

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Board Legislative Committee (05.18.2018) (Rosario)

Present

Board: Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Beverly Lane

Staff: Rachel Sater, Jeff Rasmussen, Eric Holmes, Erich Pfuehler, Ana Alvarez, Lisa Baldinger, Matt Graul, Debra Auker

Consultants: Doug Houston

Public:

This meeting was called to order at 12:38 pm.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

I. **AB 1956 – Fire Protection Working Group (Limon D-Santa Barbara)**

Legislative Advocate Doug Houston shared there are a number of fire related bills in the Legislature at this time. Additionally, a lot of the talk around the budget, due to the increase in revenue, lead to a member's request day with many asks focusing on fire related funding. This bill seeks to revise and recast a pre-fire working group to become a fire prevention group. Essentially, these folks would be tasked with identifying incentives for landowners and fire prevention activities. It would also establish a grant program for local assistance. The grants would have to include resiliency. Director Beverly Lane asked if these are major changes in how the program currently functions. Houston replied it seems like this area has been studied significantly and there is a lot of information. These are common sense approaches. Director Dennis Waespi provided his thoughts about past practices. In the past, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) received additional staff in response to large fires. Today, these bills are all about prevention. This modernized response seems positive. Houston agreed and added prepositioning is included to help mobilize staff's response if a fire is to break out. Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler acknowledged, with climate change, there is a drier environment. As such, funding from this bill is targeted to remove possible dead trees and other hazards prior to a fire. He also spoke to how the working group is aimed at getting more local and diversified input. Director Dee Rosario felt this program reflects what is already happening here in the East Bay and finds it to be a good thing.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. AB 2551 – Forest and Wildland Health Improvement and Fire Prevention Program (Wood D-Santa Rosa)

Houston continued there are several bills advancing around the notion of prescribed burns. Prescribed burns are understood as a positive tool to prevent and control fire. This bill would require a percent of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) be made available for CAL FIRE prescribed burns. Pfuehler shared another aspect of the bill is prescribed burns will be used as a training opportunity for fire fighter staff. Director Lane asked if a certain percent requirement in GGRF funding has precedence. Houston replied it does not. Director Rosario questioned if this would be affected by Prop 70. Houston understands that proposition would not go in to affect until 2024.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

3. SB 1079 – Fire Protection Grants (Monning D-Carmel)

Houston explained this legislation would give CAL FIRE the authority to issue advance payments of grant funding up to 25%. There are around seven programs administered through these funds. This act aims to try and provide monies upfront.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

B. OTHER MATTERS

1. Prop. 68 Park Bond

Houston highlighted there are two and a half weeks until the June vote. At this time, the Proposition 68 campaign is moving forward. Based on the campaign strategy plan as outlined, it is on track. An executive committee meeting took place earlier this week where some tracking polls were shared. These polls found close to a 60% positive response state-wide. With five different propositions on the ballot, 68 is first on the list. Pfuehler added he had the opportunity to attend the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) annual dinner and a similar figure was cited, upper 50 percent. What has been of interest is that a lot of the campaign material has been around water, however the conversation at the dinner was about parks and local funding. Director Lane shared she hopes organizations involved will follow up with their legislators after the June vote to keep the momentum for investing in open space going.

2. Governor’s May Revise Budget

Houston highlighted the revised May budget has been on many front pages. California is doing well in revenue. Not surprisingly, the fiscally prudent Governor decided the first order of business would be to place \$3.2 billion into the Rainy Day Fund, which Houston believes is the maximum amount. Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services Debra Auker shared Christopher Thornberg spoke about the Governor’s budget at East Bay Economic Development Association’s recent event and shared a lot of the revenue is relative to an individual’s personal income tax. Thus, expenses using the additional revenue should be one time.

3. Other matters

Director Rosario asked about SB 623 – the surcharge on water. Houston recalled the bill is seeking to authorize a surcharge on water retailers and suppliers, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. H.R. 5471 – American Gateway Communities (Cicilline D-RI)

Pfuehler expanded about this legislation. It would authorize the Department of Interior to establish a grant making fund for gateway communities for units of the National Park System, including those in the East Bay. Particularly with an eye toward the future park at Concord where some of the signage opportunities and other goals of this program could benefit the Park District. Director Lane wondered about the nexus between Concord and the Port Chicago Memorial. Pfuehler confirmed and shared the future joint Visitor Center would also likely be an opportunity.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

B. OTHER MATTERS

I. **Other Matters**

III. CONSIDERATION OF MEASURE CC EXTENSION

Pfuehler and Legislative Assistant Lisa Baldinger provided an overview of the proposed draft Measure CC expenditure plan, key messages in the extension based off survey responses and a possible 75 word ballot statement. Deputy General Manager Ana Alvarez shared the important role this measure has in funding staff, emphasizing the 11.59 FTEs are safer from potential recession than those funded out of the general fund as this would be an ongoing and consistent revenue source. Director Lane questioned whether the board would be making a recommendation about the 75 word ballot statement. Pfuehler confirmed it is not necessary at this time and the motion would be on acceptance of the proposed Measure CC extension expenditure plan.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

V. ARTICLES

VI. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

This meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Baldinger
Legislative Assistant

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