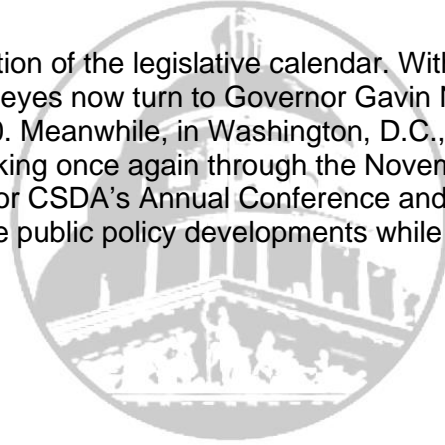




# TAKE ACTION BRIEF

## September 2024

September marks a busy intersection of the legislative calendar. With the State Legislature concluding its 2023-2024 session August 31, all eyes now turn to Governor Gavin Newsom who must sign or veto hundreds of bills by September 30. Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., Congress returns September 9 for three weeks of action before breaking once again through the November 5 General Election. Special district leaders gathered in Indian Wells for CSDA’s Annual Conference and Exhibitor Showcase this month will gain the latest insights on all of the public policy developments while laying the foundation for our continued work ahead.



### Inside this edition of the Take Action Brief:

Ask Governor Newsom to veto costly new dictates.....2

Highlights from final week of State Legislative Session.....3

RESPONSE NEEDED: Your direction will guide our action together.....4

Push Special District Grant Accessibility Act over the finish line.....5

### Contact a local CSDA representative near you!

Chris Norden  
 Dane Wadlé  
 Colleen Haley  
 Chris Palmer (Interim)  
 Richelle Noryan  
 Chris Palmer

Northern Network  
 Sierra Network  
 Bay Area Network  
 Central Network  
 Coastal Network  
 Southern Network

[chrisn@csda.net](mailto:chrisn@csda.net)  
[danew@csda.net](mailto:danew@csda.net)  
[colleenh@csda.net](mailto:colleenh@csda.net)  
[chrisp@csda.net](mailto:chrisp@csda.net)  
[richellen@csda.net](mailto:richellen@csda.net)  
[chrisp@csda.net](mailto:chrisp@csda.net)



---

## Ask Governor Newsom to veto costly new dictates

Two employment-related measures opposed by CSDA have are awaiting signature or veto by Governor Gavin Newsom by September 30. CSDA encourages special districts and others to request a veto on these bills that would adversely affect local government services.

### **SB 399 (Wahab) Employer communications: intimidation.**

This bill would, with narrow exceptions, prohibit employers from taking action against employees who decline to participate in employer-sponsored meetings or receive communications, the purpose of which is to share the employer's opinion about political or religious matters. CSDA is leading a local government coalition with an oppose position on the bill because of its unique impacts on local government workplaces where routine activities may be regarded as political matters.

We remain opposed to SB 399 notwithstanding recent amendments to add an exception for certain public entity communications to their employees. Exceptions in the bill are too narrow to satisfactorily address the risks associated with routine government meetings and employee engagement.

### **AB 2561 (McKinnor) Local public employees: vacant positions.**

This bill would require every local agency (even agencies without represented workforces) to present the status of vacancies and recruitment and retention efforts during a public hearing before the governing board at least once per fiscal year. The recognized employee organization for a bargaining unit shall be entitled to make a presentation at the public hearing at which the public agency presents the status of vacancies and recruitment and retention efforts for positions within that bargaining unit. Agencies with high vacancy rates of 20 percent or more of the total number of authorized full-time positions shall, upon request by the recognized employee organization, provide additional detailed information at the public hearing, as specified.

Requiring local agencies to meet to discuss employment vacancies will divert local agencies' resources without resolving the root causes of vacancies. The bill requires this meeting to occur every year and applies to all local agencies (cities, counties, and thousands of special districts) regardless of an agency's vacancy rates.

### **TAKE ACTION: Request a Veto**

***Special districts wishing to request that the Governor veto either of these measures should send a letter to: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California, 1021 O St., Ste. 9000, Sacramento, CA 95814.***

Effective veto request letters use respectful and concise communication, and may incorporate talking points from this article. Please send letters individually for each of the bills addressed in this article. The subject line for each letter should reference the bill number and "Request for Veto." Please copy the Governor's Legislative Unit with a copy of your letter at [Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov](mailto:Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov), and copy CSDA at [advocacy@csda.net](mailto:advocacy@csda.net).



---

## Highlights from final week of State Legislative Session

Early, Sunday, September 1, the California State Legislature concluded its legislative activities for the year, marking the end of the second year of the 2023-2024 legislative cycle. Among the hundreds of bills considered, several stand out due to their importance to special districts.

### **Now on the Governor's Desk Awaiting Signature or Veto**

#### **AB 2182 (Haney) – Public Works – OPPOSE**

Authorizes a joint labor-management committee to bring an action against an awarding body, contractor, or subcontractor that willfully denies the committee's representative reasonable access to jobsites to monitor compliance with prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements. This measure generally provides that a change in the prevailing rate of per diem wages determined pursuant shall apply on its effective date to any contract exceeding \$35 million and meeting certain requirements, for which notice to bidders is published after July 1, 2026.

**Result:** *Sent to the Governor for signature on 8/31/2024.*

#### **SB 937 (Wiener), – Development Related Fees – OPPOSE**

Among other things, for certain residential developments, this measure will generally prohibit the collection of on impact fees until the completion of the development at final inspection or certificate of occupancy. It prohibits the collection of interest on deferred fees. Additionally, it locks those fees in at the point where the development has been approved and is eligible to pull a building permit. Amendments that included a five-year cap on deferred fees if a permitted project has not broken ground were recently added. Late Amendments created an exclusive list of the service types that are allowed to be an exception to the collection of fees at certificate of occupancy and collected at the beginning of a project. Additionally, the late amendments created a new and conflicting legal standard for the collection of water and sewer connection and capacity fees and place this new standard in a different, inappropriate section of the Government Code.

**Result:** *Sent to the Governor for signature on 8/28/2024.*

### **Failed Passage**

#### **SB 830 (Smallwood-Cuevas) Public Works – OPPOSE**

SB 830, which has sat dormant for over a year was recently amended in the waning days of the legislative session to apply prevailing wage to off-site sheet fabrication related to ducting and heating (HVAC), ventilation and air conditioning. The bill required out of state offsite fabricators to enter a contractual agreement to pay prevailing wage. The fabricator would have to provide certified payroll records and time records within five days of the employee being paid. This would set a precedent for off-site work to be regulated globally for prevailing wage.

**Result:** *Moved to the Assembly Inactive File; 8/28/2024.*

### **Chaptered into Law**

#### **AB 2631 (M. Fong) Local agencies: ethics training – CSDA CO-SPONSOR**

This bill provides the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) the authority to offer a free ethics training course for public agency officials. While the Commission had been offering this course for the last several years, the course platform has been aging and needs an investment to become more widely accessible. This bill is necessary so that the Commission can be provided with the requisite appropriation from the state to make changes to the course platform. This measure is co-sponsored along with the California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities.

**Result:** *Chaptered 8/26/2024.*



CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION PRIORITIES

# TAKE ACTION BRIEF

---

## RESPONSE NEEDED: Your direction will guide our action together

With the 2023-2024 State Legislative Session officially in the books as of August 31, it is now time for CSDA to begin preparing for the 2024-2025 Session. **Please take a moment to help guide our advocacy by completing [this survey](#) no later than September 20.**

### [COMPLETE CSDA ADVOCACY PRIORITIES SURVEY](#)

CSDA's strength is in our membership. Arguably, the key to special districts' efficiency and effectiveness is their focused service. Similarly, CSDA's success in the Capitol is largely dependent upon our ability to unify our more than 1,000 members behind a focused purpose. To do that, we need your response to our Advocacy Priorities Survey.

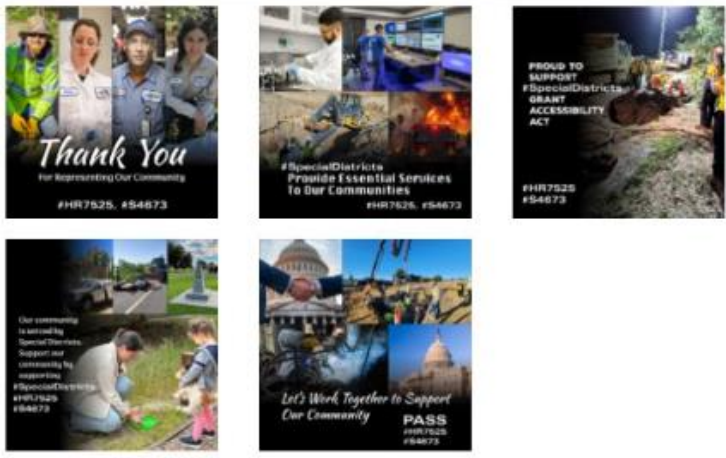
Soon after the November election, legislators will gather in Sacramento to swear-in for the 2025-2026 State Legislative Session and CSDA's advocacy priorities will be determined by our membership. CSDA's Legislative Committee will meet in October to provide direction to our lobbyists using your responses as guidance.

To best represent and serve California's 2,000 special districts, we depend on your input.



## Push Special District Grant Accessibility Act over the finish line

With Congress returning for three weeks of action in September, now is the time to voice your support for the Special District Grant Accessibility Act (SDGAA) using our Digital Toolkit:



SDGAA embodies the National Special District Coalition’s (NSDC’s) longstanding legislative objective of codifying in federal law a first-ever, formal definition of “special district.” In addition to establishing such a definition, the SDGAA would direct federal agencies to recognize special districts as local governments for the purpose of ensuring that districts are eligible to receive appropriate forms of federal assistance, including funding and resources through key grant programs.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) approved SDGAA Wednesday, July 31 on a 10-1 vote. Senator Laphonza Bulter of California, who sits as a member of HSGAC, was among those voting “aye”.

Having already passed off the House floor, the strong support for the SDGAA in HSGAC well positions the legislation heading into Congress’ summer recess. Our collective goal will be to secure SDGAA floor time this fall.

Those in support of SDGAA should continue to raise the importance of the measure with your U.S. Senators, respectfully requesting their cosponsorship and favorable consideration when the bill comes up later this year.

[View the July 31, 2024 Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee action on H.R. 7525](#)

[View the May 6, 2024 House Floor action on H.R. 7525](#)

[View the March 7, 2024 House Oversight and Accountability Committee action on H.R. 7525](#)

Learn more and sign-on to CSDA’s coalition letters at [csda.net/GrantAccessibility](https://csda.net/GrantAccessibility).





---

## OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

### Learn More

#### Special District Leadership Academy Conference

November 3 – 6, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton San Rafael – Marin County

Register at [sdla.csda.net](https://sdla.csda.net)

#### 2024 Board Secretary / Clerk Conference

October 21 - 23, 2024

San Diego Marriott Mission Valley - San Diego, CA

Register at [csda.net/BoardSecretary](https://csda.net/BoardSecretary)

### Join Today

Join an Expert Feedback Team to provide CSDA staff with invaluable insights on policy issues. Email [updates@csda.net](mailto:updates@csda.net) to inquire about joining one of the following teams:

- Environment & Disaster Preparedness
- Governance
- Human Resources & Personnel
- Local Revenue
- Public Works, Facilities, and State Infrastructure Investment & Partnership

### Stay Informed

In addition to the many ways you can **TAKE ACTION** with CSDA's advocacy efforts, CSDA offers a variety of tools to keep you up-to-date and assist you in your district's legislative and public outreach. Make sure you're reading these resources:

- CSDA's weekly e-Newsletter
- Districts in the News
- CSDA's *California Special Districts Magazine*

Email [updates@csda.net](mailto:updates@csda.net) for help accessing these additional member resources.