

Special District Association of Colorado

SDA NEWS

JUNE 2023

Supporting Community-Based Government

***You're a New Special
District Board Member...
What Are Your Next Steps?***

**2023 Legislative Wrap-Up
Webinar on June 27!**



- Safe & Liquid Investment Options
- The Benefit of Two Funds
- Rated AAAM / AAf S-1
- Online Access
- Check Writing & Treasury Features

Bob Krug • bkrug@csafe.org
Tim Kauffman • tkauffman@csafe.org

www.csafe.org | (303) 296-6340

Board of Directors

President
Sue Blair
Independence Metropolitan District No. 4

Vice President
Bill Simmons
Eagle River Fire Protection District

Secretary/Treasurer
Ronda Lobato
Costilla County Conservancy District

Executive Vice President
Allison Ulmer
Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer, PLLC



James Borland
Fort Collins/Loveland Water District
Ross Blackmer
Thompson Crossing Metropolitan District
Nos. 3 and 5
Kent Bosch
Upper Thompson Sanitation District
Jodi Docheff
Kremmling Memorial Hospital District
Mike Feeley
West Metro Fire Protection District
Jim Kullhem
Prospect Recreation & Park District
Phil Thomas
Fountain Sanitation District

Staff

Ann Terry
Executive Director
Meredith Smith Quarles
Director of Operations
Michael Valdez
Director of Policy
Megan Lippard
Editor and Communications Manager
Anthony Sandoval
Program Manager
Karla Boughey
Membership Services Coordinator
Jamille Andres
Office Coordinator
Dianne Criswell
General Counsel
Evan Goulding
In Memoriam

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

? Ask SDA

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared as an Ask Evan in the October-November 2017 issue, and we thought this would be a great time to share the information again following the elections last month.

Q: What are qualities that can contribute to an effective Board of Directors?

A: There are several qualities leading to an effective Board:

- » Open and honest communications
- » Trust
- » No secret agendas
- » Respect for all opinions
- » Avoid cliques: Remember, we all ride for the same brand
 - > Cliques that try to line up their votes outside of the Board meeting will lead to divisions that will start to affect all Board interaction and can result in 3-2 votes on every issue
 - > Regular discussions between Board members can lead to suspicions among other Board members. Such discussions are not wrong, but spread it around, don't exclude others
 - > Cliques can seriously erode trust among Board members
- » Avoid ambush: Don't spring issues or charges on the Chairman, District Manager, or Chief by surprise. If you want an issue discussed, bring it up in a time and manner to provide for review and discussion when everyone has had a chance to understand the background
- » Everyone should strive to keep the focus on POLICY, not minutia
- » Board communications must be all-inclusive
- » Everyone is responsible for the outcome
- » Remember, special district Boards are non-partisan by design
- » The goal is not to WIN, but to come up with GOOD POLICY and arrive at BEST SOLUTIONS
- » A good Board seeks to peer into the future and to set policies to get the district there
- » Be willing to listen. Seek to find the gem of wisdom in everyone's contribution to the discussion
- » Do not take it personally: deal with ideas, policies, and issues, not personalities
- » Learn to disagree without being disagreeable
- » Some Boards deal with a lot of trivia or administrative details to avoid dealing with a big or controversial issue
 - > Is it a Board issue or is it a District Manager/Chief's issue?
 - > If it has been resolved before, what has changed for us to bring it up again?
- » Once a decision is made, it is the decision, and everyone should get behind it and support it. There are no minority reports in good Boards. 🍋



Ann Terry, SDA Executive Director.



You've Won Your Election and Now You're a Special District Board Member...

What Are Your Next Steps?

So, you've been elected or appointed to the Board of Directors of a Colorado special district. Congratulations! While your district is busy attending to post-election requirements, you may be asking yourself what you need to do next.

There are many resources available to help get you up to speed, beginning with the SDA website at www.sdaco.org. In order to have full access to all the information that is available for members, you will need to create an SDA user account. This can be done quickly and easily with the following steps:

1. Go to www.sdaco.org
2. Click on "Sign In" which is on the right-hand side of the front page
3. Click on "Create an account" which is under the sign in box
4. Please fill in the requested information and create a username and password for yourself (not for the district as this is your personal account) and fill in the required fields. Make sure to write down your username and password for future reference
5. Click "Create new account" at the bottom of the screen
6. You will receive an email with a link to confirm your email address
7. Once you have confirmed your email through the link, please call the SDA office at 303-863-1733 so that we can connect your new account to your district, allowing you full access to the website

Once you are logged in, you will have access to a wide variety of material and resources, including the Board Member Manual. This manual provides a wealth of information and is a very valuable tool for learning the statutory responsibilities of Board members. What's more, it can be easily downloaded for reference at any time. To access and download the pdf version, please click on the "Publications" tab at the top of the SDA website.

The SDA website also includes the electronic version of the current SDA newsletter as well as archived issues going back to 2006. The newsletter, *SDA News*, is published ten times a year and includes a plethora of helpful information, ranging from details on legislation that affects special districts to upcoming trainings to feature stories about districts from around the state. In election years, the newsletter even features a monthly

reminder on important election calendar deadlines and other pertinent resources. All of the issues of *SDA News* can also be found under the "Publications" tab on our website.

On the SDA website you can also view previously recorded webinars that cover topics such as best practices for special district budgeting and accounting; an overview of website ADA compliance for special districts; and the ins-and-outs of TABOR, just to name a few. These webinars can be accessed by clicking on the "Training" tab at the top of the front page of the SDA website and then clicking on "Webinars and Webinar Archive."

The Division of Local Government, which is within the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, also provides a wide variety of helpful information for local governments. Their website at <https://dlg.colorado.gov/> contains links to resources for issues such as special district administration; local government budgeting and finance; and special district elections, among many others.

You will also want to be sure to attend our Annual Regional Workshops in June. This informative training is perfect for new and seasoned Board members alike and will cover all the essential aspects of boardmanship (see page 7 for more information).

Also don't miss the SDA Annual Conference, September 12-14 at the Keystone Conference Center in Keystone. This popular three day event is packed full of valuable breakout sessions, keynote speakers, and networking opportunities with other special district Board members, managers, and professionals (see page 15 for more information).

In addition, there are some basic duties you should be familiar with to help you fulfill your important responsibilities and serve as an effective Board member.

Responsibility #1: Know the Documents and the Law

Know the documents that govern your special district. They include the service plan for the district, any bylaws adopted by the Board, and any rules and regulations.

Special districts are governed by state statute. Most member districts of SDA are special districts formed pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Article 1 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Those statutes can be accessed online at www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/colorado/

While no one expects you to become an expert in the state statutes in order to serve on the Board, it is important to bear in mind that because special districts are

There are many resources available to help get you up to speed, beginning with the SDA website at www.sdaco.org.

a form of local government, certain restrictions apply to the district and to you as a Board member, including TABOR; open meetings; public records; local government budgeting and auditing laws; and governmental immunity. Consult qualified legal counsel when necessary to ensure compliance. In addition, the SDA Board Member Manual is a wonderful resource which explains many of the laws that special districts must live by.

The documents and laws pertinent to your district are often a key resource for Board discussion and analysis of issues.

Responsibility #2: Attend Board Meetings

Plan to attend all Board meetings. This simple action is very important in discharging your duties to the district. Three consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings will result in your automatic removal from the Board.

If you are not able to attend a particular meeting, please notify the Board Chairman or district office. Proxies cannot be used, so at least three of the five Directors need to be present (in-person or by telephone or electronic means) in order to achieve a quorum and conduct the meeting.

Responsibility #3: Be Informed

Become informed on the matters on the agenda. Participate in discussions at Board meetings, and don't be afraid to share your experience and opinion on any issue. You must always exercise your independent judgment in the utmost good faith.

Responsibility #4: Public Trust

Colorado law provides that holding public office is a public trust, and you have a fiduciary duty to the district and its citizens. Always act in good faith and make sure the decisions you make are in the best interest of the district. You were elected by the citizens of the district, and you must carry out your duties for their benefit.

If you have a conflict of interest (when your private interests conflict with your public duties and actions), make sure it is disclosed in advance. The most common conflicts are financial. Special district Directors are subject to the state code of ethics so learn about how your participation on the Board may be limited if you have a conflict.

Responsibility #5: Confidentiality

Most meetings of the Board are open to the public, except for executive sessions. You have a duty to keep confidential what is discussed in executive sessions. You may only discuss what is a matter of public record with family members, friends, or the media. This protects both the district and the Board.

Responsibility #6: Rules of Order

Be acquainted with the rules of procedure for your Board's meetings. A strict following of *Robert's Rules of Order* is not appropriate for special district Boards because of important differences between the public arena and the Boards of private corporations. However, observing some version of parliamentary rules can make for a smoother-run meeting.

Responsibility #7: Legal Reporting Requirements

The Board may delegate the responsibility for complying with the various statutory filing and reporting requirements and deadlines to the District Manager, but you should be familiar with them as well. Failure to follow certain requirements can result in the County Treasurer withholding the district's tax revenues or even the administrative dissolution of your district by the state.

A calendar of the various statutory reporting and filing requirements for 2023 is available in the December 2022 issue of the SDA newsletter and in the SDA Board Member Manual (pdf versions of both of these documents are available on our website).

Responsibility #8: Compensation and Reimbursements

By law, special district Directors may be compensated for their service as a Director up to \$2,400 per year, not to exceed \$100 per meeting attended. Reimbursement of actual expenses for Directors is not considered as compensation. Please keep good records of any out-of-pocket expenses *reasonably* incurred in the performance of your duties, and spend public monies wisely.

Responsibility #9: Manage, Don't Micromanage

Your job as a Board member is to set policy, approve the budget, and guide the overall direction of the district. Don't get involved in the day-to-day operations of the district. Having a skilled and competent District Manager and holding him/her responsible for getting it done is essential. The best Board-staff relationships are found when the Board is clear (from the start) about its expectations and gives the Manager regular and productive feedback. Good communication is key.

Responsibility #10: Enjoy Your Time

We know that serving on a Board can sometimes feel like a thankless job, but please remember that the citizens have confidence in you as shown by their vote. Enjoy your time on the Board and be assured of the gratitude of your district and SDA for your willingness to serve. 🍷



**Alliance
Association
Bank®**

Serving Special Districts Throughout Colorado

Offering Powerful Banking Solutions & Software Integrations

Alliance Association Bank's ConnectLive™¹ integration provides robust solutions enabling you to seamlessly manage the finances of your districts. ConnectLive™ integrates with the industry's leading accounting software providers, allowing you to see key financial information in one platform.

Specializing in:

ConnectLive™¹ Software Integration

No-Fee Lockbox Services²

Online Homeowner Payment Portal

Simplified Banking Transitions



David Ford-Coates, CMCA

Vice President, HOA & Special District Banking
(720) 885-1444

dfordcoates@allianceassociationbank.com



Joanne Haluska, CMCA, AMS

Senior Managing Director, Central Region
(216) 314-9100

jhaluska@allianceassociationbank.com



One of Forbes' "America's
Best Banks" Year After Year

Bank on Accountability® | allianceassociationbank.com

¹The ability to integrate with ConnectLive™ may depend on the accounting software used. Services and integration tools may differ by software. ²Funds deposited through the Lockbox will follow Western Alliance Bank's funds availability policy as outlined in the Deposit Account Agreement Disclosure. Alliance Association Bank, a division of Western Alliance Bank, Member FDIC. Western Alliance Bank ranks high on Forbes' "America's Best Banks" list year after year.



BUILDING AND PROTECTING COLORADO COMMUNITIES.



Providing general and specialized legal services for special district formation, board governance, public infrastructure development, contracting and finance, elections, employment matters, water law, and general operation of metropolitan, water, sanitation, fire protection, emergency and hospital, and recreation districts and other public service entities.

Shareholders

Paul R. Cockrel
Evan D. Ela
Linda M. Glesne
David A. Greher
Matthew P. Ruhland

Associates

Joseph W. Norris
Harley G. Gifford
Madison D. Phillips

Paralegals

Micki Mills
Sarah Luetjen

44 Cook Street, Suite 620, Denver, CO 80206
www.cegrlaw.com • 303-218-7200

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

in People's Lives & Their Environment



Infrastructure
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

www.TSTInfrastructure.com

303-799-5197

Englewood, CO 80111

PLANNING. ENGINEERING. CONSTRUCTION. MANAGEMENT. OPERATIONS.

There's Still Time to Register for the 2023 SDA Annual Regional Workshops

...But Don't Delay!

Ann Terry and Michael Valdez from SDA along with the law firm of Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer are pleased to be hitting the road this month 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, the workshop outline, 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!

We're looking forward to traveling the state again this year, and we'll be in your neck of the woods soon so make sure you sign up today!

For more details and to complete the quick and easy registration process, please visit our website at www.sdaco.org. The cost is \$35 per person.

We can't wait to see you in a few weeks!

» 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)



Special District Association of Colorado
Supporting Community-Based Government

ABOUT US

Since 1995, the Colorado Employer Benefit Trust has partnered with the Special District Association of Colorado to provide benefit solutions that are superior and affordable. With more than 240 Special Districts participating in the Trust, CEBT is recognized for its comprehensive benefit offerings, exceptional customer service and consistently low rate increases.

MEDICAL - DENTAL - VISION - LIFE - LTD/STD



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

By joining CEBT's self-insured pool you can enjoy:

- ✓ Lower Risk
- ✓ Reduced Administrative Costs
- ✓ A Long-term Stable Solution for Your District

OUR MISSION

"To provide quality health benefit options at a competitive cost with superior service to eligible employer groups."

For more information contact:

☎ 303-345-7730
✉ Terry.Rook@wtwco.com
🌐 www.cebt.org
[REQUEST A QUOTE NOW](#)

CEBT
Benefit by Trust
A Higher Standard of Quality



Providing over 100 years of technical excellence in:

- Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Design & Rehabilitation
- Water & Wastewater Treatment System Planning & Design
- Groundwater Wells
- Special District Engineering & Consulting Services
- Construction Management

Enduring Relationships | Trusted Expertise | Promises Delivered

CONTACT:

Jerry Peña, P.E.

720.744.2233

165 S. Union Blvd., Suite 570
Lakewood, CO 80228

KENNEDYJENKS.COM

KJ | Kennedy Jenks

**Serving your District's
covenant enforcement,
foreclosure, and collection needs.**

Contact us
720-221-9780



**Orten Cavanagh
Holmes & Hunt, LLC**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

info@ochhoalaw.com
www.ochhoalaw.com

Election Corner

Even though the May elections are now complete, there are still important items to keep in mind for June and beyond.

May 2, 2023 Regular Mail Ballot Election Calendar

Date	Action	Authority
6-1-23	FCPA NOTE: File Candidate Committee or Issue Committee Report of Contributions and Expenditures with the Secretary of State (30 days after the election).	1-45-108(2)(a)(II)
6-16-23	For debt authorization elections, mail the election results by certified mail to the Board of County Commissioners of each county in which the special district is located or to the governing body of a municipality that has adopted a resolution of approval of the special district and to the Division of Securities (within 45 days after the election).	32-1-1101.5(1)
	Election official shall retain the sealed voted ballots until time has expired for any contest proceedings or 25 months after the election, whichever is later. All other election records and forms shall be preserved for at least six (6) months following the election.	1-13.5-616(1) 1-13.5-616(2)

May 2, 2023 Regular Polling Place Election Calendar

Date	Action	Authority
6-1-23	FCPA NOTE: File Candidate Committee or Issue Committee Report of Contributions and Expenditures with the Secretary of State (30 days after the election).	1-45-108(2)(a)(II)
	Election official shall retain the sealed voted ballots until time has expired for any contest proceedings or 25 months after the election, whichever is later. All other election records and forms shall be preserved for at least six (6) months following the election.	1-13.5-616(1) 1-13.5-616(2)



& ASSOCIATES

Providing Special District Management and Accounting Services for Over 25 Years
Evergreen, CO | **303.674.3379** | SimonsonAndAssociates.com | mail@simonson.com



**McGEADY
BECHER**
Special District Law

450 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 400
Denver, CO 80203
303-592-4380
www.SpecialDistrictLaw.com

RELIABILITY. EFFICIENCY. CREATIVITY. DELIVERY.

District Engineering Solutions

- Water/wastewater systems
- Arterial streets/roadways
- Stormwater systems
- GIS/survey

Barney Fix, PE | barney.fix@merrick.com | +1 303-353-3670



www.merrick.com

Experience • Integrity • Commitment

**Seter &
Vander Wall, P.C.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Representing and
advocating for
local governments

303.770.2700 | www.svwpc.com | svw@svwpc.com

7400 E. Orchard Road, Suite 3300, Greenwood Village Colorado 80111

We have the tools to help you...

Engineering & Mapping
Facility Development
District Management
Accounting & Finance Services
Planning
Administrative Support



**Mulhern
MRE, Inc.**

Managing Resources thru Engineering

Mulhern MRE, Inc. | 303.649.9857
Visit our website at www.mulhernmre.com



**County
Health Pool**

A Better Healthcare Choice for *all* local governments

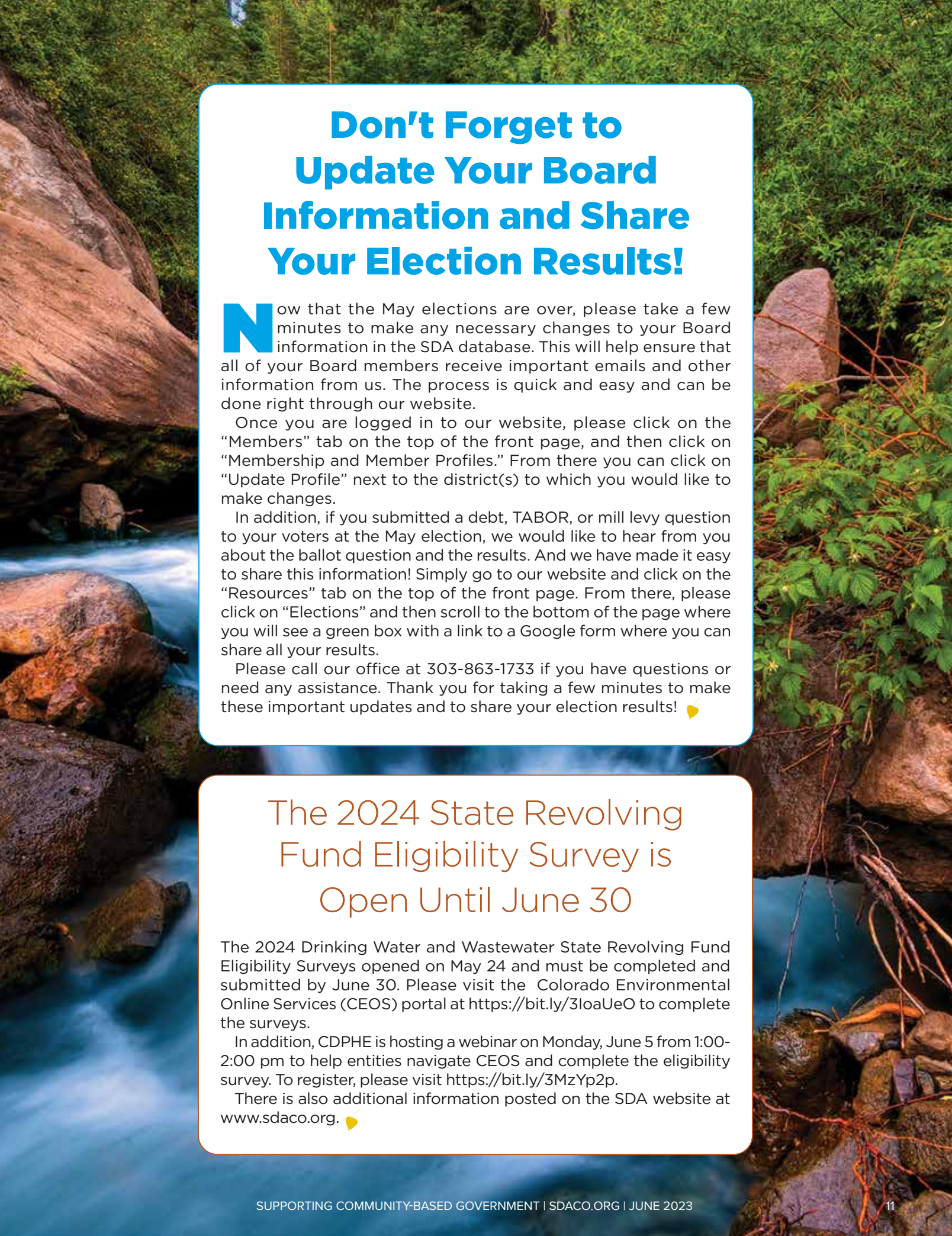
Medical
Dental
Vision
Life
COBRA
HIPAA

As an SDA member, take control of health care costs by pooling with other local governments, a long-term, cost-saving option that has been meeting insurance needs since 1984.

For more information or a quote, contact:

Meredith Burcham

County Technical Services Inc.
800 Grant Street, Suite 400
Denver, Colorado 80203
303-861-0507
mburcham@ctsi.org



Don't Forget to Update Your Board Information and Share Your Election Results!

Now that the May elections are over, please take a few minutes to make any necessary changes to your Board information in the SDA database. This will help ensure that all of your Board members receive important emails and other information from us. The process is quick and easy and can be done right through our website.

Once you are logged in to our website, please click on the “Members” tab on the top of the front page, and then click on “Membership and Member Profiles.” From there you can click on “Update Profile” next to the district(s) to which you would like to make changes.

In addition, if you submitted a debt, TABOR, or mill levy question to your voters at the May election, we would like to hear from you about the ballot question and the results. And we have made it easy to share this information! Simply go to our website and click on the “Resources” tab on the top of the front page. From there, please click on “Elections” and then scroll to the bottom of the page where you will see a green box with a link to a Google form where you can share all your results.

Please call our office at 303-863-1733 if you have questions or need any assistance. Thank you for taking a few minutes to make these important updates and to share your election results! 🍷

The 2024 State Revolving Fund Eligibility Survey is Open Until June 30

The 2024 Drinking Water and Wastewater State Revolving Fund Eligibility Surveys opened on May 24 and must be completed and submitted by June 30. Please visit the Colorado Environmental Online Services (CEOS) portal at <https://bit.ly/3loaUeO> to complete the surveys.

In addition, CDPHE is hosting a webinar on Monday, June 5 from 1:00-2:00 pm to help entities navigate CEOS and complete the eligibility survey. To register, please visit <https://bit.ly/3MzYp2p>.

There is also additional information posted on the SDA website at www.sdaco.org. 🍷



**COLLINS | COLE
FLYNN | WINN | ULMER**

Serving Those Who Serve Their Communities

Colorado's Local Government Attorneys

- Special District General Counsel
- Special District Organizations & Consolidations
- Local Government Elections
- Authorities
- Municipal Law

www.cogovlaw.com

Delivering Sound Solutions and Exceptional Service

WE CAN HELP WITH »
District Management
District Administration
Finance & Accounting
Capital Management
Facilities Management
Municipal Services
Fire/EMS Admin. Management

LOVELAND 970.669.3611 | DENVER 303.333.4380
WWW.PCGI.COM



PINNACLE
CONSULTING GROUP, INC



**PROVIDING WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES
FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS IN COLORADO,
NATIONWIDE, AND INTERNATIONALLY**

303.431.6100

MARTIN/MARTIN
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

martinmartin.com



2023 Legislative Wrap-Up Webinar on June 27!

Want to learn more about what happened during the 2023 Legislative Session that will affect your district? Looking for a sneak peek of what's to come next year?

Then plan to join us on Tuesday, June 27 from 1:30-2:30 pm for our informative legislative wrap-up webinar! We'll summarize the 120-day Session in 60 minutes or less!

SDA's Legislative Team will provide an overview of the 2023 Legislative Session, including the bills and issues that proved to be the most pertinent for special districts.

District Managers and Board members alike will benefit from this valuable presentation, which will highlight what the new legislation may mean for your district. You'll also get the inside scoop on what's on the horizon for the 2024 Legislative Session!

This is one you don't want to miss! Please watch your emails and the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for all the details as they become available.

You Will Lose Your
25% Discount if You Don't Pay
Your SDA Renewal by July 1
...So Don't Delay!

Many of you renewed your 2023 SDA membership by March 1 and received a 25% discount, which is fantastic! Now, just make sure you **pay** your dues by July 1 or you will lose the discount!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karla Boughey, our Membership Services Coordinator, at 303-863-1733.



View your Landscape Differently

Creating beautiful metro districts requires a strategic partner with foresight and an unwavering attention to detail. BrightView combines the resources of a national provider with the local attention you deserve. Our team maintains Colorado's most notable metro districts, giving us the experience to provide your property the world-class service it deserves.

Shad Parrish
308 841 3003
shad.parrish@brightview.com



Design | Develop | Maintain | Enhance



Spencer Fane LLP | spencerfane.com
1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 2000 | Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303.839.3800 | Fax: 303.839.3838

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.



... contributing to a cleaner, safer Colorado through low-cost loans to governmental entities for all types of water infrastructure projects.

Call 303-830-1550 or e-mail info@cwrpda.com | www.cwrpda.com

Mark Your Calendars and Start Making Your Plans...

The 2023 SDA Annual Conference Will Be Here Before We Know It!

We are so excited for this year's **SDA Annual Conference, September 12-14 at the Keystone Conference Center!** (Remember, that's **Tuesday, the 12th through Thursday, the 14th!**)

Due to the huge benefits for all of our attendees, we are bringing back our hybrid format, with both an in-person and livestreaming option. Our keynote presentations and breakout sessions will once again be livestreamed to a convenient online platform that will provide access for those who would like to join us remotely (they will also be recorded). And, **these recordings will be available after Conference** so all attendees can go back and watch the sessions again, either as a refresher or to catch up on anything they missed.

Conference will begin first thing on Tuesday morning with breakfast, the singing of the National Anthem, and the Presentation of the Colors. Immediately following these opening events, we are going to kick off the day with an **incredible keynote speaker, Meagan Johnson**. Meagan is a generational expert and understands the differences between Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials. More importantly, she has great insight into how all these generations can work together successfully.

We will be celebrating this year's annual award winners on Tuesday at our Awards Luncheon. Two years ago we moved this special lunch to the first day of Conference, and we have enjoyed having the extra time to celebrate our winners. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize all of our very deserving winners from the get-go, and we are looking forward to it again this year!

Tuesday's lunch will also feature keynote speaker, Paul Long. Paul leverages his concept of "Fundamism" to deliver a keynote unlike anything you've experienced before! Through his FUNdamentals, Paul will empower you to make strides in improving your quality of life at home and at work.

After a busy day filled with educational breakout sessions, we will wrap-up with **appetizers on the patio followed by our Opening Night Extravaganza.** As always, this will be a great way to unwind and visit with your fellow attendees with **good food, good entertainment, and good fun for all.**

Wednesday will feature two more amazing keynote speakers at breakfast and lunch as well as a plethora of information-packed breakout sessions. Our breakfast speaker, **Colette Carlson**, helps leaders master their ability to communicate and connect on deeper levels. At lunch we'll be joined by **Christine Porath**, who is a leading authority on the importance of workplace civility.

Back by popular demand is our Boots and BBQ event on Wednesday evening! This has been a huge

hit the last two years so we are bringing it back again! Enjoy delicious BBQ and music on the beautiful Conference Center patio while you catch up with your colleagues from the special district world.

Thursday morning will kick-off with a keynote presentation from the always funny (and insightful) Ross Shafer followed by our final breakout sessions. We will then conclude the entire event with a Grab-and-Go lunch that you can stay and enjoy before heading home or take with you in the car. This flexible lunch option has been successful the last two years so we are happy to offer it again.

Thursday will be a full day, and **we will end at the perfect time** to get you back on your way.

As always, we are excited to be working with all of our wonderful sponsors this year! **In addition to our Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsors, we also have 17 Platinum Sponsors!** Below is the complete list for 2023:

- » Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool
- » COLOTRUST
- » Community Resource Services of Colorado (CRS)
- » CSAFE
- » TCW Risk Management
- » Colorado Employer Benefit Trust (CEBT)
- » Ramey Environmental Compliance
- » Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer
- » Streamline
- » Gregory and Associates
- » Spencer Fane LLP
- » Colorado SIPA
- » Fromm & Company LLC
- » Cockrel Ela Glesne Greher & Ruhland, PC (CEGR Law)
- » Pinnacle Consulting Group, Inc.
- » GovDeals
- » Alliance Association Bank (*new for 2023!*)

All and all, we have a wonderful three-day event planned! Registration will open in early July so watch your emails and the SDA website at www.sdaco.org for more details as they become available.

Don't forget that the code for room reservations will also be available on our website in early July.

Start making your plans now, and we will see you in Keystone, September 12-14! ♥

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SERVICES



(303) 381-4960 • www.crsocolorado.com

Providing cost-effective, customized
management and accounting services

Over 200 Clients & Growing!



ICENOGLE SEAVER POGUE

A Professional Corporation
Attorneys at Law

Serving Colorado Special Districts & Other Political Subdivisions

4725 South Monaco Street, Suite 360, Denver, Colorado 80237
www.isp-law.com | 303.292.9100

GMS
INC

CONSULTING
ENGINEERS

Water

Supply
Treatment
Storage
Distribution

Wastewater

Collection
Lift Stations
Force Mains
Treatment

Funding Assistance

Grant & Funding Assistance
Feasibility Studies

Drainage

Hydrology
Detention
Conveyance Systems

Facilities Management

GIS Mapping
Operations Consultation

Utility Consultants

Municipalities
Special Districts
Non-Profits

Utilities

Planning
Permitting

GMS Inc.

Serving Colorado and Kansas

(719) 475-2935

Colorado Springs, CO

jmeyer@gmsengr.com



SDA and the National Special Districts Coalition Head to Washington, DC to Advocate for Special District Priorities

Guest article by the National Special Districts Coalition

Special district stakeholders from across the country descended on Washington, DC during the week of April 17 for the 2023 National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) “Special Districts on the Hill” fly-in event to press for support on top Coalition priorities.

Leaders and stakeholders from Coalition states met with 36 offices of the U.S. House and Senate to promote awareness of special districts as part of the country’s local government landscape. In doing so, the group of 12 advocated for the establishment of a “special district” definition in federal law and broader inclusion in federally funded local government programs. NSDC also focused on ongoing efforts to address community gaps in adequate water infrastructure for firefighting.

SDA was represented by Ann Terry, SDA’s Executive Director and the Vice Chair of NSDC; Michael Valdez, SDA’s Director of Policy; and Allison Ulmer, SDA’s Executive Vice President.

NSDC’s advocates met with members of their state Congressional delegations as well as other Coalition members’ delegations to discuss and share information about the services special districts provide to their constituents. They also framed the importance of special districts having access to federally-funded programs for local government—and the hardship that stems from the inability to tap into funding opportunities. In addition, the groups highlighted the steps that special districts who

provide fire protection and water services are taking to strengthen fire suppression infrastructure in their communities and the necessity for a federal funding source to assist with this critical need.

Ann, Michael, and Allison were thrilled to participate in these important discussions. “The work that special districts are doing across the country is essential to local communities, and we are pleased to lend our voice on a federal level to help advocate for this crucial work,” said Ann. “SDA is a founding member of NSDC, and our week of meetings on behalf of districts across the country was very fulfilling.”

The Coalition would like to thank congressional staff for their active engagement with Coalition stakeholders and to thank Representatives John Duarte, R-Calif.; Val Hoyle, D-Ore.; Carlos Gimenez, R-Fla.; Kevin Kiley, R-Calif.; Doug LaMalfa, R-Calif.; Doug Lamborn, R-Colo.; and Brittany Pettersen, D-Colo. for meeting with Coalition members.

The Coalition was also able to meet with representatives from the Tahoe Water for Fire Suppression Coalition who were in Washington to advocate for funding for water infrastructure for firefighting.

The April fly-in was the second for NSDC, having made its initial introductions on Capitol Hill in September 2022. The Ferguson Group and Paragon Government Relations coordinated the event.

For more information on how to get involved with NSDC’s federal advocacy, contact Cole Arreola-Karr, at colek@nationalspecialdistricts.org



Ann Terry, Michael Valdez, and Allison Ulmer spent a productive week in Washington, DC with other special district leaders from the National Special Districts Coalition.

“The work that special districts are doing across the country is essential to local communities, and we are pleased to lend our voice on a federal level to help advocate for this crucial work.”

*Ann Terry,
SDA Executive Director*

Welcome New SDA Members

District Members

164th Avenue and York Street Metropolitan District
Ash Park and Recreation District
Barnes Center Metropolitan District
Colorado International Center Metropolitan District No. 5
Cottonwood Conner Metropolitan District
Cottonwood Thermo Metropolitan District
Cottonwood Townhomes Metropolitan District
La Puerta Business Improvement District
Lorson Ranch Metropolitan District Nos. 5-7
Mead Place Metropolitan District No. 4
Miners Park Metropolitan District Nos. 1 and 2
Montava Metropolitan District No. 1
North End Metropolitan District Nos. 1-4
One Place Metropolitan District No. 1
Peak Metropolitan District Nos. 4-7
PLA Metropolitan District
PrairieStar Metropolitan District No. 3
Rendezvous Arrow Metropolitan District Nos. 1-3
Ridgetop Village Metropolitan District
RRC Metropolitan District Nos. 4-6
Sky Dance Metropolitan District Nos. 1 and 2
The Overlook at Kings Point South Metropolitan District
The Springs Metropolitan District
The Springs South Metropolitan District
Vista Meadows Metropolitan District

Associate Members

Advance HOA Management, Inc.
Bancorp Insurance
Canvas Credit Union
CRAgency, Inc.
Hanson Bridgett
Husch Blackwell
National Cybersecurity Center
Novitas Communications



Risk Management
And Insurance
Placement
Services For More
Than 70 Years.

Call today!
800-530-3001
wilsonins.com

RISK MANAGEMENT

Ramey Environmental Compliance Has Been Providing Innovative

Water & Wastewater Treatment Solutions

in the Rocky Mountain Region for more than 20 Years

Maintenance | Operations | Management | Project Development | Custom Solutions



How can we assist you?

(303) 833-5505
www.RECinc.net



Scan this QR Code with your 'smart' phone to visit us on the Web



Better Training. Better Results.

*Training Management for Water
and Wastewater Professionals*



With Vector Solutions, your organization can cost-effectively and conveniently train employees on a variety of professional development and safety topics. Our course catalog offers approved training units for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's certification requirements.



Quality Training



Easy To Use



Convenient



Cost Effective

Manage Water Credentials

Vector Solutions' platform helps public works organizations complete mandated training more efficiently. This powerful tool gives you the ability to track certifications, create job specific training tracks, and bundle activities together while simplifying training management. With Vector Solutions, you can meet your agency's training requirements.

1

Water and Wastewater Treatment

Water Treatment Class A, B, C, S, D, T
Wastewater Treatment Class A, B, C, S, D, T

2

Collection and Distribution

Collection System Operator Class 1-4
Distribution System Operator Class 1-4

3

Industrial

Industrial System Operator Class 1, A-T
Industrial System Operator Class 2, A-T



Available at no-cost for CSD Pool members

