

I am proud to stand as a candidate committed to strengthening the vital role special districts play in serving our communities. Special districts are the backbone of local government—providing essential services like water, fire protection, sanitation, and infrastructure that directly impact our daily lives. Across California, these districts are trusted, community-driven, and accountable to the people they serve.

As a current Director of the Trabuco Canyon Water District, I have focused on protecting taxpayer dollars, improving transparency, and ensuring reliable, high-quality water services. I serve on the Finance and Audit Committee, helping maintain fiscal discipline, and I chair the Outreach Committee to improve communication, so residents stay informed and engaged.

My background in business and operations shapes how I approach public service. I've built my career solving problems, improving efficiency, reducing costs, and strengthening organizations from within. I understand how to manage budgets, support teams, and make decisions that lead to long-term stability and success.

I'm not a career politician—I bring entrepreneurial experience, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to results. I ask tough questions, seek practical solutions, and stay focused on what matters most: serving our community responsibly.

I respectfully ask for your vote.



**2027-2029 TERM - CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET**

The following information **MUST** accompany your nomination form and Resolution/minute order:

Name: Melinda Sedmak

District/Company: 29 Palms Public Cemetery District

Title: Trustee

Elected/Appointed/Staff: Appointed

Length of Service with District: 1 year

**1. Do you have current involvement with CSDA (such as committees, events, workshops, conferences, Governance Academy, etc.):**

I am actively engaged with CSDA through participation in member discussions, governance resources, and ongoing professional development focused on special district operations and best practices. My current and planned involvement includes:

- Participation in CSDA member forums addressing small and rural district challenges, including records management and operational efficiency
- Continued use of CSDA governance resources and training materials to support board effectiveness
- Planned attendance at the Special District Leadership Academy, San Diego, May 11–14, 2026
- Commitment to complete all four modules, and 10 continuing education hours to earn the Certificate in Special District Governance

**2. What other state-wide associations have you been involved with? (such as CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):**

- California Notary Public
- California Teachers Association (CTA)
- National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA)
- Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) - Southwest Regional Vice President of Nevada/California Region of Phi

**3. List your local government involvement (such as LAFCo, Association of Governments, etc.):**

I currently serve as a Trustee for the Twentynine Palms Public Cemetery District, where I participate in governance, policy oversight, and the responsible stewardship of public resources. My role includes supporting compliance with applicable laws, contributing to long-term planning, and ensuring operational sustainability within a small, rural district. I also actively engage in local government and community leadership efforts within San Bernardino County, with a focus on transparency, collaboration, and effective service delivery.

**4. List your involvement in civic and/or non-profit organization:**

My civic and community involvement reflects a commitment to public service, election integrity, and community outreach:

- Poll Worker Supervisor, Twentynine Palms, (3 years)
- Deputy Registrar, State of Arizona (6 years)
- Notary Public, California (3 years)
- Notary Public, Arizona (6 years)
- Precinct Captain for Political Committeemen, Arizona Legislative District 23 (4 years)
- “Hope Responder,” Hope Response, Inc. (Non-Profit-501c3) supporting outreach to immigrant communities & disaster response efforts across California/Arizona (10 years)
- Member, Business Network International (BNI), Hi-Desert, focused on professional collaboration & local business development (3 years)
- Volunteer, Inspiration’s Edge and Theatre 29, Twentynine Palms, supporting community events & engagement (2026)

## **Candidate Statement for Melinda Sedmak**

Special districts serve as the foundation of local governance, providing essential services that directly impact the daily lives of the communities they serve. As a Trustee for the Twentynine Palms Public Cemetery District, I have developed a strong commitment to responsible governance, transparency, and the stewardship of public resources, particularly within a small, rural district that faces unique operational and financial challenges.

Cemetery districts represent a distinct and often underrepresented sector within special districts. These districts carry a profound public trust, preserving history, honoring families, and maintaining spaces of lasting community significance. At the same time, rural districts in the High Desert and Inland Empire regions frequently operate with limited resources and minimal representation at the statewide level. I am committed to ensuring that these voices are included in broader discussions affecting special districts across California.

My professional background as a managing paralegal in estate planning, trusts, and probate has provided me with a strong foundation in legal compliance, fiduciary responsibility, and long-term planning. Combined with my experience in civic leadership and election oversight, I bring a perspective grounded in accountability, structure, and public service.

I am actively engaged with CSDA resources and intend to attend the Special District Leadership Academy in San Diego in May 2026 to complete all four governance modules and work toward earning the Certificate in Special District Governance. I am prepared to commit the time and effort required to fulfill the responsibilities of serving on the CSDA Board of Directors, including participation in meetings, committees, and statewide initiatives.

I respectfully seek the opportunity to represent the Southern Network and to contribute a thoughtful, balanced perspective that supports all special districts, particularly those in rural and underserved regions.



## Altadena Libraries

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Katie Clark  
Boon Lim  
Justin Mahramas  
Ray Ruffin  
Kameelah Wilkerson

### MISSION

The Altadena Library District brings PEOPLE and IDEAS together.

### VISION

An Altadena where all are learning, growing, and thriving together.

### MAIN LIBRARY

600 E. Mariposa Street  
Altadena, CA 91001

### BOB LUCAS BRANCH

2659 Lincoln Avenue  
Altadena, CA 91001

June 7, 2026

RE: Support for Nikki Winslow for the 2026-2028 CSDA Seat C Southern Network

To my fellow CSDA Southern Network members,

It is my pleasure to endorse election of Nikki Winslow to the CSDA Seat C Southern Network. Since becoming Director of the Altadena Library District in 2019, Nikki has demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision, and dedication to both our district and the broader special district community. She has represented the Southern Network with distinction on the CSDA Board, and our Board, staff, and community have the utmost confidence in her leadership. The Altadena Library District Board respectfully asks for your support and vote for Nikki Winslow before the July 24, 2026 election deadline so she may continue representing the interests of special districts throughout the Southern Network.

District Director Winslow's leadership has proven invaluable as our library district recovers from the devastating Eaton Fire. As both of our properties survived the fire, she led the safe and timely reopening of library services, collaborated with the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department to staff interim camps for children displaced from their schools, joined community leaders and non-profits in spearheading Altadena recovery through the Eaton Fire Collaborative, and worked to secure the district's financial stability during recovery, building strong relationships with local and state elected officials to ensure our future budgetary needs would be preserved and backfilled.

At the same time, Nikki has continued to lead the district's major capital improvement efforts. She successfully organized and led the 2020 bond measure campaign that secured funding for the renovation and reopening of the Bob Lucas Memorial Library and the current renovation of our Main Library. The ballot measure funds were also invaluable in securing the long-term financial future and stability of the Altadena Library District, ensuring it will be a presence in the community for many years to come, and ready to serve returning and new Altadena residents.

Nikki Winslow has led under immense pressure and understands when to pivot to meet the needs of her staff, the district, and the community we serve, and this steady, strong leadership continues to carry our District forward. I am continuously impressed by her ability to balance the challenges our district faces while also maintaining active membership in our local CSDA chapter and CSDA board activities, heading professional development programs across library systems, and being active in the Altadena community beyond library district needs and truly connecting with our community and partners. She is truly committed to special districts and the work they accomplish in providing essential services to our communities. We have full confidence in backing Nikki Winslow, and believe she would be an essential asset to the CSDA Board if elected to continue serving.

Best Regards,

Trustee Kameelah Waheed Wilkerson, Board President



**VOTE!** **Nikki Winslow**  
 Altadena Library District Director  
**for CSDA Board of Directors – Southern Network**

My name is Nikki Winslow, and I am honored to be a candidate for the CSDA Board of Directors, representing the Southern Network.

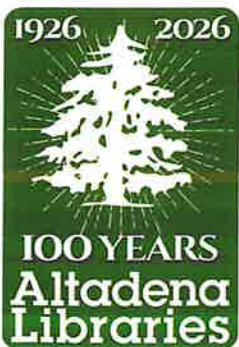
Since my appointment in November 2025, I've had the pleasure to serve with our other incredible board members who volunteer their time advocating for Special Districts. I believe deeply our Districts are essential to strengthening California communities, and my priority is to continue to advocate for policies that support sustainability, innovation, and equity for all Districts across our state.

As Director of the Altadena Library District for the past six years, I led efforts to secure sustainable funding, oversee major facility renovations, and expand access to modern, community-centered library services. I also helped guide the District and residents through the challenges of the Eaton Fire, supporting recovery efforts while ensuring the library remained a source of connection and resilience. With more than 20 years of leadership experience and advanced degrees in library science and public administration, I bring a governance approach rooted in strategic leadership, ethical decision-making, and inclusive community engagement.

Throughout my career, I've developed programs and services that expand opportunity, including ESL and citizenship training, digital resource initiatives, equitable access for diverse communities, and mentoring programs for the next generation of library leaders. As a member of the Board, I will continue to advocate for Special Districts as innovative, adaptable institutions that effectively address community needs. My experience leading ballot measures, navigating emergencies, building strong partnerships, and representing the unique perspective of library districts positions me to contribute meaningfully to the work being accomplished on the CSDA Board.

My involvement with CSDA includes leadership at the local level. As a founding member and current Vice-Chair of the Special District Association of San Gabriel Valley Chapter, I helped launch the chapter in 2024 after serving on its formation committee. I was honored to host a chapter meeting at the Altadena Main Library featuring L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and continue to build meaningful connections among Special District staff and elected officials throughout the region.

It would be a privilege to serve a full term on the CSDA Board for 2026-2028, fostering collaboration and ensuring that the perspectives of Special Districts of all sizes and communities are represented. I will bring my experience, passion, and vision to this role, and I would be honored to earn your support.



Sincerely,

Nikki Winslow  
 Altadena Library District Director



# John Horst

## for CSDA Board of Directors - Southern Network



Dear Fellow Special District Board Members and Community Leaders,

I am writing to respectfully ask for your support and vote for my candidacy to the California Special Districts Association Board of Directors.

Special districts are the backbone of local service in California that serve our communities through libraries, cemeteries, water systems, parks, fire protection, healthcare, or other essential public services.

Special districts—large and small--play a critical role in maintaining the quality of life for our residents. Yet too often, the voices of smaller districts can be overshadowed by larger agencies with greater staffing and resources. In my career, I have continuously stood up to the "big guy" and have found ways to make the small voice roar. I believe smaller districts deserve strong, effective representation that ensures they are heard and respected in statewide discussions and decision-making.

As a representative on the CSDA Board, I will advocate for:

- Strong representation for small and rural districts
- Fair access to funding, training, and legislative support
- Practical solutions that recognize the operational realities of smaller agencies
- Increased collaboration among districts serving diverse local needs
- Protection of local control and accountability

I want to work toward expanding access to State project funding for small districts based on the merit and community value of their projects — not simply on their size, staffing, or ability to navigate complex grant requirements.

I understand the challenges that small districts face — limited budgets, increasing regulatory demands, infrastructure needs, and the responsibility to do more with fewer resources. These challenges require leadership that listens, communicates, and works collaboratively on behalf of all districts, regardless of size.

Together, we can strengthen the future of special districts and continue delivering vital services to the communities that depend on us every day.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the public.

John Horst  
Director, Trabuco Canyon Water District



[jhorst@tcwd.ca.gov](mailto:jhorst@tcwd.ca.gov)





*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee  
FROM: Denise Khalifa, Assistant General Manager  
DATE: July 1, 2026  
SUBJECT: District Officers

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### RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Board of Directors approve Mesa Water's District Officers off-cycle, effective July 1, 2026 – December 13, 2028:

- a. Confirm Denise Khalifa as District Secretary;
- b. Confirm Andie Jacobsen as Assistant District Secretary;
- c. Appoint Calvin Hsu as District Treasurer;
- d. Confirm Kurt Lind as Assistant District Treasurer;
- e. Confirm the delegation of the same authority to the Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer, as the District Secretary and District Treasurer respectively, as previously authorized and approved by the Board of Directors and as authorized by the California Water Code; and
- f. Authorize the continuance of the monthly stipends for the offices of District Secretary and District Treasurer in the amount of \$440 and a prorated stipend of \$220 per meeting for the Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
- Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
- Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
- Goal #4: Increase favorable opinion of Mesa Water.
- Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
- Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
- Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
- Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its December 8, 2016 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) changed the review of the Appointment of District Officers to coincide with the Election of Board Officers which is conducted every two years per Resolution No. 1479 Protocols of the Board of Directors.

At its December 14, 2022 meeting, the Board confirmed the delegation of the same authority to the Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer, as the District Secretary and District Treasurer respectively, as previously authorized and approved by the Board and as authorized by the California Water Code. The Board also awarded the monthly stipends for the District Secretary and District Treasurer in the amount of \$440 and prorated stipends of \$220 per meeting for the Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer.



At its August 23, 2023 meeting, the Board appointed Kurt Lind as an additional Assistant District Treasurer, effective August 23, 2023; confirmed the delegation of the same authority to the Assistant District Treasurer as the District Treasurer, as previously confirmed by the Board of Directors; and authorized a prorated stipend of \$220 per meeting for the Assistant District Treasurer when acting in the role of District Treasurer, as previously authorized by the Board.

At its December 6, 2024 meeting, the Board confirmed Denise Khalifa as District Secretary; appointed Andie Jacobsen as Assistant District Secretary; confirmed Marwan Khalifa as District Treasurer; confirmed Tyler Jernigan and Kurt Lind as Assistant District Treasurers; confirmed the delegation of the same authority to the Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer, as the District Secretary and District Treasurer respectively, as previously authorized and approved by the Board of Directors and as authorized by the California Water Code; and authorized the continuance of the monthly stipends for the offices of District Secretary and District Treasurer in the amount of \$500 and a prorated stipend of \$250 per meeting for the Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer, effective January 1, 2025.

## BACKGROUND

Since 2016, it has been the Board's practice to confirm biennially the District Officers' positions and authorize the continuance of the monthly stipends for the offices of District Secretary and District Treasurer, and the prorated stipends for the Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer. These prorated stipends are awarded when the Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer are acting in the roles of the District Secretary or District Treasurer, respectively.

## DISCUSSION

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®), as a county water district, must appoint certain officers as set out in California Water Code Section 30540, and has general power to appoint assistant officers where the Board and staff shall so determine. The duties of such officers, and assistant officers, are set out in the County Water District Law and also include any duties, powers and compensation designated by the Board.

Due to recent personnel changes, staff recommends the Board consider taking action on the confirmation and appointment of District Officers on an earlier off-cycle basis. Specifically, Mesa Water has recently onboarded a new Chief Financial Officer who will assume the role of District Treasurer. The confirmation and appointment of Mesa Water's District Officers will be effective July 1, 2026 through December 13, 2028 when, at that time, the appointment of District Officers will once again coincide with the election of Board Officers on its routine two-year cycle.



### FINANCIAL IMPACT

The stipends in the amount of \$5,280 per year each for the District Secretary and District Treasurer, totaling \$10,500, are included in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The Assistant District Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer stipends are estimated at a combined \$5,280 in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget; funds will only be expended when warranted.

### ATTACHMENTS

None.



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee  
FROM: Denise Khalifa, Assistant General Manager  
DATE: July 1, 2026  
SUBJECT: Future Agenda Topics

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### RECOMMENDATION

Review future agenda topics.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
- Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
- Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
- Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
- Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
- Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
- Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
- Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

### DISCUSSION

Staff will provide a list of future agenda topics at the Executive Committee meeting.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

### ATTACHMENTS

None.

**REPORTS:**

5. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**REPORTS:**

6. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS