

AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETINGS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Board Legislative Committee (5.17.2019) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi, Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett

Staff: Robert E. Doyle, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Alan Love, Rachel Sater, Debra Auker, Tiffany Margulici

Consultants: Doug Houston

Public: Eric Holmes, Rick Rickard

This meeting was called to order at 12:43 pm.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

**1. AB 296 (Cooley D – Rancho Cordova) – Climate Innovation Grant Program**

Legislative Advocate Doug Houston stated this bill would establish the Climate Innovation Grant Program to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council. This program would invest in technologies to reduce and sequester carbon. This program would initially be underwritten by a Voluntary Tax Contribution Account. General Manager Robert E. Doyle requested clarity about what permanent means. Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler confirmed it means more than “one time.” Director Dennis Waespi asked how much revenue the tax is expected to generate. Houston was unsure at this time, but believes it will likely be low.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

**2. AB 1190 (Irwin D – Thousand Oaks) – Prohibition of Local Drone Bans**

Houston continued AB 1190 is worth a conversation before considering opposition. He acknowledged the District does not currently permit recreational drone use within parklands. This legislation is the result of multiple efforts to create permissible recreational drone use. This bill seeks broad stakeholder input. The most recent set of amendments to the bill, and the reason The League of California Cities is now supportive, provides for one designated recreational drone use site in a local agency’s jurisdiction. Having one site will allow for a ban on all other properties. Assistant District Counsel Rachel Sater mentioned the 2016 update of Ordinance 38 added drone use to the list of activities only permitted in

areas the Board designates. At this time, no drone sites have been designated. There is concern this legislation is too broad as it is meant for cities and counties, rather than for special districts. Sater shared at this time, Legal Counsel is recommending a watch position. Director Ellen Corbett stated this legislation restricts the ability of the District to regulate its own lands and opposes the bill. Doyle added this legislation could affect safety should drones fly in an area being patrolled by helicopters. Corbett added it could also negatively affect bird migration.

The Board Legislative Committee voted to WATCH, Director Corbett abstained.

**3. AB 1300 (Kamlager-Dove D – Los Angeles) – Explore the Coast Program of the State Coastal Conservancy**

Houston stated this bill was held on suspense and will not advance this year.

**4. AB 1486 (Ting D – San Francisco) – Surplus Land for Housing**

Houston began this bill deals with surplus properties. When public agencies elect to dispose of properties, there has always been a priority order for future use, with parks toward the top. At this time, it is unknown if this bill will impact the District's ability to acquire future property.

**5. AB 1516 (Friedman D – Glendale) – Defensible Space and Wildfire Protection**

Houston said this bill speaks primarily to defensible space adjacent to private residents. This bill would expand defensible space around structures to reduce fire risk at adjacent properties.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

**6. ACR 89 (Cooley D – Rancho Cordova) – Special Districts Week**

Houston concluded this bill makes September 22 – 28 as Special Districts Week.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

**7. Other Matters**

**B. OTHER STATE MATTERS**

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

Pfuehler shared this legislation will forgive Contra Costa County's debt regarding state transportation funding for the Iron Horse Trail corridor. There are currently discussions about allowing autonomous vehicles within the corridor. Doyle added two decades ago when the railroad was abandoning the right of way, there was an effort to ensure the property was not subdivided. Significant effort and funds were put forward to acquire the right of way for the county's light rail proposal. This was prior to the establishment of the Iron Horse Trail.

**2. Governor Newsom's May Budget Revision**

Houston acknowledge the Staff Report's identified areas of the proposed Budget which may or may not be applicable to the District's operations, adding Proposition 64 revenues are not meeting the expected levels. Pfuehler added he May Revise failed to include any funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for Natural and Working Lands (NWL), which includes items such as Urban Greening, Urban Forestry and Conservancy funding.

**3. Other Matters**

## II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

### A. NEW LEGISLATION

#### I. **S. 1110 (Harris D – CA) and H.R. 2250 (Huffman D – CA) – Northwest California Wilderness Act**

Pfuehler began this legislation has been approved in the past by the District. It highlights the “Redwoods Rising” partnership between Save the Redwoods League, State Parks and National Parks.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

#### **2. Other Matters**

None.

### B. OTHER FEDERAL MATTERS

#### **a. Other Matters**

None.

## III. PARK AND PUBLIC INTEREST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Pfuehler and Legislative Assistant Lisa Baldinger provided an update about the Park and Public Interest Community Engagement Project.

## IV. ARTICLES

None.

## V. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## VI. BOARD COMMENTS

None.

This meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Baldinger  
Legislative Assistant

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