

GOT NEWS?

California Special District wants to hear about newsworthy people, projects, events and accomplishments in your district. To submit a news item for In Brief, contact Nicole Dunn at nicoled@csda.net or (877) 924-2732.

East Bay Regional Park District Purchases 1,885 Acres

The East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors has authorized the acquisition of 1,885 acres of open space known as “Roddy Ranch” in Eastern Contra Costa County. The purchase is a key piece in the district’s plan for the development of a new regional park in Deer Valley. “This acquisition is extremely important to the creation of Deer Valley Regional Park. Today is a great day for East County residents who will get a future regional park in their backyard,” said Robert Doyle, general manager the day the purchase was authorized. The property is home to threatened and endangered species, including the tiger salamander and California red-legged frog. The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy has designated the majority of the property as a high priority for acquisition and protection due to its significant habitat for protected species. Up to 90 percent of the purchase price of the acreage will be funded in partnership by the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy with grants from the California Wildlife Conservation Board and a private foundation. East Bay Regional Park District Measure WW land acquisition and capital funding, approved by voters in 2008, will pay for the balance. Because of the site’s important biological resources the park district plans to place the new acreage into land bank status until a Land Use Plan can be completed for Deer Valley Regional Park.

RPD To Open Ice Skating Rink

Paradise Recreation and Park District is in the process of building an ice skating rink. The project, two years in the making, will cost about \$160,000. Half of the money is a one-time expense for the district and will purchase permanent power transformers. The rest of the money will be funded from scholarships and donations - \$40,000 has already been raised - and money from admission and concessions. Says Manager Mike Trinca, “We’re thinking (the skate rink) is going to affect businesses real well. We think this will make Paradise a destination point and people will hopefully visit our restaurants and visit our hotels and spend a little Paradise money.” The rink will be open from November to January.



Rossmoor Community Services District Board Goes Paperless

The Rossmoor Community Services District Board of Directors utilized a paperless agenda program for the first time this summer. Board members and staff attended a workshop prior in order to prepare for the transition. At the end of the workshop, directors and staff reviewed and signed the district’s Paperless Agenda Policy. Thanks to the preparation, the board was fully able to navigate the district’s agenda on the device and access district website, policies, calendar and more tools simultaneously. According to a cost analysis by the district, use of the iPad to go paperless will result in an estimated cost savings of almost \$5,000 a year. “The entire board is pleased with the transition from paper agendas to the iPad,” says Board President Michael Maynard. Adds 1st Vice President Bill Kahlert, “I am proud to be a part of a progressive district and a green community. This is an exemplary environmental message to be demonstrating for our children.”

Library Offers Bedtime Math

Every library in the Santa Clara County Library District offers a program called Bedtime Math. The program, developed by an astrophysicist, aims to promote early math literacy in children ages three through nine. As part of the program, families sign up to receive a math problem each night by email, the Bedtime Math website or its Facebook page. They then solve the problem together with their child. Families can chart their child’s progress using a “Summer of Numbers” bedtime calendar, which is available at the district’s Saratoga Library. “This is a fabulous way to get kids interested,” says Librarian Gayathri Kanth. “If you make math fun at a younger age, I think kids can catch on. They really get interested in math.” To kick off the program, the district held a Party in Your PJs event, where kids could show up in their pajamas and play in a variety of math games and activities. Eighty kids attended the event. “From a library’s point of view, it’s another way to engage the community,” according to Kanth. “I always maintain that our value to this community is being relevant. Supporting kids through their education is the best way to be relevant to the community.” ■