



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together



What's Been Happening in Humboldt County

As your CSDA Public Affairs Field Coordinator, I provide an update to CSDA members regarding my work in the area. CSDA's field presence in the North Coast has increased dramatically this year. Through the recently created Humboldt Area Chapter, a CSDA-sponsored training event, communications with members districts, a meeting with a local newspaper, and interactions with local legislative offices, the CSDA name is more recognized.

As you may know, the [Humboldt Area Chapter](#) became an affiliated CSDA chapter in April. Since that time, I have worked with the Chapter officers on building the organization. Through my work with other Chapters, I have provided best practices to assist the Chapter in its operations. CSDA is also finalizing a Chapter toolkit to provide guidance on frequently asked questions. I have also helped bring guest speakers to provide information and assistance to Humboldt districts. For example, at the August meeting, Jeff Land, a representative from the CSDA Finance Corporation, gave a presentation on how the Corporation helps districts with financing for capital improvements.

A recent highlight was the Harassment Prevention training event CSDA hosted at the McKinleyville Community Services District on August 6. 36 individuals from districts throughout the County attended the training!



In addition to the training conducted by a CSDA business affiliate, I provided a legislative update on issues pertaining to local districts.

One of my goals has been to connect with all CSDA member districts in the County. Of the 49 independent special districts in Humboldt, 26 of them are members of CSDA and thus eligible to become members of the Chapter. Throughout the year, I have connected with smaller districts such as Reclamation District 768, Orleans Community Services District, Jacoby Creek County Water District, and Weott Community Services District.

In addition to talking about CSDA's programs and services, I have also been encouraging these districts to become involved in the new Chapter. These districts have appreciated the outreach.

The CSDA Field Coordinators have also been connecting with local media outlets to establish relationships and educate editors and reporters on what special districts do and their connection to CSDA. Earlier this year, I met with Jack Durham, the editor and publisher of the *Mad River Union*, in Arcata. Jack has written articles on local districts and is familiar with their structure. I gave him additional information on our outreach efforts, highlighting our

[Districts Make the Difference](#) public outreach campaign. With the September 30 deadline, the [Districts Make the Difference student video contest](#) submission period is open - help students in your area win scholarship funds by spreading the word!

I have also made it a priority to enhance CSDA's relationships with our state elected officials in Humboldt County. To that end, I have met twice with Assembly Member Wood and Senator McGuire's representatives in their Humboldt offices.

I have kept both offices updated on our legislative issues throughout 2018 and highlighted the creation of the new Chapter. Senator McGuire has been very helpful to CSDA. He is carrying our sponsored bill, SB 929, which requires districts to have a website by 2020 and allows districts to exempt themselves if they have specific hardships. He also serves as the Chair of the Senate Governance and Finance Committee, where bills that affect all special districts in the state are often referred to and acted on. Of note locally, the Senator's office has recently hired Thomas Witzel as the new District Representative based out of the Eureka office. I will be in contact with him as he begins his new role.



In summary, 2018 has been a successful year in Humboldt County. Through local leadership, a Chapter has been created and is building momentum. I have connected with districts large and small to spread the word about the opportunities CSDA provides (both locally and statewide). I look forward to continuing to work with the Chapter and your districts! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, issues, or concerns by calling me at (916) 947-6432 or emailing me at danew@csda.net.

*Note that the next Humboldt Area Chapter meeting will be held on **October 1st from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** at the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District at 707 L Street in Eureka.*

See you there!

Dane Wadle

CSDA Public Affairs Field Coordinator

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