

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

March 3, 2020

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Legislative Committee (01.17.2020) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi, Beverly Lane, Elizabeth Echols

Staff: Robert E. Doyle, Erich Pfuehler, Nika Hoffman, Lisa Baldinger, Debra Fuller, Debra Aufer, Jeff Rasmussen, Rachel Sater, Jim O'Connor, Kristina Kelchner

Consultants: Doug Houston

Public: Aaron Roth, Rick Rickard

This meeting was called to order at 12:39 pm.

I. STATE LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. Other Matters

Legislative Advocate Doug Houston explained the legislative session began two weeks ago. Some legislation of interest amended from the previous year has been carried forward. In terms of new legislation, nothing to note thus far for the Park District.

B. OTHER STATE MATTERS

1. Governor Newsom's State Budget

Houston stated the 2020 budget is \$222 billion. The climate resilience bond will be reframed around risk with details and money disbursement to be determined once departments have weighed in. Many programs previously funded by Cap-and-Trade are reflected in the climate bond. The governor made a bold statement of support in allotting \$20 million for a new state park. Outdoor Equity Grants Program will be a general fund allocation. AB 209, supported by the District, created the Outdoor Equity Grants Program. The grants will fund outdoor

education for disadvantaged youth. The governor has allocated \$20 million for this program. There was a similar allocation of \$5.3 million last year from AB 64 for community access funds administered through the Natural Resource Agency. In total there is \$25 million available for agencies to compete for in the next six to nine months. The budget also includes \$11.8 million for access to parks and programming. This is intended for interpretive programs and preservation of cultural resources in the state park system. Of the Proposition 68 funds, the District will be able to compete for \$5 million of the funds next year. There are \$4.6 million in bond funds is available for acquiring inholding properties. Additionally, the Governor is creating a Climate Catalyst Month dedicating \$1 million over the next four years as a revolving fund for low interest loans. Director Dennis Waespi asked for insight as to when per capita funds will be distributed from Proposition 68. Acting Grants Manager Lisa Baldinger provided state parks has been significantly slow in disseminating information. The District does meet the criteria for the full Contra Costa and Alameda County funding allocations.

2. New Laws

Houston shared wages and paid family leave have seen an increase. AB 209, as mentioned previously, created the Outdoor Equity Grants Program. Guidelines for the program should be available by the end of the year.

3. Climate and Resources Bond

Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler stated the Climate and Resources Bond information is reflected in the Sacramento Presentation which is the next agenda item.

4. Sacramento Legislative Meetings

Pfuehler and Acting Legislative Assistant Nika Hoffman provided an update about the Board of Directors' legislative meetings with the East Bay legislative delegation in Sacramento and their advocacy priorities. Additionally, the Park District will be making fourteen budget requests totaling about \$49 million.

5. Other Matters – N/A

II. FEDERAL LEGISLATION / OTHER MATTERS

A. NEW LEGISLATION

1. H.R. 5435 (Grijalva D-AZ) – American Public Lands and Water Climate Solution Act

Pfuehler spoke about the American Public Lands and Water Climate Solution Act. It addresses how federal public lands are managed for resource extraction and the impact those practices have on climate change. Oil extraction on federal lands adds significantly to the carbon footprint of the U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair of the House Resources Committee, has introduced legislation that would suspend the issuance of new leases until land management agencies develop a plan to reduce their carbon footprint by 2040. The plan is

specifically related to extraction of resources on federal lands. Additionally, lease fees will be increased.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. S. 2882 (Harris D-CA) and H.R. 5091 (Huffman D-CA) – Wildfire Defense Act

Pfuehler explained the introduction of companion legislation expands a grant program from FEMA the District currently utilizes. It would add \$1 billion a year for protection practices such as vegetation management and pre-disaster mitigation. It is applicable to the District's fire protection work. Moreover, the legislation would fund hardening of infrastructure and homes. It contributes to messaging on personal responsibility to help prevent wildfires. The District asked Washington D.C. advocate Peter Umhofer to ensure the District would be able to qualify for this funding by inserting language to include special districts and regional agencies.

The Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

2. S. 2975 (Bennet D-CO) – Stop the Speed of Invasive Mussels Act

Pfuehler acknowledged federal land management agencies do not technically have the authority to conduct inspections and decontamination of watercraft. The bill would allow authorities to conduct inspections. Director Elizabeth Echols recognized this would enable them to inspect, but not require them to do so. Director Beverly Lane requested the District recommend amending the bill to require inspection. Director Echols moved to support with the amendment to suggest the bill require the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service to conduct the investigations and not just enable them to do so.

With recommendation the Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

3. Other Matters

B. OTHER FEDERAL MATTERS

1. Other Matters

III. WASHINGTON D.C. LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

Pfuehler and Baldinger provided a preview presentation for the February 8-13, 2020, Washington D.C. legislative meetings. An updated version will be brought before the full board on February 4. Director Lane requested the *Oakland Army Base Cleanup* slide have updated photos, change the train picture on the *Miller/Knox* slide, add a picture of the District corporation yard to the *Ozol* slide and clear up the first two bullet points.

IV. ALAMEDA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Pfuehler asked the District to formally commemorate the California Special District's

Association of Alameda County. The Alameda County Chapter started in 1990 by former General Manager Pat O'Brian and former Board Member Doug Siden. Staff requests approval to move forward and submit to the Board a commemorative resolution. Director Lane requested amending the second announcement to reflect former Board member Siden's long length of service.

With amendment the Board Legislative Committee voted unanimously to SUPPORT.

V. ARTICLES

Director Waespi commented on an article, *California's latest pollution push: Banning gas-powered mowers and blowers*. General Manager Robert E. Doyle added staff is creating a report on the Districts use of battery-operated equipment. They are experimenting by using various companies' electric handheld tools. Staff is getting a sense of the best electric equipment for their work.

VI. OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Waespi commented about the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration sponsored by the Park District.

This meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Debra Fuller
Confidential Secretary