This brief is being provided to inform the board, staff and public of the details of an agenda item that requires no action from the board. The President of the Board will provide board members, staff, and the public the opportunity to ask questions about this topic when this agenda item is announced.

**Date:** March 2, 2021

**Originator:** Cary Curtis

**Agenda Topic Title:** Special District Leadership Foundation - District Transparency Certificate of Excellence

**Purpose of Brief:** Review and discuss opportunity to earn and showcase GMCSD availability and transparency to constituents and the customers we serve.

**Supporting Documents Included: Yes -** District Transparency Certificate of Excellence Checklist (link included in this document on page 2)

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**Agenda Topic Brief or Update:** Through CSDA and the Special District Leadership Foundation, *The Special District Transparency Certification of Excellence* platform showcases the District’s commitment to transparency while promoting transparency in the operations and governance of special districts to the public/constituents. The public and our customers expect that our District operates transparently, in an ethical manner, and in accordance with laws governing Special Districts. This program walks the board and staff through a checklist process that leads to validation of GMCSD transparency and ethical standards.

**Anticipated Impacts to the District -** (*Consider financial impact, change in procedures, customer, and staff communication*): Many of the required checklist items already exist with the District, the staff, and the board and where processes currently exist*.* ***There is a staff and board time commitment*** to ensure that requirements listed on the checklist are in place, need to be put in place or would require development. The District already has a process in place for many of the requirements, such as, validation of required Policies or development of new Policies. This is an opportunity to enhance our new website where we can easily upload the required checklist items, (many already exist on the website). Additionally, it puts in place all the components that will maintain transparency in the District.

There is a 3-year timeline for completion, however, review of the checklist shows that of the 43 check list requirements, GMCSD would need to work on approximately 15 of those items. The largest bulk of impact would be to the front office for posting documents to our website. There is a challenge to complete the program. If the challenge is met by Nov. 30, 2021, a random selection of 10 Special Districts will be chosen to receive special recognition, including;

* A district spotlight and article in an issue of California Special District magazine.
* Special recognition on the SDLF website.
* Announcement of your district’s achievement in a special SDLF press release sent to major newspapers in your area and statewide.
* A letter sent from SDLF directly to your California legislators and county Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) notifying them of your district’s accomplishment.

**Anticipated Impacts to the Customer –** *Standby, Residential, Commercial***:** All positive impacts! Customers would have more information at their fingertips which could potentially reduce staff time to search for and produce requested information.

**Next Steps for this Topic**:

Bring this item back to the April 19, 2021 board meeting for board decision and action.

\*\*\*Click here to view the Transparency Checklist

[2020\_SDLF\_Program\_Application\_-\_District\_Transparency\_Certificate\_of\_Excellence.pdf (higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com)](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/CSDA/feaaf941-6df6-4428-a23c-583379a09704/UploadedImages/PDfs/2020_SDLF_Program_Application_-_District_Transparency_Certificate_of_Excellence.pdf)