

Good afternoon all –

Thank you for your patience.

After speaking with my CSDA colleagues in Sacramento, here are some suggestions for you:

- You may want to participate in CSDA Brown Act training and review our Brown Act Guide, so that you can be aware of options available when a board member is sick and unable to attend in person but can reasonably attend from their home via Zoom. While limited, it may give you flexibility for some meetings.
  - [On-Demand Webinar: Brown Act Update 2026 | CSDA](#)
  - Attached you'll find the updated 2026 Brown Act Manual
  
- If you haven't done so already, you should connect with your county supervisor in San Diego to brief them on these issues and inquire about resources that may be available at the county level – especially before things get dire and the county is potentially compelled to take over the system.
  - Your San Diego County Supervisor is [Dianne Jacob](#) - 619-531-5522 / 619-696-7253 fax / [dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov)
  
- Regarding your finances: you should consider visiting our Consultant Connection (<https://csda.net/member-resources/consultant-connection>) and reaching out to one of the consultants there, such as NBS, or others in our Buyer's Guide on suggestions for how to get back on a path to financial solvency.
  - CSDA's CFO, Rick Wood, has offered to be a resource for you at no cost. He's helped dozens of small districts like yourself and would be happy to review all your financials. He can be reached at 1-877-924-2732 or [rickw@csda.net](mailto:rickw@csda.net). Let him know I referred you.
  
- Regarding vacancies on your Board of Directors: yes, pursuant to [Water Code section 30504](#) and the process in [Government Code section 1780](#), the board of supervisors can make an appointment to fill a vacancy on your board of directors. However, you should also note that the California Water Code includes a specific statute pertaining to **Canebrake County Water District** (found at [Water Code section 30513](#)), which states:
  - “Notwithstanding Section 30500 or any other provision of this division, each member of the board of directors of the Canebrake County Water District in San Diego County, whether elected or appointed, ***shall be either a voter of the district OR an owner of land within the district.***” (Emphasis added.)
    - I'm not sure if you are aware of this authority, but it has been in statute since at least 1973. This means that a board member can be a voter from the district OR an owner of land within the district and should increase the pool of potential board members.

- This is a relatively rare dispensation from the Legislature, and one that many districts with their board vacancy issues wish that they had but are often unable to get.
- If you have not done so already, you should also be in touch with your SDLAFCO Commissioners, particularly the special district representatives (which happen to include CSDA Board Member Jo Mackenzie)
  - <https://www.sdlafco.org/about/commission>. If you believe that dissolution is a potential outcome, SDLAFCO will inevitably be involved. You can let any of the folks below know I referred you:
    - SDLAFCO Commissioner Jo Mackenzie - [mackgroup@cox.net](mailto:mackgroup@cox.net). Jo is a Director with the Vista Irrigation District
    - SDLAFCO Commissioner Baron “Barry” Willis - [bwillis@alpinefire.org](mailto:bwillis@alpinefire.org). Baron is a Director with the Alpine Fire Protection District
    - Keene Simonds, SDLAFCO Executive Director - [keene.simonds@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:keene.simonds@sdcounty.ca.gov)
- I strongly recommend you post some of your questions on our [All Communities - California Special Districts Association](#) Open Forum and Water Community Forum. This listserv goes statewide and there could be other districts that have encountered the same issues you currently face and may have some helpful information.

Hope this is of help. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Best,

**Chris Palmer**

*Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator*

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June 28 – 30, 2026 in Newport Beach

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