

STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2015

Presented By:

**William Kahlert, Board President
Rossmoor Community Services District**

I am very proud to report that the Rossmoor Community Services District had a very productive and successful year. The District achieved and maintained a very solid fiscal position and implemented numerous efficiencies while accomplishing several facility improvements during calendar year 2015.

Our Board of Directors has been highly instrumental in the initiation and implementation of the following actions in an effort to maintain and enhance the quality of life that our residents enjoy.

In order to accomplish the District's goals and objectives, a sound policy environment is essential. In cooperation with our General Counsel, the Board converted eight Park and Facilities Use policies to ordinances which resulted in more effective management capability of the District's property.

The Board also adopted revised District's goals and objectives in keeping with our changing environment. At the direction of the Board, staff developed a formal bidding and contracting procedure to ensure consistency with the District's bidding process. The Board also adopted an alcohol use policy for the District's parks and facilities.

Most of the District's accomplishments were also made possible by a sound financial plan. First, the District once again received an unmodified audit report from our independent auditors, the highest rating possible. Also, after conducting a survey of other comparable agencies, the District updated its fee schedule in order to more adequately recover a larger portion of our operation and maintenance costs.

Further, at the direction of the Board, the District paid down the remaining bond debt on the Rossmoor Signature Wall one year early; saving our property owners \$88,000 in property assessments. This was consistent with the early pay down of \$495,000 for the Rush Park Bond in 2015.

Upon completion of the conversion of Use of District Property policies to ordinances, the District successfully negotiated For Profit Use for our parks and facilities with the Happy Hour Fit Club, the Long Beach Boot Camp and with Lindsey Marks which has thus far has generated an \$8,000 increase in revenue this year. The Board also approved a Long Term User agreement with the Children's Garden Preschool which provides an additional \$24,000 in annual revenue. Other current agreements include the R.A.S.C.A.L.S. After School Program at Rossmoor Park and Lil' Cottonwood Preschool at Montecito Center.

The District's Recreation Program also had an eventful year. A major accomplishment this year was the planning and implementation of the first annual Rossmoor Winter Festival. The event was a huge success, drawing approximately 1,500 attendees, with excellent community volunteer participation. Summer public events offering Movies and Concerts in the Park, as well as, Shakespeare in the Park also had record breaking attendance during this year and will continue to be offered this summer.

The District's fields were also busy being used by sports leagues such as LAGSL and YSO providing a recreational outlet for youngsters, as well as, the tennis, basketball and volleyball courts being heavily used by the young and adults alike.

The District's Capital Improvement Program also saw major activity. A noteworthy project was the construction and installation of a new 24' by 36' permanent picnic canopy structure at Rush Park. The canopy was officially dedicated in November when it became available to Rossmoor residents for reserved use for a fee. Another major project was the repair of a large damaged panel of the Rossmoor Signature Wall. The project

was paid for from reserves dedicated to the repair and maintenance of the Wall, thus there was no impact to the District's operating budget.

In response to the drought, the District installed approximately 1,000 water efficient irrigation nozzles and valves at all parks in addition to two new automated smart controllers. This, in addition to our cutback in water usage resulted in a reduction of water consumption by 60% and an estimated annual cost savings of approximately \$45,000. Another drought measure was the replacement of large areas of turf at Rush, Rossmoor, Kempton and Foster parks with drought tolerant plants. The plan was implemented at a cost of \$17,000 which was fully reimbursable from state grant funds.

A renewed long-term agreement was approved by the Board with ValleyCrest Landscape Co. This firm partners with the District in the care and maintenance of our turf and landscape.

The District also implemented several information technology upgrades. The outdated phone system was modernized and converted to a digital VOIP system with voice mail and automated features while still retaining a backup analog phone line. The District's obsolete RCSR facilities reservation software was also replaced with a 'cloud' based system known as Rec Desk. The new system has built in administrative, scheduling and invoicing features allowing for streamlining of our website and online reservations.

A significant customer service upgrade was the development of a credit card payment system. This now provides for payments to the District by cash, check or credit cards.

A major asset of the community is the District's urban forest. The District aggressively monitored the health of park and parkway trees which were negatively impacted by mandated drought measures. Several initiatives were developed to inform residents that it is legal and appropriate to continue to water trees. Also, the District increased its mobile watering of young trees to insure their survivability.

Timely dead tree removal and replanting of new trees was a tree program priority this year. The District also renewed its agreement with West Coast arborist who partners with the District and County in the care and trimming of park and parkway trees.

The District also received a designation of Tree City USA for the fifth consecutive year in recognition of its management of the urban forest.

Other initiatives of the District included acting as a conduit and spokesperson for the community with issues associated with other agencies such as Southern California Gas Co., OCTA, Caltrans, the cities of Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Long Beach and the County of Orange on matters of great importance to the residents of Rossmoor.

Maintaining a strong and ongoing relationship with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Orange County Fire Authority also serves as a means of providing a safe environment for the residents of Rossmoor. Rossmoor continues to be a safe community with excellent response times for service by our Orange County Sheriff's Department. During this past year most calls for service were due to crimes of opportunity where residents left doors and windows unlocked and keys and valuables in their automobiles. Residents are encouraged to be vigilant and take appropriate precautions to prevent such activity.

This is but a snapshot of the State of the District. The Board and staff of the District are proud of the accomplishments for 2015 and hope you are, as well. We look forward to an even more productive year in 2016. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the great community of Rossmoor.