

AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETINGS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Board Legislative Committee (7.19.2019) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi, Colin Coffey, Dee Rosario

Staff: Ana Alvarez, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Rachel Sater, Kristina Kelchner, Jeff Rasmussen, Tiffany Margulici

Consultants: Doug Houston

Public: Eric Holmes, Rick Rickard

This meeting was called to order at 12:36 pm.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

**1. AB 38 (Wood D – Santa Rosa) – Fire Hardened Homes Revolving Loan and Rebate Fund**

Legislative Advocate Doug Houston discussed several bills regarding wildfire in light of the last two years. This legislation seeks to provide private homeowners with financial assistance to complete required hardening of homes for fire protection. Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler added this bill could be helpful to District neighbors for upgrading their properties. There is a question about how it would affect District residences. Director Colin Coffey asked what is “hardening” as it relates to this legislation. Legislative Assistant Lisa Baldinger answered the bill outlines criteria from roof tiles to type of windows to improve fire resiliency of home infrastructure.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

**2. AB 1668 (Carrillo D – Los Angeles) – California Conservation Corps Education and Employment Reentry Program**

Houston stated this bill requires the Director of the California Conservation Corps to add former incarcerated individuals into their crews. A challenge of this effort acknowledged by the Corps is the age difference of the inmates’ verses current Corps members. Additionally, it asks for a living wage for formerly incarcerated crew members which would create a significant pay difference between current

crews and inmate crews. Director Dee Rosario commented the spirit of the bill is good, but integrating both crews into one would be difficult. He would be interested in seeing separate crews created.

### **3. SB 226 (Nielsen R – Gerber) – Watershed Restoration Grant Program**

Houston shared this bill establishes a watershed restoration grant program. The only eligible counties would be those identified as having experienced fire impacts since 2017. The bill authorizes the grant program for five years, so potentially could apply to future fire emergencies. The restoration work would be within habitats disturbed due to fire. Neither Contra Costa nor Alameda county would be eligible at this time.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

### **4. SB 268 (Wiener D – San Francisco) – Ballot Measure Tax Rate Information**

Houston stated under current law, if a ballot measure imposes or raises a tax, the tax rate needs to be identified in the 75-word ballot statement. Senator Wiener’s legislation would exempt a measure that imposes or increases a tax with more than one rate or authorizes the issuance of bonds. In its stead, it requires the statement include “see voter guide for information.” The tax rate can be identified in the voter guide. Baldinger mentioned the bill does not prohibit including the tax rate, it simply provides an option. Pfuehler added because the ballot statement only has 75 words, this bill would allow for more language focused on the intent rather than the logistics.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

### **5. SB 462 (Stern D – Canoga Park) – Community College Forest and Woodlands Restoration Workforce Curriculum**

Houston said this bill calls on the Chancellor of Community Colleges to work with the State Fire Marshall and University of California Extension to create a workforce curriculum for forest and woodland restoration, not to be confused with fire science. This would be on the ground forest restoration work. The bill and program have broad support and no opposition currently. Establishing such a program would cost about \$10 million. Pfuehler added this could benefit rural communities in California with location-based work.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

## **6. Other Matters**

### **B. OTHER STATE MATTERS**

#### **1. Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**

Houston acknowledged the District supported SB 45 by Senator Ben Allen which is a climate resiliency bond proposal. This bill has not yet received traction in Sacramento because there has been a big focus on clean drinking water this year. The drinking water issue has since received funding from the cap-and-trade program. Now, resources focused groups hope to reignite SB 45. They recently filed a citizen’s initiative with this intent. The cost, however, to gather the signatures for a citizens initiative would be upwards of \$4 million given voter turnout in the last election.

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

Houston continued several discussions have occurred to date regarding unmanned aircrafts with no significant changes in the legislation. The District is seeking an exemption for Public Resources Code

5500 districts. This bill has become a two-year bill. Pfuehler mentioned staff would like the ability to oppose should the bill not be amended to accommodate the District's request.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to OPPOSE.

### **3. AB 1486 (Ting D – San Francisco) – Surplus Land for Housing Update**

Houston stated this legislation would require that, when a local agency disposes surplus land, it must first be considered for low income housing. Assistant District Council Rachel Sater shared this legislation has been made more specific since its original form. This bill would expressly include 5500 districts. It would require additional layers for surplus sales. This means if the District sells land it could not condition the sale. This would restrict its ability to limit development on the site if adjacent to District lands. MidPeninsula Open Space District has requested joint opposition.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to OPPOSE.

### **4. Other Matters**

None.

## **II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS**

### **A. NEW LEGISLATION**

#### **1. H.Con.Res. 49 (DeSaulnier D – CA) – Port Chicago 50 Exoneration**

Pfuehler stated this legislation seeks to exonerate the Port Chicago 50. This language was included in the National Defense Authorization Act, which has passed the House by a slim margin. The bill still needs to pass the Senate. Supporting the stand alone resolution is a good idea given the uncertainty about the language staying in the defense bill.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

#### **2. H.Res. 371 (Thompson D – CA) – Recognizing the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Outdoor Afro**

Pfuehler shared this resolution is to honor the tenth anniversary of Outdoor Afro, an organization that has been very active in the East Bay.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

#### **3. H.R. 2358 (Kaptur D – OH) – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Civilian Conservation Corps**

Pfuehler said this bill has been previously supported by the District. It seeks to create a new Federal Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

#### **4. H.R. 3195 (Van Drew D – NJ) – Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act**

Pfuehler continued this legislation would provide permanent full annual funding for the recently reauthorized Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

**5. S. 1098 (Cardin D – MD) – Transportation Alternatives Enhancements Act**

Pfuehler acknowledged a number of years ago the District tracked multiple areas of funding through Federal transportation programs. All of these different categories were recently combined into one state block grant. This legislation attempts to unlock the combined grants and allow for a variety of Federal funding sources for active transportation, recreational trails, safe-routes-to school, transportation enhancements, etc. Director Coffey asked how it relates to BUILD. Pfuehler responded this program is separate from the BUILD program and connected to Federal gas tax dollars.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

**6. S. 1263 (Cortez Masto D – NV) and H.R. 2435 (Smith R – NJ) – Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act**

Pfuehler stated this legislation seeks to establish a task force housed in the Department of Interior, in conjunction with Veterans Affairs, to provide outdoor healing opportunities for returning veterans. It does not establish funding at this time, but would create a road map for future programming. Director Rosario highly praised the idea.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

**7. S. 1746 (Schatz D – HI) – Explore America Act**

Pfuehler recognized this act has been supported in the past by the District. It provides assistance for gateway communities near national parks. This could include Concord, Richmond, Martinez and Danville in the East Bay.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

**8. Other Matters**

None.

**B. OTHER FEDERAL MATTERS**

**a. S. 500 and H.R. 1225 (Portman R – OH and Bishop R – UT) – Restore our Parks Act Update**

Pfuehler shared the District previously took a support position on the Restore our Parks Act which seeks to address the maintenance backlog on Federal public lands. This program has momentum and is moving through Congress. The funding for this program comes from a similar source as the LWCF. With billions being collected from offshore oil leases, this fund would allow for additional investment into public lands and resources.

**b. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Update**

Pfuehler acknowledged the LWCF is moving through the House and funded at \$523 million with the state share receiving \$280 million, an improvement over past years.

**c. Other Matters**

**III. PARK AND PUBLIC INTEREST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT REPORT**

Pfuehler and Baldinger provided an update about the Park and Public Interest Community Engagement Project, now extending through August 2019.

**IV. ARTICLES**

Director Dennis Waespi stated the articles on California fires were of interest. The size and intensity of fires in recent years is incredulous. Pfuehler added there are new orders from the state regarding employee safety during fires related to air particulates. Deputy General Manager Dr. Ana M. Alvarez shared employee safety policies related to air quality during fires are currently under review in reflection of last year's fire.

V. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

None.

This meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Baldinger  
Legislative Assistant

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