



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS

Converting Waste Into Resources

CHARACTERISTICS OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Special districts are public agencies, but not part of city or county governments. Under California law, special districts are created to perform specific functions. Special districts are not allowed to provide services or perform work that is beyond limits set by law. Special districts are subject to the same laws that pertain to other local agencies such as the Ralph M. Brown Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Public Records Act, and others. Special districts also have the authority to approve ordinances and to collect monies to fund the services they provide.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS

The authority of county sanitation districts is limited to two areas—wastewater and solid waste. County sanitation districts can build, operate and maintain wastewater collection, treatment and disposal facilities, and refuse transfer and disposal facilities.

GOVERNANCE

Special districts are governed by a board of directors made up of elected officials from the local government agencies served by the district. The board of directors for a county sanitation district is made up of elected officials from each city within the sanitation district and the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors representing unincorporated areas. In cases where a county sanitation district is entirely within one city or is entirely unincorporated territory, either all members of the city council or the Board of Supervisors are the board of directors. The boundaries of county sanitation districts are often established by drainage areas and may not follow political boundaries.

REGIONAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

When the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County were initially formed in the 1920s, they decided to develop a regional system to minimize costs by using a single management staff and by sharing conveyance and treatment facilities, where possible. Over the years, as the region experienced dramatic growth, the number of independent sanitation districts increased. Today, twenty-four separate sanitation districts have joined together under a regional management system. Under the terms of the Amended Joint Administration agreement, Sanitation District No. 2 acts as the administrative district for the regional system. The Sanitation Districts have conveyance and treatment systems in the greater Los Angeles basin, Santa Clarita Valley, and the Antelope Valley.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Sanitation Districts are involved in various aspects of solid waste management but are not allowed by State Law to provide refuse collection services. Individual sanitation districts joined together in 1970 to establish a regional system under the terms of the Solid Waste Management System

Agreement. Under this agreement, the Sanitation Districts own and operate facilities in the Los Angeles basin and Sanitation District No. 2 acts as the administrative district for the regional system. The Sanitation Districts also work in partnership with other local government agencies to operate or assist in development of solid waste management facilities.

EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The Amended Joint Administration Agreement provides the basis for dealing with employer-employee relations. A Personnel Committee that is comprised of all the chairpersons of each active district provides direction for personnel management and employer-employee relations. Compensation for Sanitation Districts' employees is set by a Collective Committee, which is made up of all the directors of each active district.