



**PRESS RELEASE – 11/18/2014**

## **Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded to Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District**

For Immediate Release

Phelan, CA — The Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District (PPHCSD) received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

“This award is a testament to Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District’s commitment to open government,” said Don Bartz, General Manager. “The entire district staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight.”

In order to receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

The Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District also fulfilled fifteen website requirements, including providing readily available information to the public, such as board agendas, past minutes, current district budget, and the most recent financial audit.

Finally, the district must demonstrate outreach to its constituents that engages the public in its governance, through a regular district newsletter and an annual informational public budget hearing.

The Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District provides the following within its service area: water, parks and recreation, street lighting, and solid waste. The District operates and maintains a considerable infrastructure in order to provide safe, good tasting water to almost 6,800 service connections within an approximate 128 square mile service area. The District also operates and maintains community centers with senior centers and two parks and is looking to develop a large park facility that will have athletic fields as well as standard park integrity.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California’s special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as water, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters in order to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

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For further information regarding this matter, please contact District staff at (760) 868-1212.