

SDA NEWS

JULY 2022

Supporting Community-Based Government

Coming Soon! **2022 SDA Annual Conference**

Tuesday, September 13 through
Thursday, September 15

Keystone Conference Center





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Designed by Emmett Jordan



The SDA Annual Conference Will
Be Here Before We Know It...

Now's the Time to Start Making Your Plans to Join Us!

**It's hard to believe, but the 2022 SDA Annual Conference,
September 13-15, is coming up soon (don't forget, it's
Tuesday, September 13 through Thursday, September 15)!**

We are very excited to bring back our hybrid format, with both an in-person and livestreaming option.

The entire Conference will be held in-person at the Keystone Conference Center, and just like last year, all of our keynote presentations and breakout sessions will be livestreamed to a convenient online platform that will provide access for those who would like to join us remotely. **What's more, all the sessions will also be recorded and available to all attendees after Conference** to go back and watch the sessions again, either as a refresher or to catch up on anything they missed. We know this format provides huge benefits for all of our attendees, and we are thrilled to offer it again this year.

Our lineup of breakout sessions this year is stellar, and the sessions start early on Tuesday morning. All together we have over 45 sessions planned, which will provide an opportunity for participants to hear from a variety of experts on pertinent issues for special districts. On top of all of this, our entertaining and informative keynote speakers will offer their unique insight and perspective into big picture ideas that affect all of us (please see pages 8-11 for all the details on their presentations).

All three days of Conference are jam-packed, with a wide variety of universally applicable topics for all district types as well as sessions that are more technical in nature. We will have sessions on:

- » Leading transition during times of organizational change
- » Stakeholder engagement and success with the Colorado Fire Commission

- » How to prepare for and run effective Board meetings
- » Cybersecurity
- » Steps for water and wastewater infrastructure funding
- » Construction projects, from RFP to completion
- » Going to the voters for funding
- » Preparing for the May 2023 election
- » Best practices for your grievance procedure
- » GIS
- » Innovations and funding opportunities for special districts
- » Utility rate design
- » Policy engagement and tips on how best to interact with your legislators, County Commissioners, and City Council members

This is just the tip of the iceberg so stay tuned for more details on all the sessions we have planned!

We are also bringing back **the outdoor event tent space that will be set up on the Conference Center patio.** This additional space will be a perfect place to relax during the breaks between sessions or even as a place to **set up your laptop and headphones to tune into any sessions that might fill up.** Since we will be livestreaming the presentations to our virtual platform, if you find a meeting room that's full, but you would still like to listen in, you will be able to access the livestream right on your laptop!

As you are making all your plans to join us, below is a general outline of how each day of Conference is shaping up.

Continued on page 5



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2022

Supporting
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SDA Annual Conference
September 13-15
Keystone Conference Center

Tuesday, September 13

- » **Plan to get there early! The Conference begins at 7:30 am** with a welcome breakfast, the singing of the National Anthem, and the Presentation of the Colors.
- » Immediately following our opening activities, we are thrilled to be joined by our **breakfast keynote speaker, Anton Gunn**. Anton is a former Presidential advisor who has been featured in The Wall Street Journal and on Good Morning America, among many others. His thought-provoking presentation, **“The Admired Leader: How to Increase Your Influence and Impact,”** will be a great way to kick off the day.
- » The day will be filled with **educational and timely sessions** for both Board members and managers alike. Whether you are new to your position or have served in your role for years, there will be something for everyone.
- » Our **Awards Luncheon** will be on Tuesday so we have a chance to honor our winners on the first day! Join us as we celebrate these exceptional Board members, Managers, and districts.
- » Tuesday’s lunch will also feature **Dr. Jannell MacAulay** as our keynote speaker. Through her enlightening presentation, **“Command Your Mindset,”** Jannell will help you live a more present and connected life.
- » On Tuesday afternoon, take a few minutes to relax and visit with your fellow attendees on the beautiful patio at the Conference Center as our **Opening Night Extravaganza** begins!
- » This year we will have music on the patio with the ever-popular **Randall McKinnon** as well as a lively DJ and **trivia games** in the ballroom! And of course lots of **amazing food!**

Wednesday, September 14

- » **Jason Hewlett** will kick off the day with his entertaining and insightful presentation **“The Promise: Discover Your Signature Moves.”** Jason will leave you in awe with his uncanny musical and comedy impressions while at the same time teaching important leadership lessons.
- » Pertinent and informative sessions will take place all morning, with a **goodie break** in between.
- » Our lunchtime keynote speaker, **Laurie Guest**, will have you laughing and learning while she shows you ways to improve communication, teamwork, and connectedness. **“Are We Having Fun Yet? Communication and Teamwork is More than a Game of Chance”** will leave you reenergized!
- » Along with additional educational sessions, the **Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool Annual Membership Meeting** will take place on Wednesday afternoon. This meeting will feature a keynote presentation from **Chris Nunes**, who will discuss the importance of innovation and creativity when facing change.
- » If you missed the first goodie break in the morning, you can catch another one in the afternoon!
- » Back by popular demand is our **Boots and BBQ event on Wednesday evening!** Wear your favorite pair of boots as you enjoy delicious BBQ with all the fixings right on the Conference Center patio. This year we will also feature music from **The Beau Thomas Band!**

Continued on page 7



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2022

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**SDA Annual Conference
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Thursday, September 15

- » At Thursday's keynote breakfast, **JoAnn Groff**, Colorado's Property Tax Administrator, will discuss the temporary property tax changes resulting from Senate Bill 22-238. This important issue is definitely one you will want to know more about.
- » There will be **two tracks of sessions between breakfast and lunch**. This gives us almost 10 sessions on Thursday morning!
- » We are once again offering our **Grab-and-Go Lunch** that you can stay and enjoy before heading home or take with you in the car. This worked out well last year, and we are pleased to offer this flexible lunch option again.
- » Thursday will be a full day, and we will conclude at the perfect time to get you back on your way!

All of this and much, much more awaits you at the 2022 SDA Annual Conference, September 13-15 at the Keystone Conference Center! Registration opens in early July so watch your emails and visit the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for more information. The hotel reservation information is also available on our website.

Mark your calendars, get ready to register, and we will see you in Keystone in September! 🍂

2022



Check Out These **Keynote Speakers** Who Will Be Joining Us at the 2022 **SDA Annual Conference!**

We have an amazing lineup of keynote speakers for this year's Annual Conference! We are so excited to be able to host this enlightening group of experts who will provide the perfect complement to the information-packed breakout sessions we will be offering. Their keynote presentations will round out our event perfectly!

Read on to find out more...



Tuesday Keynote Breakfast

Anton Gunn

The Admired Leader:

How to Increase Your Influence and Impact

Your effectiveness as a leader is only as strong as your ability to influence. The challenge today is that most organizations do not give their leaders the tools needed to create lasting impact on their workforce. Recent studies show incredibly high percentages of employees are disengaged at work and actively looking for new jobs. Additionally, current reports reveal that teams are unhappy, underperforming, and overlooked by their management or leadership. Filled with impressive data, heartwarming stories, and real-world examples, Anton teaches how anyone can become a greater influencer and leader by embracing seven simple principles.



Tuesday Awards Luncheon and Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jannell MacAulay

Command Your Mindset

We will be honoring our award winners on Tuesday again this year! Join us as we celebrate these exceptional Board members, Managers, and districts.

We will also feature U.S. Air Force veteran, Dr. Jannell MacAulay, and her enlightening presentation, “Command Your Mindset.” No matter the situation — combat, carpool, or corporate deadline — stress and overwhelm manifest the same way in our bodies. We launch into survival mode, which leads to degradations in our focus, our relationships, and our career longevity. Jannell takes leaders and teams on a transformational journey of self-reflection, leaving you with actionable skills to master your internal environment, command your mindset, and elevate your performance. She will help you live a more present and connected life — increasing productivity, facilitating creativity, and improving performance with your teams both at work and at home.

Wednesday Keynote Breakfast

Jason Hewlett

The Promise:

Discover Your Signature Moves

Sit back, watch, laugh, and sing along in Jason’s entertaining and insightful presentation, all while identifying the talents and strengths you possess which make you who you are as a leader. Jason will inspire you to make a promise to utilize that which makes you an effective leader and capable of helping others do the same. Imagine going back to your district motivated with the ability to not only identify the strengths of others, but also to help them realize their gifts to benefit the entire team and organization and show them how to give their best every day. By allowing everyone in the organization to use their incredible signature moves, you will bring your success to new levels.

Continued on page 11





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Spencer Fane is the law firm where your leaders work with our leaders. With over 120 combined years of special district experience in Colorado, we can handle all of your district's legal needs. Advancing the interests of your district is our priority.

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Wednesday Keynote Lunch

Laurie Guest

Are We Having Fun Yet? Communication and Teamwork is More than a Game of Chance

Are you overdue for a fun, laugh-while-learning experience? Wouldn't it be nice if you could also get reacquainted, reenergized, and recommitted to the work at hand? Heck, while we're at it, why not throw in improved personal interactions and a morale boost? In this engaging presentation, Laurie will teach you ways to improve communication between all types of team members and build better internal and external rapport. You'll also learn ways to create a fun environment and lasting workplace relationships as well as how to swap words to create connection.

Thursday Keynote Breakfast

JoAnn Groff

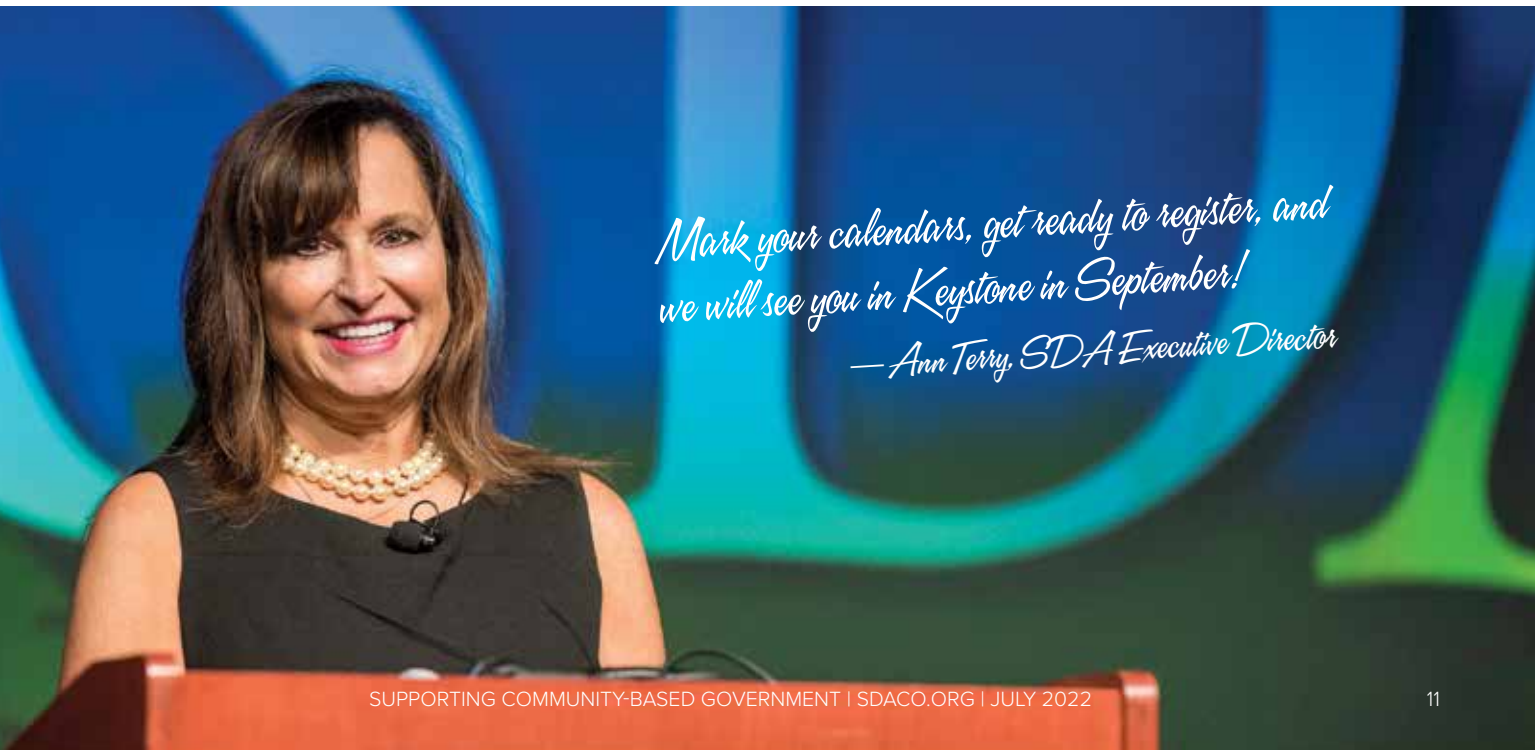
The Good, The Bad, and the Confusing



Property taxes in Colorado have become a source of confusion and change in the past two years. How will it all work? Colorado's Property Tax Administrator, JoAnn Groff, will walk through the in's and out's of everything you need to know. 🍷

SDA Annual Conference
September 13-15
www.sdaco.org

Mark your calendars, get ready to register, and we will see you in Keystone in September!
— Ann Terry, SDA Executive Director



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2022

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A Special Thanks to SDA's Platinum Sponsors!

We are thrilled to be working with our 16 Platinum Sponsors throughout the course of this year and for our upcoming Annual Conference! Below is a brief background on each company, many written directly from their perspectives. Please take a minute to learn more about the great services they provide and how they might be able to help your district. And stop by and visit them while you're at Conference in September!



The Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool is **Your Risk Management Partner.**

We are not your typical insurance company. Because we are member-owned, we don't report to shareholders—we report to our members. Everything we do focuses on life safety, preventing debilitating injury, and the preservation of district property. Our staff of dedicated industry professionals has pulled together comprehensive coverage products and mission-critical services tailored specifically for special districts. Working with members, our staff's mission is to ensure every district employee returns home at the end of his or her shift.

Visit csdpool.org to discover why more than 2,000 organizations trust the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool with their risk management.



COLOTRUST (Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust) is Colorado's original and largest pooled investment trust in the state. Designed specifically for Colorado's local governments, COLOTRUST provides a convenient method for investing in high-quality, short- to medium-term securities carefully chosen to provide for safety and liquidity while striving to maximize interest earnings.

Founded in 1985, COLOTRUST has since experienced rapid growth in both assets and participation. Continually striving to meet the evolving needs of local governments, COLOTRUST proudly offers three investment options that fit into a wide variety of investment strategies, creating a comprehensive approach to investing.

COLOTRUST is a Platinum Sponsor because it recognizes the importance of SDA when it comes to the support and education of special districts across the state. Special districts make up more than half of the valued participants of COLOTRUST.



Community Resource Services of Colorado (CRS) offers cost-effective, high-quality customized services to more than 250 special district clients. Its approach is to listen as clients outline their needs and then develop a plan that is

cost-effective in achieving the clients' goals and objectives.

CRS is dedicated to being your one-stop source in effectively providing services in management, accounting, financial consulting, elections, billing services, project management, and field supervision. Its clients can depend on CRS' highly ethical, experienced, and skilled consulting team.

CRS has been a Platinum Sponsor of SDA for several years, strongly supporting SDA's efforts to provide effective communication, research, legislative support, administrative assistance, and educational opportunities to its members, thereby improving the function of districts throughout the state.

CRS believes that SDA's leadership in helping special districts serve the public in the most efficient and economical manner possible is invaluable.

Founded in 2005, CRS has grown to 25 people on staff with 250 years of combined experience in the industry. Sue Blair, Chief Executive Officer of CRS, has served on the SDA Board since 2013.

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Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer, PLLC is a local government law firm powered by experience, innovation, and collaboration. The five founding partners have practiced together for decades. Together, we bring unparalleled experience in special district law, and we implement a team-oriented approach to deliver high-quality and cost-effective legal services to our clients.

Continued on page 15

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Our attorneys and paralegals have deep and longstanding involvement with the Special District Association of Colorado. Jim Collins co-founded SDA in 1975, and Allison Ulmer is now the Executive Vice President.

We work closely with SDA to provide seminars, publications, and other educational materials relating to the legal needs of special districts throughout the year, such as:

- » Updating the Board Member Manual
- » Traveling throughout Colorado to provide the SDA Annual Regional Workshops for Board Members and employees
- » Speaking at the SDA Annual Conference
- » Supporting SDA's legislative activities

Our clients have come to trust our guidance and advocacy. We strive to help our clients both solve their current legal problems and prevent future ones by providing proactive and pragmatic legal representation based on our decades of experience. You can learn more about us at www.cogovlaw.com, or you can contact us at 720.617.0080 or info@cogovlaw.com



CSAFE is an “original” local government investment pool established in 1988, celebrating 32 years of service! Our focus is to provide Colorado’s special districts safety of principal, liquidity of funds, and competitive rates in two funds.

“CSAFE Cash” is for your overnight and weekly cash demands, and “Colorado Core” is for your district’s savings and core funds. Both funds provide for “stable net asset value” and professional money management.

CSAFE is proud to have been a member of SDA for over 30 years and a Platinum Sponsor for the past 12 years. CSAFE treasures its relationship with SDA and more than 250 special districts.

We look forward to visiting with you at the Conference. Please refer to our website for rate and our two funds for your cash and investments—www.csafe.org



Special district leaders across Colorado come to TCW Risk Management when they feel their workers’ compensation claims management process is ineffective, and that they are unable to control their total risk cost.

At TCW Risk Management, we help special districts design an insurance program tailored to their organization’s needs; create and implement a formalized risk management program; and develop a proactive claims management process.

Our goal is to help special districts minimize employee injuries, get those who are injured the most appropriate care, and get them back to work as quickly as possible. All of this is designed with the goal of saving the organization valuable time and money.

TCW Risk Management is a Platinum Sponsor because, it says, “SDA and special districts individually have been so supportive of our organization that we would not have it any other way.” The firm was founded in 1945 and provides services to more than 900 special districts in Colorado. Mark Carlson is President of TCW Risk Management.



While we have a new name and logo, the law professionals of Cockrel Ela Glesne Greher & Ruhland, P.C. (CEGR Law) have been working together for decades, building and protecting Colorado’s communities. Formed this year, CEGR Law provides legal services to special districts and other clients involved with land development and related contracts, water supply, public utility operations, governmental services, election, employment matters, and the organization of special districts for financing and operating purposes. Our team prides themselves on their skills, compassion, and commitment to helping those that want to build and protect Colorado’s communities. We have both talented attorneys and the most recognized paralegals in the State with a passion for serving our clients with an innovative spirit and team-based, collaborative approach.

We live and work in Colorado and our projects reflect the desire to responsibly provide necessary housing, water, wastewater, fire and other emergency services, park, recreation, library, and other public services to our communities.



Colorado Employer Benefit Trust (CEBT) is the health benefits pool endorsed by SDA for more than 25 years to provide medical, dental, vision, life, and disability benefits for SDA-member employers. CEBT is a not-for-profit, self-funded governmental health benefit trust providing quality benefits and excellent

Continued on page 16

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service at a reasonable cost to Colorado governmental entities for over 40 years. It currently has approximately 35,000 members from 400 participating public employers of which 238 are special districts.

CEBT chose to be a Platinum Sponsor to honor its long-standing relationship with SDA and to demonstrate its commitment to special districts throughout the state of Colorado and their need for quality affordable employee health benefits. Founded in 1980, CEBT has a staff of 30 dedicated to serving CEBT's public sector customers. Bobby Otte is a Senior Director for Willis Towers Watson, which serves as the administrator for CEBT.



STREAMLINE

Hi, we're Streamline! We create software specifically for special districts. Our mission is a simple one - make the lives of special districts easier.

Between state mandates, small budgets, small (or non-existent) staff, providing your services within these constraints can be hard. We know how challenging it can be to get things done with limited resources and while wearing many different hats. Which is why we created the Streamline platform—website, email, intranet, and online payment tools dedicated to special districts.

It all started with websites. We wanted to create an easy-to-use website to help districts stay connected with the public while remaining compliant with state requirements. So we made Streamline Web—an intuitive website platform with built-in tools to ensure accessibility and transparency compliance. As districts began using the Web, we noticed a pattern. Many wanted the ability to send professional-looking

emails to their community directly from their website. So we made Streamline Engage—a one-click professional email tool with analytics and unlimited sends. When the pandemic hit and many began working from home, districts needed a solution to manage internal operations. So we created Streamline Portal—a private, easy, and secure intranet software with unlimited file storage. Most recently, we asked our districts what they needed most, and they said “payments.” What they really meant was, things like allowing customers to pay bills online; collecting service, inspection, or permit fees from their website; selling merchandise, classes, and rental services. So, you guessed it, we made Streamline Payments—a tool that allows districts to accept payments, sell products and receive donations directly through their website.

We know districts want back-office operations to be simple and self-service. A single staff member should be able to manage payments, update the website, and send the newsletter, often all in the same day. Without special training. Without having to hire a specialist.

So don't worry, Streamline has your back! We are always creating new products based on your feedback and improving current products to best fit your needs. We really are here to make special districts' lives easier. And we'd love to help your district, too! www.getstreamline.com





Ramey Environmental Compliance provides contract operational services for domestic drinking water, domestic wastewater, and industrial wastewater facilities for special districts, municipalities, and private owners. Ramey Environmental Compliance also provides consulting services in many areas of the water/wastewater industry along with an Equipment Services Division, which provides service and maintenance on existing and new equipment used in the industry.

Ramey Environmental has chosen to be a passionate part of SDA, and most of its clients are special districts that are associated with SDA. SDA provides education, leadership, and training opportunities that aren't offered by other associations. SDA also keeps its members informed on legislative and regulatory alerts that affect the costs associated with providing water and wastewater services. This is truly beneficial to Ramey Environmental because when clients are informed on the current status of regulations, it makes Ramey Environmental's job easier to perform.

The company was founded in 1992 and incorporated in 1997. Ramey Environmental currently has 42 employees. R. Wayne Ramey is President of the company, and Linda Ramey is its Chief Financial Officer.



SpencerFane

Spencer Fane LLP serves as general counsel and special counsel to scores of Colorado's special districts and municipalities, including cities, fire protection districts, water and sanitation districts, metropolitan districts, business improvement districts, intergovernmental authorities, and others. It provides services regarding the formation and representation of these entities in the areas of municipal law, election law, TABOR issues, finance, environmental law, land use, eminent domain,

litigation, and other related areas. In addition, the firm serves as bond counsel to numerous political subdivisions throughout the state.

Spencer Fane has been a Platinum Sponsor for years because the firm recognizes that SDA provides essential guidance, education, and legislative representative services to all special districts in the state, and those efforts need to be supported, not only financially, but with the firm's active presence and cooperation.

Founded in 1952, Spencer Fane has more than 400 attorneys and 290 business professionals in 22 offices across the U.S., including Denver and Colorado Springs. It notes that its attorneys were instrumental in writing the Colorado legislation establishing special districts, as well as the laws governing the electoral process for not only special districts but Colorado municipalities generally. The firm says, "Special districts and municipalities require special knowledge. Let us put our experience to work for you." Denver-based Partner Tom George chairs the Spencer Fane Special Districts group, which is comprised of 8 attorneys and 8 experienced paralegals and support staff.



Colorado SIPA is self-funded and created by Colorado statute to develop the officially recognized statewide internet portal to connect government with residents. SIPA vets and negotiates prices with private sector technology companies so you don't have to. These negotiations result in the best technologies and pricing possible to assist you with engaging your constituents, streamline productivity, and lower cyber risk.

The portal is a set of no-cost services such as payment processing set-up, website hosting, and online form creation. Other reduced pricing technologies include: Google Workspace, Microsoft, Community Engagement and Cyber Security tools.

Annually, since 2010, SIPA has provided more than 327 grants totaling \$1.5 million to governments to help further its mission of assisting govern-

ments to put more information and services online. SIPA improves the quality of life in Colorado by connecting the public to efficient services through technology, enabling governments to focus on their core missions. Learn more at sipa.colorado.gov.



Pinnacle Consulting Group, Inc. was founded in 2004 by Chad Walker and Peggy Dowsnell. While actively working in the private and public sectors, our founders observed a need in the Northern Colorado market for comprehensive Title 32 district management services supporting individual Public-Private Partnerships projects. Pinnacle was founded to provide this comprehensive service through district management/administration, finance/accounting, and capital infrastructure/maintenance.

From the beginning, the mission of Pinnacle has been focused on serving our clients and communities by creating mutually beneficial Public-Private Partnerships through many financial and land development tools, including Title 32 metropolitan districts. Title 32 metropolitan districts continue to be a great solution to the needs of both the private and public sectors throughout Colorado.

Pinnacle's foundational commitment to our core values, decades of special district experience, and strong relationships with governmental entities, attorneys, underwriters, engineers, contractors, and other professionals contributes to our success with every client. The team collaboration of district management, finance and accounting, capital infrastructure, and facility management is tailored to the specific needs of each unique and valued client.

Continued on page 19

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Gregory & Associates specializes in helping special districts build employer-sponsored retirement plans to help districts attract and retain talented employees. We're proud to serve any special district no matter the size, and we take responsibility for our service. Gregory & Associates currently services over 40 retirement plans for SDA members and enjoys working with countless individuals currently or previously employed by a special district.

The company was founded in 1969 in Denver and has three dedicated staff members to support its President, Chad M. Alebras, CRPC.

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Fromm & Company is a family-owned, Colorado-based company with an expansive focus on special districts. Our firm provides accounting, management, election, billing, administrative, audit preparation, and compliance services to special districts across the State. Our firm is comprised of individuals with vast experience in the special district world. This experience provides Board members the ability to govern their district while Fromm & Company takes care of the necessary duties to ensure the district is operating smoothly and in compliance with State regulations.

Our team's knowledge encompasses over 50 years of experience in administration, accounting, compliance, management, and election services to special districts, in addition to Big 4 CPA auditing experience. Fromm & Company also offers our clients construction management services, with over 40 years of experience among our team members.

SDA provides a wealth of information and guidance to its members. These members are our clients. Fromm & Company values this resource and is honored to be a Platinum Sponsor.



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National Coalition Focuses on Resilience, Mitigation Policies Ahead of National Districts Action Week

Guest article by Cole Karr, Federal Advocacy Coordinator, National Special Districts Coalition



The legislation would require FEMA to update the National Risk Index tool every five years and leverage the data to designate the 50 most risk averse census tracts in each state, and no less than 1 percent of a state's census tracts, as "Community Disaster Resilience Zones."

The National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) has sharpened its focus on disaster resilience and mitigation efforts as Congress enters the summer stretch ahead of election year recesses, when districts will have the opportunity to showcase the important work they do during NSDC's first-ever national action week.

A major highlight of NSDC's action on federal legislation to enhance disaster mitigation programs is its support for the *Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ) Act*. The CDRZ Act works within the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*, commonly referred to as the "Stafford Act," to codify the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index for Natural Hazards. The index is a relatively new tool that scores each county and census tract based on potential economic losses, social vulnerability, and general community resilience to a range of 18 natural hazards. The legislation would require FEMA to update the National Risk Index tool every five years and leverage the data to designate the 50 most risk averse census tracts in each state, and no less than 1 percent of a state's census tracts, as "Community Disaster Resilience Zones." The CDRZ Act would allow enhanced federal cost-share above the standard 75 percent for FEMA-

funded mitigation projects and would authorize financial aid and technical assistance to local governments seeking project funds.

Senator Gary Peters, D-Mich., sponsored the original Senate version of the bill and chairs the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, which is the Senate committee of jurisdiction. The Committee passed S. 3875 on March 30, 2022, with an amendment to cap the enhanced federal cost share for qualified mitigation projects at 80 percent. Congresswoman Sharice Davids, D-Kan., sponsored the House version. The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed H.R. 7242 on April 28, 2022, with an amendment to consider impacts of algal blooms as a factor in designating Community Disaster Resilience Zones.

NSDC co-signed a 27-member coalition letter in support of the CDRZ Act. As of June 14, both versions of the bill have bipartisan support and await further action before the full House and Senate,



with high probability of passage before the end of the 117th Congress.

Tackling readiness measures of its own, NSDC has been researching gaps in policy and resources to address water infrastructure for fire suppression. The Coalition authorized the “Water Infrastructure for Firefighting” Working Group in March 2022 following feedback from various stakeholders underscoring a need to address the lack of sustainable and efficient water infrastructure to accommodate firefighting needs. The establishment of the working group coincides with NSDC’s declaration of support for H.R. 3728 (Pascrell), which would authorize a new \$1 billion Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program to construct, enhance, or repair facilities for fire protection, fire training, and EMS services.

More than 50 special districts in Colorado have been engaged in this investigation since April through participation in working groups and surveys. As a result, NSDC will soon publish a policy paper outlining ground-level infrastructure gaps and needs fire and water agencies have to meet goals of adequate suppression and providing formal policy recommendations for federal policymakers’ consideration. The report is expected to be released on Wednesday, July 6.

NSDC’s findings regarding water infrastructure for firefighting, the

CDRZ Act, and ongoing efforts to establish a federal special district definition will likely be major topics covered during the National Special Districts Action Week from Monday, August 8, through Friday, August 12. During this period, NSDC will coordinate with special districts across the country to meet with their Congressional representatives and staff during Congress’ annual August Recess. Districts interested in engaging with their federal representatives during the national advocacy week are encouraged to contact Cole Karr, NSDC Federal Advocacy Coordinator, at colek@nationalspecialdistricts.org.

Following the National Special Districts Action Week, the Coalition’s members and leadership will walk the halls of Congress to meet with key members of the House and Senate, policy committee staff, and certain federal agencies implementing programs of interest to special districts. This Washington, DC, fly-in will be the first of its kind for NSDC and its members following two years of visitation restrictions due to COVID-19. NSDC is excited to meet in-person with leaders in Washington to further advance understanding and awareness of special districts and policy priorities.

To learn more about NSDC, its mission, and the latest Coalition news on federal legislation, visit www.national-specialdistricts.org.

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2022-2023 GRANT CALENDAR

PICTURED: Sacramento Creek Ranch in Park County. Photo by Bergreen Photography.



GOCO's fiscal year runs from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. This is an at-a-glance view of important dates related to our grant opportunities in that window.

TRIENNIAL GRANTS (RUNNING 3 TIMES PER YEAR)

LAND ACQUISITION, COMMUNITY IMPACT, PLANNING & CAPACITY, STEWARDSHIP IMPACT, AND CENTENNIAL OPPORTUNITIES

	FIRST CYCLE	SECOND CYCLE	THIRD CYCLE
Concepts accepted up to:	August 4, 2022	November 3, 2022	February 2, 2023
Applications invited:	August 17, 2022	November 18, 2022	February 15, 2023
Application due dates:	September 15, 2022	January 5, 2023	March 20, 2023
Grants awarded:	December 9, 2022	March 2023	June 2023

ANNUAL GRANTS (RUNNING ONCE PER YEAR)

CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS

RFP available: July 8, 2022
Applications due to CYCA: August 29, 2022
Grants awarded: December 2022

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Application available by request: August 10, 2022
Applications due: October 6, 2022
Grants awarded: December 9, 2022

Please note that dates are subject to change. Additional info about remaining annual/partner programs, including RESTORE Colorado, is forthcoming.



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