



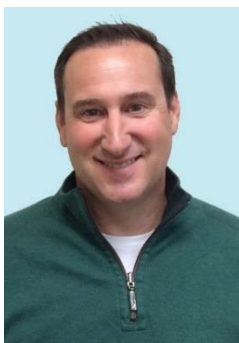
# MEDIA RELEASE



## DRD’s Kevin Kalman wins Outstanding General Manager Award

*Substantial contribution to recreation in the Coachella Valley recognized by California Association of Recreation and Park Districts*

Indio, CA (June 1, 2017) – Desert Recreation District (DRD) is pleased to announce that the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) has awarded its Outstanding General Manager of the Year 2017 recognition to Kevin Kalman. Mr. Kalman has served DRD with commitment for nearly two decades in various roles including senior management, and then in 2011 he assumed the helm as General Manager.



During his 30-year career in Parks & Recreation, Mr. Kalman has made significant contributions to advance the interests of parks and recreation by improving the quality of life through a community collaborative approach. Under his leadership, Desert Recreation District’s vision is to provide quality, barrier-free, and safe recreational activities that contribute to the overall wellness of the citizens of the Coachella Valley.

In the past few years, Mr. Kalman’s accomplishments include finalizing negotiations with Riverside County in July 2015 whereby DRD assumed the management oversight of three new recreation facilities, which gave DRD the ability the expand service delivery in underserved areas; in that same month, Mr. Kalman’s dedication to bringing much needed parks to remote and rural areas of the eastern Coachella Valley was realized when DRD closed escrow on a 15-acre parcel of land. In September of 2016 the first phase of that dream became a reality as DRD opened a newly constructed temporary soccer park on 5 acres in the community of Oasis which gave the children a safe soccer field to play on, the first and only in this unincorporated community of Oasis.

Mr. Kalman continues to work locally alongside Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, who was just recognized as State Legislator of the year, as well as in Sacramento to improve rural park funding for the benefit of the residents and visitors who enjoy the Coachella Valley.



*“I commend Kevin Kalman for his outstanding work for the Desert Recreation District. Under his leadership and vision our community has seen some of the most innovative approaches to parks and recreation. I want to thank him for all his efforts to advocate for increased investments in parks and particularly underserved areas.” proudly recommended Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56<sup>th</sup> District.*

The CARPD Award recipients were recognized at the May 18 - 20, 2017 CARPD conference in Santa Cruz, California.

### The Desert Recreation District

*The Desert Recreation District (DRD) provides quality recreation experiences to residents throughout the Greater Coachella Valley. DRD manages, maintains and assists in maintaining over 30 parks and recreation facilities; creates and delivers quality programs, services and classes; and, facilitates leisure opportunities through partnerships that encourage residents to engage in healthy lifestyles and wellness activities. DRD host’s events such as the Senior Games and partners with health care organizations such as Kaiser Permanente to fund scholarships for swim lessons and junior lifeguard classes. DRD is funded through tax dollars, special assessments, grants and nominal charges assigned to select classes and events. Over the last year, DRD offered over 2,800 classes and programs and more than 200 special events.*

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