

## CARPD COMMUNICATOR ARTICLE

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION FULLY UNDERWAY

Legislators returned to Sacramento on January 7<sup>th</sup> to begin the 2013-14 legislative session in earnest. The Assembly Speaker and Senate President have announced all committee chairs and committee memberships and with this year's February 22<sup>nd</sup> bill introduction deadline still a ways off, while the pace of bill introductions have been slow as of this writing, introductions will increase markedly over the next few weeks.

### GOVERNOR BROWN RELEASES HIS PROPOSED 2013-14 STATE BUDGET

As required by the state constitution, on January 10<sup>th</sup> Governor Brown unveiled his proposed 2013-14 state budget. Due to the passage of the Governor's Proposition 30 and Proposition 39 last November, his proposed budget is structurally balanced, the first time in many years. Both the Governor and Legislative Analyst have, however, cautioned legislators to adhere to the Governor's charge to "live within our means," and not go on a spending spree that could result in future year's deficits.

The positive impact of the passage of Proposition 30 and Proposition 39 was evidenced this month with the Legislative Analyst reporting the state is ahead of projections for January by approximately \$4 billion, the biggest one-month overage that state fiscal experts can recall in recent memory.

Finally, also in the good news category, there is nothing in the Governor's proposed budget of concern to recreation and park districts. Additionally, the Governor's budget contains the revenues to repay those districts that did not securitize their 2009 Proposition 1A property tax shift and those districts will receive their payments, plus interest, on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

As stated above, this year's bill introduction deadline is February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and to date only a few bills of interest to recreation and park districts have been introduced. They are:

1. Assembly Bill 5(Ammiano): A very troubling bill for recreation and park districts and the whole of local governments is Assembly Bill 5 by Assembly Member Ammiano from San Francisco relating to homelessness. AB 5 would establish the Homeless Person's Bill of Rights and Fairness Act, which would provide that no person's rights, privileges, or access to public services may be denied or abridged because he/she is homeless. Among other things, the bill would provide that every person has the right *to access public property and public restrooms*, among other stated rights. AB 5 is so far reaching, yet well intentioned, that a recent Sacramento Bee editorial referred to the bill as an "embarrassment."
2. Assembly Bill 25(Campos): This bill relates to employment/social media, the provisions of which were enacted into law last year for private sector employers. AB 25 would apply these same provision to public employers, which would prohibit a public employer from requiring or requesting an employee or applicant for employment to disclose a username or password for the purpose of accessing personal social media. The bill also prohibits public employers from discharging, disciplining, threatening to discharge or discipline or otherwise retaliating against an employee or applicant for not complying with a request or demand for a username or password.

Finally, there have been a number of constitutional amendments introduced to lower the 2/3rds local vote to 55% to pass parcel taxes. There is discussions underway within the legislative leadership to provide these same provisions to all local governments, and we are involved in those discussion.