



## CARPD NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

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The California Legislature adjourned the second half of the 2017-18 Session on a confident and productive note. Governor Brown had until midnight on September 30, 2018, to sign, veto or allow bills to become law without signature and staying in character to the very end, he vetoed many bills coveted by various interest groups because he wanted to keep a healthy reserve in the General Fund to protect the next Administration from a possible financial downturn.

The Governor maintained his impressive environmental credentials to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by signing two significant items in September. First, he signed **Senate Bill 100 (De León)<sup>i</sup>**, which increases the renewable portfolio standard for electricity sales by utilities to their customers from 50% to 60% by 2030. Secondly, he surprised even his own staff by signing **Executive Order B-55-18<sup>ii</sup>** to establish 100% carbon neutrality no later than 2045.

The Governor's record on bills of interest to the recreation and parks community was mostly positive.

As you all know, the Governor participated in the crafting of **Senate Bill 5 (De León)<sup>iii</sup>** during the first year of the Session to provide a \$4 billion water, park and natural resources bond measure on the June 5, 2018 ballot. Once approved by the voters by a 56% to 44% majority, the Governor wasted little time in allocating funds in his 2018-19 State Budget. Additionally, the Governor signed **Assembly Bill 1838 (Committee on Budget)<sup>iv</sup>**, the 13-year sugared beverage tax moratorium at the local level that prevented the sponsors from pushing an initiative which would have increased all local government tax and fee measures submitted to the ballot to a supermajority vote of the electorate.

**The Governor also signed the following bills which the CARPD Legislative Committee actively supported:**

**Assembly Bill 2329 (Oberholte)<sup>v</sup>** allows for an increase in compensation for special district board members for up to six meetings per month based on an adopted written policy describing why more than four meetings are necessary for the effective operation of the district.

**Assembly Bill 2600 (Flora)<sup>vi</sup>** provides an alternative, streamlined process for the formation of regional parks and open space districts by allowing the effected local legislative body to adopt by resolution the formation without requiring signatures of the public.

**Assembly Bill 2615 (Carrillo)<sup>vii</sup>** requires CalTrans to work with local agencies, including recreation and park districts, to develop ways to promote safe and convenient access for bicyclists and pedestrians to visits parks.

**Senate Bill 929 (McGuire)<sup>viii</sup>** requires all independent special districts to establish websites to provide notice and promote transparency to the public. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020 and provides an exemption for districts that do not have access to broadband services or do not have the financial resources to maintain a website.

**Senate Bill 1428 (McGuire)<sup>ix</sup>** disallows a school from denying a work permit for a minor if the permit will allow a pupil to participate in a work program during summer vacation.

**The CARPD Legislative Committee also successfully obtained amendments to improve the following bills, which were signed into law:**

**Assembly Bill 1912 (Rodriguez)<sup>x</sup>:** Along with our allies from the League of California Cities and the California Special Districts Association, we were successful in obtaining extensive amendments to this bill pertaining to Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs). The bill was narrowed to prohibit member agencies from disclaiming the retirement liability of a JPA and requires the apportionment of retirement liability among JPA members if the JPA's agreement with CalPERS is terminated or the JPA dissolves or ceases operations.

**Senate Bill 946 (Lara)<sup>xi</sup>** establishes requirements for the local regulation of sidewalk vendors but was amended to allow additional regulation of vending in parks.

**I am pleased to report that the following list of bills opposed by the CARPD Legislative Committee were defeated this year:**

**Assembly Bill 1870 (Reyes)<sup>xii</sup>** would have extended the statute of limitations for unlawful employment practices, including sexual harassment claims from one to three years.

**Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 31 (Cervantes)<sup>xiii</sup>** would have placed on all public-sector base compensation at the Governor's compensation amount, which is currently \$195,803.

**A few measures of interest were vetoed by Governor Brown and likely will be reintroduced and pursued with the new Administration early in 2019:**

**Assembly Bill 1918 (E. Garcia)<sup>xiv</sup>** sought to establish an Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation within the Natural Resources Agency to promote the importance of outdoor recreation in

California. The author was aware that Governor Brown opposed the bill, but he has set the stage to seek enactment next year.

**Assembly Bill 2534 (Limón)<sup>xv</sup>** and **Assembly Bill 2614 (Carrillo)<sup>xvi</sup>** both sought to establish Equity Grant Programs for under-served “at risk” students to participate in outdoor education experiences was vetoed. The Governor has a policy of requiring these matters to be considered in the context of the State Budget.

The November Election will herald a new Administration and State Legislature. Most polls indicate the Democrat Party will keep the corner office and will pick up seats in both Houses of the Legislature. A 2/3rds supermajority control by the Democrats in both Houses is a distinct possibility. After the dust settles, the CARPD will meet to strategize and establish legislative goals for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session.

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<sup>i</sup> [Senate Bill 100 \(De León\)](#) [Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018].

<sup>ii</sup> [Executive Order B-55-18](#); September 10, 2018

<sup>iii</sup> [Senate Bill 5 \(De León\)](#), [Chapter 852, Statutes of 2017].

<sup>iv</sup> [Assembly Bill 1838 \(Committee on Budget\)](#), [Chapter 61, Statutes of 2017].

<sup>v</sup> [Assembly Bill 2329 \(Oberholte\)](#), [Chapter 170, Statutes of 2018].

<sup>vi</sup> [Assembly Bill 2600 \(Flora\)](#), [Chapter 218, Statutes of 2018].

<sup>vii</sup> [Assembly Bill 2615 \(Carrillo\)](#), [Chapter 496, Statutes of 2018].

<sup>viii</sup> [Senate Bill 929 \(McGuire\)](#), [Chapter 408, Statutes of 2018].

<sup>ix</sup> [Senate Bill 1428 \(McGuire\)](#), [Chapter 420, Statutes of 2018].

<sup>x</sup> [Assembly Bill 1912 \(Rodriguez\)](#), [Chapter 909, Statutes of 2018].

<sup>xi</sup> [Senate Bill 946 \(Lara\)](#), [Chapter 459, Statutes of 2018].

<sup>xii</sup> [Assembly Bill 1870 \(Reyes\)](#)

<sup>xiii</sup> [Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 31 \(Cervantes\)](#)

<sup>xiv</sup> [Assembly Bill 1918 \(E. Garcia\)](#); Veto message [here](#).

<sup>xv</sup> [Assembly Bill 2534 \(Limón\)](#); Veto message [here](#).

<sup>xvi</sup> [Assembly Bill 2614 \(Carrillo\)](#); Veto message [here](#).