

VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT

1001 PARTRIDGE DRIVE, SUITE 150 ■ VENTURA, CA 93003-0704



January 24, 2012

Board of Directors
Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Ventura, California

CASA 2012 WASHINGTON D.C. CONFERENCE

Summary

Designate Chairman Sharkey or designee to represent the Board of Directors at the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Washington D.C. Conference in March 2012.

Background

The CASA Washington D.C. Conference will be held March 12 through March 14, 2012. The conference is an important component of CASA's mission and strategic goals, allowing an opportunity for exchange of views and information with members of Congress, key members of the Congressional delegation and staff, and senior Executive Branch officials from the U.S. EPA and other federal offices.

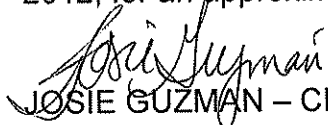
If you have any questions, please call me at 658-4642 or email me at josieguzman@vrsd.com.

Fiscal Impact

As part of the District's ongoing efforts to reduce costs, the Board approved in this fiscal year's budget designating only one Director to attend this conference. The total approximate cost, including registration, hotel, per diem, airfare, and days of service is \$4,000.


Recommendation

It is recommended the Board designate Chairman Sharkey or designee to represent the Board of Directors at the CASA Washington D.C. Conference, March 12 through 14, 2012, for an approximate cost of \$4,000.


JOSIE GUZMAN – CLERK OF THE BOARD

Enc.

APPROVED FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2012 AGENDA


Mark Lawler – General Manager



2012 D.C. CONFERENCE

March 12-14, 2012

Hotel Monaco

Ideological Divide:

The 2012 Elections & Getting Things Done

Ensuring Clean Water for California

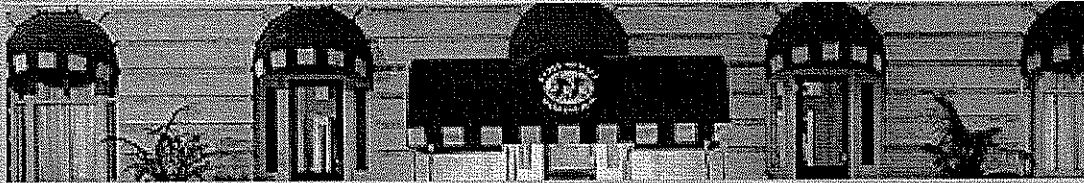


12-2

Make a difference, join your CASA colleagues in Washington, D.C.

- Learn how election year politics will impact our ability to make progress on key policy issues in Washington, D.C.
- Hear directly from key Congressional staffers in the House and Senate on important CASA issues.
- Meet with policymakers, staff and other influential leaders shaping policy in the nation.
- Find out how the politics and policies in D.C. impact your job back home.
- Interact with key environmental stakeholders dealing with important rules and regulations.
- Lobby influential members of California Delegation on CASA's priorities for the 112th Congress.

Hotel Accommodations



A limited number of rooms have been reserved for CASA delegates at the Hotel Monaco, which will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. The cut-off date to reserve rooms under the special CASA discounted rate is Friday, February 10, 2012.

Room Rate: \$299 per night
(single/double occupancy) plus tax

Hotel Monaco

800.649.1202 or 202.628.7177

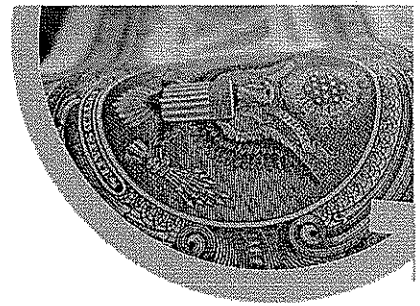
Please arrange reservations by contacting Hotel Monaco Washington, D.C. by phone, and identify yourself as a CASA member to receive the special rate.

Hotel Wait List: If you are unable to reserve a room at the hotel at the CASA group rate, please contact Fiona Young at the CASA office to get on the hotel wait list. Anyone who must cancel a reservation should first call Fiona so the special group rate can be transferred to another CASA member on the wait list.

12-3

Agenda

Monday, March 12



9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast and Registration
Location: Paris Ballroom, 4th Floor

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Welcome Address
Gary Darling, CASA President

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Panel I - Congressional Overview:
The 112th Congress Priorities for
Change

The second session of the 112th Congress marks the beginning of a highly charged policy-making environment as the 2012 General Election approaches. This roundtable panel of senior environment and infrastructure policy officials will shed light on how the process may unfold as Congress attempts to address deficits, infrastructure needs, and invent new ways to address the energy needs of the nation and the growing water infrastructure gap — all in an era of austerity and increasing calls for reform of the federal regulatory apparatus.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Luncheon

In keeping with the hijinks of an election year congressional cycle and how it can influence the policy-making process, conference attendees will receive an “inside baseball” perspective from a leading political observer about how the election and congressional redistricting will shape the future after the elections as well as the current budget policy debate on the heels of the Super Committee collapse.

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Workgroup Preparation for
Congressional Visits

Conference attendees will convene for a review of CASA’s policy priorities and the legislative status. CASA staff will discuss the underlying fundamentals influencing the legislative debate. CASA attendees will be assigned to teams that will head to Capitol Hill to discuss our priorities and positions.

2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Panel II: Budgetary Consequences of
the Collapse of the Deficit Reduction
Super Committee and the Outlook for
the Coming Budget Debate

Budget deficits and the priority to develop a workable approach to an unusual budget environment will dominate the development of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. The inability of the Super Committee to agree on a plan of action to slice \$1.2 trillion from the budget means that the administration must now begin the process to identify how to implement \$55 billion annually in domestic spending cuts over the next decade. Meanwhile, Congress will work to define a pathway to avoid the automatic spending cuts. The expiration of the Bush tax rates at the end of 2012 will also conspire to make the budget development process byzantine at best. Panelists will review the arcane nature of budget making and how it impacts water quality programs that affect POTW operations and management.

3:30 p.m - 5:00 p.m.

Panel III - Environmental Rulemakings:
The Rodney Dangerfield of Public
Policymaking

The past year witnessed a fusillade of legislation to address environmental and climate-related policy issues. This panel of environmental stakeholder advocates will provide their insights into the prospects for renewed efforts to address the environmental challenges developed over the past 40 years since the Clean Water Act was enacted and ways to streamline these mandates in an era of fiscal austerity.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Hotel Monaco Evening Reception
Location: Lobby

Register online at
www.casaweb.org

12-4

Tuesday, March 13

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast and Registration
Location: Athens Ballroom, 4th Floor

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Panel IV: The Future of U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency's
Office of Water
*Budget constraints, legal challenges
and emerging water quality issues never
envisioned when the Clean Water Act was
first enacted into law present a host of
issues for wastewater agencies as they
seek to understand their obligations. A
senior Office of Water official will brief
the attendees on the outlook for the next
few years and how the Agency intends
to balance mandates in an era of fiscal
constraints.*

10:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Capitol Hill Visits – Congressional Meet
and Greets
*Small group meetings pre-arranged by
CASA with the California Congressional
Delegation members and staff.*

Lunch on Your Own During Visits

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

CASA Capitol Hill Reception
*Rayburn Office Building, U.S. House
of Representatives*

Registration

Delegate Fee: \$550
Guest Fee: \$75

- \$25 cancellation fee on or before Friday, March 2, 2012
- No refunds after Friday, March 2, 2012
- If you must cancel, send a colleague instead. Be sure to notify the CASA office.

Wednesday, March 14

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Closing Breakfast
Location: Athens Ballroom, 4th Floor

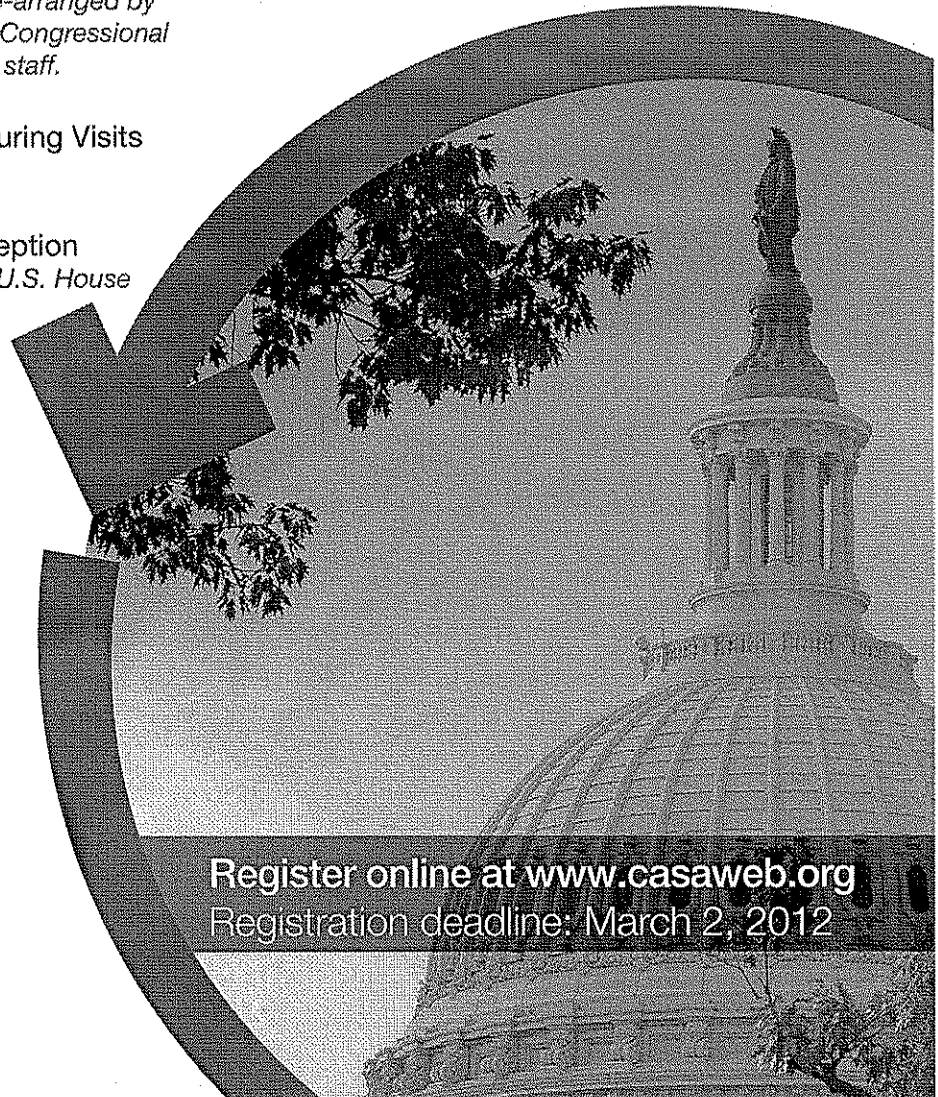
Infrastructure Policy and the Future of
the Federal-State Partnership
*The closing breakfast will feature a point
counter-point discussion when members of
Congress present their views on the outlook
for developing the next generation of
federal assistance programs for wastewater
infrastructure.*

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Congressional Visits Debriefing
By Team Leaders

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Closing Comments
Gary Darling, CASA President



Register online at www.casaweb.org
Registration deadline: March 2, 2012

12-5