



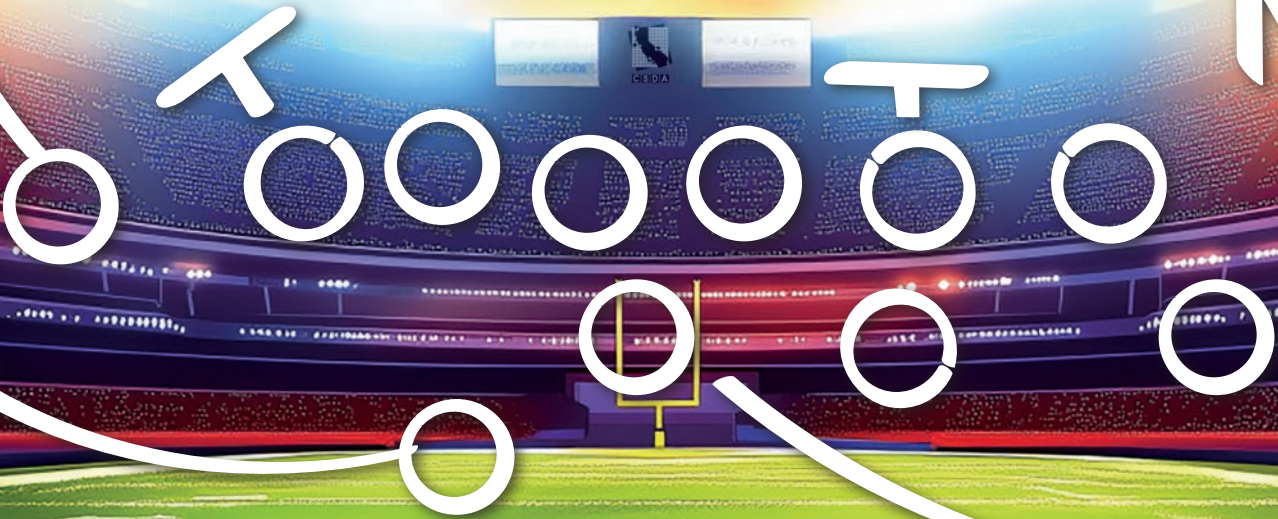
**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together

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2025 X

CSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE

The Leadership Conference for Special Districts

📍 Monterey, CA | 📅 August 25 – 28, 2025





The CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase is the must-attend event for special district leaders across California! With a densely packed agenda, this conference offers unparalleled opportunities to connect with peers and experts and learn about new tools and trends.

Network with fellow special district professionals, explore the latest innovations and services in our extensive exhibitors' hall, and choose from over 30 targeted breakout sessions tailored to address today's relevant trends and topics for special districts.

This essential event will sharpen your skills, broaden your knowledge, infuse you with enthusiasm, and forge new connections. Join us in 2025!



SDRMA Credit Incentive Points

Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) is committed to establishing a strategic partnership with our members to provide maximum protection, help control losses, and positively impact the overall cost of property/liability and workers' compensation coverage through the Credit Incentive Program. Credit incentive points (CIPs) can be earned based on an agency's full conference attendance at the CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase, reducing SDRMA members' annual contribution amounts.



IT'S GAME TIME IN MONTEREY!

CSDA's 2025 Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase is back in Monterey! Attendees can take a stroll down historic Cannery Row and Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf, where you can savor a steaming bread bowl of creamy clam chowder. Visit the world-renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium to watch playful sea otters and penguins up close or set sail on an unforgettable boat tour. In your free time outside of the conference, soak in the breathtaking coastal beauty and vibrant culture that make Monterey truly unforgettable!



Monterey Conference Center
One Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940

CSDA room reservations at the Marriott and Portola Hotel & Spa in the CSDA block are available starting at the rate of \$249 plus tax. The room reservation cut-off is August 4, 2025; however, space is limited and may sell out before this date. One night's non-refundable room and tax will be charged on August 4, 2025 for rooms reserved in the CSDA room block.

Information about hotel reservations and links to book in the CSDA room block will be emailed to you within 24 hours of registration.

PRE-CONFERENCE Monday, August 25, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Pre-Conference Workshop:

Special District Leadership Academy Module 1: Governance Foundations

Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District

SDRMA CIP ELIGIBLE

As the core curriculum of CSDA's Special District Leadership Academy, this workshop serves as the "foundation" for the series on effective governance of special districts. It is specifically designed for special district board members and meets the requirement for six hours of governance training for Special District Leadership Foundation programs.

\$325 CSDA Member / \$650 Non-member*

**Price includes continental breakfast and lunch.*

Pre-Conference Workshop:

So, You Want to Be a General Manager?

*Scott Carroll, CSDM, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Melissa Asher, CPS HR Consulting*

**Qualifies toward the completion of the Essential Leadership Skills Certificate*

Sponsored by:  **SPECIAL DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**

This is a practical career development workshop for senior executives and emerging leaders in special districts. This action-oriented workshop includes group and panel discussions on the journey, roles, and skillsets of a general manager; identifying general manager opportunities; developing positive relations with the board, staff, and peer agency executives; and leadership best practices.

\$130 CSDA Member and Non-member*

**Price includes continental breakfast and lunch.*

9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start



Pre-Conference Activity
**SDLF Scramble for
Scholarships Golf
Tournament**
Del Monte Golf Course

Join special district elected officials, staff, and business affiliates at this optional fun event. Great golf skills are not necessary! Proceeds

benefit the Special District Leadership Foundation scholarship fund.

\$130 includes golf with cart, lunch, and prizes!

Hurry, space is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

10:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Tour:

Moss Landing Harbor District Tour, Lunch & Elkhorn Slough Boat Tour

Playful sea otters, curious harbor seals, boisterous sea lions, and hundreds of bird species abound as you explore one of California's most spectacular wetlands aboard a stable, 27-foot, U.S. Coast Guard inspected pontoon boat in a tour of Elkhorn Slough. Enjoy a tour of the district, eat lunch, and then board the boat for a view of the slough.

\$95 per person, includes transportation to/from the Conference Center and tour (lunch is included).

Early registration is encouraged. Limited to 24 attendees.

10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

 Young Professionals
Pre-Conference Activity:
Monterey Bay Kayak Tour

Join your fellow YPs (Young Professional district staff under the age of 40) for the best way to experience the wildlife and nature of Monterey Bay, via kayak. The 1.5-hour kayaking tour will take you to visit sea otters, harbor seals and birds up close. End your pre-conference day networking with your fellow YPs over drinks.

\$90 per person, including kayak excursion and post-tour happy hour.

Early registration is encouraged. Due to safety, the maximum weight is 250 lbs.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Breakout:

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training*

Jennifer Martinez, Hanson Bridgett, LLP

State law requires most local officials and employees to receive sexual harassment prevention training and education for at least two hours within six months of taking office or commencing employment and every two years



thereafter. Presented by an attorney with deep experience in public and employment law, this session provides an interactive presentation meeting the requirements of state law.

**Optional - Free to CSDA Members and Non-members who are already attending the full conference.*

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference:

Certified Special District Manager (CSDM) Exam, Special District Leadership Foundation*

**Optional - Must be scheduled prior to the conference.*

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Pre-Conference Breakout:

Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training*

Richard Pio Roda, Redwood Public Law, LLP

California Government Code Section 53235(a) provides that if a local agency provides any type of compensation, salary, or stipend to a member of a legislative body, or provides reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred by a member of a legislative body in the performance of official duties, then all local agency officials shall receive training in ethics. Subdivision (b) of Section 53235 further provides that each

local agency official shall receive at least two hours of training in general ethics principles and ethics laws relevant to his or her public service every two years. This training satisfies these requirements by covering several topics on ethics, including the Political Reform Act and Government Code Section 1090 conflicts of interest, the Levine Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, and the California Public Records Act. Attendees will receive a certificate that they attended the mandatory training that will satisfy this training requirement for the next two years of their public service.

**Optional - Free to CSDA Members and Non-members who are already attending the full conference.*

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Chapter Leaders Meeting*

Join CSDA board members and local chapter leaders from across the state to share best practices and discuss issues and opportunities. The meeting will begin with networking and refreshments with CSDA Diamond and Platinum Business Affiliate Members, including information on how they can help support your chapter's efforts!

**Optional - No fee, but must be attending the conference to participate.*

CONFERENCE OFFICIALLY BEGINS!

5:15 – 7:30 p.m.

President's Reception with the Exhibitors – Tailgate Party – Conference Officially Begins!

Throw on your favorite team jersey and join us in the exhibit hall for the ultimate tailgate-style KICKOFF to the 2025 CSDA Annual Conference! Network with fellow attendees and business professionals who provide all types of goods and services to special districts. Appetizers, refreshments, and entertainment will be provided.

Reception is included in the conference registration.

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

SDRMA Member Reception – Invitation only

Join us in the SDRMA Dessert Dugout for a sweet treat immediately following the opening reception. Network with your fellow SDRMA members and meet your friendly SDRMA staff.

Electronic invitation to follow in early August.



SCHEDULE *Tuesday, August 26, 2025*

7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration Open

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

CSDA Board Meeting

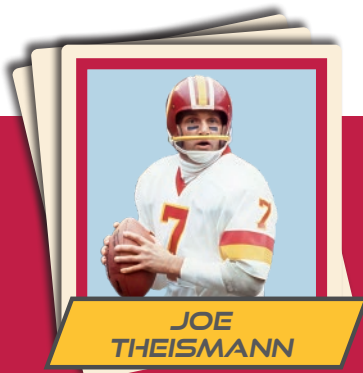
7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Exhibitor Showcase Open

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall (Raffle)

Breakfast is included in conference registration.



8:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Opening General Session and Keynote

“Game Plan for Success”

Joe Theismann, Former Star Quarterback, Emmy Award-Winning NFL Analyst, Entrepreneur & Author

Sponsored by: 

This dynamic presentation outlines the game plan that brought Joe Theismann success both on and off the football field. Former NFL MVP quarterback and Super Bowl Champion, he reveals his Game Plan for Success by drawing parallels between winning in football and in business. Joe focuses on how to succeed under pressure – when it is “4th and 1,” and how to adapt quickly to unexpected situations when you are faced with a “blitz” instead of a zone. He urges individuals and organizations to set goals and correct errors each step of the way—an approach that builds unstoppable momentum, making even the strongest opposition struggle to keep up.



Awards Presented:

- ▶ General Manager of the Year
- ▶ Board Member of the Year
- ▶ Staff Member of the Year
- ▶ SDLF Certificate in Special District Governance
- ▶ SDLF Certified Special District Manager
- ▶ SDLF Essential Leadership Skills Certificate

All registered conference attendees are welcome.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

How to Navigate the Planning & Building Permitting Processes of Cities and Counties

*Gary Bell and Aleks Giragosian,
Colantuono Highsmith & Whatley, PC*

Many special districts play a role in reviewing, conditioning, and approving land use decisions made by cities and counties. This session reviews that process and shares case studies.

Power in Community-Based Social Marketing: Organics Recycling in Multi-Family Communities

*Rob Hilton and Sara Parral,
West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority*

Learn how our District used Community-Based Social Marketing to increase participation and engagement in a challenging program. If we can

make multi-family composting work, you can make any program work!

Innovating Wildfire Prevention: Strategies, Funding, and Tools for Special Districts

*Dan Turner, San Luis Obispo Fire Safe Council
Hannah Newby, Andy Johnson and Lexi Journey,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.*

As wildfire threats continue to escalate across California, special districts play a critical role in driving effective wildfire prevention projects. This session will explore cutting-edge innovations in wildfire planning, from developing firesheds and leveraging data-driven dashboards to streamlining CEQA compliance for fuel mitigation efforts. Attendees will also gain insights into the latest funding opportunities designed to support proactive wildfire resilience.



SCHEDULE *Tuesday, August 26, 2025*

Unlocking the Magic: HR Best Practices for Special Districts

Melissa Asher and Tiffany Bose, CPS HR Consulting

Discover HR insights by delving into impactful practices across administration, training, and policies. Learn how to leverage essential information to increase effectiveness and empower your district to lead with confidence.

Bridging the Governance Gap: Addressing Turnover and Board Team

Karin Freese, PHD, MBA, Del Puerto Health Care District

Discover how to transform high-turnover chaos into resilient leadership. Learn the power of communication, structured onboarding, and role clarity to revolutionize governance and inspire thriving districts.

The Most Common Legal Questions Special Districts Ask:

A General Counsel's Perspective

Derek Cole, Cole Huber, LLP

What are the most common questions special districts ask their general counsels? Municipal attorneys handle a wide range of legal practice areas, but there are certain questions that commonly come up more than others.

This presentation will identify and provide general answers to these questions. Topics include closed sessions, conflicts of interest, public records requests, and others.

My District Needs to Borrow Money... Now What?

Andrea Salazar, South Tahoe Public Utility District

Rick Brandis, Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.

Dmitry Semenov, Ridgeline Municipal Strategies

This session discusses key considerations for obtaining financing (bonds, private placements, financing leases, and government loans - USDA, SRF, WIFIA, etc.) and how market changes are impacting your agency's ability to borrow money.



12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch with the Exhibitors

All attendees are welcome to attend lunch in the exhibit hall. Enjoy your lunch while taking time to learn more about our exhibitors and the valuable services they provide. From risk management to accounting, HR, legal, banking services, and more – our exhibitors have some of the best of what you're looking for!

Lunch is included in the conference registration.

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Demystifying Public Service: What Being an Effective Special District Board Member Means to You, Your Organization, and Your Community

Tom Scaglione, Grossmont Healthcare District

You have been elected or appointed to a special district board by your community. This is a tremendous honor that comes with much responsibility. As a board member for a special district, you have committed to representing the best interests of your community, ensuring the delivery of essential local services and infrastructure, and faithfully serving the public good while upholding the law. Attendees at this program will learn how to be an effective board member and serve their constituents' best interests.

Finance Policies Power Play: Navigating the Rules of the Game

*Josh Byerrum and Samantha Prall,
Platinum Strategies Inc.*

Join us for an in-depth review of financial policies and best practices that will shape your organization's fiscal health. This session will explore key policies and their practical applications, focusing on how these guidelines trickle down to impact your budget and financial statements. We will uncover the strategies behind successful financial management, ensuring you're equipped to tackle challenges and seize opportunities with confidence. Whether you are fine-tuning your current approach or implementing new policies, this session provides the insights you need to stay ahead of the game.

With Arms Wide Open - Managing Conflict and Public Protest When Increasing Rates

*Dean Atyia, Best Best & Krieger LLP
Jessica Self, Union Public Utility District*

Both an attorney and special district representative will present strategies and share stories for managing public perception during the Proposition 218 rate setting process. There will be particular emphasis on reducing litigation risk and facilitating public acceptance of increased rates.

Evolution of LAFCO and Why it Matters to You

*Jason Fried, Marin LAFCO
Joe Serrano, LAFCO of Santa Cruz County*

This session focuses on two primary areas: the more relevant one is to talk about how special districts can work with their LAFCO effectively, not to look at LAFCO as the bogeyman but as an ally there to help. The other is to encourage those special districts in counties that are not seated on LAFCO to seriously to learn the benefits of being on the commission and consider joining.

Huddle Up! New and Future GM Meet Up

*Scott Carroll, CSDM, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Justin Scott-Coe, CSDM, Monte Vista Water District*

Join us for an engaging and interactive breakout session designed exclusively for new and aspiring General Managers. "Huddle Up!" is your opportunity to connect with peers, share experiences, and gain valuable insights into the dynamic role of a GM. Whether you are new to the position or preparing for the next step in your career, this session will provide you with practical strategies, leadership tips, and industry best practices to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities ahead. Don't miss this chance to build your professional network and walk away with actionable ideas to excel in your role.

Navigating the AI Tide: Legal and Ethical Implications for Special Districts

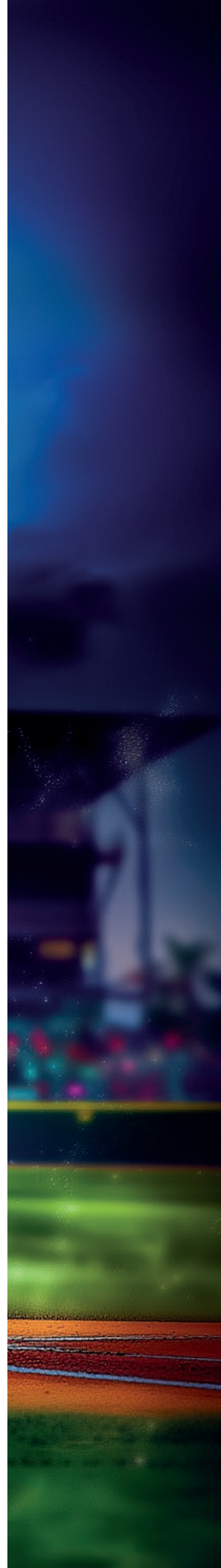
Nick Clair, Lozano Smith, Attorneys at Law

Explore AI's transformative role in special districts, focusing on legal risks, ethical considerations, and strategies for navigating the AI tide in public agency law and operations.

Playing by the Rules: The Brown Act

*Nicolle Falcis and Jeff Hoskinson,
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo*

Join us for this breakdown of the Brown Act—California's open meeting law for local government bodies. This action-packed session will provide the playbook for transparency, tackle key rules for meetings, and strategies to avoid penalties like serial meetings and closed session fouls. Whether you are a rookie board member or a seasoned MVP, you will leave this session ready to keep your team compliant with the rules and your meetings open to the public.



SCHEDULE *Tuesday, August 26, 2025*

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Impact Fee Playbook:

Best Practices and Local Challenges

*Miasha Rivas and Willie Sapeta,
Lake County Fire Protection District
Dmitry Semenov, Ridgeline Municipal Strategies*

Impact fees fund essential facilities but implementing them is anything but straightforward. Here is a practical guide to designing effective fee programs, navigating local approval processes, and managing regulatory challenges.

Cash Flow Analysis and Forecasting: Implementing the Right Approach for Your Entity

Tom Tight, California CLASS

This session will provide an overview of cash flow forecasting activities, discuss details of what is included in a cash flow analysis (including how to conduct one), and outline the type of information governments should be tracking for accurate analysis. Finally, we will perform a live case study on a government using our new, proprietary cash flow modeling tool (CFMAX).

Game Plan for Hosting More Positive, Productive, and Fun Public Workshops

Institute for Local Government

Based on ILG's popular Meeting Mastery training, this session will provide California's special district leaders with practical, actionable tips for transforming their public workshops into dynamic, inclusive, and engaging experiences. From preparing for the workshop to managing diverse opinions and creating an atmosphere of fun and openness, this session will equip leaders with the tools to not only host more effective workshops but also create lasting relationships with the communities they serve.

Got Surplus Land? New Changes in the Surplus Land Act

*Laura Ratcliffe, Hanson Bridgett, LLP
Christine Compton, Irvine Ranch Water District*

Regulations regarding the disposal of "Surplus Land" (which may include both selling and leasing agency property) have changed in recent years. We will cover the key aspects of the Surplus Land

Act (SLA), practical implementation advice, and pitfalls to avoid. We will also provide updates on recent developments in interpretation of and amendment to the SLA.

Culturally Relevant Community Engagement: Waterwise Loteria

*Elizabeth Willis and Monica Curiel,
Chino Basin Water Conservation District*

How to empower your team to create culturally appropriate, place-based programming to engage your constituents and become a valued part of the community you serve.

Lessons Learned After the 2018 Camp Fire - And How Your District Can Prepare for Natural Disasters

*Mickey Rich and Kevin Phillips,
Paradise Irrigation District*

The session will cover wildfires' impacts on municipal water systems, including contamination risks and restoration challenges. It will also highlight innovative recovery strategies, mitigation, and community engagement.

General Manager Performance Evaluations: A Strategic Approach That Works

Martin Rauch, Rauch Communication Consultants, Inc.

A well-executed General Manager Performance Evaluation is vital for both the manager's success and the Board's effectiveness. But many Boards struggle with this critical task. Learn a proven process that enhances communication and understanding between the manager and board; incorporates both subjective and objective criteria for a comprehensive assessment; aligns the evaluation with clear policy directions and connects it to the broader strategic plan and the manager's annual goals.



Tuesday, August 26, 2025 (contd.)



5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Mix and Mingle in the Exhibit Hall

Stop by the exhibit hall for one final chance to chat with the exhibitors, enjoy a drink and hors d'oeuvres, and enter for one more chance to win one of our fabulous prizes!

The exhibit hall closes on Tuesday, August 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Reception is included in full conference registration



SCHEDULE *Wednesday, August 27, 2025*

7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration Open

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

SDRMA Sponsored Full Plated Breakfast

Breakfast is included in the full conference registration.

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

General Session Keynote and Awards

The Undeniable, Jaw-Dropping Power of Encouragement

Brad Montgomery, Keynote Speaker, Entrepreneur, Author & Podcaster

Sponsored by: 

The business strategy you cannot afford to ignore. How do we get more out of ourselves and those people around us? The key to investing in your people is to strategically deploy the power of encouragement. It's free, easy, massively underutilized. Encouragement nurtures loyalty, trust, and job satisfaction. With Brad Montgomery's authentic and innate humor, this program brings encouragement to life, illustrating its transformative potential for personal and organizational growth.

Awards Presented:

- ▶ SDRMA Safety Awards
- ▶ Transparency Certificate of Excellence
- ▶ District of Distinction

All registered conference attendees welcome.



SCHEDULE *Wednesday, August 27, 2025*

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Hoops They Did It Again: The California Legislature Workers' Compensation (WC) Law & Court Updates

Danny Peña,

*Special District Risk Management Authority
Boone White, Esq., MacIntyre & White, LLP*

During this session, attendees will learn how recent WC laws affect the current WC system and provide practical ways to not only be compliant with new case law but also look at various options to improve or reduce WC costs.

Building Big Projects: Slicing Through Community Concerns

Ryder Todd Smith, Tripepi Smith

Big projects are hard to do in California. Community sentiment can derail major infrastructure. Let's talk about communicating about your capital initiatives before, during and after completion.

Staying in Bounds: A Play-by-Play Update on Labor & Employment Laws

Andrew Aller, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Get ready to hit the field with the latest developments in California and federal labor and employment law impacting special districts.

This session will coach you through key plays involving discrimination and harassment policies, leave laws, recent court rulings, wage and hour rules, and more. Learn how to avoid compliance penalties, build an all-star HR strategy, and keep your organization in the legal end zone.



Procurement and Public Contracting: To Bid or Not To Bid

Steven Flower, Richards Watson and Gershon

This session will be an introduction to procurement and public contracting. It will cover the fundamentals of district purchasing processes; from purchase orders and consulting contracts to formal bidding for public works projects, and everything in between. We will discuss when to bid and when not to bid to ensure that your district is compliant with the Government Code, Labor Code, and your local district policies.

The Latest CalPERS Developments - What You Need to Know Now

Michael D. Youril, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

CalPERS rules and regulations continue to evolve, creating complex challenges for California's special districts. With rising employer contribution costs, stricter reporting requirements, and compliance pitfalls, staying ahead of the latest developments is important to avoid costly mistakes. This session will break down key updates impacting special districts, including reporting errors that trigger penalties, new and evolving interpretations, disability retirements and common mistakes.

Red Flag! Handling the Rogue Board Member

Brent Ives, BHI Management Consulting

Agencies often face challenging Board members who act out—both in and outside of meetings. While their message may have merit, their behavior often does not. Addressing these situations is not always straightforward. Join this compelling session to hear real cases—some resolved effectively, others not.

Local Elections: Combating Misinformation and Deceptive AI

Mac Clemmens, Streamline

As AI technology evolves, the risk of misinformation and disinformation becomes more pronounced. This presentation will provide insights into the challenges of the political season, offer strategic recommendations for districts, and introduce tools and platforms for maintaining the integrity of information within your community.

SCHEDULE *Wednesday, August 27, 2025*

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SDLF Board and Annual Meeting

12:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Legislative Update Luncheon

CSDA Advocacy Legal Affairs Team

Trying to keep up with the relentless action in Sacramento and Washington D.C. and what it means for your special district? CSDA's advocacy and legal affairs team, in partnership with the National Special Districts Association, will present attendees with the most up-to-date information on the biggest state and federal legislative, budgetary, and legal issues impacting special districts in 2025. This session will cut through the noise and provide a high-level overview of the key public policy matters that truly do matter most to our membership.

Awards Presented:

- ▶ Innovative Project/Program of the Year Award (large district)
- ▶ Innovative Project/Program of the Year Award (small district)
- ▶ Exceptional Public Outreach & Advocacy Award (large district)
- ▶ Exceptional Public Outreach & Advocacy Award (small district)
- ▶ Ralph Heim Exceptional Outreach & Advocacy Award

Lunch is included in the conference registration.

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Back to Basics – Strengthening Your Game with an Injury & Illness Prevention Playbook

Enriqueta Castro, CSP,

Special District Risk Management Authority

While the IIPP seems like a basic Cal/OSHA standard, it is actually the essential foundation of an effective safety program. Participants will gain a fresh perspective on how an effectively implemented IIPP produces a powerful safety program.

Vacancies in Your Governing Board: When do They Occur and How do You Handle Them?

Derek Cole, Cole Huber, LLP

This presentation will address when and how vacancies occur in the governing board of special districts. It will cover all grounds for vacancies, including resignations, prolonged failure to attend board meetings, and failure to discharge the duties of office. The presentation will cover how to fill vacant offices through appointments or special elections, the timing for responding to vacancies, and what happens if deadlines are not met.

Take Your Audit from a Penalty to a Touchdown

Scott German, CPA,

Fechter & Company, Certified Public Accountants

We will explain what district management's responsibility is for the audit and how to make your financial reporting ready for audit.

Compliance Without the Snooze: Making Your Website Work for You

Mac Clemmens and Maria Lara, Streamline

Website compliance does not have to be a legal labyrinth or a total snoozefest. In this interactive session, we will wake you up with 16 key checkpoints to keep your district's website compliant, accessible and up to date, plus you'll walk away with easy-to-use tools and a simple, stress-free "checklist" to make compliance painless (and maybe even fun!). If "website compliance" makes your eyes glaze over, this session is for you!

Beyond the Legislative Update Lunch: Additional Insights

CSDA Advocacy and Legal Affairs Team

Did you leave the Legislative Update Luncheon still hungry for more? That's what the Post Script breakout session is for. Here's your chance to meet with the legislative and legal affairs presenters from CSDA and the National Special Districts Association in a smaller setting designed to address your questions related to the topics presented earlier at the luncheon. Join us for a deeper dive into the biggest bills and hottest legislative and legal topics impacting special districts. So, take notes at the luncheon and bring your questions to the Post Script.



SCHEDULE *Wednesday, August 27, 2025*

Game Plan for Transparency: Understanding the California Public Records Act

Darren Ziegler, Best Best & Krieger, LLP

Are you ready to tackle transparency head-on? In this training session, we will break down the CPRA like a winning playbook. Just like in sports, understanding the rules of the game is the key to success. This session will examine tools to navigate the CPRA with confidence. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a newcomer to public records, we'll walk you through every step of the CPRA, from identifying the playbook of public records requests to making sure you're following the game rules for disclosure and exemptions.

Proposition 218 Demystified: Clear and Transparent Processes

Josh Byerrum and Habib Isaac, Platinum Strategies Inc.

How we proposed a 13% annual rate increase over five years, anchored in community engagement and transparent communication, with minimal opposition from a 27,000-strong service area.

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

CSDA Finance Corporation Board and Annual Meeting

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

CEQA for the Brave: Advanced CEQA Topics

Ann Danforth, Andrew Shen and Rubin Cruse, Renne Public Law Group, LLP

Explore advanced CEQA topics, including recent case law, new legislation, policy trends, and strategies to streamline compliance and adapt to evolving requirements. Gain insights to navigate CEQA's complexities effectively.

Caught in the Feed: Managing Employee Social Media Without Crossing the Line

Phil Bui, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

In this eye-opening session, we will examine how special districts can proactively address social media risks while respecting legal boundaries. Through recent case examples, we'll unpack where employee speech is protected, when discipline is appropriate, and how to build enforceable, up-to-date policies that won't land your agency in court. Whether you are revisiting your social media policy or dealing with a current issue, this session offers clear guidance, common pitfalls to avoid, and practical tools to protect your agency in a fast-moving digital world.

Better Boards Equals Better Districts: Best Practice for Boards

Martin Rauch, Rauch Communication Consultants, Inc.

This session offers practical, proven strategies to help you master good governance, streamline your board and manager roles, and build a cohesive team as the foundation for maintaining an effective special district. Learn how to foster board teamwork; carry out the director's role with excellence; build a productive relationship with your manager; ensure your Board is focusing on the right information and issues; deal with difficult directors; improve deliberation; provide clear policy direction to the Manager; implement a productive general manager performance evaluation; and more. Join this interactive session filled with real-world examples and actionable ideas to drive change and improvement in your district.

From Chaos to Calm: How to Avoid Disruptive Public Meetings and How to Handle Them if They Occur

Craig Steele, Richards Watson and Gershon

Public meetings have an outsized impact on the "brand" of a public agency. Most constituents want calm, well-organized, and respectful interactions with their local government officials. This presentation will focus on the rules regarding public participation, and techniques that can help minimize the kinds of disruptions that can create negative impressions of your agency. Districts can promote open, courteous discussions of important local issues while still protecting free speech rights. In this session, we will provide tips for doing just that.

SCHEDULE *Wednesday, August 27, 2025*

Unlocking New Funding Sources Through Contamination Cost Recovery

Ken Sansone, SL Environmental Law Group, PC

Identify the potential legal claims your special district may have against manufacturers over contamination issues and learn how to minimize the financial impact of contamination on utilities and ratepayers.

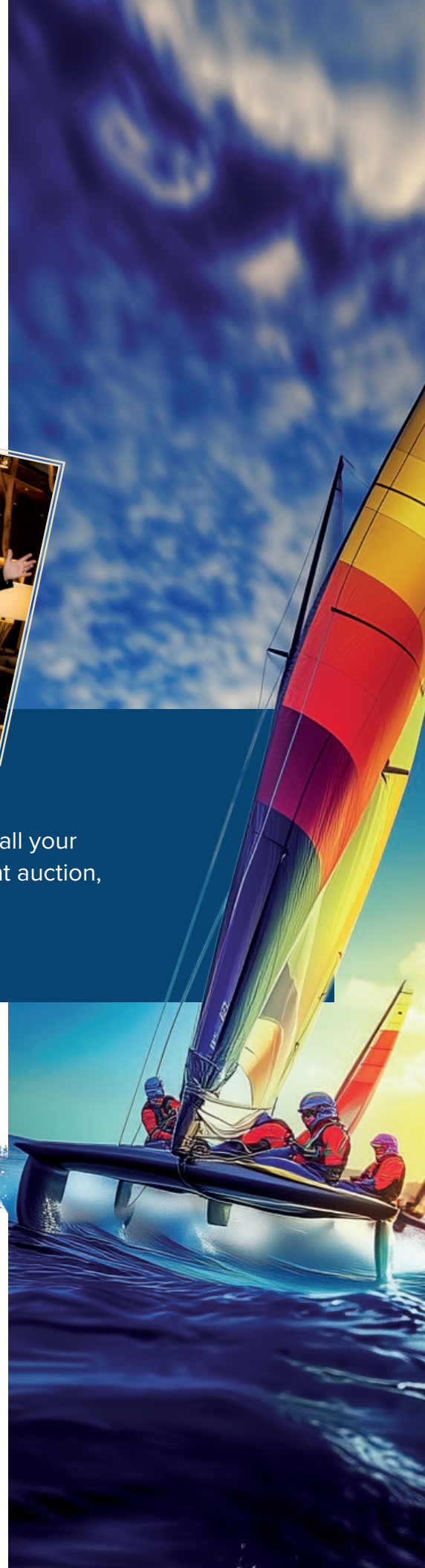
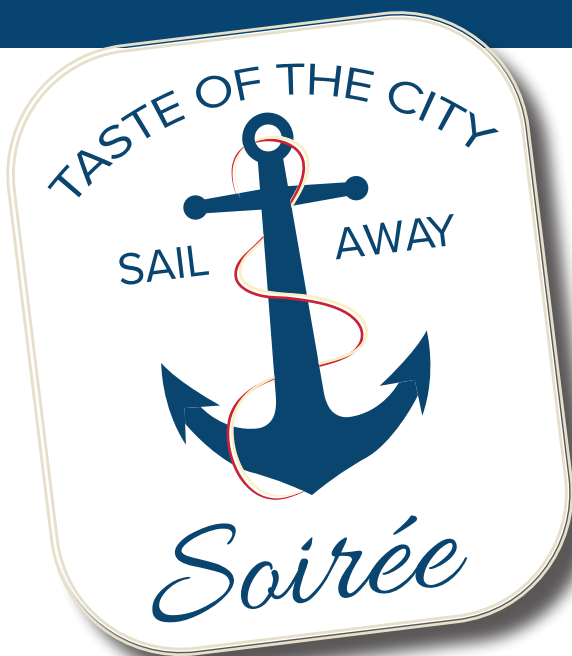


6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Taste of the City – Sail Away Soirée

Sample the food and beverage flavors of Monterey while enjoying all your Yacht Rock favorites from the Alison Sharino Band and a lively silent auction, benefiting SDLF.

Reception is included with full conference registration.



SCHEDULE *Thursday, August 28, 2025*

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Closing Breakfast: Connect and Collaborate

We are in the final quarter—let's finish strong! Join your special district teammates for an energizing session where we tackle challenges unique to each district type, strategize winning plays with best practices, and share inspiring stories from the field. This is your chance to huddle up, trade ideas, and build connections that will help you score big in the future. Fuel up with a continental breakfast, and let's bring this Annual Conference to a close together!

Awards Presented:

- ▶ Excellence in Technology
- ▶ Chapter of the Year
- ▶ Beacon Awards
- ▶ Recognition of Previous and Outgoing Board Members

Breakfast is included in full conference registration.

10:00 a.m.

Conference Adjourns



REGISTRATION FEES

Save \$\$\$ by registering now!

Early Bird (on or before July 25, 2025)

- Member (Full Conference) \$890
- Non-member (Full Conference) \$1,780
- Guest of a CSDA Member* (Full Conference, cannot be from a district/company) \$460
- Guest of a CSDA Non-member * (Full Conference, cannot be from a district/company) \$920
- Member (One-day Registration) \$495
- Non-member (One-day Registration) \$990

Regular Registration (After July 25, 2025)

- Member (Full Conference) \$990
- Non-member (Full Conference) \$1,980
- Guest of a CSDA Member* (Full Conference, cannot be from a district/company) \$565
- Guest of a CSDA Non-member * (Full Conference, cannot be from a district/company) \$1,130
- Member (One-day Registration) \$530
- Non-member (One-day Registration) \$1,060

*Guest registration includes all meal functions, receptions (including Taste of the City), and Keynote sessions. We also offer a Taste of the City-only guest registration, as well as a Party Pack guest registration, which includes all three evening receptions.

Not sure if you are a member? Contact the CSDA office at 877-924-2732 to find out if your agency or company is already a member. To learn more about the many benefits of CSDA membership contact Member Services at membership@csda.net or 877-924-2732.



Attendee Registration Form

Hotel Reservations *Marriott and Portola Hotel & Spa*

CSDA room reservations at the Marriott and Portola Hotel & Spa in the CSDA block are available starting at the rate of \$249 plus tax. The room reservation cut-off is August 4, 2025; however, space is limited and may sell out before this date.

One night's non-refundable room and tax will be charged on 8/4/25 for rooms reserved in the CSDA room block.

Full Conference Registration Fees Include:

- President's Reception with the Exhibitors on Monday
- Keynote Sessions
- Continental Breakfast with the Exhibitors on Tuesday
- Lunch with the Exhibitors on Tuesday
- Mix and Mingle in the Exhibit Hall on Tuesday
- SDRMA Full Plated Breakfast on Wednesday
- Legislative Update Luncheon on Wednesday
- All Breakout Sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Taste of the City Reception on Wednesday
- Closing Breakfast on Thursday

Three Ways to Register

- 1** ONLINE by visiting the CSDA Annual Conference website at conference.csdanet.net
- 2** FAX your registration form to 916-520-2465. (All faxed forms must include payment)
- 3** MAIL to CSDA, 1112 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814. (Please include registration form along with payment. Check should be made payable to: California Special Districts Association).

Name:		Title:		
District:				
Address:				
City:		State:	Zip:	
Phone:		Fax:		
Email:		Website:		
Special Needs (including dietary)		First time attending the CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Emergency Contact:				
Conference Registration Fees		Early Bird (on/before July 25, 2025)	Regular (after July 25, 2025)	SUBTOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> CSDA Member - Full Conference		\$890.00	\$990.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member - Full Conference		\$1,780.00	\$1,980.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest of a Member - Full Conference* (Cannot be from a district/company) <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian		\$460.00	\$565.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest of a Non-member - Full Conference* (Cannot be from a district/company) <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian		\$920.00	\$1,130.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> CSDA Member - One-day registration <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday		\$495.00 each day	\$530.00 each day	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member - One-day registration <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday		\$990.00 each day	\$1,060.00 each day	
*Guest registration includes all meal functions, receptions (including Taste of the City), and Keynote sessions. We also offer a reception only (Party Pack) and Taste of the City only guest registration.				
Separate Registration Fees		Member	Non-member	SUBTOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Conference Workshop: SDLA Module 1: Governance Foundations - Aug. 25		\$325.00	\$650.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Conference Workshop: So, You Want to Be a General Manager? - Aug. 25		\$130.00 CSDA Member/Non-member		
<input type="checkbox"/> SDLF Scramble for Scholarships Golf Tournament - Aug. 25		\$130.00 (includes lunch)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Conference Tour: Moss Landing Harbor District Tour, Lunch & Elkhorn Slough Boat Tour - Aug. 25		\$95.00 (includes lunch)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Conference Activity: Young Professionals: Monterey Bay Kayak Tour - Aug. 25		\$95.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> "Taste of the City" Reception (Guests only) - Aug. 27		\$105.00	\$210.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Party Pack (admission to President's Reception, Mix & Mingle, and Taste of the City)		\$250.00	\$500.00	
TOTAL				
Payment Information				
Payment type: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> Discover				
Account name:		Account Number:		
Expiration date:	Zip Code:	CVC:	Authorized Signature:	

Cancellations/Substitution Policy: Cancellations must be in writing and received by CSDA no later than July 25, 2025. All cancellations received by this date will be refunded less a \$75 processing fee. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after July 25, 2025. Substitutions are acceptable and must be made in writing no later than August 20, 2025. Please submit any cancellation notice or substitution request to meganh@csda.net or fax to 916-520-2465.

Consent to Use Photographic Images: Registration and attendance at, or participation in, CSDA meeting and other activities constitutes an agreement by the registrant to CSDA's use and distribution (both now and in the future) of the registrant or attendee's image or voice in photographs, videotapes, electronic reproductions, and audiotapes of such events and activities.

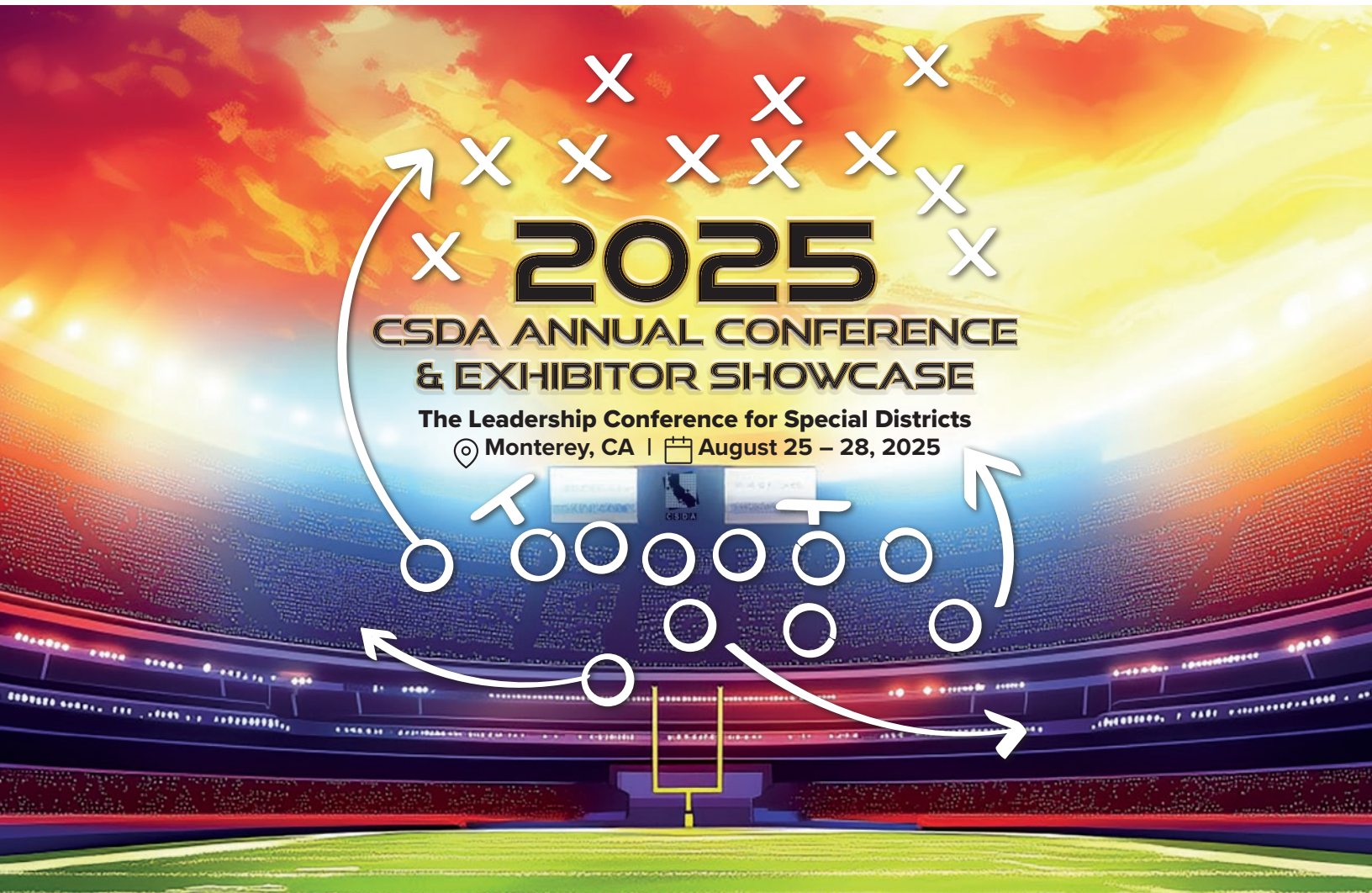
Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy: CSDA is dedicated to a harassment-free event experience for everyone. Our Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy can be found under "CSDA Transparency" at www.csdanet.net/about-csda/who-we-are.



California Special Districts Association
1112 I Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814

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2025
**CSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
& EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE**
The Leadership Conference for Special Districts
📍 Monterey, CA | 📅 August 25 – 28, 2025