

California special districts are formed, governed, and owned by the communities they serve. These local government agencies provide specialized local services focusing on a specific need the community wants done well and with local control.

Just over **2,000 independent special districts** provide services and infrastructure that in some way benefits every one of California's nearly **40 million residents**. Special district services range from fire protection, water, sewer, and trash, to parks, mosquito abatement, libraries, ports, harbors, electricity, and other essential services crucial to our quality of life that cities and counties don't always provide.

Funded and overseen by local residents, special districts ensure strong community control. With more than **160,000 front line workers**, they deliver expert, reliable services while helping communities plan for the future and respond to challenges.

"Special districts are the workhorses of government in California, providing vital services ranging from fire protection to water, cemeteries to sewers." — California Little Hoover Commission, 2017, Report #239, Special Districts: Improving Oversight & Accountability



Explore California's most comprehensive interactive map of special districts, showcasing where local services are delivered across the state, courtesy of the California Special Districts Association.

MOST COMMON SPECIAL DISTRICTS

