

# 2020 SPECIAL DISTRICTS TOUR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020



**BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE  
TO GROW OUR ECONOMY**

**SPONSORED BY**



California Special  
Districts Association  
*Districts Stronger Together*

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNERS

Dear Tour Participant,

Welcome to the annual Special Districts Tour. This educational tour is sponsored by partner associations whose mission is to promote good local governance at all levels. We are passionate about local government and we have organized this tour to showcase the many ways special districts make a difference in California.

This tour will offer a snapshot experience of the diverse special district sites and infrastructure that provide daily services to millions of Californians throughout the state. This trip is not only designed to show you special districts, but to also explore actions special districts are taking on a critical issue facing California:

### ***Protecting the Health and Wellness of our Communities***

We will visit two healthcare districts and one mosquito and vector control district to gain a better understanding of what it takes to prevent illness, treat diverse populations in unique communities, and ensure adequate resources to protect public health. Attendees will learn how healthcare districts are at the forefront of meeting the needs of their communities, particularly as it relates to health inequities and disparities as well as emergency events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires. You will also discover the onslaught of new disease outbreak risks by the world's deadliest animal, the mosquito, and how California's mosquito control and public health response is now stretched perilously thin.

At the close of this learning opportunity, we hope you will have gained a greater understanding of the special districts that communities have established in an effort to:

- Effectively and efficiently deliver essential local services;
- Promote accessible and responsive government;
- Serve unique neighborhoods or regions based on local needs;
- Build, operate, and sustain critical infrastructure and protect public health and safety.

We are pleased that you are joining us for this exciting tour and look forward to continuing the dialogue about the services special districts deliver to millions of Californians throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Neil McCormick  
Chief Executive Officer  
CSDA

Cathy Martin  
Chief Executive Officer  
ACHD

Bob Achermann  
Executive Director  
MVCAC



**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*





**DISTRICT CONTACT**

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**BOARD MEMBERS**

Leticia De Lara, MPA, President  
Karen Borja, Vice-President and Secretary  
Les Zendle, MD  
Carole Rogers, RN, MPH  
Evelt PerezGil  
Arthur Shorr  
Carmina Zavala

## DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

### BACKGROUND

The Desert Healthcare District was founded in 1948 as the Desert Hospital District. Its purpose at that time was to build a much-needed hospital in Palm Springs, California, where the nearest hospital was an hour away. In 1997, the hospital was leased to a healthcare corporation, which continues to operate it today.

The lease arrangement enabled the healthcare district to broaden its reach and impact as a leader, support system, and grant-funder of myriad health and wellness programs, services, and initiatives. The district's mission since then has been: "To achieve optimal health at all stages of life for all district residents." It has awarded more than \$75 million dollars in support of the mission during the past 23 years.

### PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF OUR COMMUNITY

The Desert Healthcare District and non-profit Desert Healthcare Foundation, together, are one of the Coachella Valley's largest drivers of health and wellness improvements through funding and initiatives. Their collective efforts are designed to assist residents — especially the underserved — in accessing vitally needed resources, such as primary and behavioral healthcare, housing, and food.

The district has been the catalyst in bringing together multiple county and local agencies to draft a plan addressing homelessness; connecting 90,000 residents to coverage through the Affordable Care Act; narrowing the physician/patient ratio through support of the UC Riverside Medical School residency program; and shoring up the regional food bank which feeds 190,000 people per month.

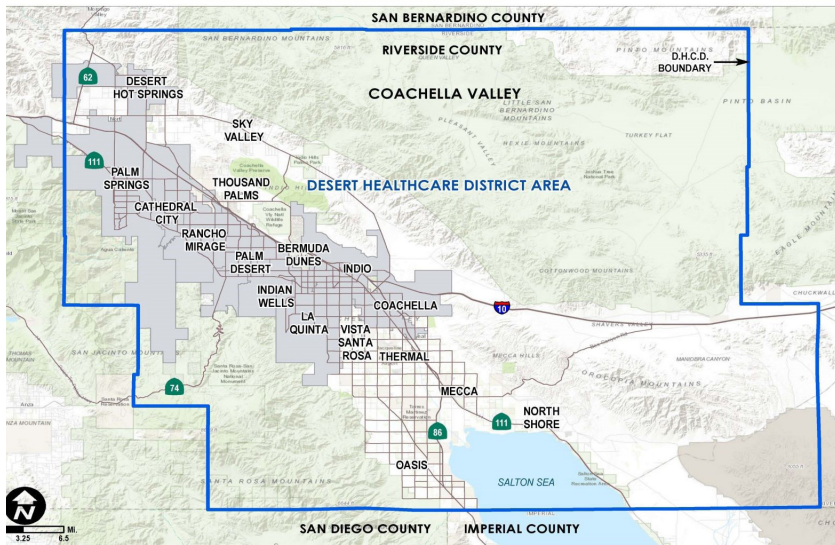
Currently, the district also is spearheading two efforts to advance wellness among the underserved population: 1) Coachella Valley Health Equity Collaborative to ensure farmworkers gain access to COVID-19 tests and health and support services, and 2) Healthcare access program and health careers scholarship to alleviate generations of healthcare inequities and prevent future disparities for black residents.

### CONFRONTING COVID-19

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation shifted its focus in early 2020 to prioritize a collaborative response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Coachella Valley. Working with multiple county and local partners, the district has allocated nearly \$3 million to date to combat COVID-19. Its efforts include funding the acquisition of viral and antibody tests and rapid testing machines for Federally Qualified Health Centers, as well as providing healthcare infrastructure and core operation support for 20 nonprofits. It's currently serving as the intermediary in a collaborative plan to assist farmworkers and other underserved residents who are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, granting an additional \$1.2 million in CARES Act funds from Riverside County.

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## DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT BOUNDARY**  
**MEASURE BB - NOVEMBER 6, 2018**  
**ESTIMATED POPULATION: 450,000**

DATE: 11/29/2018  
DATA SOURCES: RIVERSIDE COUNTY GIS, D.H.C.D. GIS, ESRI, MCA CONSULTING, INC.

## DISTRICT SIZE

The Desert Healthcare District consists of more than 400,000 residents and covers the entire Coachella Valley of Southern California, which is approximately 303 square miles.

## STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Assemblymember Chad Mayes (AD-42)  
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (AD-56)  
Assemblymember Randy Voepel (AD-71)  
Senator Melissa Melendez (SD-28)  
Representative Raul Ruiz (CD-36)

## COUNTY SERVED

Riverside

## SERVICES PROVIDED

The common thread through all Desert Healthcare District and Foundation programs and initiatives is to connect Coachella Valley residents to health and wellness through philanthropy, health facilities, information and community education, and public policy.

## FUNDING

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation maintains a yearly operating budget of \$8 million. Much of its funding comes through a portion of the local property tax collected within part of western Coachella Valley as well as the lease of Desert Regional Medical Center. Funding sources also include private and public donations, along with lease revenue from other District properties.



#### **DISTRICT CONTACT**

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#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Beatriz Vasquez  
Allen Albaugh  
Abe Hathaway  
Laura Beyer  
Jeanne Utterback

## **MAYERS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

### **BACKGROUND**

Mayers Memorial Hospital District (MMHD) serves the Intermountain area of Lassen and Shasta counties providing outstanding patient-centered healthcare to improve quality of life through dedicated, compassionate staff and innovative technology. The vision of Mayers Memorial Hospital District is to become the provider of first choice for our community by being a leader in rural healthcare.

MMHD opened in 1956 as a 10-bed hospital, largely volunteer operated. In the late 1960's it became a hospital district. Over time, the district built and remodeled to accommodate growth in the number of patients, physicians, new technologies, and services. In 1993, MMHD expanded with the completion of the Burney Campus.

As a Critical Access Hospital (CAH), MMHD is committed to serving its rural communities' needs for high-quality inpatient, outpatient, and emergency services. The district is ever evolving with changing needs and the fluid nature of healthcare. The hospital's new wing and other improvements are seismically compliant with the State of California requirements and designed to accommodate the delivery of healthcare in the community in the future.

### **PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

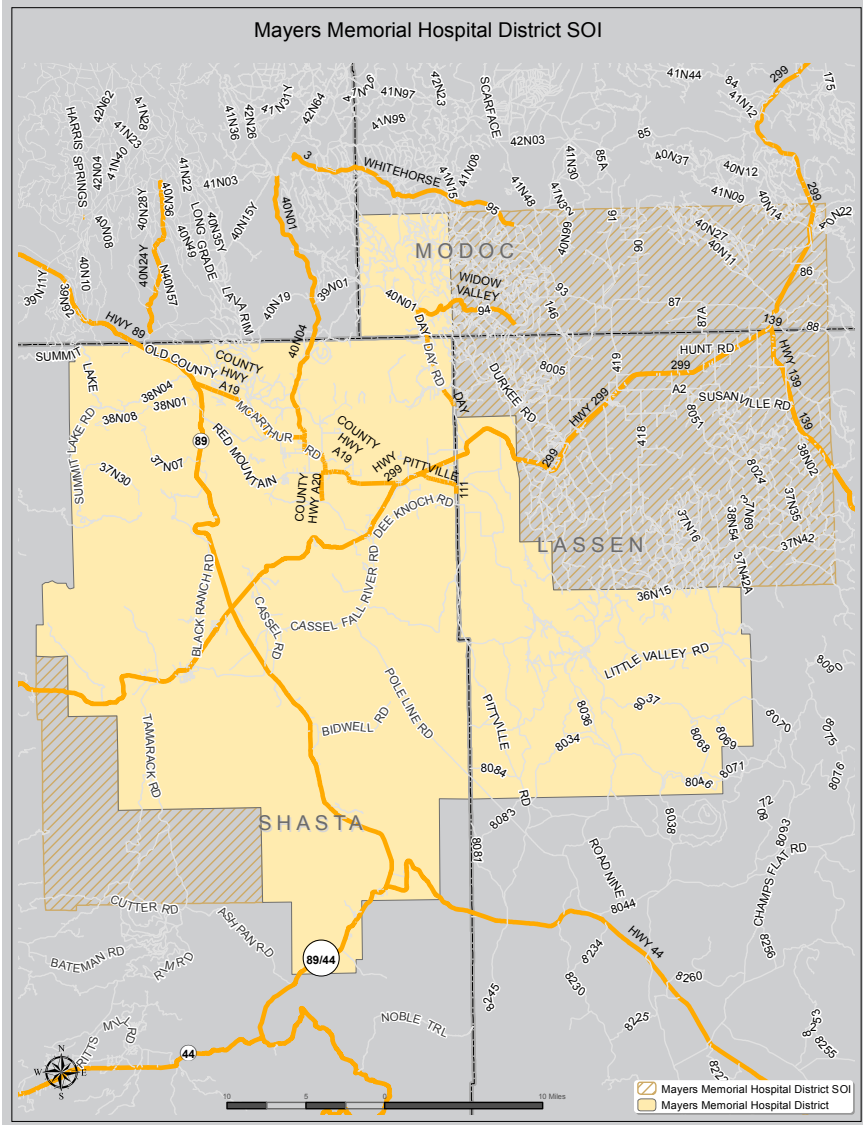
MMHD maintains strong relationships with the local school districts and community organizations. It has developed an education and wellness program that started with its staff. The district is working to share this education program with students and members throughout the community. One large step in meeting the wellness goals for the community is the district's new primary care clinic which will open in the spring of 2021.

### **CONFRONTING COVID-19**

MMHD has taken a proactive approach to COVID-19. As a hospital in a small, rural community, the district is often looked to for education and guidance. A good example is how the MMHD has partnered with the local school district to assist with its COVID planning. Accurate information has been a focus for MMHD. It provides the community with regular updates via email, text, social media and its website.



**DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP**



**DISTRICT SIZE**

4,000+ square miles within the MMHD boundaries. The district serves an additional 4,000 square miles of geographic territory outside the formal boundaries as the closest access for Californians residing in that region.

**STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Assemblymember Megan Dahle (AD-1)  
 Senator Brian Dahle (SD-1)  
 Representative Doug LaMalfa (CD-1)

**COUNTIES SERVED**

Modoc  
 Lassen  
 Shasta

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

With campuses in both Fall River Mills and Burney, MMHD offers the same essential services hospitals and emergency departments normally provide in larger urban areas.

Services include:

- Acute Care
- Emergency Services
- Surgery
- Swing/Rehabilitation
- Laboratory
- Imaging
- Physical Therapy
- Cardiac Rehab and Maintenance
- Telemedicine
- Respiratory Therapy
- Skilled Nursing Facility including Alzheimer's and Dementia unit
- Hospice
- Outpatient Services and Wound Care
- Social Services

**FUNDING**

MMHD funding is 95 percent derived from patient-based payments or Medi-Cal supplemental payments for treating patients. The remaining 5 percent is received from a small share of local property taxes and financing through a general obligation bond.



#### **DISTRICT CONTACT**

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#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Benjamin Hanna, President  
Vickie Marler, Vice President  
Ann Morningstar, Secretary  
Philip Cramer, Treasurer  
Vacant, Trustee

## **SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District (SMVCD) was formed in 1919 to control and eventually eradicate malaria in the Shasta County area. The District is a public health agency whose mission is “To protect the public’s health from vector-borne disease and nuisance, through a comprehensive mosquito and vector control program focused on innovation, experience, and efficiency.”

By utilizing the most efficient, reliable, and scientifically sound mosquito and vector control techniques, SMVCD is able to reduce current mosquito and vector-borne disease risks and conduct surveillance for future emerging diseases.

### **PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District, like all mosquito and vector control districts, works to reduce mosquito and vector transmitted diseases by conducting surveillance and control of vectors. With a relatively small amount of funding, mosquito districts are able to protect public health and keep residents safe. Using a local approach to public health mosquito control allows districts to appropriately target their operations and public health response to effectively address the unique issues each region faces.

### **CONFRONTING COVID-19**

Like most special districts, mosquito and vector control districts face significant challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The public crisis reinforced the need for sustained funding so that scientific experts can proactively implement public health outreach and surveillance programs. When the COVID-19 crisis hit, the most immediate issue was finding ways to maintain essential services while also prioritizing the health and safety of staff and residents. Most districts significantly altered their spaces and put into place mask requirements, staggered work shifts, telework and

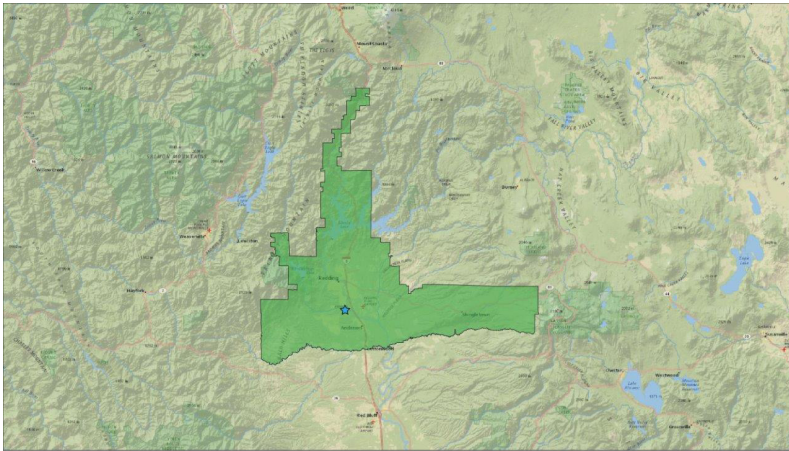
virtual meetings when appropriate, and increased cleaning and sanitization. A shared concern with other health agencies is the lack of personal protection equipment (PPE). Several of the chemical control products used by the district require the use of N-95 respirators which became challenging to procure. SMVCD attempted to work with agency partners to gain flexibility similar to the healthcare industry regarding the use of N-95 masks, but unfortunately, were not provided that relief.

To overcome these issues, the district worked through the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) to identify sources for PPE and shared resources with fellow districts to ensure there were limited impacts on control operations.

Finally, SMVCD has significant concerns about the revenue loss that inevitably comes from an economic recession. Mosquito districts were finally emerging from the foreclosure crisis, only to see current and future declines in revenue moving forward. Mosquito districts pride themselves in doing a lot with limited funding, but these next few years will be very challenging as they work to maintain adequate service levels while simultaneously facing increasing costs and decreasing revenue.

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## DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP



### DISTRICT SIZE

1,100 square miles, serving approximately 135,000 residents

### STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Assemblymember Megan Dahle (AD-1)  
Senator Brian Dahle (SD-1)  
Representative Doug LaMalfa (CD-1)

### COUNTY SERVED

Shasta

### SERVICES PROVIDED

SMVCD monitors mosquito populations and mosquito-borne disease risk using live mosquito trapping; responds to requests from the public for mosquito control; provides biological control of mosquitoes through distribution of mosquito-eating fish and physical mosquito control through source reduction, or elimination; consults with municipal and county planners for design input; engages in public outreach and education; and provides tick-borne disease surveillance/education and rodent-borne disease surveillance/education.

### FUNDING

SMVCD maintains an annual operations budget of approximately \$3 million with approximately half of the revenue coming from local property taxes and the other half coming from benefit assessments.