



# CARPD COMMUNICATOR

## NOVEMBER 2021

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the end of another year, I wanted to encourage all of our colleagues in the industry to celebrate the small things in a big way and let your staff know they are making a difference.

Those of us who are fortunate to be a part of Recreation understand the difference we can make in our communities. Sometimes that benefit is displayed during a big festival, we helped to deliver, that brings joy to thousands of people. But most of the time, it's displayed on a child's face when they get to hit their first ball or make their first basket. Or when our seniors show up to the Pickleball courts early in the morning and find familiar faces. So whether the crowd is big or small, what is significant is that we are a part of a moment that will last a lifetime.

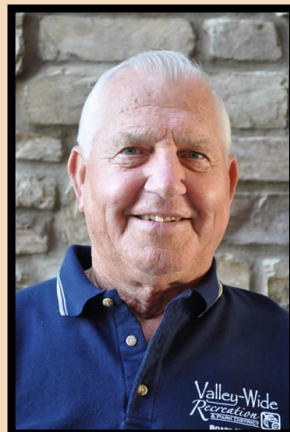
From putting together programs, events, and taking registrations to welcoming and greeting our patrons, our Recreation staff is the face of our Districts and when it comes to Recreation, they are our Front Line workers. Let's make sure we recognize them and thank them for their leadership and for the positive impact they have on our community.

Winter is Coming! Some of us have already experienced some heavy rain and have had to make adjustments as we continue to work on bringing back sports and events. They say the imitation is the highest form of flattery, so share your events with us and let us know what you have going on. You might inspire someone else to follow your lead and... flatter you with imitation.

And speaking of planning events, have you met Kirk? Kirk Andre is CAPRI's Safety Analyst and has vast experience in risk management and managing insurance documentation. Kirk's expertise in the recreation and park sector can help protect your District and avoid liability issues. He is only a phone call away so don't be afraid to give him a call and get your questions answered.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Nick Schouten,  
Valley-Wide Recreation and  
Park District  
  
President, CARPD



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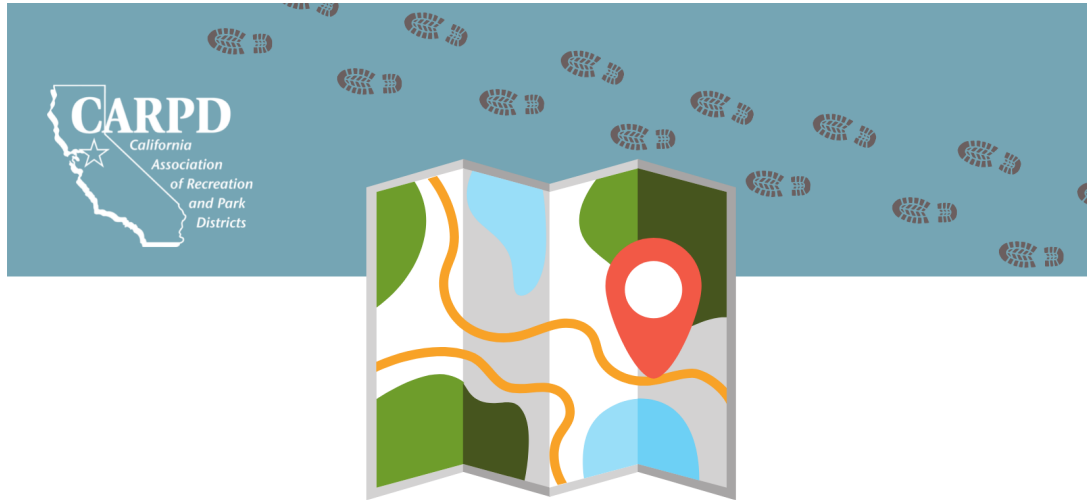
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## CARPD CONFERENCE 2022

We are excited to announce that the CARPD Conference is headed to South Lake Tahoe in 2022!



## 2022 CARPD CONFERENCE CHARTING THE COURSE

MAY 18, 2022 - MAY 21, 2022  
LAKE TAHOE RESORT HOTEL



Here are the preliminary details, so you can block this time on your calendar now:

When: May 18, 2022 - May 21, 2022

Where: Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel

Be on the lookout for Conference Registration information in your inbox soon.

Can't wait to see you in the Spring!

[caparkdistricts.org](http://caparkdistricts.org)

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## THE ROAD BACK—PARADISE'S RECOVERY AFTER THE CAMP FIRE

By Matthew Duarte

Executive Director, CARPD & CAPRI

This past November marked three years since the devastating Camp Fire in Paradise. It was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history as, in a matter of hours, 85 lives were lost and 95% of the Town's buildings had burned down. But the story of Paradise did not end that day. The survivors of the Camp Fire have embraced the challenge of rebuilding their Town and not only restoring their mountain-ridge community, but making it the best it can be.

### Rebuilding with Resilience

Earlier this month, the rebuilding efforts in Paradise hit a significant milestone, surpassing over 2,000 permit applications for single-family homes and over 390 permit applications for multi-family homes. Over 1300 homes have been rebuilt to date with hundreds more slated for construction in the near future. With the population of Paradise currently less than a quarter of its pre-fire size, every new build represents a new beginning. Additionally, there are \$130+ Million infrastructure projects in progress including road improvements, sewer projects, Early Warning System development, and undergrounding of utilities. Paradise also has school site developments in the works and millions of grants to aid new home builds, Paradise is the fastest growing town in California.

### The Role of Recreation

The Paradise Recreation & Park District's main office is situated in the middle of town, right off the main thoroughfare, adjacent to the Veterans' Hall and Paradise Park. In that way and many more, it is -- quite literally -- the center of the community. While the fire destroyed several other outlying District offices, its main office in the Terry Ashe Recreation Center survived the blaze.

For the last three years, PRPD has been confronted with the question of how to best serve a community on the mend. And the answer for PRPD has been a simple one -- whatever the community needs. In addition to year round activities and events like the Chili Cookoff, Pinewood Derby, Fishing Derby, and Ice Skating, they have expanded their services to include day care and preschool in order to accommodate their residents' childcare needs. The District has also now assumed operations of the nearby Paradise Lake, a 204 acre lake surrounded by 84 acres of outdoor recreation space. With paddling, fishing, hiking, biking, and more, PRPD's recreation offerings have continued to develop and the community has thrived.

Additionally, PRPD has considered its role in public safety and has taken the novel approach to disaster planning by embarking on an ambitious plan for park development. The forward-thinking plan is to purchase approximately 1000 acres of private property ringing the Town in an effort to create a strategic buffer of park space to serve as natural fire breaks and help protect the community from wildfire threats. To date, PRPD has acquired 300 acres of land with 500 more in process. Their plan was recently profiled in the New York Times in an article you can read by navigating to <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/31/business/paradise-camp-fire-rebuild.html>.

To read more on the Rebuild in Paradise, check out the community website: <https://makeitparadise.org/>

If you're interested in serving as a sponsor for their Annual Paradise on Ice - Winter Wonderland, check out the PRPD website: <https://www.paradisepprd.com/paradise-on-ice-sponsorship-opportunities>.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Russ Noack  
Public Policy Advocates, LLC

The California Legislature completed its work for the first year of the two-year session under the continuing specter of COVID-19. Admittance to the Capitol for the public was once again severely limited as were legislative hearings and bill load restrictions for legislators. A further complicating factor was the campaign surrounding the Recall Election of Governor Newsom running concurrently with the legislative session. However, on a positive note, the State's financial picture improved in 2021 leading to increased funding for special districts.

### Recall of Governor Newsom Fails

After a turbulent political year for Governor Newsom, California voters overwhelmingly said "NO" to recalling him on September 14, 2021. The actual vote margin exceeded most expert expectations and tracked with his 2018 election by getting 2/3rds of the votes cast to reject the Recall. In the aftermath, the Governor struck a conciliatory tone by saying, "I'm humbled and grateful to the millions of Californians that exercised their fundamental right to vote and express themselves so overwhelmingly by rejecting the division, by rejecting the cynicism, by rejecting so much of the negativity that defined our politics in this country over the course of so many years." Only a brief recess from campaign politics for the Governor as he now faces election for a second term next November.

### 2021-2022 California State Budget

[Assembly Bill 128 \(Ting\)](#) was the Legislature's version of a balanced budget that passed to comply with the constitutional deadline of June 15<sup>th</sup>. Governor Newsom failed to allocate any COVID-19 relief funds to many special districts, including park districts, in his [May Revise](#) of the State Budget. An appropriation of \$100 million for independent special districts that have encountered unanticipated costs or losses due to the COVID-19 public health emergency was included in this bill and signed by Governor Newsom on June 28, 2021.

[Senate Bill 129 \(Skinner\)](#) substantially amended AB 128 to reflect the agreement between the Governor and Legislature. SB 129 retained the \$100 million appropriation for COVID-19 relief and directed the Department of Finance (DOF) to develop a plan by September 1, 2021, to distribute the funds. This bill was signed by Governor Newsom on July 12, 2021. (See ***COVID-19 Relief Fund*** section for more details.)

SB 129 also contained an appropriation of \$1 billion for wildfire prevention and forest resiliency activities, with allocation details to be determined in future budget trailer measures that ultimately became Senate Bill 170 and Senate Bill 155, both of which will be discussed in greater detail below.

Additionally, SB 129 included funding for parks, recreation, arts, culture, and housing and homelessness, stemming from special requests made by individual legislators, and all made possible by the surplus of money in the General Fund.

The list of various legislator-requested items, totaling almost \$614 million, includes specific allocations to a number of CARPD Member agencies. Congratulations to those districts that were able to secure these funding opportunities.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—CONTINUED

By Russ Noack  
Public Policy Advocates, LLC

### COVID-19 Relief Fund

The 2021-22 Budget Act appropriated \$100 million one-time General Fund to provide fiscal relief to independent special districts. These funds are designated to mitigate the effects of revenue losses or unanticipated costs incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Department of Finance (DOF) application process was open to independent special districts from **October 1 through October 15, 2021, and then extended to October 29, 2021.**

According to the Budget Act, this fund is available to provide fiscal relief to special districts that have met *all* the following criteria:

- The agency is an independent special district.
- The district is reporting fiscal impacts due to the COVID-19 public health emergency:
  - The district has encountered unanticipated costs due to the pandemic during the eligible period of March 4, 2020, to June 15, 2021; and/or,
  - The district has encountered loss of revenue during the eligible period, which is calculated using revenue from all fund sources of fiscal year 2020-21 compared against revenue from all fund sources of fiscal year 2018-19.
- The district has not yet received direct COVID-19 fiscal relief from the state or federal government.

While there is no stated timeline for DOF to release the program funds, once DOF orders the State Controller to remit funds to each County Auditor-Controller, the funds must be disbursed within 30 days of receipt from the State Controller. We have learned that the DOF is processing applications and the hope is to get approved applications to the State Controller, with funds disbursement in early to mid-January 2022.

### 2021-2022 Budget Trailer Bills—Wildfire Prevention & Forest Resiliency Activities

Governor Newsom signed two significant Budget Trailer Bills passed by the Legislature on the last night of the Session. [Senate Bill 170 \(Skinner\)](#) is the “Budget Jr. Bill” that contains \$988 million in wildfire prevention and forest resilience funding. [Senate Bill 155 \(Committee on Budget\)](#) contains the public resource funding package and provides funding and control language that governs the allocation of budget funds.

### 2021– Legislation Review

2021 was also a busy year relative to legislation. Even with restrictions on the number of bills legislators were allowed to author, a myriad of measures were introduced. The CARPD Legislative Committee tracked over 125 measures during the year. Of course, CARPD was proud to sponsor SCR 52 which provided for specific legislative findings as to the value of recreation and park professionals and proclaimed the month of July as “California Parks and Recreation Professionals Month.”

In conclusion, any success realized this year would not have been possible without the leadership of CARPD Legislative Committee and Board. The Committee is in the process for developing legislative priorities for 2022.



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CARPD Sponsors are integral to ensuring our member agencies are able to network and learn at our CARPD Annual Conference.

We thank them for their generous support over the years and look forward to another great Conference in 2022!