

CARPD Communicator



President's Message

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” – Nelson Henderson

As I write this message as your outgoing CARPD President, and prepare to retire, this sentiment rings incredibly true. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to Matthew Duarte, the dedicated CARPD staff and my fellow Board Members. Serving and advocating alongside you has been a privilege of a lifetime – thank you for mentoring me.

Looking back, my greatest takeaway is not the acreage acquired or facilities built—but rather the relationships we have been fortunate to cultivate. We are **fundamentally in the business of connection**; and, the bonds we build with residents, staff, board members, and our peers is what makes our efforts so impactful.

Our profession is experiencing a critical transition. With a new generational shift sweeping over our agencies, we must actively invest in mentoring our emerging professionals by prioritizing succession planning and ensuring that institutional knowledge is preserved. Most importantly, we need to impart to the next generation that nurturing relationships and building consensus are just as vital as mastering daily operations.

While my official role is changing, my passion for recreation and parks remains as strong as ever. My hope is to continue to be a resource to the parks community and my peers. I look forward to opportunities to stay actively involved, learn and help navigate complex park matters, problem-solve, and continue to support the vital work being done throughout California.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me as your CARPD President. It has been a privilege to advocate for, learn from, and grow alongside all of you. Let us continue building those essential relationships and prepare our next generation of leaders. I am looking forward to the sharing of ideas and celebrating our successes at the **2026 CARPD Conference in Monterey next month!**

Dean Wetter
General Manager, Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District
CARPD Board President



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Legislative Update

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Session in Full Swing

The 2026 legislative session is well underway, with hundreds of bills advancing to policy committees—the first major step on their path to the Governor’s desk. Committee hearings are in full swing, with packed agendas that will continue to intensify through early July as key deadlines approach. Several important milestones are ahead: May 1 is the deadline for fiscal bills to be referred to the Appropriations Committees, followed by May 15, when those committees must advance bills to the Floor. All bills must then pass their house of origin by May 29 to move to the opposite chamber (e.g., Senate bills to the Assembly and vice versa). Additionally, all “spot” bills were required to be amended with substantive language by the end of March, resulting in a surge of newly detailed proposals throughout the month. The Legislature is currently on spring recess and will reconvene on Monday, April 6.

Budget Update

A [recent post](#) by Assembly Budget Committee Chief Jason Sisney highlights the potential impacts of recent Trump Administration actions in the Middle East, which have contributed to a global oil shock and a dip in the stock market. This has raised concerns in Sacramento budget circles about how these developments could affect this year’s budget negotiations.

Despite this uncertainty, the state remains in a relatively strong fiscal position, with substantial cash on hand and General Fund revenues exceeding projections by more than \$6 billion year-to-date. However, the rapidly shifting economic outlook makes the May Revision—expected in early May—especially important as the Legislature moves toward finalizing the budget.

The central question is whether the additional \$6 billion in revenue will be enough to offset the current economic slowdown. Mr. Sisney and other budget staff we’ve consulted believe it likely will, but the May Revision will provide more definitive answers. Even if the downturn persists, the state has several options available, including internal borrowing and drawing from reserves.

At the same time, it remains unclear what level of funding, if any, will be available for district budget requests. Looking ahead, the state’s out-year structural deficit is still projected to be around \$20 billion. This issue, which was not addressed in the Governor’s January Budget, will need to be taken up either this year or by the next administration in 2027. The Legislature has until June 15 to pass a budget and send it to the Governor.

2026 Proposed Billionaire Tax Act

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU), sponsor of the proposed California Billionaire Tax Act (Initiative No. 25-0024), faces a mid-April deadline to gather sufficient signatures to qualify the measure for the ballot. Recent polling from the University of California, Berkeley shows the proposal holding a narrow lead among voters if the election were held today. While roughly half of Californians support the wealth tax, initiative campaigns typically aim to begin with at least 55 percent support to withstand anticipated opposition messaging.

Legislative Update (continued)

The polling also highlights voter concerns that the tax could have unintended consequences, including prompting wealthy individuals and businesses to leave the state. At the same time, broader attitudes toward the state's budget present challenges for the campaign. A separate UC Berkeley poll found that voters generally prefer addressing California's multibillion-dollar deficit through spending cuts rather than tax increases: 42 percent favor primarily spending reductions, 35 percent support a mix of cuts and taxes, and only 12 percent prefer mostly tax increases, with 10 percent undecided. Additionally, about 85 percent of respondents believe the government wastes some public funds.

Together, these findings underscore a tension in public opinion. While there is measurable support for taxing billionaires, many voters remain skeptical of broader tax increases and favor fiscal restraint—dynamics that could complicate efforts to build and sustain a winning campaign message.

ACTIVE POSITIONED BILLS

- [AB 35 \(Alvarez\) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.](#)
 - Position: Support
- [AB 1564 \(Ahrens\) Employer-employee relations: confidential communications.](#)
 - Position: Oppose
- [AB 1613 \(Wilson\) Vehicles: off-highway motor vehicle safety.](#)
 - Position: Support
- [AB 1626 \(Gabriel\) Interscholastic athletics: youth sports: coaches: mental health training.](#)
 - Position: Watch
- [AB 1639 \(Davies\) California Drowning Prevention and Rescue Act.](#)
 - Position: Concerns
- [AB 1819 \(Sanchez\) Automated external defibrillators.](#)
 - Position: Concerns
- [AB 2007 \(Bauer-Kahan\) Youth programs: identifying information of youth.](#)
 - Position: Concerns
- [AB 2188 \(Pellerin\) Regional park and open-space districts: Midpen Regional Open Space District.](#)
 - Position: Support
- [SB 492 \(Menjivar\) Youth Housing Bond Act of 2026.](#)
 - Position: Watch
- [SB 1036 \(Grayson\) Mitigation Fee Act.](#)
 - Position: Watch
- [SB 1117 \(Cervantes\) Accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units.](#)
 - Position: Oppose
- [SB 1268 \(Gonzalez\) Outdoor public recreation spaces: equitable access.](#)
 - Position: Support



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CARPD Capitol Visit 2026

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, CARPD Board Members spent the day at the Capitol meeting with legislators to go over a number of key issues affecting Recreation and Park Districts. This is the Board Members' fourth consecutive year championing these efforts in person. During their visit they had the opportunity to meet with Assembly Local Government Committee member, **Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco**, and Committee Chair **Assemblymember Juan Carrillo**. Additionally, the Board met with **Stephanie Mitchell**, Assembly Water, Park, Wildlife Committee, and **Christian Griffith** from the Assembly Budget Committee. Discussion was centered on several priority areas, including: CARPD legislative priorities, Housing and impact fees, Grant funding opportunities, and the State budget outlook for 2026 and beyond. This was another highly successful opportunity for meaningful, in-person engagement with our legislators. Our Board Members remain committed to advocating for policies and decisions that best support and strengthen recreation and park districts.

Thank you to each of our CARPD Board Members for your participation in each meet and greet. And, a huge thank you to our Legislative Advocates, Dane Hutchings, and Ethan Nagler of CPPG, for your hard work in scheduling the meetings and making sure our Board Members were prepared for these important discussions. We will continue to advocate with purpose and determination.





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BRIAN WILSON

General Manager
Feather River Recreation and Park District

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Business Solutions

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CARPD Conference 2026

Check out the schedule here:
Schedule of Events



2026 CARPD CONFERENCE | STANDING STRONG

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



DAY 1 (5/27)

- 4 pm HOTEL CHECK-IN
- 4 pm REGISTRATION
- 6 pm CARPD PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION
Monterey Bay Aquarium

DAY 2 (5/28)

- 7:30-9 am BREAKFAST
- 8 am GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- 9:45 am RULES OF THE ROAD
- 11 am EXHIBIT HALL BREAK
- 11:15 am PARTNERSHIPS GREAT & SMALL - EXPANDING YOUR AGENCY
- 11:15 am GRANT ANTICIPATION NOTES - FUND PROJECTS ON YOUR TIMELINE
- 12:30 pm LUNCH & NETWORKING
- 2 pm MORE THAN CHATGPT: HOW AI HELPS DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES
- 2 pm RETURN ON INVESTMENT - HAVE YOUR PARK FUND THE LIFE CYCLE COSTS
- 3:30 pm EXHIBIT HALL BREAK
- 4 pm ROUNDTABLE #1
- GMs & Staff
- Board Members
- 6 pm RECEPTION
- 7 pm AWARDS BANQUET

DAY 3 (5/29)

- 7:30-9 am BREAKFAST
- 8 am CLAIMS CONVERSATION
- 9 am DATA DRIVEN DECISION MAKING
- 9 am THE CORE PIVOT: REDEFINING THE PUBLIC SECTOR BUSINESS MODEL
- 10:15 am BROWN ACT UPDATE
- 10:15 am IT'S ELECTRIC - VEHICLES, TOOLS, & INFRASTRUCTURE
- 11:30 am TREE INSPECTION & MANAGEMENT TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS
- 11:30 am PREVENTING PITFALLS THAT HINDER YOUR SUCCESS
- 12:30 pm LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON
Legislative Update with CPPG
- 2 pm COMMUNITY BUILDING & GIVING BACK
- 3 pm ROUNDTABLE #2
- GMs & Staff
- Board Members
- 5 pm CARPD INCOMING PRESIDENT'S CLOSING RECEPTION



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LEADSUN

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2026 CARPD Inaugural Golf Tournament



We're excited to announce registration is **OPEN** for our inaugural golf tournament at Del Monte Golf Course in conjunction with this year's CARPD Conference on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026**.

Come out and enjoy a day of fun with your fellow Recreation and Park District community and our valued sponsors at our inaugural golf tournament.

Important Details:

Location: Del Monte Golf Course in Monterey

Cost: \$150.00 per player.

Your registration goes directly toward a prize fund and players will also have the chance to compete in a Closet-to-the-Pin contest, so bring your best shot!

Tee Time: 11:00am (approx. 4-hour rounds)

Spots are limited!

[Click this link to register!](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Matthew Duarte at mduarte@capri-jpa.gov.

Let's tee off to a great conference!!





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The logo for Public Restroom Company consists of a white icon of a restroom building with a female figure on the left and a male figure on the right, set against a dark blue background. To the right of the icon, the words "PUBLIC RESTROOM COMPANY" are written in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below this, a green banner contains the tagline "Building Better Places To Go.SM" in white text. Underneath the banner, a white line separates the tagline from the company's description: "We design, build, and install state-of-the-art prefabricated public restrooms and buildings."

VERDE DESIGN

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CARPD Board Election May 28th

As we do every year during the CARPD General Membership Meeting, the CARPD Board of Directors Election is scheduled to take place on May 28, 2026 at the CARPD Conference in Monterey, 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 Friday May 15, 2026.

If you have questions about the Board or the nomination process, please contact Matthew Duarte at mduarte@capri-jpa.gov.

Furthermore, pursuant to CARPD Association Bylaws at Article 5, subsection 6, the CARPD Nominations Committee has submitted the following slate of candidates for the open positions:

2026 Slate of Candidates for CARPD Board

President – Elect

- Rick Sloan, Cordova Recreation & Park District

Chief Financial Officer

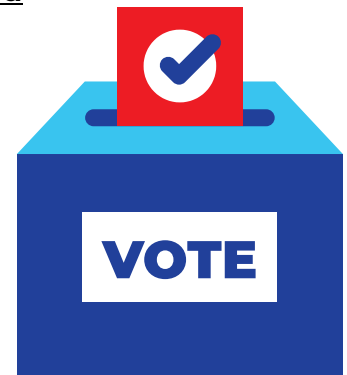
- Al McGreehan, Paradise Recreation & Park District

Director at Large (Even Year):

- Brian Danzl, Cordova Recreation & Park District
- Peter Rosen, Hayward Area Recreation & Park District

Administrator Rep (Even Year):

- Michelle Lacy, Pleasant Recreation & Park District



2026 CARPD Conference Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our Conference Scholarship Winners!
We will see you in Monterey!

Travis Dworetzky, Arcade Creek Recreation Park District
Hallie Greene, Boulder Creek Recreation and Park District
Mike Heller, Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District





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California’s Workplace Know Your Rights Act is now in effect!

Senate Bill 294 has been in effect since February 1, 2026.

This new law introduces significant new compliance requirements for ALL California employers. You are now required to provide all employees and new hires with a written “Know Your Rights” notice, and annually thereafter.

The notice covers topics such as labor, immigration and constitutional rights, particularly during interactions with Law Enforcement. You must also establish protocols for notifying your employee’s emergency contacts in the event of an arrest or detention being carried out while at work, as soon as you are made aware of it. The employer is also required to provide this information in languages that are understood by its employees. Failure to comply with these new requirements could result in fines up to \$500 per employee for notice violations, and up to \$500 per employee per day for emergency contact violations.

For more information and templates, please visit:

English: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Know-Your-Rights-Notice/Know-Your-Rights-Notice-English.pdf>

Spanish: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Know-Your-Rights-Notice/Know-Your-Rights-Notice-Spanish.pdf>





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California Special Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together



Special District Risk Management Authority



CSDA Finance Corporation

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Legal Note: Dangerous Conditions Of Public Property

Are you aware that a “dangerous condition of public property” has historically been one of the most cited causes of action brought against our member districts? This isn’t unique to our industry, as these types of claims have been plaguing public property owners for decades. The claims tend to come about from an injury incident involving a slip, trip, or fall on District property.

One of the most frequent "dangerous condition of public property" claims involves injuries resulting from sidewalk lifts. To successfully prevent or navigate these claims, public entities must understand how the law distinguishes between minor irregularities and actionable hazards.

The Role of "Notice" in Liability

Proving that a public entity had notice of a dangerous condition significantly weakens the defense. Notice typically falls into two categories:

1. **Actual Notice:** Documented proof that the property owner knew of the defect. This is substantiated by prior claims, formal complaints, or hazards identified during internal inspections that remained unaddressed.
2. **Constructive Notice:** The legal inference that a condition existed for a sufficient duration that the entity should have discovered it through a "reasonable" inspection system.

Risk Mitigation Strategies

Relying solely on external inspections (such as periodic CAPRI visits) is not a sufficient defense. To protect your district, we recommend a proactive approach:

- **Increase Inspection Frequency:** Develop a robust internal schedule for routine walkway inspections.
- **Lower the Threshold:** Identify and document all defects exceeding 0.5 inches.
- **Prioritize Repairs:** Establish a clear hierarchy for corrective actions based on the severity and location of the defect.
- **Document Everything:** Maintain thorough records of all inspections and remediation efforts to demonstrate due diligence.

A Note on Legal Protections

Public entities are often shielded by specific statutory immunities designed to keep recreational areas open to the public. Under Government Code section 831.4, "trail immunity" provides a near-absolute defense against claims involving the condition of recreational trails or unpaved roads used for activities like hiking, biking, or access to scenic areas. Similarly, section 831.2 offers "natural condition immunity," which protects agencies from liability for injuries caused by natural features of unimproved public property, such as beaches, lakes, or wilderness areas. These protections exist to ensure that the burden of defending personal injury suits does not force the closure of California’s vast natural and recreational spaces. Together with the "trivial defect" doctrine, these immunities form a robust legal framework that frequently results in summary judgments for public landowners such as our members.





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The logo for Brightly, a Siemens company, features the word 'Brightly' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter 'B' is stylized with a circular element around its top and left sides.

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

President-Elect:
Jesus Perez

Past President:
Brian Danzl

Secretary:
Doug Nickles

CFO:
Al McGreehan

Directors:
Michael Seaman
Jan Bissell
Dennis Waespi
Mathew Fuzie
Rick Sloan
Michelle Lacy