



## CARPD NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

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### JUNE 5, 2018 STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

On June 5, 2018, California voters will have the opportunity to provide \$4 Billion to improve parks, coastal protection and outdoor access for disadvantaged communities. **Proposition 68<sup>(i)</sup>** would provide \$285 Million for local parks with \$200 Million of that allocated for per capita grants for local park rehabilitation and improvement grants.

Prop. 68 also contains \$1.27 Billion for drought relief and water funding. The active campaign highlights the ballot measure as being a critical component to directly address climate change. The campaign materials outline how Prop. 68 prepares the state for future droughts both by improving our resilience to climate change and by taking efficient approaches to recycling and securing clean water from our rivers, lakes and streams.

The **Prop. 68 Campaign<sup>(ii)</sup>** is well organized and managing an active, targeted outreach program within a modest budget. CARPD has joined the Board and is providing substantial assistance to the Campaign. Currently, no organized group has visibly opposed Prop. 68, and the park and water coalition is guardedly optimistic of a positive outcome at the statewide primary in June.

### LEGISLATION

In other legislative developments of interest, the California Special Districts Association (“CSDA”) is sponsoring **Senate Bill 929 (McGuire)<sup>(iii)</sup>** relating to special district websites. As you are all aware, the Legislature has been increasing its scrutiny of the perceived lack of transparency pertaining to the 2,000-plus special districts in the state. In 2017, the Little Hoover Commission published a **report<sup>(iv)</sup>** on special districts and recommended legislation be enacted to require every special district to have a website.

In response to the intense interest in the matter and after extensive discussions, the CSDA chose to introduce legislation to require independent special districts to establish websites. However, the bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020, and provides an exemption for small districts that cannot comply due to hardships such as lacking broadband access or the necessary finances or staff to construct and maintain a website.

SB 929 is designed to promote transparency by making information more widely available to the public on the services provided by special districts. The CARPD Legislative Committee has taken a support position on the measure.

The Legislative Committee has taken a support position on Assembly Bill 1918 by Eduardo Garcia<sup>(v)</sup>. The bill would establish the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation within the Natural Resources Agency. The Office would be established to promote the importance that outdoor recreation contributes to personal health and the State's economic wellbeing.

Assembly Bill 2614<sup>(vi)</sup> by Wendy Carrillo would create a grant program to encourage access to outdoor experiences for disadvantaged youth with a goal of improving overall health and exposing these youth to positive encounters with nature. The Legislative Committee is going to support this measure.

The revival of redevelopment is included in two bills, which have been amended recently. Assembly Bill 3037 (Chiu)<sup>(vii)</sup> would authorize the creation of a new tax increment financing tool to fund infrastructure and affordable housing, but only with state approval. The author has announced that the bill will provide a pass-through property tax mechanism to make special districts whole. The other bill amended late last week, Assembly Bill 1778 (Holden)<sup>(viii)</sup> would authorize cities and counties to create Transit Oriented Redevelopment Districts, which would allow them to collect tax increment funds to promote construction of transit-oriented development and affordable housing.

In 2011, the Legislature voted, and the Governor signed legislation<sup>(ix)</sup> to dissolve Redevelopment Agencies ("RDA"). However, the severe housing crisis has triggered the look toward reviving RDAs as they were deemed to be an effective device to increase affordable housing developments. Although these two bills will be heard this year, most experts believe they represent the beginnings of an effort to revitalize RDAs under the new Governor in 2019.

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i [Link](#) to Text of Proposition 68 [*Senate Bill 5 (De León), Chapter 852, Statutes of 2017*]

ii [Link](#) to Yes on 68 Campaign website

iii [Link](#) to Text of Senate Bill 929 (McGuire)

iv [Link](#) to Text of *Report #239, August 2017: Special Districts: Improving Oversight & Transparency*

v [Link](#) to Text of Assembly Bill 1918 (E. Garcia)

vi [Link](#) to Text of Assembly Bill 2614 (Carrillo)

vii [Link](#) to Text of Assembly Bill 3037 (Chiu)

viii [Link](#) to Text of Assembly Bill 1778 (Holden)

ix [Link](#) to Text of Assembly Bill 26X1 (Blumenfield) [*Chapter 5, Statutes of 2011*]