



MEDIA RELEASE

Natalia Gonzalez elected as Division 1 Board Member for Desert Recreation District

Indio, California (January 4, 2023) – Desert Recreation District (DRD) is pleased to announce Natalia Gonzalez was elected to serve as the Director for Division 1, representing Indio, La Quinta, Mecca, North Shore, Oasis, Thermal, Vista Santa Rosa and 100 Palms on Desert Recreation District’s Board of Directors.



Natalia Gonzalez was born in Thermal and attended Coachella Valley High School and from a young age, her parents instilled the importance of education. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and a minor in Chicano and Chicana studies. After she graduated college, Gonzalez knew that she wanted to return home and serve her community, and she now works in the education sector.

Giving back to the community is a priority for Natalia. “My real passion is children, education and also looking at expanding parks and recreational facilities,” Gonzalez says. She feels that parks and recreation can not only be an opportunity for fun, but they also provide great value to communities.

Gonzalez went on to say “For parents that work long hours, can’t get home ‘til 6 p.m., they need to have their child somewhere safe and them being part of Desert Recreation District programming like after school programming or sports and activities, it keeps the kids busy, it keeps them kind of out of trouble, and it allows them an opportunity to be able to expand their learning outside of the K through 12 classrooms”.

She is excited about DRD’s expansion, including building a new park near where she grew up in Thermal. “This would be the first ever park in that community and that means a lot to community members to have a space like that, for parents to be able to take their children to a safe, quality park facility, it’s something that’s going to be important to the community.”

Ms. Gonzalez’s hope for the next four years is for a continuation of DRD’s progress and growth in the Eastern Coachella Valley by continuing to expand activities and services. She is excited to see that breaking of ground on the park in Thermal, as well as the growth of the Desierto Del Oasis Park in Oasis and looks forward to collaborating with partners and community leaders to bring quality parks and recreation opportunities to everyone. We welcome Natalia to the Desert Recreation District Board.

About

[Desert Recreation District](#) (DRD) is the largest park and recreation district in California, covering over 1,800 square miles and serving more than 380,000 residents throughout the greater Coachella Valley. In addition to managing, maintaining, and assisting in maintaining more than 30 parks and recreation facilities and creating and delivering quality programs, services, and classes, thanks to strategic partnerships we have been able to bring essential services such as Rapid-Response Food Distributions, COVID-19 Testing and vaccinations, Flu Shots, a Distance-Learning Program and more to Valley residents. This community collaborative approach allows us to not only provide barrier-free and safe recreational activities, but to also bring critical resources where they are needed, thereby helping to create stronger communities and healthier citizens. Learn more at [MyRecreationDistrict.com](#)

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