



Special District Association of Colorado
Supporting Community-Based Government

Dear Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee,

The Special District Association of Colorado is pleased to provide you with a description of Colorado's special districts. We hope it will serve as a useful resource when you need a better understanding of special districts and the roles they serve.

Special districts provide critical services to the people of Colorado as their own distinct units of local government. They include fire and rescue services, water and wastewater treatment, hospitals, libraries, cemeteries, and park and recreation facilities, among many others. There are over 3,000 special districts throughout the state of Colorado, 2,135 of which are members of the Special District Association of Colorado (SDA). Additionally, SDA has 317 associate members that provide a variety of legal, accounting, management, and technical services to special districts.

SDA was established in 1975 to serve the needs of Colorado's special districts. We provide training, communication, research, legislative, and administrative support for our members so that they can serve their communities in the most efficient way possible. Our lobbying efforts help ensure their voices are heard, allowing them to express their concerns or support for legislation that affects their communities. SDA's membership has increased significantly, which means our efforts have become more important than ever.

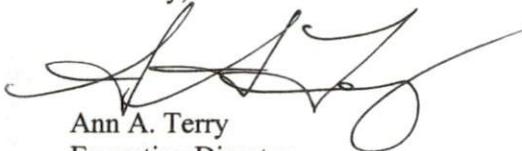
SDA is proud to provide educational opportunities to our members in a variety of ways, including elected official board member training conducted annually throughout the state. These workshops cover a multitude of topics, such as governance for local governments and new developments in law as well as best management practices to operate an effective and efficient special district.

In addition, an important leadership opportunity for our members is the SDA Leadership Academy Program. Since 2012, over 365 "Fellows" have graduated from this unique, yearlong program. Past speakers have included the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, a former Governor, and key Colorado business leaders.

Please feel free to contact any of my legislative team, which consists of Evan Goulding, Mary Kay Hogan, and Michael Valdez, should you have any questions. If you would like more information about Colorado's special districts or SDA, please contact our office at (303) 863-1733.

We look forward to working with you during the 2020 legislative session.

Sincerely,



Ann A. Terry
Executive Director