

## **What is a Special District?**

Special Districts are the most local form of government and are responsible for delivering core services to the neighborhoods that created the District. In the case of Cameron Estates Community Services District (which was formed in August 1969) that service is repair and maintenance of the roadways. We are not a Homeowner's Association (HOA). We also do not have enforceable CC&R's.

Special Districts are held to the same laws as other forms of local government (cities & counties):

- The Ralph M. Brown Act: this law mandates that all meetings of the legislative body of a local agency be open and public and any member of the public is permitted to attend any meeting. In our case the legislative body of our agency is the 5 Board Directors.
- The California Public Records Act: this law gives the public the right to access information in possession of public agencies.
- The FPPC Reporting Requirements: The Fair Political Practices Commission requires disclosure of gifts or monies received by public officials and employees and the annual filing of Statements of Economic interest.

Special Districts report annually to the State Controller's office its financials and the salary and compensation of all staff and board members. Those financials are published on the State Controller's website where any member of the public may view them.

Special Districts must regularly undergo a rigorous auditing process to ensure public funds are properly managed:

- State law requires that district submit to regular audits performed by a county auditor or a certified public accountant. In our case Cameron Estates conducts an audit every 2 years and it is performed by a CPA.
- These audits are public documents and must be filed with the State Controller's office as well as the County Auditor/Controller.

Special District board members are required by law to complete Ethics Training every two years under Assembly Bill 1234. All directors receive this training upon election or appointment and must become re-certified every two years.

In order to be accountable, open, and public, Cameron Estates Community Services District maintains a website ([www.cameronestates.net](http://www.cameronestates.net)) containing agendas and minutes of all board meetings, newsletters, bylaws, and various publications. Our District issues a monthly newsletter to the residents and sends out notices via email to the residents when the District receives information that affects the District and the residents. The Board of Directors meet every other month on the third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. These are open public meetings and all residents are welcome. Notice and copy of the agenda and documents pertaining to each agenda item is published on the website and the 3 gate entrances 72 hours prior to the Board meeting, per Brown Act requirements.

Cameron Estates authority is over roads and maintenance of roads. Our District is not a policing agency - for zoning issues, burglaries, traffic and speeding issues, barking dogs, or loose animals you would need to call the appropriate County agency to report or to file a complaint.