



Important Programs, Recognitions & Scholarships for Districts

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SDLF PROGRAMS

A focus on promoting good governance & best practices



SHOWCASE YOUR DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

District Transparency Certificate of Excellence



SHOWCASE YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

District of Distinction



FOR GENERAL MANAGERS AND TOP MANAGEMENT

Certified Special District Manager (CSDM)



FOR DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Certificate in Special District Governance



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SHOWCASE YOUR DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

District Transparency Certificate of Excellence

Renewal every 3 years

- ▶ This certificate shows acknowledgement of a district's transparency efforts to demonstrate to their constituents and other stakeholders the district's commitment to being open and accessible.
- ▶ The Application Highlights:
 - ✓ Ethics Training
 - ✓ Brown Act Compliance
 - ✓ Public Records Act Requests
 - ✓ Reimbursement Policy
 - ✓ Annual Disclosures
 - ✓ Website Requirements
 - ✓ Outreach/Best Practices Requirements

...And more!



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SHOWCASE YOUR DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

District Transparency Certificate of Excellence


What's Driven the Demand for Transparency?

- ✓ Technology
- ✓ Virtual operating environments
- ✓ Demand for More Information & Access
- ✓ Bad Actors
- ✓ Focus On:
 - ✓ Open government
 - ✓ Engaging the public
 - ✓ Being proactive
 - ✓ Establishing trust
 - ✓ Risk Management



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SHOWCASE YOUR DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

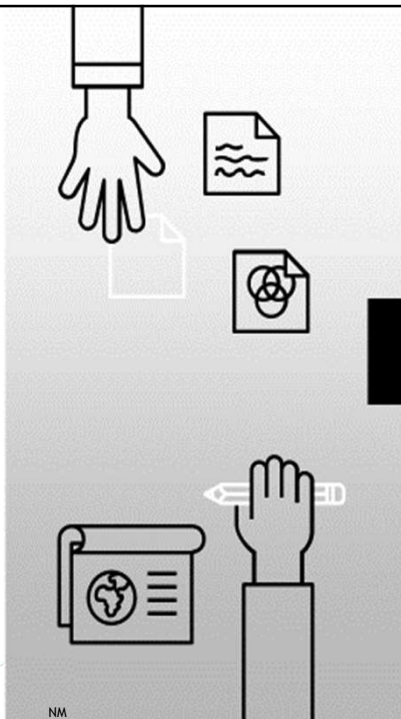
District Transparency Certificate of Excellence

Important Questions:

How do our stakeholders see us?

What do they think when we aren't transparent?

- ✓ Hiding something
- ✓ Stealing
- ✓ Wasting money / resources
- ✓ Corruption
- ✓ Illegal activities
- ✓ Don't have our best interests in mind



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Other Stakeholders: Statewide Reports

Report #239, August 2017

Special Districts: Improving Oversight & Transparency

Overview Full Report Executive Summary Press Release Study Description Study Schedule

Overview

In this report, the Commission calls for special district reforms and recommends several measures to strengthen oversight of California's 2,071 independent special districts.

During its review, the Commission found that the 58 Local Agency Formation Commissions charged with oversight are not uniformly effective at initiating dissolutions and consolidations when necessary to improve service delivery and efficiency. The Commission also found it difficult to find basic information on all special districts.

The Commission recommends the state should eliminate unnecessary hurdles for district dissolutions and consolidations to improve service delivery, expand transparency by requiring every district to have a website with basic information and standardize current reporting requirements on revenues, expenditures and reserves.

Finding 1: Special districts are often invisible to the public and policy-makers, compromising oversight and accountability.

Special Districts:

Relics of the Past or Resources for the Future?

State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

May 3, 2000

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Leads to Negative Press – Can impact all districts



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Other Stakeholders: Grand Juries

TOP 5 Issues in Reports -

- ✓ Transparency & Brown Act Issues
- ✓ Audits and Related Paperwork
- ✓ Board Conduct & Appearances of Impropriety
- ✓ District Policies – HR, Contracting, etc.
- ✓ Bookkeeping & Financial Practices



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Take the Transparency Challenge!

Showcase Your District's Commitment to Transparency



December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021

4 Easy Steps...

- ✓ Commit to the Challenge
- ✓ Complete the SDLF Checklist
- ✓ Submit to SDLF
- ✓ Get Recognized for Your Efforts

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Take the Transparency Challenge!

Showcase Your District's Commitment to Transparency

What you receive...

- ✓ Professional Certificate for Public Display
- ✓ Use of logo on district's website, social media, letterhead, other outreach materials
- ✓ Transparency window cling
- ✓ Presentation of certificate at a district board meeting/CSDA Conference
- ✓ Recognition on social media
- ✓ Recognition in CSDA eNews



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Take the Transparency Challenge!

Showcase Your District's Commitment to Transparency



10 participating districts; randomly selected

- ✓ District highlight & article in **CA Special District** magazine
- ✓ Special recognition/highlight on SDLF website
- ✓ Announcement in special SDLF press release sent to newspapers in your area & statewide
- ✓ Special letter from SDLF sent to your CA legislators & County LAFCo

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SHOWCASE YOUR DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

District Transparency Certificate of Excellence

SDLF Recognizing Your Efforts

Transparency Certificate of Excellence
Cayucos Sanitary District



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SDLF SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. James Kohnen, Special District Leadership Academy, Scholarship

This covers registration fees for the Special District Leadership Academy Conference or Governance Foundations module and is open to **elected/appointed special district board members**.

John Yeackley, Certified Special District Manager, (CSDM) Scholarship

This covers registration fees for continuing education related to special district governance and operations for **general managers and executive staff currently pursuing their Certified Special District Manager designation**.

Education Allowance Fund, Scholarship

The goal of this fund is to provide special district **staff and elected/appointed officials** an opportunity to access new continuing education opportunities that promote professional development and encourage further involvement in SDLF's programs



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SDLF SCHOLARSHIPS

Special District Emerging Leaders Scholarship

This scholarship covers registration to the 2021 General Managers Leadership Summit for those currently in a supervisor position or higher – but not yet a general manager. District must be located in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo, Sutter, Butte, or Shasta Counties.

A generous grant from Five Star Bank makes this program possible.

Special District Website Scholarship

The goal of this fund is to provide scholarships to cover the cost of a special district website for 15 months and increase transparency and accountability among some of California's smallest special districts.



You can find all of SDLF scholarship Opportunities at www.sdlf.org



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FOR GENERAL MANAGERS AND TOP MANAGEMENT

Certified Special District Manager (CSDM)

The Certified Special District Manager (CSDM) is a voluntary designation sought by individuals who strive to be the best. Managers with various academic and professional backgrounds, as well as from all sizes of special districts, can be candidates for the program.

Is it for you?

- Demonstrates your commitment to the profession and special districts.
- Makes you stand out as one of the recognized "best in the field."
- Reflects achievement and that you have fulfilled a set of standards and requirements.
- Improves your career opportunities.
- Improves your overall skills and knowledge.
- Offers greater professional recognition from peers and agency governing boards.



FOR GENERAL MANAGERS AND TOP MANAGEMENT

Certified Special District Manager (CSDM)

1. Tools

Lending Library

SDLF is committed to providing individuals with the tools needed to succeed. The Lending Library offers individuals studying for the Certified Special District Manager CSDM program, free access to the following study materials:

- Public Personnel Management
- Handbook of Public Administration
- Budget Tools: Financial Methods in the Public Sector
- Brown Act Compliance Manual

[SIGN UP](#)


2. Application


To qualify for the examination, a candidate must have worked three out of the last five years in a position of management in a California special district. A total of 400 points is required to qualify for the opportunity to take the examination, to be obtained through professional special district and related work experience, continuing education courses, higher education background and community service.

3. Exam

This certification helps document and recognize a candidate's knowledge, skills and capabilities as a Certified Special District Manager. The two-hour exam covers all key aspects of special district management, including:

- Governance
- Legal Requirements
- Policy Development
- Ethics in Public Service
- Strategic Planning
- Public & Customer Relations
- Organization
- Budget and Finance
- Personnel and Supervision
- And more...






FOR GENERAL MANAGERS AND TOP MANAGEMENT

Certified Special District Manager (CSDM)

SDLF Recognizing Your Efforts


Certified Special District Manager
Laura Gill, CSDM, Chief Executive Officer
Special District Risk Management Authority




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FOR DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Certificate in Special District Governance

The Certificate in Special District Governance was designed to honor special district board members and trustees, and is comprised of two distinct parts: the completion of the Special District Leadership Academy and 10 hours of continuing education.

Education



CSDA's Special District Leadership Academy is a groundbreaking, curriculum based continuing education program that recognizes the necessity for the board and general manager to work closely toward a common goal.

The Academy provides the knowledge base to perform essential governance responsibilities.

You have the option of participating in one-day workshops held throughout the state during the course of the year OR in the Special District Leadership Academy Conference. Attendees at this conference will complete all four modules during the course of two and one-half days.

Application

To receive this recognition:

- Completion of the Special District Leadership Academy four courses: Governance Foundations, Setting Direction/Community Leadership, Board's Role in Human Resources and Board's Role in Finance and Fiscal Accountability.
- 10 additional hours of continuing education completed within 2 years and received from the California Special Districts Association or any other state-wide association specializing in local government.

[DOWNLOAD](#)

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SHOWCASE YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

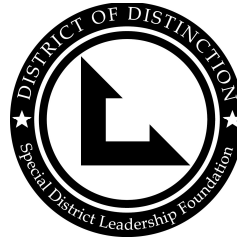
District of Distinction

District of Distinction Accreditation Renewed Every 3 years

This certificate demonstrates that the district has not only achieved their Transparency Certificate in Excellence, but they also have sound fiscal management policies and practices in place.

The application highlights the following areas:

- ✓ Governance Training
- ✓ Harassment Training
- ✓ Policies & Procedures
- ✓ Financial Audits



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SHOWCASE YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

District of Distinction

SDLF's base level accreditation confirming core administration and governance best practices.



Demonstrates a district's commitment to take their district to the next level by also incorporating governance training as a core value.



Demonstrates a district's commitment to transparency, sound operating practices, and comprehensive governance training for the entire Board.



SDLF's highest level of recognition for a district. Incorporates completion of all SDLF programs demonstrating a comprehensive approach to excellence in district management and governance.



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**Take Your
District to
the Next
Level!**

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SHOWCASE YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
District of Distinction

SDLF Recognizing Your Efforts

District of Distinction Accreditation
Special District Risk Management Authority
Mike Scheafer, President





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SDLF & SDRMA
Earning Credit Incentive Points (CIPs)

- ▶ **ADMINISTRATION TRACK (9 POINTS MAXIMUM)**
For management staff accredited with the Certified Special District Manager designation by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF).
2 points
- ▶ **GOVERNANCE TRACK – GOVERNING BODY RELATED (4 POINTS MAXIMUM)**
For Agency accredited with District of Distinction designation by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF).
4 points

One CIP point is equal to a 1% discount on the Agency's Property/Liability Program for the Auto and General Liability net contributions invoice only.

Please contact SDRMA for more information.



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SDLF Raffle Time



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