



# River District

## Nominations Open for 2026 State of the River District Awards



*The Grower's District will be the site of the 2026 State of the River District event on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.*

The annual State of the River District is coming up on March 25, and this year we will be presenting two new awards, in addition to the River District Visionary Award. The inaugural Visionary Award went to Greta Lacin at last year's event. Nominations are now open through the end of the week for this year's awards. Once nominations have been received and reviewed by our awards committee, the River District board of directors and staff will vote to determine the winners. The two new categories are **Business of the Year** and **Nonprofit Organization of the Year**. [Please click here to nominate your candidates for each of these awards.](#)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **Place Enhancement Working Group**

Tuesday, March 3  
11:00 a.m.  
via Zoom

### **State of the River District**

Wednesday, March 25  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Grower's District,  
200 N. 16th Street

### **Clean & Safe Working Group**

Thursday, April 9  
9:00 a.m.  
River District Office,  
651 Bannon St. Ste. 1200

### **River District Board Meeting**

Wednesday, April 15,  
3:30 p.m.  
River District Office,  
651 Bannon St. Ste. 1200

RSVP to  
[info@riverdistrict.net](mailto:info@riverdistrict.net)

River District Private  
Security Number  
**(916) 907-4191**

## Impact of Homelessness Crisis on the River District



Sacramento's River District sits at the center of the region's response to homelessness — and increasingly, at the center of a policy debate over how that response should be distributed citywide.

Covering less than two square miles just north of downtown, the River District has the highest concentration of shelter beds and social service providers in the region. For decades, its industrial zoning, warehouse stock, and distance from established residential neighborhoods made it the path of least resistance for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive services. As a result, much of Sacramento's homelessness response infrastructure has been clustered within its boundaries.

Now, the City of Sacramento is planning to expand that footprint.

On city-owned land on Sequoia Pacific Boulevard, behind the Greyhound bus station, the City is advancing a new "safe campsite" that could temporarily accommodate up to 120 individuals. The site, which could open as early as April 2026, would provide sanctioned space for unsheltered residents. City officials frame the project as part of a broader strategy to reduce unsanctioned encampments and connect people to permanent housing.

However, the proposal has intensified an ongoing debate about geographic equity. Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum has introduced an ordinance that would establish a cap on the number of shelter beds and social service facilities permitted within the River District. The proposal follows the City Council's decision last March to rescind a 1989 resolution that had previously sought to limit further concentration of such uses in the area.

Supporters of the new ordinance argue that Sacramento's homelessness response has become disproportionately concentrated in the River District because other neighborhoods have historically resisted proposed shelter sites. They contend that this pattern has produced service saturation in one district while shielding other parts of the city from comparable facilities. As the River District transitions from primarily industrial to a mixed-use neighborhood with new housing, healthcare facilities, and commercial development, proponents say a cap is necessary to ensure balanced growth and shared civic responsibility.

The debate reflects a broader tension facing Sacramento: how to equitably distribute homelessness services while continuing to scale capacity. For the River District, long treated as the default location for shelters and services, the outcome will shape not only its development trajectory but also the city's approach to shared responsibility in addressing the unhoused crisis.

## New River District Board Members Elected

The River District's board meeting in February marked the beginning of service for five new board members. The nominating committee interviewed qualified applicants at the end of the previous year and recommended the slate of candidates to the board of directors for election. The candidates will each serve a two-year term, with the exception of Tim Padden of SMUD, who will be filling the remainder of the term previously filled by Eric Crane, also with SMUD. In January, Diane Ortega with Pipeworks was elected as Vice President and Patrick Stelmach with CBRA was elected as Treasurer. The new board members are as follows.



**David Gull** is the Chief of Staff to Sacramento City Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum, representing District 4, which includes the River District. He brings extensive experience in district-level governance, public policy, and economic development. David is a founding board member of the Greater Broadway Partnership PBID—now known as the Tower District—where he helped establish a successful property-based improvement district focused on clean, safe, and vibrant commercial corridors. As a River District Board member, his priorities include advancing public safety and cleanliness while supporting strategic economic development to strengthen the district's long-term growth and vitality.



**Tim Padden, MBA**, currently serves as the Regional and Local Government Affairs Program Manager at SMUD, where responsibilities include leading the Regional and Local Government Affairs team and managing teams to achieve legislative, regulatory, outreach, and compliance objectives. Padden has a diverse background in economic development, having previously held positions such as Real Estate Services Manager for the City of Vacaville and Economic Development Manager for the City of Sacramento. Earlier experience includes roles at TJP Consulting, the City of Salem Economic Development Division, and SHRA, where Padden focused on business retention, urban development projects, and revitalization initiatives. Padden holds an MBA from the University of Arizona, a B.A. in Government from California State University-Sacramento, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.



**Ranjana Rajput** is the General Manager of the SureStay Plus by Best Western in the River District. As an active and highly engaged on-site business leader, she brings a strong operational and hospitality perspective to district governance. Ranjana has extensive experience in business management and daily collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, enabling her to translate strategic priorities into practical, on-the-ground action. Her background in hospitality and tourism supports efforts to strengthen the River District as a welcoming destination for residents, businesses, and visitors. In addition, her academic training in life sciences and psychology informs her commitment to sustainable, resilient development that prioritizes environmental best practices and community well-being. As a board member, her priorities include enhancing public safety and perception, improving district connectivity, and supporting ongoing economic development initiatives.



**Christopher Romney** is the co-owner and operator of Two Rivers Wellness, where he has been an active business and community presence for more than five years. He has contributed to district-wide engagement efforts and has worked collaboratively with River District leadership on local initiatives. Christopher brings a diverse professional background that includes experience in real estate and development in Sacramento, clinical research at the UC Davis MIND Institute, and over a decade of owning, operating, and consulting for local businesses. A lifelong Sacramentan, he is deeply invested in the River District's continued growth. As a board member, his priorities include sustained public outreach, community-driven improvement projects, and fostering a vibrant, arts-focused district that supports both working and living in the River District.



**Laura Tinti** is an executive leader with Kaiser Permanente and oversees the J Street Medical Office Building in Sacramento. With Kaiser Permanente's medical facilities located adjacent to the River District—including the new hospital under construction at the Railyards—she brings a strong institutional and community-focused perspective to the Board. Laura has more than 35 years of experience in public health and health and human services, including 25 years

with Kaiser Permanente. She has served in leadership roles and on boards for health agencies and Chambers of Commerce, contributing governance, collaboration, and strategic planning expertise. As a River District Board member, her priorities include supporting implementation of the district's strategic plan, strengthening partnerships, and representing Kaiser Permanente's commitment to the health, vitality, and long-term success of the River District community.

## River District Specific Plan Update



The City of Sacramento proposes to update to the 2011 River District Specific Plan. The proposed River District Specific Plan Update will serve as a forward-looking policy and regulatory document that will guide land use, development, infrastructure planning, and public investment in the River District over the next 10- to 20-year planning horizon. The City is the Lead Agency responsible for preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed Plan update. The SEIR will evaluate potential significant environmental effects of the proposed Plan. Written comments regarding the issues that should be covered in the SEIR, including potential alternatives to the proposed Project and the scope of the analysis, are invited.

The City will hold two scoping meetings regarding the proposed Plan update. Responsible agencies and members of the public are invited to attend and provide input on the scope of the SEIR. The scoping meeting will be conducted in a virtual open house format. Written comments regarding relevant issues may be submitted during the meeting.

### COMMENT PERIOD

February 18, 2026 – March 22, 2026

### SCOPING MEETINGS

March 4, 2026:

Meeting #1: 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Meeting #2: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

**By Computer:** To join the meeting by computer, please register **Zoom Meeting Registration Links:**

**Meeting #1:** [https://bit.ly/RDSP\\_1](https://bit.ly/RDSP_1)

**Meeting #2:** [https://bit.ly/RDSP\\_2](https://bit.ly/RDSP_2)

The River District Public Spaces Team



*Kelly Scott, Accurate Cleaning, is the supervisor for the River District's Clean Team. The River District was able to purchase and wrap a new truck, seen above, with support from the City of Sacramento.*

The River District's Clean Team, provided through a contract with Accurate Cleaning, works from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to reduce the district's litter, debris and graffiti. They also work with the unhoused population to keep encampments as clean as possible, and to assist and encourage unhoused individuals to accept shelter and services.

#### **January 2026 Litter Abatement Statistics**

- 1,462 bags of litter collected
- 284 Instances of feces removed
- 276 syringes removed
- 9 graffiti tags removed
- 120 interactions with unhoused individuals
- 58,480 lbs. or 29 tons - total litter disposed

Capital Protection Group (CPG) provides security services, and can be reached via our Private Security Dispatch at (916) 907-4191.

#### **January 2026 Security Statistics**

- 62 Dispatch service calls
- 317 Business Checks
- 9 arrests
- 9 notices of trespass issued
- 43 Interactions with Unhoused Individuals

For removal of litter, debris or hazardous waste from public property, contact our team by calling (916) 321-5599 or emailing [cleanandsafe@riverdistrict.net](mailto:cleanandsafe@riverdistrict.net).

Statistics for each month are included in our *quarterly market reports*, which are [available here](#).

## HEADLINES

**Miami-based investment group buys fully leased River District properties** A Miami-based real estate investment company has bought two more properties in Sacramento's redeveloping River District. Records show Jewell Capital LLC bought two neighboring office/flex properties at 1103 North B St./250 Dos Rios St. for \$6.45 million in recent weeks. "There's quite a bit of diversity there," said Sean Mahoney, a senior managing director at Newmark who brokered the deal, about the tenant mix between the two buildings. Currently the lineup includes paint store Sherwin-Williams, dance school Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro, telehealth company Telecare Oasis and TC Motorsports. [Click here for more](#) (via *Sacramento Business Journal*)

**Sacramento councilmember proposes cap on River District homeless shelter beds** Sacramento Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum is proposing a limit on the number of homeless shelter beds in the city's River District. Under the proposal, the north downtown neighborhood will cap its shelter capacity after adding roughly 100 later this year at the city's proposed safe camping site. The shelter — located at 291 Sequoia Blvd. — will bring the district's total to 626. The measure would also cap the number of social service providers in the neighborhood after its adoption date. New providers could be added by a two-thirds vote by the City Council. [Click here for more](#) (via *The Sacramento Bee*)

**I Street Bridge replacement project faces key funding vote** Replacing the I Street Bridge between Sacramento and West Sacramento faces a critical funding vote this week. The Sacramento Transit Authority's governing board will vote Friday on advancing funds from Sacramento County's Measure A toward the project, which is tentatively slated to start construction within months. "We continue to see pricing increase annually, and we want to secure pricing on this project before we see additional increases," said Kevin Bewsey, STA's executive director, in an email. "The I Street Bridge Replacement is the first domino in several related projects; if it does not move forward, it will delay those projects and could jeopardize grant funds already secured. [Click here for more](#) (via *Sacramento Business Journal*)

## Upcoming Events

A promotional poster for a roller derby event. On the left, a female roller derby skater is shown in action, wearing a white helmet with a blue star, a white tank top with "SACRAMENTO ROLLER DERBY" printed on it, black knee pads, and black roller skates. She is leaning forward on her skates. The background is dark blue with yellow diagonal stripes and white stars. To the right of the skater, the text "ROLLER DERBY" is written in large, bold, white, distressed font, with "TRIPLE HEADER" below it in a smaller, similar font. Below the text, there are three icons: a calendar icon, a clock icon, and a location pin icon, each followed by text: "March 7, 2026", "2:00PM-6:00PM", and "1701 Thornton Ave, Sacramento". In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for "SACRAMENTO ROLLER DERBY" featuring a white silhouette of a roller skater on a dark background.

Don't miss a full day of hard-hitting roller derby action at the season triple header hosted by Sacramento Roller Derby! Doors open at 1:30pm on Saturday, March 7. Tickets are \$35 for VIP (includes two free drinks and VIP seating), \$25 General Admission, \$15 for ages 8–17, and free for ages 7 and under. Online sales end March 6 at 7 PM (no refunds

after sales close), with limited tickets potentially available at the door if not sold out. Enjoy concessions, local cider and beer, a food truck, merchandise, and Vendor Alley. [Click here for tickets.](#)



**River Clean-Up**

**MARCH 21, 2026**  
9 a.m.- 12 p.m.  
Sutter's Landing Regional Park

Visit [arpf.org/volunteer/calendar](https://arpf.org/volunteer/calendar) to sign up

ALL CLEAN-UP EQUIPMENT, LIGHT SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

River District

park way

The poster features a green and yellow diagonal stripe on the left. The main title 'River Clean-Up' is in a large, bold, green font. Below it, a yellow box contains the date and time. To the right is an illustration of two green bags. On the right side, a photograph shows a group of people standing on a riverbank. The River District logo is in the bottom left, and the Park Way logo is in the bottom right of the photo.

Join us for a river clean-up at Sutter's Landing Regional Park on Saturday, March 21 from 9:00am-12:00pm. All ages welcome. Snacks, drinks, and all clean-up supplies will be provided. To register, visit <https://arpf.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=99977>



**SAVE THE DATE**

**STATE OF THE RIVER DISTRICT**

**Forum & Cocktail Reception**

**MARCH 25, 2026 | 5:30PM-7:30PM**

[riverdistrict.net](https://riverdistrict.net)

The poster has a green background with a white scalloped border at the bottom. The text is in bold, green, sans-serif fonts. Below the text is a photograph of a city skyline with mountains in the background. A green box with the website URL is overlaid on the bottom of the photo.

Mark your calendars! The State of the River District will be taking place on Wednesday, March 25 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Grower's District, 200 N. 16th Street.



FRIENDS OF THE RIVER DISTRICT

# BLOCK PARTY

THE CREAMERY

1011 D ST. SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

MARCH 26, 2026

5 PM-7 PM

Free food for first 50 guests



DJ Stace Lace

Connect with neighbors, make new friends, and learn about upcoming events & programs.



River District

Join us for the first Friends of the River District Block Party of 2026 at The Creamery! Come meet your neighbors, enjoy a free loaded baked potato bar and warm up with some hot chocolate (while supplies last). This is a great opportunity to learn about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. [Click here to RSVP.](#)



# TRAILS IN BLOOM

A CELEBRATION OF NATURE, CULTURE, & COMMUNITY

APRIL 25, 2026

Hanami Line Park

11 A.M. - 2 P.M.



Enjoy live performances, exhibitions, food, and giveaways. Ride your bike along the Two Rivers Bike Trail to the community celebration.

- City Nature Challenge Reto Naturalista Urbano
- SACRAMENTO AREA BICYCLE ADVOCATES
- Sacramento Public Library
- 350 SACRAMENTO
- Recycling & Solid Waste
- AREA 9
- CCC
- City of Sacramento
- Garra
- Local 10
- Local 100
- Local 101
- Local 102
- Local 103
- Local 104
- Local 105
- Local 106
- Local 107
- Local 108
- Local 109
- Local 110
- Local 111
- Local 112
- Local 113
- Local 114
- Local 115
- Local 116
- Local 117
- Local 118
- Local 119
- Local 120

SPONSORED BY

- River District
- Phil Plucieniak
- Celebrate Trails

VENDORS

- KADO'S ASIAN GRILL
- LOCORO

Join us for a celebration of Nature, Culture, and Community on Saturday, April 25th at Hanami Line Park from 11:00am-2pm. Once again, the bridge to the Water Intake Facility will be open for guests to walk around the structure. We look forward to celebrating with you. [Click here to RSVP.](#)



# 311

CUSTOMER SERVICE

## 311 is not just for residents . . .

There is an entire portal dedicated to **businesses** at [311.cityofsacramento.org/s/business-home](https://311.cityofsacramento.org/s/business-home). This portal allows businesses to better interact with City staff. Register to get access to funding, training, procurement opportunities, and more! The goal of this system is to improve our relationships with businesses, provide various ways to engage and get your questions answered.

Here is how to get started:

- 1 Register for an account**  
An account will let you track and manage your requests and will ensure we have the right contact information.
- 2 Add your business to your profile**  
Adding your business will allow us to find opportunities specific to your business and respond to requests for service.
- 3 Create a request**  
Submit requests for funding, training, technical assistance, and more! Our business services are available under the category "Business Resources."



**Pro Tip:**

Add the keyword "MBARK" when submitting your request for personal follow up!

City of  
**SACRAMENTO**

### RIVER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ahmed Hamdy**, President, MatriScope Engineering Laboratories, Inc.  
**Diane Ortega**, Vice President, Pipeworks  
**Patrick Stelmach**, Treasurer, CBRE  
**Greta Lacin**, Secretary, Lacin Family Trust

**Gina Albanese**, First Pointe Management Group  
**Spencer Applegate**, Applegate Properties  
**Mark Dutrow**, US Glass  
**Ernie Gallardo**, Meadows Asset Management  
**David Gull**, Council District 4  
**Kesha Harris**, July Forward  
**Tim Padden**, SMUD  
**Ranjana Rajput**, SureStay Plus by Best Western  
**Christopher Romney**, Two Rivers Wellness

**RIVER DISTRICT STAFF**

**Devin Strecker**, LPM, Executive Director, [devin@riverdistrict.net](mailto:devin@riverdistrict.net)

**Cristina Navarro**, Program Manager, [cristina@riverdistrict.net](mailto:cristina@riverdistrict.net)

**Maurice Scott**, Business Development Manager, [maurice@riverdistrict.net](mailto:maurice@riverdistrict.net)

**Security Services** are provided through a contract with [Capital Protection Group](#). To reach the guard on duty from 7am-7pm call 916-779-5363.

**Cleaning and Maintenance Services** are provided through a contract with [Accurate Cleaning](#). To request service in the public right of way, please call 916-321-5599.

*The River District is committed to building a community that values and promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion. We recognize that we have a responsibility to establish a culture that celebrates and promotes equitable opportunities for everyone. Through collaboration, advocacy, and strategic investments, we strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive neighborhood that supports local commerce, cultural diversity and sustainable growth.*

The River District | 651 Bannon Street Suite 1200 | Sacramento, CA 95811 US

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