

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Friday, December 16, 2016

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Legislative Committee (12.16.16) _____ (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi (Chair), John Sutter, Ayn Wieskamp

Staff: Robert E. Doyle, Ana M. Alvarez, Erich Pfuehler (phone), Jeff Rasmussen, Tiffany Margulici, Mona Koh

Consultants: Doug Houston, Houston Magnani & Associates

Public: Dee Rosario, Ellen Corbett, Bruce Kern, Pat O'brien

This meeting was called to order at 12:38 p.m.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / ISSUES

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. AB 18 (Garcia D-Coachella) – California Clean Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018

This item was discussed concurrently with SB 5.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. SB 5 (de Leon D-Los Angeles) – California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018

Advocate Doug Houston reflected about August 2016's advancement of AB 2444 which was held in the Senate on the last day of session. Houston shared the momentum from that effort has led to the introduction of two park bonds – AB 18 introduced by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia and SB 5 introduced by Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon. AB 18 contains mostly parks and resource funding. SB 5 is half parks and resources, and half water funding. There are also discussions about a citizen's resources initiative and/or a separate water bond. Houston has communicated with those who are looking at supporting the citizen's initiative. They have expressed concerns about whether the Governor would actually sign a bond passed by the legislature. General Manager Robert E. Doyle discussed how important it is to stay engaged in all of the conversations to ensure parks – not just water – remain a focus of the bond. He also noted it is important to engage with the legislature to create park

champions. Park support must be cultivated in both houses of the legislature. Houston shared a significant challenge will be the state of the budget come June. Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler added beyond building champions, it is important to continue to keep parks on people's mind, such as the recent green infrastructure conversation the District hosted with Trust for Public Land and other agencies. With California taking national leadership on climate issues, the park bond could be a good accompaniment. Director Dennis Waespi asked about possible park champions in the legislature. Houston felt the legislature is favorable of parks, but was not sure who would be the champion for the East Bay. Director Ayn Wieskamp shared Senator-elect Nancy Skinner could be a likely champion. Pfuehler stated the importance of cultivating champions beyond the Park Bond, but for all aspects of the District's work and contributions to quality of life in the Bay Area. Pfuehler shared possible park champions such as Senator-elect Bill Dodd and Senator-elect Scott Wiener. Deputy General Manager Ana M. Alvarez spoke about Wiener's legislative history in San Francisco regarding parks, such as successful legislation to change San Francisco park hours.

Director John Sutter asked if the \$1.5 billion included in SB 5 for water could be used for the transportation of water from northern to southern California. Houston did not believe that would be possible. Director Sutter asked if anything in the water section of SB 5 would benefit the District. Houston shared only the regional watershed portion. Assistant Finance Officer Jeff Rasmussen shared this could likely be used for wetland restoration, such as with the Prop I funding used at Dotson Family Marsh. Doyle pointed out the significant funding difference for state parks in AB 18 and SB 5. Director Sutter asked about the definition of a park poor community. Houston responded it is 60% median household income within a one mile radius. Director Sutter asked how county versus regional allocations are divided in both bills. Houston shared it is competitive.

B. ISSUES – N/A

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / ISSUES

A. NEW LEGISLATION – N/A

B. ISSUES – N/A

III. 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Doyle provided an overview about the District's 2017 federal legislative priorities. Director Sutter asked about the status of the Oakland Army Base Clean Up, as well as the possibility of opening up portions of the property in segments. Doyle shared there will be both a land and water site cleanup. The agreements for these cleanups are still in discussion. Until the cleanups are complete, it is not likely any portion of the base will be accessible to the public. Director Wieskamp asked about the status of the Alameda Point Veterans Memorial. Doyle shared the District is making great progress with the City of Alameda. Director Waespi asked about the Concord Naval Weapons Station Transfer. Doyle shared the Navy must finish the Environmental Impact Study (EIS). In order to do so, however, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must first finish the Biologic Opinion (BiOp). At this time, the City of Concord and the District are working with USFWS on the BiOp. Once complete, the Navy can proceed with transfers, hopefully in the beginning of 2017.

Doyle provided an overview about the District's 2017 state legislative priorities. Doyle shared the District intends to continue endowment legislation with Senator Bob Wieckowski. The District is also discussing this topic with the Little Hoover Commission.

Doyle shared OHV Reauthorization includes the fuels tax formula, which essentially means anyone with a four-wheel drive SUV, including those who do not use OHV lands, is contributing to the OHV operating and expansion fund. Going forward, the legislature will be taking a close look at this funding. Pfuehler added the gun range cleanup has been discussed with Senator Wieckowski. The Senator's office will be looking into legislation or possible avenues to creatively fund the cleanup of such areas. Director Waespi asked if Assemblymember Bill Quirk was brought into this conversation. Pfuehler agreed Assemblymember Quirk can and should be tied in.

Pfuehler provide an overview about the District's 2017 local legislative priorities. Pfuehler stated, as directed by the Board, District staff is putting together a team to begin Measure CC renewal efforts in January 2017. Pfuehler shared the Strategic Research Institute is administering a field survey on Measure CC at this time. Pfuehler provided an overview about the Oakland Bay Trail Summit. The summit would be held in 2017 to discuss Oakland's waterfront Bay Trail connections. Pfuehler acknowledged the District has been approached by MTC staff about their interest in a Regional Measure 3 to raise bridge tolls. They are interested in having a list of projects from the District. District staff has communicated back a project for each bridge touch down in the East Bay. Pfuehler noted with communications changing, there is greater need for social media engagement by the District. As such, staff will be monitoring City Council and other elected officials' presence on Facebook and Twitter. Director Sutter asked for an expansion on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA). Pfuehler said it is important the District stays engaged as SFBRA creates grant guidelines and deadlines for project submissions in the coming year.

IV. 2017 BOARD LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

Pfuehler provided overview of the proposed 2017 Board Legislative Calendar.

V. 2017 CONSULTANT CONTRACTS

- A. Houston Magnani & Associates**
- B. Strategic Research Institute**
- C. E2 Strategies, LLC**

The Board Legislative Committee considered renewal of the contracts cited above. The Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT all three contracts.

VI. ARTICLES

Provided in Board Legislative Committee packet.

VII. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Pfuehler provided comment on Director Diane Burgis's behalf regarding a Radke Elected Official of the Year Award in remembrance of former Board Member Ted Radke.

This meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erich Pfuehler
Government Affairs Manager