

## George Lange's CRPD Bio

### My CRPD Philosophy Statement

A lifetime of experience has prepared me for -- and forged my commitment to -- the important work of the Conejo Recreation and Park District...

I grew up close to a park-playground that shaped the childhoods of myself and my friends; was a participant on sports teams since grade school, a member of YMCA and church clubs, high school sports teams; enjoyed family backyard and mountain camping, summer camps, freshwater and ocean fishing, swimming, waterskiing and more. Later, I coached youth sports teams, was a counselor for high school and middle school youth groups and clubs, coached and refereed youth and adult sports teams, served on the Board of Directors of a residential home for youth and on a couple, YMCA Boards prior to serving on the CRPD Board. The Conejo Recreation and Park District has allowed me the opportunity to bring together and apply my background and skills, influenced by my love of youth and family activities and enhanced by my business and management experiences.

I've experienced and enjoyed a full active and gratifying life that continues to this day, as a member of State and local organizations where I am involved in decision making that facilitates the purchase and preservation of valued open space lands for future generations, which provides great personal satisfaction, and that enhances my appreciation of the natural world around us (dirt, rocks, brush, trees, streams, trails, and wildlife -- especially Mountain Lions!). (GL)

### Biography

Born in Santa Monica, CA, I grew up in Van Nuys when there were many acres in agriculture along with open space; in fact, our family home was built in a former walnut orchard, and with my friends I often climbed the two large remaining trees. It was a time when our residential streets would flood, often with water up to our front porch, and on those occasions I'd walk to school over bridges crossing the Tyrone "Street Wash" which was sandbagged to form a channel for the flow of rushing water. By the late 1940's, the infrastructure for improved flood control was completed. In those early years, I waded in the Los Angeles River at the Sepulveda Basin and Reseda Park to catch crawdads and polliwogs. To visit friends in Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades we traveled Sepulveda Boulevard through the Sepulveda Pass, and I recall Mulholland Drive was pretty much dirt

**west of Hayvenhurst Ave. Often I would camp out in a friend's North Hollywood home's back yard that backed up to the Tujunga "Wash" and the next morning we'd hike over to Coldwater Canyon and up into the San Gabriel mountains. As a young teen I took venturous bike rides from Van Nuys to Simi Valley, over Santa Susana Pass to Corriganville and Oak Park west of Los Alamos Canyon, and once into the Angeles National Forest. I attended Van Nuys High School where I played football and ran track, including in the 1957 LA Coliseum Relays. And I experienced many family camping and fishing trips to Lake Tahoe, Kernville, the Sierras, Yosemite, Oregon, to State and National Parks. HAVING HAD ALL THESE EXPERIENCES PROVIDED ME WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT, VALUE AND COMMUNE WITH THE BEAUTY OF NATURE!**

**Following high school graduation, I joined the US Navy and became a Radar Technician which led to my attaining a BS Degree in Electronic Engineering. I worked for the Bendix Corporation on Computer Command and Control for Torpedo Systems and, then, Sonar Systems on Fast Attack Nuclear Submarines, which took me out for 7 to 10 days on underwater operations. I worked out of Pearl Harbor for 6 months, and then went to work for the Bunker Ramo Corporation in the Conejo Valley on an assignment which took our family to Plymouth, England for a year, working classified US Navy Programs in support of our National Submarine Service. I moved back to Thousand Oaks with Bunker Ramo and became involved with many community organizations, and subsequently in 1990 was elected to the Conejo Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. At that time, I became their appointed representative to both the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. I have been elected President to the Ventura County Special Districts Association and elected Commissioner on the Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and subsequently to the State LAFCO Commission Board of Directors.**

**My service and involvement with, and my dedication to the Conejo Recreation and Park District, continues "full speed ahead" knowing that there are many exciting challenges and important accomplishments ahead in the near future.**