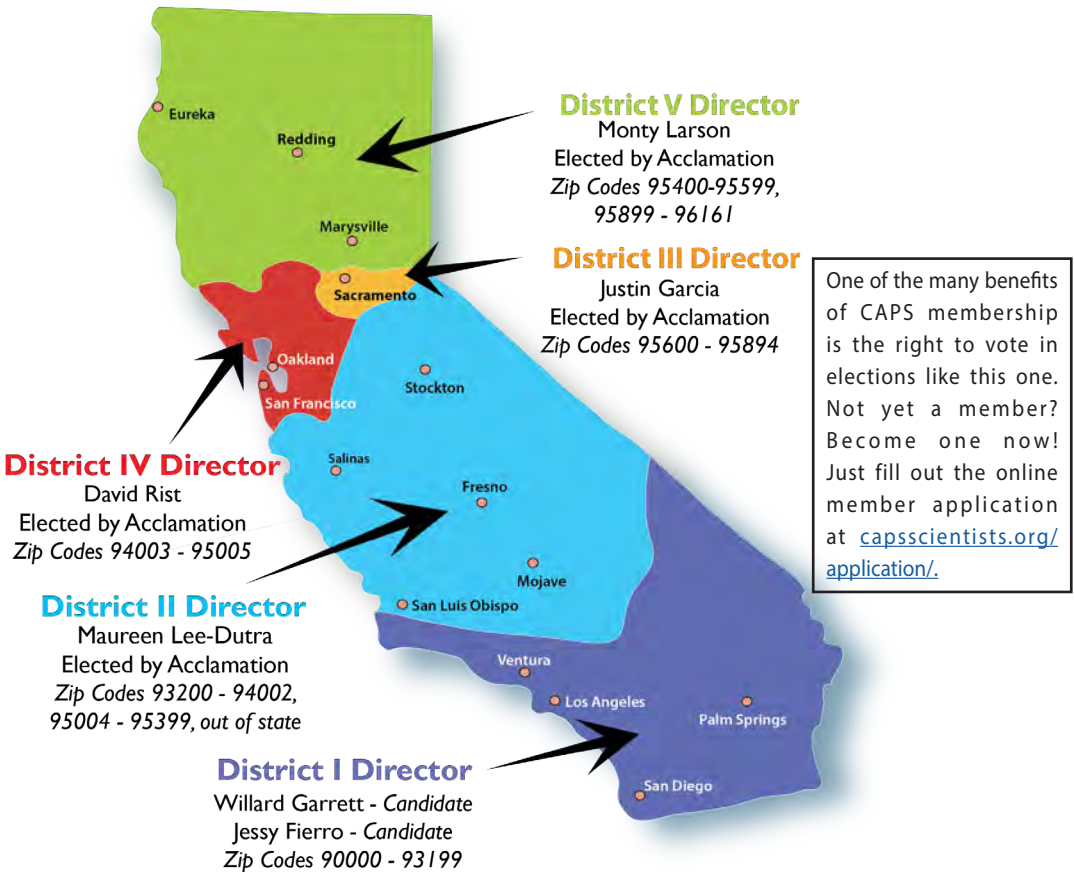




# CAPS Announces Board of Directors Candidates, Prepares for Election

Fifteen members are running for seven seats on CAPS' 2019-21 Board of Directors after recently submitting Nominating Petitions that qualified their candidacies. Five other members sought office without qualified opposition. CAPS' Bylaws consider those candidates "elected by acclamation."

This map details who is running for which offices and who will automatically assume office in November because they have been elected by acclamation, per the CAPS Bylaws.



One of the many benefits of CAPS membership is the right to vote in elections like this one. Not yet a member? Become one now! Just fill out the online member application at [capsscientists.org/application/](http://capsscientists.org/application/).

### Statewide Positions

- President -** Margarita Gordus, Elected by Acclamation
- Vice President -** Stephanie Lewis - Candidate  
Daniel Ellis - Candidate
- Secretary -** Kris Wiese - Candidate  
Shana Rapoport - Candidate

- Treasurer -** Itzia Rivera - Candidate  
Kelley Aubushon - Candidate
- At-Large -** (2 positions)  
Manjul Bose - Candidate  
James Thomas - Candidate  
Jimmy Spearow - Candidate  
David Miller - Candidate  
Jason Van Court - Candidate
- Supervisory -** Valerie Chenoweth-Brown - Candidate  
Scott Bauer - Candidate

**What's next?** CAPS' rules require the Elections Committee review the candidates' statements. Once they've done that, the statements will be posted in the Elections section of CAPS' website for members to view. Ballots will be mailed on September 20 for return by October 7 to a mailbox owned by MK Elections, the independent service administering the election. The ballot count will be held October 14 in Sacramento. CAPS members – and only members – are welcome to view the process.

## CAPS Awards \$400 Grants to Four Members

As a CAPS member, you have access to many benefits, including the opportunity to apply for professional development grants. Each quarter, CAPS' Benefits Committee considers applications and awards \$400 to deserving State Scientists. This year's second quarter winners include:

**Leah Gardner, a Sr. Environmental Scientist (Specialist) with the Department of Parks & Recreation** in Sacramento, will use her grant for expenses to attend the California Invasive Plant Council Symposium in October. "As a state botanist," she wrote on her application, "I provide support to our districts in all plant management activities and need to stay current on weed management."

**Martin Hauser, a Sr. Insect Biosystematist at the Department of Food & Agriculture** in Sacramento, used his grant to offset some of his expenses to the International Conference for Dipterology (the study of flies) in Nambia. Martin made several presentations and was a featured speaker for the conference dinner, but as he noted on his grant application, "Unfortunately, CDFG does not support out of state travels for conferences like these. ... It would be great if the CAPS grant could help cover some of the costs."

**Gyunghoon Hong, who is a Research Scientist III (Chemistry) for the Bureau of Cannabis Control** in Rancho Cordova, used his grant to defray travel expenses he incurred attending the Korean Society for Applied Biological Chemistry's International Symposium in South Korea. While there, he made a presentation, "Cannabis in California."

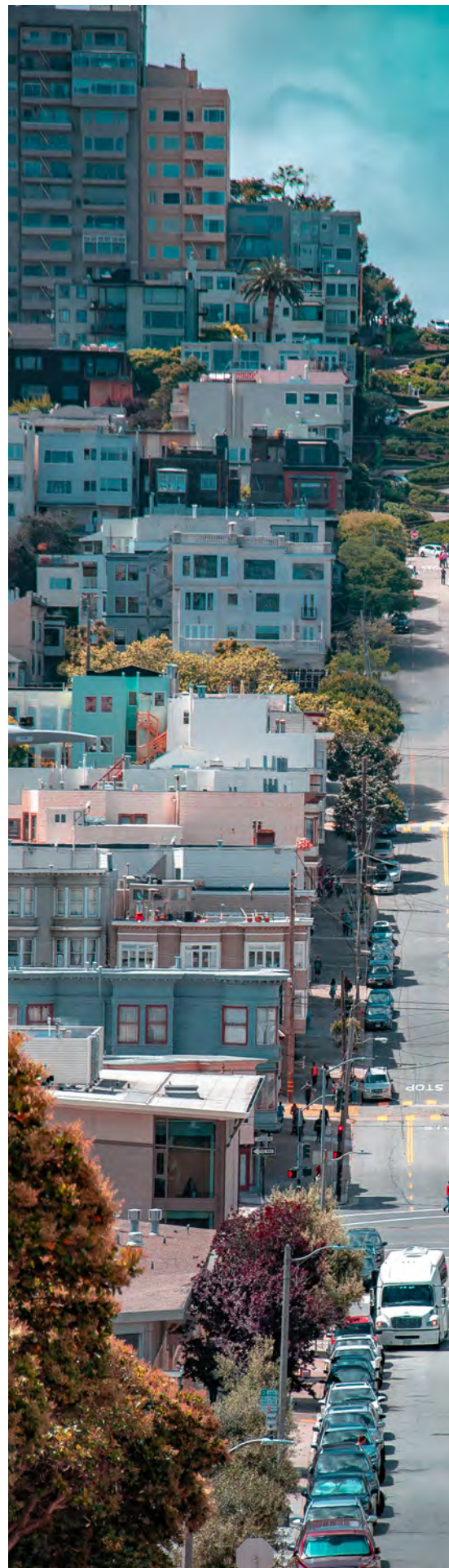
**Rikki Meier, an Associate Hazardous Materials Specialist at the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation in Susanville**, will use the grant to attend September's Continuing Challenge HazMat Workshop in Sacramento. The reason: "This workshop would provide training I could utilize throughout my career to help provide a safer environment for staff, inmates, and the public. ... Thank you for your consideration."

## CAPS Prepares to Launch New Member Video Program

CAPS' leaders are planning a new membership recruiting program featuring members' takes on the union's positive impact in five areas: increased **pay**; protected **pensions**; excellent **health benefits**; workplace and contractual **representation**; and **support for state scientific programs**.

Has CAPS helped correct a range-placement error so that you now earn more money? Perhaps your check was short and CAPS helped fix the problem with a phone call. Maybe you appreciate CAPS' successful defense against political attacks on your retirement benefits. Or was something going on at work that violated our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and CAPS effectively intervened?

The new program will be your chance to **explain, in your own words**, why **CAPS Matters** to colleagues who aren't yet members. Watch *CAPS Update* emails and the monthly CAPSule newsletter for specifics on how you can help build our membership and strengthen CAPS solidarity!







# How a Governor and IOUs Helped Me Appreciate CAPS

by *Patty Velez, President*

*After nearly 34 years as a State Scientist and 25 years as a CAPS member and activist, President Patty Velez is retiring later this year. This month, in the first of a three-part series, President Velez reflects on the early years of her career and how she got involved in CAPS.*

I confess. I did not run to serve on the CAPS Board the instant I became a full-time State Scientist. I did become a CAPS member and a Local Rep shortly thereafter. I knew that becoming a member of the union meant better pay and benefits.

I started my state service as a Scientific Aide for what was then called the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) with the Marine Region in Long Beach. It was a fun and educational job. For nine months each year, I would go out on commercial passenger fishing vessels to survey the recreational marine sport anglers and identify and measure the different marine fish species that were caught. The goal was to produce sample data and catch effort estimates used to sustainability manage California's fisheries.

Then in 1991, during one of Governor Pete Wilson's annual budget fights with the Legislature, he fired all the temporary Seasonal and Scientific Aides and froze hiring while I was on a DFG list for a Marine Biologist job. Fortunately, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board could hire and borrowed Fish & Game's list. My background and education fit its needs. Soon, I was in a full-time position as a lead Marine Biologist on The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project (SMBRP). Our team assessed the Bay's problems, developed solutions and put them into action. We collaborated with other government agencies, environmentalists, scientists, industry interests, and the general public. I finally had obtained full-time employment with the State as a Marine Biologist working on a project that I thoroughly enjoyed.

*...a CAPS Board member in my office encouraged me to run for an open District seat. I accepted the challenge. It changed the course of my life.*

I was also vulnerable. The following summer, during another budget standoff between Wilson and the Legislature, the state issued IOUs instead of paychecks. My bank accepted the first one, but refused to take the second.

I was angry, but helpless to do anything other than switch to a credit union that, thankfully, accepted IOUs. CAPS; however, stepped up and sued. The courts ruled the IOU scheme broke federal law. Eventually, scientists whose banks did not accept the second IOU received vacation leave to settle CAPS' lawsuit.

During that chaotic year I realized CAPS was doing something extremely valuable, something I couldn't do on my own: **protecting my income, my benefits, and my pension from political games.**

Not long after, a CAPS Board Member in my office encouraged me to run for an open District seat. I accepted the challenge. **It changed the course of my life.**

*Next month: President Velez becomes a CAPS activist and a Board Member during some of the most difficult years for State Scientists.*



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### Save the BARK for the Trees

Did you know that since January 2019, the number of *CAPSule* subscribers who receive the electronic version of the newsletter has increased **45 percent**? Each month, more than 400 members GO GREEN by tapping or clicking an emailed link that opens the valuable content of CAPS' official monthly newsletter. They also help conserve natural resources and reduce emissions that go with paper postal delivery.

Please take two minutes to join the growing number of *CAPSule* readers who GO GREEN each month by filling out the e-subscription form at [www.capsscientists.org/resources/capsule](http://www.capsscientists.org/resources/capsule). Thank you!



Since January 2019, CAPS members have saved **RUFFly** 20 pounds of paper by opting into a digital copy. That's about the weight of a Dachshund!

