



May 2017

The  
**BACKUP**  
Newsletter

The Official Publication of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association

Don't Miss **ARPOC 2017**



*Crowne Plaza Hotel Mission Valley - San Diego*

To book your room online, go to: [special booking website](#).

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*August 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>*

**Surviving Police Work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** - This presentation will properly prepare you to understand best practices, contemporary police tactics, and lawful use of force options for on and off-duty situations.

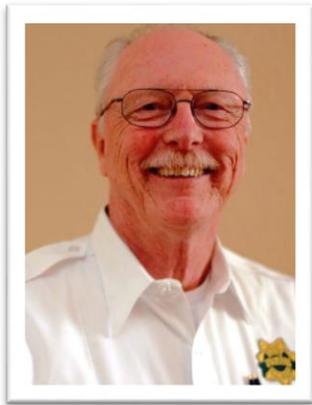
**Active Shooter and Tactical Clearing Course** - This training course is designed for individuals or teams and will focus on skills involving exterior cover and movement.

**Tactical Casualty Care (TCC)** - This is not a first aid class! It is a tactical medical class teaching you how to apply the latest best-practice trauma skills in hostile combat zones.

**Firearms Law – Federal and State Legal Update and Practical Tips** - Topics to be discussed include the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act and developments since the passage of Assembly Bill 703.

**A Special Invitation from the US Custom and Border Protection...** A tour that will focus on the first 10 miles of the border. While they will not be able to visit the more remote rugged terrain of our sector, we will focus on the technology, infrastructure and violence on the border. (Sorry! no POST credit for this special event.)

**ARPOC Conference Classes and Registration materials will be ready for you soon.**



# Legislative Update-Report

By Pete Downs

## May 2017 Legislative Update

Our bill AB 1192, is currently winding its way through the legislature. Assembly Member Lackey and his staff (Legislative Director Elisa Arcidiacono and Legislative Assistant Mark Isaac Isidro) have done a spectacular job of moving the bill.

The bill was introduced on February 17. After being referred to the rules committee for assignment to a standing committee it was sent to the Assembly Committee on Public Safety on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The bill was heard in a hearing of the committee on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

I traveled to Sacramento on the 18<sup>th</sup> in order to work the bill with the committee members on the day before the hearing and answer any last minute questions that the members might have. I got word that evening that the bill would be “on consensus” for the hearing and would pass out of committee without any need for a formal vote. It looked like clear sailing for us in the Public Safety Committee.

The hearing was scheduled to start at 08:30 and the room was packed. It seemed that there was a bill before the committee to modify the bail bond system to require fewer arrestees to obtain a bond for release. There must have been 75 to 100 bond agents ready to give their names in opposition to the bill.

The bills on consensus are always heard at the top of the agenda and the bills were listed. Our bill AB 1192 had been removed from the list at the request of one of the committee members and it would have to be presented to the committee. Mr. Lackey and I had met the day before and we were ready, after discussing strategy.

The bail bond bill finally came up at about 09:30 and was the first bill to be heard. The author presented the bill to the committee and testimony in support was given. Next came the opposition to the bill and other testimony in opposition. That is when the parade of bond agents started and went on for at least 20 minutes.

Next came comments from the committee members both in favor and in opposition to the bill. After a brief statement Mr. Lackey, as Vice Chair of the committee, relinquished his time for comments in opposition to Dog the Bounty Hunter, who it seems had flown in from Hawaii to testify at the hearing against the bill. His celebrity gave him lots of time to make his points. Normally, testimony is limited to 3 minutes but Dog took almost 15 minutes, and I have to say, he was an effective speaker. The bill failed to pass out of committee.

Then it was on to the list of bills that remained on the committee agenda.

Our bill finally came up for presentation at 12:30. When the bill was called the legislator that knocked it off consensus changed her mind and allowed it to pass out of committee. The official vote was 7 to 0. Now it moved to the Assembly floor.

Fast forward to May 11<sup>th</sup>. We amended the bill to become an urgency measure (requiring a 2/3 vote) so that we have a chance of getting it signed before the July 1 deadline, to surrender or remove from the state all high capacity magazines. After being read for the third time it finally came up for a vote in the Assembly. Mr. Lackey did a great job of advocating for reserve officers and their justification for retaining their high-capacity magazines. There was no discussion or statements in opposition and the vote came up quickly. Final tally was 57 in favor and 1 opposed.

It is now “across the desk” (the first step for a bill) in the Senate waiting for assignment to a committee for hearing. Our timeline is tight to get it through the Senate and to the Governor for signature before July 1 but we will push it as hard as we can. I also want to recognize Devon Anderson of our lobbying firm, Political Solutions. We were fortunate to secure Political Solutions pro bono but you couldn’t tell that from the effort that they have put into getting this bill through the legislature. We couldn’t have done it without them.

**Pete Downs is a CRPOA Director, Co-Chairman of the Law & Legislation Committee and a volunteer in policing with the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office.**

**We thank Pete Downs for his legislative efforts and update. You may contact him at [Downs@CRPOA.org](mailto:Downs@CRPOA.org)**

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# *Pasadena reserve officer riding horse to Washington D.C. to raise awareness for Vietnam veterans*

By [Jason Henry](#), *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*



Colt Romberger, a Pasadena police reserve officer, gets a fist bump from a Pasadena police officer along Colorado Boulevard towards Monrovia for Expedition Orange tour in Pasadena, CA., Thursday, May 4, 2017. Colt Romberger is starting a six-month journey by horseback to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness about the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans. (Photo by James Carbone for the Pasadena Star News/SCNG)

A Pasadena Police Department reserve officer started day three of an expected six-month ride on horseback across the country Thursday morning at Pasadena’s Elks Lodge.

Colt Romberger, a reserve officer since 2012, decided to make the trek to the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., in honor of his father, a Vietnam veteran who died in 2015 from a brain disease tied to exposure to Agent Orange, a chemical weapon used by U.S. military forces during the war.

“These guys are dying from something that happened to them 40 years ago,” Romberger said. “We’re trying to do this so that the nation as a whole can finally welcome these guys home.”

Agent Orange was a herbicide used by the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. Decades later, the herbicide has been connected to health issues experienced by soldiers exposed to the chemical.

Through the nonprofit [Expedition Orange](#), Romberger hopes to raise awareness about the chemical, not just with the general public, but with veterans who may not realize the effects the exposure could have on them. The 3,000-mile journey began on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles with a police escort guiding Romberger and his horse through the city streets.

On Thursday, an escort led Romberger through the streets of Pasadena, beginning at the Elks Lodge on Colorado Boulevard. Police departments throughout the region have “been stellar” in helping Romberger, an Air Force veteran, get through their communities without issue, he said.

A family friend is following along on the journey with a trailer and portable stable for the horse. Romberger also has additional horses to switch to as needed if his current horse begins to show signs of exhaustion or becomes injured.

Though the journey is slow, Romberger, who grew up on a horse ranch, said breaks are scheduled throughout the trip to ensure the horses stay healthy. The goal is to travel about 15 to 20 miles per day.

The trip was planned over the last two years. Donations to the group will help fund the trip and raise awareness, but Romberger is hoping the publicity will allow the group to expand Expedition Orange to help fulfill the wishes of veterans affected by Agent Orange. The group raised about \$10,000 through a GoFundMe campaign.

“We want to give you a proper thank-you and a welcome home,” Romberger said, describing it as a sort of “Make-A-Wish” for veterans. “If you always wanted to go see an NFL football game, we want to get you a ticket.”



Colt Romberger, Pasadena police reserve officer, with “Gus” get ready to ride along Colorado Boulevard through Old Pasadena toward Monrovia for Expedition Orange Tour in Pasadena CA., Thursday May 4, 2017. Colt Romberger is starting a six-month journey by horseback to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness about the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans. (Photo by James Carbone for the Pasadena Star News)

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**Making A Difference - think about it**

*You must not lose faith in humanity.*

*Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty,  
the ocean does not become dirty.*

Mahatma Gandhi

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## 2017 CRPOA Awards Announcement

The California Reserve Peace Officers Association is proud to announce the Annual Awards Program for 2017. We invite you to nominate a deserving member of your organization for one of several recognition awards.

The awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon to be held at 12 noon on Friday, August 18, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, CA. The luncheon is held in conjunction with ARPOC 2017, the Annual Reserve Peace Officers Conference, which offers 28 hours of POST approved training.

Do not miss out on an opportunity to honor a deserving individual within your organization. Reserve peace officers, search and rescue members and volunteers in policing as well as reserve coordinators.

Review the award nomination information to determine which award is best suited to your nominee. Along with the Award Nomination Application, a letter of nomination must be submitted detailing the nominee's qualifications and accomplishments. Documentation supporting the nomination letter should be included. Questions can be forwarded to [nancy@crpoa.org](mailto:nancy@crpoa.org). Nominations must be submitted no later than July 1, 2017.

We look forward to receiving your nomination.

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All questions about the nomination process can be forwarded to Nancy Elam, Awards Committee Chairman at [nancy@crpoa.org](mailto:nancy@crpoa.org) or by phone at 408-309-8756.

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**Award Criteria** Please note, in 2013 the CRPOA Board of Directors voted to modify the time restriction on awards to three years. You may now submit nomination for events which occurred up to three years ago. The Board will also consider exceptions for older events on a case-by-case basis.

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### **Award for Valor**

For an act of conspicuous bravery in the line of duty, performed in conscious disregard of peril to the officer. To be awarded, all of the following criteria must exist:

- ◆ The bravery exhibited must be above and beyond that expected in the line of duty.
- ◆ Failure to take such action would not justify censure.
- ◆ The risk to the officer's life actually existed and the officer was able to perceive the risk and disregard it.
- ◆ The objective was of sufficient importance to justify the risk.
- ◆ The officer accomplished the objective or was prevented from accomplishing it by incurring serious injury or death.

Notes: - The criteria for this award include consciousness of the peril and the disregard thereof. Thus, merely finding Oneself in the middle of a perilous situation and having to take action to get out of it would not qualify.  
- There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.

- May be awarded to a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing.
- The nominee does not need to be a CRPOA member.
- The act must have occurred between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.

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### **Award of Honor**

Presented to the family of a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing whose life was given in the line of duty due to the action of a third party.

- Notes:
- This award recognizes supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. It does not require that the officer knowingly placed himself or herself in a perilous situation nor does it require an act of heroism in order to be awarded. It does require the action of a third party in causing the death.
  - There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards. In an appropriate case, an Award for Valor and an Award of Honor could be made for the same action.
  - May be awarded to a reserve peace officer, search and rescue member or volunteer in policing.
  - The decedent need not have been a CRPOA member.
  - The death must have occurred between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.

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### **Reserve Officer of the Year, Search and Rescue Member of the Year, and /or Volunteer in Policing of the Year**

Awarded to the nominee excelling in all the qualifications for the Meritorious Service Award which place the reserve officer/search and rescue member/volunteer in policing clearly above all other candidates.

- Notes:
- Only one qualifying award shall be made each year for each of three categories: reserve peace officer, search and rescue member and volunteer in policing.
  - The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.
  - The qualifying actions must occur prior to May 31, 2017.

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### **Meritorious Service Award**

For especially meritorious service to the department in a duty of great responsibility. The duty may be either assigned or self-initiated. Superior performance of the normal duties of the position will not alone justify the award.

Considerations for the award include all areas of:

- ◆ Outstanding performance of the officer's duties either in a single act or over time
- ◆ Extraordinary level of assistance to the reserve unit and/or the department
- ◆ Extraordinary level of service to the community
- ◆ Training or teaching within the department
- ◆ Longevity with the department

- Notes:
- The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.
  - There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.
  - The qualifying actions must occur between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.

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### **Distinguished Service Award**

For distinguished service by a reserve officer, SAR member or volunteer in policing.

Considerations for the award include one or more of the following:

- ◆ Distinguished service either in a single act or over time
- ◆ Substantial assistance to the reserve unit and/or the department
- ◆ Substantial service to the community
- ◆ Training or teaching within the department
- ◆ Longevity with the department

- Notes:
- The nominee must be a general member of CRPOA on the date the nomination is received.
  - There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.
  - The qualifying actions must occur between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive.

## **Award of Appreciation**

For distinguished service to the members of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association.

Considerations for the award include:

- ◆ Distinguished service to the Association either in a single act or over time
- ◆ Substantial assistance or contribution to the Association

Notes:           - *There is no limit to the number of qualifying awards.*  
                  - *The qualifying service must occur between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2017, inclusive*

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## **Coordinator of the Year**

Presented to the coordinator of reserve peace officers, search and rescue members or volunteers in policing who excels in:

- ◆ Displaying a strong commitment to the unit
- ◆ Dedication to the enhancement of the professionalism and training of the unit members
- ◆ Promoting a positive image of unit members within the department and the community
- ◆ Demonstrating efforts to use unit members in non-traditional roles or assignments

Notes: - *The nominee must be a full-time employee of the department in which he or she serves as the coordinator of a reserve peace officer, search and rescue or volunteer in policing unit.*  
- *The nomination must be made from within the unit supervised by the nominee. It may not be made by the department or by another full-time employee of the department. Supporting letters from the department are encouraged.*  
- *Only one qualifying award shall be presented.*  
- *The qualifying service must occur prior to May 31, 2017.*

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## **General Notes**

***Important note to nominators:*** *Nominators for any CRPOA award shall be:*

- *A chief executive of a law enforcement agency; or,*
- *A full-time officer who serves as a reserve coordinator; or*
- *A General Member of the Association.*

*When submitting a nomination please review the awards criteria thoroughly to assure that your nominee meets the criteria. You may submit a nomination for the highest possible award for which you believe your nominee meets the criteria. The Awards Committee may determine that your nominee qualifies for the category nominated or may select the nominee to be recognized in a different category. For example, a candidate nominated for Reserve Officer of the Year might receive that award, or may be honored with the Meritorious Service Award or other qualifying award.*

*Nominations packets **must** include:*

- 1) An application, completed and legible.*
- 2) A letter of nomination summarizing the qualifications of the candidate for a specific award.*
- 3) Documentation supporting qualifications, such as awards, certificates, commendations, letters.*

*Nominators must also assure that information provided for contact for award notification is current.*

*Note - nominations must be sent to the Awards Committee at:*

- ***California Reserve Peace Officers Association, P.O. Box 5622, San Jose, CA 95150-5622***  
***or scan and e-mail your nomination packet to [nancy@crpoa.org](mailto:nancy@crpoa.org).***
- *If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of the nomination packet by the Awards Committee within 2 weeks of mailing or emailing documents, contact Nancy Elam by email or phone immediately.*

**All questions about the nomination process can be forwarded to Nancy Elam, Awards Committee Chairman at [nancy@crpoa.org](mailto:nancy@crpoa.org) or by phone at 408-309-8756.**

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***The deadline for the receipt of nominations is July 1, 2017***

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# CRPOA General Counsel Note

## ***PEACE OFFICER RECORDS AND THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT***

On April 25 of this year, California POST issued an information release to all Chiefs, Sheriffs and EDI Operators (EDI is the Electronic Data Interchange system maintained by POST which contains all your peace officer records, among other things) in which it addressed public information requests submitted to POST under the California Public Records Act, California Government Code Section 6250 *et seq.* POST had received requests to release certain peace officer records from two media outlets, Southern California Public Radio (SCPR) and USA Today Network (the Desert Sun newspaper). The SCPR request sought information on all active and former peace officers' training and employment records, including the name of each officer, current agency (if applicable), Continuing Profession Training (CPT) and Perishable Skills (dates, hours, and course names) records, and all other trainings. The USA Today Network (Desert Sun) request asked for information on all current and former peace officers' employment records, including the name of each officer, current agency (if applicable), current rank (if applicable), and all rank status changes information. You can find the [POST release here](#).

In the POST release, POST informs California law enforcement agencies of its intent to provide the requested information and instructs agencies on the manner in which it can object to providing this information in limited circumstances. These objections have to comply with statutory and legal requirements as set forth in the CPRA as well as a 2007 California Supreme Court decision, *Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training v. Superior Court (2007) 42 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 278* ([which you can access here](#)) which generally requires this type of information to be released. The essence of the California Supreme Court ruling is that only information which is found "within a personnel file" which is "generated in furtherance" of reviewing officer conduct, or information which would place the officer's safety in jeopardy, would be exempt from disclosure. As noted in the POST release, there are limited exceptions to the ability of agencies to withhold information:

"The California Supreme Court acknowledged that there may be some peace officers 'who, because of their particular responsibilities, require anonymity in order to perform their duties effectively or to protect their own safety.' For example, the Court left open the possibility that a particular officer, working undercover, could be at risk if the officer was operating under his or her true name and he or she was publicly identified as a peace officer. To protect the identity of peace officers who require anonymity to perform their duties effectively or to protect their own safety, departments are being offered by this notice the opportunity to exclude the names of those individuals. Any such requested exemptions are made through the POST's encrypted Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system."

What does this mean for you? In my view, most reserve peace officers (and most full-time officers, for that matter) generally would not fall within this exception, meaning the kinds of records maintained by POST and sought by the media in these cases are most likely required to be disclosed as noted in the POST press release. That being said, the point of this article is to make you aware of this development and, if appropriate, suggest that you interact with your agency to determine what their plans are with regard to releasing your info. If you are assigned to duties which might imperil your safety if that info is released, you should seek to have it withheld.

While I am skeptical much can be done to defend against this request in light of the California Supreme Court's ruling and the general requirements of the California Public Records Act; as public servants there is some basic information relating to our employment which is simply not "private." In a world where privacy seems to be the rule of the day in so many other contexts, when it comes to releasing info which identifies you as a cop, where you work (or worked), and what your training was, the sad fact appears to be the world gets to see this info. *Please take note of that as you go about your business and, as always, stay safe everyone.*

***If you have a question or comment for Jim, please email Jim at [rene@crpoa.org](mailto:rene@crpoa.org). Jim René is the General Counsel for the California Reserve Peace Officers Association and a reserve police sergeant for the San Fernando Police Department. He previously was an LAPD reserve police officer for 15 years.***

This article does not constitute legal advice and the recipient shall not be entitled to rely on it for any purpose whatsoever. The transmission of an email request for information does not create an attorney-client relationship, and the transmission of any response to such request or any other information contained herein is not intended to create, and the receipt thereof does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship between sender and recipient. All liability with respect to any information contained herein is expressly disclaimed. Under no circumstances may the recipient hold the CRPOA (or its directors and officers) responsible for any acts the recipient decides to take or not to take based on any information contained herein or otherwise. The recipient is strongly advised to consult his or her personal attorney in connection with any issue discussed herein.

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## ***Chief Financial Officer's Report***



### **May 2017 Membership and Financial Condition**

We hold elections for CRPOA Board of Directors in May. Ballots were emailed to all current General Members and I am pleased to report many of you have taken the time to return your choice for the director(s) that will lead your Association throughout the coming year. There is still time for you to vote so check your email, find your ballot, complete it and follow the directions to return it before May 30. I urge you to review the statements of the candidates and make your choice for the best qualified.

We are on course to distribute the ARPOC 2017 registration forms this month. I would recommend that you heed these quoted words "The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today." (*H. Jackson Brown Jr.*) and make sure that you are prepared to successfully complete your enrollment form by:

- Having current CRPOA Membership.
- If you are a reserve or fulltime peace officer that your POST ID is in your Membership Record.
- That your contact information, phone and address is up-to-date.

Your online ARPOC Registration will use this information to complete your enrollment form. If you need to look up your POST ID use this hyperlink <https://www.post.ca.gov/obtain-your-post-id.aspx> to quickly obtain it and update your membership record. If you need assistance to access your Membership Record on CRPOA.org, please call me at 855-552-7762 ext. 2.

It is my pleasure to report that our financial condition remains sound. The current month closed with all our current obligations met and CRPOA 2016 Federal and State Tax returns were submitted this month.

***Chuck Adams is the Chief Financial Officer for CRPOA. He is also a retired reserve commander for the Los Gatos Police Dept.***

***Chuck welcomes your calls and emails; you may contact him at 408-371-8239 or [cadams@CRPOA.org](mailto:cadams@CRPOA.org)***

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# WELCOME NEW CRPOA MEMBERS

Between 4/16/2017 and 5/15/2017

Javiar Gonzalez Orange Co. SD

Curtis Hayes Exeter PD

Justin Burgher San Bernardino PD

Alvaro Martinez San Fernando PD

Carlos Perez LASD-San Dimas

Mike Porter Sacramento PD

Manny Gaitan San Bernardino PD

Cesar Castro San Fernando PD

Joel Vasquez San Fernando PD

Michael Morgan Los Angeles SD

J.M. Brown San Bernardino PD

Don Slawson LASD-San Dimas



## Police Reserve Officer Rupani Calls it a Career, Transitions to VIPS Program

On Friday April 10, 2017, Reserve Officer Frank Rupani ended his service as a Reserve Police Officer with the Antioch Police Department after almost twenty years.

During his time with the department, Rupani has volunteered thousands of hours to many civic events and other functions around the City as well as supplemented the Antioch PD patrol teams.

Rupani began his service on October 30, 1997 and has received numerous commendations and letters of appreciation from the public. Prior to his retirement from

the APD Reserve Unit, Reserve Officer Rupani was assigned to assist the Parking Enforcement unit with a huge back log of abandoned autos in the City.

Police Chief Tammany Brooks said Rupani has been instrumental in getting the number of abandoned vehicles to a manageable level.

He will continue to serve the citizens of Antioch by transitioning to our Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS) program where his experience as a Reserve Police Officer will be a welcomed addition.

*This article was released by the Antioch Police Department  
California Reserve Peace Officers Assoc. would like to sincerely thank  
the Police Chief Tammany Brooks for a great article about such a deserving man.*

# ARPOC 2017

August 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

**CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL**

Mission Valley - San Diego



**Vote for CRPOA Board of Directors  
It's your leadership team and your vote counts**