



Paradise Recreation and Park District

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paradise Community Center Non-Profit Wins Award

Outstanding Community Organization Award from the CA Association of Recreation and Park Districts

Paradise, CA, July 8, 2026 – The California Association of Recreation and Park Districts' (CARPD) honored the Paradise Community Center (PCC) with the Outstanding Community Organization Award of Distinction, at CARPD's annual Conference in Monterey on May 28, 2026.

The 2018 Camp Fire destroyed the original Senior Center, abruptly removing a welcoming space where for decades, residents of all ages could connect, celebrate, learn, and support one another. The loss left a deep void across the Paradise Ridge.

With strong support from the Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD, District) the PCC Board chose action, commitment, and renewal. Armed with a North Valley Community Foundation Planning and Outreach grant and clear community support with over 500 respondents and insurance and fire settlement proceeds, Board members worked tirelessly to reimagine the facility, into a place where community members of all ages could connect once again.

The District nominated the non-profit organization and its directors for the state-wide award. District Manager, Dan Efseaff noted, "Rising from the ashes of the 2018 Camp Fire, the PCC stands as a powerful symbol of determination, renewal, and community spirit. The rebuilding of the Center reflects the unwavering commitment of the PCC Directors who refused to let the loss of a cherished gathering place define Paradise's future."

The District's nomination materials note, "Through their dedication and tenacity, these individuals delivered a sparkling new 10,000-square-foot, multi-functional, energy efficient solar-power center that stands as a testament to perseverance. The new commercial kitchen once again supports meals, classes, and community events. Multiple meeting rooms and office spaces enable programs of all sizes, while the welcoming foyer invites connection and showcases local artwork. The expansive main hall invites celebrations, performances, classes, and community gatherings."

Mike Shores, a PCC director, accepting the CARPD award noted, "When you work in the non-profit

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sector, you don't do it for the accolades. You do it because you love your community, and you want to build spaces where people can gather, heal, grow, and thrive. But being noticed by our peers, especially an organization as dedicated as PRPD, fills our entire board with immense pride.”

In December 2025, the PCC Board transferred stewardship of the new facility to the District, confident in the District’s ability to manage, grow, and expand the Center’s role as a recreational and social cornerstone.

Since the transfer, the District provides senior drop-in hours to foster connections, yoga and dance classes, fitness programs, canning classes, and summer camps, and growing interest from community organizations seeking to host public events.

Efseaff added “PRPD, along with the entire region, extends its deepest gratitude to the dedicated residents who made this achievement possible. Their vision and perseverance have created a gathering place that will serve, inspire, and strengthen Paradise for generations to come.”

The nomination materials noted that the “Paradise Community Center represents far more than a rebuilt structure; it is a cornerstone of recovery and a promise of shared future. Congratulations to the PCC Board on their well-deserved Outstanding Community Organization award.”



Mike Shores (center), PCC Board representative, receives award at the CARPD Conference. Others pictured are (l-r) Sarah Hoffman (PRPD), Dan Efseaff (PRPD), Steve Rodowick (PRPD), Mike Shores (PCC), Al McGreehan (PRPD), and Kirk Andre (CARPD).



PCC Board cuts ribbon at opening of Community Center in October 2025



PCC Board: Jan Keller, Doug Runkle, Cheryl Habriel, Bill Hopman, Connie Wilhite, Mike Shores



PCC Building Exterior

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Since 1948, the Paradise Recreation and Park District provides recreation facilities and programs to the residents of Paradise, the Butte Creek Canyon area, and the unincorporated communities of Magalia, Paradise Pines, Concow, and Yankee Hill. The District serves 50,000 people living in a 170-square mile area and manages over 1,000 acres of park land and facilities.

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