

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Legislative Committee (09.21.2018) (Rosario)

Present

Board: Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Beverly Lane

Staff: Robert E. Doyle, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Debra Auker, Jim O'Connor, Ana M. Alvarez, Rachel Sater, Tiffany Margulici, Jeff Rasmussen

Consultants: Doug Houston, George Manross

Public: Marla Schmalle, Rick Rickard

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

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. **N/A**

2. **Other Items**

B. OTHER STATE MATTERS

1. **Update on AB 1918 – Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation (Garcia D-Coachella)**

Legislative Advocate Doug Houston noted last year a bill was brought forward without enough industry emphasis. This year, the Outdoor Industry Association worked in conjunction with the District and legislature to move legislation forward. Both houses passed the bill and a strong advocacy effort ensured the Governor was educated about the issue. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill. The veto message highlighted what areas of the legislation were misunderstood by the Governor's office.

2. **2018 Legislation – Status Update**

Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler, Advocate Houston and Legislative Assistant Lisa Baldinger provided a status overview of all legislation discussed at the 2018 East Bay Regional Park District Legislative Committee meetings.

3. 2018 November 6th Statewide Propositions

Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler shared an outline of California state propositions on the November 2018 ballot. General Manager Robert E. Doyle shared the District has received a variety of input from external agencies and individuals regarding the funding investments in Proposition 3. Pfuehler emphasized the amount of revenue Prop. 3 would generate for various state agencies. It has the potential to be difficult to administer in a timely fashion as grant opportunities would have to be created.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to REMAIN NEUTRAL on California State Proposition 3.

Advocate Houston cited Proposition 5 which will allow California homeowners to transfer base property taxes from their current home to a new home. This transfer will affect District property tax revenue significantly overtime. Director Beverley Lane questioned if such a transfer currently applies if a homeowner purchases a house worth less. Advocate Houston responded such a transfer is dependent on the county. Doyle emphasized it is an addition to Proposition 13. Director Waespi questioned if polling exists for Proposition 5. Advocate Houston has not seen any.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to OPPOSE on California State Proposition 5.

Pfuehler began discussing Proposition 6 which, if passed, would negatively affect the state's Active Transportation Program. Additionally, the passage of Proposition 6 would make future investments in transportation more difficult. The direct impact on the District may not be immediately significant, but over time there would be less funding for paved trails. Doyle added transportation is the number one issue in California, but the repeal of this tax has resonated within certain areas of the state.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to OPPOSE on California State Proposition 6.

4. Proposition 68 Implementation Update

Doyle began by providing an overview of Proposition 68 timing. As referenced during the discussion of Proposition 3, with large bond measures there is a question of agency capacity and when guidelines will be developed. District staff has compiled information to track the grant opportunities as they arise. Pfuehler added the event hosted by Advocate Houston in Sacramento was a beneficial discussion among agencies and well attended. Grants Manager Tiffany Margulici and Pfuehler were both able to attend and benefit from the discussion. Baldinger shared an overview of Proposition 68 funding opportunities as they relate to the legislation, state budget and agency guideline creation for grant programs. Director Lane questioned how funding in unincorporated areas or smaller regional park districts within Alameda and Contra Costa counties will be distributed. Advocate Houston responded funds will be divided prior to an allocation being given to the Park District.

5. Other Items

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

I. S. 3240 – Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration and Promotion Act (Hirono D-HI)

Pfuehler mentioned this legislation could present future grant opportunities for the Park District. This effort by Hawaiian Senator Hirono seeks to scientifically recognize the rapid loss of native plants. This bill aims to provide grant funded research opportunities in hopes of limiting the number of native species

placed on the endangered species list. Additionally, the legislation asks for new plantings within federal projects be done using native flora.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. H. R. 6596 – Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation and Working Forests Act (Huffman D-CA)

Pfuehler highlighted this legislation is a confluence of projects and issues favored by many environmental organizations. It ultimately provides a comprehensive look at land use and wildlife within the Representative Huffman’s district. This legislation includes a chapter allowing Save the Redwoods League to create a partnership with National and State Parks for the establishment of Redwoods Rising in celebration of their centennial. Within the bill there is also a noteworthy chapter about how to manage woodlands and grasslands in a changing climate, from which the Park District has potential to benefit by learning the best practices.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

3. Other Items

B. OTHER FEDERAL MATTERS

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund Update

Pfuehler shared the House recently passed the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This issue has now moved to the Senate to be heard late September or early October. There is a strong effort to ensure 40% of the revenue will be spent by the states. There are additional commitments being made to allow for using revenue to provide outdoor sports-persons’ facilities. If the LWCF does expire on September 30, 2018, the revenue will stop being collected until reauthorization occurs. Doyle emphasized this gap in payment collection will be a significant amount of funding lost.

2. Update on S. 3001 and H.R. 6040 – Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act (Feinstein D-CA and DeSaulnier D-CA)

Pfuehler announced the legislation to transfer of Contra Costa Canal and Contra Loma Reservoir from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Contra Costa Water District has passed the House and moving forward successfully.

3. Other Items

III. MEASURE FF UPDATE

Public Information Supervisor Dave Mason shared the public information presentation and materials created by Public Affairs about the East Bay Regional Park District’s November 2018 ballot measure, Measure FF.

IV. TRAIL USER SURVEY

Doctor George Manross provided an overview of the Summer 2017 Trail User Survey results.

V. ARTICLES

None.

VI. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Rickard requested the Board consider alteration of trail user permits to allow for 24/7 commuting on through-trails.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

None.

This meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Baldinger
Legislative Assistant