



CARPD COMMUNICATOR

APRIL 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here! As we have learned more about COVID our districts have been able to adapt and continue to make positive impacts in their communities. Our districts have been able to reopen and restart many of their programs to serve their communities, and they have been able to bring back or hire employees to support these services. With daylight savings time upon us, we should encourage all of our constituents to get outside and enjoy all of our Districts' programs, parks, and facilities!

CARPD is eagerly looking forward to an in person annual conference on May 18 through May 21 in South Lake Tahoe. CARPD and Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel staff are working diligently to make this year's conference a safe, enjoyable, fun experience and we look forward to a great event. As of April 1st, we have 79 registered attendees, including 3 scholarship winners, and 24 sponsors who have generously contributed to our organization. There's still time to register! Just check out our website, www.caparkdistricts.org.

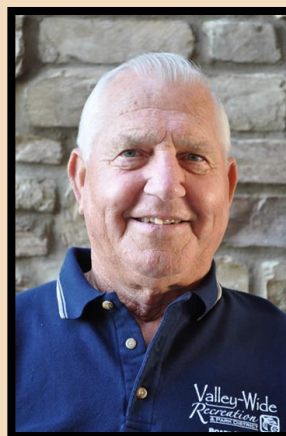


The theme for our conference this year is Charting the Course! I know firsthand how our agencies have been leading the way for many many years, so recognizing the trail-blazing role at our Conference seems very appropriate. Speaking of leadership, I would like to acknowledge our Board of Directors who have held meetings via zoom, planned the conference, tracked legislation, and advocated for Park and Recreation Districts throughout the year. I would like to acknowledge the CARPD/CAPRI Staff and the CARPD Conference Committee led by President-Elect Michelle Lacy. Their hard work and resilience throughout this past year is greatly appreciated.

And, of course, on behalf of all Californians, I want send thanks to our Member Districts for all you do for your communities. It's been an honor and pleasure to serve as your president this past year and I look forward to seeing you in Tahoe.

Sincerely,
Nick Schouten,
Valley-Wide Recreation and
Park District

President, CARPD



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President-Elect:

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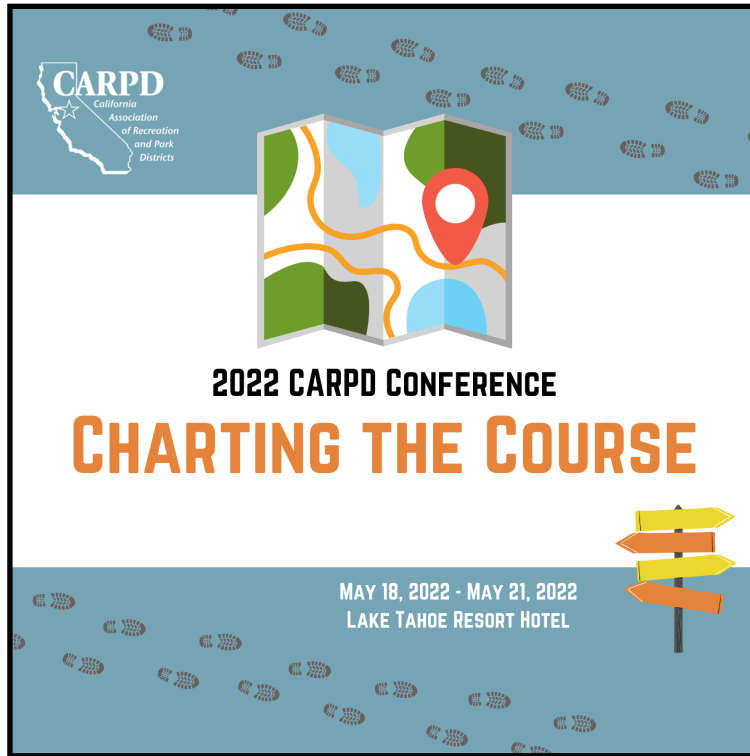
Directors:

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Doug Nickles
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CARPD CONFERENCE 2022

This year’s CARPD Conference recognizes those who have been leading from the front and “Charting the Course” for their agencies across the State.

Registration closes soon and you won’t want to miss out. We will see you in Tahoe!



- Wednesday, May 18 4:30 PM Hotel Check In
- 5:30 PM Welcome Reception
- Thursday , May 19 9:00 AM General Membership Meeting
- 10:30 AM Keynote Speaker
- 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM Sessions
- 5:30 PM Sponsors’ Reception
- 6:30 PM Awards Banquet
- Friday, May 20 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Sessions
- 5:00 PM Closing Reception

There’s still time to register at www.caparkdistricts.org



CARPD CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to our Conference Scholarship Winners! We will see you in Tahoe!

- Maria Boland, Arden Manor Recreation & Park District
- Kevin Davis, Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park District
- Isabell Kerins, Silverado-Modjeska Recreation & Park District

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

CARPD AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

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 this 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!" **Submissions for 2022 must be received by April 8, 2022.** Districts may submit nominations in multiple categories.

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.

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East Bay 
Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

PARK VIEW: THE LITTLE LEAGUE PLEDGE

By Doug Nickles

Previously published by The Conejo Guardian Independent Community News (Republished with consent of the author.)

I recently attended one of the first games to start the Conejo Valley Little League's 2022 season at the Alex Fiore Ball Fields, one of many Conejo Recreation and Park District facilities. My current favorite baseball player is my oldest grandchild, who was playing in his very first baseball game. This was not to be missed! First game jitters and blustery, cold winds aside, he had fun, racked up a couple of base hits and enjoyed spending time with his team. Getting to eat an In-N-Out Burger after the game topped the morning off!

Watching the game brought a flood of childhood memories to the forefront of my mind — spending quality time with my dad as the coach, developing a real passion for the game of baseball, playing catch and pick-up games with my younger brother and friends after school, and riding my bike to the park for baseball practice with my glove hanging from the handlebars.

LITTLE LEAGUERS HAVE BEEN RECITING THIS PLEDGE SINCE IT WAS FIRST WRITTEN IN 1954 BY PETER J. MCGOVERN.... IT IS A SIMPLE YET RATHER PROFOUND STATEMENT.

Traditions abound in baseball. Before my grandson's game began, the players lined up on the baselines, faced home plate and the American flag and removed their ball caps as the national anthem was played. All the young players stood respectfully and quietly. At the conclusion of the song, the obligatory "Play Ball!" was shouted, and the game began. I was pleased to see that these meaningful traditions have remained after so many years.

There was one more, too.

Following the game, the team once again lined up, and this time, they congratulated each other with high fives up and down the baseline. Players, coaches and parents started collecting baseball gear, jackets, bags and water bottles and headed over toward the main ball field where the opening ceremony was to take place. Teams in uniforms of all colors and with a variety of names gathered behind their banners to participate in the parade over to the field.

When teams were in their designated positions, the ceremony began. Once again, the national anthem was played while all players, coaches and others stood quietly and respectfully. Afterward, there were the appropriate welcoming remarks and recognitions, but there was another element that caused me to reflect again on my childhood baseball years: the recital of the Little League Pledge. A player was introduced to lead the players in the Pledge:

"I trust in God. I love my country and will respect its laws. I will play fair and strive to win. But win or lose, I will always do my best."

"I TRUST IN GOD. I LOVE MY COUNTRY AND WILL RESPECT ITS LAWS. I WILL PLAY FAIR AND STRIVE TO WIN. BUT WIN OR LOSE, I WILL ALWAYS DO MY BEST."

Little Leaguers have been reciting this pledge since it was first written in 1954 by Peter J. McGovern. It was drafted to give leagues a way to honor the sentiments of the Pledge of Allegiance while adding references to sportsmanship and the desire to excel. It is a simple yet rather profound statement.

Baseball is often referred to as America's great pastime. The Little League Pledge has withstood the test of time. Perhaps with his family's support and the dedication of others, my grandson will remember the Pledge's words well beyond his first year of baseball, like I have. With his dad as a coach and several other dedicated parents involved, it's sure to be a memorable season. Let the traditions continue.

Play ball!

Doug Nickles is a director/board member for the Conejo Recreation and Park District, the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency and the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts. The views expressed are his and do not necessarily reflect those of the district, agency or the respective boards.



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UMPQUA BANK

SB 114—THE RETURN OF SUPPLEMENTAL PAID SICK LEAVE

By Patricia Eyres, Esq.

Eyres Law Group

[SB 114](#) was signed into law by Governor Newsom on February 9, 2022. SB 114, effective February 19, 2022, entitles covered employees to a minimum of 40 hours of COVID-19 related supplemental paid sick leave (SPSL) in 2022. SB 114 is similar to the SPSL bill from last year, whereas this bill applies to all employers with more than 25 employees; however, there are some differences. Here are some important facts about the latest bill:

1. SB 114 expands the list of qualifying reasons for leave when an employee is unable to work or telework to include:
 - a. Attending an appointment for a family member to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or booster.
 - b. Caring for a family member experiencing symptoms related to a COVID-19 vaccine or booster that prevents the employee from being able to telework.
2. SB 114 imposes a limitation on the leave that must be provided for vaccines or boosters. Specifically, an employer may limit the total leave to three days or 24 hours. If the employee requests more leave, the employer may require that an employee provide verification from a healthcare provider that the employee or their family member is continuing to experience symptoms related to a COVID-19 vaccine or booster. The three day or 24 hour limitation applies to each vaccine or booster and includes the time used to obtain the vaccine or booster.
3. SB 114 entitles covered employees to 40 hours of SPSL if the covered employee satisfies either of the following criteria:
 - a. The employee is considered full time
 - b. The employee was scheduled to work, on average, at least 40 hours per week for the employer in the two weeks preceding the date the covered employee was off for qualifying reasons.
4. SB 114 provides a new bucket of at least 40 hours of SPSL for 2022, on top of whatever the employee may have taken in 2021.
 - a. It is important to note that a covered employee is entitled to an additional 40 hours on top of the 40 hours available for qualifying reasons, making available a total of 80 hours. However, for an employee to be entitled to the additional 40 hours, an employer may require an employee to provide documentation to the employer that either the covered employee or family member they are caring for has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - b. If an employee has received sick pay from another source, such as through a county or city sick leave act, this SPSL does not add additional hours.
5. SB 114 applies retroactively to COVID-19 related leave taken from January 1, 2022. Employees can request retroactive payments verbally or by written request, and they must be paid on or before the next full pay period after the request.

Like the previous [California SPSL](#), SB 114 leave has to be made available upon written or oral request. Employers are prohibited from requiring a covered employee to use any other paid or unpaid leave, including paid time off or vacation time provided by the employer, in lieu of SPSL or before commencing payment of SPSL. Employers also cannot require a covered employee to first exhaust their SPSL leave before satisfying any requirement to provide paid leave for reasons related to COVID-19 under any Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards.

Employers are also required to provide employees with a notice of right to supplemental paid sick leave. The Department of Industrial Relations has created a [webpage](#) to assist employers with questions regarding employee notifications.

SB 114 is in effect until September 30, 2022. An employee taking leave as of that date shall be permitted to take their full amount of leave, which could extend a leave in progress on September 30, 2022 into October 2022.

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California Special Districts Alliance



California Special Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together



Special District Risk Management Authority



CSDA Finance Corporation



California Association for Park & Recreation Indemnity

CAPRI

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Russ Noack
Public Policy Advocates, LLC

The California Legislature returned to Sacramento in January to kickstart the second half of the 2021-22 legislative session. They were welcomed with a new office building referred to as the “swing space” that will be their home away from home while the Capitol annex undergoes a major revision. The building presents challenges to public access as entry is limited to invitation only and meeting rooms are few and far between. Despite Speaker Anthony Rendon’s decree, “Now get to work!,” legislators were also faced with the COVID-19 Omicron surge, which saw early floor sessions curtailed due to excessive absences.

Legislators also commenced the new year under the cloud of redistricting, which occurs every 10 years. The re-drawing of jurisdictional district lines has already led to over 20 sitting legislators announcing they will not seek reelection. Accordingly, 2022 will provide an unprecedented influx of new members although demographic research suggests the Democratic majority will not be threatened and may even increase.

The first order of business occurred on January 10th when Governor Newsom unveiled his 2022-23 State Budget Proposal. The \$286.4 billion State Budget mirrors last year’s by including a healthy surplus estimated to be \$45.7 billion. Environmental improvements including wildfire prevention, forest health, climate resilience and beautification are high priority items in the Governor’s blueprint. Pandemic response and homelessness remain targets for funding in 2022. The legislative process of conducting budget subcommittee hearings on every aspect of the Budget Proposal has begun in earnest and will continue until final resolution is negotiated with the Governor in time for the new fiscal year to begin on July 1, 2022.

As anticipated, an early budget action package was signed into law in February to extend the COVID-19 paid leave law for workers and allocating \$46.1 billion in business tax relief and grants related to the ongoing pandemic. [Senate Bill 113](#) (Committee on Budget) provides the funding, which includes restoration of \$5.5 billion in research and development tax credits and the net operating loss deduction, \$500 million for restaurants and sheltered venues and \$150 million for small business grants. [Senate Bill 114](#) (Committee on Budget) extends the COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for workers. Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees are now exempt from the law, which has been made retroactive to January 1, 2022, and runs until September 30, 2022.



Two important holdover measures introduced last year remain alive. [Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 1](#) (Aguiar-Curry), if approved by the voters, would amend the state constitution to allow cities, counties, and special districts to pass bond measures or impose special taxes to fund affordable housing and public infrastructure improvements with a 55% vote rather than a 2/3rds vote. [Assembly Bill 30](#) (Kalra) would establish access to nature to be a human right and call upon all relevant state agencies to devise programs to encourage outdoor activities. Although the bill is vague on details, it is designed to be a focal point to improve access to nature for all citizens.

In addition to monitoring proposed legislation in the Capitol, CARPD is also actively tracking a proposed Ballot Initiative with the potential to affect member districts. Specifically, the “Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act” is far-reaching in its proposed effort to limit voter input on local advisory measures. This Initiative will be one to watch as we approach the 2022 election.

Finally, the CARPD Legislative Committee meets on May 5th to continue review of all bills expected to have significant impact on recreation and park agencies in the State. If you are interested in participating, please contact CARPD Executive Director, Matthew Duarte, at mduarte@capri-jpa.org.

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VERDE DESIGN

SBEMP

A T T O R N E Y S

Slovak Baron Empey Murphy & Pinkney

CARPD BOARD ELECTION

As we do every year during at the CARPD General Membership Meeting, the CARPD Board of Directors Election is scheduled to take place on May 19, 2022 at the Conference in South Lake Tahoe, 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 13, 2022. If you have questions about the Board or the nomination process, please contact Matthew Duarte at mduarte@capri-jpa.org.

Additionally, the CARPD Nominations Committee recently put forward the following slate of candidates who will also be appearing on the ballot:

2022 Slate of Candidates for CARPD Board

President – Elect	Doug Nickles, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Chief Financial Officer	Al McGreehan, Paradise Recreation & Park District
Director-at-Large (Even Year)	Two Positions to be Elected: Jan Bissell, Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District Dennis Waespi, East Bay Regional Park District
Administrator Rep (Even Year)	One Administrator Position to be Elected: Dean Wetter, Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District

CARPD BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

This free event is a Roundtable discussion specifically for Board Members serving on Recreation and Park District and CSD Boards across the State. Join your colleagues serving throughout California for a discussion on emerging trends and issues impacting public parks and recreation. We hope to see you there!

April 25, 2022

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Via Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsdu-hrzguGdSjmZ0YejJYIL-IelBTfSPP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE PRACTICAL ADVICE PERSONAL ATTENTION

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!