



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Special District Leadership Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation Offer Special District General Managers Grants for Certification Program

“ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE”

The **Special District Leadership Foundation**, in partnership with the **Wells Fargo Foundation**, is able to offer ten grants to General Managers from disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged areas to cover their application fee, exam fee, and an entire set of reference materials so that they can study for and take the Special District Administrator (SDA) certification examination during 2010. Upon qualification and successfully passing a comprehensive exam, the certification showcases individuals that have become one of the elite general managers in the state of California. There are currently only 47 SDAs in California.

The Special District Administrator certification program is a certification program offered by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) and the following partners:

- Association of California Water Agencies
- California Association of Public Cemeteries
- California Association of Recreation and Park Districts
- California Association of Sanitation Agencies
- California Rural Water Association
- California Special Districts Association
- Fire Districts Association of California
- Mosquito & Vector Control Association of California

Special District Administrator certification is a designation sought by individuals who strive to be the best. Administrators with various academic and professional backgrounds as well as from all size special districts can be candidates for the program. The certification examination and study guide were developed through the participation of over 100 volunteer subject matter experts who know special district administration. Guided by the Foundation Board, Certification Advisory Committee and under direction by a professional examination development firm, this certification gives successful candidates recognition unmatched by any other program.

Certification helps document and recognize a candidate's knowledge, skills and capabilities as a Special District Administrator. The two-hour examination covers all key aspects of special district administration. The core competencies covered by the examination include:

- Governance
- Legal Requirements
- Policy Development
- Ethics in Public Service
- External Relations and Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Boardpersonship
- Finance
- Public and Customer Relations
- Organization
- Budget, Audit, Purchasing, Records and Public Finance
- Personnel and Supervision

The SDA application and grant application can be found at www.sdlf.org under the SDA certification program. There are also testimonials from current SDAs about how they felt about the exam and what they went through to study for and take the exam.

In order to apply for this grant, candidates must complete the SDA application, send in a one-page biography, and complete the enclosed "Access to Excellence" application and return it to the address on the applications by **February 26, 2010**.

Questions on SDLF or the program can be directed to Diana Zavala, SDLF Administrator, at info@sdlf.org or (916) 231-2939.

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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).