



# CARPD COMMUNICATOR

March 2023

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Attend Conference and Share a Story with Me

Well, it seems like just a few months ago we all gathered in beautiful Lake Tahoe discussing trends post-COVID and supporting each other through shared stories and experiences. One of my favorite parts of CARPD is the learning and support that comes from our annual gathering. Once again in May we will gather in the woods, albeit a new setting for our organization. Are you as excited as I am to gather in Yosemite on May 17? With the enticing new location I'm hoping that we have the largest gathering of member districts we have seen since 2019. If you have not attended a conference in previous years, I'm hoping that either the location or the slate of educational sessions planned by our Conference Committee convince you to register yourself, a Board Member or another staff member of your organization.

Did you know we have 72 member Districts in CARPD? That means that if you have a question, issue, or struggle in your organization I'm positive that at least one other member will have a potential solution. The business of Recreation and Park Districts is consistent across the state regardless of size, budget, or geography. Our business is to provide "Play for All" through social, recreation and arts programs as well as parks and facilities. Some of us may have over 50 parks and some may have only a few, but the tie that binds us is that we are providing play for our residents. I'm super excited to hear about and learn how my colleagues in other parts of our great State are providing play opportunities for all.

I hope you will be joining me in Yosemite as I close out my presidential year and share one story with me about how you are providing "Play for All" in your community.

Michelle Lacy  
Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District  
CARPD Board President



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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**President:**

Michelle Lacy

**President-Elect:**

Doug Nickles

**Secretary:**

Brian Danzl

**CFO:**

Al McGreehan

**Past President:**

Nick Schouten

**Directors:**

Michael Seaman  
Jesus G. Perez  
Rick Sloan  
Dennis Waespi  
Dean Wetter  
Colin Miller

## CARPD CAPITOL VISIT 2023

The CARPD Board of Directors' day at the Capitol was a success! On March 15, 2023, CARPD Board Members spent the day meeting with several legislators and legislative staff including **Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva**, Chair, Committee on Sports, Entertainment, and Tourism; **Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco**, Assembly Committee on Local Government, author of AB 817; **Catherine Baxter**, Consultant to Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water; and **Christian Griffith**, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Budget, to name a few.

CARPD Board Members also met with leaders from several State agencies including **Sedrick Mitchell**, Director of Office of Grants and Local Assistance ("OGALS"), **Lori Nezurah**, Deputy Director of Planning, Preparedness, and Prevention at California Governor's Office of Emergency Services ("CalOES"), and **David Teykaerts**, Interim Division Chief with CalPERS, Office of Stakeholder Relations.

CARPD Board Members were able to meet in small groups at the legislators' offices to discuss issues that are important to Recreation and Park Districts. Each meeting provided valuable dialogue and put CARPD on the map. Thank you to each of our CARPD Board Members for your participation in each of the meet and greets. And, 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 each topic.



CARPD Board Members at the Capitol



From left: Michael Seaman, Rick Sloan, Al McGreehan, Colin Miller, Assm. Blanca Pacheco, Matthew Duarte, Brian Danzl, Jesus Perez, and Doug Nickles.



From left: Al McGreehan, Doug Nickles, Colin Miller, Assm. Sharon Quirk-Silva, Colin Miller, and Brian Danzl.



## CARPD SPONSORED LEGISLATION—AB 817

This year, CARPD is proud to be a co-sponsor of AB 817 (Pacheco) with the League of California Cities (CalCities), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representative of California (RCRC), and the California Association of Counties (CSAC). AB 817 will serve to remove barriers to entry to civic leadership and we appreciate your support.

Local governments across the state have faced an ongoing challenge to recruit and retain members of the public on advisory bodies, boards, and commissions. Challenges associated with recruitment have been attributed to participation time commitments; time and location of meetings; physical limitation, conflicts with childcare, and work obligations. The COVID-19 global pandemic drove both hyper-awareness and concerns about the spread of infectious diseases, as well as removed barriers to local civic participation by allowing this same **remote participation**. This enabled individuals who could not otherwise accommodate the time, distance, or mandatory physical participation requirements to engage locally, providing access to leadership opportunities and providing communities with greater diversified input on critical community proposals.

Diversification in civic participation at all levels requires careful consideration of different protected characteristics as well as socio-economic status. The in-person requirement to participate in local governance bodies presents a disproportionate challenge for those with physical or economic limitations, including seniors, persons with disability, single parents and/or caretakers, economically marginalized groups, and those who live in rural areas and face prohibitive driving distances. Participation in local advisory bodies and appointed boards and commissions often serves as a pipeline to local elected office and opportunities for state and federal leadership positions.

AB 817 would help address these issues by providing a narrow exemption under the Ralph M. Brown Act for non-decision-making legislative bodies that do not take final action on any legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or other entitlements, so that equity in opportunity to serve locally and representative diversity in leadership can be achieved. For these reasons, CARPD is pleased to sponsor AB 817. For more on AB 817, check out our [Coalition Letter](#), Assembly Member Pacheco's [Fact Sheet](#), and review the current draft language [HERE](#).

## CA STATE PARKS—OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (“OCI”)

Did you know that CA State Parks – Office of Community Involvement (“OCI”) offers outdoor recreation leadership trainings for community organizations, public agencies, and young people statewide?

These 3-day, 2-night trainings bring communities from across California together for an immersive camping experience. Participants are equipped with basic camping and group management skills and empowered to experience and share the benefits of nature.

**Outdoor Recreation Leadership** is focused on equipping community leaders, program coordinators, and professionals with the knowledge and tools to incorporate more outdoor education and recreation into their programming. Participants regularly report increased confidence teaching and leading others on outdoor recreation trips. Graduates also receive a two-year certification to take others camping via **Fam-Camp®** a program that provides campsites and equipment for community use at select California State Parks.

**Outdoor Youth Connection** is a leadership development program for youth ages 13 – 17. We partner with agencies across California who are currently working with youth to foster opportunities for young people to have transformative experiences in nature. Youth who participate report increased feelings of self-worth, confidence to lead, and dedication to their community.



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**East Bay**   
**Regional Park District**

***Healthy Parks Healthy People***

## 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 2023 must be received by April 7, 2023.** 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.

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

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Alyssa Silhi  
Renne Public Policy Group

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES HAVE BEGUN MEETING

#### *Bill Introductions*

February 17 was the deadline to introduce legislation for the first year of the 2023-2024 session. A total of 2,757 pieces of legislation have been introduced this session, the most in the first year of a session in more than a decade. Approximately 40% of bills are currently spot bills, which means that their full language has yet to be introduced and we do not know their full content. The deadline for adding language to spot bills is March 22. After that deadline, RPPG will be able to work with Association staff to determine a bill's importance to the Association.

#### *Committee Hearings*

At this point, legislative committees have been holding mostly informational hearings on items of interest and they have held some policy hearings. Informational hearings are just that – information only – so no action items are involved. RPPG has been monitoring all budget committee hearings, which to date have been comprised of updates from Department of Finance (DOF), the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), and specific state agencies on the proposed items from the Governor's January proposed FY 23-24 Budget and are also *informational in nature*.

### RPPG MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

RPPG continues to review priority bills during weekly check-ins with Association staff, provide draft content for the Council to consider positioning on bills of potential interest, craft talking points for meetings with state and federal representatives and agency officials, and conduct meetings with key legislative offices as appropriate. RPPG provided the Association with an update on the United States Senate FY 24 appropriations titled "RPPG FY 24 Senate Community Project Funding Memo" on February 21. The memo provided additional information on the process and eligible projects for earmark requests from United States Senators Feinstein and Padilla. RPPG provided the Association with a detailed summary of introduced bills so far in the 23-24 session titled "RPPG 2023 CARPD Bill Introduction Report" on February 22. The memo also highlighted specific legislation that RPPG deemed may be of import to local government. RPPG met and worked with legislators and Association staff on the Association's sponsored legislation, AB 817 (Pacheco-D). Additionally, RPPG has tagged 167 bills for the Association which may be of potential interest or impact to the Association's 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 coming weeks.



### SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The California Senate held their first hearing of the special legislative session on February 22 on the topic of high gasoline prices. The informational hearing considered SBX1-2 (Skinner-D), which would establish a maximum gross gasoline refining margin. The bill would authorize various state agencies to assess a civil penalty and to investigate and report on various aspects of the gasoline market. No vote was taken during the hearing and RPPG will keep the Association updated on any developments.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

By Alyssa Silhi  
Renne Public Policy Group

### EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND APPOINTMENTS

Governor Newsom signed executive order on February 13 to protect the state's water supplies from the impacts of extreme weather. The order helps expand the state's capacity to capture storm runoff in wet years by facilitating groundwater recharge projects. The order continues conservation measures and allows the State Water Board to reevaluate requirements for reservoir releases and diversion limitations to maximize water supplies. Finally, the order directs state agencies to provide recommendations on the state's drought response actions by the end of April, including the possibility of terminating specific emergency provisions that are no longer needed, once there is greater clarity about the hydrologic conditions this year. As RPPG has previously prepared the Association for, provisions of AB 361 are now no longer operable; this was the bill that allowed for virtual participation of members of a legislative body without posting notice of location during a gubernatorial declared state of emergency. Governor Newsom issued a proclamation on February 28 which terminated the statewide COVID-19 state of emergency that had been in place since March 4, 2020.

### ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATIONS

Various agencies in the Administration held presentations during February, two of which RPPG deemed to be of potential interest to the Association.

#### *California Health and Human Services Agency*

Tyler Sadwith, Director of Behavioral Health at the Department of Health Care Services, which is a part of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), hosted an online implementation update on the CARE (Community Assistance and Recovery Empowerment) Act on February 14. Initial stakeholder outreach will occur through March. Training and technical assistance (TTA) data collection and reporting from county behavioral health agencies will begin in April and continue until December. Stakeholder engagement will also begin in April. Sometime in the Fall, the TTA resource center webpage will launch. In October, Cohort 1 counties will begin implementation.



#### *California Natural Resources Agency*

Secretary Wade Crowfoot of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) hosted an online discussion on February 21. Several staff members of the Department of Water Resources, which is a part of the CNRA, presented on the water situation in the state. The recent nine atmospheric rivers resulted in the wettest three-week period on record for California. Despite this, California is still considered to be in a severe drought and there is still a significant deficit in reservoirs and in underground basins due to the previous three years being exceptionally dry.

### LEGISLATIVE TIMING AND KEY DATES

<b>March 22, 2023</b>	<b>Spot bill amendment deadline</b>
<b>March 30, 2023</b>	<b>Spring recess begins</b>
<b>April 10, 2023</b>	<b>Legislature reconvenes from Spring recess</b>
<b>May 12, 2023</b>	<b>Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 5</b>
<b>Mid May, 2023</b>	<b>Release of the Governor's May revise of the budget</b>
<b>June 2, 2023</b>	<b>House of origin deadline for bills introduced in 2023</b>
<b>June 15, 2023</b>	<b>FY23-24 budget must be passed by the Legislature</b>
<b>June 30, 2023</b>	<b>Governor Newsom signs the FY23-24 budget</b>

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**UMPQUA BANK**



## CARPD CONFERENCE 2023

This year's CARPD Conference recognizes those who are constantly working to improve the quality of services in your community!

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

We will see you in Yosemite!

There's still time to register at [www.caparkdistricts.org](http://www.caparkdistricts.org)



2023 CARPD CONFERENCE  
**REACHING NEW HEIGHTS**



TENAYA LODGE @ YOSEMITE!  
MAY 17, 2023 - MAY 20, 2023

Artwork courtesy of Heidi Garner, Heidi Garner Studio

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

For the 2023 Conference, CARPD has partnered with a local artist and outdoor lover for the Conference logo and art! Meet Heidi Garner, Artist and Owner of Heidi Garner Studio:

“I am an Artist, Mother of 4, Art Teacher, Ultra Runner, Manic Volunteer, Outdoor Enthusiast and small Business Owner. I love creating art and putting it on quality apparel! Late in 2018 I painted a few pair of vans shoes for myself and little did I know, I "accidentally" started a business. 2019 I focused solely on shoes, then in 2020 I added custom hand painted hats and visors. I love being surrounded by beautiful things and providing art at an affordable price that everybody can enjoy. In 2021, in order to keep up with demand, I extended my offerings to printed apparel featuring my own original art work printed on quality products at great prices. I also sell fine art prints of my work. I continue to offer full custom work on shoes and hats and even commission fine art-work!”



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**A T T O R N E Y S   A T   L A W**

**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 2023!

## 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 18, 2023 at the Conference in Yosemite, 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 Wednesday May 10, 2023. 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).

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

### 2023 Slate of Candidates for CARPD Board

**President – Elect**

Brian Danzl, Cordova Recreation & Park District

**Secretary**

Nick Schouten, Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District

**Director-at-Large**

**Two Positions to be Elected:**

(Odd Year)

Michael Seaman, Fulton-El Camino Recreation & Park District

Jesus Perez, Bear Mountain Recreation & Park District

**Administrator Rep**

**One Administrator Position to be Elected:**

(Odd Year)

Colin Miller, Arden Park Recreation & Park District

## CARPD: WEBINAR

CARPD PRESENTS . . . BROWN ACT MEETINGS NOW: NAVIGATING TODAY'S COMPLEX & EVOLVING RULES PRESENTED BY SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER!

Since the start of Covid, we have seen public meetings move from in-person to virtual and back again. Along the way, public agencies have navigated a confusing array of options and obligations under the Brown Act. This webinar will update participants on the latest Brown Act rules for public meetings, remote participation, and hybrid options.

Date: April 19, 2023

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Cost: Free to CARPD Members

Host: Osa L. Wolff, Partner at Shute Mihaly & Weinberger

Register by clicking the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIdcVrTlrHdb6Odjm1UwD6qgVV5ugGPa0>

Register today!



**BROWN ACT MEETINGS  
NOW: NAVIGATING TODAY'S  
COMPLEX & EVOLVING  
RULES**

**PRESENTED BY  
OSA L. WOLFF**

PARTNER WITH SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP



Learn about the latest Brown Act rules for public meetings, remote participation, and hybrid options.

**April 19, 2023**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom



## CARPD ABOUT US



CARPD is an association of Recreation and Park Districts and Community Services Districts that provide essential services to communities statewide. In our role as operators of public recreation facilities and stewards of many of the State's local parks and open spaces, our agencies also provide the central gathering points for millions of Californians on a daily basis.



We are local government agencies (special districts) governed by independently elected local government officials. Our organization has existed for nearly 50 years.



We provide local communities with a variety of recreation programs, including community and regional events, youth and adult sports leagues, senior activities, kid's camps, preschool and afterschool care, teen centers, aquatics, and outdoor programs. Just a name a few!



We own, operate, and maintain critical infrastructure, such as heating and cooling centers, evacuation centers, and facilities identified in county-wide emergency operations plans for FEMA staging. And we serve as a resource to deliver essential public safety messages to prepare for, prevent, and recover from emergency events.



We collectively own, operate, and maintain a service territory of over six million acres including open space, trails systems, and community parks that contribute to active recreation opportunity, green space, fire mitigation, water conservation, and carbon sequestration goals.



We are public employers to over ten thousand Californians, many of whom are first-time workers. We also provide job opportunities and volunteer experience to hundreds of thousands statewide through the various programs we facilitate. Further, our public works and infrastructure projects stimulate economic development in our local communities.

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICTS ("CARPD") ADVOCATES FOR THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO FULFILL PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICTS ROLE AS INDEPENDANTLY GOVERNED PROVIDERS OF QUALITY PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES**



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CAPRI

California Special Districts Alliance



California Special  
Districts Association  
*Districts Stronger Together*



Special District Risk Management Authority



CSDA  
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