

PRESS RELEASE

Contact information
Desert Recreation District
Scott Sear
760.347.3484
ssear@drd.us.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Desert Recreation District General Manager Kevin Kalman Announces Retirement After 27 Years of Service

Indio, CA – 5/7/2025– After 27 years of transformative leadership with the Desert Recreation District (DRD), General Manager Kevin Kalman has announced his retirement, with his final day set for July 12, 2025.

Kalman began his public service career with DRD in 1998 and was appointed General Manager in 2011 of California's largest Parks and Recreation District, serving more than 385,000 residents across 14 diverse communities. His tenure has been defined by major achievements in expanding access to recreation, improving facilities, building lasting partnerships, and ensuring that every resident, regardless of background or income, has access to quality parks and programs.



"For me, this has never just been a job, it's been a true calling," said Kalman. "I'm so proud of what we've built together over these years. DRD is more than an organization, it's a community. I've had the privilege of working alongside some of the most dedicated, passionate people I've ever known. I'll always be grateful for the relationships, the challenges, and the opportunities that made this journey so rewarding."

While Kevin Kalman steps into retirement, the values and vision he championed will continue to shape DRD. His leadership laid a foundation for thriving programs, safe parks, and strong community ties that will carry forward for years to come. Throughout his time with DRD, Kalman remained active in statewide and national organizations including California Association of Recreation and Park Districts, California Parks and Recreation Society, California Special Districts Association, and National Recreation and Parks Association, always advocating for the role of recreation in building healthier, safer, and more connected communities.

From a statement on behalf of the entire Desert Recreation District Board of Directors: the Board of Directors express our deepest gratitude to Kevin Kalman for his many years of outstanding leadership. Kevin has been a remarkable leader whose heart for the community has helped shape the Desert Recreation District into a trusted and thriving institution. His dedication, vision, and steady guidance have left an indelible mark, not only on the organization but on the lives of those we serve.

As we move forward with a peaceful leadership transition, we are confident that the mission and goals of the District will continue to thrive. Kevin's legacy lives on through the strong team he has built, and we are committed to supporting employee morale, continuity, and a shared vision for the future. We thank Kevin for his service and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

About

[Desert Recreation District](#) (DRD) is the largest park and recreation district in California, covering 1,865 square miles and serving over 380,000 residents across the greater Coachella Valley. Our mission is to work closely with municipalities to ensure that every community, regardless of economic status, has access to quality recreation services. DRD manages and maintains more than 43 parks and recreation facilities, offering a wide range of programs, services, and classes designed to enrich the lives of our residents. We believe in the power of partnerships, collaborating with public, private, and nonprofit organizations to create opportunities for leisure, fitness, and community engagement. Our work is dedicated to promoting physical health, relaxation, and revitalization; fostering strong families and supporting individuals with disabilities; and enhancing the overall vibrancy of our community. By contributing to healthier lifestyles, a sense of belonging, and increased tourism, DRD plays an essential role in the economic and social well-being of the region. To find out more, visit MyRecreationDistrict.com