

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Legislative Committee (4.19.2019) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi, Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett

Staff: Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Tiffany Margulici, Nika Hoffman, Rachel Sater

Consultants: Doug Houston

Public: Eric Holmes, Rick Rickard

This meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. ACR 69 (Garcia D – Cochella) “Parks Make Life Better!” Month

Legislative Advocate Doug Houston stated this is the reintroduction of California Park and Recreation Society’s (CPRS) sponsored “Parks Make Life Better! Month” resolution. The language was redrafted this year. CPRS has undergone a retooling of its legislative committee. The new leaders on the committee added more to this resolution. The author may get the resolution adopted prior to the end of July. For the last four years, it has been adopted in August.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. AB 552 (Stone D – Monterey Bay) Coastal Adaptation, Access and Resilience Program

Houston shared this legislation is trying to create a new fund – the Coastal Adaptation Excessive Resiliency Fund. In creating this fund, the author is hoping to help the state prepare, plan and adapt to climate change. A host of state entities would have the ability to access the funds. The revenue source is from offshore oil drilling leases. On an annual basis, the offshore oil drilling leases generate roughly \$90 million. This bill would allocate about 30% of this funding for the new program. Director Ellen Corbett asked about others who might seek to draw from the fund. Houston said to date the monies have been directed to the general fund.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

3. AB 1025 (Grayson D – Concord) California Transportation Commission San Ramon Branch Corridor (Iron Horse Trail) Reimbursement

Houston stated this bill seeks to forgive Contra Costa County from a transportation loan it received from the state for the Iron Horse Trail corridor. Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler added the loan was transportation funding. In the 1980's, there was a conversation about using the Iron Horse Trail corridor for light rail. The County has not repaid the transportation funding. The District now recognizes the trail as alternative transportation and, as such, forgiving the debt aligns with the transportation aspect of the loan. This bill adds a member of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority to the Iron Horse Trail advisory committee. It also asks the committee to consider allowing autonomous vehicles along the corridor. Forgiveness of the debt is a positive, but the direction to study autonomous vehicles is of concern.

4. AB 1191 (Bonta D – Alameda) State Lands Commission Howard Terminal Oakland Waterfront Ballpark Act

Houston shared this bill, authored by Assembly Member Rob Bonta, would authorize the State Lands Commission to enter into an exchange with the City of Oakland for impacted tidelands at the Howard Terminal should the Oakland A's move forward with constructing a baseball stadium on the site. Pfuehler added the Oakland A's are supportive of a Bay Trail extension as part of their new development but Save the Bay has opposed the bill. Given the competing interests, the Committee voted to watch the bill.

5. AB 1612 (Quirk D – Hayward) Invasive Species Response Fund

Houston stated this bill establishes the Invasive Species Response Fund in the State Treasury. The bill authorized the Department of Fish and Wildlife to spend monies from the Fund to respond to nonnative vertebrate species. Staff recommends holding off taking a position until the species is identified.

6. SB 293 (Skinner D – Berkeley) Oakland Waterfront Revitalization and Environmental Justice Infrastructure Financing District

Houston stated this bill is looking to authorize and establish an Infrastructure Financing District for the West Oakland Waterfront. A portion of the funding would go toward the potential ballpark and developments associated with the site. The District has the potential to expand and improve the Bay Trail. Pfuehler added this is an effort through legislation to ensure a public process regarding environmental justice.

7. Other Matters

B. OTHER STATE MATTERS

1. Update about SB 45 (Allen D – Santa Monica) – Wildfire, Drought and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020

Houston acknowledged the bill has been advancing through committees and has been triple referred. The final policy committee hearing is Wednesday. There is anticipation it will advance through Governance and Finance. He stated he was unsure about the fate of the measure will be, but it has started productive conversations on the issue of climate adaptation.

2. Other Matters

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. H.R. 279 (Carbajal D – CA) – California Clean Coast Act

Pfuehler shared this bill is a response to the Federal Administration’s efforts to potentially allow offshore oil and gas drilling along the northern California coastline. This legislation would prohibit oil and gas drilling off the coast of California. The impact of a blowout would be critical on Bay habitat.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. S.Res. 128 (Murray D – WA) and H.Res. 250 (Grijalva D – AZ) – 100th Anniversary of National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)

Pfuehler explained this resolution would acknowledge the National Park and Conservation Association’s 100th Anniversary. The NPCA has been partner in regional efforts, such as ensuring the Port Chicago Naval Magazine became a Memorial.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

3. S. 327 (Shaheen D – NH) – Wounded Veteran Recreation Act

Pfuehler shared this bill would allow anyone who has been honorably discharged due to service-connected disability to have a lifetime National Recreation Pass.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

4. S. 809 (Blumenthal D – CT) and H.R. 1727 (Connolly D-VA) – Complete America’s Great Trails Act

Pfuehler acknowledged this legislation is like previously supported bills. It would provide a tax credit to private landowners who provide conservation easements to certified National Scenic Trails, such as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

5. S. 1081 – Permanent Funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (Manchin D-WV)

Pfuehler stated this bill expands on the recent permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to provide permanent full funding. Currently, it will be annually considered as part of the budget process. It has only once been fully funded at \$900 million.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

6. Other Matters

B. OTHER FEDERAL MATTERS

a. Other Matters

III. PROPOSITION 68 IMPLEMENTATION

Grants Manager Tiffany Margulici provided a verbal update about various grant possibilities within Proposition 68.

IV. BUILDING VOTER APPROVAL FOR TRAIL FUNDING

Pfuehler and Legislative Assistant Lisa Baldinger provided an overview of the Park Districts trail funding history.

V. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

This meeting adjourned at 1:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Baldinger
Legislative Assistant