



# CARPD COMMUNICATOR

## March 2024

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week, along with several CARPD board members and staff, we spent a day at the California state Capitol speaking with legislators and key state agency staff about current legislative challenges and opportunities. As I was traveling north to Sacramento from Thousand Oaks, and again while I was walking around the Capitol grounds, I was reflecting on how I happened to be a participant in this adventure, far from my home, my local park district and represented constituents. After all, it was my interest in our own community, parks, recreation and open space that led me to seek a seat on our local board of directors, not a passion for state-wide issues and the hubbub of Sacramento politics.

While the day was productive in accomplishing its intended purposes, I was more impressed with the peers I was fortunate to spend time with. This group of local elected officials, agency general managers and association staff are dedicated not only to their own community, but to communities around the state that share a common interest in how park districts benefit them. It is comforting to know that while striving to meet recreation and park needs locally, there are many others around the state on the same mission, and when we work collectively, we can multiply our efforts times over. Whether it be at the state Capitol, board meetings, annual conferences or online committee calls, our joint effort continues to be successful, through we may not always see immediate results.

Perhaps the island “mall” surrounding the Capitol, with green grass covered by mature native trees from around the state, is emblematic of the fact that quick access to a park is necessary for a respite from political debates. Those of us in the recreation and park business are fully aware of that – we just need to remind those in Sacramento in creative ways that will lead to ongoing support.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Santa Rosa later this spring at our annual conference. Come to fellowship, learn and share. While alternative forms of communication are beneficial, face-to-face conversations still can't be beat.

Doug Nickles,  
Conejo Recreation and Park District  
President, CARPD



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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**President:**

Doug Nickles

**President-Elect:**

Brian Danzl

**Secretary:**

Nick Schouten

**CFO:**

Al McGreehan

**Past President:**

Michelle Lacy

**Directors:**

Michael Seaman

Jesus G. Perez

Dennis Waespi

Dean Wetter

Mathew Fuzie

Rick Sloan

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## CARPD CAPITOL VISIT 2024

The CARPD Board of Directors had another successful day at the Capitol! On March 13, 2024, CARPD Board Members spent the day meeting with several legislators and legislative staff including **Assemblymember Juan Carrillo**, Assembly Committee on Local Government; **Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco**, Assembly Committee on Local Government, author of AB 817; **Assemblymember Lori Wilson**, Assembly Committee on Local Government, co-author of AB 817 and the 2024 CARPD Legislator of the Year; and **Christian Griffith**, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Budget, to name a few.

CARPD Board Members were able to meet at the legislators' offices to discuss important issues affecting Recreation and Park Districts. Each meeting provided valuable dialogue continuing to keep CARPD on the map. Thank you to each of our CARPD Board Members for your participation in each meet and greet. And, a big thank you to our Legislative Advocates, Alyssa Silhi and Sharon Gonsalves of RPPG, for your hard work in scheduling the meetings and making sure our Board Members were prepared for these important discussions.



From left: Al McGreehan, Rick Sloan, Brian Danzl, Michelle Lacy, Doug Nickles, Assm. Lori Wilson, Assm. Blanca Pacheco, Matthew Duarte, Michael Seaman, Dean Wetter, Nick Schouten and Jan Bissell



From Left: Dean Wetter, Michelle Lacy, Doug Nickles, Jan Bissell, Brian Danzl, Nick Schouten and Rick Sloan



From left: Al McGreehan, Doug Nickles, Rick Sloan, Michelle Lacy, Brian Danzl, Assm. Juan Carrillo, Matthew Duarte, Michael Seaman, Dean Wetter, Jan Bissell and Nick Schouten



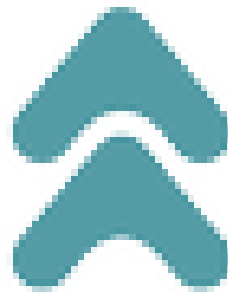
From left: Jan Bissell, Nick Schouten, Michelle Lacy, Dean Wetter, Rick Sloan, Al McGreehan, Brian Danzl, Michael Seaman, Doug Nickles, and Matthew Duarte



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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 2024!

## CARPD CONFERENCE 2024

We are excited for the CARPD Conference being held in the beautiful Sonoma Wine Country!

Registration closes soon and you won't want to miss out!

[CLICK HERE](#) to complete the Registration Form for the 2024 Conference



## 2024 CARPD CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### DRUMROLL PLEASE.....

**Congratulations to our Conference Scholarship Winners!**

**We will see you in Santa Rosa!**

Becky Herz, Orangevale Recreation & Park District

Sean Ventura, Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District

Ryan Kukkola, El Dorado Hills Community Services District

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

## CARPD AWARDS OF DISTINCTION



Artwork courtesy of Heidi Garner, Heidi Garner

### 2024 CARPD Conference

### Awards Nominations



#### 2024 Awards Nominations are due April 5, 2024.

Every year at the Annual Conference, CARPD honors excellence in the field by recognizing the winners of its esteemed Awards of Distinction. CARPD will be continuing its tradition by awarding Member Districts, Board Members, Staff Members, and Community members who -- by parks and rec standards -- have really "knocked it out of the park!"

**SUBMITTAL OF NOMINATION** - Please review the categories, and then submit a written nomination no longer than 1 page and include 1-2 photographs in support of your nominee. Submissions must be received by **April 5, 2024**. Districts may submit nominations in multiple categories by visiting the [CARPD Awards Nomination page](#)

#### District Awards

**Outstanding New Facility:** Honors excellence in design and planning of newly constructed public park facilities. Demonstrates high standards of quality, versatility, accessibility, and community involvement.

**Outstanding Renovated Facility:** Honors excellence in design and planning of newly renovated public park facilities. Exhibits high standards of quality, versatility, accessibility, and community involvement.

**Environmental Excellence Award:** Honors programming or planning that supports environmental sustainability in the operation and management of District facilities.

**Outstanding Activity/Program/Special Event:** Honors outstanding and unique achievements in program planning, development, and implementation of a District activity or special event.

**Outstanding Innovation:** Honors unique or groundbreaking recreation programs, park maintenance practices, or District operations.

**CARPD Community Landmark Award:** Recognizes public park facilities that have served communities for 30 or more years. Honors those facilities that have been at the core of recreation and park activities for a diverse user base and provided a wide-range of experiences and activities to the community.

#### Individual Awards

**Outstanding District Employee:** Any employee whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their District.

**Outstanding General Manager:** Any General Manager or District Administrator whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their District.

**Outstanding Board Member:** Any individual serving as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefitted their District.

#### Community Awards (Limit 1 Per District—ALL Nominees Honored)

**Outstanding Community Organization/Partner:** Honors any public or private club, special interest group, or public agency that has made a significant contribution to a District recreation or park program.

**Outstanding Volunteer:** Honors any person who has provided outstanding participation, volunteer service, or other significant contributions to a District recreation or park program.

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## Workplace Violence Prevention Plan & SB 553 Requirements



On September 30, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 553, which requires all employers to establish, implement, and maintain an effective Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP). The law takes effect on July 1, 2024. Cal/OSHA is responsible for enforcing the requirements of [SB 553](#), which is now codified in California Labor Code Section 6401.9.

The new law requires Districts to develop specific procedures and training to identify and respond to workplace violence and various types of threats of violence.

Cal/OSHA just published a [Model Workplace Violence Prevention Plan](#) that you can find on their website as well as within our CAPRI Portal under [Forms Manuals, and Templates](#). The Model WVPP is designed to assist our Districts in drafting their own plans. Districts are not required to use Cal/OSHA's model but may use it as a template. The Model WVPP has many questions and examples for Districts to consider when they assess the risks of their workplaces.

Cal/OSHA also published a [Fact Sheet for Employers](#) on the requirements. The Fact Sheet provides an overview of the requirements of:

- Creating a workplace violence prevention plan
- Violent incident log requirements
- Employer responsibilities with workplace violence recordkeeping
- Training employees on workplace violence

If CAPRI member districts have any questions about the Workplace Violence Prevention Plan or OSHA's model plan, please contact Kirk Andre at [kandre@capri-jpa.org](mailto:kandre@capri-jpa.org).



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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Alyssa Silhi  
Renne Public Policy Group

### UPDATE ON POSITIONED LEGISLATION

RPPG is closely monitoring and providing updates for bills on which the Association has adopted a position.

- AB 637 (Jackson) Zero-emission vehicles: fleet owners: rental vehicles
  - Status: Senate awaiting assignment
  - Association Position: Watch
- AB 1274 (Connolly) California Youth Empowerment Commission: civil service workforce
  - Status: Senate awaiting assignment
  - Association Position: Watch
- AB 1567 (Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat

Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024

- Status: Senate Natural Resources and Water
- Association Position: Support
- AB 1820 (Schiavo, D) Housing development projects: applications: fees and exactions
  - Status: N/A
  - Association Position: Oppose Unless Amended
- AB 2091 (Grayson) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: public access: nonmotorized recreation
  - Status: Assembly Natural Resources
  - Association Position: Support
- AB 2124 (Davies) Department of Parks and Recreation: swimming lessons
  - Status: Assembly awaiting assignment
  - Association Position: Support
- SB 908 (Cortese) Public records: legislative records: electronic messages
  - Status: Senate awaiting assignment
  - Association Position: Watch
- SB 937 (Wiener) Development projects: permits and other entitlements: fees and charges
  - Status: Senate Local Government
  - Association Position: Oppose Unless Amended
- SB 1116 (Portantino) Unemployment insurance: trade disputes: eligibility for benefits
  - Status: Senate Labor
  - Association Position: Oppose

### PRIORITY BILLS

RPPG has tagged 64 bills for the Association as “priority,” which may be of potential interest, or may impact operations or priority issues, per the legislative platform. We will continue to bring bills of potential interest to staff for the Association’s review in the coming weeks.

### BILL INTRODUCTIONS

In a year dominated by budget constraints, legislators are focused on policy changes and careful with proposed appropriations, with some exceptions. As reported in RPPG’s February 27 Bill Introduction Report memo, February 16 was the deadline to introduce bills in 2024. 2,266 pieces of legislation have been introduced so far this year, a drop from last year’s 3,030. It has been common over the past 10 years for second year introductions to be lower than first year introductions. Approximately 30% of bills introduced remain spot bills but must be amended with more substantive language by March 22. Many have passed the 30-day period where they must remain unchanged and are being amended and scheduled for policy committee hearings. However, the bulk of bills introduced this year will be ready to be acted upon the week of March 18. After this point the legislative process will begin to heat up and will move quickly.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

By Alyssa Silhi  
Renne Public Policy Group

### SENATE LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE CHANGES

Mike McGuire (D, Geyserville) was officially sworn in as President pro Tempore of the Senate on February 5th in a ceremony attended by all members of the Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom. That same week, Senator McGuire made changes to Senate leadership and committee membership, several of which are detailed below:

- Senator Lena Gonzalez (D, Long Beach), Majority Leader
- Senator Angelique V. Ashby (D, Sacramento), Assistant Majority Leader
- Senator Aisha Wahab (D, Hayward), Assistant Majority Leader and Chair of Public Safety Committee
- Senator Monique Limón (D, Santa Barbara), Democratic Caucus Chair
- Senator Dave Cortese (D, San Jose), Majority Whip
- Senator María Elena Durazo (D, Los Angeles), Assistant Majority Whip
- Senator Steve Padilla (D, San Diego), Assistant Majority Whip
- Governance & Finance Committee has been disbanded and divided into two new committees:
  - Local Government Committee, chaired by Senator Maria Durazo (D, Los Angeles)
  - Revenue & Taxation Committee, chaired by Senator Steve Glazer (D, Contra Costa)
- Budget & Fiscal Review Committee is now chaired by Senator Scott Wiener (D, San Francisco)
- Appropriations Committee is now chaired by former Chair of Senate Governance and Finance committee, Senator Anna Caballero (D, Merced)
- Elections and Constitutional Amendments is now chaired by Senator Catherine Blakespear (D, Encinitas)

### 2024-2025 BUDGET UPDATE

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the bipartisan research and advisory division of the Legislature, released an update to their previous Budget forecasts on February 20. The report contained revenue data and estimated a \$15 billion increase to the General Fund deficit to be addressed by Governor Gavin Newsom and lawmakers during the 2024 state budget process. The LAO had previously estimated that Governor Newsom addressed a \$58 billion deficit in his 2024 budget proposal. However, a \$15 billion increase to the 2024 budget deficit takes that \$58 billion deficit for 2024 and increases it to \$73 billion.

The LAO wrote that “as the Legislature considers how to address this increased budget problem, we have put together a set of tables identifying one-time and temporary spending that could be pulled back or reduced in order to achieve budgetary savings.” The LAO also noted that “the more the Legislature reduces one-time and temporary spending this year, the more other tools it can preserve for future budget problems.” RPPG will keep you updated on any significant Budget updates.

### LEGISLATIVE TIMING AND KEY DATES

- **MARCH 22-MARCH 29:** Spring Recess
- **MAY 24:** House of origin deadline
- **JUNE 15:** Legislature must pass the main budget bill
- **JUNE 30:** Governor must sign the main budget bill
- **JULY 5-AUGUST 4:** Summer Recess
- **AUGUST 31:** Last day for the Legislature to pass bills; end of the 2023-2024 legislative session
- **SEPTEMBER 30:** Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills

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**JONES HALL  
Bond Counsel**



## CARPD BOARD ELECTION

As we do every year during the CARPD General Membership Meeting, the CARPD Board of Directors Election is scheduled to take place on May 23, 2024 at the Conference in the Hyatt Regency in Santa Rosa, California. In accordance with CARPD Bylaws, Member Districts with qualified candidates interested in serving on the Board of Directors are invited to submit nominees for the ballot by Friday May 10, 2024. If you have questions about the Board or the nomination process, please contact Matthew Duarte at [mduarte@capri-jpa.org](mailto:mduarte@capri-jpa.org). Furthermore, pursuant to CARPD Association Bylaws at Article 5, subsection 6, the CARPD Nominations Committee has submitted the following slate of candidates for the open Board positions:

### 2024 Slate of Candidates for CARPD Board

<b>President – Elect</b>	Dean Wetter, Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	Al McGreehan, Paradise Recreation & Park District
<b>Director at Large</b> (Even Year)	<b>Two Positions to be Elected:</b> Dennis Waespi, East Bay Regional Park District Rick Sloan, Cordova Recreation & Park District
<b>Administrator Rep</b> (Even Year)	<b>One Administrator Position to be Elected:</b> Michelle Lacy, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District

## CSDA LEG DAYS

CARPD is a proud Partner of the 2024 Special Districts Legislative Days, scheduled for May 21 - 22 at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento, an interactive and informative two-day legislative conference in our State's Capitol.

As the California State Legislature wrestles with a projected \$73 billion budget deficit and the courts and voters contemplate major constitutional actions on funding for essential services and infrastructure, Special Districts Legislative Days will once again provide a venue for all types of special districts to come together to understand and influence our shared public policy challenges.

**Legislative Office Visits Are Back!** For the first time since the pandemic, Special Districts Legislative Days will include pre-arranged legislative office visits so you can meet with Legislators and Capitol staff in the new Capitol Annex Swing Space. Attendees will be grouped with special districts from your region to advocate for special districts and the communities we collectively serve.

### Agenda at a Glance (Subject to Change)

#### **Tuesday, May 21, 2024 8:00am – 6:30pm**

8:00am – 8:30am	Registration and Breakfast Buffet Line Opens
8:30am – 9:30am	Breakfast with Legislators of the Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Anna Caballero, Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil &amp; Assembly Member Gregg Hart</li> </ul>
9:30am – 11:00am	State Legislative Update
11:00am – 11:30am	Advocacy Briefing
11:30am – 12:30pm	Lunch and Group Preparations
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Shuttles Depart to Capitol Annex Swing Space
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Legislative Office Visits (Pre-arranged)
5:00pm – 6:30pm	Private Legislative Reception

***Register on or before April 24  
for an Early Bird Discount!***

#### **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:00am – 11:30am**

8:00am – 8:30am	Breakfast Buffet Line Opens
8:30am – 9:30am	Briefing on Critical Supreme Court Case Impacting Local Revenues and Government Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Legislature of the State of California et al. vs. Weber</i> could determine the ability of special districts and other agencies to provide essential services and infrastructure to their communities</li> </ul>
9:30am – 10:30am	How to Maximize Working with Contract Lobbyists and Associations
10:30am – 11:30am	Beyond Legislative Days: Building Out Your Districts' Government and Media Relations Program Wherever It May be Today
11:30am	Closing

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