



CARPD COMMUNICATOR

June 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to the CARPD membership for your encouragement and support for my upcoming term as the 2023/2024 CARPD President. The CARPD Board is a dedicated team that, along with staff, is willing and ready to engage in new opportunities that will serve to benefit the membership. You can see that they take to heart the main objectives of our mission statement: advocate and support.

The 2023 annual conference held at the Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite in May was a great time together. With the theme of "Reaching New Heights," the setting was ideal, the weather was perfect, and the facilities were more than accommodating. The conference itself had very entertaining and educational presentations, and the sponsors, in addition to their financial support, participated in the sessions and events as any good partner would! I know many attendees also spent some time in Yosemite National Park to witness in person the impressive waterfalls, especially with the above-average snow melt this year. (I was able to squeeze in a hike to the Mariposa Grove on Saturday morning!)

To continue with the conference theme, the coming year will surely include new accomplishments as we strive to reach higher. CARPD has already had a few "firsts" this year:

- The annual conference was held in Yosemite.
- We sponsored a legislative bill.
- We prepared a legislative platform.
- Staff testified before the legislature on behalf of recreation and parks.
- The Board had a capitol tour meeting with legislators and state agency leaders.



There are 72 Districts throughout the state that are represented by CARPD, however, there are more that need to join our team! In addition to Recreation and Park Districts, CARPD also represents Community Services Districts that provide recreation and park services. Together the collective districts serve a large population of Californians. The variety of communities represented – whether due to size, resources, or location – may be significant, but the need for advocacy and support is common.

I've come to realize why this small but mighty organization is so resilient: the members are accustomed to fighting and scrapping to ensure their constituents have what they need. Meeting the recreational needs of our communities does not always come easy. Whether a lack of staff, funding, land or other necessary resources, the needs always seem to be increasing. However, the "rec and park" crowd is unique. They are creative. They are resilient. They are essential. We find ways to get things done. We use partnerships and relationships to extend our resources and accomplish our objectives. And, we have fun and play well together.

I'm looking forward to a productive year together.

Sincerely,

Doug Nickles,
Conejo Recreation and Park District
President, CARPD



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
CARPD Conference 2023 In Review	3
CARPD Award Winners	4
CARPD Board Election	6
Legislative Update	8-9

CARPD STAFF:

Executive Director:

Matthew Duarte
mduarte@capri-jpa.org

Administrative Analyst:

Monica Breck
mbreck@capri-jpa.org

Safety Analyst:

Kirk Andre
kandre@capri-jpa.org

Administrative Assistant:

Emma Breck
ebreck@capri-jpa.org

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

CARPD SPONSORS



**CARPD
SPONSORS
THANK YOU!!!**

East Bay 
Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

CARPD CONFERENCE 2023 IN REVIEW

Our first time in Yosemite was great!

THANK YOU to our Conference Committee for their guidance, to the CARPD Board, and to all CARPD Members in attendance for your participation. And a HUGE THANK YOU to our Conference Sponsors who help us make it all happen!

See more 2023 CARPD Conference photos at <https://www.caparkdistricts.org/2023-carpd-conference-in-review>



CARPD AWARD WINNERS

The Awards of Distinction winners were announced at the CARPD Conference on May 18, 2023, in Yosemite, CA. Thank you to all that took the time to send in their nominations. It was a very competitive year!

DISTRICT AWARDS

Outstanding New Facility:

Jurupa Area Recreation and Park District - Shadow Rock Park

Outstanding Renovated Facility:

(Large District) Hayward Area Recreation and Park District - Kennedy Park

(Small District) Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District - Ollie Mountain Sports Park

Outstanding Activity/Program/Special Event:

East Bay Regional Park District - UN International Day of Peace at Lake Chabot Regional Park

Isla Vista Recreation and Park District - 50th Anniversary and Pumpkin Patch Celebration

CARPD Community Landmark:

Hayward Area Recreation and Park District - Hayward Plunge



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Outstanding District Employee:

Sergio Portela - North Highlands Recreation and Park District

Outstanding General Manager (Large District):

Dave Mitchell - Sunrise Recreation and Park District

Outstanding General Manager (Small District):

James Wood - Tuolumne Park and Recreation District

Outstanding Board Member:

Carol A. Pereira - Hayward Area Recreation and Park District

Jim Meredith Award of Excellence:

Larry Mazzuca - North Highlands Recreation and Park District



COMMUNITY AWARDS



Outstanding Community Organization/Partner:

Tim Hagel and the Safe Youth Passage Foundation - supporting Conejo Recreation and Park District

Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center - supporting Hayward Area Recreation and Park District

Outstanding Volunteer:

Amelia Sue Marshall - East Bay Regional Park District

Chris Gorman - Jurupa Community Services District

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



CARPD SPONSORS



**CARPD
SPONSORS
THANK YOU!!!**



UMPQUA BANK

CARPD BOARD ELECTION

The CARPD Board of Directors Election took place on May 18, 2023, during the CARPD General Membership Meeting, at the Conference in Yosemite, CA. Thank you to all of the candidates and everyone that participated. Here are the results:

2023 CARPD Board Elections

President – Elect	Brian Danzl, Cordova Recreation & Park District
Secretary	Nick Schouten, Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District
Director-at-Large	Two Positions:
(Odd Year)	Michael Seaman, Fulton-El Camino Recreation & Park District
	Jesus Perez, Bear Mountain Recreation & Park District
Administrator Rep	One Administrator Position:
(Odd Year)	Mathew Fuzie, Livermore Area Recreation & Park District

The CARPD Board of Directors consist of eleven elected representatives of the CARPD Membership. In this 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!



Pictured (left to right): CFO Al McGreehan, President Doug Nickles, Board Member Jesus Perez, President-Elect Brian Danzl, Board Member Mathew Fuzie, Board Member Michael Seaman

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

CARPD SPONSORS



**CARPD
SPONSORS
THANK YOU!!!**



We had a great Conference in Yosemite this year!
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!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Alyssa Silhi
Renne Public Policy Group

The mountain of legislative and budget proposals introduced this session are making their way through the policy and fiscal processes at the State Capitol. The House of Origin deadline was Friday, June 2, 2023. This is the date by which all legislation introduced in its own chamber must pass off the Floor to be sent to its second house where the process begins again. Of the 891 bills introduced in the Senate since the beginning of this session, 658 continued to the Assembly; of the 1,770 bills introduced in the Assembly, 1,055 made their way to the Senate. 948 bills are no longer moving. These bills either died in committee, failed passage on the Floor, or were put on hold as two-year bills.

RPPG identified measures of top concern or that aligned with CARPD values and has advocated for the interests of CARPD and its member districts at every step of the legislative process. We have reviewed each of the thousands of bills progressing through the Legislature, analyzing amendments, working with CARPD's Legislative Committee to take positions on the most critical pieces of legislation and advancing specific advocacy strategies to ensure the interests of parks and recreation districts are protected and included -- securing victories along the way.

Additionally, we worked in this first half of the year to help CARPD have a seat at the table, working in tandem with other local government associations to advance, improve, or stop key legislation. This work paid off as CARPD interests have been successfully negotiated into or out of the following key legislative items:

AB 817 (Pacheco) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body. CARPD sponsored key legislation to narrowly expand the Brown Act to remove barriers to entry into public office and open pathways for public participation. This bill would allow remote participation for members of any legislative body that it serves in an advisory capacity only. This effort is now a two-year bill, but not before RPPG brought on CalCities, California State Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California, Urban Counties, and California Association of Public Authorities for In-Home Supportive Services as co-sponsors, secured an author and co-author from the Assembly Local Government Committee, coordinated statewide support with a robust coalition from associations, local entities, and advocacy groups for seniors and the disabled, transforming CARPD into a leader on this issue within the local government sphere.



AB 262 (Holden) Children's Camps: safety and regulation. This bill would have defined Children's Camps and required new regulations to be promulgated by the Department of Social Services. In its initial form, it would have included local agencies such as recreation and park districts programming into the definitions and excluded special districts providing these services from the working group advising the regulations. RPPG worked closely with the author's office, committee staff, and a broad group of stakeholders to amend the bill and address the concerns of CARPD. Accordingly, the bill is now a study, with a report back to the legislature, and includes a seat for a representative from a special district providing recreation and parks services in the working group. CARPD was able to move from an oppose position to neutral.

AB 334 (B.Rubio) Public contracts: conflicts of interest. This bill would update current law to allow an independent contractor who performs one phase of a project for a public entity to enter into a subsequent contract for a later phase of the same project, if specified conditions are met. When this bill was heard in both the Assembly and Senate Elections policy committees, RPPG secured the opportunity for CARPD to be a lead witness in support. Executive Director Matthew Duarte was able to come to Sacramento and meet directly with the Assembly member to pre-plan testimony and again to testify before the full committee representing parks districts statewide to provide the local government perspective. This bill continues to make its way through the legislature and will next be heard in Senate Judiciary. CARPD is a lead support.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Alyssa Silhi
Renne Public Policy Group

AB 1056 (Davies) Department of Parks and Recreation: California Youth Water Safety State Grant. This bill would establish a Youth Water Safety State Grant as a dedicated funding source for free swimming lessons for at-risk and low income youth. In its original form, the funds would have been accessible only to non-profits, cities, and counties. RPPG worked with the author's office to secure amendments including special districts in this program. CARPD is supporting the bill, which is now a two-year bill.

AB 1637 (Irwin) Local government: internet websites and email addresses. This bill would have required all local governments to transition to a .gov or .ca.gov account. CARPD joined with a large local government coalition, including the California Special Districts Association, and advocated for special districts to be removed from this onerous requirement, given the size and function of many districts. As a result, the bill now only applies to cities and counties. CARPD was able to move from Oppose to Watch.

SB 240 (Ochoa Bogh) Surplus state real property: affordable housing and housing for formerly incarcerated individuals. This bill would have eliminated parks from the priority list of entities eligible to purchase surplus state real property prior to being offered for sale to private entities or individuals and would have restricted that use only for affordable housing. This was of great concern to CARPD member agencies and RPPG was able to have discussions as such. Instead, the bill now adds housing for formerly incarcerated individuals as a priority use prior to public sale. As a result of these desired developments, CARPD was able to move from Oppose to Neutral.

RPPG continues to monitor the state budget, with a budget package expected anytime and negotiations on final terms anticipated to last through the Fall. We continue to be honored to be your voice and presence in the state Capitol and work diligently to protect your interests so that you can continue to do the good and essential work within your communities. As we look to the months ahead, there are several fights we continue to battle in the labor and government operations arena as well as several bills we continue to champion on your behalf that will enhance your ability to provide access to recreation opportunity, open spaces, and critical facilities to residents. As always, RPPG staff is available to help CARPD members understand the legislative proposals moving through this year, the politics involved in crafting them, and the potential implications they may have for your agencies.



CARPD SPONSORS



**CARPD
SPONSORS
THANK YOU!!!**



VERDE DESIGN



**JONES HALL
Bond Counsel**

CARPD SPONSORS



**CARPD
SPONSORS
THANK YOU!!!**



California Association for
Park & Recreation Indemnity

CAPRI



COLE | HUBER LLP
ATTORNEYS