



# CARPD COMMUNICATOR



## July 2024

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As we wrap up our recent conference, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who attended and contributed to its success. Your engagement and enthusiasm made it an unforgettable event!

I would like to start by saying congratulations to the newly elected CARPD Board members: President-Elect Dean Wetter, Chief Financial Officer Al McGreehan, Director Rick Sloan, Director Dennis Waespi, and Administrator Michelle Lacy. We are excited to have such dedicated and talented individuals as part of our leadership team, and we look forward to the fresh perspectives and ideas they will bring to CARPD.

In the midst of a busy summer season, I wish all our districts the best of luck. This is a time when our communities rely on us more than ever to provide exceptional programs and services, and I have no doubt that we will rise to the occasion.

Here at Cordova Recreation & Park District, we have an exciting lineup of programs and activities planned for the summer, including our Mermaid & Swim Camp, Pee Wee Sports, and Outdoor Adventures. These programs are designed to engage residents of all ages and promote a healthy, active lifestyle.

I encourage all members to introduce themselves by emailing me at [bdanzl@cordovarpd.gov](mailto:bdanzl@cordovarpd.gov) with any new and inventive things they are doing this summer. Sharing your successes and innovative ideas not only helps us learn from each other but also strengthens our community as a whole.

Thank you for your continued dedication and hard work. Let's make this summer one to remember!

Warm regards,  
Brian Danzl,



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#### CARPD STAFF:

**Executive Director:**

Matthew Duarte  
[mduarte@capri-jpa.org](mailto:mduarte@capri-jpa.org)

**Administrative Analyst:**

Monica Breck  
[mbreck@capri-jpa.org](mailto:mbreck@capri-jpa.org)

**Safety Analyst:**

Kirk Andre  
[kandre@capri-jpa.org](mailto:kandre@capri-jpa.org)

**Administrative Assistant:**

Cassie Solis  
[csolis@capri-jpa.org](mailto:csolis@capri-jpa.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**President:**  
Brian Danzl

**President-Elect:**  
Dean Wetter

**Secretary:**  
Nick Schouten

**CFO:**  
Al McGreehan

**Past President:**  
Doug Nickles

**Directors:**  
Michael Seaman  
Jesus G. Perez  
Rick Sloan  
Dennis Waespi  
Mathew Fuzie  
Michelle Lacy

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

***Healthy Parks Healthy People***



# CARPD CONFERENCE 2024 IN REVIEW

Beautiful Santa Rosa did not disappoint!

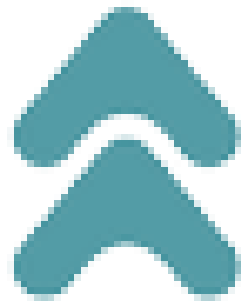
A BIG thank you to our Conference Committee for their guidance, the CARPD Board, and all CARPD Members in attendance and for your participation. And a MASSIVE shout-out to our Conference Sponsors who help us make it all possible!



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## CARPD AWARD WINNERS

The Awards of Distinction winners were announced at the CARPD Conference on May 23, 2024, in Santa Rosa, CA. Thank you to all that took the time to send in their nominations. It was another competitive year!

### DISTRICT AWARDS

**Outstanding New Facility:**

Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District - Friendship Field

**Outstanding Renovated Facility:**

(Large District) East Bay Recreation and Park District - Roberts Pool Complex  
 (Small District) Ambrose Recreation and Park District - Anuta Park

**Outstanding Activity/Program/Special Event:**

El Dorado Hills Community Services District - Kids TRY-Athlon: Swim, Bike, Run/Roll  
 Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District - OLDlympics



**Outstanding Activity/Program/Special Event:**

Jurupa Community Services District - Students and Seniors



**CARPD President's Award:**

Conejo Recreation and Park District - Healing Garden at Conejo Creek North Park

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**Outstanding District Employee:**

Keri Price - Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District

**Outstanding General Manager (Large District):**

Patrick Larkin - Cordova Recreation and Park District

**Outstanding Board Member:**

David Furst - Livemore Area Recreation and Park District



**Jim Meredith Award of Excellence:**

Lindsay Woods



## CARPD AWARD WINNERS

### COMMUNITY AWARDS

**Outstanding Community Organization/Partner:**

Rosemont Community Foundation/Rosemont Community Poles Project - Cordova Rec and Park District

**Outstanding Volunteer:**

Jeremy Cullifer - Arden Manor Recreation and Park District  
 Priscilla O’Meara - East Bay Regional Park District  
 Waldo Gabaldon—Jurupa Community Services District  
 Aruna Pandurangan—Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District  
 Eva Arambula—Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District

**CARPD Community Landmark:**

Hayward Area Recreation and Park District - Japanese Gardens



### 2024 CARPD PRESIDENTS AWARD

The 2024 CARPD President’s Award is a celebration of excellence in the field of recreation and park management. This year’s distinguished recipient is the **Conejo Recreation and Park District**, recognized for their exceptional contribution through the **Healing Garden at Conejo Creek North Park**. The Healing Garden proves that Parks and Recreation can be so much more than just fun and games. The Healing Garden stands as a testament to resilience, compassion, and community spirit.

Conceived in the wake of the tragic Borderline shooting incident on November 7, 2018, where 12 lives were lost and 248 survivors endured, this serene oasis serves as a space for contemplation, meditation, and prayer. It symbolizes hope, healing, and unity—a place where grief transforms into solace, and where the strength of the human spirit prevails.

The Healing Garden at Conejo Creek North Park exemplifies the power of collaboration, compassion, and resilience.

Congratulations to the Conejo Recreation and Park District for this great achievement!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

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# CARPD SPONSORS

## THANK YOU!!!



We had a great Conference in Santa Rosa 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!

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VERDE DESIGN



JONES HALL  
Bond Counsel



## CARPD BOARD ELECTION

The CARPD Board of Directors Election took place on May 23, 2024, during the CARPD General Membership Meeting, at the Conference in Santa Rosa, CA. Thank you to all of the candidates and everyone that participated. Here are the results:

### 2024 CARPD Board Elections

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

# CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Alyssa Silhi  
Renne Public Policy Group

### KEY DEADLINES FOR THE LEGISLATURE

June closed out a busy several weeks for the Legislature, including the June 15 deadline to pass a Budget Act and the bulk of committee hearings leading to the July 3 deadline by which all policy committees must meet and confer on bills in their second house. Bills that are still moving are in their second house, which means that Assembly bills are being heard in the Senate and Senate bills are being heard in the Assembly.

On July 3, the Legislature adjourned for Summer Recess and when it reconvenes on August 5, with a few exceptions, only appropriation committees may meet to determine the fate of fiscal measures. The last two weeks of session leading up to the final day of the 2023-2024 legislative session on August 31 are reserved for Floor deliberations only. June 27 also marked the last day for measures to be added to, or withdrawn from, the November 2024 ballot. However, as we detail further below, nothing is going according to schedules when it comes to this year's ballot and July 3 is the new July 27 for legislative measures. To date for this year's legislative session, more than 1,300 bills continue to make their march through the legislative process, while zero have been vetoed, 223 have been chaptered, and approximately 740 have been held.

### BUDGET UPDATE

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the 2024 Budget Act, [AB 107](#), on June 26 as passed by the Legislature on June 13. The final Budget agreement represents a \$297.9 billion state Budget. The deal included an agreement to increase the size of the Rainy Day Fund from 10% of the state Budget to 20%, exclude deposits into the Rainy Day Fund from the Gann Limit, create a "Projected Surplus Temporary Holding Account," where a portion of any projected surplus will be deposited and held under a future year once it is clear whether the projected surplus actually materializes. Of note, the budget reverts \$50 million for outdoor environmental education and access programs administered through the Outdoor Equity Grants Program.

In homelessness and behavioral health, notable changes include:

- \$1 billion for the sixth round of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Program. The supplemental \$260 million from the current fifth round of funding will be cut.
- \$250 million (\$150 million in 2024-25 and \$100 million in 2025-26) for the Encampment Resolution Grant Program.
- Eliminates \$450.7 million in one-time funds from the last round of the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program. Additional rounds will be supported by Proposition 1 bond funding.
- Mostly preserves funding across multiple programs that expand behavioral health treatment and infrastructure capacity for services to children and youth (\$7.1 billion total).

The Assembly Floor Report of this agreement can be found [here](#) and analysis of the 19-bill package [here](#). The Senate Floor Report can be found [here](#) and analyses [here](#).

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Alyssa Silhi  
Renne Public Policy Group

### CLIMATE BOND

After more than five years of debate and discussion, working groups, heavy advocacy, unprecedented surplus followed by a declared Budget emergency, and a FY 24-25 nearly \$50 billion deficit, the Legislature has finally come to agreement on a climate bond. Landing on [SB 867](#) by Senator Ben Allen (Santa Monica) as its bond vehicle, over the weekend Senator McGuire announced in a [press release](#) the agreement of a \$10 billion bond measure to ask voters to fund safe drinking water and drought, flooding, wildfires and forest resilience, sea level rise, extreme heat, park creation and outdoor access, and more.

The proposed bond would dedicate 40 percent of the \$10 billion at minimum toward disadvantaged communities, with funds divided among eight chapters:

- \$3.8 billion for safe drinking water, drought, flood and water resilience
- \$1.5 billion for wildfire and forest resilience
- \$1.2 billion for sea level rise and coastal resilience
- \$1.2 billion for protecting biodiversity and supporting nature-based climate solutions
- \$850 million for clean air programs
- \$700 million for park creation and outdoor access
- \$450 million for extreme heat mitigation
- \$300 million for sustainable farms, ranches and working lands



### CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE MEASURE

On June 20, RPPG notified City staff via email that the California Supreme Court had removed the California Business Roundtable (CBRT) tax measure from the November 2024 ballot. More information on the removal can be found [here](#) and [here](#). The measure would have required a two-thirds vote by the Legislature for new state taxes and a two-thirds vote by the voters for new local taxes. The California Supreme Court's action represents a significant win for state and local governments.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCING MEASURE

In 2023, the Legislature passed [ACA 1](#) (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 173, Statutes of 2023). The bill put a measure on the November 2024 ballot that would reduce the existing local vote threshold requirement from two-thirds to fifty-five percent for local public infrastructure and affordable housing financing proposals using: general obligation bonds, sales and use/transaction and use taxes, or parcel taxes. If the measure is approved by voters, the reduced vote threshold would apply to local measures.

This year, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (Winters) introduced [ACA 10](#) which directs the Secretary of State to make amendments to ACA 1 including deleting all sections of the initiative authorizing the imposition of a sales and use tax and a parcel tax with a 55 percent vote. ACA 10 replaces (rather than amend) two of the sections within ACA 1 pertaining to imposing property tax increases to fund public infrastructure and affordable housing with general obligation bonded indebtedness.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Alyssa Silhi  
Renne Public Policy Group

### **AB 817 UPDATE**

AB 817 was heard in Senate Local Government last month and, unfortunately, we did not receive the votes to continue on our way. Cosponsors and the Author were all willing to bend farther than comfortable (as we had previously discussed in legislative committee) and accepted 7 out of 9 of the committee amendments. However, we were not willing to accept the quorum requirement or limitations on a stipend. The quorum is ultimately what stopped the bill, but better the shelf it than create a new legal hurdle to jump over.

The lead witnesses we lined up for committee were excellent: Jane Whiteford, President of IHSS Consumer Alliance (the alliance is made up of all IHSS advisory groups statewide), and Ethan Rarick, Executive Director of the Little Hoover Commission. The entire room was there in support of the bill, it was an incredibly robust showing with most advocates providing their "me too" testimony doing so on behalf of multiple organizations. Those in opposition were limited to news media and first amendment rights groups. We feel that the Chair and several targeted committee members were spooked by the op-Ed's run in the LA Times and Mercury News prior to the hearing.

To you all I say, impressive showing, excellent execution, let's keep up the good work. Thank you for the support you all and the members provided; the bill may have come to a halt but the opportunities it creates for CARPD to be in a position to effect change has just begun.

### **Asm. Pacheco Commits Herself to Inclusivity and Accessibility: A Statement on AB 817**

"While I am disappointed that AB 817 did not advance in the Senate Local Government Committee today, I stand behind the objective of this legislation. The bill was crafted to create parity with the rules governing state advisory bodies, and to ensure that local advisory body positions are accessible the public in an effort to foster increased participation and inclusivity.

Contrary to misinformation presented in today's LA Times editorial, AB 817 was not a reintroduction, but a two-year bill that supporters and I have been working on for an extended period. This bill reflects my commitment to enhancing equity in civic engagement. I recognize that some people may argue that in-person participation is the best way to ensure that every voice is heard. However, AB 817 aims to provide access for people who may face a host of barriers to in-person attendance, particularly individuals with physical or economic limitations, including older adults and people with disabilities, and people who cannot accommodate the time or distance to engage in person. The bill sought to increase participation options and expand the democratic process to be more inclusive and equitable.

With leadership comes the responsibility to lead, and that means standing strong when change is needed. I am committed to leading the way to a more inclusive future. Today, that meant standing with those left behind by our current system to provide a platform of change for the unheard voices in our communities. I remain dedicated to advocating for policies that promote accessibility and look forward to creating a workable solution next legislative session."

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