




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	September 17, 2024
TITLE	Support for Proposition 4: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond of 2024
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	Erich Pfuehler, Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends the Board of Directors support Proposition 4 the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond of 2024.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 4 is commonly referred to as the 2024 climate bond. California is widely recognized for its leadership in addressing and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Recently, the state has made significant investments in support of key initiatives such as *Pathways to 30x30*, *Nature-Based Solutions* and *Outdoors for All*. These initiatives are closely aligned with the priorities of the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) and help to support shared goals related to carbon sequestration, land conservation and equitable access to nature. Unfortunately, due to a budget deficit in the state general fund, the legislature has needed to explore alternative funding mechanisms to support this critical and time-sensitive work.

In response, the Assembly introduced AB 1567, authored by Assembly Member Garcia, and the Senate introduced SB 867, authored by Senator Allen, to advance legislation for a climate bond. The Park District took a support position on AB 1567 with resolution 2023-04-072 on April 4, 2023. The Park District took a support position on SB 867 with resolution 2023-05-116 on May 16, 2023. After thorough deliberations, SB 867 (Allen D-Santa Monica), known as the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, was advanced and signed by acting Governor Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) on July 3, 2024. This legislation proposes a \$10 billion general obligation climate resilience bond to be included on the November 5, 2024, ballot.

ANALYSIS

The climate bond includes critical investments in wildfire prevention, sea level rise resilience, and extreme heat mitigation, as well as investments in natural lands, inland waters, coastal waters and parks for the benefit of all Californians. Specific categories within the bond relevant to the Park District include:

- **Parks and Natural Resources Funding: \$4.72 billion**
- **Water Funding: \$3.8 billion**
- **Clean Air and Agriculture: \$1.48 billion**

Of the funding available within these chapters, the Park District has historically been competitive in securing funding from several sources. Specifically, within the Parks and Natural Resource chapters, the Park District has successfully obtained funding from CAL FIRE's Forest Health grant program, the California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) Urban Greening grant program and from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). In the Water chapter, the Park District has historically been successful in securing funding from the State Water Resource Control Board, CNRA and WCB. Though the Park District has not been historically competitive in securing funds from the Clean Air and Agriculture chapters, the proposed programs are promising for Park District priority projects. Comprehensively, the Park District has been historically competitive for programs which comprise of \$1.91 billion of the overall \$10 billion bond. Below is a breakdown of the overall funding allocations in Prop. 4:

Wildfire and Forest Resilience - \$1.5 Billion

- \$185 million for Regional Fire Forest Capacity Program
- \$175 million for CAL FIRE Long-Term Forest Health Projects
- \$185 million for CAL FIRE Local Fire Prevention Grants
- \$200 million for Forest Health/Watershed Restoration
- \$185 million for Conservancy Funding for Wildfire Prevention
- \$50 million for State and Local Conservation Corps

Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience - \$1.2 Billion

- Approximately \$950 million for the State Coastal Conservancy
- \$50 million for Sea Level Rise in State Parks
- \$50 million for Salmon Restoration

Protect Biodiversity and Accelerating Nature-Based Climate Solutions - \$1.2 Billion

- \$870 million for WCB 30 x 30 implementation
 - \$180 million carveout for Wildlife corridors
- \$320 million for regional Conservancies
- \$10 million for Tribal nature-based solutions (CNRA)

Park Creation and Outdoor Access - \$700 Million

- \$200 million for Park Creation in Park Poor Communities
- \$200 million for Parks Restoration/Enhancement and Expand Access
- \$100 million for Expanded Trail Access
- \$175 million for Deferred Maintenance in State Parks
- \$25 million for Nature Education Facilities

Extreme Heat Mitigation - \$450 Million

- \$150 million for Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)
- \$100 million for the CNRA Urban Greening Program
- \$50 million for Urban Forests (CAL FIRE)

Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience - \$3.8 Billion

- \$150 million to WCB for Stream Flow Enhancement

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 9 -
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

**SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 4: SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE
PREVENTION, DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS AND CLEAN AIR BOND OF 2024**

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) strives to engage on legislative actions in alignment with its identified key advocacy goals including wildfire resilience, sea level rise preparedness, community health, ecosystem stewardship, green jobs, welcoming visitor use facilities and climate-friendly transportation; and

WHEREAS, across all identified focus areas, overarching principles include equitable service delivery, advancing climate resiliency adaptation and mitigation, guiding work with an environmental ethic, supporting inclusive interpretation and educational opportunities, increasing conservation through land acquisition, and ensuring the fiscal health of the Park District; and

WHEREAS, the priorities of the East Bay Regional Park District closely align with the state of California's significant investments in support of key climate change initiatives such as *Pathways to 30x30*, *Nature-Based Solutions* and *Outdoors for All*; and

WHEREAS, by way of resolutions 2023-04-072 and 2023-05-116 the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District took a support position on legislation for a climate bond; and

WHEREAS, this resolution would support the identified proposition and serves as direction to provide letters of support, participate in hearings and engage with the authors as appropriate to support the advancement of the identified proposition

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby support Proposition 4 – Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond of 2024 as presented to the Board on September 17, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director , and seconded by Director , and adopted
September 17, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: