

AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETINGS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

February 18, 2020

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Legislative Committee (12.13.2019) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi, Ellen Corbett, Colin Coffey

Staff: Robert E. Doyle, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Nika Hoffman, Debra Fuller, Debra Aufer, Jeff Rasmussen, Rachel Sater

Consultants: Doug Houston – called in on conference line

Public: Eric Holmes, Rick Rickard, Elizabeth Echols

This meeting was called to order at 12:45 PM.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. **SB 54 (Allen D-Santa Monica) and AB 1080 (Gonzalez D-San Diego) – Plastic Pollution Reduction Act**

Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler stated Sanitation/Recycling Coordinator Andrew Green brought forward this legislation to Government Affairs staff. The two bills moved through the legislature last year, but stalled at the end of session. They require a 75% reduction by 2030 in single use plastic products and a 40% increase in use of recycled plastic by 2026. Given the amount of plastic in the District's waste stream, SB 54 and AB 1080 would be appropriate to

support. Legislative Advocate Doug Houston added these bills will be a priority of the authors next year. The bills are in response to 1.) a decrease in plastic recycling due to lack of subsidization and 2.) China's National Sword policy, enacted in 2018, which banned the import of most plastics. The ban has caused states like California to take a more comprehensive approach to reducing plastic waste. General Manager Robert E. Doyle mentioned speaking with local recyclers about how India and Vietnam also now have higher standards on what they will accept. Currently, a lot of domestic recyclable materials are not getting recycled, but going to landfills. Doyle stated it is a crisis. More and more litter is showing up in the parks. Reduction of plastic use is important to the District. It relates directly to the great work that Acting Grants Manager Lisa Baldinger and Pfuehler did with the community engagement survey showing the need for water bottle filling stations to reduce plastics. Doyle said the District should carve out a leadership role. He wanted the Board to be aware he asked Deputy General Manager Ana Alvarez to fund, out of the District's Climate Project account, water bottle refilling stations. This has a direct impact by reducing plastics and is climate related. Director Ellen Corbett added the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act tracks with Board conversations.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT

Baldinger spoke about the background slide on the Board Room screen which reflects the Park and Public Interest Survey response for the question "Do you consider the East Bay Regional Park District a valuable public resource?" Highlighted in red were the "agree" or "strongly agree" responses which add up to 99% agreement. Director Colin Coffey asked why Alamo is green on the map, or the 1%. Baldinger added Acting Legislative Assistant Nika Hoffman has volunteered to sift through the "somewhat" or "no" responses to understand what is being undervalued.

## 2. **SB 246 (Wieckowski D-Fremont) – Oil Industry Levy (OIL) Act**

Pfuehler stated Senator Bob Wieckowski asked the District to look at SB 246. The Senator has proposed funds raised by the proposed oil severance tax be deposited into the General Fund. The bulk of the funds would go toward schools, but adaptation and other resource related projects could receive some of the funding. At this time, it does not look like the bill will advance so the question is should the District take a position on a bill which is basically dead. Director Corbett said if the District is interested in nudging the author toward certain amendments, it can be communicated. Pfuehler provided given Director Corbett's comments, the District can write a targeted letter encouraging allocation of funding for resources.

The Board Legislative Committee moved to recommend to the full Board as SUPPORT

## 3. **Other Matters**

### B. OTHER STATE MATTERS

#### 1. **California Packaging Waste Reduction Regulations Ballot Initiative**

Pfuehler explained the initiative would essentially do at the ballot what SB 54 and AB 1080 would achieve through legislation. The initiative was submitted for signature gathering by Recology and some members of the Coastal Commission. Significant amounts of plastic are washing up on beaches and accumulating in the ocean. This initiative is an effort to force action at the legislative level. The initiative allocates funds to resource agency. Doyle added he has spoken with California Coastal Commissioner Caryl Hart, a good friend of the District, about the initiative strategy.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT

## 2. **Climate and Resources Bond**

Houston explained SB 45, AB 352 and AB 1298 are vehicles advancing in support of a Climate and Resources Bond. SB 45 has moved forward through the Senate. AB 352 is authored by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia. AB 1298 is authored by Assembly Member Kevin Mullin. Other lead Assembly Members include the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee Laura Friedman and Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation Richard Bloom. The upper funding level for the bond now appears to be around \$ 6 billion. Pfuehler requested the Board's approval for Houston and staff to continue to advocate for the climate bond within the context of the new language. Assembly Member Garcia was not as engaged when the bills were written. Having him more involved should prove helpful to the District. Director Corbett motioned to recommend District staff and Advocate Houston move forward and make sure the language is defined in such a way that the District is included in this important measure.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board to SUPPORT

## **Other Matters**

### II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

#### A. NEW LEGISLATION

##### 1. **H.R. 4547 (Case D-HI) – Safe and Quiet Skies Act**

Pfuehler shared H.R. 4547 came about due to an air flight crash in Hawaii. It allows local and state agencies to have control over tourist planes flying in their airspace. Since it is consistent with the District drone policy, staff placed H.R. 4547 before the Legislative Committee for a recommendation of support. Doyle added local training flights have landed on District hill tops for practice. Public Safety has had to chase them off. H.R. 4547 provides opportunity to strengthen the District's local control.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT

##### 2. **H.R. 4930 (Ruiz D-CA) – Wounded Veterans Recreation Act**

Pfuehler explained H.R. 4930 is similar to legislation considered earlier from Senator Jeanne Shaheen, S. 327, which the Board voted to support. H.R. 4930 would allow veterans a lifetime National Recreation Pass, if they have a service-connected disability. The Pass enables qualifying veterans to enter Federal lands without paying entrance fees. Doyle added if H.R. 4930 moves forward, the District will need to adjust to be symbiotic. Veterans are suffering, having come back from long wars.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT

### **3. Other Matters**

#### **B. OTHER FEDERAL MATTERS**

##### **1. Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD, Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Overview**

Baldinger shared BUILD is an extension of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program in which the District was successfully awarded \$10.2 million in 2010. BUILD is the result of a ten-year dedication by Congress of nearly \$7.1 billion of National Infrastructure Investment projects. The new criteria weigh impact on safety, traffic congestion relief, regional economic benefit, regional connectivity and readiness of the projects packaged into the grant proposal. Staff started last year to evaluate potential projects through discussions with the Board and General Manager. The District has begun discussions with cities such as San Ramon to look at partnering on projects. As for Federal Government engagement, staff is preparing to share potential projects when they travel to Washington D.C. The District expects to submit its grant application by July 2020. Director Dennis Waespi asked when grant money might be delivered. Pfuehler stated historically the announcement occurs in October. Director Corbett questioned if the District has a draft projects list. General Manager Doyle explained staff is currently evaluating projects for the list. Pfuehler added there is legislative strategy involved in choosing projects, so each member of the East Bay delegation has something in their district for which to advocate.

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

#### **III. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING MEASURES**

Pfuehler provided a slide show presentation about the District Government Affairs team's work plan for 2020. Government Affairs views the District through Congressional, State Senate and Legislative Districts. Committee assignments are the nexus of how staff prioritizes its work and how staff approaches legislators based on their interests. For State of California budget requests, a new slide was added due to a \$7 billion surplus this year. Government Affairs and the District is being ambitious and aspirational. Director Corbett added the 2020 advocacy trip to Washington D.C. is coinciding with the Trails Conference. There was a recent email from the Trails Conference regarding sending photos of national trails within the jurisdictions of the

agency's participating in the conference. The Delta de Anza Regional Trail is a great example and photos should be submitted.

#### IV. STRATEGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE TRAIL SURVEY RESULTS

Pfuehler shared an overview of a District trail survey taken last fall of 500 respondents equally split between Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

#### V. ARTICLES

#### VI. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

#### VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Waespi highly praised Pfuehler, Baldinger and Hoffman for their good work. Additional thanks to Houston for his advocacy. He commented the 2020 Board Legislative Committee will be comprised of Director Beverly Lane, the new Ward 1 Board Member and himself with Director Corbett as alternate.

This meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Debra Fuller  
Confidential Secretary