

CARPD Communicator



President's Message



PRESIDENT- BRIAN DANZL

Dear Members,

As the year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to wish each of you a joyous holiday season filled with peace, gratitude and connection. This time of year offers us the perfect opportunity to reflect on the incredible work we've accomplished together and the meaningful impact we've had on our communities.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication throughout the year. Your creativity, hard work and passion make a real difference in our communities.

At CRPD, we are wrapping up an exciting year, highlighted by events such as Winter Wonderland and Breakfast with Santa. As we prepare for a new year, we are already looking forward to continuing our mission and seeing what innovative ideas and initiatives will emerge in 2025.

From all of us at CRPD, we wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a bright, successful New Year. May this season bring you moments of rest, joy and the chance to recharge for all the great things ahead!

Warm regards,

Brian Danzl
Cordova Recreation and Park District
President, CARPD

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President's Message

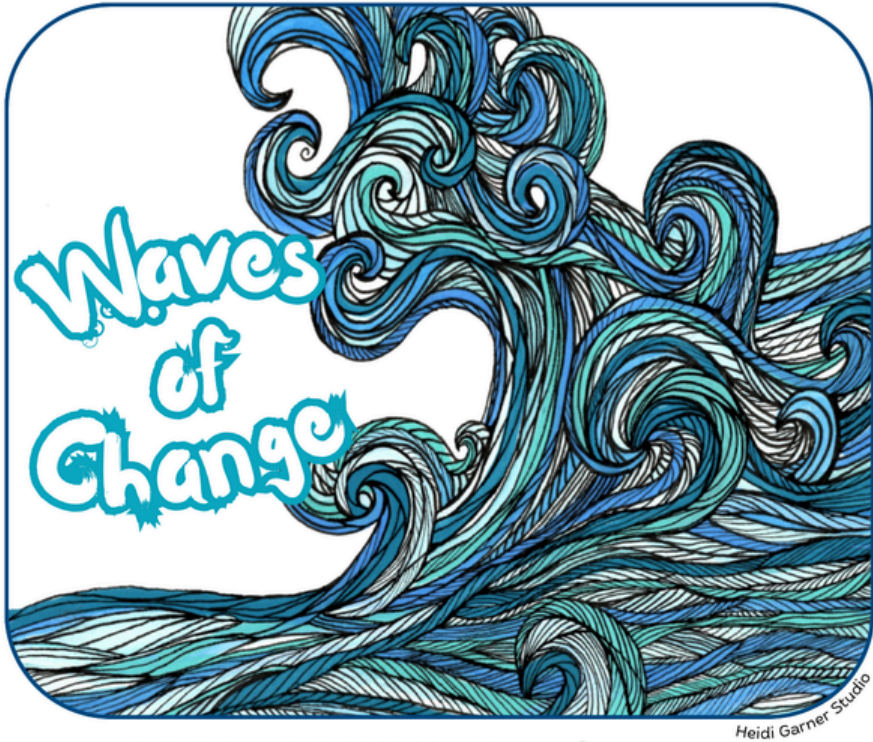
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2025 CARPD Conference

**CARPD Member Early Bird
Registration closes
March 14, 2025**

Go to the CARPD website to
register and make your hotel
reservations!

www.caparkdistricts.org

Registration is open!

2025 CARPD Conference Scholarship Applications

Each year, CARPD considers scholarship applications from deserving Member Districts as part of its Conference Scholarship program. CARPD Conference Scholarship recipients receive one (1) complimentary Conference Registration including hotel accommodations for Paradise Point Resort in San Diego. If you are interested in attending the 2025 Conference, please review the Scholarship criteria to see if you qualify and apply today!

**2025 Conference Scholarship Applications
are due March 14, 2025 by 5 p.m.**



2025 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 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 4, 2025. 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.

2025 Awards Nominations are due April 4, 2025



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Healthy Parks Healthy People

Thank you
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By Dane Hutchings
California Public Policy Group

The Legislature Returns: The 2024 legislative session of the California State Legislature commenced in early January as both houses reconvened for the second year of the 2023-24 session. Legislators quickly set to work, prioritizing the remaining bills from the previous year. In late January, Senator Mike McGuire (D-Geyserville) was officially elected as Senate President pro Tempore and sworn into the role on February 5. On February 8, he announced the new Senate Democratic leadership team for the upcoming legislative year. Senator Lena A. Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) was appointed Majority Leader, with Senators Angelique V. Ashby (D-Sacramento) and Aisha Wahab (D-Hayward) taking on the roles of Assistant Majority Leaders. Additional changes were made to the leadership team, including committee chairs and membership. Senator McGuire also announced the splitting of the Senate Governance and Finance Committee into two new committees, leading to the establishment of the Senate Local Government and Senate Revenue and Taxation committees.

The Governor's Budget: In early January, Governor Gavin Newsom revealed his proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-25 during a press conference. The proposal projected total state spending at \$291.5 billion, with a deficit of \$37.9 billion. Governor Newsom attributed the budget deficit to a return to the "normalization of state revenues following the massive surpluses in 2021 and 2022." Factors contributing to the deficit include the state's reliance on the top one percent of taxpayers for half of all income tax revenue, stock market declines in 2022, and delays in income tax collection in 2023.

The May revision to the January proposal indicated a slight reduction in total spending to \$288.1 billion, with the projected deficit revised downward to \$27.6 billion. The lower projected deficit resulted from Governor Newsom signing AB 106 (Gabriel) [Chapter 9, Statutes of 2024], an early action budget package. Governor Newsom stated that approximately half of the deficit would be addressed through budget cuts, with the remainder managed through reserves, delays, fund shifts, borrowing, and new efficiencies.

In mid-June, the Legislature met its constitutional deadline to advance a balanced state budget for fiscal year 2024-25, passing AB 107 (Gabriel) [Chapter 22, Statutes of 2024]. A few days later, Governor Newsom announced an agreement on the budget, which included two budget bills and 17 budget trailer bills. The final budget reflected total spending of \$297.8 billion and closed a projected deficit of \$46.8 billion. The fiscal year 2024-25 budget priorities for the Governor and the Legislature aligned with previous years, focusing on funding for homelessness, public safety, climate change, healthcare, education, and housing.

National Narratives Drove Legislative Priorities: As the 2024 presidential election approached, California lawmakers turned their attention to policy areas influenced by state and national polling data. Major themes included addressing the rise of retail theft, drug and property related offenses, homelessness, housing production, and climate change. In late February, Senator McGuire, alongside legislative, law enforcement, and mental health leaders, held a press conference to unveil a bipartisan package of priority legislation aimed at addressing public safety and mental health. In April, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) announced additional legislation in the package. This legislative package featured various proposals, ranging from increased access to addiction and mental health treatment, to enhancing tools for law enforcement. The legislative package was introduced as an alternative to the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act, a proposed ballot initiative seeking to repeal parts of Proposition 47 and increase sentences for certain drug and theft crimes. However, the slate of bills was enacted and the Theft Reduction Act appeared on the November ballot as Proposition 36.

Legislative Year In Review (Continued)



By Dane Hutchings
California Public Policy Group

More Housing Laws Aimed at Targeting Local Agencies: After abandoning plans for a \$10 billion affordable housing bond and reducing housing funding in the budget, the Legislature's 2024 housing package continued the narrative that local governments are the primary barrier to housing production. A key theme this year focused on bills designed to increase pressure on local agencies to secure approval for housing elements from the Department of Housing and Community Development. These bills overlooked the established legal processes that ensure neutral judicial dispute resolution regarding housing element compliance. Instead, they introduced legal presumptions, tight deadlines (without committed funding for compliance assistance), and various vulnerabilities. In essence, the approach offered more sticks and no carrots, even for communities recognized with the state's esteemed "Prohousing Designation".

Democrats Flexing Supermajority: Democrats leveraged their bicameral supermajority to advance ACA 10 (Aguiar-Curry) [Chapter 134, Statutes of 2024]. This resolution instructed the Secretary of State to amend ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) [Chapter 173, Statutes of 2023], eliminating all sections that authorized the imposition of a sales and use tax and a parcel tax with a 55 percent vote. Additionally, ACA 10 revised the definitions of "affordable housing" and "public infrastructure" in ACA 1.

In early July, following more than five years of debate and discussion, the Legislature reached an agreement on a climate bond. Senator McGuire announced in a press release that SB 867 (Allen) [Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024] would be the vehicle for the bond measure, which sought voter approval for funding initiatives related to safe drinking water, drought management, flooding, wildfires, forest resilience, sea level rise, extreme heat, park creation, and outdoor access. The compromise amount for the bond was \$10 billion, falling short of previous proposals that sought nearly \$16 billion in funding.

California Supreme Court Sidelines CBRT: In late June, it was announced that the California Supreme Court had removed the California Business Roundtable tax measure from the November 2024 ballot. This measure would have required a two-thirds vote by the Legislature for new state taxes and a two-thirds vote by voters for new local taxes. The court's decision marked a significant victory for the state and local governments.

Close of Session: By the evening of August 31, the Legislature had advanced a total of 1,206 bills to the Governor for his consideration in 2024. By September 30, the Governor had signed 1,017 bills into law and had vetoed 189, resulting in a signing ratio of approximately 85 percent to 15 percent. This ratio aligns with the average since Governor Newsom took office. The Legislature officially adjourned the 2023-24 legislative session on November 30 and reconvened for the 2025-26 legislative session during a one-day Organizational Session on December 2, returning full-time for the new two-year cycle on January 6, 2025.

Conclusion: We very much appreciate the opportunity to represent the Association, and we are grateful that the Association values our work and will continue its relationship with CPPG in 2025. While our team has achieved victories and significant progress on behalf of the Association in 2024, more work remains to be done in support of the Association's interests, and we take this responsibility to heart. Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve CARPD and for your support. We look forward to continuing our partnership and building on the success we have achieved.

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New Year, New Laws

by Patti Eyres, Esq.

As we close out 2024, CAPRI Members will soon be ringing in the new year with new laws impacting your Districts. As in years past, the California legislative session ended with a flurry of bills, so it is imperative to be educated about these changes and how they may affect your agency.

Below are a few pertinent laws we would like to share. To find out more about these new laws and many others, CAPRI Members may visit the **CAPRI Member Portal** to check out more summaries and the webinar hosted by Patti Eyres, Esq.

SB-1100 Discrimination: Driver's License

The law addresses discrimination against individuals without driver's licenses by eliminating this requirement as a condition of employment unless certain requirements are met. Under the law, an employer may not include a statement that an applicant must have a driver's license unless the following conditions are satisfied:

- The employer reasonably expects driving to be a function of the job.
- The employer reasonably believes that using an alternative form of transportation is not comparable in travel time or cost to the employer.

SB-988 Freelance Worker Protection Act

This bill requires employers who hire independent contractors making \$250 or more (in the aggregate) to have a written agreement containing certain basic information and to remit timely payment. It also requires the written contract be kept by the employer for at least 6 years and prohibits retaliation against the contractor.

AB 1976 Occupational Safety & Health Standards: First Aid – Opioid Antagonists

This bill requires Cal/OSHA to submit a draft regulation to the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board requiring that first aid kits in the workplace contain the nasal spray naloxone hydrochloride.

AB 2123: Disability Compensation: Paid Family Leave

This bill eliminates an employer's ability to require employees to use accrued vacation leave before accessing California's Paid Family Leave Program (PFL). Previously, employers could require employees to take up to 2 weeks of accrued vacation before employees could access PFL benefits. This requirement will no longer apply.

New Year, New Laws (Continued)

by Patti Eyres, Esq.

AB 2499 Employment: Unlawful Discrim. & Paid Sick Days – Victims of Violence

This bill expands the list of crimes for which employees can take time off and allows employees to take protected time off to assist family members who are victims of specified crimes. The new law also permits the use of state paid sick leave for this purpose.

Prior to AB 2499, California law provided protections to employees from discrimination or retaliation for taking time off for jury duty, court appearances, or to employees who were victims of crime or abuse. Under the new bill, these protections remain in place, but broaden the definition of “victims” to include a victim of a “qualifying act of violence,” which means any of the following, regardless of whether anyone is arrested for, prosecuted for, or convicted of committing any crime:

- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- An act, conduct, or pattern of conduct that includes:
 - An individual causes bodily injury or death to another
 - An individual exhibits, draws, brandishes, or uses a firearm or other dangerous weapon, with respect to another
 - An individual uses or makes a reasonably perceived or actual threat of use of force against another to cause physical injury or death.

This law also removes the threshold of 25 or more employees from the provisions for victims of crime or abuse, and now requires all employers with at least one employee to comply, except as specified. Employers with five or more employees must not discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a victim or has a family member who is a victim from taking time off from work for additional reasons beyond obtaining relief or attempting to obtain relief (temporary restraining order, restraining order, or other injunctive relief) to ensure the health, safety, or welfare of the victim or family member of the victim.

Finally, under the law employers will be required to provide written notice of their rights established under this bill to new hires, to all employees annually, at any time upon request, and any time the employer becomes newly aware that an employee or an employee’s family member is a victim.

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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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New Laws on Development-Related Fees

Sara Mares
Director, NBS



Development-related fees help fund the infrastructure special districts and other local governments build to support housing and provide essential services to growing communities. This year, Governor Gavin Newsom signed two bills that will impact how local governments implement these fees, starting January 1, 2025.

AB 1820: Fee Estimates -- Assembly Bill 1820 is intended, according to proponents, to increase the level of transparency for development-related fees in response to a 2018 study that found that fees and exactions can comprise up to 18% of the median home price. The new requirement for estimates of fees and exactions both at preliminary application and final approval for certain developments are meant to provide developers with financial certainty, with the aim of encouraging more affordable housing.

AB 1820 changes the Government Code to establish a procedure wherein a development proponent that submits a preliminary application (as described in Gov. Code § 665941.1 (a)) may request an estimate of fees and exactions. Such estimate shall be provided to the development proponent by a City, County or City and County within 30 business days. For development fees of a School District or Special District, the development proponent shall request only the fee schedule from such District and the District shall provide the fee schedule without delay for the fees imposed by that agency. The estimates are for informational purposes and are not binding.

AB 1820 further changes the Code to require a City, County or City and County to provide an itemized list and good faith estimate of the total sum of all fees and exactions, upon final approval of a housing development project within 30 business days. Upon final approval of a housing development project and upon request of the development proponent, a School District or Special District shall provide a good faith estimate of the total sum of all fees and exactions imposed by that agency. The itemized list and good faith estimates are for informational purposes and are not binding. Note that “Exaction” in this section includes: construction excise tax, art in-lieu payments, park in-lieu fees, Community Facilities District Special Taxes. “Fee” includes fees or charges described in the Mitigation Fee Act and does not include electrical or gas utility costs.

SB 937: Fee Delays -- Senate Bill 937 changes the Mitigation Fee Act by creating a category of housing development called “designated developments” which consists of several existing code sections that focus on density bonus, small, affordable, and other types of residential developments. The measure then generally prohibits local agencies from collecting specific development-related fees and charges on designated developments until a Certificate of Occupancy (COO) is issued, with some limited exceptions.

Additionally, local agencies cannot charge interest or other fees on any amount of the fees deferred by this law. If the development contains more than a single dwelling, the local agency may determine whether the fees will be paid on a pro rata basis for each dwelling when a specified percentage of dwellings have received COOs, or on a lump sum basis when all dwellings have received COOs.

Proponents claim that by delaying payment of certain fees in accordance with SB 937 initial costs of housing development will be reduced, thereby decreasing developer reliance on high-interest construction loans. Local agencies are concerned that this move to a reimbursement model will shift initial costs of new development to public agencies.

This article originally appeared on the CSDA online blog and is reproduced here with the consent of NBS.

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VERDE DESIGN



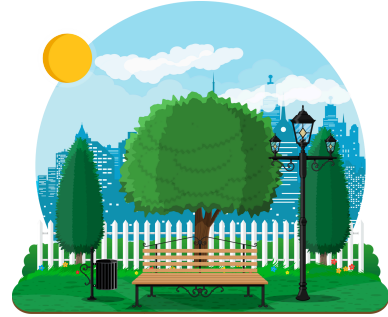
JONES HALL
Bond Counsel

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Help us Park-ify the CARPD Office!

The CARPD Office is looking to brighten up its walls and would love to feature your stunning parks! Help us bring some natural beauty indoors by showcasing your favorite park photos.

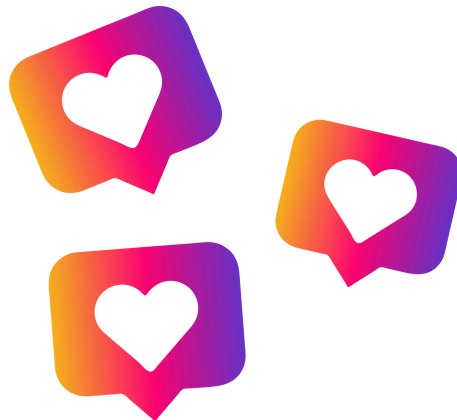
Upload your photos to the CARPD website available [**HERE**](#)



Follow us on Instagram!

Did you know CARPD is now on Instagram? Follow us to stay updated on all things Parks and Rec, get the latest on our annual conference, office closures, and more. Plus, you might just see yourself featured! Don't miss out – join our community today!

Follow us at [caparkdistricts](#)



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Pictured (left to right) Board Member Rick Sloan, President Brian Danzl, Past President Doug Nickles, Board Member Dennis Waespi, Secretary Nick Schouten, President Elect Dean Wetter, Board Member Jesus Perez, Board Member Michael Seaman and Administrator Michelle Lacy. (Missing from photo: CFO Al McGreehan and Board Member Mathew Fuzie)

CARPD Board of Directors

The CARPD Board of Directors consists of eleven elected representatives of the CARPD Membership. In these 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!

President:
Brian Danzl

President-Elect:
Dean Wetter

Past President:
Doug Nickles

Secretary:
Nick Schouten

CFO:
Al McGreehan

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

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