

Subject **BB&K Weekly Digest: Privacy & Cybersecurity Practice Launch and Housing Law Update (Nov. 5-11, 2020)**

From Best Best & Krieger LLP <subscribe@mg.bbkbuletins.com>

Sender <subscribe@mg.bbkbuletins.com>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Date 2020-11-12 10:10



Weekly Digest

Best Best & Krieger's Week in Review

Nov. 5-11



News

BB&K Launches Privacy & Cybersecurity Practice

An Inter-Disciplinary Approach to Help Businesses and Public Agencies Protect Themselves from Privacy-Related Legal Risks

Legal Alerts

California Clears the Path for Rentals in Residential Common Interest Developments

However, AB 3182 Creates Ambiguity for Rental Restrictions in CIDs

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Subject **BB&K Weekly Digest: Vaccinations & Masks Mandates, Conflict of Interest Involving Spouses and More (Nov. 19 - Dec. 2, 2020)**

From Best Best & Krieger LLP <subscribe@mg.bbkbulletins.com>

Sender <subscribe@mg.bbkbulletins.com>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Date 2020-12-03 10:16



Weekly Digest

Best Best & Krieger's Week in Review

Nov. 19 - Dec. 2



Legal Alerts

COVID-19 and the Workplace: Can Employers Make Vaccinations Mandatory?

Examining the Various Questions Employers May Have Surrounding COVID-19 Vaccinations

FPPC Finds Potential Conflict of Interest Based on Elected Officials' Spouses' Positions

The Spouses Work at Health Care Facilities that Compete with Project Under City Council Consideration

SB 1383 Regulations on Organic Waste are Finalized

Local Government Agencies Should Begin Preparing for Jan. 1, 2022 Effective Date

During a Pandemic, is a Grocery Store Run the Same as a Baptism Under the 1st Amendment?

SCOTUS Sets Aside New York Limits on Religious Gatherings

Insights

Best in Law: Masks in Businesses

What are the Mandatory Face-Covering Requirements?

BB&K Workshops

Local Government Survival Guide for Newly Elected Leaders

On-Demand Workshop via Webinar, Contact Us for Pricing

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Subject **BB&K Weekly Digest: BB&K Changes, New Laws for 2021 and More (Dec. 18, 2020 - Jan. 7, 2021)**
From Best Best & Krieger LLP <subscribe@mg.bbkbuletins.com>
Sender <subscribe@mg.bbkbuletins.com>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2021-01-07 10:38



Weekly Digest

Best Best & Krieger's Week in Review

Dec. 18 - Jan. 7



News

New Partner, Leaders and Diversity Committee
BB&K Announces Changes for 2021

Legal Alerts

New Public Agency Laws on Safety, Finance, Contracting and More

Part 1: New Laws Impacting California Public Agencies for 2021

By Scott Campbell, Jeffry Ferre, Safire Rose, Joseph Sanchez, Denise Grimes, Haviva Shane, Michael Maurer and Isabel Safie

Housing and Environmental New Laws

Part 2: New Laws Impacting California Public Agencies for 2021

By Scott Campbell, Jeffry Ferre, Safire Rose, Elizabeth Hull, Ethan Walsh and Amanda Daams

California Public Records Act Update

New CPRA Case Law and Legislation for 2021

By Annie Loo, Christine Wood and Abraham Galvan Sanchez

Special Taxes by Voter Initiative Only Require Majority Voter Approval

For the Second Time This Year, California Appellate Court Upholds Voting Requirement

By Lutfi Kharuf and Mrunal Shah

Reporting Non-Employee Compensation: A Year of Change

The New Form 1099-NEC Changes Non-Employee Compensation Reporting Requirements

By Allison De Tal

Court Confirms FPPC's Authority to Punish Public Agencies That Spend Undisclosed Public Money to Influence Voters at Elections

California Trial Court Rules on Campaign-Related Public Spending

By William Priest and Gary Schons

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Subject **BB&K Weekly Digest: Redistricting and a Public Records Webinar (Jan. 21-27, 2021)**
From Best Best & Krieger LLP <subscribe@mg.bbkbuletins.com>
Sender <subscribe@mg.bbkbuletins.com>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2021-01-28 10:15



Weekly Digest

Best Best & Krieger's Week in Review

Jan. 21-27



Legal Alerts

Redistricting in California

What Public Agencies Must Know Ahead of the U.S. Census Bureau's Data Release

By Stephanie Smith and William Priest

BB&K Webinars

2021 Public Records Act Legislative Update

Feb. 18, Speaker: Christine Wood

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Subject **BB&K Weekly Digest: New Labor & Employment Laws, COVID-19 Contact Tracing and More (Jan. 7-14, 2021)**
From Best Best & Krieger LLP <subscribe@mg.bbkbulletins.com>
Sender <subscribe@mg.bbkbulletins.com>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2021-01-14 10:06



Weekly Digest

Best Best & Krieger's Week in Review

Jan. 7-14



Legal Alerts

COVID-19 Laws Impacting California Employers

Part 1: New Labor & Employment Laws for Businesses and Public Agencies in 2021

By Alison Alpert and Laura Fowler

Wage & Hour, Leave and Other New Laws for California Employers

Part 2: New Labor & Employment Laws for Businesses and Public Agencies in 2021

By Roger Crawford and Alissa Hurns

Bringing a Case to Arbitration Should be Easier Following Recent Ninth Circuit Decision

Court Raises the Bar on Appeals Following Voluntary Dismissal

By Gregg Kettles and Amy Hoyt

Insights

Best in Law: Protecting Privacy on COVID-19 Contact Tracing Apps

Glen Price Discusses Privacy Issues Around COVID-19 CA Notify App and Others

By Glen Price

Events

Every Child Counts: The Latest in Student Services and Special Education

2021 Association of California School Administrators' Every Child Counts Symposium

Speakers: Jack Clarke, Dina Harris, Cathy Holmes and Riksha Lane

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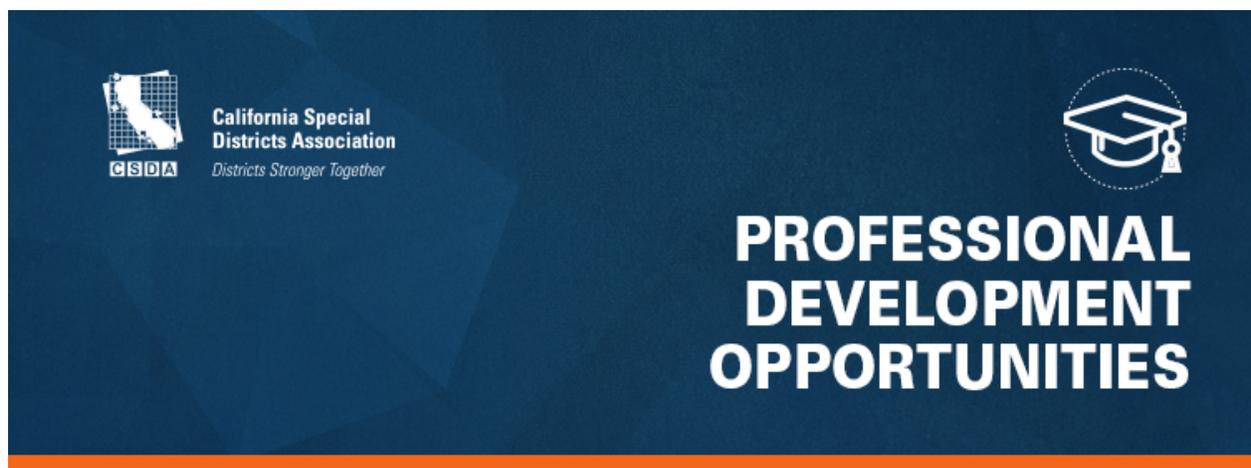
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Subject **Register NOW for The Emergency Preparedness Summit 2021**
From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <meganh@csda.net>
Date 2020-11-05 13:22



Emergency Preparedness Summit

*Led by USC Sol Price School of Public Policy – Executive Education Forum
In partnership with Southern California Edison Company and California Special Districts
Association*

The Emergency Preparedness Summit will be held over 2 half days:

Friday, February 19, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- and -

Friday, February 26, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Free to CSDA Members

\$340 / Non-member

*Attendees will earn a certificate from USC Sol Price School of Public Policy Executive Education Forum

Join renowned industry experts and USC Price faculty to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-life experience, the key topics covered during the program will include the following:

- Security
- Management of an Emergency
- Critical Contacts in an Emergency
- Infrastructure Readiness
- Managing Assets Pre and Post Emergency

Register Now

This is a TWO-PART Registration.

After registering with CSDA, attendees will be emailed a link to finalize their registration on the USC platform.

This event will be live closed captioned, in some instances, using AI technologies and, therefore, may not be fully accurate. It is requested that individuals requiring auxiliary aids such as sign language interpreters and alternative format materials notify USC Price, acoelho@usc.edu at least 60 days prior to the event. Upon request, a full transcript is available after the event by emailing acoelho@usc.edu. Every reasonable effort will be made to provide reasonable accommodations in an effective and timely manner.



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Subject **CSDA eNews 12/1/20: New Laws #8 Brown Act Gets Social, 2021 Transparency Challenge, Webinars & more**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>

Date 2020-12-01 11:05



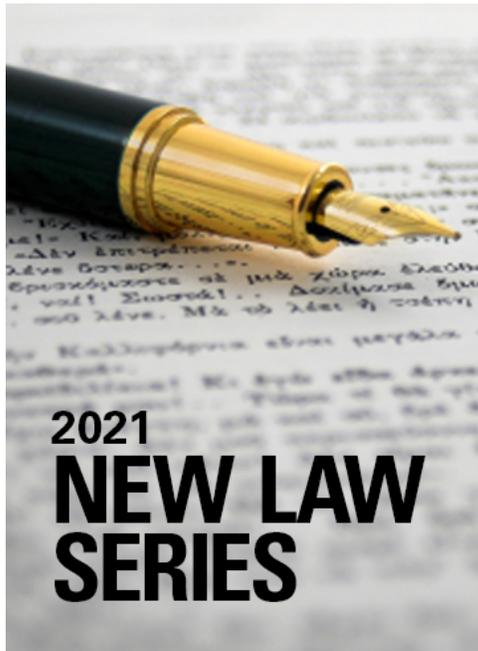
Webinar: Telecommuting Policies

Thursday, December 10, 2020
 10:00 -11:30 a.m.
 \$25 CSDA Member | \$40 Non-member

[Register for Event](#)

CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

December 1, 2020



The Brown Act Meets Social Media: What Public Officials Can and Cannot Post on Social Media Under the Recently Enacted AB 992

Public officials must continue to be vigilant if they post on social media sites about agency-related matters.

However, recently enacted legislation, AB 992, aimed at updating the Brown Act to meet today's social media environment, provides greater guidance for public officials. The Brown Act, a transparency law, generally provides that legislative bodies must have noticed and open meetings to discuss and transact agency business...[READ MORE](#)

LEARN

Last chance for Governance Training for 2020!
SDLA Module 1: Governance Foundations Workshop

2021 CHALLENGE

Earn Your Transparency Certificate of Excellence
 SDLF kicks off its 2021 Transparency Challenge today!

NEW MEMBER SERVICE

Value Added Service in 2021!
 The results of the CSDA Administrative Salary Survey & Benefits Survey will be FREE to participants in 2021.

December 8 and 9, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. each day
\$100 CSDA Member | \$150 Non-member

In this informational session, the instructor will lay the groundwork for good governance in your district.

Attendees will discover:

- Why good governance is so important to the overall well-being of the district.
- The traits of effective board members.
- What good governance means and how to effectively put it into practice.

Now more than ever, local governments, including special districts, are expected to be open and accessible to the public. SDLF's Transparency Challenge is a great way to showcase the many steps your district has taken to show it is available and transparent to the constituents and customers you serve.

Take your district to the next level in 2021. Earn your certificate of excellence by November 30, 2021 to enhance your district's operations and a chance to win some extra recognition from SDLF along the way!

This online tool will allow you to create customizable reports and compare data at your leisure.

It serves as a valuable management tool when reviewing, analyzing, and evaluating your district's own salary and benefits structure.

All who participate in the survey in 2021 will receive the free report.

To participate, simply enter your agency's administrative salary and benefits data into this user-friendly format.

[REGISTER](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

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CAREER CENTER

Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's Career Center.

[General Manager](#) – Kensington Police Protection

CALTRUST

Join CSDA endorsed affiliate CalTrust for a brief webinar to provide an update on market conditions.

RFP CLEARINGHOUSE

To post an RFP or receive notifications when a new one is posted, please join the RFP Community.

& Community Services District

**December 8, 2020
12:00 pm**

RFP – Development of Water Management

[Energy Sales and Contracts Manager](#) – Yuba County Water Agency

Ludwig Marek, Managing Director - Head of US Fixed Income Short Duration Product Strategy at BlackRock, will review the current market environment and what it means for CalTRUST Funds' positioning.

RFP – Classification and Compensation Study

[Associate Engineer](#) – Henry Miller Reclamation District No. 2131

RFP – Auditing Services

[Management Analyst](#) – Carpinteria Valley Water District

RFP – Gardening Services

[Read more](#)

[Register to Watch](#)

[Read more](#)



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Subject **CSDA eNews 12/22/20: Special Districts Magazine now online; \$395M Available in CA State Parks grants**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>

Date 2020-12-22 11:03



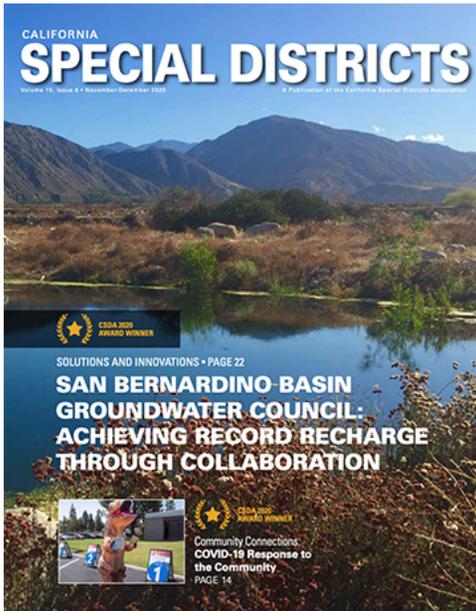
Virtual Workshop: Records Management

Wednesday and Thursday, January 13 and 14, 2021
 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. each day
 \$175 CSDA Member | \$260 Non-Member

[Register for Event](#)

CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

December 22, 2020



Special Districts Magazine

While most of California is working remotely, we don't want you to miss the current copy of Special District's Magazine! You can read our web version for the November - December issue now! Articles include award winning districts, how recreation & park districts are meeting the COVID challenge; how the new bay trail is connecting communities, what to consider before you take on a solar project, upcoming COVID reporting requirements and how it may affect your district, and more!

[READ IT HERE](#)



NEW WEBINAR

Two Opportunities to Learn More About Organic Recycling Regulations – SB1383

On-Demand Webinar: SB1383 Reducing Short-Lived Climate Pollutants in CA
 Free CSDA Member | \$85 Non-member

The SB 1383 draft regulations place a number of requirements on jurisdictions. Jurisdictions include special districts that provide solid waste collection

services. During this webinar we will share the requirements including providing mandatory collection to all generators, conducting education and outreach on organics recycling to all residents and businesses, recordkeeping, reporting, and enforcement. We will also discuss what is not required for special districts that provide solid waste collection services, as well as what is required for other special districts. Even though the SB 1383 regulations don't go into effect until January 1, 2022, special districts need to start planning now to adequately resource the programs.

Learn more from our affiliate BBK Law [here](#).

[Register for the Webinar Here](#)

CAREER CENTER

Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's Career Center.

[General Manager](#) – Mission Hills Community Services District

[Skilled Maintenance Worker I](#) – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District

[Pretreatment Program Specialist](#) – Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

[Human Resources Manager](#) – El Dorado Hills Community Services District

[Production Operator I/II](#) – Sacramento Suburban Water District

[Read more](#)

RFP CLEARINGHOUSE

To post an RFP or receive notifications when a new RFP is posted, join the RFP Clearinghouse Community.

RFP – Rate Study

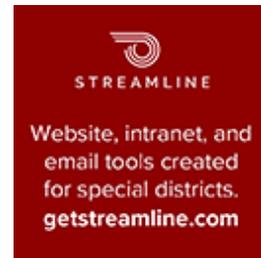
RFP – Information Technology Assessment

RFP – Professional Consulting Services for Redistricting

RFP – General Counsel Services

RFP – Compliance and Equity Support Services

[Read more](#)



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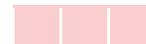
Subject **CSDA eNews 1/1221: CA Budget; How YOU helped Special Districts in 2020; Virtual Legislative Tours Available**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>

Date 2021-01-12 14:08



Webinar: Public Service Ethics AB1234

Wednesday, January 20, 2021
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



FREE CSDA Member | \$95 Non-Member

CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 12, 2021



CSDA Urges Governor Newsom Include Special Districts in COVID-Relief Funding

In response to the proposed State Budget, CSDA Chief Executive Officer Neil McCormick urged Governor Gavin Newsom to include special districts and their more than 120,000 front-line workers in the state's remaining \$800 million in COVID-relief funding.

[READ MORE](#)

Virtual Tours Showcase Special Districts Meeting the Moment



Now Available for On-Demand viewing: Four one-hour tours showcasing the many special districts tackling California's biggest challenges are now available online as examples of districts making a difference throughout the state..

[READ MORE](#)



CSDA Recognizes Advocacy All-Stars

Nearly 80 special districts responded to both of CSDA's major Advocacy Alerts in 2020: one opposing a two-year email retention mandate and and the other supporting federal COVID-19 relief funding. CSDA's success in blocking this costly mandate and securing introduction of bi-partisan federal relief legislation is built upon the grassroots efforts of these 2020 Special District Advocacy All-Stars

[READ MORE](#)

LEARN

Webinar: The Reasonable Accommodation Process

Thursday, January 21, 2021
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Free CSDA Member
\$95 Non-member

The interactive and reasonable accommodation process is rife with potential legal landmines, and employers can incur significant liability when they fail to recognize or avoid them. This session will address common mistakes made by employers when managing workplace accommodations and provide practical perspectives and strategies to reduce legal risk.

[Register Here](#)

CAREER CENTER

Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's Career Center.

[Finance Manager](#) – Heber Public Utility District

[Diversity and Inclusion Officer](#) – East Bay Municipal Utility District

[General Manager](#) – Alameda County Water District

[Firefighter/Paramedic Recruitment](#) – San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

[Information Security Manager](#) – Placer County Water District

[Read more](#)

RFP

To post an RFP or receive notifications when a new RFP is posted, join the RFP Clearinghouse Community.

RFP – District Engineer and Construction Inspection Services

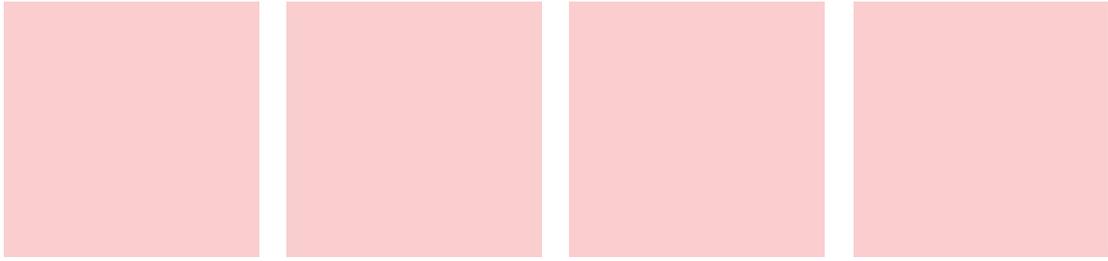
RFP – Exterior Painting

RFP – Audit Services

RFP – OPEB Trust Actuarial Services

RFP – Rate Study

[Read more](#)



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Subject **CSDA eNews 11/17/20: New Laws #6, CalPERS Action has Been Heard, plus NEW Call to Action!**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>

Date 2020-11-17 11:06



Webinar: Certified Special District Manager Study Group

[Register for Event](#)

Meets once a month beginning in January 2021

\$100 CSDA Members & Non-Members
 *Price for full year, and can be applied to final application fee

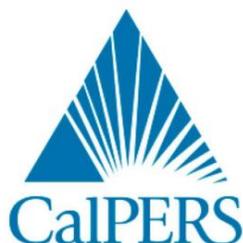
CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 17, 2020



Call to Action: Draft Regulations Threaten Districts' Authority to Lease Land

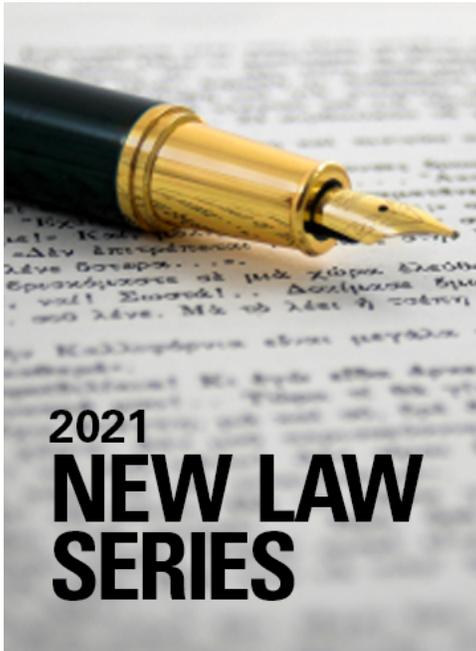
California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released Surplus Land Act (SLA) draft guidelines that threaten special districts' authority to lease land. CSDA encourages all special districts who lease land or may otherwise be impacted by these guidelines to submit comment...[READ MORE](#)



CalPERS Delays Adoption of Controversial Decision as Precedential

CSDA member's voices have been heard and CalPERS has again delayed taking action that could impose significant new pension liability on retired annuitants and public agencies. CalPERS deferred bringing consideration of the Administrative Law Judge's (ALJ) decision in the Lang matter as precedential before the Board of Administration last week. ...

[READ MORE](#)



Constitutional Clarifications Support District Discretion on Ratemaking

Two recent developments involving water rates are of interest to California's public water providers and may influence similar applications for other utilities. Both are good news, and both benefited from the support of CSDA. The first, a Supreme Court decision, holds that water rates are not subject to referendum. The second, a statute, clarifies that water rates may recover the cost to provide fire flows..

[READ MORE](#)

LEARN

Virtual Workshop: Records Management

January 13 & 14 (Two half-day sessions)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each day
\$175 CSDA Member | \$260 Non-member

Presenter: Diane Gladwell, Gladwell Governmental Services, Inc.

This interactive workshop will provide information about legal requirements and best practices for e-mail, records retention, and technology options for managing electronic records. This session will also cover: media and devices, terminology, electronic records and e-mail retention, document imaging systems, software solutions, and taxonomies.

**Need help paying for this workshop? 2021 SDLF scholarship funds are available to cover the cost. Email Amberp@sdlf.org for an application. No district budget limit!

[REGISTER](#)

MEMBER SERVICES

On-Boarding Your New Board Members

If your district has brand-new board members, CSDA's updated Special District Board Member Handbook is perfect for introducing newly elected officials to the world of special districts.

Even seasoned board members will appreciate being kept current!

Topics include roles and responsibilities, accountability, ethics laws, the Brown Act, and more.

To download a free copy, login to csda.net and visit the Publications and Reference Materials section of the Knowledge Base.

[VIEW HANDBOOK](#)



**Payment Services/
Merchant Services**
CSDA Endorsed Affiliate

Easier Member Payments-Below Market Rates

AllPaid (formerly GovPayNet) is honored to be selected as CSDA's Endorsed Affiliate for **Payment Services/Merchant Services**. AllPaid's payment platform provides CSDA and its members a secure industry leading payment solution with exceptional customer service and support. These services are available at below market, pre-negotiated rates, exclusively for CSDA members.

Member Rate Options:



There are two member rate options to choose from based on the member's average transaction size.

AllPaid Key Features and Benefits:

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www.allpaid.com csdamembers@allpaid.com (916) 500-4941

CAREER CENTER

Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's Career Center.

[Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board](#) – Oakdale Irrigation District

[Principal Transportation Planner](#) – Alameda County Transportation Commission

[Senior Irrigation Specialist](#) – Southgate Recreation & Park District

[Park and Golf Operations Manager](#) – Cosumnes Community Services District

[Read more](#)

SDLF SCHOLARSHIPS

Is Your District Welcoming a New Board Member Soon?

SDLF offers scholarships for the education needed to get your Board members prepared to serve their community!

Get them started off on the right foot with required Ethics Compliance Training on our list of webinars!

2020 Scholarship Funds are still available.

Apply today!

[Learn More](#)

RFP CLEARINGHOUSE

To post an RFP or receive notifications when a new one is posted, please join the RFP Community.

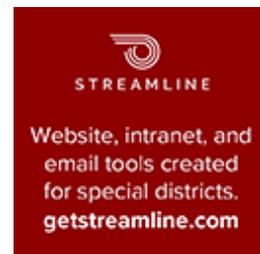
RFP – Auditing Services

RFP – Gardening Services

RFQ – Community Opinion Survey

RFP – Grant Administration Services

[Read more](#)



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Subject **CSDA eNews 12/8/20: New Laws #9 CA Voting Rights Development; 2021 Training Opportunities**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>

Date 2020-12-08 10:52



Webinar: New Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Safety Standard

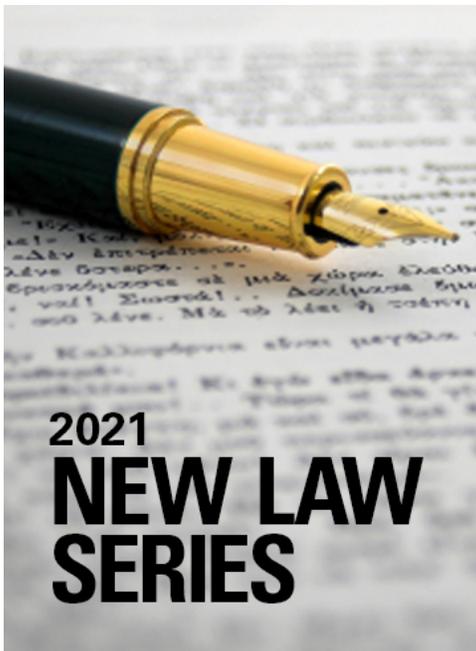
[Register for Event](#)

Tuesday, December 15, 2020
10:00 -11:00 a.m.

Free CSDA Member | \$40 Non-member

CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

December 8, 2020



Developments Concerning the California Voting Rights Act Could Affect Special District Elections

The California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA") is a well-known statute. Many special districts have responded in recent years to demands by potential CVRA litigants to convert to district elections.

The legislature did not make any changes to the CVRA in the recently concluded legislative session. But this year, there was a significant court decision interpreting the act. There was also an important development involving the 2020 Census that may affect how special districts respond to potential CVRA lawsuits..[READ MORE](#)

Kick off the New Year with updated Free webinar training for members:

Brown Act Principles



Thursday, January 14, 2021
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Public Service Ethics AB 1234
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for Supervisors
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[Click to view the complete list of offerings](#)



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CAREER CENTER

Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's Career Center.

[Skilled Maintenance Worker I](#) – Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District

[Production Operator I/II](#) – Sacramento Suburban Water District

[Director of Project Delivery](#) – Alameda County Transportation Commission

RFP CLEARINGHOUSE

To post an RFP or receive notifications when a new one is posted, please join the RFP Community.

RFP – General Counsel Services

RFP – Strategic Technology Plan

RFP – Compliance and Equity Support Services

RFP – Financial System Needs Assessment

RFP – Development of Water Management

[Recreation and Community Events Supervisor](#) – North Tahoe Public Utility District

[Energy Sales and Contracts Manager](#) – Yuba County Water Agency

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)



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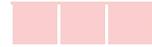


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Subject **CSDA eNews 1/5/21: COVID-19 - How your District Can Access Funds; Professional Development Catalog released, New Debt Finance Tool**



From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>
Date 2021-01-05 11:20



Webinar: Questions Answered: New Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Standard

Thursday, January 7, 2021
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
FREE CSDA Member | \$95 Non-Member



CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 5, 2021



Just Released! CSDA 2021 Professional Development Catalog

CSDA has just released the 2021 Professional Development Catalog. CSDA is a leading source of information and training for special districts. In 2021 all webinars are free to new or existing members. Please check the catalog for important event dates and access information.

[VIEW IT HERE](#)

COVID-19 Funding Relief: How Your District Should Prepare for Accessing Future Dollars

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Free CSDA Member | \$95 Non-member



As part of ongoing efforts for special districts' access to current and future COVID-19 relief for state and local governments, CSDA will host a live webinar discussing how to prepare for accessing potential future relief monies, guidelines for existing relief programs, and best practices in securing funding.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission Releases New Interactive App

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma announced the release of a new application (app) for the California Debt Financing Guide (Debt Guide). Until now, the Debt Guide has only been available as a static PDF document.

The app was developed by the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC), which Treasurer Ma chairs. The new app provides public finance information in an interactive way to help members of the public, policy makers, and the public finance community find information quickly.

[READ MORE](#)

LEARN

Virtual Workshop: Records Management

Wednesday & Thursday,
January 13 / 14, 2021
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. each day
\$175 CSDA Member
\$260 Non-member

This interactive workshop will provide information about legal requirements and best practices for e-mail, records retention, and technology options for managing electronic records. This session will also cover: media and devices, terminology, electronic records and e-mail retention, document imaging systems, software solutions, and taxonomies.

[Register Here](#)

CAREER CENTER

Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's Career Center.

[Chief Executive Officer](#) – Grossmont Healthcare District

[General Manager](#) – Mission Hills Community Services District

[Accounting Supervisor](#) – Rancho Murieta Community Services District

[Associate Administrative Analyst](#) – Alameda County Transportation Commission

[Director of Recreation](#) – Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

[Read more](#)

RFP

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RFP – Audit Services

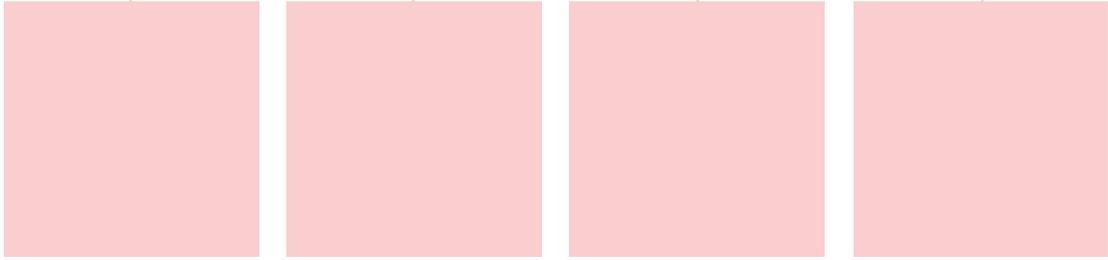
RFP – OPEB Trust Actuarial Services

RFP – Rate Study

RFP – Information Technology Assessment

RFP – Professional Consulting Services for Redistricting

[Read more](#)



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Subject **Your January Take Action Brief is here!**
 From Chris Palmer <chrisp@csda.net>
 To <manager@teamrcd.org>
 Reply-To <chrisp@csda.net>
 Date 2021-01-13 11:12



Help Access COVID-19 Relief Funding for Your District



January 2021 Take Action Brief



It's a new year, a new legislative session, and the same COVID-19 with many of the top issues of 2020 back on the agenda; including wildfires, climate, housing, and homelessness just to name a few.

In anticipation of the work ahead, legislative leaders established several new committees, including the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies and Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.

On January 8, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled his 2021-22 State Budget Proposal outlining his funding priorities for the year and setting in motion the Legislature's budget process.

[Read the full Take Action Brief Here](#)

Help Access COVID-19 Relief Funding for Your District!

You may have filled out a survey in 2020, but in an effort to get COVID-19 relief funding across the finish line, CSDA needs your help again. The updated survey has been made as short as possible to capture the impact and best tell the story of special districts as we continue to fight for relief funding at the state and federal level.

We are asking ALL special districts to please complete this survey by Friday, February 5.

Help Get COVID-19 Relief for Special Districts NOW!

Start 2021 With a Starbucks Gift Card!

Complete CSDA Grassroots Mobilization Survey Today

One of CSDA's primary services is legislative advocacy. The Association is the only organization that advocates on behalf of all special districts in Sacramento. Your engagement helps CSDA influence legislative outcomes.

The first 15 individuals to complete the grassroots mobilization survey by January 22 will receive a \$5 gift card to Starbucks from me. The survey must document a relationship with a state elected official to receive the card.

Take action today and thank you for your efforts to support special districts in 2021!

Complete the Survey Now!

FREE Webinar!

COVID-19 Funding Relief: How Your District Should Prepare for Accessing Future Dollars

January 19, 2021

10:00am-11:00am

As part of ongoing efforts for special districts' access to current and future COVID-19 relief for state and local governments, CSDA will host a live discussion on how to prepare for accessing future relief monies, guidelines for existing relief programs and best practices. All special districts are encouraged to register for this event to gain insight on how to efficiently and effectively prepare for different funding scenarios.

[Register Here](#)

Our Spring Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) Conference has gone Virtual!

This conference content is based on CSDA's Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) groundbreaking, curriculum-based continuing education program, which recognizes the necessity for the board and general manager to work closely toward a common goal. SDLA provides the knowledge base to perform essential governance responsibilities and is designed for both new and experienced special district board members.

Attend for the first time and complete all four modules of the Special District Leadership Academy:

- Governance Foundations (March 24)
- Setting Direction (April 12)
- Board's Role in Finance and Fiscal Accountability (May 12)
- Board's Role in Human Resources (May 26)

[Choose your Workshops here](#)

Special District Leadership Foundation

2021 TRANSPARENCY CHALLENGE -- District Transparency Certificate of Excellence

It is now more important than ever for local governments (including special districts) to be open and accessible to the public. The Special District Leadership Foundation's Transparency Challenge will showcase the many steps your district takes to show it is available and transparent to the constituents and customers you serve.

[Take the Challenge Here](#)

Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) Scholarships Available

Need to attend a workshop or conference but the budget is tight? SDLF offers a number of scholarships, designed to help special district elected/appointed officials and staff participate in the foundation's programs and other educational offerings.

Apply for a Scholarship

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you in 2021. I look forward to working with you.

Best Regards,

Chris Palmer
Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator
California Special Districts Association
Southern Network

chrisp@csla.net

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Subject **GOBBLE GOBBLE! There's a Turkey in the Watershed!**
From Riverside County Watershed Protection Program
<rcwatershed@gmail.com>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <rcwatershed@gmail.com>
Date 2020-11-13 17:05



For the latest information regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Riverside County, please click here



Bringing Riverside County residents watershed news and updates!

A Watershed Thanksgiving

Vol. 4 No. 11 - November 2020

Three Reasons Why We're Thankful for our Watersheds

The holidays may not be exactly the same this year, but it's still important to take time to be grateful for the blessings in our lives. Here are three reasons why we should all be grateful for our Watersheds!

[Read More](#)



5 Ways to Stop Wasting Food

Food waste tied in a plastic bag and tossed on a garbage pile takes years to decompose, releases methane gas, and reduces the amount of oxygen available to aquatic life in the waterways. So here are five ways you can cut that waste!

[Read More](#)



Keep it Cool at the Whitewater River

You don't have to slog for miles to find water in the desert with the Whitewater River, a year-round stream, just off Interstate 10. The best way to safely experience this waterway is by remembering to keep a 6 ft. distance from other guests while visiting the Whitewater Preserve.



[Read More](#)



Riverside County Watershed Protection is a division of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. It is their mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Riverside County watersheds by fostering a community-wide commitment to clean water.

Riverside County Flood Control District | 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501

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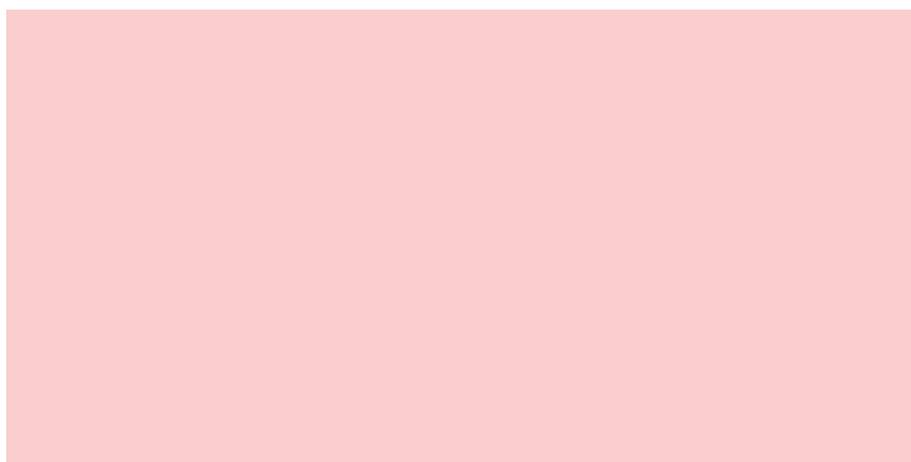


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Subject **Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021!** 🎉👋
 From Riverside County Watershed Protection Program
 <rcwatershed@gmail.com>
 To <manager@teamrcd.org>
 Reply-To <rcwatershed@gmail.com>
 Date 2021-01-08 16:30



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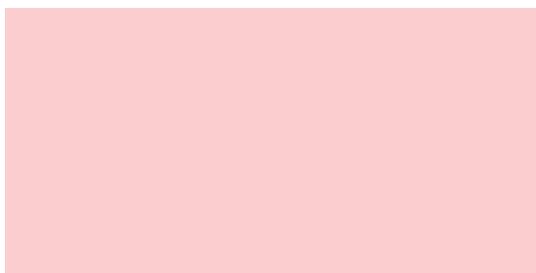
Bringing Riverside County residents watershed news and updates!

New Year, New You!

Vol. 5 No. 1 - January 2021

New Year, New Ways to Help our Watersheds

It's that time of the year again to start reflecting on how we can improve this new year. How about including some resolutions that will also benefit the watershed? Below is a list of resolutions that will help keep our local watersheds beautiful!



[Read More](#)

Adventure Awaits at Box Springs Mountain Reserve

Want to start the new year with a breath of fresh air? Head over to Moreno Valley and check out the beautiful Box Springs Mountain Reserve

connected to our Santa Ana Watershed. Learn more this recreational opportunity below!

[Read More](#)

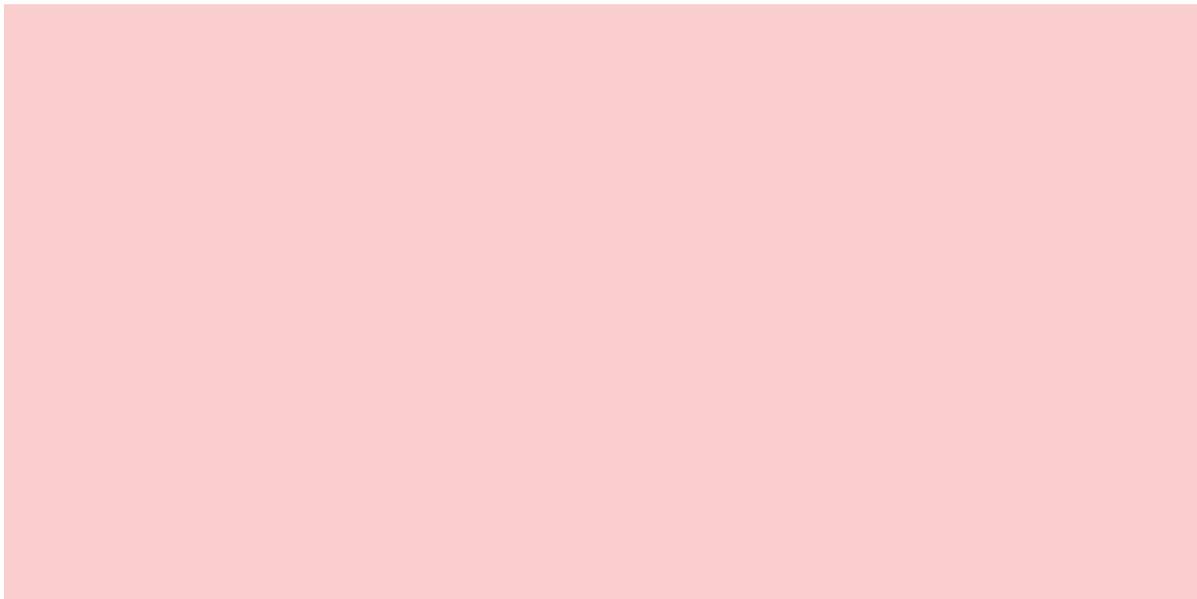


Three Things You Didn't Realize Were Hurting Our Watershed

Did you know that you can negatively affect the watersheds from your home? Some basic household products we use can do more harm than good if not managed properly. Here are three household items that you probably did not realize can damage our watersheds.



[Read More](#)



ENTER HERE



Riverside County Watershed Protection is a division of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. It is their mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Riverside County watersheds by fostering a community-wide commitment to clean water.

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1/11/2021

Roundcube Webmail :: Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021! 🍷🥂
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Subject **With appreciation and gratitude...**
From Nicole Silk, President of River Network
<development@rivernetwork.org>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2020-11-25 08:14



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River Network's 2020 Impacts

Gratitude. It can be an overused term at times, but I've found the practice of gratitude more important than ever as we continue to navigate the uncharted waters of 2020. As I reflect on what I am grateful for, **I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for you**, our members, followers, partners, and more.

You have our commitment that we will remain centered on issues relevant to our community, including those at the intersection of water and equity. Together we are building a more inclusive and diverse movement for our nation's waters. **You are part of this journey.**

In early 2020, when the pandemic brought our work and our outlook to a sudden stop, thanks to your steadfast support and understanding, we were able to adjust and pivot. Instead of becoming paralyzed by uncertainty, River Network moved swiftly. We adapted our programs and projects, creating spaces for dialogue and exchange for our nation-wide community comprised of over 6,500 community groups, nonprofit organizations, agencies, tribes, and utilities working at the local level for clean water and healthy rivers.

The video above showcases our impacts and accomplishments in 2020 – and you can read more in our [2020 Annual Impact Report](#).



I'm proud and humbled to be associated with this organization at such a pivotal moment in our history.

I hope you are, too.

With deep gratitude,



Nicole Silk
President



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P.O. Box 21387
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Subject **River Voices: December - Community and Youth Engagement**
 From Amy at River Network <media@rivernetwork.org>
 To Rose Corona <manager@teamrcd.org>
 Date 2020-12-02 06:14



Download our new toolkit on leadership development!

[View this email in your browser.](#)
[View the full December 2020 issue on our website.](#)

RIVER VOICES

DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE



Impact in 2020 looked very different for River Network and the groups we serve. How did we help get groups, and especially youth, on the water and cleaning up the water, despite it all? Cultivating community and youth stewardship of our waters was no less important this year – in fact, it was more important than ever. Read highlights from our staff about a few of the many

programs supporting these types of activities, both in and on the water, with community in mind.

[Read more.](#)



Meet Your Network: Sandra Meola

"I'm particularly interested in creating opportunities for young people to intern and start careers in this field. I do believe that our advocacy impact will remain the same so long as we are able to be effective."

Meet Sandra Meola, Director of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed and learn how their network of Delaware groups was able to maintain impact throughout 2020.

[Meet Sandra.](#)



Our Gratitude for Your Giving Tuesday Support!

Gratitude can be an overused term at times, but it was more important than ever as we navigated the uncharted waters of 2020. **We want to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for you,** our generous donors, supporters, members, partners, and more. Your support, whether financial or a gift of your time and talent, allows us to continue our engagement of thousands of water leaders across the country.

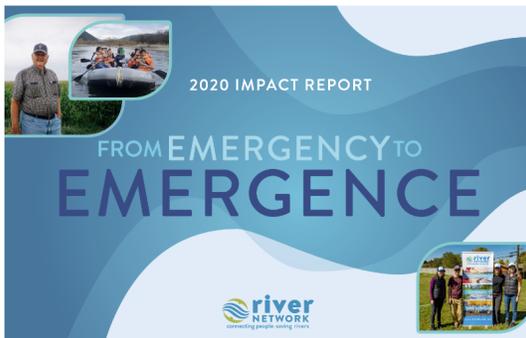
[Support our work.](#)

Fostering Community Leadership – A Tool for Equitable Climate Resilience



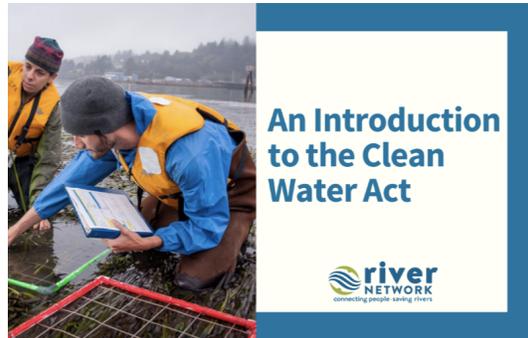
As the importance of addressing climate change continues to be well-evidenced by communities combatting ever-more-frequent flooding, fire, and extreme weather, the environmental community finds itself at the intersection of science, equity, and justice – yet again. River Network is working to identify solutions for equitable climate resilience planning: one such solution is the development and elevation of grassroots community leaders.

[Read more](#) from River Network's Hannah Mico and [download the new toolkit](#).



Our 2020 Annual Impact Report Is Out!

As was true for so many this year, the pandemic brought our work and our outlook to a sudden stop. Instead



WATCH: New Video on the Clean Water Act

Foundational laws like the Clean Water Act are critical to protecting the health of our Nation's water

of becoming paralyzed by uncertainty, River Network moved swiftly. We adapted our programs and projects, creating spaces for dialogue and exchange for our nation-wide community comprised of over 6,500 community groups, nonprofit organizations, agencies, tribes, and utilities working at the local level for clean water and healthy rivers. Read all about what our year looked like and how we are helping the network move from emergency to emergence in our 2020 Impact Report.

[Explore our 2020 Impact Report.](#)

resources. But you don't need to be a Clean Water Act expert to make good use of it. This video walks through the key principles and basic components of the Act that provide a baseline for understanding your state or tribe's water quality standards and how they are implemented.

Get to know this landmark US water policy in our introductory video, produced in collaboration with [Resource Media](#).

[Watch on YouTube.](#)

Science Corner: Dragonfly Mercury Project on the Wekiva River



The latest from our science team.

Fed by both natural springs and surface runoff, central Florida's **Wekiva Wild and Scenic River** (WSR) is a "partnership" WSR managed jointly by a local management committee in coordination with the National Park Service (NPS).

For the second year, **Friends of the Wekiva River** has engaged volunteers to collect dragonfly larvae as part of the national Dragonfly Mercury Project. Because dragonfly larvae live in the water and eat insects, they bioaccumulate mercury and can serve as indicators of toxic mercury. With the support of a NPS-River Network WSR **Community Watershed Science** award, Friends of the Wekiva built on their work to collect data on the condition of the river. Project coordinator, Ashley Konon notes that "[e]ven with the restrictions that we faced from COVID-19, 18 community scientists participated for a total of over 100 hours of volunteer time. The results from this project can help us understand mercury levels in the river basin and what effects that may have on the local wildlife and human population."

[Read more.](#)

Read the full issue of River Voices on our website.



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Subject **Just Released! 📧 River Network's 2020 Trends Report**
From The River Network Team <media@rivernetwork.org>
To Rose Corona <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2020-12-21 10:59

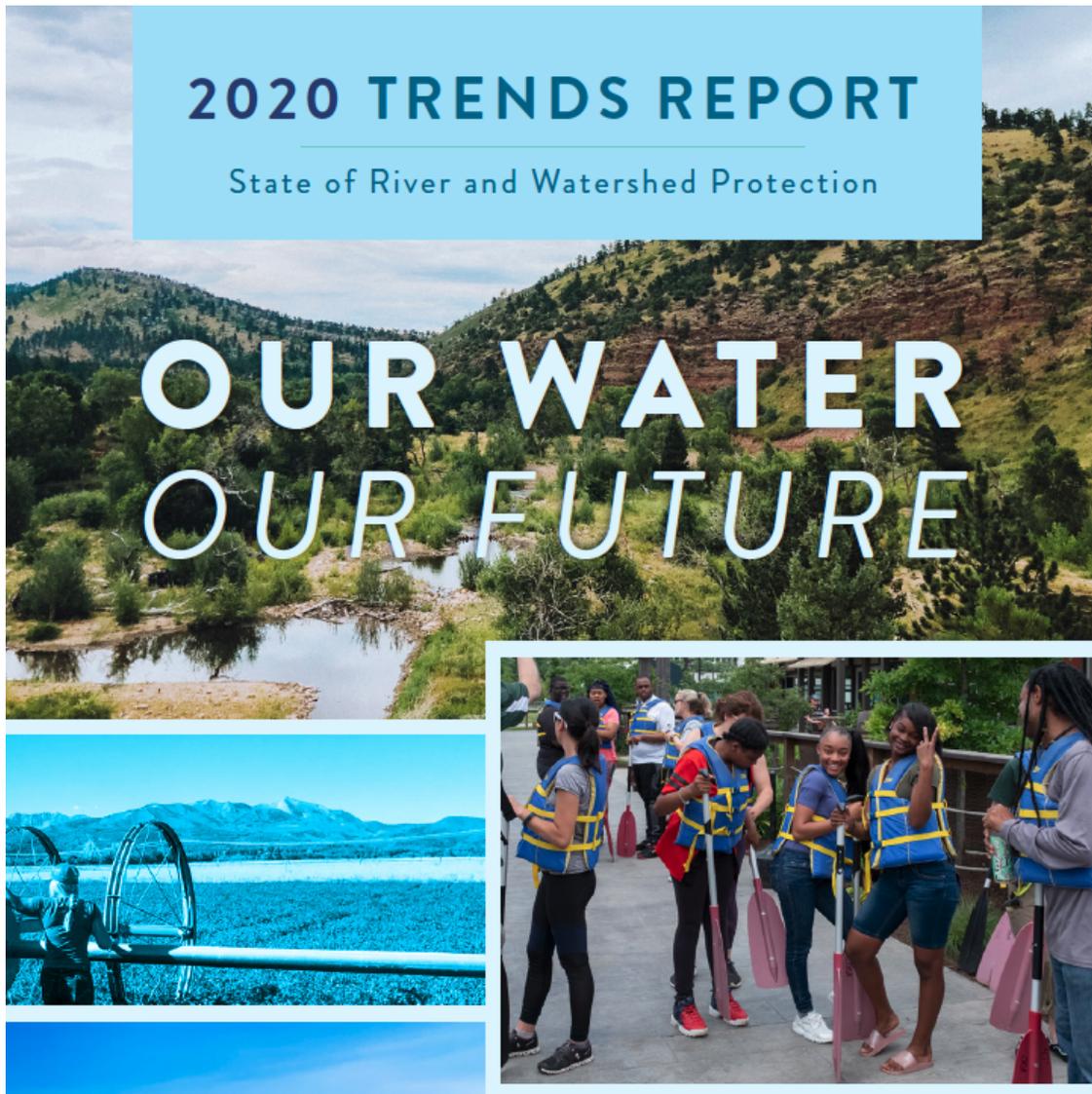


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Just released!

Our Water, Our Future: State of River and Watershed Protection



River Network is proud to release our 2020 trends report, ***Our Water, Our Future: State of River and Watershed Protection*** this week.

The report outlines current conditions of waterways in the US including opportunities and threats to water quality and quantity, and provides an analysis of the diversity of the workforce within the river and watershed protection community, building on **River Network's first trends report, released in May 2016**.

The report's findings point to hope and progress across our national network, with more local water protectors across the nation believing that conditions are improving for their local waters (50%) as compared to four years ago (36%).

Yet, despite this hope and the report's findings that our community continues to expand opportunities for women, growth of diversity among Black, Indigenous

and other People of Color (BIPOC) within our network remains stagnant overall (under 10% of workforce is BIPOC). Our country is stronger because it is diverse, and so too will be our organizations and our solutions.

[Read more from River Network President Nicole Silk](#) on the report, what gives her hope, and achieving an equitable future, and explore the full report below.

Download the 2020 Trends Report

Read the Press Release



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Subject **River Voices: January - Policy Reflections and Hope Ahead**
From Amy at River Network <media@rivernetwork.org>
To Rose Corona <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2021-01-06 06:15



Download the 2020 trends report and submit for two new RFPs!

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[View the full January 2021 issue on our website.](#)

RIVER VOICES

JANUARY 2021 ISSUE



Over the last four years, many of the assaults on the environment may have seemed wonky or confusing, but these changes have real impacts on people and waterways. And, not just to places where we paddle, but to our communities throughout the country that are already bearing the burden of flooding and toxic pollution. Because of these often inequitable health and

environmental impacts, for this year's policy wrap-up, we decided to highlight both what's happened over the last year, as well as the last four, given the upcoming change in administrations.

[Read more.](#)

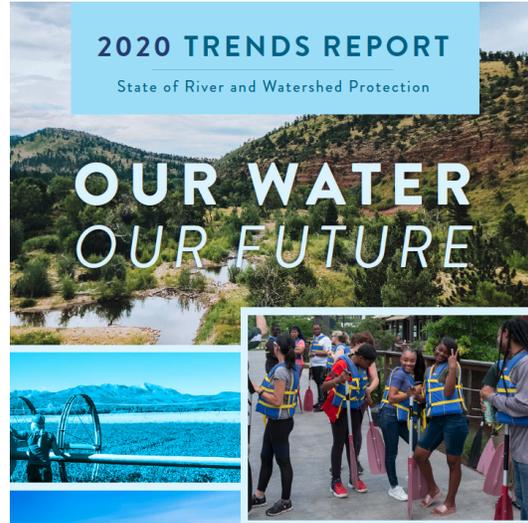


Meet Your Network: Julian Gonzalez

"As a community of advocates from all backgrounds, we need to push members of Congress... We have a lot of strong allies under our tent, but legislating is still going to be difficult. It's going to take some creative thinking and a lot of activism, but it's something that I'm looking forward to being a part of."

Meet Julian Gonzalez, Legislative Counsel at Earthjustice and learn how individuals and organizations can explore getting involved in water policy in 2021 and beyond.

[Meet Julian.](#)



Just Released! 2020 Trends Report

River Network released a **2020 trends report called *Our Water, Our Future: State of River and Watershed Protection*** in December. The report outlines current conditions of waterways in the U.S. including opportunities and threats to water quality and quantity, and provides an analysis of the diversity of the workforce within the river and watershed protection community. This report builds on River Network's first trends report, released in May 2016.

[Read the report.](#)

Building Partnerships Between Local Community Groups and Water Systems

Funding available! River Network and WaterNow Alliance have been learning from successful community group/water system partnerships and are ready to support the development of new partnerships! **We will select three community group/water system partnerships that have a shared commitment to growing their partnership and testing out the best practices.** We will provide each partnership with \$5,000 in funding support and with technical assistance.

[Learn more](#) and submit your proposal by January 29.



Join the First Winter 2021 Virtual Roundtable

Wednesday, January 27, 12-1:30p ET

Learn about building online connections and a sense of community from experts across the Country.



River Rally 2021: Registration Opens Monday!

Join us for the second Virtual River Rally! Our engaging and fun program will run from, **May 17-20, 2021**. Featuring 'live' content including plenaries, workshops, discussions,

Staff affiliated with Groundwork USA, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Urban Waters Learning Network, and River Network will share how we use our online platforms to build relationships, share knowledge, and expand our reach!

[Register today.](#)

and inspiring reflections from award recipients, we can't wait!

Registration opens Monday, January 11 - including scholarship applications and Emerging Leader Award self-nominations.

[Download the program.](#)

Science Corner: Public Lab

The latest from our science team.

Founded on the heels of the BP oil spill, **Public Lab** is dedicated to pursuing environmental justice through community science and open technology. The organization is rooted in the belief that the best ideas and solutions come from on-the-ground communities with deep knowledge of local issues in close, equitable, and sustainable partnerships with networks that bring skills, capacity, science, and technology. Public Lab is the place where community-based researchers can find and share knowledge, equipment, techniques for their environmental investigations - and connect with a community of individuals doing the same.

There are a number of ways to get started on Public Lab:

- **Join a weekly Open Call:** these calls welcome newcomers and connect people to resources and ideas available on Public Lab.
- **Join a monthly Open Hour Calls:** these calls provide space for a discussion on a selected topic.

Read the full issue of River Voices on our website.



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Subject **River Rally Registration Is Now Open!**
From The River Rally Team <riverrally@rivernetwork.org>
To Rose Corona <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2021-01-11 07:36



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River Rally Registration Is Now Open!

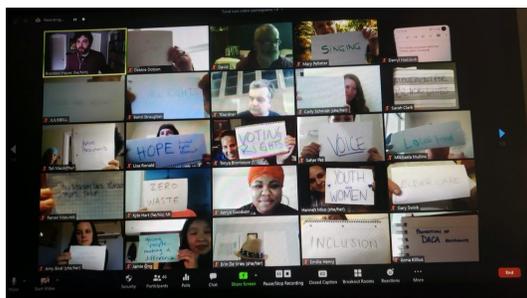
[VIEW THE PROGRAM](#)

[REGISTRATION RATES](#)

In 2021, we're going virtual for the second time! Our first Virtual River Rally included over 100 hours of content across six themes and brought together over 500 registrants, presenters, sponsors, and other partners. At River Rally 2021, we look forward to practical content contributed from across the country, **another incredible awards panel**, mentorship opportunities, and peer-to-peer engagement on the issues that matter most to you in May.

[Read more on Virtual River Rally 2021 on the River Network blog.](#)

Register for River Rally



Apply for a Scholarship to Attend River Rally 2021

River Network offers a limited number of scholarships for those



Self-Nominate for the Emerging Leader Award

The Emerging Leader Award was established in 2019 to provide early-

who need financial assistance to attend River Rally. Apply for a scholarship [when you register](#).

"I appreciate the opportunity to tap into the virtual conference this year. The extended time for on-demand resources is a true gift. This scholarship has provided me with excellent tools that will translate into outreach and creation in the world of rivers."

— 2020 Scholarship Recipient

career recognition and a path to expand the community of people who work on water issues by elevating the awardee's work at the juncture of water and justice. *Learn more about previous awardees, [Megan Nguyen](#) and [Kevin Jeffery](#).*

Read the [award criteria](#) and submit a self-nomination [when you register](#). All nominees will be considered for scholarship awards.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

February 5: 2021 River Heroes Announced

March 12: Scholarship Applications Due

March 12: Emerging Leader Self-Nominations Due

April 2: Emerging Leader Announced

May 17-20: River Rally 2021—see you online!

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NACD ANNOUNCES 2021 ANNUAL MEETING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

November 24, 2020



NACD's Offices Closed for Thanksgiving



NACD's offices will be closed this Thursday, Nov. 26, in celebration of Thanksgiving Day.

Information on the 2021 Annual Meeting Breakout Sessions is now available to view on [NACD's 2021 Annual Meeting hub](#).

We are excited to announce that we have a dynamic group of presenters this year. In particular, we are excited to feature a track of presentations focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Conservation. In this group of sessions, NACD's Tribal Outreach and Partnership Resource Policy Group (RPG) will present on their work to connect with tribal-serving conservation districts. The **LaGrange County Conservation District** in Indiana will also present on their work to connect with Old Order Plain Sect communities.

Meeting attendees will have the option of viewing sessions from a number of our partners, including the Ecosystem Services Markets Consortium (ESMC), Field to Market, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the Indians Nation Conservation Alliance (INCA).

To read the full session descriptions and register for NACD's Annual Meeting, [visit the hub now](#).

Registration for the 2021 NACD Annual Meeting will be \$50!

We want to thank all the conservation districts who help support landowners in delivering locally-led conservation every single day of the year. We also cannot fully celebrate Thanksgiving without recognizing all the hard work of America's farmers, ranchers and producers in bringing food to our tables. Thank you on behalf of all of us at NACD!

NACD Outlines Actions for USDA Review Team

On Monday, NACD leadership [sent a letter](#) to **President-Elect Joe Biden's** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Review Team, laying out specific actions the incoming Administration can do to best

This price will gain you access to both the business meetings from February 1-5 and the convention programming February 8-10. PLEASE NOTE: each registrant must have their own unique email address.

[Register Now](#)

[Stay tuned](#) for ongoing developments and please contact us at events@nacdnet.org if you have any questions.

NACD GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Leadership elections were held in the U.S. House of Representatives the week of November 16 to determine top level leadership positions for the 117th Congress. **Speaker Nancy Pelosi** of California was re-elected to another term by members of the Democratic conference as Speaker of the House, while **Rep. Steny Hoyer** of Maryland was re-elected to another term as majority leader, and **Rep. Jim Clyburn** of South Carolina was re-elected as majority whip. **Rep. Kevin McCarthy** of California was re-elected by the members of the Republican conference to continue on as minority leader, while **Rep. Steve Scalise** of Louisiana was re-elected as minority whip, and **Rep. Liz Cheney** of Wyoming was re-elected as conference chair.

Both parties will continue to work in the coming weeks on committee leadership positions for the next Congress.

On Nov. 19, the Executive Committee of the Congressional Western Caucus voted unanimously to elect **Rep. Dan Newhouse** of Washington as chairman of the Western Caucus for the 117th Congress.

The Western Caucus is a bipartisan coalition of nearly 70 members of Congress from 35 different states and territories who advocate for rural, western and resource-based communities on issues like the Endangered Species Act modernization and the responsible protection of public lands.

"Congratulations to Congressman Dan Newhouse on his election as Chair of the Congressional Western Caucus," **said NACD President-elect Michael Crowder**. "I have known and worked with Dan for years as a constituent in Washington State but now look forward to continuing to work with him at a federal level on important issues like agriculture, private and federal land management, water issues and much more. NACD looks forward to continuing to work with Congressman Newhouse and the Western Caucus while emphasizing the locally-led principle for natural resource management for farmers, ranchers and other landowners across the U.S."

EPA FRRCC HOLDS NOVEMBER VIRTUAL MEETING

deliver conservation across the country. The letter focused on two overarching themes—the effectiveness of the locally-led conservation delivery model and the need for an adequate number of capable and trained field staff to deliver conservation assistance.

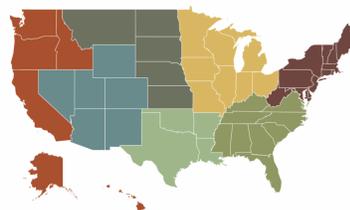
NACD staff have also had follow-up discussions with the Review Team on these topics, including how USDA must ensure that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) capacity in county offices is at a level needed to effectively deliver federal conservation programs.

Have You Checked Your District's Directory Information?

CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORY 

PACIFIC NORTHEAST SOUTHWEST SOUTHEAST

NORTHERN PLAINS SOUTH CENTRAL NORTH CENTRAL



NACD recently updated the conservation district directory maps and contact information on its website.

To ensure we have the latest contact information, please check your district's listing on your state webpage and contact NACD Communications Coordinator **Lucy Sears** at lucy-sears@nacdnet.org for any updates.

Support NCF on Black Friday

From Nov. 12-13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held the second public meeting of the Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Advisory Committee (FRRCC) through a virtual live webcast, which was attended by 229 members of the public.

Over the course of the meeting, the committee had the chance to hear from experts in the various charge topics assigned by **EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler** during the first convening, which was held in September 2020.

NACD President-elect Michael Crowder joins 30 others from across the nation as part of EPA's FRRCC, which was established in 2008 and provides independent policy advice, information and recommendations to the EPA administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities.

EPA will be posting the meeting presentations and the recordings of the meeting on the FRRCC [website](#). Other final materials from the virtual meeting (including meeting minutes) will also be posted to the FRRCC website as they become available. All previous committee materials, including the charge document received by the committee from Administrator Wheeler are also on the FRRCC website.

If you would like to submit public comments for the committee members on the charge or on any other matter, please email them to FRRCC@epa.gov.

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR FRIENDS OF NACD DISTRICT GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION

The deadline to apply for the Friends of NACD District Grants Program is less than a week away! Conservation districts have until **Monday, Nov. 30** to apply for a \$2,500 Friends of NACD District Grant to help fund their project!

The **Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District** (SWCD) in Truth or Consequences, N.M., received a 2020 Friends of NACD District Grant to help fund the first-ever Conservation Days summer camp this past July. The camp would have introduced middle school students to agriculture and conservation through field trips that would allow them to milk cows, brand calves, learn wildlife management, and visit various operations such as a peach orchard and chicken farm. However, COVID-19 (coronavirus) had other plans, and the summer camp was canceled.



This did not stop Sierra SWCD from pushing forward and continuing their mission to provide conservation education to students in the community. The SWCD really wanted the students to be able to learn hands-on experiences and not have to be forced to partake in any more virtual events. As a result, the SWCD decided to send students home with conservation kits that provided hands-on learning experiences, as well as a summer camp t-shirt and backpack filled with educational materials and goodies from various district partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency



Have you started your holiday shopping yet? Help support the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) by linking your Amazon account when you shop during this year's Black Friday and Cyber Monday!

You can help NCF and donate a portion of your purchases from Amazon [by linking your account here](#) and using the search term "National Conservation Foundation."

NRCS Video Highlights Montana District's Conservation Work



The **Madison Conservation District** in Ennis, Mont., was recently featured in a video from Montana's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The video features the conservation district's work with farmer and rancher **David Lyons** to address a stretch of Moore Creek that had been straightened in the 1950s. Through a partnership effort, the stream was restored to a more natural state, addressing flooding and water quality concerns on both David's property and downstream to the city of Ennis.

To watch the video, visit Montana NRCS's [YouTube channel](#).

(FSA), the local extension office and the New Mexico Beef Council.



The various activities that were sent home with students included a frog raising kit, where students were given tadpoles and a tank that they used to raise the tadpoles into frogs and learn about their lifecycle. They were also given a butterfly kit, which allowed them to observe the lifecycle from caterpillar to butterfly. One of the most popular activities was the ecosphere, a small glass ball that contains a completely closed ecosystem of shrimp, algae and

bacteria. This ecosystem is self-contained and in perfect balance, which teaches students about habitat and carbon dioxide (CO₂) exchange.

Additionally, many students received a complete aquaponics system to take home, with the opportunity to raise fish and grow plants from the recycled water and waste. The last item was a mushroom growing kit that gave students the opportunity to grow their own food and even cook with it if they chose to.

Even though Conservation Days was canceled this year, the SWCD is planning to schedule an in-person summer camp for the summer of 2021. In the meantime, the SWCD will continue to push forward with conservation education in creative ways to provide opportunities for the youth in Sierra County.

You can read the full story [at NACD's blog](#). To learn more about the Friends of NACD District Grants Program and apply before the **Nov. 30 deadline**, [click here](#).

OCC'S AMY SEIGER RECEIVES NATURAL RESOURCES AWARD FROM CHICKASAW NATION

Last week, the **Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC)** Soil Health Coordinator **Amy Seiger** (pictured right) was named the recipient of a Natural Resources Award from the Chickasaw Nation Office of Natural Resources. The Chickasaw Nation honored partners in conservation at the Chickasaw Office of Natural Resources Awards Ceremony, held virtually on November 18. Seiger received the "Eagle's Flight, the Visionary Conservation Partnership Award."



"The Chickasaw Nation is a wonderful partner who works with our conservation districts, state agencies and federal agencies," **said Seiger**. "I am very honored and humbled that they thought of me to receive this award. This award was made possible because of their willingness, openness and dedication to continue a great partnership in conservation. Together we will continue to improve our natural resources and provide healthy communities."

"OCC is very proud of Amy's efforts to promote soil health through working with the Chickasaw Nation both in terms of outreach to many or one-on-one consultations regarding conservation," **said Trey Lam**, OCC executive director.

"Conservation has made great strides in Oklahoma and one of

SHI's Living Soil Surpasses One Million Views

The Soil Health Institute (SHI) recently celebrated the second anniversary of its documentary, *Living Soil*, along with surpassing over one million views online.

The 60-minute film, which is available for free on [YouTube](#), captures the history—and significance—of the soil health movement, beginning with painful images of the Dust Bowl, and then transitioning to personal experiences of innovative women and men who are managing their land to enhance soil health

To watch the free film and access free lesson plans for high school and college classrooms, visit www.livingsoilfilm.com.

Farmers.gov Debuts New Conservation Tool

Conservation Concerns Tool

Identify and Get Help with Conservation Issues

Learn about different types of conservation issues that might impact the productivity or natural resources on your farm, ranch, or forest by exploring the topics below.

You can also build a list of concerns to discuss with a local USDA conservation specialist.

Soil Soil erosion or soil quality degradation >	Water Excess water, insufficient water, or water quality issues >
Animals Inability to meet livestock or wildlife habitat needs >	Plants Reduced health or quality of plants >
Air Air quality issues such as greenhouse gases or odors >	Energy Reduced energy efficiency for equipment or field operations >

Farmers.gov recently released a new Conservation Concerns Tool, which provides customized support for America's farmers and ranchers.

The new online tool includes today's top conservation issues that can impact agricultural operations such as soil health and water quality, and works with farmers and ranchers to develop solutions targeted to fit unique business needs.

No login or account creation is necessary to use the tool! Learn more and access the tool at www.farmers.gov.

PACD Creates PSA

the key components to that is a common drive and commitment among the conservation partners, and the Chickasaw Nation is an amazing partner."

"Amy's work is truly a success story of conservation partnerships," **Lam said**. "OCC, NRCS and The Nature Conservancy came together to create this joint position to support the promotion of soil health across the state. Amy has taken it a step further, reaching out to many tribal partners and developing an MOU with the Oka' Institute, the Chickasaw Nation, NRCS and OCC. The Chickasaw **Governor Bill Anoatubby** shares the locally-led watershed based approach to conservation that is the guiding principle of conservation districts and NACD."

"The OCC thanks our tribal partners for this recognition, and we congratulate Amy on her outstanding work with the Chickasaw Nation," **Lam said**. "We are excited about all the possibilities going forward in this conservation partnership."

FLORIDA DISTRICTS HOST VIRTUAL EVENT FOR BEGINNING FARMERS

FIRST COAST

START FARMING

PANEL DISCUSSION & VIRTUAL MARKET



Talk with First Coast farmers and learn how to start farming today!

On Nov. 17, Florida's **Duval and Clay County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)** co-hosted the fourth annual "[First Coast Start Farming: Panel Discussion & Virtual Market](#)." This free event was a chance for participants to hear from First Coast farmers in northeast Florida and their experiences starting and growing their farm businesses.

The virtual panel discussion attracted over 70 participants and featured four panelists dubbed as "FarmHERS" from session speaker **Tiffany Bess** from Apple Rabbit Compost. Noting the diverse panel of four women, Duval SWCD Vice Chair **Jennifer Casey stated**, "We hope that's the future of farming on the First Coast."

During the panel, each speaker shared how they began farming, their business model, obstacles faced and their advice for others starting out.

Participants had a chance to ask the panelists questions and participate in a variety of breakout sessions that included speakers from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who shared [this helpful handout for new farmers](#); the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the U.S. Green Building Council; the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and a variety of local businesses.

on Fall Leaves

cause floods



The **Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD)** recently created a series of public service announcements (PSA) to encourage citizens to dispose of their leaf waste responsibly.

Conservation districts and partners can choose 60-second, 30-second and 15-second scripts or a 60-second animated version to share with their local radio and television stations.

To view the scripts and video, [visit PACD's website](#).

USFS Seeks Applicants for Cohesive Fire Strategy Grants



The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Eastern Region is requesting applications for the 2021 Cohesive Fire Strategy competitive grant program.

These funding opportunities support local wildfire management initiatives on non-federal lands in the 20 states throughout the Northeast and Midwest. Over the past five years, the Eastern Region has distributed \$15.6 million through these grants. The Region anticipates awarding approximately \$4 million in 2021.

Through this announcement, the Eastern Region will award

“Florida makes its money from food, and we need to ensure it is sustainable for generations to come,” said Duval SWCD Supervisor-elect Ashantae Green.

Many of these local businesses are currently featured on Duval SWCD’s 2020 Start Farming Virtual Market. Check out the link for a recording of the event and more information on these unique local farms and businesses.

DECEMBER U&C WEBINAR FOCUSES ON ADAPTING COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING DURING COVID-19

The next NACD Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation webinar, scheduled for **12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Eastern on Dec. 17, 2020**, will feature the **Thurston Conservation District (TCD)** and its collaboration efforts with the nonprofit organization **Bounty for Families (BFF)**.

The TCD, a 2020 NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation grant recipient, has successfully adapted their programming during COVID-19 (coronavirus). During the webinar, participants will hear from **Nora White**, TCD’s education and outreach specialist, and **Heidi Smith** of the Washington State-based nonprofit organization **Bounty for Families (BFF)**, as they describe how they transitioned their outreach online, using videos, live events and strategic community connections in order to strengthen their partnership as they worked to develop a community garden site.

Through new virtual strategies in online presenting and cultivated community partnerships, TCD and BFF have increased community connections, enabling them to reach more local farmers, as well as create a stronger and long-lasting partnership that will endure for many years to come.

These popular webinars, held on the third Thursday of each month, are sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation in partnership with the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To register, click [here](#). If you have difficulty, please contact NACD Pacific Region Representative [Ariel Rivers](#).

Wildfire Risk Reduction, Wildfire Response, and Cross-Boundary Hazardous Fuels Reduction grants. The combination of these funds allows more effective wildfire suppression response, fire prevention and education, and reduction of hazardous fuels to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Eligible applicants vary by grant category, but include state forestry agencies, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, forest fire compacts and academic institutions.

The deadline to submit a project proposal is **Jan. 15, 2021**. To learn more and apply, visit [USFS’s website](#).

EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	2020 Utah Association Annual Meeting	2020 Utah Association Annual Meeting 2020 Florida Association Annual Meeting Association of Forest Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	2020 Florida Association Annual Meeting Association of Forest Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	2020 Wyoming Association Annual Meeting	2020 Wyoming Association Annual Meeting	2020 Wyoming Association Annual Meeting NACD U&C Webinar - Oklahoma Yard by Yard Community Rebuilding Project	2020 Wyoming Association Annual Meeting	21
22	23	2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting	2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting	25	26	28
2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting 2020 North Dakota Association Annual Meeting	2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting 2020 North Dakota Association Annual Meeting	2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting 2020 North Dakota Association Annual Meeting	2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting 2020 North Dakota Association Annual Meeting	2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting 2020 North Dakota Association Annual Meeting	2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting 2020 North Dakota Association Annual Meeting	2020 Kansas Association Annual Meeting 2020 North Dakota Association Annual Meeting
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting	2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting	2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting				

Promote your conservation district or state association's tree sale, annual meeting, webinar, field day or more on NACD's [Calendar of Events!](#)

[Submit an event](#)

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

2021 NACD ANNUAL MEETING

NACD's 75th Anniversary: A Diamond Out of the Dust

Virtual Meeting



FEB. 1-10, 2021

December 15, 2020



NACD ANNOUNCES KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

NACD is excited to announce that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) **Acting Chief Kevin Norton** will provide a keynote address during Tuesday's General Session.

Acting Chief Norton has been with NRCS for 39 years. Since December 2018, he has served as the associate chief for NRCS, providing direct support to **NRCS Chief Matt Lohr**, who stepped down in August.



Acting Chief Norton provides oversight of the agency's programs, technology and administrative operations, along with national direction and oversight for the agency's financial and technical assistance programs delivered through four deputy chief areas, in support of over 3,000 state and field operations across the United States and territories.

Prior to his current position, Acting Chief Norton served 12 years as the NRCS state conservationist in Louisiana. He began his NRCS career in 1981 as a range conservationist in Lawton, Okla., after graduating from Oklahoma State University. His career spanned multiple agency organizational levels within the Sooner State, prior to moving to Louisiana.

Acting Chief Norton has also served in key positions and support roles for NRCS and in support of producers' and partners' adoption and delivery of voluntary, field-based conservation.

Donate to the NCF Auction Today!

The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Auction is a great opportunity to support conservation, and this year, it is even easier to be a part of the excitement. The 2021 NCF Auction will be going virtual!

NCF will host their auction during the [2021 NACD Virtual Annual Meeting](#) to support the NCF-Envirothon, the Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI) and conservation education. The online format will include item descriptions and photos and will allow a bidder to track each item for the duration of the auction. This year, bidders will have an extended period of time to participate. The 2021 NCF Virtual Auction will open at **1:30 p.m. Eastern on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021** and will close at **1:30 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday Feb. 10, 2021**.

Items are now being accepted for donations to the 2021 NCF Virtual auction!

This year with the online format, we are asking that contributors hold onto items until after the auction and ship their donations directly to the winning bidder. Any and all

Additionally, he supported House and Senate Agriculture Committee members and staff in designing the 2014 and 2018 conservation titles of each farm bill during lengthy agency details.

We hope you will join us virtually from February 1-10, 2021 as we come together to celebrate NACD's legacy and recognize our origins through the meeting theme "**NACD's 75th Anniversary: A Diamond Out of the Dust.**"

Register now for only \$50! This price will gain you access to both the business meetings from February 1-5 and the convention programming February 8-10. **PLEASE NOTE:** each registrant must have their own unique email address.

Check out the meeting agenda on [NACD's 2021 Annual Meeting hub](#). This is the platform we'll utilize to host the meeting and all of its related resources. For any questions or comments, please email events@nacdn.net.

NACD SENDS LETTER TO DOI AND EPA TRANSITION TEAMS

After speaking with the incoming Biden Administration's [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) transition team](#), **NACD President Tim Palmer** and **President-elect Michael Crowder** have penned letters to the [Department of the Interior](#) and [Environmental Protection Agency's](#) transition teams highlighting the benefits of locally-led conservation and areas where NACD, conservation districts and the federal agencies should work together to promote natural resource conservation.

"NACD encourages the incoming Biden Administration's EPA to recognize conservation districts as local partners in our nation's efforts to protect water quality," **said Palmer and Crowder** in the letter to the EPA review team. "Our country's almost 3,000 conservation districts, and their respective state and territory associations, look forward to working with the incoming Administration in the coming years to prioritize locally-led conservation."

To read the letters, [visit NACD's Newsroom](#).

SOUTHEAST STATES HOLD VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Last week, the **Alabama Association of Conservation Districts (AACD)** and **Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD)** held separate virtual meetings with over a hundred of their members and partners from across each state.

VASWCD held their annual business meeting on Dec. 7. The Zoom meeting featured reports from areas, committees and **VASWCD President Giannina Frantz** and Executive Director **Kendall Tyree, Ph.D.** Members adopted a non-discrimination policy and reviewed their 2021 legislative agenda and policy book. Virginia's NACD board member **Steven Meeks** and Southeast Region Representative **Candice Abinanti** shared

items are welcome. For more information, please contact NACD South Central Region Representative **Keith Owen** at keith-owen@nacdn.net.

FSA Announces Updated Payment Rates for CRP

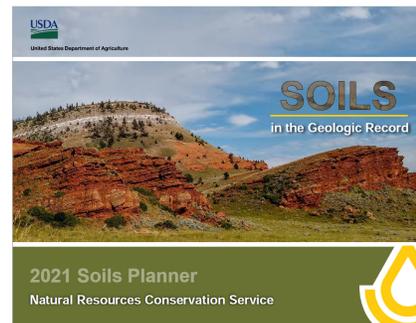
On Dec. 9, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced updated payment rates for certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices by increasing the Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) for certain practices from five percent to 20 percent. Additionally, producers will receive a 10 percent PIP for water quality practices on land enrolled in CRP's continuous signup.

[NACD has previously pushed](#) to increase these incentive payments, and this increase will get these payments closer to the 50 percent cap allowed in the 2018 Farm Bill to further incentivize the enrollment of land that has particularly high conservation benefits.

Continuous enrollments are accepted on a rolling basis, while General CRP applications will be accepted between [Jan. 4-Feb. 12, 2021](#).

To learn more, [visit FSA's website](#).

2021 NRCS Soils Planner Now Available



The 2021 Soils Planner is now available! This year, the planner is back to its traditional size and features "Soils in the Geologic Record."

national updates with participants. Meeks was later honored with the Wilkinson Award for his service to conservation districts. The meeting closed with a moment of remembrance and reflection, including for **Wilkie Willis Chaffin, Ph.D.**, former VASWCD President who was inducted into the NACD Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame in 2012.

NACD President Tim Palmer helped kick off the AACD 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting on Dec. 9 with an NACD update, followed by partner updates from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Outgoing AACD President and NACD Southeast Region Vice Chair **Micky Smith** addressed participants and welcomed **President-elect Johnny Lee** to the helm. The meeting concluded with a presentation of awards, including the Alabama 2020 State Conservation Education District of the Year Award to **Walker County SWCD**.



NCF #FUTUREFOCUSED Q&A WITH EMILY MOBERG, PHD

Emily Moberg, PhD, is an Envirothon alumna and currently works at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in D.C. She also runs the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation, an organization that seeks to educate U.S.-based informal and formal science educators on how to effectively communicate climate science to the American public.



Moberg recently spoke with NACD about NCF and Envirothon, their goals and their legacy. Below are some of her answers.

Why is supporting NCF and the Envirothon program important to you?

It is important to me because I think that Envirothon is one of the few avenues for younger students to learn about the environment – not just “go outside and look around you,” but in a really meaningful “what does environmental science actually mean and what does it influence” sort of way. Environmental science is not taught in most high schools, so organizations and competitions like Envirothon have stepped in to introduce students to this fundamentally critical topic.

Better known as “buried soils,” the featured soils contain secrets of the climate, ecosystem, and fossils of the Earth’s prehistoric past. Each month displays a geologic age and tells the story of the Earth’s soils through pictures.

You can learn more about the 12-month planner and order it [here](#).

Richland SWCD Releases Pollinator Conservation Educators' Guide



Looking for more educational resources on pollinators? The **Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** in South Carolina recently published a [pollinator conservation educators' guide](#) for teachers, informal educators and parents to use with students in grades 1-6.

The guide includes instructions and printable resources for hands-on activities that teach students about the process of pollination and flower anatomy, animals that pollinate and their physical adaptations, and environmental threats to pollinators and what can be done to help them.

Support for the guide was provided by an [Urban Agriculture Conservation \(UAC\)](#) Grant from NACD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Download the free guide [on NACD's Conservation Education Hub](#).

I think Envirothon and NCF are filling a hole that our society fundamentally needs. I think it is such a wonderful opportunity for students to learn skills like teamwork, to be engaged in competition with people who are coming from different backgrounds and know fundamentally different things, and to go to different states to learn about what issues are important there. In addition, the competition also provides scholarships to students who are successful, helping them attend colleges and universities where they may choose to study these topics.

How does diversity strengthen conservation as a field and as a community?

I believe diversity brings in both new ways of seeing the world and new ways of solving problems. One of the really powerful ideas that I have come in contact with is the idea of a frame. What is the frame in which you are seeing a particular issue? That can differ both within a person or across people. It is very easy to see an issue just from one lens, and then not see either the different problems that exist or the different types of solutions that might exist. We have many global issues, and we really need everyone at bat to help. That means across sectors, that means across nations, that means across different groups who are affected by environmental degradation – to understand what those problems look like and what solutions might be. Historically, some groups have been excluded from this work and disproportionately impacted by environmental harms, and I believe we need to fight every day to change that.

To read the full interview, [visit NACD's blog](#). Please help support conservation leaders like Emily by donating to the [#FutureFocused campaign](#)! As we prepare for a new 2021 NGLI cohort and the rescheduled 2021 NCF-Envirothon competition in Lincoln, Nebraska, set to be held in July 2021, your financial support is needed to help keep these programs moving forward. Every contribution matters, and your support will be matched dollar-for-dollar throughout the campaign.

NACD PAST PRESIDENT BRENT VAN DYKE SPEAKS ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IN AGRICULTURE



The nonprofit organization Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO), in partnership with the Office of Assistant Speaker **Ben Ray Luján**, recently hosted a virtual event focusing on the ways in which agricultural and community stewardship can help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

NACD Past President Brent Van Dyke spoke about ways agriculture can serve as a climate solution. "I truly believe that agriculture is one of the keys tools in the toolbox that can help

Register for Webinar on Invasive Species

The North American Invasive Species Management Association is co-hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 12:00 p.m., Mountain Time**, to launch the Invasive Species Data Mobilization Campaign.

The campaign is a collaborative effort between Western Governors' Association (WGA), invasive species data experts, land managers across federal, state and local levels, private landowners and non-governmental organizations. The webinar will feature WGA's **Bill Whitacre** alongside representatives of the four major data integrators, [EDDMapS](#), [iMapInvasives](#), [BISON](#) and [USGS NAS](#).

To learn more about the campaign and register for the webinar, [visit the campaign website](#).

NFWF Seeks Proposals for 2021 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), FedEx, Southern Company and BNSF Railway, are currently seeking applications for the 2021 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration program.

This program will award approximately \$1.5 million in grants nationwide. The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support.

alleviate some environmental problems that we're facing in America, but we've got to have that next generation willing and eager to enter that career," **he said**.

Van Dyke also spoke about reducing tillage, incorporating cover crops, and utilizing rotational grazing as sustainable solutions. "We've got to be able to reduce tillage, because every time you turn the soil, you're exposing that soil to evaporation, and if we're going to mediate drought, we've got to keep as much moisture in the soil as we possibly can," **he said**.

Other speakers included Assistant Speaker Luján and **Kenny Salazar**, chairperson for the Santa Cruz Irrigation District. The full recording is available to view [here](#).



RCDS PLAY KEY ROLE IN FOREST HEALTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In California's North Bay, resource conservation districts (RCDs) have partnered with Rebuild North Bay Foundation and the Clear Lake Environmental Research Center to form the North Bay Forest Improvement Program (NBFIP) to help non-industrial forest landowners with less than 500 acres implement fuels treatments and forest restoration projects on their properties.

NBFIP is being launched with \$1.5 million from a CAL FIRE Wildfire Resilience and Forestry Assistance grant, which will provide three years of funding to develop an incentive program and award projects to mitigate fire and improve forest health in the highly fire-prone region.

Sonoma, Mendocino and Napa County RCDs are forming a steering committee to begin structuring an incentive program similar to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Project application and selection will follow with on-the-ground landscape work carrying through 2023. RCDs will be contributing about \$277,000 in matching dollars.

"We view it as a pilot project, and we're excited to build and refine a regional strategy for identifying and funding forest health and fire resiliency projects in partnership with CAL FIRE," **said Lucas Patzek**, project steering committee member and Napa County RCD district manager.

"Everyone knows we can't do it alone," **Patzek said**. "We all need to collaborate, and local folks with local knowledge and relationships really are able to accelerate things."

To read the full story, [visit NACD's blog](#).

To learn more and apply, [visit NFWF's website](#).

SARE Outreach Funding Now Available

A Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Outreach grant of up to \$5,000 is now available to fund efforts that address sustainable agriculture information gaps experienced by farmers or ranchers.

Proposed outreach or educational activities should extend or support the extension of research-based, and/or SARE-funded research about sustainable agriculture practices. Requests should document an applicant's historical capacity for reaching the intended audience at the national and/or trans-regional levels. If remote learning will be used, applicants should include specific strategies for overcoming the challenges remote learning pose for the intended audience.

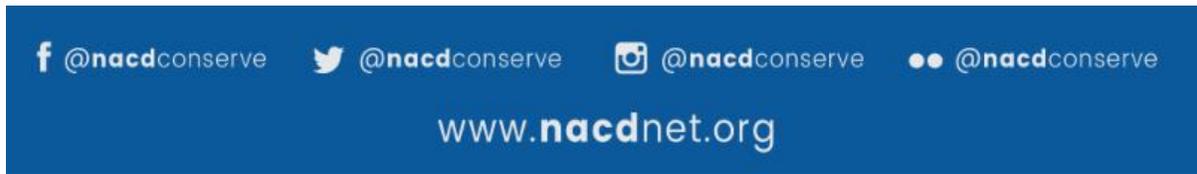
The application deadline is **Dec. 25, 2020**. Projects must be completed by **July 31, 2021**.

EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting	30 2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting	31 2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting	1 2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting	2 2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting	3 2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting	4 2020 Washington Association Annual Meeting
5 2020 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	6 2020 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	7 2020 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	8 2020 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	9 2020 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	10 2020 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	11 2020 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
12 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	13 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	14 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	15 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	16 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	17 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	18 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting
19 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	20 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	21 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	22 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	23 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	24 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	25 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting
26 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	27 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	28 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	29 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	30 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	31 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	1 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting
2 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	3 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	4 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	5 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	6 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	7 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting	8 2020 Minnesota Association Annual Meeting

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The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

2021 NACD ANNUAL MEETING

NACD's 75th Anniversary: A Diamond Out of the Dust

Virtual Meeting  FEB. 1-10, 2021

January 26, 2021



NACD'S 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING BEGINS NEXT WEEK!

NACD's Virtual Annual Meeting begins **next Monday!** Have you registered? **There's still time to register for only \$50**—don't miss out on an exciting agenda full of NACD updates, meetings and district recognition!

The 75th Annual Meeting, scheduled Feb. 1-10, 2021, will celebrate NACD's 75th Anniversary with the theme, "**NACD's 75th Anniversary: A Diamond Out of the Dust.**"

The Community feature is now live on the Annual Meeting platform! Begin connecting with your fellow conservationists and start saving the agenda items you'll know you want to attend. Login instructions were emailed directly from events@nacdnet.org and will be sent a few times over the coming weeks.

Do you qualify for free registration? Registration for the first week of business meetings is free. Registration for both the business meetings and the convention programming is \$50. Please select only one ticket option when registering. Additionally, conservation districts that have paid their dues at a platinum or diamond level this year are entitled to free registration as part of their membership benefits! Platinum level members may receive up to 10 free registrations, and Diamond level members can receive up to five free registrations! New Lifetime Members of Friends of NACD are also eligible for free registration. Please consider [making a donation](#) to the Friends of NACD program to qualify. Contact events@nacdnet.org with your name and email to begin processing.

Access speaker bios, breakout session descriptions and this year's reconfigured meeting agenda on [NACD's virtual meeting hub](#).

NCF Virtual Auction Now Available Online

The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Virtual Auction website is now available to [view online!](#)

You can now view available items before the bidding starts at **1:30 p.m. Eastern on Jan. 29**. The bidding window will close at **1:30 p.m. Eastern on Feb. 10**.

NCF is still seeking donations for this year's Virtual Auction. **Donate items for the auction today!** This year, with the online format, we are asking that contributors hold onto items until after the auction and ship their donations directly to the winning bidder. Any and all items are welcome.

For more information, please contact NACD South Central Region Representative [Keith Owen](#).

President Biden Issues EO on Climate Issues

On **President Biden's** first day in office, he issued an executive order (EO), "[Protecting Public Health and the Environment](#)

Register Now for \$50!

NACD TO HOLD VIRTUAL ADVOCACY WEEK MARCH 22-26

NACD's Virtual Advocacy Week has been scheduled for the week of **March 22-26, 2021**.

Although traveling to Washington, D.C. will not be possible this spring due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19 (coronavirus) and limitations placed on people visiting Capitol Hill, it is still incredibly important that your members of Congress know what the needs of locally-led conservation are so that conservation districts can receive adequate support to continue protecting our nation's natural resources.

Conservation districts face many challenges, from proper staffing levels at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to limited funding for federal conservation programs like the EPA's 319 grant program, and we don't want to miss this opportunity for your voice to be heard in Washington, D.C.

More information can be found [here](#), and NACD staff will continue to provide additional updates on this webpage. Stay tuned to future *eResource* editions for updates and more information on this year's Virtual Advocacy Week. If you have any questions, please contact NACD Director of Government Affairs **Coleman Garrison** at coleman-garrison@nacdn.net.

INDIANA, DELAWARE STATE ASSOCIATIONS HOLD VIRTUAL CONFERENCES

Throughout the month of January, NACD participated in several state association virtual meetings.

From Jan. 11-13, over 400 district officials, employees and partners gathered virtually for the **Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts'** (IASWCD) 78th Annual Conference. This year's virtual conference included an event app for easy conference navigation.

On Monday, January 11, **Damian Mason**, farmer and businessman, provided a comedic and inspirational keynote address opening the conference. **NACD President Tim Palmer**, **CEO Jeremy Peters** and North Central Region Representative **Beth Mason** represented the national association in a session entitled, "NACD Opportunities and Policy Updates." Additional session topics included the economic impact of regenerative farming; understanding adoption and persistent use of cover crops by farmers; a report from the Indiana climate change impacts assessment; and using social media to enhance virtual education.

[and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis](#)," which included [a list of agency regulations](#) that will be reviewed.

Included among these are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s final Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which redefined the definition of what is considered jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act. Several additional regulations related to the Endangered Species Act are also included on the list. NACD's government affairs team will continue to monitor these regulations and interact with their respective agencies on behalf of locally-led conservation.

NACD Seeks UAC Proposals

The NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation (UAC) grant initiative is accepting applications through February 15! For more information, review the request for proposals and frequently asked questions on [NACD's Urban and Community Webpage](#).

Potential applicants can also learn from previous grantees about their projects in a recording of a recent [UAC Informational Session](#), as well as through [NACD's Story Map](#) of previous projects. Please reach out to NACD Pacific Region Representative [Ariel Rivers](#) with any questions.

Updated SARE Guide to USDA Programs Opens Door to Available Funding

It can be difficult for farmers and ranchers to navigate the wide range of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) resources and stay up-to-date with program changes after each farm bill. Thanks to the newly updated [Building Sustainable Farms, Ranches and Communities](#) from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

A coffee briefing with Indiana legislators opened the conference on Tuesday, January 12, where **Joe Schmees**, IASWCD executive director, presented on the history, purpose and mission of soil and water conservation districts. He emphasized the need for funding, the partnership and leveraging these funds provide and the impact conservation makes in protecting natural resources. During the afternoon, over 200 attendees participated in a meet-and-greet session with **David Montgomery** and **Anne Bikle**, authors of *The Dirt Trilogy*, after their breakout session presentation.

Sessions on Wednesday, January 13, included “The Punk Rock Farmer” **Jonathan Lawler**, who presented on local food deserts and how his nonprofit, **Brandywine Creek Farms**, has changed their operation to address hunger. Other breakout session choices included soil health diagnostics – a hands-on approach; and human resource responsibilities for districts. Seven roundtable topics were available for attendees to hear about new and current initiatives, including Indiana’s Envirothon program; urban agriculture and soil health; a presentation from NACD Projects and Partnerships Coordinator **Meg Leader** on NACD’s technical assistance grants; and “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities,” the annual stewardship theme for 2021. The conference closed on Wednesday with the Indiana Conservation Awards presentation, honoring nine state award recipients for their exceptional conservation practice implementation on the land and in the management of their operations.

On Tuesday, January 19, the **Delaware Association of Conservation Districts** (DACD) held a hybrid in-person/virtual annual meeting. While a few supervisors and staff joined in-person, other supervisors, staff and partners joined via Zoom.

NACD Northeast Region Representative **Eric Hansen** joined Delaware State Conservationist **Kasey Taylor** and National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) Executive Director **Mike Brown** for a presentation about the presidential transition and other federal-level updates.

DACD also elected new leadership at the meeting, where **Richard Carlisle** was elected DACD president, an office previously held by **Edwin Alexander**. **Gwen Pierce** was elected first vice president. **Bruce Snow** was elected second vice president.

If your state or territory association has an upcoming event and would like an NACD officer or staff to participate, please let us know by completing a speaker request form found [here](#).

FEBRUARY U&C WEBINAR TO FEATURE NRPA'S POLLINATOR EFFORTS

The next NACD Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation webinar, scheduled for **12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Eastern on Feb. 18, 2021**, will feature the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and its efforts to promote pollinator

(SARE) program, producers, researchers, nonprofits and landowners can easily find USDA programs that can help them achieve their goals.

The 101-page guide covers 62 government programs and has been updated to include program updates from the 2018 Farm Bill. Each program listing provides a description of the program’s available resources, information on how to apply, and in some cases, examples of how the funding has been used. The guide also includes basic information on how to design sound projects, find appropriate programs and write grant applications. To download the guide, [click here](#).

Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Announces 2021 Designation Cycle

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership has officially launched its 2021 designation cycle. [Apply today](#) to become part of an innovative community working to strengthen military readiness, conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, and increase climate change resilience.

Founded in 2013, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that works to advance mutually beneficial land-use goals in project areas known as sentinel landscapes.

A live webinar, scheduled for **Feb. 3 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Eastern**, will be held to answer any questions. [Click here](#) to register for the webinar. The deadline to apply is **March 29 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern**. Learn more about the Sentinel Landscapes partnership and apply [here](#).

conservation with its Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz event.

The webinar will include a presentation from **Michele White** (pictured above), NRPA conservation program manager, on the association's strategies to promote conservation, equity, health and wellness in communities across the country through parks and a variety of programs and resources.



Specifically, White will discuss how NRPA engages communities in their Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz event. As a one-day intense survey of pollinators, the BioBlitz helps to educate attendees about pollinators and also gains important data for the maintenance of public spaces as habitat to protect pollinators.

These popular webinars, held on the third Thursday of each month, are sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation in partnership with the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To register, click [here](#). If you have difficulty, please contact NACD Pacific Region Representative [Ariel Rivers](#).

EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	Indiana Association Annual Meeting	Indiana Association Annual Meeting Northern Plains Region Call Monthly Staff/Head Region Meeting	Indiana Association Annual Meeting	14	15	16
17	18	Delaware Association Annual Meeting	20	January NACD Webinar: Honeybees Farm	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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