

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

E. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Legislative Committee (12.14.2018) _____ (Rosario)

Present

Board: Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Colin Coffey

Staff: Robert E. Doyle, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Debra Auker, Jeff Rasmussen, Eric Holmes, Mona Koh

Consultants: Doug Houston

Public: Kelly Abreu, Eric Holmes

This meeting was called to order at 12:36 pm.

Public Comments

Kelly Abreu highlighted the Stanford Avenue Staging Area expansion project. He stated it was recently removed from the District's website. General Manager Robert E. Doyle responded there is no current funding for this project and, as such, no schedule. Advertisement of the project on the District's website would be premature.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. AB 65 – Coastal Conservancy Climate Adaptation Funds (Petrie-Norris D-Laguna Beach)

Legislative Advocate Doug Houston stated this legislation is a skeletal proposal trying to reallocate \$40 million from Proposition 68 from the California Ocean Protection Trust Fund to the California Coastal Conservancy. The goal would be to add criteria for natural systems and co-benefits for adaptation to sea level rise. It does not aim to target particular areas of the state, but rather spread it out to places of most need. SB 5 and Prop. 68 specified 35% of the \$40 million would be allocated to the San Francisco Bay Program. AB 65, as currently written, does not contain this specific allocation. Doyle added the District assisted in the creation of the Bay Program. It is important to the District the Bay Program receives its fair share of funding.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. SB 8 – State Park and Coastal Beaches Smoking Ban (Glazer D-Orinda)

Houston recalled this legislation was introduced in previous years and vetoed. It seeks to ban smoking in California's public state parks and beaches. The District has supported in the past.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

3. SB 20 – Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (Dodd D-Napa)

Houston began stating while this legislation is specific to Napa County, it would a “good neighbor” action for the District to support. Annually, there is a surplus property bill which considers a package of land transfers, but to date this particularly issue has not been addressed. Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District is seeking to acquire 850 acres of state surplus property as part of Skyline Wilderness Park. However; at this time, the Department of General Services does not have the right to sell the property. Director Dee Rosario questioned if there is a nearby transit hub. Doyle answered there is not.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

4. SB 45 – Wildfire, Drought and Flood Protection Bond Act (Allen D-Santa Monica)

Houston mentioned Senator Allen sits on Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and may become the Chair. He has introduced the \$4 billion Wildfire, Drought and Flood Protection Bond Act. In its current form, the bill is skeletal in nature. It establishes ten different categories which would receive funding if the bond was successful. Specifics will be worked on during the legislative session and possibly reconciled with efforts by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia.

5. Other Items – N/A

B. OTHER STATE MATTERS

1. Wildfire Legislation

Doyle announced there has been a significant amount of discussion regarding wildfire protection and flammable vegetation reduction on the state and federal level. Director Rosario questioned if air quality, and specifically California Air Resources Board, is part of the discussion. Legislative Assistant Lisa Baldinger referenced SB 901, which was chaptered this year. The legislation outlines funding programs to be created by CAL FIRE and the State Air Resources Board with the intent to protect against future wildfires while balancing emissions. Baldinger continued the District is seeking to share with the East Bay delegation identified best practices for vegetation management in balance of environmental and economic concerns.

2. Retirement of Nonette Hanko

Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler shared Nonette Hanko, who played a key role in the passage of a two-county initiative to form the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, is retiring after 46 years of service. District Staff is proposing moving forward a Resolution of Honor for Ms. Hanko.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

3. Other Items

Doyle announced CAL FIRE Chief Ken Pimlott, who grew up in the East Bay, is retiring.

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. H.R. 7154 – Safe Drinking Water in Playgrounds and Parks (Meng D-NY)

Pfuehler identified this legislation would allow funds from the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grant Program to be spent on water fountains in parks and playgrounds. The District would be eligible for such funds.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. S. 3499 – Outdoors for All Act (Harris D-CA)

Pfuehler explained this legislation as a “new Land and Water Conservation Fund.” Based on legislation in the House, this Senate companion bill would seek to increase funding to acquire land, develop or renovate facilities and recreation programs. Director Rosario asked if this legislation would create new funding. Pfuehler confirmed.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

3. S. 3515 – Wildfire-Resilient Communities (Merkley D-OR)

Pfuehler identified this program only applies to Federal lands, requiring the Department of Agriculture to conduct vegetation reduction to protect against future wildfires. Though the District would not receive funding, there could be indirect benefits from this program moving forward. District staff and advocates will be in communication with Senator Merkley’s office, as well as Senators Feinstein and Harris, to see if state and regional agencies might be made eligible.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

4. Other Items

B. OTHER FEDERAL MATTERS

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund Update

Pfuehler began the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) expired at the end of September and no additional funds have been collected since that time. There are still millions in the current Fund, but an effort to reauthorize the program is necessary to continue collecting funding from resource extraction entities. There is also a need to appropriate money from the existing Fund for investment in nature resource preservation and recreation. At this time, proposals are moving forward both in a package of bills and independently. It has yet to be determined which pathway will be successful, if any. The District is in communication with its delegation and the Speaker-to-be’s Office on this important issue.

2. Other Items

III. MEASURE FF AND ELECTION RESULTS

Pfuehler shared with the Board an overview of the November 2018 election results. He thanked the Board and General Manager for their leadership on Measure FF. Abreu commented a recent article was published questioning the District’s engagement effort. On the same page, however, it highlights the benefits of the District.

V. 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Pfuehler and Baldinger provided an overview presentation about the Park District’s proposed federal, state and local priorities for 2019.

Federal

- FEMA - Safe Healthy Forests / Wildfire Funding
- Land and Water Conservation Fund

- Concord Naval Weapons Station Transfer
- Oakland Army Base Transfer
- Infrastructure Package – Include Parks, Active Transportation
- East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
- Alameda Point Park – Veterans Affairs
- Tassajara Creek Trail – Army Camp Parks
- Shoreline Protection – Water Resources Development

State

- Legislative Budget Asks
- Prop. 68 Implementation
- Wildfire Legislation
- Cap-and-Trade Investment Plan
- Bay Area Delegation Engagement
- State Parks Relationship
- Blue – Green Algae Legislation
- Tesla Legislation
- Gateway Naming Legislation
- Gun Range Clean Up Funding
- Oakland Army Base – Department of Toxic Substances Control

Director Coffey mentioned he would like to see the District more engaged in Marsh Creek State Park. Doyle agreed it should be added to the list.

Local

- Park and Public Interest Survey
- BNSF and Miller-Knox
- Explore Feasibility of Revenue Zones Throughout the District
- Building Relationships – Parks Commissioners, City Councils
- San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
- Bay Area Toll Authority Regional Measure 3 implementation
- Measure BB implementation
- Possible Contra Costa County Transportation Measure

Director Waespi stated he would like the District to be more involved with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, particularly with regard to prescribed burns and wildfires. Doyle agreed it should be added to the list.

Pfuehler also clarified the BNSF and Miller-Knox issue is also a Federal issue given the Surface Transportation Commission's role. There is also a role for the state, so it cuts through all three categories.

VI. ADVOCATE CONTRACTS

A. Strategic Research Institute

Pfuehler recommended a continuation of the District's consultation with Strategic Research Institute.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

B. E2 Strategies, LLC

Pfuehler recommended a continuation of the District's consultation with E2 Strategies, LLC.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

VII. ARTICLES

VIII. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. BOARD COMMENTS

This meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Baldinger
Legislative Assistant