

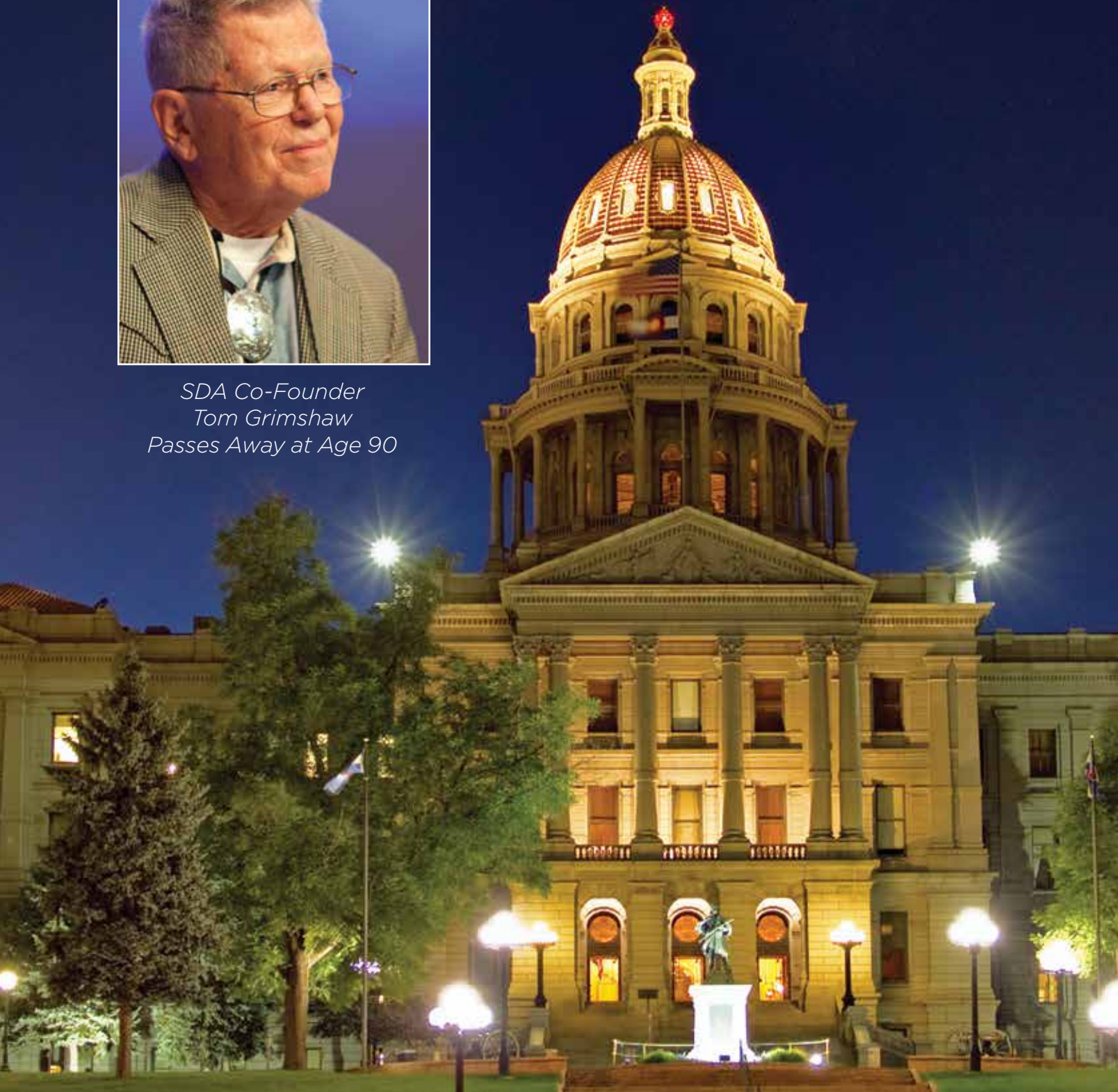
SDA NEWS

APRIL 2023

Supporting Community-Based Government



*SDA Co-Founder
Tom Grimshaw
Passes Away at Age 90*





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SDA

225 East 16th Avenue
Suite 1000
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 863-1733
Toll Free (800) 886-1733
sdaco@sdaco.org
www.sdaco.org

Designed by Emmett Jordan

Tom Grimshaw, Co-Founder of SDA, Passes Away Peacefully at Age 90

We are very sad to share the news of the passing of Tom Grimshaw, one of the co-founders of SDA.

According to his obituary, Tom was born in Minneapolis and received his law degree from Northwestern University in 1956. Following law school, he moved his family to Colorado because, like many others, he wanted to experience the new adventures and opportunities in the West. Tom began his legal career with Calkins, Kramer, Grimshaw and Harring which later became Grimshaw & Harring. The firm developed legal expertise in local government with an emphasis on the development, funding, and construction of infrastructure as well as zoning and special districts. Tom was one of a few business leaders who shared their collective visions over 40 years to tackle Denver's challenges with water, transportation, land use, planning, zoning, and other needs contributing to Denver's expansive future. He helped guide Highlands Ranch, the Denver Tech Center, and the T-Rex project, just to name a few.

In addition, Tom and fellow special district expert, Jim Collins, founded SDA in 1975.

In the mid-1970s, legislation was being considered at the Colorado General Assembly that would have abolished all special districts in the state and transferred their power to county commissioners. Tom and Jim decided that something needed to be done to counter this effort. They agreed that an association should be formed, even if just to have letterhead that concerned citizens could use to write to their legislators opposing this idea. To this end, the Special District Association of Colorado was born, created specifically to support the needs and interests of special districts. The legislation that had been considered was ultimately withdrawn, and SDA began the mission that it



At the 2012 SDA Annual Conference, Tom was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award and a standing ovation as he received the award from Pat Mulhern (right).

continues fulfilling today.

"Tom and I began to work together in 1973 when I was still in night law school at the University of Denver. I was the Contract Manager for some special districts in the Vail area, and he was the General Counsel. Since we both lived and officed on the Front Range, we would often travel together to Board meetings in Vail," Jim explained. "On one such trip in 1975 Tom suggested we form a statewide association of special districts primarily as a vehicle to lobby the Legislature. We agreed Tom's firm would do the lobbying and I'd manage the Association... which we each did for the following six years. Lobbying soon became only one of the significant functions of SDA, as we realized education, training, and simply having a forum for the exchange of ideas were equally important. Our first "Conference" in September 1975 mustered an overwhelmingly successful attendance of 78 districts from across the state, and the rest is now history. Tom was, and remains, one of the most influential

persons in many of the lives of us once young attorneys who had the honor of knowing him."

At the 2012 SDA Annual Conference, SDA honored Tom with a Lifetime Achievement award for his dedication and service to special districts and for his foresight in creating an Association to support districts across Colorado. Tom received a standing ovation as he was presented with this award.

"Tom's commitment to local government was evident throughout his long career and the many substantial projects with which he was involved," said Ann Terry, SDA's Executive Director. "His foresight in establishing an organization to assist special districts as they serve their local communities has had an invaluable impact for over 45 years."

SDA's Director of Policy, Michael Valdez, first met Tom through the Colorado Bar Association. "Tom was a person who was always larger than life but always maintained his humility and gentility," Michael said. "He practiced a special art of persuasion in such a way that you wanted to agree with him because he made it seem like it was the right thing to do. Tom was a passionate leader when he took up a cause but respected every ounce of the other side of an issue."

Moreover, Tom was committed to a lifetime of service to his community, and his contributions were many. He served two terms in the Colorado General Assembly as a State Representative and sponsored the Colorado Housing Act. He chaired the Denver Partnership, the Colorado Housing Finance Authority, Brothers Redevelopment, Exempla, Colorado Community College, and was a Life Member of the Uniform Law Commission.

Tom was a kind and humble man who will be missed by many. 🍌



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? Ask Ann

Q: Is there a limit to the amount of late fees that special districts may charge?

A: Yes, there are general statutory limits on late fees or similar charges imposed by local governments, including special districts.

Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) § 29-1-1102 requires that the delinquency charge:

- » Is not collected on any amount due that is paid within 5 days after the due date;
- » May not exceed either \$15 or 5% per month, not to exceed 25%;
- » If a separate charge for interest on the amount owed is due, interest may not be assessed on the delinquency charge;

- » If interest is charged, it may not be assessed at more than an annual rate of 18%; and
- » Costs of collection may be recovered, including disconnection or reconnection fees; reinstatement charges; or penalties for fraud.

Please note that the limits on delinquency charges in C.R.S. § 29-1-1102 are the default. However, there may be guidance on a particular tax or charge which apply in those specific circumstances. For example, property taxes collected by County Treasurers have specific statutory guidance on unpaid taxes.



Ann Terry, SDA Executive Director.

Special districts, like other local governments, collect many different user fees and charges from the public. Properly collecting these charges, including late fees, is an important part of maintaining public infrastructure and services. 🍂



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SDA Board of Directors Update

At the February meeting of the SDA Board of Directors, the following slate of Officers was proposed and approved for 2023:

- » Sue Blair as President (representing Independence Metropolitan District No. 4)
- » Bill Simmons as Vice President (representing Eagle River Fire Protection District)
- » Ronda Lobato as Secretary/Treasurer (representing Costilla County Conservancy District)

Jim Kullhem, who has served as President since 2013, was commended by the entire Board for his strong leadership and commitment over the last 10 years.

"We are grateful to Jim for his many years of dedicated service to SDA and our membership in his role as President of the Board,"



Sue Blair



Bill Simmons



Ronda Lobato

said SDA's Executive Director Ann Terry. "Sue is also a long-serving SDA Board member, and we are thrilled as she begins her new chapter as President."

In addition, Ross Blackmer from the Thompson Crossing Metropolitan District Nos. 3 and 5 was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Larry Moore's recent retirement from the Eagle Bend Metropolitan District.

Ann is also pleased to welcome SDA's new Board member. "Larry was a committed and diligent member of the Board for many years, and we are happy to have Ross join us and continue the group's great work," she said. "The experience and knowledge of the entire Board is invaluable, and we look forward to another exciting year of serving our members." 🍷

It's Almost Time to Submit Your Nominations for the 2023 SDA Annual Awards!

Do you know a District Manager or Board member who has made extraordinary contributions in his or her role? If so, now is your chance to nominate an exceptional person for a 2023 SDA Annual Award!

Each year at the SDA Annual Conference, we have the pleasure of honoring outstanding individuals with awards and recognitions in the following categories:

- » Manager of the Year
- » Board Member of the Year

This year the awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, September 12 during the SDA Annual Conference in Keystone.

The nominations will open in early April so please watch your emails and the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for more details and the link to complete the easy online form.

This year's Conference will be here before we know it so the nomination forms will be due towards the end of May.

If you have any questions about the awards, please contact Anthoney Sandoval at 303-863-1733 or anthoney@sdaco.org.

SDA is pleased for the opportunity to recognize the people who demonstrate remarkable dedication to serving the citizens of our state. We look forward to receiving your nominations! 🍷



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2023 SDA Annual Regional Workshops Headed to a Town Near You!

SDA and the law firm of Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer, PLLC are pleased to be hitting the road in June to bring you these lively and educational trainings!

These workshops apply to all types of districts and are sure to provide a wealth of valuable information for your district. We will cover a wide variety of important topics such as conflicts of interests, TABOR, notice of meetings, and district powers, just to name a few. On top of all this, we will give you the scoop on this year's legislative changes and how they affect your district. And, there will of course be plenty of time to answer all your questions, big or small.

Whether you are a Board member or district employee, a seasoned professional or brand new to your position, we will have something for everyone (don't forget these workshops are for all district types, not just Title 32 districts). And this is a great way for any newly elected or appointed Board members to dive right into the special district world! **Did we mention that every attendee will also receive a copy of the 2023 SDA Board Member Manual and the legislative update for 2023?**

Having this many pertinent and timely issues discussed all in one place is an opportunity you can't afford to miss!

Registration will be opening soon so make sure to watch your emails and the SDA website at

www.sdaco.org for all the details. The cost is \$35 per person.

We can't wait to see you in June!

Evergreen

Friday, June 9

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Evergreen Fire Protection District

1802 Bergen Parkway
Evergreen (80439)

Salida

Monday, June 12

8:00 am-12:30 pm

The Scout Hut

210 East Sackett Avenue
Salida (81201)

Montrose

Tuesday, June 13

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Ute Indian Museum

17253 Chipeta Road
Montrose (81403)

Vail

Wednesday, June 14

8:00 am-12:30 pm

**Vail Recreation District
Golf and Nordic Clubhouse**

1775 Sunburst Drive
Vail (81657)

Granby

Thursday, June 15

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Grand Fire Protection District

60500 US Highway 40
Granby (80446)

Eaton

Friday, June 16

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Eaton Area Park and Recreation District

1675 3rd Street
Eaton (80615)

Fountain

Tuesday, June 20

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Fountain Sanitation District

11545 Link Road
Fountain (80817)

Denver-North

Wednesday, June 21

8:00 am-12:30 pm

North Metro Fire Protection District

Training Division
1006 Weld County Rd 11, Building C
Northglenn (80516)

Denver

Thursday, June 22

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Parker Water and Sanitation District

18100 East Woodman Drive
Parker (80134)

Durango

Friday, June 23

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Durango Fire Protection District

142 Sheppard Drive
Durango (81303)

...a great way for any newly-elected or appointed Board members to dive right into the special district world!

Election Corner

From now through the May election, please look here for reminders of important dates to keep in mind for election items for the month. Below are the items to

keep in mind for April. And, don't forget to watch your emails and the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for information on additional election training and resources.

May 2, 2023 Regular Mail Ballot Election Calendar		
Date	Action	Authority
4-10-23	Designated Election Official may begin mailing to each eligible elector, who is an active registered elector, a mail ballot package, including property owners who are active registered electors, but may not reside within the District. Mail ballots shall be made available at the office of the Designated Election Official, or the office designated in the mail ballot plan, for eligible electors who are not listed on the voter registration or property owners lists, but who are authorized to vote (not sooner than 22 days prior to election).	1-13.5-1105(4)(a) 1-13.5-1105(4)(d)
4-11-23	FCPA NOTE: File Candidate Committee or Issues Committee Report of Contributions and Expenditures pursuant to the Fair Campaign Practices Act with the Secretary of State (21st day before the election).	1-45-108(2)(a)(II)
4-12-23	Last day to publish Notice of the election once (at least 20 days before the election). Post Notice in the office of the Designated Election Official. Mail a copy of the Notice to the County Clerk and Recorder of each county in which the special district is located. DEBT OR OTHER FINANCIAL OBLIGATION election. Post notice of additional financial information on District's website, or if no website, in the chief administrative office of the District (no later than 20 days before the election). County Clerk and Recorder shall supply supplemental list of registered voters and County Assessor shall supply supplemental list of property owners (no later than 20 days prior to election).	1-13.5-502(1) 1-13.5-502(2) 1-13.5-1105(2)(d) 1-13.5-503(2) 1-7-908(1)(a) 1-13.5-203(1)(a) 1-13.5-204(2) 1-13.5-1105(2)(b)
4-17-23	Last day to mail the ballot packages (no later than 15 days before the election).	1-13.5-1105(4)(a)
4-17-23	Designated Election Official shall appoint election judges (at least 15 days prior to election). Designated Election Official shall mail certificates of appointment and acceptance forms to each person appointed. Each election judge shall file an acceptance of appointment with the Designated Election Official within seven (7) days after certificate of appointment and acceptance forms were mailed. Designated Election Official shall appoint at least one member of the special district Board and at least one eligible elector of the special district who is not a member of such Board to serve with the Designated Election Official as the Canvass Board for the election (at least 15 days prior to election). Election Judges may receive and prepare mail ballots for tabulation. Counting of the mail ballots may begin fifteen (15) days prior to the election and continue until counting is completed.	1-13.5-401(1) 1-13.5-403 1-13.5-404 1-13.5-1301(1) 1-13.5-1107
4-28-23	FCPA NOTE: File Candidate Committee or Issues Committee Report of Contributions and Expenditures pursuant to the Fair Campaign Practices Act with the Secretary of State (Friday before the election).	1-45-108(2)(a)(II)

May 2, 2023 Regular Polling Place Election Calendar		
Date	Action	Authority
4-3-23	Mail absentee voter's ballot to each of those eligible electors on the list of permanent absentee voters or those eligible electors who have applied for an absentee ballot (not more than 72 hours after the blank ballots have been received).	1-13.5-1002(2)(b)
4-11-23	FCPA NOTE: File Candidate Committee or Issues Committee Report of Contributions and Expenditures pursuant to the Fair Campaign Practices Act with the Secretary of State (21st day before the election).	1-45-108(2)(a)(II)
4-12-23	Last day to publish Notice of the election once (at least 20 days before the election). Post Notice in the office of the Designated Election Official. Mail a copy of the Notice to the County Clerk and Recorder of each county in which the special district is located. Post Notice of Polling Place at each polling place (at least 20 days prior to election). If requested, County Clerk and Recorder shall supply supplemental list of registered voters and County Assessor shall supply supplemental list of property owners (no later than 20 days prior to election).	1-13.5-502(1) 1-13.5-502(2) 1-13.5-502(3) 1-13.5-203(1)(a) 1-13.5-204(2)
4-17-23	Designated Election Official shall appoint election judges (at least 15 days prior to election). Designated Election Official shall mail certificates of appointment and acceptance forms to each person appointed. Each election judge shall file an acceptance of appointment with the Designated Election Official within seven (7) days after certificate of appointment and acceptance forms were mailed. Designated Election Official shall appoint at least one member of the special district Board and at least one eligible elector of the special district who is not a member of such Board to serve with the Designated Election Official as the Canvass Board for the election (at least 15 days prior to election).	1-13.5-401(1) 1-13.5-403 1-13.5-404 1-13.5-1301(1)
4-20-23	If special district is using voting machines or an electronic voting system for the use of absentee voters, such voting machines or electronic voting system must be available from 12 days prior to the election until the close of business on the Friday preceding the election.	1-13.5-1007(1) 1-13.5-1007(2)
4-25-23	Last day to request an absentee ballot (close of business on Tuesday preceding election).	1-13.5-1002(1)(b)
4-26-23	If requested, County Clerk and Recorder shall supply complete list of registered voters and County Assessor shall supply complete list of property owners (as of the 6th day prior to the election).	1-13.5-203(1)(a) 1-13.5-204(2)
4-28-23	FCPA NOTE: File Candidate Committee or Issues Committee Report of Contributions and Expenditures pursuant to the Fair Campaign Practices Act with the Secretary of State (Friday before the election).	1-45-108(2)(a)(II)

Election Judge Training is Coming Soon!

Please watch your emails and our website at www.sdaco.org for Election Judge Training for both polling place and mail ballot elections. This training will be pre-recorded and available for you to listen to at any time that is convenient for you!

Understanding and Planning for Congressional ‘Earmark’ Opportunities



Guest article by Cole Arreola-Karr,
Federal Advocacy Director, National
Special Districts Coalition

Public agencies and nonprofits submitting eligible projects for consideration are not guaranteed project funding. Participating Senate and House offices must individually vet submitted projects.

The federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 “appropriations season” is underway as both Senate and House appropriations committees have released guidance on the types of projects they will consider for earmarks.

While both the House and Senate have announced which federal funding accounts are open for consideration and have already accepted applications, this article provides general background information on the program and outlines committee guidance on which projects may be earmark eligible.

What to Expect for FY24 Earmarks

Earmarks could have a rocky path in FY24. Despite a majority of House Republican members voting to reject a ban on earmarks for the 118th Congress, House guidance was crafted over weeks of negotiations among Republican leadership and House Appropriations Committee members over what the House should allow for earmarks consideration. Significant differences between Senate and House programs could increase competition for successful projects and further complicate an already difficult process of passing key appropriations bills.

Public agencies and nonprofits submitting eligible projects for consideration are not guaranteed project funding. Participating

Senate and House offices must individually vet submitted projects. Senators and Representatives will formally request eligible constituent projects to their appropriations committees for further consideration. Senators may submit an unlimited number of requests while the House will impose a 15-project limit per Representative.

Each open funding account refers to an existing federal grant/finance program that is either available directly to special districts from the federal government or provided on a state pass-through basis. In the case of Congressional earmarks, special districts with projects eligible for listed programs may apply directly to their Senator or Representative for direct funding, instead of through an agency selection process.

Congressionally Directed Spending vs. Community Project Funding

Formally entitled “Congressionally Directed Spending” (CDS), the Senate program has no major structural change and relatively few differences to open Treasury accounts in FY24 compared to FY23. The House earmark program, formally known as Community Project Funding (CPF), has returned in FY24 with a limited number of Treasury accounts open for consideration

relative to the Senate's CDS.

The Senate's overall cap on earmark spending is set at 1 percent of federal discretionary spending; however, the House Appropriations Committee aims to limit total earmarks at 0.5 percent of federal discretionary spending. The House CPF bans funding memorials, museums, and restricts "commemorative projects," which could entail projects named after any particular individual.

Of broad interest for special districts, the following funding accounts are open for *both* Senate CDS and House CPF consideration:

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

- » Natural Resources Conservation Service (Conservation Operations)
- » U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development: Community Facilities Program
- » U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development: Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program grants

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

- » Department of Justice: Byrne Discretionary Grants for state and local law enforcement
- » Department of Justice: Community Oriented Policing Services Program (COPS) covering technology and equipment

Energy and Water Development

- » Bureau of Reclamation: Water and Related Agencies

Homeland Security

- » Federal Emergency Management Agency: Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects
- » Federal Emergency Management Agency: Emergency Operations Center Grant Program

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- » Environmental Protection Agency: Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- » Environmental Protection Agency: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

- » Federal Aviation Administration: Airport Improvement Program
- » Federal Highway Administration: Highway Infrastructure Programs for highway projects
- » Federal Transit Administration, Transit Infrastructure Grants for transit projects
- » Federal Railroad Administration, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program for rail projects
- » Housing and Urban Development: Community Development Fund, Economic Development Initiatives for economic development and affordable housing construction projects

Continued on page 15

The Senate's overall cap on earmark spending is set at 1 percent of federal discretionary spending; however, the House Appropriations Committee aims to limit total earmarks at 0.5 percent of federal discretionary spending.



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Accounts open for consideration in both House and Senate may have a higher chance of inclusion in the final FY24 appropriations bill(s).

Notably, the House Appropriations Committee will not consider CPF requests for any Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education accounts. However, the Senate Appropriations Committee *will* consider certain Labor, HHS, and Education projects of interest to some special districts, including Health Resources and Services Administration funds for Program Management, and Health Surveillance and Program Support.

Participating Senators may also consider Senate CDS opportunities from the following accounts:

Energy and Water Development

- » A variety of programs related to renewable/clean energy, electricity resiliency, as well as cybersecurity and energy security

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

- » Department of Transportation: Transportation Planning, Research, and Development
- » Federal Aviation Administration: facilities and equipment for terminal air traffic control facility replacement projects

On the flipside, House CPF will allow projects otherwise eligible for the USDA Rural Development's Rural Water and Wastewater Disposal Grants program.

Best Practice Highlights for Preparing Earmark Requests

Successful projects are more likely to be those that are able to demonstrate:

- » "Shovel-ready" status with funding able to be obligated between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024

- » Ability to contribute matching funds for the requested project/program
- » Capacity to execute project funding with clear explanation of how the earmarked funds would benefit the community
- » Community, regional, or federal significance, best signaled with support letters from cities, counties, elected officials, local nonprofits, and more
- » Federal "nexus" with an explanation and justification for the project's eligibility for the open account.

For more information, contact Cole Arreola-Karr, NSDC Federal Advocacy Director, at colek@nationalspecialdistricts.org. 🍌



Among many other services and activities, the Eaton Area Community Center has a pool with a lazy river.

“Moving in the Right Direction” Eaton Area Park and Recreation District

By Susan M. Thornton, M.S.

Eaton Area Park and Recreation District, located in western Weld County, may be small, but it is “moving in the right direction,” according to its new Executive Director, Dean Campos.

The District offers a wide array of services to the 3,000 residents who pay a mill levy of 3.0 to support an operational budget of \$4.6 million per year.

Established in 2014, the District built the Eaton Area Community Center in 2017. Among services offered at the Community Center are activities for all ages, including fitness and wellness equipment; personal training; a walking/jogging track; a pool with a “lazy river;” sports for both children and adults; a summer camp for children; out-of-town day trips for seniors; regular balance and hearing aid screenings for older people; a catering kitchen for special events; and health-related classes—even one class creatively called “Bossy Bladder.”

In addition to the facility, the District owns four baseball and two soccer fields on its own property.



Nearby Area is Growing

Although the District only covers about 36 acres, it is the primary source of recreation for people living in Eaton, a nearby town that Campos says is growing rapidly.

“People like Eaton’s small, home-town feel and very good schools, so they are moving in” and residential construction is “nearly continuous,” he says. “There’s a culture of pride in Eaton,” he adds, noting that people like to wear red and black to support high school sports.

Establishing Relationships, Building Understanding

Hired in August of 2022, Campos says his first priority is understanding what services people in the community want. “That takes time,” he observes.

Campos’ second priority is to build understanding among Board members, staff, and the people the District serves. “It will take about two years to determine what we stand for and our goals for the future,” he states. “In my opinion, the District is still very new,” having essentially lost two years of foundational planning to COVID-19.



Clockwise from the top: Attendees at a Trunk or Treat Community Event hosted by the District in 2022; two of the District's active aging fitness instructors; and children enjoying the District's youth soccer program.

With a master's degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Colorado, Campos has worked in both the private and public sectors, including spending five years as Recreation Manager for the City of Greeley, and two years building a park and recreation department for the Town of Wellington.

Facilitating Goals, Visions for the Future

With this varied background, Campos sees his role as facilitator of a process to create goals and visions for the District's next five to ten years. For example, the District might want to expand its basketball courts, enhance the gymnasium area, and potentially build a competitive swimming pool, he says.

In addition, the recreational facility is five years old, so preventive measures are needed to ensure its sustainability. "We need to take care of the assets we have," he states.

Challenges Lie Ahead

The District faces many of the same challenges as other park and recreation districts. Hiring and retaining quality staff is one.

To help attract staff, the District has increased pay and is focusing on leadership development for part-time staff. Building on their skills and interests can give part-time staff the experience to move up in the organization and prepare them for their careers outside of Eaton, he says.

Campos also wants to educate his Board about the national standards for smaller park and recreation districts. "We need to be able to add staff to support new growth and new programs," he says.

Opportunities Also Lie Ahead

Some in the industry—especially those who have been around for a long time—feel that COVID-19 harmed park and recreation districts, according to Campos.

But he sees things differently.

Although it has been "very, very challenging," Campos says that COVID-19 has forced every district to evaluate their operations, budgets, policies, and staffing, bringing about innovations wherever possible.

"With great pressure comes great opportunity," he says. "I am optimistic that we are moving in the right direction. Changes made during COVID-19 tested our team's ability to thrive when faced with extreme adversity, and they passed with astounding results."

SDA Provides "Invaluable Assistance"

Ann Terry, Executive Director of SDA, recently attended the District's annual Board retreat. She spoke about the policies the Board should have in place and the roles and responsibilities of both Board and staff.

"She really helped the Board understand the big picture," Campos says, noting that he continues to hear many positive compliments about her presentation.

Campos is glad to know that he can always reach out to SDA for answers to his questions. Working for a special district is very different from working for a city, he says, even though both are local governments. As a relatively new special district Director, he says, "It's comforting to know that SDA will fully support my efforts in moving our organization forward into the future." 🍌



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Safety Consultations and Training Available for CSD Pool Members

Guest article by the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool



Safety consultations are one of the easiest ways your district can learn about and implement best practices, host workplace trainings, and develop your internal safety culture.

Our dedicated safety and loss prevention consultants are available to help your district prepare for the unexpected. They can also work with staff to evaluate potential losses by providing recommendations to protect your assets and keep your staff safe from injury.

The best part of our safety consultations is that they are complimentary for all members of the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool (CSD Pool).



The CSD Pool's newest Safety and Loss Prevention Specialists, Kyle Brown (left) and Josh Barkley (right), are both available for virtual and in-person trainings and consultations.

Meet Our New Safety Consultants

Some districts may have already had the pleasure of meeting Kyle Brown and Josh Barkley, our newest Safety and Loss Prevention Specialists, both of whom are based in Colorado.

Kyle has spent the last four years at Austin Powder Company as a Corporate Safety and Compliance Coordinator. He also spent one year with Gage Brothers Concrete Products as a Safety Coordinator where he created and implemented

programs to reduce injuries and hazards in the workplace, conducted facility inspections, and led company safety trainings.

A graduate of Ohio University, Kyle acquired two Bachelor of Science degrees, the first in Occupational Health and Safety and the second in Environmental Health. He brings a wealth of experience in regulatory compliance and program development to the Pool, and we are excited to have him on our team!

Even as a newer addition to the CSD Pool, Josh is already digging in to how his diverse background can transfer to helping members.

Josh comes to us with a M.S in Occupational Safety and Health. He credits his education with giving him the foundation to becoming a jack-of-all-trades in safety, risk management, and loss prevention. Right from school, he went on to work in an impressive variation of fields including manufacturing, construction,

Continued on page 21



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oil and gas, and other environments. Along with the strength of his background, Josh's biggest strength is his people skills.

There is nothing Josh loves more than meeting new people and helping them achieve their organizational and safety goals.

Starting a Consultation and Consultation Types

If your district decides to pursue a consultation, simply reach out to safety@csdpool.com to connect directly with one of our safety consultants and chat about your situation. Consultations are available on-site and virtually.

Our consultations generally fall into five different categories:

- » General Site Visits
- » Training
- » Inspections
- » Ergonomic Assessments
- » Safety Committee Support

For general site visits, when our safety consultants come to your district, they perform a facility walk-through and discuss any concerns that may need to be addressed. A full

facility audit, which follows federal regulations, can be requested if there are higher level concerns.

When inspecting a facility, our safety consultants will ask about previous injury or incident trends. Where did incidents occur? Under what circumstances? By looking at previous incident records, our team can inform you of new safety practices that may be beneficial to risk control.

Members can also monitor the most common incident types (in parentheses below) and the trainings that we offer that address each:

- » Fall protection training (for trips, slips, falls)
- » Ergonomic assessments (for lifting and muscle stress)
- » SKIDTRUCK training (for motor vehicle accidents)

Trainings are available on a 1:1 basis or can include an entire staff. The most commonly requested trainings are CDOT flagger training and ergonomic assessments. Beyond that, we offer confined spaces training; drug and alcohol recognition; excavation safety; hazard recognition; lock out/tag

out demos; trenching and shoring; fall protection trainings; and more. Most of these are designed to be performed on-site, but we can also host virtual sessions for trainings such as ergonomic assessments.

Additional Benefits

Our safety consultants constantly stay on top of best practices and regulations. Their expertise and dedication to safety becomes an asset to you any time you reach out. They are available to rewrite or update district safety programs, safety handbooks, emergency response plans, standard operations procedures, and more upon request.

Our consultants are an amazing resource to use in solidifying the safety culture of your district.

For those that haven't met Kyle or Josh, both are available for virtual and in-person trainings and consultations. They look forward to getting to know our membership and to learn more about the importance of special districts.

Reach out to safety@csdpool.org for more information or visit <https://csdpool.org/safety/consulting> 📍



SKIDTRUCK training is one of the many safety resources available to CSD Pool members.

SDA Board Member, Ronda Lobato, Honored as a Community Water Hero by the Colorado Water Conservation Board

We would like to congratulate Ronda Lobato, the Secretary/Treasurer of the SDA Board, for being named a Community Water Hero by the Colorado Water Conservation Board!

Ronda, who serves on the Board of Directors of the Costilla County Conservancy District, was recognized along with other local water heroes at a special event celebrating the release of the 2023 Colorado Water Plan.

The Community Water Heroes were nominated by their peers, and they were instrumental in bringing the updated Water Plan to fruition. According to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), Ronda has been a long-time member of the Rio Grande Basin roundtable where she continues to support her community through the roundtable, her daily work, and her participation in the acequia community. Ronda was also on the Department of Natural Resources/CWCB year-long Water Equity Task Force that helped develop a set of principles on how the Water Plan could best help promote equity, inclusivity, and diversity. These principles have now been included in the Water Plan update. Ronda also appears in the video for the



Ronda Lobato

2023 Colorado Water Plan.

"Ronda possesses a vast knowledge of water-related issues and has long been active in her local community. We are thrilled that she was honored by CWCB for all of her impactful work," said SDA Executive Director Ann Terry.

The 2023 Colorado Water Plan was adopted by the CWCB in January 2023 and serves as a

framework for statewide collaboration around water planning. According to a press release from Governor Polis, the updated Water Plan maintains the values and priorities of the original plan while reframing actions into four key areas: Vibrant Communities, Robust Agriculture, Thriving Watersheds, and Resilient Planning. Within these four interconnected areas, a list of approximately 50 actions for partners and 50 actions for the state aim to address themes such as equity, climate resilience, water conservation, land use, education, and more. The Water Plan Grant Program welcomes projects and programs that fall in five major funding categories: Water Storage and Supply; Conservation and Land Use; Engagement and Innovation; Agricultural projects; and Watershed Health and Recreation.

For more information on the 2023 Colorado Water Plan, please visit <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-water-plan> 🍋



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