



Costa Mesa Sanitary District is the newest District of Distinction through the Special District Leadership Foundation

On June 26, 2009, Costa Mesa Sanitary District became the newest District of Distinction through the Special District Leadership Foundation. The District of Distinction accreditation is one of the most prestigious local government awards in the state of California. This award clearly validates Costa Mesa's commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices.

Costa Mesa Sanitary District met a list of requirements involving policies, procedures, continuing education and audit standards to receive this accreditation. They are the eighth District of Distinction since the program began in 2006, joining Bear Valley Community Services District; El Toro Water District; Mesa Consolidated Water District and North County Cemetery District and Leucadia Wastewater District; Chino Valley Independent Fire District and Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

Nearly every California resident benefits from one or more of the essential services provided by special districts – water, sewage treatment, fire protection, parks and recreation, transit, street lighting, mosquito abatement and more. Because of the kind of services they provide, special districts are the form of local government closest to the people they serve. The Special District Leadership Foundation, a collaborative effort of eight special district organizations, has developed the Districts of Distinction program to help special districts demonstrate publicly their soundness as providers of essential public services.

The Districts of Distinction program is an accreditation program that enables districts to demonstrate to their communities, the media and legislators their commitment to operate in a sound, responsible manner. Districts apply for designation as a "District of Distinction" by submitting financial audits, policies and procedures, their operating budget and proof of training received by directors and staff.

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The Special District Leadership Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1999 as a collaborative effort of the special district community. Today it is supported by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA); the California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC); the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD); California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA); California Rural Water Association (CRWA); California Special Districts Association (CSDA); Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC) and Mosquito & Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC).