

April 14, 2026

To: Port Commissioners and staff
Re: CSDA Legislative Visits April 7

On behalf of the Port District, I attended this year's Legislative Visits Day in Sacramento. Following are my notes of interest to our District.

The day started off with the recognition and honor of the CSDA Legislator of the Year. Assembly Member Rhodesia Ransom, from the Tracy area, has been very helpful to CSDA in supporting or opposing our legislative priorities in Sacramento.

Assembly Member Dawn Addis sponsored ACR 161, proclaiming April 5 – 11 to be Special Districts Week. During the Leg Day event, the measure was in the Senate for a vote.

Next up was a panel discussion by CSDA legislative advocate staff discussing several bills affecting special districts. See the attached Legislative Priorities for background on these bills. The CSDA is opposed to the two bills dealing with restrictions on the use of artificial intelligence that was intended to target abuses in the private sector. However, the public sector would be harmed if these bills become law, and our panel discussed talking points for our visits with our legislators.

Another concern is a move by the High Speed Rail Authority to push for creation of infrastructure incentive zones within ½ mile of planned rail stations, with generated taxes to be captured by the HSRA. CSDA is opposed to any diversion of taxes needed to support the operations of the special districts.

Our Central Coast team consisting of myself, representing the Santa Cruz Port District, Vince Ferrante, representing the Moss Landing Harbor District, Scott Duffield, representing the Heritage Ranch CSD, and a member of the Cambria CSD all participated in visits to the offices of Robert Rivas and Dawn Addis. The legislators were in session, so we met with staff consultants to share our views.

The day concluded with a reception for participants and legislators and staff at a local restaurant.

Our group of 200 or so advocates roamed the halls of the legislative offices along with other groups including farm worker advocates and teacher advocates. Our CSDA lobbyists were grateful for our participation.

Thank you,
Bob



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SPECIAL DISTRICTS WEEK – SPONSOR

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 161 (Addis)

Status: Assembly Floor (To Consent Calendar on 3.23.26)

Proclaims April 5-11, 2026 to be *Special Districts Week* and encourages Californians across the state to engage with their local communities and be actively involved with their local government.

WORKPLACE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS – OPPOSE

Assembly Bill 1898 (Schultz)

Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee (Referred on 3.25.26)

Places restrictions on the use of AI in surveillance, operations, and decision making conducted by an employer by requiring significant, repeated notices.

- The notice must contain, among other things, detailed information on the workplace surveillance tool or automated decision system, justification, categories of employment-related decisions likely to be affected, and worker data information, as specified.
- The bill could compromise the security and operations of public agencies by putting routine workplace technologies at risk and exposing sensitive information that may compromise security.
- Contains enforcement provisions that expose public employers to significant litigation risk.

WORKER DATA PROHIBITIONS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – OPPOSE

Assembly Bill 2027 (Ward)

Status: Assembly Labor and Employment Committee (Referred on 3.17.26)

Establishes significant limitations on the use of AI for public and private employers, specific to worker data.

- The bill could effectively ban most AI tools in the workplace. The bill prohibits an employer from using an AI tool trained with worker data to replicate, automate, or replace a worker's job. This could cover tools trained with data from the employer's employees or any other employer's employees. For example, innocuous AI search tools work off of data very likely trained, in part, by workers, while their functionality replicates certain tasks of workers.
- Contains enforcement provisions that expose public employers to significant litigation risk

DIVERSION OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAX AND SALES TAX REVENUE

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY DRAFT 2026 BUSINESS PLAN

Status: Issued February 28, 2026 with a 60-Day Comment Period

Proposals under consideration by the California High-Speed Rail Authority include seeking statutory permission for the Authority to form and lead tax-increment financing districts that would capture property tax and sales tax growth within a one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile radius of high-speed rail stations.

- Though seemingly similar to other tax-increment financing tools such as enhanced infrastructure financing districts (EIFDs), participation by affected taxing agencies (including special districts) may be compulsory, resulting in the unconstitutional diversion of local property tax revenue to the state.
- CSDA opposes any attempt to redirect tax revenues away from local governments and the communities they serve without their express, meaningful, and freely-given consent. Depriving special districts of property tax revenue will undermine affordable essential service delivery.
- While the exact language of the proposals has not yet been made public, the legislation to implement the Authority proposals is widely anticipated to be included in a forthcoming budget trailer bill.