

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Board Legislative Committee (1.27.17) (Corbett)

Present

Board: Ellen Corbett (Chair), Beverly Lane, Dennis Waespi

Staff: Robert E. Doyle, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Yulie Padmore, Bob Nisbet, Jim O'Connor, Carol Johnson, Mona Koh, Jeff Rasmussen, Xiaoning Huang

Consultants: Doug Houston, Houston Magnani & Associates; Dr. Gary Manross, Strategy Research Institute

Public: Rick Rickard, Bruce Kern, Dee Rosario

This meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / ISSUES

A. NEW LEGISLATION

I. AB 151 (Burke D-Inglewood) – Extending the Cap-and-Trade Program

Advocate Doug Houston stated AB 32 – the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 – carried by former Speaker Fabian Núñez had a 14 year period for implementation. With the sunset of 2020 rapidly approaching, AB 151 seeks to extend the cap-and-trade deadline beyond 2020. This year's budget appropriates \$2.2 billion in cap-and-trade funds. The Governor's budget will only allow these funds to be released if the cap-and-trade program is extended. This approach is aiming to engage constituents and elected officials into a conversation about cap-and-trade. Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler shared the Park District was involved in helping draft comments for the scoping plan. Urban Greening is included in this year's expenditure plan and provides the District an opportunity to apply for those funds. Thus, the overall program is beneficial to the Park District. Director Beverly Lane asked for confirmation about whether this money has gone toward the high speed rail. Houston confirmed. Director Dennis Waespi asked if the District has received any cap-and-trade money. Pfuehler confirmed some for fuels management work and there is potential for more. Houston stated more and more of these funds are to be allocated to disadvantaged communities. The formula for determining a disadvantaged community is through Cal EnviroScreen and historically District applications have not competed well. As a consequence, the Park District will have more difficulty accessing some of the cap-and-trade

funds. Chair Director Ellen Corbett asked if there is future cap-and-trade legislation on the horizon. Houston confirmed. Director Corbett asked if AB 151 is the leading legislation. Houston shared the Speaker of the Assembly has not elected to carry any bills. As such, he is relying on others to do so, such as Assemblymember Burke. Assemblymember Burke is seen as a leader on climate change related issues. General Manager Robert E. Doyle addressed Director Lane's comment about high speed rail. He reminded the committee the high speed rail funds come off the top as a direct earmark. The Park District has a very positive relationship with CalFire which helps with the fuels management funding. There had been some concern about the health of cap-and-trade as the previous two auctions did not produce much revenue, but revenues came back up in the most recent auction.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. SB 18 (Pan D-Sacramento) – Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in California

Houston discussed the past vaccine bill Senator Richard Pan authored and added the groups which engaged in that effort are re-emerging over this bill. The bill is intended to be a “feel good” piece of legislation which addresses inalienable rights for all kids. The rights include preschool, health care, education, and physical and mental enrichment. There was, however, an anti-SB 18 rally in Sacramento. Director Lane asks how this differs from the California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights. Pfuehler said it is different. The Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights was an Executive Order. This legislation is beyond outdoors and inclusive of healthcare, childcare, etc. Director Lane wondered how this bill would impact the District. Pfuehler shared the healthy kids component could relate to our Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative. Director Corbett thanked Public Affairs AGM Carol Johnson and Public Affairs Community Relations Manager Mona Koh, and commented about the SHINE program and its positive impacts. Houston recalls the physical health for youth is included in the bill.

The Legislative Committee voted to WATCH SB 18.

B. ISSUES

I. Governor Brown’s Budget

Houston stated on January 10, Governor Jerry Brown released his budget which anticipates deficits returning. Of interest to the Park District, he recommends spending \$2.2 billion in cap-and-trade proceeds, as long as the program is extended. There is also \$100 million toward active transportation. Director Lane asked what this means in terms of the Park District. Houston confirmed it is “human-powered” transportation like paved trails for bicycles. Pfuehler shared it as a term the state has used to address the combining of federal trail money into one “alternatives” account. Director Corbett noted, in light of actions being contemplated at the federal level, state legislative leaders are taking strong stands regarding the environment, global warming, etc. She wondered what that might mean for the District. Houston shared it is difficult to predict, but it does appear the East Bay delegation’s number one priority is protecting California’s climate change policies. The possible revoking of federal funds is a big consideration in the budget discussions. There is concern the state may have to account for the loss of federal funds. GM Doyle shared state parks did not do well in the budget, receiving less funding this year than last year. This is not a good indication of support for parks in the Governor’s office. This directly impacts the three state parks the District manages. Director Corbett asked if this can change through advocacy. GM Doyle stated it gives greater importance to the Park Bond. He added there is millions of dollars’ worth of deferred maintenance, and historic sites managed by state parks that are also in poor condition.

Deferring the cost of maintenance adds to the deficit later on. The state of historic sites and added dollars to the deficit are issues that might resonate with the Governor.

2. Park Bond Legislation and Possible Initiative Update

Houston discussed his work with Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, supported by the Speaker, to advance a park bond through the legislative process last year. They developed language, had success in the Assembly, through the Senate committee, and to the Senate floor. On the last day of session, the Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon kept the bill from receiving a vote on the floor of the Senate. This year, the same bill has been reintroduced as AB 18. The Pro Tempore has introduced SB 5, which is a park and water bond. There are discussions among stakeholder groups about what will appeal to the administration. There is also an effort by some to launch a citizen's initiative. The supporters of this effort are not convinced the Governor will sign park bond legislation. A citizen's initiative, however, would be financed by environmental groups with a strong interest in landscape-scale resources which are not typically parks like those the District has in urban areas. GM Doyle shared a true state park bond has not happened in 16 years, with most of the legislature having never seen one of its positive effects. Another issue is inspiring other park agencies to speak out and contact their legislators. With many cities having lost their park department during the recession, they are focused on rebuilding. They have, however, the potential to share their current successes with their legislators through park visits. A drought resiliency measure is being discussed. With the recent floods, however, GM Doyle feels a climate change discussion is more appropriate. Thus, climate resiliency should be part of a park bond. The Park District manages 55 miles of coastline. With sea level rise, the communities adjacent to Park District shoreline property need more and more protection. Flooding of rivers, etc. can lead to erosion and land loss. With park usage up and diversity up, there needs to be a sharing of information about environmental justice. Increasing fees does not allow access for all. For maintaining regional, local and state parks – it is critical such a bond passes. Director Corbett added education about the importance of parklands in climate resiliency is one route to get the Governor's attention.

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / ISSUES

A. NEW LEGISLATION

I. H.R. 343 (Sires D-N) – Establish a Link Between Healthy, Economically Vibrant Communities, and Investments in Parks

Pfuehler said this is a bill which has come up in the past. The District has traditionally supported. This legislation is exciting because it links parks, health and the economics of communities all together. If enacted and supported by the budget, it could provide grant funding. The District worked to ensure regional park districts qualified for the grant funding. In this Congress, the bill is a long shot, but a good precedent.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

B. ISSUES – N/A

III. 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Pfuehler presented a "Legislative Delegation and Policy Priority Update for 2017." He first reflected the Master Plan of the Park District and success stories such as Tiger II, Measure AA, Cap-and-Trade, Dotson Family Marsh, Concord Hills Regional Parks' visit by the Secretary of Interior. He then

reviewed the committee assignments of U.S. Representatives, State Senate and State Assembly. Pfuehler shared the 2017 legislative priorities for the Park District.

IV. 2017 LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Pfuehler provided an overview about the itinerary for the Board of Directors Washington DC trip, 2017.

V. STRATEGIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE TRACKING INSTRUMENT

Dr. George Manross presented the Strategic Research Institute results on the surveys titled “Topics of Interest to District Officials” and “Extension of Measure CC.” Data for these surveys was gathered from January 6-15, 2017.

In the presentation about Measure CC, Assistant General Manager of Public Affairs Carol Johnson discussed the renewal outreach efforts for Measure CC. The Park District is including information about Measure CC in the Regional In Nature and other publications. In addition, a Measure CC brochure was created in 2016. This year, the Park District is poised to move forward with a public information education effort with goals such as showcasing its Measure CC work, educating the public about the importance of the measure and to involve/engage the public into the creation of a future project list for the parcel tax renewal.

VI. ARTICLES

VII. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

None

This meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Baldinger
Legislative Assistant