



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: (805) 584-4400

FOR RELEASE: 7/9/21

**RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT'S
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & MAINTENANCE HONORED**

The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District is proud to announce that Wayne Nakaoka, the District's Director of Planning and Maintenance, was recently honored as the Employee of the Year by the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD). CARPD is a 501c(6), non-profit organization representing special recreation and park districts throughout California that provides support allowing park districts to fulfill their role as providers of quality programs and facilities to their local communities.

Mr. Nakaoka has been employed with the Park District for over 35 years and has transformed the communities of Simi Valley and Oak Park, making immeasurable contributions to the quality of life of generations of residents who call Simi Valley and Oak Park home.

Since November 1986 when Wayne was originally hired, community parks within the District have increased by 112 acres, neighborhood parks have increased by 1066 acres, natural parks have increased by 425 acres, and open space has increased by 4340 acres, totaling nearly 6000 acres in additional parks and recreation service area that the District has acquired from 1978 to 2020.

Wayne is responsible for the construction of dozens of new parks and facilities in Simi Valley and Oak Park including: Runkle Canyon Park, Chumash Park, Berylwood Skate Plaza, splash pads, tennis courts, new play grounds, Rancho Simi Community Park lagoon renovation, disc golf courses and so much more.



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He supervises a team of 6 Planning Staff, as well as over 60 Maintenance Staff, and played a critical role in moving the entire Maintenance Department into their beautiful new facility after nearly 60 years in the old facility. Wayne brings vast knowledge of not only the history of the District, but of planning and maintenance issues, local laws and regulations, building codes and ordinances and so much more, making him an invaluable employee and an expert in his field.

Most recently, Mr. Nakaoka played an integral part in the completion of multiple fire recovery projects after the devastating Woolsey Fire in November of 2018. The District suffered \$6 million dollars in losses and damages which required Wayne to re-focus his time, energy and resources into rebuilding the caretaker's residence, maintenance shop, playgrounds, Oak Park lagoon, and replace nearly a dozen vehicles and multiple pieces of park equipment that were burned, all while maintaining a balanced budget despite the significant revenue losses resulting from COVID-19 related program and facility closures.

Park District Chair of the Board, Mr. Brian Dennert stated, "We are very proud of Wayne's accomplishments, are honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside him, and grateful to be among the beneficiaries of his skill, knowledge, and devotion to his life's work in creating beautiful spaces for us to recreate and enjoy for many years to come."

Visit www.rsrpd.org, call (805) 584-4400, or email info@rsrpd.us for more information.

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Wayne Nakaoka, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Director of Planning & Maintenance and honored 2020 Employee of the Year by the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD)

