

JANUARY 2017

# COMMUNICATOR

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to another year – 2107.

CARPD turns 55 this year and looks forward to assisting our member districts on several fronts.

First, we continue to advocate for park districts with our sister organization the California Association of Special Districts. Through CSDA, CARPD enjoys a special relationship in developing and addressing efforts to ensure that special districts maintain their unique status. Together we ensure that local values are district priorities, we continue to offer our constituents quality service, we are accountable and transparent, we ensure that we invest local taxes responsibly, and we are prudent in how we spend tax payer monies.

Second, with the help of Ralph Heim and Public Policy Associates, and with our legislative committee, we let our legislators know our priorities and keep them informed of the importance of recreation and park districts, and the variety of community benefits we provide. We also advocate for legislation the will benefit park districts and

enhance their funding options.

Third, we continue to support our insurance group – California Association of Park and Recreation Indemnity – to allow access to our member districts to maintain acceptable levels of insurance to manage their risks.

Finally, the Board of Directors of CARPD, which represent our member districts from throughout the State and of varying size, stay abreast of issues and vocalize the needs of districts.

As we enter 2017, we will continue to do these and more. Our great CARPD staff are available daily to address specific need and answer member's question. Please do not hesitate to contact Pat, Rick or others.



This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> time being President of CARPD. Each time I am honored to see our member districts continue to meet the challenges they face. Thank you for all you do to make your communities a better place. Remember – Parks Make Life Better.

**President, Joe Gibson**



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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### The 2017-2018 Session

#### Is Underway.

The 2017-18 Legislative Session was gaveled in on December 5, 2016 for the swearing-in of all Assembly Members and those Senate Members that stood election in November.



Following a day of other ceremonies and celebrations, legislators returned to their home districts until January 4, 2017. Also, another highly anticipated event occurs in January, the 10<sup>th</sup> to be exact, that being the Governor's constitutional deadline to unveil his proposed State Budget. Finally, it is anticipated that Assembly Speaker Rendon and Senate President pro Tempore De León will begin to announce new committee chairs and the composition of all committees during January, but if history is any indicator, that process will continue into February.

The November election also produced two-thirds super majorities of Democrats in both Houses of the Legislature, which was expected in the Assembly but not the Senate. While these super majorities will theoretically allow the Democrats to pass any and all things requiring a two-thirds vote, including, but not limited to taxes and constitutional amendments, given the number of "moderate" Democrats, specifically in the Assembly, many political pundits doubt there will be a flurry of taxes and other two-thirds vote issues pass, but those same pundits agree some high-profile measures will reach the Governor's desk.

Finally, while legislators may introduce bills the first day of a new session, few do, preferring to wait until January when their legislative priorities are more in focus. But the first day of the new session was special for CARPD and parks/open space communities, as not one, but two park bonds were introduced.

The first, [Assembly Bill 18](#) by Assembly Member Edu-

ardo Garcia is very similar to his park bond measure of last year, [Assembly Bill 2444](#).



The second measure, [Senate Bill 5](#) by Senate President pro Tempore De León also contains many of the provisions of his [Senate Bill 317](#) of 2015. Neither bill reached the Governor's desk, but both authors are highly motivated as evidenced by their early introduction of their respective measures.

Russ Noack prepared a document (see insert) comparing the major provisions of each bill, including AB 2444 or comparative purposes.

The CARPD Legislative Committee will be meeting soon to review and discuss AB 18 and SB 5, plus any other new legislation introduced prior to the meeting.

By Ralph Heim

## ARTICLE: BANNING ADULTS FROM PLAYGROUNDS?

I thought this article in the LA Times may be of interest regarding a proposed ban of adults unaccompanied by a child from playgrounds. As a result of all the kidnappings and child molestations, the City of Los Angeles is proposing a ban on adults unaccompanied by children from entering playgrounds in parks in Los Angeles in order to create a “safe haven” for children. The proposal has met with very mixed responses. Below is the article written by Dakota Smith, LA Times.



On a warm December day in Silver Lake, a nanny gently pushed a sleepy-looking toddler on a swing at a city playground. Nearby, children shouted out as they bounded into an oversized sandbox. Playgrounds are vital in Los Angeles, a city where many families live without backyards or balconies. There are more than 380 city playgrounds from Pacoima to San Pedro. Now, the city’s extensive collection of swing sets, monkey bars and slides is at the center of a debate over a

City Hall proposal to bar adults unaccompanied by children from entering playgrounds in parks. Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell’s proposal — aimed at protecting children but criticized as a case of government going too far — would essentially ban lone adults from hanging out in spaces meant for kids. The law would ensure that the city’s playgrounds are a “safe haven” for kids, according to O’Farrell’s motion. The proposal follows other laws targeting city parks, including bans on e-cigarettes and camping. But not everyone is rallying behind the Hollywood councilman’s plan, with some accusing O’Farrell of stigmatizing single people or labeling them as pedophiles.

Inflaming the situation, others have misinterpreted the law as banning adults in parks. “Nanny state gone wild: Los Angeles attempts to ban single adults from parks,” a national libertarian group tweeted this week. Reached Wednesday, an exasperated-sounding O’Farrell spokesman defended the proposed ordinance, which limits access to a playground in a city park to children and their accompanying parents and/or guardians. The motion would bolster an existing and

similar state law, spokesman Tony Arranaga said.



Adults without children could continue to use all the areas of the parks, he added, except the playgrounds, which are clearly marked by boundaries such as a gate, sand or other barriers. “[The council](#) member wants to make sure people can enjoy parks, but wants to make sure families are protected,” Arranaga said. New York, Santa Monica and Miami Beach have similar laws. And an existing state law prohibits loitering in areas where children congregate. At the playground in Silver Lake with other nannies, Elena Marin looked skeptical when asked what she thought about the O’Farrell proposal. “It’s not necessary,” Marin said, cradling a 1-year-old in her lap. “We look out for one another.” Marin cited one instance in which a man took photos of children in the playground, prompting the nannies to complain to park staff.

- For the Full Article please go to [LATimes.com](http://LATimes.com)



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## 2017 CARPD CONFERENCE - SANTA CRUZ, CA



### Mark Your Calendars!!!

The 2017 California Association for Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) conference is scheduled for May 18-20, 2017 at the Marriott Paradox in Santa Cruz, CA.

The conference will tentatively feature information on Round 2, The Effects on Minimum Wage Increase; Board of Director Responsibilities; CALPERS Liability; Liability Exposures; Say What You Mean/Mean What You Say; and Recruiting Teenage Workforce.

As in year's past, we will be having our Awards of Distinction ceremony on Saturday, May 20th. Start planning now to submit your applications for the following awards: **Large Districts:** Outstanding District, Outstanding New Facility, Outstanding Renovated Facility. **Small District:** Outstanding District, Outstanding Renovated Facility. **Individual/Group Awards:** Outstanding Technology, Social Media and Marketing, Outstanding Environmental Program, Outstanding Innovative Program, Outstanding Volunteer, Outstanding Professional, Outstanding Community Organization, and the **Jim Meredith Award**. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful and creative activities/programs our Districts are providing to their communities.

Similar to years past, we will be looking to award 2 scholarships for the conference. Watch for the scholarship applications to complete. We are looking forward to providing a very informative and entertaining conference to the Recreation and Park Districts.

**Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the 2017 CARPD Conference!**