

CARPD Communicator



President's Message

In The Law of the Jungle "...the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack." As members of California Association of Recreation and Park Districts, that balance of mutual reliance and responsibility guides our work. When each district stands strong, our collective ability to advocate for, serve, and protect our parks increases.

Hello I'm Jesus G. Perez of Lamont in Kern County, and I'm honored to serve as President of CARPD, leading in step with CARPD's Board Members statewide as we work together to illuminate the vital role locally governed parks and recreation play in Californians' health and well-being.

At CARPD, our staff is lead by our Executive Director, Matthew Duarte. We are proud to be represented by Matt; every sentiment we express about him reflects his staff's dedication and commitment to our profession and to our member districts.

In recent years, CARPD's legislative advocacy has secured increased visibility for your District's priorities, helped advance funding measures that benefit maintenance and recreational programming, as well as, strengthened relationships with key legislators who now view our districts as essential partners in statewide community wellness.

Thank you CARPD staff, Member Districts, conference-sponsors, and conference speakers for an outstanding conference in Monterey Bay; an ideal setting for uniting and idea-sharing. Additionally I thank Dean Wetter, Mr. Former President of CARPD as well as CAPRI for his leadership, as well as Brian Danzl for his guidance as Past President. This year we welcome our newly elected Board Member Peter Rosen from Hayward Area RPD to our CARPD Board.

As I begin my term, I am confident we will build on our organization's recent successes, advocate effectively, and support one another in delivering high-quality parks and recreation services across California.

Standing Strong,

Jesus G. Perez

President, California Association of Recreation and Park Districts



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Save the Date for
CARPD Conference
2027!

CARPD Conference in Review

May 27 - May 30, 2026

It was a pleasure to see everyone in Monterey!
Thank you for joining us. We look forward to seeing you all
at our conference next year in North Lake Tahoe!



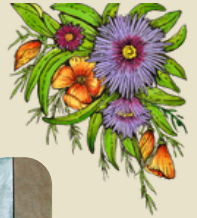
CARPD Conference in Review

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Check out more photos from our event here

[CARPD 2026 Conference in Review Highlights](#)



Heidi Garner Studio

2026 CARPD Conference





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Legislative Update

By Ethan Nagler
California Public Policy Group

STATE OF PLAY AT THE CAPITOL

June Marked Key Deadlines for Legislation and for the State Budget

June concluded an active several months for the Legislature, encompassing the June 15 deadline to pass a Budget Act and the bulk of committee hearings leading to the July 2 deadline by which all policy committees must meet and confer on bills in their second house. Bills that remain in motion reside in their second house, meaning that Assembly bills are being heard in the Senate and Senate bills are being heard in the Assembly. June 25 also marked the final day for measures to be added to, or withdrawn from, the November 2026 ballot.

On July 2, the Legislature adjourned for Summer Recess, and when it reconvenes on August 3, with limited exceptions, only appropriations committees may meet to determine the fate of fiscal measures. The deadline for fiscal measures to clear their second-house Appropriations Committee is August 14. The final two weeks of session leading up to the last day of the 2025-2026 legislative session on August 31 are reserved for Floor deliberations only. The Governor has until September 30 to sign or veto all legislation passed by the Legislature after August 1.

BUDGET UPDATE

2026-2027 State Budget Finalized

On June 29, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that he had signed the primary budget bill, AB 109 (Gabriel), along with a series of budget trailer bills. He stated that he had delivered a “balanced budget with no deficit this year or next,” consistent with previous statements.

On June 26, the Senate released a summary of the budget agreement that had been reached between the Governor and both houses of the Legislature. The budget agreement approves the Governor's proposal for more than \$5 billion in ongoing new revenues, including a federally compliant Managed Care Organization tax, a sales tax on pre-written software products, and a limitation on business tax credits.

SENATE BILL 1164

SB 1164 (Cervantes) repeals the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 and replaces it with a new California Voting Rights Act of 2026. Presented as the Legislature's response to recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions narrowing the federal Voting Rights Act, the bill significantly expands the types of voting-rights claims that may be brought against local governments. While current law is largely focused on challenges to at-large election systems, SB 1164 creates new causes of action for voter suppression and vote dilution and applies broadly to all local agencies that conduct elections, including both general law and charter cities. For agencies that have already transitioned to by-district elections, the most consequential change is the elimination of the existing safe harbor. Under current law, jurisdictions that transition to district-based elections have generally been insulated from CVRA claims. SB 1164 removes that protection and allows challenges to any method of election, including by-district systems with a rotating mayor or by-district systems with an at-large mayor.



Legislative Update

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California Public Policy Group

2026 ELECTIONS UPDATE

California Chamber of Commerce Measure

On June 16, the Secretary of State published on their website that the “Building an Affordable California Act” had become eligible for the November ballot. The measure is backed by the California Chamber of Commerce and a broad coalition of business, housing, infrastructure, and clean-energy organizations. The initiative would establish new procedures for reviewing designated “essential projects,” including firm deadlines for environmental review and accelerated timelines for public comment and legal challenges. In most cases, public agencies would be required to complete environmental reviews within one year after a project application is deemed complete.

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association Measure

If approved by voters, this measure would have invalidated certain local tax increases retroactively, eliminated real estate transfer taxes, and imposed stricter requirements for cities and counties seeking to adopt new taxes. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) estimates that local governments could collectively lose several billion dollars in annual revenue. The measure qualified for the ballot in April 2026.

On June 22, AB 736 (Mark González) was gut-and-amended to be the Legislature’s answer to this measure. On June 23, HJTA announced that it had rejected the proposal and would not remove the measure from the November 2026 ballot. On June 25, the Legislature withdrew AB 736 from its scheduled hearing, pausing consideration of the bill after a deal was reached to remove the HJTA-qualified initiative from the November ballot in exchange for placing a narrower constitutional amendment before voters and withdrawing ACA 13 (Ward, 2023). ACA 13 had already qualified for the November 3, 2026, ballot and served as the Legislature’s leverage to bring HJTA to the negotiating table: by raising the bar for initiatives seeking to impose higher voter-approval thresholds, it posed a direct threat to the passage of HJTA’s qualified initiative. Withdrawing ACA 13 was therefore the concession that secured the agreement. The agreement was implemented through two measures: ACA 21 (Rivas) and ACA 22 (Wicks). ACA 21 directed the Secretary of State to withdraw ACA 13 from the November 3, 2026, ballot. ACA 22 placed a narrower constitutional amendment on the ballot that would require a two-thirds vote to impose, extend, or increase any local special tax, including those proposed through the voter initiative process, beginning January 1, 2027.

LOOKING AHEAD

- August 3: Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess
- August 31: Last day for the Legislature to pass bills; end of the session
- September 30: Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills

Awards of Distinction Winners 2026

**THE 2026 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION WINNERS WERE ANNOUNCED
AT THE CARPD CONFERENCE ON MAY 28, 2026, IN MONTEREY, CA.
CONGRATS TO THE WINNERS!**

AWARDS OF DISTINCTION



OUTSTANDING NEW FACILITY

ASHLAND ROOTS CENTER – HAYWARD AREA RPD
CORE RECREATION CENTER – COSUMNES CSD

OUTSTANDING RENOVATED FACILITY (LARGE DISTRICT)

JURUPA COMMUNITY CENTER – JARPD

OUTSTANDING RENOVATED FACILITY (SMALL DISTRICT)

VILLAGE PARK – FAIR OAKS RPD

OUTSTANDING ACTIVITY/PROGRAM/SPECIAL EVENT (LARGE DISTRICT)

CUPCAKE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL – CORDOVA RPD (OUTSTANDING SPECIAL EVENT)

OUTSTANDING ACTIVITY/PROGRAM/SPECIAL EVENT (SMALL DISTRICT)

FULL STEAM AHEAD SUMMER PROGRAM – WEST SIDE RPD
FORWARD EVER, BACKWARD NEVER – ISLA VISTA RPD

OUTSTANDING INNOVATION

CONNECTING NEIGHBORS-TO-NEIGHBORS – PARADISE RPD

OUTSTANDING DISTRICT EMPLOYEE

CHARMAYNE MONDAY – ARDEN MANOR RPD

OUTSTANDING GENERAL MANAGER

GABRIEL LANUSSE - GREATER VALLEJO RPD

OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBER

GEORGE GALT – BOULDER CREEK RPD

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

WATER CONSERVATION PLAN – CONEJO RPD
EV SOLAR, PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS & TECHNOLOGY – SOUTHGATE RPD

COMMUNITY LANDMARK

CONEJO COMMUNITY PARK – CONEJO RPD
NORTH SHORE BEACH & YACHT CLUB – DESERT RD



AWARDS OF DISTINCTION WINNERS 2026

AWARDS OF DISTINCTION CONTINUE.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD
DAN HUGHES

JIM MEREDITH AWARD
DENNIS WAESPI

VOLUNTEERS

BARBARA HENDERSON – JURUPA AREA RPD
KERRY BATES-REDLER – PLEASANT VALLEY RPD
MAGGIE CLARK – EAST BAY RPD
MELINDA MICHAELS – FULTON-EL CAMINO RPD

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS (4)

ARCHIVES VOLUNTEERS – EAST BAY RPD
ELK GROVE LION'S CLUB – CONSUMNES CSD
KIWANIS CLUB – VALLEY-WIDE RP
PARADISE COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PARADISE RPD

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BRIAN WILSON

General Manager
Feather River Recreation and Park District

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CARPD Board Election - Congrats!

The recent election for our CARPD Board resulted in a dynamic blend of experienced incumbents and fresh voices to guide the future of parks and recreation in California. These individuals, elected by the CARPD member districts at the General Membership Meeting on May 28, 2026, are stepping forward to embrace a critical role for our Districts. Their commitment underscores the deeply rooted belief that vibrant parks, accessible recreational programs, and preserved open spaces are fundamental to the well-being and quality of life for all Californians.

As we all know, serving on a park district board is a true act of civic dedication. These volunteers contribute countless hours, often behind the scenes, making decisions that shape our association and acting as advocates for CARPD's member districts up and down the State.

We extend our sincere congratulations to our newly elected and re-elected board members. Your willingness to dedicate your time, expertise, and passion to the continued enhancement of California's park and recreation landscape is invaluable. We look forward to collaborating with you as you champion policies and initiatives that will not only maintain but also expand access to the essential health, social, and environmental benefits that our parks and recreation agencies provide across the State.

2026 CARPD Board Election Winners!

President – Elect

- Rick Sloan, Cordova Recreation & Park District

Chief Financial Officer

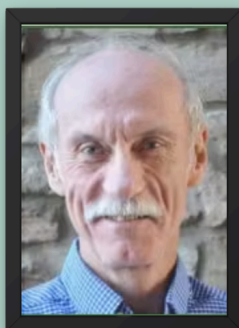
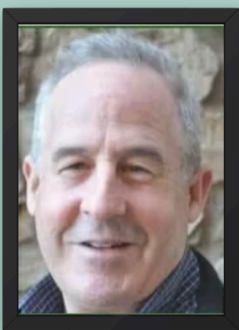
- Al McGreehan, Paradise Recreation & Park District

Director at Large (Even Year):

- Brian Danzl, Cordova Recreation & Park District
- Peter Rosen, Hayward Area Recreation & Park District

Administrator Rep (Even Year):

- Michelle Lacy, Pleasant Recreation & Park District



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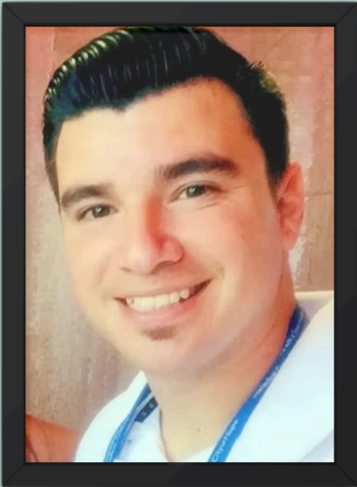
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BURNBOT

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Get to Know Your CARPD Board

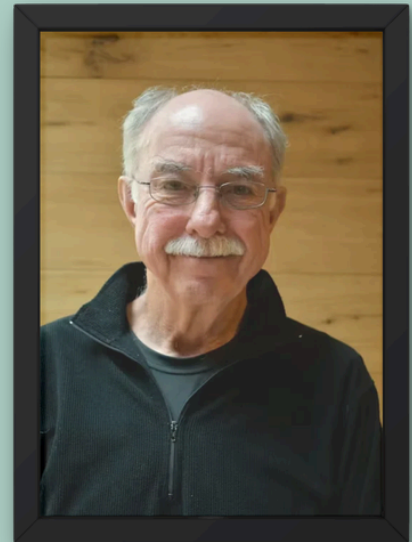


Jesus Perez

- Fun fact about Bear Mountain is that we have one of few District Councils around the state that donates back into our district to buy new baseball cleats, pants and shirts for our youth.
- Favorite memory is BBQing Chicken with my Dad for our Baseball Coaches, Players, and Volunteers.
- I am most proud of our Staff. The development of each of our employees has been phenomenal. I am most proud of my board's investment in our staff and culture at Bear Mountain.

Michael Seaman

- I am most proud of our Staff. The development of each of our employees has been phenomenal. I am most proud of my board's investment in our staff and culture at Bear Mountain.
- Memory: Our crab feeds have been truly memorable.
- Proud: That time in 1991 100+ people gave a standing ovation to our Board for voting to raise their property taxes in order to improve the facilities they wanted us to improve.



Mat Fuzie

- Our district contains Sacred Land Features that are part of a tribal origin story.
- New Sycamore Trees in our district have naturally sprouted after more than 100 years without any sign of new growth.
- My favorite memory from my time at my district was partnering with the school district, City and County to be the first Covid Vaccine Clinic in the County.



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& Kilday
& Kilduff
Attorneys at Law



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SPOTLIGHT



The Cordova Recreation & Park District operates over 50 parks and facilities across more than 600 acres of urban and open space in Sacramento County. CRPD also operates Cordova Golf Course, which is a full-service 18-hole course with a lighted driving range, pro shop, and lessons from PGA professionals.

CRPD recently partnered with the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Sac Metro Fire) to install automated external defibrillator (AED) cabinets in five local community parks. These cabinets not only contain an AED, but they also have Narcan and a “Stop the Bleed” Kit to better assist with other common life-threatening situations where time is of the essence. This initiative is part of Sac Metro Fire’s **“Citizen Responders Project,”** which follows the Heartsafe community initiative model and is focused on improving outcomes to sudden cardiac arrest emergencies through training, preparation, and response protocols.

If your District would like to be featured in the “Spotlight” of the CARPD Communicator for a special achievement or accomplishment deserving recognition, please email the details to Mario Castagnola at mcastagnola@capri-jpa.gov.





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JULY 2026

Save the Date!

CARPD Conference 2027

May 26 - 29, 2027



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JULY IS PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

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have a safe and happy
4th of July!





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CARPD Board of Directors

The CARPD Board of Directors consists of eleven elected representatives of the CARPD Membership. In these volunteer positions, the Board provides policy direction for the organization in order to fulfill its mission to advocate, educate, and support California's recreation and park districts. Thank you to all, past and present, that have served our organization!

President:

Jesus Perez

President-Elect:

Rick Sloan

Past President:

Dean Wetter

Secretary:

Doug Nickles

CFO:

Al McGreehan

Directors:

Michael Seaman

Jan Bissell

Brian Danzl

Peter Rosen

Mathew Fuzie

Michelle Lacy

