

**Notes from Assembly Accountability and
Administrative Review/California Special Districts: Discussion and
Vote on Recommendations**

April 27, 2011

- Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) should investigate concerns shared during these hearings and report back to committee;
- Chairman Dickinson's feels it is important to focus on the useful and benefits of special districts;
- Financial accountability: special districts have issues when filing for bankruptcy, who has authority and decision making?
- Discussion of the committee shared that comparing the cost of special districts to cities and counties is like comparing "apples and oranges";
- Committee was concerned there was no input in their deliberations from cities and counties;
- In regards to the lack of transparency from stakeholders of special districts – one committee member had wanted to attend a special district meeting but couldn't make it because of travel and requested a change of date of meeting. The member was frustrated that meeting went on without her attendance and shared that this showed no transparency;
- Message on the need for consolidation was not quite clear;
- Comments were shared that the public awareness of special districts was low. People don't understand the benefits of being served by a special district; nor do residents realize they may live within a special district and be served by this level of government.