

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Legislative Committee (1.18.2019) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi, Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett

Staff: Robert E. Doyle, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Debra Auker, Jeff Rasmussen, Rachel Sater, Yulie Padmore, Nika Hoffman

Consultants: Doug Houston

Public: Eric Holmes, Rick Rickard

This meeting was called to order at 12:46 pm.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. ACA I – Lower Voter Threshold (55%) for Local Revenue (Aguiar-Curry D-Winters)

Advocate Doug Houston stated this bill is constitutional amendment. There have been many versions over the last several years. It seeks to alter voter threshold on bonded indebtedness to 55% and decrease threshold on special taxes for cities and counties. Special Districts are currently excluded from the bill. The Park District staff proposes working with the California Special Districts Association to amend the bill to include Special Districts as it moves forward.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. Other Matters

B. OTHER STATE MATTERS

1. Newsom Appointments and State Budget

Houston stated Governor Gavin Newsom was sworn into office earlier this month and has been proactive in appointing key positions as they relate to the Park District, including Secretary of Resources. General Manager Robert E. Doyle mentioned many of the new appointees are from Oakland and familiar with the Park District. Houston continued the state budget is higher than anticipated. Newsom's proposal is a 4% increase over the previous Governor's. The new Governor is

also likely to continue Rainy Day Fund investments.

Still under consideration, AB 2126 would create four new fire crews in the State of California. District Staff and Houston have been working with Senator Nancy Skinner and the East Bay delegation to encourage East Bay crews. Director Colin Coffey wondered why only \$3 million is going toward the California Coastal Commission and Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Houston responded this is the third year of this appropriation level. Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler confirmed it is specific funding for the Bay Area and worth celebrating. Director Dennis Waespi asked when the budget would pass. Houston said June 15th. Director Ellen Corbett wondered how the Water Districts are taking the potential surcharge. Houston said some support, and some oppose.

2. Wildfire Legislation and Funding

Houston continued PG&E filed Chapter 11 and he expects more wildfire legislation to move forward. The Governor recently held a press conference on wildfire. Pfuehler provided an overview draft of wildfire protection efforts for which the District would benefit from funding or policy change. Legislative Assistant Lisa Baldinger shared there have been initial conversations with state legislative staff on these funding areas which have been well received.

3. 2020 Resources Bond

Houston began, in light of California State Proposition 3 failing in November 2018 by a small percent, there is anticipation for a water bond to be introduced through the legislature. A meeting occurred with Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia to discuss this possibility. The Assembly Member indicated the Speaker has requested he work on a surcharge for clean water infrastructure, which will be his priority in 2019. However, on the Senate side, SB 45 has been introduced as a skeletal resources bond. A handout containing an overview of the legislation was shared.

4. Cap-and-Trade Investment Plan

Government Affairs Cap-and-Trade Analyst Intern Nika Hoffman provided an overview of the Cap-and-Trade program and its three investment plans since 2012.

5. Other Matters

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. H.R. 179 – No Increase in Parks (Griffith R-VA)

Pfuehler shared this piece of legislation would eliminate future acquisitions for the National Park Service, as well as other Department of Interior agencies. This is fundamentally the antithesis of the District's principals.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to OPPOSE.

2. Other Matters

B. OTHER MATTERS

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – Lands Bill Update

Pfuehler commented there is a lands package that has been drafted, including the renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but due to the government shutdown is not currently able to move forward. This package also includes the Transcontinental Railroad bill, which has potential to assist in funding for Niles Canyon. It also includes the Contra Costa Canal and Contra Loma transfer bill. The

District will continue to monitor and work with Peter Umhofer in Washington, D.C. The District has also been working with other land agencies in the Bay Area to draw collaborative support in the region. Pfuehler noted since the LWCF expired on September 30, 2018, no additional royalties have been collected for the fund.

2. **Other Items**

III. SACRAMENTO DAY MEMBER ASKS

Baldinger presented an overview of projects and issues as they relate to State Assembly and Senate Districts. Director Coffey requested the opportunity to provide input on the suggest projects and programs.

IV. WASHINGTON D.C. ISSUES / HIKE THE HILL

Pfuehler provided an overview of the Park District's Federal Priorities in preparation for the February 2019 Washington, D.C. advocacy week. Director Corbett questioned when a presentation would be provided to the full Board. Pfuehler confirmed February 5, 2019.

V. ARTICLES

VI. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

This meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Baldinger
Legislative Assistant