



## ***Memo***

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To: Board of Directors  
From: Josselyn Quine  
Date: July 10, 2024  
Subject: CSDA Board of Directors Nominations Open for 2025-2027 Term

Vista Irrigation District has made a formal request to Crestline Village Water District to support Jo MacKenzie for the CSDA Board of Directors for the Southern Network, Seat A.

After receiving that request, we were made aware of 2 additional candidates. Jason Dafform, General Manager of Valley Sanitary District, and Rodd Leja, Director of Jurupa Area Recreation & Park District.

Please see the attached candidate information sheets and candidate statements for Jo MacKenzie, Jason Dafform and Rodd Leja.

All selected CSDA Board Members will be introduced at the Annual Conference in Indian Wells, CA in September 2024.

Electronic ballots were emailed to the District on June 10, 2024, and our vote must be received by 5 PM on July 26, 2024.



## **RE-ELECT JO MACKENZIE**

### **PROVEN EXPERIENCE LEADING SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

- **DEDICATED**
- **FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE**
- **COMMITTED TO SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

It has been a privilege and honor to serve on the CSDA Board of Directors (Board) representing the Southern Network. Serving on the Board requires a commitment of time; I am in Sacramento at least twice a month for CSDA meetings. I have served as President, Vice President and Treasurer, and served as a Chair and/or member of the various committees. In 2010 and 2011, respectively, I was recognized as CSDA's Legislative Advocate of the Year and by PublicCEO as Special District Official of the Year.

During my tenure on the CSDA Board, I have formed working relationships throughout the Network and State that have given me an insight regarding the needs of special districts. Based on these insights and input from other CSDA directors, CSDA has worked to provide webinars at no cost to its members, begun offering the leadership academy three times a year and on-line, and the SDLF Board eliminated budget limits for scholarships. I serve on the CSDA and SDLF Boards, and I am proud of the collaboration that allows all special districts to take advantage of CSDA's programs.

During my term, I have been committed to continue building on the present foundation of CSDA's educational programs, state and federal legislative advocacy, and public outreach. CSDA is now the "voice of Special Districts", "the third leg of local government", and the 'go-to' association for legislative issues.

My proven leadership and public service experience, commitment to fiscal responsibility, and comprehensive LAFCO and special district knowledge make me the most qualified candidate to represent the Southern Network.

I have a true passion for and proven experience in leading Special Districts. I would be honored to continue serving on the CSDA Board as your Southern Network Director.

I am asking for your **Vote**.

ELECTRONIC VOTING ENDS JULY 26 AT 5:00 P.M.

**50+ CSDA EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE LISTED ON  
CSDA'S HOME PAGE**



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

## 2024 CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

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

**Name:** JO MacKENZIE

**District/Company:** Vista Irrigation District, *CSDA District of Distinction, Platinum Level*

**Title:** Director, Certificate in Special District Governance

**Elected/Appointed/Staff:** Elected

**Length of Service with District:** 32 years

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

- ✚ CSDA Board of Directors, President 2011, Vice President 2010, Treasurer 2008-2009
- ✚ CSDA Finance Corporation Board of Directors, 2007-present; President 2012, 2013, 2015- present
- ✚ Special District Leadership Foundation Board of Director, Treasurer, currently Vice President
- ✚ Fiscal and Audit Committees, rewrote 'Treasurer Job Description'; Membership Committee 2011-present; Chair 2020-2021, 2022 and 2024
- ✚ Legislative Committee 2004-present; Chair, 2006-2010 and 2012
- ✚ CSDA San Diego Chapter, Board of Directors, 1993-present; President 1998-2000; presently serve on the Chapter Executive Board
- ✚ Attend all Annual Conferences and Legislative Days

**2. Have you ever been associated with any other state-wide associations (CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):**

- ✚ ACWA: Past Board Director; Local Government, Chair 2014-2015 and Membership Committee
- ✚ ACWA Region 10 Board of Directors, Vice Chair, Alternate Chair, Director 1997-2010
- ✚ The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), Board Member and Legislative Committee member, 2017-2023

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

- ✚ San Diego LAFCO, 1994-present: Commission Chair 2018 & 2019; Alternate 5 years; Special District Advisory Committee 14 years, Chair 2005-2009
- ✚ City of San Marcos Planning and Traffic Commissions
- ✚ Personally initiated the City of San Marcos Budget Review Committee in 1980, Chair 1996-2006
- ✚ Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, Association Director, 2016 to present

**4. List civic organization involvement and recognitions**

- ✚ Special District Official of the Year by PublicCEO
- ✚ CSDA Legislative Advocate of the Year, 2011
- ✚ Graduate of CSDA's Special District Leadership Academy
- ✚ San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, Lifetime Ambassador
- ✚ Graduate of Leadership 2000, Cal State San Marcos
- ✚ Vista Community Development Associates, Treasurer
- ✚ Soroptimist International



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## 2024 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:** 1 year

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

Attend CSDA Conference and Leadership Academy

- 2. Have you ever been associated with any other state-wide associations (CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):**

ACWA, CASA

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

N/A

- 4. List civic organization involvement:**

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.**

My name is Jason Dafforn. I am a Licensed Civil Engineer in the State of California with over 30 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry. I have 17 years of experience as a utility manager working for California local governments, including over eight years working for a special district.

California's special districts play a crucial role in the daily lives of millions, providing essential services ranging from water and sanitation to fire protection, healthcare, and many others. The California Special District Association (CSDA) provides resources, training, state and federal advocacy, and professional development to help special districts across the State flourish.

Today, special districts are confronted with unprecedented challenges. As a special district manager, I have gained a comprehensive understanding of these challenges, which positions me to provide valuable guidance and develop effective resolutions. My fresh ideas and unique perspective will enable the Board of Directors to proactively address current issues and future challenges, keeping CSDA ahead of the curve.

Together, we hold the power to shape the future and provide exceptional resources for special districts in California. By ensuring they remain at the forefront of delivering essential services and improving the quality of life for all residents, we can make a significant impact.

Let us build a stronger, more resilient future for California's special districts and the communities they serve.



## 2024 CSDA BOARD CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

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

Name: ROSS A. LEJA

District/Company: JURUPA AREA RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

Title: DIRECTOR DIVISION 5

Elected/Appointed/Staff: ELECTED

Length of Service with District: 6 YEARS

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

NO

2. Have you ever been associated with any other state-wide associations (CSAC, ACWA, League, etc.):

NO

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

NONE

4. List civic organization involvement:

JURUPA CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

JURUPA DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

**\*\*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.**

I am running for the open board position to bring representation for the Inland Empire to CSDA and grow CSDA in the Inland Empire. San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, together known as the Inland Empire, is one of the fastest growing regions of California and home to over 80 special districts. However, the Inland Empire currently has no representation on the Southern District Board.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Jurupa Area Recreation and Parks District (JARPD). Our district serves the city of Jurupa Valley and a portion of the city of Eastvale. I have been in this position for six years. During this time we have grown our district by fourteen facilities. I have made it a mission to develop relationships with the other special districts in our area to help JARPD better serve its residents. I look forward to expanding this mission to the other special districts in the Inland Empire if I am elected to the Board representing the Southern District

I am an eight year Air Force Veteran, husband, father and grandfather. My wife of 49 years and I have made our home in Jurupa Valley for over three decades. I have served on the City of Jurupa Valley Traffic Safety Committee, acting as its first chair for three years. I also served on the Jurupa Unified School District Citizen Oversight Committee for a \$144 million bond measure as both Vice Chair and Chair. A cause close to my heart is my work with the Jurupa Children's Christmas Party, an organization that has distributed presents to underprivileged in Jurupa Valley for over 40 years.

I have always considered service to my country and community a privilege and would like to continue by serving on the board of the California Special Districts Association.