

BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: January 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 3Avi: General Managers Report

Overview

Highlights for the period of December 10, 2024 to January 14, 2025 include the following items of discussion, a verbal report will be provided.

- Please find attached an internal update from CSDA regarding to formation of the National Special Districts Association (NSDA). This accomplishment is the result of years of efforts to bring together special districts from across the country to strengthen our voice in the federal government. Also included in the communication is the unfortunate news that the Special District Grant Accessibility Act did not make it through Congress, but will be back in 2025 for consideration
- Find attached an update memo from the Tuolumne Public Power Authority (TPPA) who provides us electrical power for most of the District facilities. The primary interest in this communication is the fact that PG&E is increasing its transmission rates charged to TPPA by 176% which will ultimately result in increased cost to GCSB.



CSDA Updates

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

Date Sun 12/22/2024 1:04 PM

To jgilmore@truckeesan.org <jgilmore@truckeesan.org>; coachvf@yahoo.com <coachvf@yahoo.com>; postly@norsd.com <postly@norsd.com>; dbartz@pphcsd.org <dbartz@pphcsd.org>; Pete Kampa <pkampa@gcsd.org>; mackgroup@cox.net <mackgroup@cox.net>; noellemattock@edhcsd.org <noellemattock@edhcsd.org>; lorenzo@cvmdistrict.org <lorenzo@cvmdistrict.org>; ryness.fred@gmail.com <ryness.fred@gmail.com>; seneygmcsd@yahoo.com <seneygmcsd@yahoo.com>; Kathryn Slater-Carter <kslater-carter@smharbor.com>; Greg Orsini <gorsini@mckinleyvillecsd.com>; directormagner@pvrpd.org <directormagner@pvrpd.org>; Ryan Clausnitzer <ryan@mosquitoes.org>; Arlene Schafer (Personal) <acschafer@gmail.com>; aschafer@cmsdca.gov <aschafer@cmsdca.gov>; amartinez@ccwater.com <amartinez@ccwater.com>; Curtis Jorritsma <curtis@hilmarc wd.org>; Scott Duffield <scott@heritageranchcsd.ca.gov>

CSDA Board Members – Below are a few updates to keep you current. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy & Healthy New Year!

NSDC – Coalition to Association!

I'm pleased to announce the Articles of Incorporation for the National Special Districts Association (NSDA) have been filed in Washington, D.C.! This marks a major milestone for special districts across the nation and I believe the start of something big for the future of special districts. We are just waiting on a few signatures on the new NSDA bylaws from other states which will complete the process and allow us to file for an EIN and our tax-exempt status as a 501(c)6. I expect formal announcement of the association the week of January 7, 2025. Updates to branding and the website are also in-process and will be completed soon. Below is the new logo:



We also hosted an NSDC/NSDA Executive Committee at the CSDA offices on Friday, Dec. 13 where we approved the 2025 budget for NSDA, renewed contracts for lobbying and grant services, discussed organizational next steps for the association, and finalized priorities and scope of work items for 2025.

Special District Grant Accessibility Act (SDGAA)

Sadly, despite significant efforts throughout the year and over the last few weeks, our bill (H.R. 7525) did not make it through the chaos of Friday's finale in Congress. Even with this setback, we are resolved to have this continue to be our focus in coordination with our lobbying team at Paragon Government Relations as we begin the 119th Congress in 2025.

Background:

The 118th Congress drew to a close as members of the House and Senate concluded their legislative business for the year. In the Senate, lawmakers failed to act on the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* (SDGAA; H.R. 7525), which means the bill will need to be reintroduced in the new 119th Congress.

The bipartisan *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* would codify a first-ever formal definition of "special district" in federal law. Additionally, the bill seeks to ensure that special districts are eligible for all

appropriate forms of federal financial assistance.

Specifically, the legislation would require the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations. Moreover, H.R. 7525 would have established the following definition of 'special district' in Federal law:

"The term 'special district' means a political subdivision of a State, with specified boundaries and significant budgetary autonomy or control, created by or pursuant to the laws of the State, for the purpose of performing limited and specific governmental or proprietary functions that distinguish it as a significantly separate entity from the administrative governance structure of any other form of local government unit within a State."

Even though we had broad bipartisan support for the legislation, a combination of politics, timing, and process considerations prevented H.R. 7525 from advancing in the Senate. In short, with very few bills moving through "regular order" in the upper chamber this year, the champions of SDGAA – Senators Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) and John Cornyn (R-TX) – had to rely on achieving full consensus among their Senate colleagues in order to advance the legislation by what's known as a "Unanimous Consent" agreement. Those efforts fell just short of the mark in the waning hours of the legislative session. Looking ahead, the National Special Districts Association (NSDA) will be working early next year with our House and Senate champions and bill sponsors to reintroduce SDGAA. We'll be back!

Membership Renewals & Recruitment

Membership recruitment is starting up well for the 2025 membership year (Nov 1, 2024 – Oct 31, 2025) with 7 new members already.

Renewals are also tracking quite well with 73.7% of Regular & Associate Members having already paid their 2025 membership dues. As usual, Business Affiliates tend to lag significantly each year with 38.1% renewed to-date. In total, on the finance side of things, this represents roughly 80% of our budgeted 2025 dues already collected.

January 17, 2025 Board Meeting & Dinner the Night Prior

Per Amber's call for quorum email sent on Friday, we will be hosting a Board dinner on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 at 6:00pm at Frank Fat's in their upstairs dining room. Frank Fats is located at 806 L St, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please RSVP to Amber if you haven't already so we can provide the restaurant with an accurate count.

2025 DMTD Student Video Contest

The video contest will officially launch Jan. 2, 2025. This has been one of the focus areas in the Districts Make the Difference (DMTD) campaign to create greater awareness about special districts across the nation and, specifically, in schools/civic education. More information can be found at the following link and we ask that you please take a moment to spread the word to any contacts you have (i.e. teachers, schools, other stakeholders, etc.): <https://www.districtsmakethedifference.org/video-contest>

We would love to have a record number of submissions this coming year!



Happy Holidays and thank you for your leadership in 2024!
Neil

Neil McCormick
Chief Executive Officer

CSDA Members: [Sign-up for Advocacy News](#)

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Updates from TPPA

From Mark Fischer <mfischer@co.tuolumne.ca.us>

Date Thu 12/19/2024 4:45 PM

To Amanda Frankenstein <AFrankenstein@co.tuolumne.ca.us>; An Drades <andrades@yosemite.edu>; Andy Murphy <AMurphy@co.tuolumne.ca.us>; Area 12 Agency on Aging <accountspayable@atcaa.org>; B HOWELL <BHOWELL@SUMEL.ORG>; C Gorsky <cgorsky@sonoraca.com>; C Griffith <CGRIFITHS@SESK12.ORG>; C Higgins <CHiggins@tudwater.com>; C JENSEN <CJENSEN@SUMMBEARS.NET>; C Pelfrey <cpelfrey@jespanthers.org>; C Portillo <CPORTILLO@MYBELLEVIEW.ORG>; centralsierra.cse.ca.gov <admin@centralsierra.cse.ca.gov>; CEO@mlfair.com <CEO@mlfair.com>; Christina Cartier@mewuk.com (ccartier@mewuk.com) <ccartier@mewuk.com>; Collumbia College <accountspayable@yosemite.edu>; CUSDCBO@CUSD49.COM <CUSDCBO@CUSD49.COM>; D Gibson <dgibson@sonoraca.com>; dperkins@tudwater.com <dperkins@tudwater.com>; E PELFREY <EDPELFREY@SONORAHIGH.ORG>; E Rico <ERico@tcsos.us>

Cc Tracie Riggs <TRiggs@co.tuolumne.ca.us>; Roger Root <RRoot@co.tuolumne.ca.us>; Matt Powell <MPowell@co.tuolumne.ca.us>

Good afternoon TPPA customers,

I am writing to inform you of some important developments for TPPA. These are:

1. Transitioning to a new billing system
2. Staff restructuring
3. PG&E WDT rate filing

Transitioning to a new billing system

In the coming months, TPPA is planning to begin using OpenGov Tax and Revenue to handle all rate activities, billing, and reporting. It will also have the capability to allow customers to pay their bills online through an OpenGov payment portal, but this will not be a required payment method for agencies who would prefer to pay with a check. Currently, invoicing is being handled with an internal Access Database; an antiquated system that has served the agency well, but is long past its expiration date.

Staff Restructuring

As part of the transition to a new staffing arrangement, the TPPA Coordinator will soon take on all responsibilities related to customer support, billing, and payments. Currently, invoicing and bill payments are handled by the County Auditor-Controller's Office. This transition will eliminate the portion of TPPA budget appropriations used to reimburse the Auditor-Controller for staff time related to TPPA. This will also place all operations of TPPA into the hands of one person, so there will no longer be a need to contact different people for different types of questions.

PG&E WDT rate filing

Earlier this month, PG&E filed its Rate Year 2025 (RY25) Wholesale Distribution Tariff (WDT) documentation with the FERC. This annual filing is how PG&E sets the cost to TPPA for energy transmission over their infrastructure.

- The RY24 rate was **\$12.202/kW-month**.
- The RY25 rate starting on January 1, 2025, will be **\$33.689/kW-month**.

This is a 176.09% increase over last year's rate, but ***do not panic!***

These rates tend to be rather volatile on a year-to-year basis, and most fiscal years the cheap half of the year tends to provide flexibility to cover the costs of the expensive half of the year. Such is the case this year as our PG&E expenses thus far have been ***far lower*** than expected and existing appropriations should cover the rest of FY25 without requiring a rate change or establishing a rate stabilization fund.

With regard to the TPPA FY26 energy rate, it is yet to be seen if this change will lead to a rate increase. As we plan for the coming year, we will announce a TPPA member meeting for any interested customers to meet with us to collaborate on creative solutions to keep the energy rate as low and affordable as possible.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,



Mark Fischer

Administrative Analyst II / Legislative Analyst / TPPA Coordinator

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