Comprehensive Overview of Types of Special Districts

Special districts give voters and communities the ability to buy just the amount of government they want, while focusing on local and regional needs. Large or small, they are sensitive and responsive to the neighborhoods and regions they serve. Comprehensive Overview of Types of Special Districts, created by the California Special Districts Association, is a reference guide to the laws that govern special districts. It is intended to serve as a resource for special district board members, staff and the general public to quickly locate the governance powers and functions that distinguish each type of district, as specified within the myriad codes that provide for special districts under California law.

This guide outlines the enabling acts that provide statutory authorization for the formation and operation of the 2,162 independent and mixed board special districts established by the voters of California. Not every district provides all the powers and functions authorized by its enabling act. Those powers and functions that a district does not provide, but which are authorized by its enabling act, are called latent powers. Special districts must get approval from their Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) before providing a latent power.

The number of special districts in California is often misquoted due to the number of entities included in the State Controller’s annual financial report. While the Controller’s 2009-2010 report lists 4,792 “special districts,” many are actually non-profit corporations or components of other governments, such as cities and counties.

"Independent special district” as defined by Government Code §56044, "includes any special district having a legislative body all of whose members are elected by registered voters or landowners within the district, or whose members are appointed to fixed terms.” In addition to the principle acts of all independent special districts listed in this guide, Appendix A lists the special acts that provide statutory authorization for 141 dependent and independent districts created for specific purposes separate from the standard special district principle acts. Furthermore, Appendix B outlines special districts that may not meet the statutory definition of an independent special district, but whose legislative bodies operate independently given their board’s composition of representatives from two or more public agencies. Therefore, these 42 “mixed board” special districts along with 42 of the special act districts in Appendix A and the 2,078 independent districts within the following principle acts comprise CSDA’s count of 2,162 special districts.

Ultimately, it is not the number of special districts that is paramount, but the ability to deliver core local services effectively and responsibly. The variety of special district types and unique attributes of each individual district facilitate focused service, which is the strength of special districts and what makes them so special.

NOTE: The entries within Comprehensive Overview of Types of Special Districts are excerpts from California law. The quantities of districts listed are extracted from the 2009-2010 Special Districts Annual Report produced by the State Controller’s office.
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<th>ELECTION INFORMATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Airport Districts</td>
<td>Assist in the development of airports, spaceports, and air navigation facilities</td>
<td>Any territories of one or more counties and one or more cities, all or any part of any city and any part of the unincorporated territory of any county; the boundaries of a district may be altered and outlying contiguous territory in the same or an adjoining county annexed to the district</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Utilities</td>
<td>§22001 et seq.</td>
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<td>California Water</td>
<td>Maintain the necessary works for the production, storage, and distribution of water for irrigation, domestic, industrial, and municipal purposes, and any drainage or reclamation works</td>
<td>Any area of land which is capable of using water beneficially for irrigation, domestic, industrial or municipal purposes and which can be serviced from common sources of supply and by the same system of works; area need not be contiguous</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Elected by landowner voters to 4 year terms¹</td>
<td>At least 5 Directors (may be increased to 7, 9, or 11)²</td>
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<td>Districts</td>
<td>§34000 et seq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Water Storage Districts</td>
<td>Maintain the necessary works for the storage and distribution of water and drainage or reclamation works</td>
<td>Any land irrigated or capable of irrigation from a common source; under specific conditions the district need not to be contiguous</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Elected by landowner voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>At least 5 Directors²</td>
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<td><strong>Water Code §39000 et seq.</strong></td>
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<td>Citrus Pest Districts</td>
<td>Control and eradicate citrus pests</td>
<td>Any county devoted exclusively to the growing of citrus fruits</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fixed 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Directors³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food and Agriculture Code §8401 et seq.</strong></td>
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<td>Community Services Districts</td>
<td>Provide up to 32 different services such as, water, garbage collection, wastewater management, security, fire protection, public recreation, street lighting, mosquito abatement services, etc.</td>
<td>Any county or counties of an unincorporated territory or incorporated territory of a contiguous or noncontiguous area</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms⁴</td>
<td>5 Directors</td>
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<td><strong>Government Code §61000 et seq.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cotton Pest Abatement Districts</td>
<td>Control and prevent introduction of pests, and oversee cotton plants in areas that are at risk of pests</td>
<td>Any land in more than one of the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura with the consent of the Board of Supervisors of the counties affected</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fixed 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Directors^5</td>
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<td>Food and Agriculture Code §6051 et seq.</td>
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<td>County Sanitation Districts</td>
<td>Maintain and operate sewage systems and sewage disposal or treatment plants</td>
<td>Any unincorporated or incorporated territory or both; the incorporated territory included in the district may include the whole or part of one or more cities with the permission of that city</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms or may choose to have a mixed board^6</td>
<td>3 Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Safety Code §4700 et seq.</td>
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<td>County Water Districts</td>
<td>Develop regulations for the distribution and consumption of water; sell water; collect and dispose sewage, garbage, waste, trash and storm water; store water for future needs; may generate hydroelectric power; and provide fire protection under specified conditions</td>
<td>Any county or two or more contiguous counties or of a portion of such county or counties, whether the portion includes unincorporated territory or not</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms^4</td>
<td>At least 5 Directors (may be increased to 7, 9, or 11)</td>
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<td>Water Code §30000 et seq.</td>
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| Fire Protection Districts  
 *Health and Safety Code §13800 et seq.* | Provide fire protection and other emergency services                                  | Any territory, whether incorporated or unincorporated whether contiguous or noncontiguous, may be included            | 328                             | Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms or appointed by the Board of Supervisors (and City Council where applicable) to fixed 4 year terms⁷ | May be 3, 5, 7, 9 or 11 Directors (not to exceed 11) |
| Harbor Districts  
 *Harbors and Navigation Code §6000 et seq.* | Manage any bay, harbor, inlet, river, channel, etc. in which tides are affected by the Pacific Ocean | Any portion or whole part of a county, city or cities, the exterior boundary of which includes a harbor                | 7                               | Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms                                             | 5 Commissioners         |
| Health Care/ Hospital Districts  
 *Health and Safety Code §32000 et seq.* | Establish, maintain, and operate, or provide assistance in the operation of, one or more health facilities or health services, including, but not limited to: outpatient programs, services, and facilities; retirement programs, services, and facilities; chemical dependency programs, services, and facilities | Any incorporated or unincorporated territory, or both, or territory in any one or more counties; the territory comprising this district need not be contiguous but the territory of a municipal corporation shall not be divided | 79                             | Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms                                             | 5 Directors             |
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<td><strong>Irrigation Districts</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt; <em>Water Code §20500 et seq.</em></td>
<td>Sell and lease water; operate sewage collection and disposal system; deliver water for fire protection; dispose and salvage sewage water; protect against damage from flood or overflow; provide drainage made necessary by the irrigation provided; maintain recreational facilities in connection with any dams, reservoirs, etc.; and operate and sell electrical power</td>
<td>Any land capable of irrigation; includes land used for residential or business purposes susceptible of receiving water for domestic or agriculture purposes; need not be contiguous</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms⁸</td>
<td>3 or 5 Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Levee Districts</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt; <em>Water Code §70000 et seq.</em></td>
<td>Protect the district’s land from overflow by constructing and maintaining the necessary infrastructure</td>
<td>Any county or counties or any portion thereof of an unincorporated territory or incorporated territory in need of protection of the lands of the district from overflow and for the purpose of conserving or adding water to the sloughs and drains</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Elected by landowner voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>3 Directors</td>
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<td>Library Districts</td>
<td>Equip and maintain a public library in order to exhibit knowledge in a variety of areas</td>
<td>Any incorporated or unincorporated territory, or both, in any one or more counties, so long as the territory of the district consists of contiguous parcels and the territory of no city is divided</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fixed 4 year terms</td>
<td>3 or 5 Trustees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Districts</td>
<td>Operate and maintain memorial halls, meeting places, etc. for veterans</td>
<td>Any incorporated territory of the county together with any contiguous unincorporated territory thereof; or may be formed entirely of contiguous incorporated territory; or entirely of contiguous unincorporated territory</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Directors⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Districts</td>
<td>Conduct effective programs for the surveillance, prevention, abatement and control of mosquitoes and other vectors</td>
<td>Any territory, whether incorporated or unincorporated, whether contiguous or noncontiguous and districts may not overlap</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Appointed by the Board of Supervisors or the City Council to fixed 2-4 year terms¹⁰</td>
<td>5 Trustees</td>
</tr>
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<td>Municipal Utility Districts</td>
<td>Manage and supply light, water, power, heat, transportation, telephone service, or other means of communication, or means for the collection, treatment, or disposition of garbage, sewage or refuse matter</td>
<td>Any public agency together with unincorporated territory, or two or more public agencies, with or without unincorporated territory; public agencies and unincorporated territory included within a district may be in the same or separate counties and need not be contiguous; no public agency shall be divided in the formation of a district</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 2-4 year terms¹¹</td>
<td>5 Directors</td>
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<td>Public Utilities Section 11501 et seq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Water Districts</td>
<td>Develop and sell water; promote water use efficiency; operate public recreational facilities; provide fire protection; collect and dispose trash, garbage, sewage, storm water and waste; and generate, sell and deliver hydroelectric power</td>
<td>Any county or counties, or of any portions thereof, whether such portions include unincorporated territory only or incorporated territory of any city or cities; cities and unincorporated territory does not need to be contiguous</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Directors</td>
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<td>Water Code §71000 et seq.</td>
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| Police Protection Districts  
*Health and Safety Code §20000 et seq.* | Provide police service to a community | May be formed in unincorporated towns | 3 | Elected by resident voters to 2-4 year terms | 3 Commissioners |
| Port Districts  
*Harbors and Navigation Code § 6200 et seq.* | Maintain and secure the ports | Shall include one municipal corporation and any contiguous unincorporated territory in any one county, but a municipal corporation shall not be divided | 5 | Appointed by the Board of Supervisors and City Council to fixed 4 year terms, and approved by resident voters | 5 Commissioners |
| Public Cemetery Districts  
*Health and Safety Code §9000 et seq.* | Maintain public cemeteries in communities as necessary | Any territory, whether incorporated or unincorporated, whether contiguous or noncontiguous; districts may not overlap | 250 | Appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fixed 4 year terms | 3 or 5 Trustees |
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<tr>
<td>Public Utility Districts</td>
<td>Maintain the infrastructure to provide electricity, natural gas, water, power, heat, transportation, telephone service, or other means of communication, or the disposition of garbage, sewage, or refuse matter</td>
<td>May be incorporated and managed in unincorporated territory</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 2-4 Year terms</td>
<td>At least 3 Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reclamation Districts</td>
<td>Reclaim and maintain land that is at risk of flooding for a variety of purposes</td>
<td>Any land within any city in which land is subject to overflow or incursions from the tide or inland waters of the state</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>Elected by landowner voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>3, 5 or 7 Trustees</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation and Park Districts</td>
<td>Organize and promote programs of community recreation, parks and open space, parking, transportation and other related services that improve the community’s quality of life</td>
<td>Any territory, whether incorporated or unincorporated, whether contiguous or noncontiguous</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms or appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fixed 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Conservation Districts</td>
<td>Manage a diversity of resource conservation projects, including soil and water conservation projects, wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration, control of exotic plant species, watershed restoration, conservation planning, education, and many others</td>
<td>Any land shall be those generally of value for agricultural purposes, but other lands may be included in a district if necessary to conserve resources</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>5, 7, or 9 Directors</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sanitary Districts</td>
<td>Maintain and operate garbage dumpsites, garbage collection and disposal systems, sewers, storm water drains and storm water collection, recycling and distribution systems</td>
<td>Any county, or in two or more counties within the same natural watershed area</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Directors</td>
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<td>Health and Safety Code §6400 et seq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transit Districts</td>
<td>Construct and operate rail lines, bus lines, stations, platforms, terminals and any other facilities necessary or convenient for transit service</td>
<td>Any city together with unincorporated territory, or two or more cities, with or without unincorporated territory, may organize and incorporate as a transit district; cities and unincorporated territory included within a district may be in the same or separate counties and need not be contiguous; no city shall be divided in the formation of a district</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 2- 4 year terms 13</td>
<td>7 Directors</td>
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<td>Public Utilities Code §24501 et seq.</td>
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<td>Water Conservation Districts</td>
<td>Maintain, survey, and research water supplies</td>
<td>Unincorporated territory or partly within unincorporated and partly within incorporated territory, and may be within one or more counties that need water conservation services; territory does not need to be contiguous</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>3, 5 or 7 Directors</td>
</tr>
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<td>Water Code §74000 et seq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Replenishment Districts</td>
<td>Replenish the water and protect and preserve the groundwater supplies</td>
<td>Any land entirely within unincorporated territory, or partly within unincorporated territory and partly within incorporated territory, and within one or more counties in this state</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Elected by resident voters to 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Code §60000 et seq.</td>
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</table>

1.) Can be changed to resident voter by the Board of Supervisors through a resolution and a petition (See Water Code §35040)
2.) Board member must be a holder or legal representative of title to land within the district or designated by a holder of title of land (See Water Code §34700)
3.) Must be an owner of land devoted to the growing of the product for which the district is established (See Food and Agriculture Code §8502)
4.) May be elected: At large, by divisions, or from divisions
5.) Food and Agriculture Code §6060: “No person shall, at any time, be eligible to hold the office of director of any district unless he or she is a resident of the state, and a cotton grower, either individually or as a joint tenant of, or is a member of a partnership which owns, or is an officer of, a corporation which grows cotton within the district"
6.) For specifics on the county sanitation district mixed board, please see Health and Safety Code §4730-4730.1
7.) Dependent upon existence of cities within the district
8.) Water Code §21552: “The number of divisions may be changed to three or five or the method of electing directors may be changed to election by the district at large or by divisions, or both changes may be made simultaneously”
9.) *Military and Veterans Code §1170:* “A majority of the seats on the board shall be designated for veterans, as defined in Section 940. Any board seat that is so designated, but is not currently filled by a qualifying individual, shall be filled by a qualified individual at the next election at which that seat is to be filled”

10.) *Health and Safety Code §2024 (a):* “… the term of office for a member of the board of trustees shall be for a term of two or four years, at the discretion of the appointing authority”

11.) Elected at large from nominees that represent each of the 5 wards within the district (*See Public Utilities Code §11641-11656*)

12.) Elected at large and from territorial units in unincorporated areas suited within the county (*See Public Utilities Code §15951-15976*)

13.) Elected at large from nominees that represent each of the 5 wards within the district and 2 are elected at large (*See Public Utilities Code §24801*)
Appendix A
In addition to independent special districts created under a principle act, special districts may be established by special act. Below is a list of special acts:

**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL**
Bay Area Air Quality Management District ................................................................. Health and Safety 40200 et seq.
South Coast Air Quality Management District ............................................................... Health and Safety 40410 et seq.
San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Management District .................................................. Health and Safety 40600 et seq.
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District ....................................... Health and Safety 40950 et seq.
Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District ......................................................... Health and Safety 41200 et seq.
Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District ....................................................... Health and Safety 41300 et seq.

**AIRPORT**
Monterey Peninsula Airport District Act .................................................................. **
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority ............................................................. Public Utilities 170000 et seq.

**DRAINAGE**
Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District Law ......................................................... Water* 21-1
(Year 1913) Chapter 99

**FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION**
San Diego County Flood Control District Act ............................................................. Water* 50-1
(Year 1966) Chapter 55
Flood Control and Flood Water Conservation District Act ......................................... Water* 38-1
(Year 1931) Chapter 641
Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ...................... Water* 55-1
(Year 1949) Chapter 1275
American River Flood Control District Act ............................................................... Water* 37-1
(Year 1927) Chapter 808
Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ............. Water* 63-1
(Year 1951) Chapter 1617
Del Norte County Flood Control District Act ......................................................... Water* 72-1
(Year 1955) Chapter 166

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control Act ............................................................ Water* 73-1
(Year 1955) Chapter 503

Humboldt County Flood Control District Act ..................................................... Water* 47-1
(Year 1945) Chapter 939

Lake County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ................. Water* 62-1
(Year 1951) Chapter 1544

Lassen-Modoc County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act .... Water* 92-1
(Year 1959) Chapter 2127

Los Angeles County Flood Control Act ............................................................... Water* 28-1
(Year 1915) Chapter 755

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ............... Water* 68-1
(Year 1953) Chapter 666

Mendocino County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ....... Water* 54-1
(Year 1949) Chapter 995

Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act .......... Water* 52-1
(Year 1947) Chapter 699

Napa County Flood Control and Conservation District Act ......................... Water* 61-1
(Year 1951) Chapter 1449

Orange County Flood Control Act ................................................................. Water* 36-1
(Year 1927) Chapter 723

Plumas County Flood Control and Waste Conservation District Act .............. Water* 88-1
(Year 1959) Chapter 2114

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act .......... Water* 48-1
(Year 1945) Chapter 1122
San Benito County Conservation and Flood Control District Act.............................. Water* 70-1
(Year 1953) Chapter 1598

San Bernardino County Flood Control Act .............................................................. Water* 43-1
(Year 1939) Chapter 73

San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act............... Water* 79-1
(Year 1956) Chapter 46

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ......... Water* 49-1
(Year 1945) Chapter 1294

San Mateo County Flood Control District Act ....................................................... Water* 87-1
(Year 1959) Chapter 2108

Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ............ Water* 74-1
(Year 1955) Chapter 1057

Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act............... Water* 77-1
(Year 1955) Chapter 1489

Sierra County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ....................... Water* 99-1
(Year 1959) Chapter 2123

Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ................... Water* 89-1
(Year 1959) Chapter 2121

Solano County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ..................... Water* 64-1
(Year 1951) Chapter 1656

Stanislaus County Flood Control and Enabling Act.............................................. Water* 120-1
(Year 1981) Chapter 421

Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ................. Water* 82-1
(Year 1957) Chapter 1280

Ventura County Flood Control Act........................................................................ Water* 46-1
(Year 1944) Chapter 44
Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ....................... Water* 65-1
(Year 1951) Chapter 1657

Tulare County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act .................. Water* 111-1
(Year 1969) Chapter 1149

Madera County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act ................. Water* 110-100
(Year 1983) Chapter 916

Colusa County Flood Control and Water Conservation Act ............................. Water* 123-1
(Year 1984) Chapter 926

Sutter County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act .................. Water* 125-1
(Year 1984) Chapter 688

Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act .................. Water* 126-1
(Year 1984) Chapter 689

Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency ........................................... Water 81300 et seq.

Napa County Flood Protection and Watershed Authority................................. Revenue and Taxation 7285.5 et seq.

**HARBOR AND PORT**
San Diego Unified Port District Act.................................................................... **
(Year 1970) Chapter 1283

Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District Act ..................... **

**LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICTS**
Monterey County Special Health Care Authority Act........................................ Health and Safety 1170 et seq.

Santa Barbara County Health Care Authority Act .......................................... Health and Safety 1175 et seq.

Coast Life Support District Act................................................................. General Law
(Year 1986) Chapter 375

**MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT**
Montalvo Municipal Improvement District Act................................................. **
(Year 1955) Chapter 549
Guadalupe Valley Municipal Improvement District Act .................................................. **
(Year 1959) Chapter 2037

Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District Act .................................................... **
(Year 1960) Chapter 22

Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District Act .................................................... **
(Year 1960) Chapter 81

Estero Municipal Improvement District Act ............................................................... **
(Year 1960) Chapter 82

LEVEE
Levee District Number One of Sutter County ............................................................. Water* 1-1
(Year 1873) Chapter 349

City of Marysville Levee District ............................................................................. Water*
(Year 1875) Chapter 134

Protection District Act of 1880 ................................................................................. Water* 4-1
(Year 1880) Chapter 63

Sacramento River West Side Levee District .............................................................. Water* 26-1
(Year 1915) Chapter 361

Lower San Joaquin Levee District Act ..................................................................... Water* 75-1
(Year 1955) Chapter 1075

Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District Act ..................................................... Water* 106-1
(Year 1967) Chapter 910

LIBRARY
Union High School District Public Libraries ............................................................ Education 18301 et seq.

NAPA COUNTY WINEGRAPE PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL DISTRICT LAW .... Food and Agriculture 6292 et seq.

RECLAMATION
Reclamation District No. 10 ................................................................. Water* 24-1
(Year1913) Chapter 194

Reclamation District No. 70 ................................................................. Water* 10-1
(Year1905) Chapter 552

Reclamation District No. 317 ................................................................. Water* 3-1
(Year1877) Chapter 379

Reclamation District No. 800 ................................................................. Water* 12-1
(Year1907) Chapter 213

Reclamation District No. 830 ................................................................. Water* 15-1
(Year1911) Chapter 171

Reclamation District No. 833 ................................................................. Water* 17-1
(Year1911) Chapter 403

Reclamation District No. 900 ................................................................. Water* 14-1
(Year1911) Chapter 100

Reclamation District No. 999 ................................................................. Water* 23-1
(Year1913) Chapter 161

Reclamation District No. 1000 ............................................................... Water* 19-1
(Year1911) Chapter 412

Reclamation District No. 1001 ............................................................... Water* 18-1
(Year1911) Chapter 411

Reclamation District No. 1500 ............................................................... Water* 22-1
(Year1913) Chapter 100

Reclamation District No. 1600 ............................................................... Water* 25-1
(Year1913) Chapter 195

Reclamation District No. 1660 ............................................................... Water* 27-1
(Year1915) Chapter 591

Reclamation District No. 2031 ............................................................... Water* 30-1
(Year1919) Chapter 338
Union Island Reclamation District No. 1 and 2 .......................................................... Water* 7-1
(Year1903) Chapter 36

RECREATION AND PARK
Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District Act.................................................. **
(Year1961) Chapter 1654

Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority Act......................................................... **
(Year1945) Chapter 1040

SANITATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ACT
Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District Act of 1952 ...................................... Water* 67-1
(Year1952) Chapter 17

Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency District Act of 1971 ........................................... **
(Year1971) Chapter 1560

SEWER AND SEWER MAINTENANCE
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District Act ........................................................................ **
(Year 1951) Chapter 303

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Tahoe Resource Conservation District Act.............................................................. Public Resources 9951 et seq.

STORM WATER DRAINAGE AND MAINTENANCE
Contra Costa County Storm Drainage District Act ................................................. Water* 69-1
(Year 1953) Chapter1532

TRANSIT
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District Act .................................................. Public Utilities 28500 et seq.

Stockton Metropolitan Transit District Law ............................................................. Public Utilities 50000 et seq.

Southern California Rapid Transit District Law....................................................... Public Utilities 30000 et seq.

Marin County Transit District Act of 1984............................................................... Public Utilities 70000 et seq.

Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District Act of 1965 ........................................ Public Utilities 95000 et seq.
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Act of 1967 ............................................... Public Utilities 98000 et seq.
Santa Clara County Transit District Act....................................................................... Public Utilities 100000 et seq.
Golden Empire Transit District Act ................................................................. Public Utilities 101000 et seq.
Sacramento Regional Transit District Act............................................................... Public Utilities 102000 et seq.
San Mateo County Transit....................................................................................... Public Utilities 103000 et seq.
North San Diego County Transit Development Board........................................ Public Utilities 125000 et seq.
North Coast Railroad Authority Act ........................................................................ Public Utilities 93000 et seq.

PUBLIC UTILITY
Olivehurst Public Utility District Act................................................................. Water* 56-1
(Year 1950) Chapter 12
Donner Summit Public Utility District Act............................................................. Water* 58-1
(Year 1950) Chapter 15

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT.............................................................. Water* 109-1
(Year 1969) Chapter 209

WATER AGENCY OR AUTHORITY
Alpine County Water Agency Act ................................................................. Water* 102-1
(Year 1961) Chapter 1896
Amador County Water Agency Act................................................................. Water* 95-1
(Year 1959) Chapter 2146
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency Law ................................................ Water* 95-50
(Year 1959) Chapter 2146
Contra Costa County Water Agency Act ........................................................... Water* 80-1
(Year 1957) Chapter 518
Desert Water Agency Law.................................................................................. Water* 100-1
(Year 1961) Chapter 1069
El Dorado County Water Agency Act ................................................................. Water* 96-1  
(Year 1959) Chapter 2139

Kern County Water Agency Act ................................................................. Water* 99-1  
(Year 1961) Chapter 1003

Mariposa County Water Agency Act ............................................................. Water* 85-1  
(Year 1959) Chapter 2036

Mojave Water Agency Act ................................................................. Water* 97-1  
(Year 1959) Chapter 2146

Nevada County Water Agency Act ............................................................. Water* 90-1  
(Year 1959) Chapter 2122

Orange County Water District Act ............................................................. Water* 40-1  
(Year 1933) Chapter 924

Placer County Water Agency Act ............................................................. Water* 81-1  
(Year 1957) Chapter 1234

Sacramento County Water Agency Act .................................................... Water* 66-1  
(Year 1952) Chapter 10

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Act ..................................................... Water* 101-1  
(Year 1961) Chapter 1435

Santa Barbara County Water Agency Act ................................................ Water* 51-1  
(Year 1945) Chapter 1501

Shasta County Water Agency Act ............................................................. Water* 83-1  
(Year 1957) Chapter 1512

Sutter County Water Agency Act ............................................................. Water* 86-1  
(Year 1959) Chapter 2088

Yuba County Water Agency Act .............................................................. Water* 84-1  
(Year 1959) Chapter 788
County Water Authority Act .......................................................... Water* 45-1
(Year 1943) Chapter 545

Monterey Peninsula Water Management Act................................. Water* 118-1
(Year 1977) Chapter 527

Yuba-Bear River Basin Authority Act .............................................. Water* 93-1
(Year 1959) Chapter 2131

Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency Act ......................... Water* 104-1
(Year 1962) Chapter 40

Castaic Lake Water Agency Law ................................................. Water* 9099B
(Year 1962) Chapter 28

Bighorn Mountain Water Agency Act ...................................... Water* 9099D
(Year 1969) Chapter 1175

Sonoma County Water Agency Act ........................................... Water* 7757
(Year 1949) Chapter 994

Santa Clara Valley Water District ............................................. Water* 7335
(Year 1973) Chapter 56

North Delta Water Agency Act ................................................ Water* 115-1
(Year 1973) Chapter 283

South Delta Water Agency Act ................................................ Water* 116-1
(Year 1973) Chapter 1089

Central Delta Water Agency Act ............................................... Water* 115-1
(Year 1973) Chapter 1133

Tuolumne County Water Agency Act ...................................... Water* 113-1
(Year 1969) Chapter 1236

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Act ....................... Water* 124-1
(Year 1984) Chapter 257
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Act ........................................................ Water* 131-101
(Year 1991) Chapter 750

WATER CONSERVATION
Kings River Conservation District Act............................................................................. Water* 59-1
(Year 1951) Chapter 931

TOLL TUNNEL AUTHORITY
El Dorado County Toll Tunnel Authority Act................................................................. Streets and Highways 31100 et seq.
Los Angeles County Toll Tunnel Authority Act ......................................................... Streets and Highways 31100 et seq.

* Uncodified acts referenced are in the Water Code of West's Annotated California Codes.
**Uncodified acts referenced in the statutes of California
Appendix B

Special districts created under the following principle acts may have boards composed of representatives of two or more other public agencies (i.e. cities and/or counties). Such representatives may either be members of the legislative body or designated employees of such other public agencies. Below is guide to principle acts of these “mixed board” districts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL DISTRICT TYPE</th>
<th>POWER AND FUNCTIONS</th>
<th>FORMATION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF MIXED BOARD DISTRICTS</th>
<th>ELECTION INFORMATION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality Management/Air Pollution Control Districts</td>
<td>Prevent and control air pollution from all sources, except emissions from vehicles</td>
<td>Any county or counties or any portion thereof of an unincorporated territory or incorporated territory or both; the cities do not need to be contiguous</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Board of Supervisors of the county is the board of directors or under specified conditions the district shall have a mixed board¹</td>
<td>At least 2 Members¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Safety Code §40000 et seq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge and Highway Districts</td>
<td>Acquire, or contract to acquire, and may construct under contract, or by its own employees, maintain, improve, and operate bridges, abutments, rights-of-way, roads, tunnels, railroads, streetcar lines, interurban lines, telephone and telegraph lines, footpaths, viaducts, tollgates, tollhouses, subways, and all other forms of property necessary or proper for the successful prosecution of the project for which the district was organized</td>
<td>A district may consist of part or all of one or more contiguous counties</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Appointed by the Boards of Supervisors of each of the counties in which any portion of the territory of the district is located; appointees shall be reviewed every 2 years²</td>
<td>At the discretion of county Boards of supervisors forming the district</td>
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<tr>
<td>Streets and Highways Code §27000 et seq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPECIAL DISTRICT TYPE</td>
<td>POWER AND FUNCTIONS</td>
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<td>County Drainage Districts</td>
<td>Provide control of storm and other waste waters, including waters which arise outside and which flow or drain into or through the given district and insure the conservation of storm and waste waters for beneficial and useful purposes</td>
<td>Any unincorporated or incorporated and contiguous unincorporated territory; the incorporated territory included in the district may include the whole or part of one or more cities with the permission of that city</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>If the district does not include a city or cities, the Board of Supervisors of the county is the board of directors of the district, if the district includes a city or cities, the district shall have a mixed board ³</td>
<td>At least 5 Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage and Refuse Disposal Districts</td>
<td>Maintain and provide a site for the disposal of garbage and refuse</td>
<td>Any contiguous portion or portions of a county, whether the portion or portions include incorporated or unincorporated territory; however, no city, or any portion thereof, shall be included in the district without the consent of the governing body of the city adopted by a favorable vote of two-thirds or more of its members</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Appointed by the Board of Supervisors and by each City Council within the district to unfixed 4 year terms⁴</td>
<td>At least 3 Directors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Public Resources Code §49100 et seq.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL DISTRICT TYPE</th>
<th>POWER AND FUNCTIONS</th>
<th>FORMATION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF MIXED BOARD DISTRICTS</th>
<th>ELECTION INFORMATION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Highway Districts</td>
<td>Improve public highways</td>
<td>Shall be composed of two or more counties</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>One member appointed by the Board of Supervisors of each county within the district to serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors</td>
<td>Dependent upon the number of counties within the district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets and Highways Code §25000 et seq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pest Abatement Districts</td>
<td>Control any plant or animal considered to be a pest</td>
<td>Any territory, whether incorporated or unincorporated, whether contiguous or noncontiguous and districts may not overlap</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors</td>
<td>At least 5, no more than 9 Trustees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Safety Code §2800 et seq.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Separation of Grade Districts</td>
<td>Separate dangerous at-grade crossings of streets with streets and streets with railroads by means of underpasses or overpasses, thereby facilitating the flow of traffic and improving public safety</td>
<td>Shall consist of contiguous areas within a single county and shall include either a city and unincorporated territory or two or more cities with or without unincorporated territory</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Appointed by the Board of Supervisors, three of whom shall be electors in the city and two of whom shall be electors in the unincorporated area within the district, to unfixed 4 year terms</td>
<td>5 Commissioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets and Highways Code §8100 et seq.</td>
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1.) *Health and Safety Code §40100.5:* “Except as provided in Section 40100.5, a county board of supervisors shall be ex officio the county district board of the county.” Under *Health and Safety Code 40100.5:* “The membership of the governing board of each county district shall include (1) one or more members who are mayors, city council members, or both, and (2) one or more members who are county supervisors...”

2.) *Streets and Highways Code §27130:* “All directors shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority; provided that notwithstanding this section and Section 27122, any director in office on the effective date of this section may continue to serve on the board until the expiration of the term for which he was appointed. Each appointing authority shall review its appointment or appointments to the board in January every two years...”
3.) Water Code §5630: “If the district includes a city or cities, the members of the board of directors shall be as follows (a) The presiding officer of the
governing body of each city is a member of the board of directors; (b) The chairman of the board of supervisors is a member of the board of directors;
(c) A member of the governing body of each city included within the district, other than the presiding officer, as appointed by the governing body of
the city is a member of the board of directors; (d) Two members of the board of supervisors, other than the chairman of the board of supervisors, as
appointed by the board of supervisors are members of the board of directors...”

4.) Public Resources Code §49121 and 49122: “Any governing body authorized by Section 49120 to appoint a member to the district board may make
the appointment from its own members. 49122. The members of the district board in office on September 15, 1961, shall, as soon as practicable
thereafter, so classify themselves, by lot, that a majority of the members serve until January 1, 1963, and a minority of the members of the district
board shall serve until January 1, 1965, or until the appointment of their successors or their resignation or termination of residence in the area
they represent. Thereafter, the term of office of each succeeding member of the district board shall be four years and each shall hold office until the
appointment of his or her successor or his or her resignation or termination of residence within the area he or she represents.”

5.) Streets and Highways Code §25071 and 25072: “The members of the board of directors shall serve during the pleasure of the appointing power.
25072. The term of office of any member of the board of directors shall immediately cease upon the termination of the term of office of the director as
a member of the board of supervisors of a county within the district, except in the case of a member appointed by the Director of Transportation.”

6.) Streets and Highways Code §25073: “If an even number of counties comprise a district, an additional member of the board of directors shall be
appointed by the directors already named in behalf of the several boards of supervisors.”

7.) Health and Safety Code §2800: “'Pest,' as used in this chapter, includes any plant, animal, insect, fish, or other matter or material, not under human
control, which is offensive to the senses or interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life, or which is detrimental to the agricultural industry of the
State, and is not protected under any other provision of law.

8.) Health and Safety Code §2850 and 2851: “Within 30 days after incorporation the board of supervisors shall appoint a board of trustees, consisting of
not less than five nor more than nine members to act as the governing body of the district. At any time after the appointment of the initial board of
trustees the board of supervisors may, at the request of the existing board of trustees of the district, increase or decrease the number of members of
the board of trustees, but such board shall under no circumstances consist of less than five nor more than nine members.” 2851: “The members of
the district board shall hold office at the pleasure of the board of supervisors.”

9.) Streets and Highways Code §8132: “Each commissioner shall serve until the appointment and qualification of his successor. Vacancies shall be filled
for the unexpired term.”