



**California Special
Districts Association**

Districts Stronger Together

About Special Districts

Community Driven and Future Focused

March 9, 2023

Four Things About Special Districts

1. Addressing California's biggest challenges – At the local level
2. Critical to California's infrastructure and economy
3. Bridging cutting-edge technology and community engagement
4. Serving California's most vulnerable communities

What Special Districts Do



Employ 160,000 Front Line Workers in Highly Specialized Fields –
Focused On a Single Mission

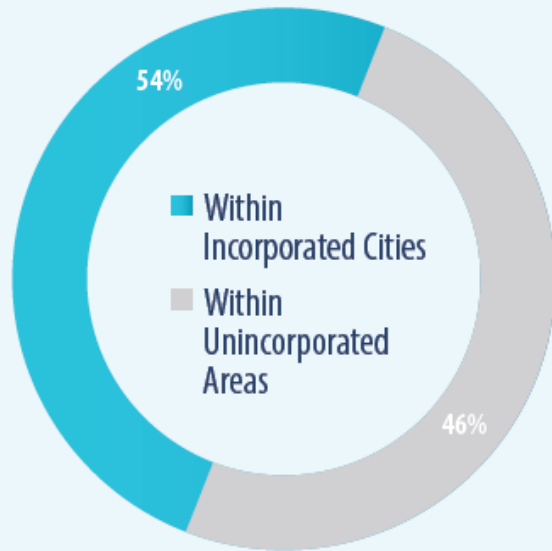
What Special Districts Are

- Local public agencies
- Created to meet a specific need
- Vital to providing services cities and counties do not
- Funded by local voters
- Accountable to the community they Serve
- Flexible, adaptable, and responsive



What Special Districts Are

SPECIAL DISTRICTS SERVE COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE

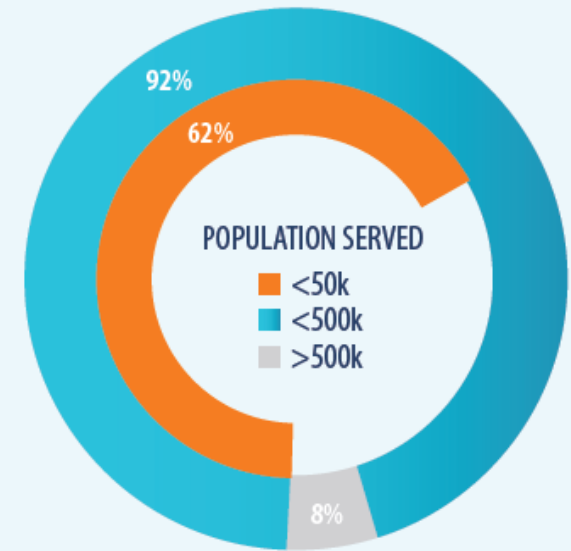


OPERATING CRITICAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Airport, Harbor/Port, Reclamation/Levee, Healthcare, Fire Protection, Sanitation, Utility/Energy, Water, Transit
As designated by the US Department of Homeland Security

SPECIAL DISTRICTS SERVE COMMUNITIES LARGE AND SMALL



Types of Local Government

- **Special Districts:**
 - Special-Purpose Municipal Services
- **Cities:**
 - Land-Use in Incorporated Areas
 - General-Purpose Municipal Services
- **Counties:**
 - Health and Welfare
 - Courts and Sheriff
 - Elections and Tax Collection
 - Other State-Delegated Functions
 - Land-Use in Unincorporated Areas
 - Some Municipal Services

Why Special Districts?

1. Community or region has a need that is simply not being met
2. Desire to elevate the level of service or respond to a challenge in a specific community
3. Potential to achieve economies of scale through regional service provision across other municipal boundaries
4. Need to custom-tailor services, funding, and governance to be responsive to specific circumstances of the community
5. Opportunity to achieve more efficiency, effectiveness, innovation, and sustainability through focused service provision

Formation and Governance

- Voter-driven public process – formed to meet local needs
- Statutory authority and enabling legislation
- Typically elected, sometimes appointed board members
- Subject to California's Sunshine Laws
- Regular audits and regulatory compliance
- Voters decide when to form, dissolve, or consolidate districts

How Special Districts Are Funded

- Little to no funding from state or federal government
- Local property taxes (about 8% share of statewide collections)
- Assessments
- Service fees
- Developer impact fees
- Grants
- Enterprise vs. non-enterprise revenues

Special Districts: Doing More With Less

17.5%



Special districts account for 17.5 percent of all local government revenue generated nationwide, while special districts' tax revenue makes up 7.72 percent of all tax revenue received by local governments.² Compared to other local governments that provide the same services, special districts nationally are responsible for the following share of expenditures in the vital sectors³ shown.

PROVIDING A LARGE SHARE OF THE NATION'S ESSENTIAL SERVICES



HEALTHCARE
33.6%



FIRE PROTECTION
15%



ROADS
7.2%



WASTEWATER
23.4%



PARKS & RECREATION
14.4%



PROVIDING 41.1% OF UTILITIES

- Water supply: 30.5%
- Electric power: 36.8%
- Gas supply: 26.9%
- Transit: 60%

Video – Community Driven and Future Focused



Case Studies



A photograph of three scientists in a laboratory setting. They are wearing white lab coats and safety goggles. The scientist on the right is holding a test tube with a pink liquid. They are all smiling and looking at each other, suggesting a collaborative and positive work environment.

Local Service Specialists

- **Local:** Formed, governed, and owned by the unique community.
- **Service:** Designed to meet the essential needs of the families and businesses they serve.
- **Specialists:** Employ highly trained experts focused on a single mission.

The Keys To A Better Future

- Partnerships
- Resources
- Infrastructure



Let us be a Resource

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Policy Areas

- District Operations
- Human Resources & Personnel

District Services

- Broadband
- Water & Wastewater

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Policy Areas

- Environment & Disaster Preparedness
- Public Works & Facilities
- State Infrastructure Investment & Partnership

District Services

- Energy & Emissions
- Transportation
- Health & Safety

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Policy Areas

- Governance
- Local Revenue

District Services

- Community Enrichment
- Parks & Resources

Thank You

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CSDA

**California Special
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Districts Stronger Together

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THE **DIFFERENCE**

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