



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together



CA SPECIAL DISTRICTS FACT SHEET

Delivering Communities' Core Services

AT A GLANCE

- ***Focused Service***

Each special district performs a specific set of services well and without distractions. This leads to innovation as well as prudent long-term planning. They heighten the level of services desired by their constituents and deliver unmet service needs.

- ***Voter Driven***

Special districts cannot form, nor raise taxes, without the consent of the voters. Districts are governed by board members elected from their local communities or they are appointed by other voter-approved local bodies.

- ***Flexible & Regional***

Special districts can serve large regions or small neighborhoods based on need, not political boundaries—no other type of government can cross city and county lines. This offers flexibility to address the unique needs of our state's diverse communities. In addition, special districts can build and operate urgently needed infrastructure without straining city, county or state balance sheets.

- ***Clear Cost-Benefit***

Special districts offer the appropriate level of service that residents want at the price they can afford. If residents want a specific, new or enhanced service, a special district is responsive to that need and will link the cost of that service to the benefit.

- ***Open & Transparent***

Special districts are held accountable to their voters. They must file an annual independent audit with the county auditor and an annual financial statement and compensation report with the State Controller. Local Agency Formation Commissions conduct regular municipal service reviews of special districts. And like cities and counties, every special district board must comply with FPPC regulations, the Public Records Act, and all open meeting requirements in the Brown Act.

For more information please visit www.csd.net.