



For Immediate Release

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California Park & Recreation Society District 11 Awards

JURUPA VALLEY, CA (April 4, 2018) – The California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) District 11 announced Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD) Board Member, Richard “Dickie” Simmons, as a 2018 Community Champion Award winner. City of Eastvale Mayor Pro Tem, Todd Rigby was also named a winner in the 2018 Community Champion category. In addition, Richard “Ric” Welch, JCSD Director of Parks & Community Affairs, was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award by CPRS. Founded in 1946, CPRS is a non-profit, professional and public interest organization with close to 4,000 members; its mission is to advance the parks and recreation profession through education, networking resources and advocacy. Awards are based on the nominee’s contributions to the development or improvement of facilities or programs that enhance parks and recreation services. Award recipients may be either elected officials, volunteers, or staff. District 11 is comprised of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The Annual Awards Installation Banquet was held on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at the Eastvale Community Center.

Director Simmons was JCSD’s 2018 nominee because of his continued dedication to parks and recreation programs and community events. Director Simmons, also known as “Mr. Eastvale,” has served as a member of the Eastvale City Council, Eastvale Schools Committee, and Eastvale Parks Commission. His support of JCSD Parks & Recreation has created new recreational and educational opportunities for residents including expanded youth programming and activities. As a former police officer, Director Simmons has a keen sense of the importance of safety in the parks and has become an advocate for the safety and wellness of the community.

Todd Rigby was also nominated by JCSD for his commitment and dedication to the City of Eastvale, especially his extensive support of recreation programs and initiatives. Aside from being Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Rigby volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America, his church, and local sports organizations. He is on the Corona-Norco Unified School District Measure GG Oversight Committee and a member of the Eastvale Parks Commission.

Richard "Ric" Welch received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for his illustrious career with JCSD. Mr. Welch joined JCSD in 2007 with the vision to provide park services, community events, and recreation programs through a community services district that was only funded for the operations of park facilities. Under the leadership of Mr. Welch, notable achievements include the opening of nine parks, the Harada Heritage Park Neighborhood Center, Eastvale Community Park, and the Eastvale Community Center. In 2015, JCSD Parks & Recreation Department became one of four entities in the state of California to receive national accreditation from the National Recreation and Parks Association Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

For more information about the California Park & Recreation Society visit <http://www.cprs.org/> or call (916) 665-2777.

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About JCSD

Founded in 1956, the Jurupa Community Services District is a public governmental agency which provides services and programs to the cities of Jurupa Valley and Eastvale. It is governed by five elected representatives (Board of Directors) from both cities. Serving over 130,000 people in a 40-square-mile area, JCSD provides a variety of community services and programs including water, sewer, street lights, frontage landscape maintenance, graffiti abatement, and parks and recreation services.