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# BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 1, 2018

**12:30 p.m.**

**EBRPD - Administrative Headquarters  
2950 Peralta Oaks Court  
Oakland, California 94605**

The following agenda items are listed for Committee consideration. In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, no official action of the Board will be taken at this meeting; rather, the Committee's purpose shall be to review the listed items and to consider developing recommendations to the Board of Directors.

A copy of the background materials concerning these agenda items, including any material that may have been submitted less than 72 hours before the meeting, is available for inspection on the District's website ([www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)), the Headquarters reception desk, and at the meeting.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

If you wish to testify on an item on the agenda, please complete a speaker's form and submit it to the recording secretary. Your name will be called when the item is announced for discussion.

Accommodations and Access

District facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed for you to participate, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 510-544-2020 as soon as possible, but preferably at least three working days prior to the meeting.

## AGENDA

<u>TIME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
12:30 pm	1. Policy Framework for Managing Park Resources in a Changing Climate	R	Dr. Ana M. Alvarez
1:30 pm	2. Horse Valley Creek and Wetland Restoration Project	I	Karla Cuero
	3. Open Forum for Public Comments <i>Individuals wishing to address the Committee on a topic not on the agenda may do so by completing a speaker's form and submitting it to the recording secretary.</i>		
	4. Board Comments		

Board Executive Committee Members  
Dennis Waespi (Chair), Ayn Wieskamp, Beverly Lane  
Ellen Corbett, Alternate  
Robert E. Doyle, Staff Coordinator

R - Recommendation for Future Board Consideration  
I - Information  
D - Discussion

2018 Meeting Dates

January 11	July 5
February 1	August 2
March 1	September 6
April 5	October 4
May 3	November 1
June 7	December 6

**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT**

**BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting of March 1, 2018

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert E. Doyle, General Manager

STAFF REPORT  
PREPARED BY: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager

SUBJECT: Policy Framework for Managing Park Resources in a Changing Climate

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Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District), one of the largest local public park agencies in the United States with over 121,000 acres of public parkland, contributes to the quality of life of over 2.5 million people in the East San Francisco Bay Area. The Park District's commitment to protecting and preserving the East Bay's green infrastructure is evidenced in its mission statement which states that an environmental ethic guides all of the District's activities; in its 2013 Master Plan which recognizes the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change impacts; and in Resolution #2017-07-184 declaring the Park District's commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Accord goals. Since its inception, the Park District has sought to lessen its impact on natural resources while stewarding ecological systems, natural and cultural resources, and outdoor recreation amenities with 25 million visits on an annual basis.

The Park District voluntarily complies with the California Waste Management Act of 1989, AB 939, requiring local jurisdictions to divert 50% of discarded materials from landfill. Since 2000, the Park District's Investment Policy has included environmental responsibility, stating the Park District will not knowingly invest in firms that engage in activities deleterious to the environment. In 2009 by Resolution No. 2009-4-102, the Board of Directors adopted its first Sustainability Policy intending to lessen Park District-wide waste – taking effect on Earth Day of that year.

In 2013, the Park District's Master Plan was updated to include the vision to *“Monitor the effects of climate change on District resources and utilize adaptive management techniques to adjust stewardship methods and priorities to preserve natural, cultural and scenic values on the parks and trails.”* Furthermore, the Master Plan calls out as a priority for the next decade the urgency to address the challenge of a changing climate as it relates to land use planning and management of public parklands.

It is with this vision in mind that a cross-departmental Climate Action Steering Committee (Committee) was created in 2016 to lead, initiate and coordinate efforts relative to climate change mitigation, adaptation and building resiliency. Key initiatives and strategic direction is

provided through this Committee comprised of staff representing multiple professional disciplines (i.e., policy, legislative advocacy, planning, and natural resource management, etc.). Members of the Committee are noted below. Specifically, this Committee closely examines the threats and opportunities associated with the effects of climate change to ensure the perpetuity of the natural and ecological resources on public lands while developing strategic actions to create climate smart East Bay parks.

Climate Action Steering Committee Members:

- Chair: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
- Co-Chair: Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager
- Stewardship: Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship
- Planning: Brian Holt, Chief of Planning and GIS
- Operations: Jim O'Connor, Assistant General Manager of Operations
- Finance: Deborah Spaulding, Assistant Finance Officer
- Regional Parks Foundation: Julianna Schirmer, Development Director

The Committee has developed the attached policy framework for consideration by the Board of Directors (Attachment A). This framework is intended to operationalize the Park District's existing policies and can facilitate communication about the Park District's efforts to address climate change. Furthermore, it aligns with the Park District's value of resiliency, supports the fiscal health of the District by influencing and pursuing climate change related financing opportunities, and brings together all the good work already being done by the Park District that contributes to managing park resources in a changing climate.

The proposed framework sets clear policy for environmental sustainability and climate action planning by reclaiming the green infrastructure found on Park District lands and supporting its ecological functions; integrating large scale collaboration to build resiliency by increasing biodiversity and interconnectivity; and reducing environmental impact through sustainable operations, design, decisions and management at every level of the organization. The proposed policy framework ensures that the Park District will effectively adapt to a changing climate by building resiliency to climate impacts, minimizing its own greenhouse gas emissions, and positioning itself to develop and lead climate smart practices that contribute to the science and professions associated with parkland and open space management.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board Executive Committee forward this item to the full Board for favorable consideration.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: Policy Framework for Park Resources in a Changing Climate

## **The East Bay Regional Park District Policy Framework for Managing Park Resources in a Changing Climate**

### STATEMENT OF POLICY FRAMEWORK

The East Bay Regional Park District Policy Framework for Managing Park Resources in a Changing Climate illustrates the Park District's environmental vision and operationalizes its mission to protect and preserve the East Bay's green infrastructure. The Framework aligns with the Park District's value of resiliency by creatively adapting to change and addressing challenges with empathy, perspective, and determination. It aligns with the Park District's Master Plan to pursue all appropriate activities to ensure the fiscal health of the Park District including influencing policy and securing climate change related local, state and federal funding opportunities, grants, donations, financial assets and services. The Framework's five key principles do not act alone, but in concert:

1. **Climate in All Policies:** All policies placed before the EBRPD Board of Directors shall be considered through a climate lens. Where appropriate, the Park District will consider a proposed action's impact on a changing climate, in addition to other factors. *Park District policies, planning documents, decisions and management practices will strive to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate whenever possible, including to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions and develop nature-based protection from the impacts of climate change.*
2. **Climate Friendly:** When developing and managing the natural and built environment, the Park District shall consider climate change and its effects, by reducing its environmental impact, whenever feasible. *The Park District will consider climate impacts in all activities and strive for environmentally sustainable operations and design, including land use planning and overall project implementation. This includes actions, whenever feasible, for Greenhouse gas emission reduction; toxic reduction; waste recycling and reduction; water conservation; clean-fuel vehicles and energy efficient facilities; habitat restoration to increase carbon storage and enhancement of nature-based services, the East Bay's green infrastructure.*
3. **Climate Readiness:** When stewarding public parklands and open space, the Park District will seek to restore, enhance and sustain green infrastructure, in a changing climate. Ecological functions and nature-based services will be used, whenever feasible, to adapt and respond to changes in temperature, sea level rise, drought, wildfire, flooding and other extreme weather-related events. The Park District's climate readiness actions endeavor to improve preparedness for East Bay communities from the impacts of a changing climate. *When possible, Park District natural and built infrastructure projects will slow erosion, provide flood protection, encourage green transportation, improve water retention and water biofiltration, provide respite to migrating wildlife, increase bio-interconnectivity in the urban fabric, and include practices that increase green infrastructure resilience and ensure the perpetuity of public parklands and open space. In parallel, the Park District will pursue all appropriate activities to ensure its fiscal health including influencing and pursuing climate change related local, state and federal opportunities, grants, donation, financial assets and services.*

4. **Lead Climate Smart Practices:** The planning, protecting and managing of parklands shall be done in cohesion with the entirety of the East Bay ecosystem, including connecting people to nature, in accordance with the 2013 Master Plan. Such practices involve looking at parklands holistically with a systems approach to establish and implement the best-known policies and practices in a changing climate. *The Park District will continue to act as a leader to advance such policies at the state, federal and local level; advance practices in support of the nature-based solutions found on public parklands; and influence funding opportunities to restore and sustain green infrastructure.*
  
5. **Advance Science:** The Park District operates and manages thousands of acres of open space ranging from woodlands to grasslands to shoreline wetlands. With a changing climate, the ecology of these lands will change as well. The 2013 Master Plan states the Park District will monitor the effects of climate change on Park District resources and utilize adaptive management techniques to adjust stewardship methods and priorities to preserve natural, cultural and scenic values of the parks. *The Park District will continue to serve as a natural laboratory to monitor the effects of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and to disseminate what has been learned from this laboratory both regionally, and nationally.*

#### IMPLEMENTATION

- The General Manager or his/her designee may issue direction to Park District's divisions and their respective departments for the implementation of the guidelines and policies included in this policy framework.
- The General Manager may delegate to the Park District's Climate Action Steering Committee the responsibility to implement this framework and coordinate with other Park District personnel as appropriate.
- As means of compliance and accountability, the General Manager or his/her designee may require staff to develop and maintain annual reports on the formulation and coordination across divisions.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

- March 20, 2018

**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT**

**BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting of March 1, 2018

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert E. Doyle, General Manager

STAFF REPORT  
PREPARED BY: Karla Cuero, Project Coordinator

SUBJECT: Horse Valley Creek and Wetland Restoration Project

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Karla Cuero, Project Coordinator, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

The Park District acquired the 1,885.2-acre Roddy Ranch property in 2014, and is working with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy to develop a habitat restoration project within a 71-acre portion of the property in Horse Valley.

Habitat improvements are proposed to help with the recovery of California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and vernal pool fairy shrimp – a key biological objective of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan. The proposal would create approximately 2.2 acres of vernal pools and seasonal wetlands and restore/create 4,120 linear feet of stream. Also included in the project is the removal of an existing road which will restore hydrologic connectivity and habitat function. An unpaved maintenance road will be constructed to provide construction access, and to retain potential trail connections from Horse Valley. In addition, the project will repair a stock pond that was damaged in last year's storms. The project is on schedule for construction in Summer 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item. No action is required at this time.