



Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
General
Manager

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding General Manager - Nominee



Outstanding General Manager - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any District General Manager or District Administrator whose significant contributions have gone above and beyond in service of their district.

Nominee: Gabriel Lanusse

District: Greater Vallejo Recreation District

District Submission:

Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) is proud to nominate Gabriel Lanusse for General Manager of the Year in recognition of his exceptional leadership, fiscal stewardship, and unwavering commitment to community.

Gabe brings an extraordinary combination of education, certification, and hands-on experience to his role. He holds an A.S. in Horticulture, a B.A. in Communication, and a Master's in Public Administration from USF. He is a Certified Arborist, Playground Safety Inspector, and Pesticide Advisor. His leadership extends beyond the District, having served on the Vallejo Chamber Board, currently serving as President of Leadership Vallejo, and previously leading the Solano Chapter of CSDA. His ability to build bridges, combined with deep operational knowledge and institutional history, has been invaluable.

This past year, Gabe demonstrated truly outstanding leadership. When GVRD faced a financial crisis and came within days of depleting reserves, Gabe responded with calm, decisive action. Rather than resorting to layoffs, he empowered staff to rethink spending, reduce event scope, pause capital projects, and refocus on core services. He fostered accountability without blame, guiding the team with respect and transparency.

Simultaneously, Gabe aggressively pursued long-overdue impact fees held by the City. After years of persistence, nearly \$1 million was recovered to restore reserves. He also provided strategic guidance on surplus property sales, generating nearly \$1 million from one sale and advancing negotiations on another—positioning the District

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for long-term financial stability.

In review of reserves, he moved reserves to a different financial institution in order to receive a better rate of interest. The district went from point zero one percent (.01%) to nearly four percent (4%) rate for reserves. This is helping build up the OPEB funding.

Gabe's vision extends well beyond financial recovery. He successfully negotiated a 30-year lease with the School District for gym and field use-an agreement that unlocked a \$7.5 million grant to transform the site into a vibrant, park-like community asset. With designs 60% complete and construction targeted within the next year, this project will serve generations.

Perhaps most importantly, Gabe leads with integrity, optimism, and resilience. Even when faced with criticism, he advocates for long-term community benefits, such as championing playground improvements, pool improvements, and infrastructure improvements that now stand as lasting assets.

He trusts staff to make positive decisions with the public's money, all the while saying "he hates to pay for something twice".

Gabe often says, "We are building memories." Through steady leadership in crisis and bold vision for the future, he is doing exactly that. For these reasons, GVRD enthusiastically recommends Gabe Lanusse for General Manager of the Year.

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