



# Quarterly Newsletter



**Cindy Bagley:  
Your CPRS  
A-Team  
Chair**

**In conversation with Oscar Flores**

In late 2018 I had the distinct pleasure of joining the CPRS Legislative Committee Core Team who were at that time developing a succession plan for the committee and working on its rejuvenation. Without hesitation I jumped on board for the opportunity to work directly with two extraordinary veteran professionals – John Jones (former City of Torrance Recreation Department Director) and Pilar Alcivar-McCoy (former City of Signal Hill Recreation Department Director). They very quickly introduced me to Cindy Bagley (City of Rohnert Park, Deputy Director of Community Services) – quicker yet was that I recognized Cindy as a consummate professional with an impressive background. We all worked closely with Stephanie Stephens to reimagine and restructure the committee and born from this was the A-Team.

Cindy is a highly skilled, exceptionally intelligent, and wonderfully thoughtful park professional – the perfect person to lead the CPRS A-Team as we begin to turn the corner on COVID-19.

This is my interview with Cindy – Enjoy...

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## How A Bill Becomes a Law and What You Need to Know

**By Helen Hernandez**

While you are busy creating community through people, parks, programs, the California Legislature is busy governing the State through legislation. Some of this legislation can affect how we do business. Since it's been a while since that grade school California history class, we thought we would remind you how new laws come to be through bills. If you're ready to stop reading because we lost you at legislature, hang with me. Let's start with some definitions:

- **Legislature:** the legislative body of a country or state
- **Legislation:** laws, considered collectively
- **Legislator:** a person who makes laws; a member of a legislative body
- **Bill:** a draft of a proposed law presented to the legislature for discussion
- **Senate:** The California State Senate is the upper chamber of the California State Legislature
- **Assembly:** The California State Assembly is the lower house of the California State Legislature



Click the graphic to the left to be redirected to the website for the full-sized image.



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**California Park & Recreation Society**

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# Legislative Corner



## Prop 68 Per Capita Funding Reminder

All public park and recreation agencies are allocated a minimum of \$185,000 in per capita funding for parks with the passage of California Prop 68 in June 2018. If the park improvement is not done in a severely disadvantaged census tract, then there will be a 20% match, which can be done through staff time, volunteer time, donated equipment, or direct money match. Just a reminder, your agency has to submit a resolution by December 2021. To know how much your agency was awarded, please link to: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1008/files/Per\\_Capita\\_All\\_Allocations\\_Table\\_7.1.20\\_2.2.21.pdf](https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1008/files/Per_Capita_All_Allocations_Table_7.1.20_2.2.21.pdf)

## American Rescue Plan Act General Information

What grants are available? What can the funds be used for?  
By Frank Carson

[Click here to be directed to the A-Team Community page and see the latest grant information](#)

The U.S. Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) effective March 11, 2021. Most local agencies are still trying to figure-out how they are permitted to spend the monies they will be receiving over the next two years and have it all spent by 2024. Some highlights of ARPA:

1. Aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality (very broad).
2. Provide premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan city or county that are performing such essential work.
3. Recuperate reduction in revenue to local government or county due to the COVID-19 as prescribed as the revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the metropolitan city or county prior to the emergency.
4. Make necessary broadband infrastructure (fiber optic). This could be done to public facilities, such as recreation centers.
5. Local government funds will be distributed in two equal tranches, the first by **May 10, 2021**, and the second by **March 11, 2022**.
6. The money from this fund must be SPENT by December 31st, 2024
7. This money cannot be deposited in pension funds

The bill also introduced several grants in addition to the funding. The additional grant targeted areas. You can locate an excel sheet with the early estimate for each jurisdiction and what they will be receiving here:

<http://mrsc.org/getmedia/890be21a-fd86-449d-838f-62034fad90c5/m58covidLFRF.xlsx.aspx>

To read the actual text of H.R. 1319 please use the following link: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text#toc-H65C66E46488F4CB6ACD99E77DF090885>

# Proposed State Legislation Watch List as of April 20, 2021

## **AB 30 - KALRA: OUTDOOR ACCESS TO NATURE: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Current law establishes various state agencies, including the Natural Resources Agency, which consists of various departments, including the Department of Conservation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Current law vests in the Natural Resources Agency various powers, including those related to conservation of lands. Current law establishes, within state agencies, state departments, including the Department of Transportation under the Transportation Agency. This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state that access to nature and access to the benefits of nature is a human right and that every human has the right to safe and affordable outdoor access, among other things.

**REASON FOR ADDITION:** If enacted, this bill would elevate the importance of public access to green and outdoor spaces for all Californians.

**LEGISLATIVE STATUS / CPRS POSITION:** Re-referred to Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee / Committee Review

## **AB 672 - C.GARCIA: CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS; SECURING AN EQUITABLE PROCESS**

Would make it unlawful for a person to intentionally use or sell software or services to circumvent a security control or measure that is used to ensure an equitable campsite reservation making process for visitors, as specified. The bill would define "campsite reservation" to mean a reservation for an outdoor recreation or camping venue, including a state or local park, and includes specified park permits that are issued to a limited number of applicants. The bill would define "visitor" to mean a person who makes a campsite reservation with the intent to visit the outdoor recreation or camping venue for which the reservation is made.

**REASON FOR ADDITION:** This bill has the potential to facilitate the conversion of golf course lands (urban open-space, natural carbon sinks) to housing. Bill represents a challenging precedent for CPRS member agencies.

**LEGISLATIVE STATUS / CPRS POSITION:** Re-Referred to Assembly Housing and Community Development / Committee Review

## **AB 1500 - E. GARCIA: SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPARATION, FLOOD PROTECTION, EXTREME HEAT MITIGATION, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOND ACT OF 2022**

Would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,955,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

**REASON FOR POSITION:** Similar to SB 45, the Senate bond companion bill, this bill includes hundreds of millions of dollars for CPRS member agencies to invest in parks and resiliency projects to improve accessibility to green-space and combat climate change.

**LEGISLATIVE STATUS / CPRS POSITION:** Re-referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee / Support

## **SB 45 - PORTANTINO: WILDFIRE PREVENTION, SAFE DRINKING WATER, DROUGHT PREPARATION, AND FLOOD PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2022**

Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,595,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

**REASON FOR POSITION:** Similar to a significant degree to AB 1500 above, the Assembly bond companion bill. This particular bill includes hundreds of millions for adaption and resiliency projects. This bond is more conservancy centric and, unlike AB 1500, does not have specific allocations for park improvements.

**LEGISLATIVE STATUS / CPRS POSITION:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee / Support

## **SB 624 - HUESO: ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY AND OUTDOOR ACCESS ACT**

Would establish the Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act, which sets forth the state's commitment to ensuring all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources. The bill would make related findings and declarations regarding the importance of the state's natural resources and ensuring equal access to those resources. The bill would provide that the Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of the state to, among other things, promote inclusivity and representation and improve competency, as specified, among staff of the agency and each department, board, office, conservancy, and commission within the agency, to ensure all Californians and visitors of the state feel safe and welcome in the outdoors.

**REASON FOR ADDITION:** Similar to AB 30, this aspirational bill seeks to expand on policies that promote outdoor access among all Californians with a particular emphasis on communities of color.

**LEGISLATIVE STATUS / CPRS POSITION:** Re-referred to Senate Environmental Quality Committee / Committee Review

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**      **CONSTITUENTS**

Legislators' job is to represent the interests of their constituents. That means they work for you.

**RESEARCH YOUR LEGISLATOR**

[www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers)  
[www.senate.ca.gov/senators](http://www.senate.ca.gov/senators)

Not sure who your legislators are?  
[www.findyourep.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.findyourep.legislature.ca.gov)

**Here's how you can contact them:**

### CALL & WRITE THEM

- TIP 1** Know the name of your legislator.
- TIP 2** Plan out what you will say. Be prepared to provide your home address.
- TIP 3** Remember to mention the bill number & why you are contacting your legislator. (i.e. "Vote yes on SB xxxx!")
- TIP 4** Make it short and sweet.
- TIP 5** Tell a personal story, if you have one.
- TIP 6** Frame the problem, solution, & action.

### MEET THEM IN PERSON

- STEP ONE** Schedule your meeting.
- STEP TWO** Be flexible and patient.
- STEP THREE** Prepare, educate yourself, & establish a clear goal.
- STEP FOUR** Make a clear ask (i.e. "Vote yes on SB xxxx") & take notes.
- STEP FIVE** Follow up & say thank you!

### CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS EARLY & OFTEN

Make sure you sign up for our e-mail action alerts at [aclu.org](http://aclu.org) for timely opportunities to contact your legislators.

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Generally, one or two members of the legislature create a bill to send to a committee that is made up of a group of legislators. These committees host some debate before they decide if they want to send the bill to the larger group also known as "the floor". And so begins the long journey of a bill becoming a law. Click on the graphic to the right to see a clearer image of the whole process.

### WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

Great question. CPRS has a lobbyist, named Doug Houston, who tracks bills being introduced that could negatively or positively impact our profession. Doug shares the information with members of the A-team. We then review the bill to determine whether or not CPRS should actively or passively support, oppose, or watch a bill.

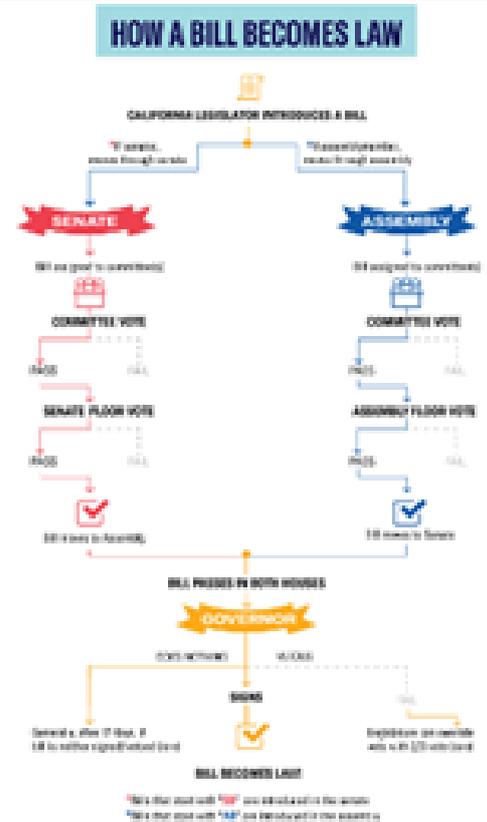
If a bill seems like it would significantly impact our profession, we then take

action to ensure your voices are heard as the bill makes its way through the legislative process.

The members of the A-Team are all members of a District or Section Board, ensuring that the entire membership is represented.

Not only are we here to watch legislation on your behalf, but The A-Team is here to help you understand how to advocate for your needs to your elected officials. To begin, you can always call, write, email, or visit your local legislators who can provide much needed support on a wide variety of topics in your district, including funding. Be sure to stay informed on what is happening in regards to local parks and recreation legislation by connecting with your A-Team.

\*Source: [aclusocal.org/guidetolegislature](http://aclusocal.org/guidetolegislature)



<https://youtu.be/FFroMQIKiag>



**Double click to watch this classic video on how a bill becomes a law**

# ADVOCACY

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## **OF: Tell us about the CPRS A-Team and its purpose/goals.**

CB: The Advocacy Team (A-Team) has come together to re-invent the way we talk about advocacy. Our goal is to not only influence policy and decision makers, but to empower one another, and others, to tell our story. We are in the quality of life profession and there are so many avenues in which we can use our story to continue to propel our profession forward. The A-team will work for CPRS members to research legislation that can positively or negatively impact our services. The A-Team will share stories of successes from agencies across the State. The A-Team will work with every District and Section Board in CPRS to ensure that they have an advocate. The A-Team will help you craft language to share with your City Managers, Board of Directors, and City Council Members. The A-Team is ultimately here to help you thrive and ensure that everyone recognizes that we are the soul of the Cities and Towns in which we work.

## **OF: How did the pandemic affect the A-Team's vision/initiatives?**

CB: There was not a lot of legislative action for the A-team to follow over the last year. The downtime, however, did give the A-Team a chance to really focus on a plan for communicating and engaging with the membership.

## **OF: What are your duties as the A-Team Chair?**

CB: Gosh, my duties include leading a team of bright, capable, enthusiastic professionals and doing what I can to provide them with the support and tools they need to be successful. I also work very closely with Stephanie Stephens, CRPS Executive Director, and Doug Houston, CPRS lobbyist regarding strategies around legislation that could impact Parks and Recreation.



## **OF: What do you see as your main objective as Chair?**

CB: My main objective is to get better in my role with every day that passes. I want to create a space where every recreation professional understands legislation that impacts our profession, understands how to tell our story, and feels like they have a place to seek advice when needing to advocate for themselves or their department.

## **OF: What are two ways in which any park professional can begin to advocate for the profession and their rec department?**

CB:

1. The easiest way is to start talking about what you do to everyone you know. Our story tells itself, all we have to do is start the conversation.
2. Create relationships with the residents in the City or District for which you work. The best way for our story to be heard is for it to be told by the people that benefit from it. When our constituents can connect people (you) to the profession, our parks and services become personal to them. And people fight for what's personal.

## **OF: Where do you see CPRS being by the end of 2021 and what role will the A-Team play in this?**

CB: Open! I certainly hope by the end of the year, parks and recreation services are fully open and providing safe spaces for our residents to experience wellness. CPRS is actively advocating through many avenues to get specific reopening guidelines for the services we provide to include special events, facility rentals, leisure classes, and senior centers. Our vision is that these attempts will reach a connecting point and we will have played a pivotal role in getting our services re-open.

## Your Story matters!

CONTACT YOUR  
DISTRICT OR  
SECTION A-TEAM  
REPRESENTATIVE  
TO SHARE YOUR  
STORY AND GET  
FEATURED IN OUR  
QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER



**OF: What’s your favorite rec story as a park visitor?**

CB: All of my favorite childhood memories took place in the local park down the street from my house. My siblings and I used to play on the playground for hours, taking breaks in between to catch tadpoles in the creek. It’s where I would hang out with my friends as I got older, and where I would meet boys (shh, don’t tell my parents). It was the safest place in my world outside my own home. My parents still live in my childhood home and now that same park (with a better play structure, of course) is where my children and their cousins are creating memories of their own. I will always consider that park "my park" and there are probably one hundred other children that say that same thing.

My favorite part of working in this profession is watching the growth of everyone around me. This could be watching a kid graduate from high school that I met as an 8 year old in our youth basketball program; or a troubled youth in our teen program start making positive life choices; or one of our part-time staff going off into the world to affect change in their own profession; or my full-time staff gaining confidence and becoming more innovative and courageous because of it. This profession is one that helps people recognize a higher quality of life and it shows at all levels.

**OF: How has the pandemic highlighted the vital services provided by P&R departments – pre and mid COVID?**

CB: It goes without saying that our parks were highlighted as a vital part of the physical and emotional wellbeing of the residents in California during COVID-19, from walking and biking trails, to our playgrounds and ball fields. The demand for our outdoor spaces was unprecedented. I believe that COVID-19 helped remind people that before their world was scheduled with the hustle and bustle of kids, sports, work, groceries, and the everyday chaos of life, that their local park was there to provide them with a safe place to exercise, experience nature, and play with their toddlers. Everyone already knew that "Parks Make Life Better" and COVID reinforced that in every possible way.

**OF: One year into COVID-19, what has been the biggest shift that P&R professionals and departments have had to make?**

CB: There are so many ways to answer this question, and perhaps it’s a little different for every agency. It also morphed as the pandemic went on. It’s an interesting term "biggest shift" because in my perception we did exactly what we always do, and that is to create quality of life experiences for those we serve. The way we did it changed, and I suppose that would be the biggest shift. We converted our services from in-person to virtual; as full-time professionals we got back on the lifeguard stand, out at camp, or on the soccer field because our cities couldn’t continue to pay our part-time staff; and we helped other city departments by offering our staff to support the needs of the City as a whole.

Recreation stepped up and provided distance learning support programs and after-school programs, helped with meal distributions, contacted senior citizens to check-in on their mental health, and created virtual activities and events. When there was a service needed for our residents, Recreation was the first place the City turned to because we are the people department. We are event planners, and traffic controllers, and chaos organizers. COVID made our profession shine even though we often felt dim.

*“Covid made our profession shine even though we often felt dim”*  
 – CINDY BAGLEY

**OF: What’s your favorite rec story as a park professional?**

CB: There are too many stories as a professional to share just one, so I will share a concept instead.

## STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Tom Hellmann, President

City of Folsom

### Frank Carson, President-Elect

City of El Cajon

### Doug Grove, Vice President

RHA Landscape Architects

### Nicole Acquisti, Secretary-Treasurer

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### Section Representative

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