

Date of Hearing: March 23, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 161 (Addis) – As Introduced March 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Special Districts Week.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the week of April 5, 2026, to April 11, 2026, inclusive, to be Special Districts Week; and, encourages all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their local government. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Special districts are local governmental entities created by a community's residents, funded by those residents, and overseen by those residents, to provide specialized services and infrastructure.
- 2) Special districts first arose when San Joaquin Valley farmers needed a way to access their local water supply. Under the Wright Act of 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District became California's first special district and made it possible for local farmers to intensify and diversify agriculture in California's central valley.
- 3) In the 20th century, special districts increased dramatically in both number and scope, and during the periods of prosperity and population growth that followed both world wars when the demand for all types of public services increased, special districts met that need.
- 4) The statutory authorization for mosquito abatement districts was enacted in 1915 to combat the salt marsh mosquitoes around the San Francisco Bay and higher than average malaria cases in rural counties.
- 5) Fire protection districts can trace their origins to a 1923 state law, and in 1931, the Legislature authorized recreation districts, the forerunners of today's recreation and park districts.
- 6) Hospital districts arose in 1945 because of a statewide shortage of hospital beds. In 1994, the Legislature then expanded their breadth and renamed them health care districts in recognition of the diverse, modern needs of California's communities and the importance of proactive, affordable health care beyond the walls of a hospital building.
- 7) Special districts vary in size and scope and serve diverse communities throughout California from small rural neighborhoods, such as the Pine Cove Water District in the San Jacinto Mountains in the County of Riverside, to large urban regions, such as the East Bay Municipal Utility District spanning much of the Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa.
- 8) Today, just over 2,000 independent special districts provide millions of Californians with essential services, including services related to water, sanitation, and water recycling, fire protection, electricity, parks and recreation, health care, open space, ports and harbors, flood protection, mosquito abatement, cemeteries, resource conservation, airports, transit, road maintenance, veterans' facilities, and more.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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