

## MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

### **DRD's Joanne Gilbert awarded Outstanding Board Member by California Parks and Recreation Society for her significant contribution to recreation in the Coachella Valley**

Indio, CA (October 6, 2020) – Desert Recreation District (DRD) is pleased to announce that the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) District 11 has recognized Joanne Gilbert as its Outstanding Board Member. Ms. Gilbert represents the Indio Area Division 3. Her service to DRD spans two decades, and she also serves on the non-profit Desert Recreation Foundation (DRF) board of directors. Ms. Gilbert is a strong ambassador for DRD, with specific emphasis on our youth. She participates at events whenever called upon, and her belief in recreation as an important aspect of the growth and development of our youth have driven her to identify and connect resources that collectively deliver valuable experiences to them.



Over the years she was a founding board member of Indio Youth Sports Association, Director of Girls Softball and for 10 years served as a Girls Softball Coach. She was the National Make a Difference Day co-chairman with the Desert Contractors Association, and co-chairman of the Indio Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship Committee. Ms. Gilbert was also one of the planners of the Latino Police Officers Association Toys for Tots drive, and an Adopt a Family organizer for several years.

"We are thrilled that Director Gilbert has been recognized by the California Parks and Recreation Society for her long-standing dedication to Parks and Recreation, organizational leadership and serving our community. Director Gilbert is truly a worthy recipient of this honor" said Desert Recreation District's General Manager Kevin Kalman.

As a decision maker, she has been involved in the acquisition of various facilities and land for parks, as well as partnering with public and private organizations to provide programming. For the past two decades, she has been a part of acquiring recreational resources that include eight Community Centers, nine park sites, acquired and renovated a nine-hole par 3 golf course, driving range, and multiple putting greens; renovated three community centers, four parks, and one swimming pool; and she has paved the way for interagency agreements currently totaling more than \$1.5 million annually for parks and recreation services.

The needs of the constituents she serves are her top priority, and she is committed to focusing on the issues that are key to DRD attaining its goals and objectives while pursuing its mission. Ms. Gilbert has earned the respect and gratitude of the constituents she serves and her colleagues.

#### **About Desert Recreation District**

[Desert Recreation District](#) (DRD) is the largest park and recreation district in California, covering over 1,800 square miles and serving more than 385,000 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 – this community collaborative approach allows us to provide barrier-free and safe recreational activities. DRD strives to ensure the public receives personal benefits such as physical fitness, relaxation and revitalization; social benefits in the form of stronger and healthier families and enriching the lives for persons with disabilities, and economic benefits through more productive and healthier citizens and increased tourism.

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