**CARPD NEWSLETTER ARTICLE**

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“Better later than never”

Landmark Parks and Water Bond Bill Signed

[Senate Bill 5](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB5) by Kevin de León, the President pro Tempore of the Senate, was one of the first bills introduced this Session, one of the last bills to be passed by the Legislature before adjournment, and one of the very last bills to be signed by Governor Brown. On October 15th, the Governor signed SB 5, which will place a $4 Billion general obligation bond measure on the June 2018 Primary Ballot. As indicated by its title, “The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018”, the bill touches a wide range of natural resource areas.

During the last month of the Session, the coalition pushing for the passage of a parks and water bond bill this year increased the pressure on the State Legislature by holding public rallies both in Sacramento and throughout the State. The advocates for various groups within the coalition (including your advocates) walked the hallways on a daily basis to garner votes.

By early September, after lengthy discussions with Governor Brown, Senator de León and Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia, the author of [Assembly Bill 18](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB18) (the Assembly Park Bond bill), agreed to the final features of the $4 Billion package, which was amended into SB 5 in the Assembly. The bill moved through both Houses of the Legislature late on the last night of the Session.

I have provided a summary grid of the many provisions of SB 5 to our membership. Please review these categories for possible application for your district. With particular relevance to us, the bill provides $200 Million for per capita grants to local governments for local park rehabilitation and improvement grants. A minimum grant of $200,000 is allocated to a city or district and a minimum of $400,000 for each county as specified in the bill. Further, $15 Million in grants are allocated for cities and districts with populations of 200,000 or less; $725 Million is provided for “park-poor neighborhoods” in accordance with the statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008; and $48 Million is allocated for underserved park communities in the Central Valley, rural, gateway and desert communities.

SB 5 would not have passed this year without the dedication and tenacity of many of the CARPD members. Please know all of the groups participating in the parks and water coalition owe an enormous debt of gratitude to you. Now on to the campaign to obtain voter approval at the June 2018 Primary!

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