



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	March 13, 2024
TITLE	State Advocacy Conference Reflection
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

This is an informational item.

BACKGROUND

The East Bay Regional Park District's (Park District) 2024 State Advocacy Conference took place on Tuesday, January 30th and Wednesday, January 31st in Sacramento. During the conference, the Park District Board of Directors, General Manager, Deputy General Manager, and staff met with the East Bay state delegation, as well as key agency and external partners. For each meeting, an agenda was prepared to support a conversation which aligns with the Park District's 2024 state legislative priorities, identified in the 2024 Legislative Program (Resolution No. 2024 – 1 – 3), with the elected official or agency's interests.

ANALYSIS

The Park District's annual State Advocacy Conference is an opportunity for the Board of Directors and agency leadership to engage directly with elected offices and agency partners on priority issues. The 2024 conference program was reflective of the current challenges and opportunities at the state level.

As was seen with budget cuts and freezes in the Governor's Proposed Budget, the California administration and legislature are expected to guide investments conservatively in 2024. This approach is in reflection of budget shortfalls due to low and late tax revenues. During the Conference, the Park District shared with elected officials and agency partners the importance of continued investments into key funding programs including CAL FIRE Fire Prevention, Wildlife Conservation Board and State Coastal Conservancy. With an understanding funding asks are often multi-year discussions and there is a possible opportunity to guide investments through the climate / resources bond proposal, the Park District highlighted with elected offices the need for direct funding allocations for four unique projects including: the Richmond San Francisco Bay Trail Gap Closure, Tidewater Day Use Area Public Access Project, Oyster Bay Public Access Project and continued wildfire mitigation work. Lastly, all members were provided with an update about the Park District's partnership efforts with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for permanent CCC housing and training facilities in the East Bay at Holly Court/Bollinger Canyon in Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Preserve. A chart of discussion topics can be found included in this report.

2024 State Elected Official Priority Issues

Elected Official	Priority	Type of Request	Details	Program Area
Assembly District 14 – Buffy Wicks	Richmond San Francisco Bay Trail Gap Closure	<i>Direct Funding</i>	\$5 million	<i>Climate-Friendly Transportation</i>
Assembly District 15 – Tim Grayson	California Environmental Legislation	<i>Sponsored Legislation</i>	Statutory Exemption on Existing Roads	<i>Community Health</i>
Assembly District 11 – Lori Wilson	Site Visit at Big Break Regional Shoreline	<i>Strategic Engagement</i>	Future Park Project	<i>Sea Level Rise Preparedness</i>
Assembly District 16 – Rebecca Bauer-Kahan	Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management Funding	<i>Grant Support</i>	CAL FIRE, SCC and WCB Funding Support	<i>Wildfire Resilience</i>
Assembly District 18 – Mia Bonta	Tidewater Day Use Area Public Access Project	<i>Direct Funding</i>	\$5 million	<i>Sea Level Rise Preparedness, Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities</i>
Assembly District 20 – Liz Ortega	Oyster Bay Public Access Project	<i>Direct Funding</i>	\$2 million	<i>Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities</i>
Assembly District 24 – Alex Lee	Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management Funding	<i>Grant Support</i>	CAL FIRE, SCC and WCB Funding Support	<i>Wildfire Resilience</i>
Senate District 7 – Nancy Skinner	Tidewater Day Use Area Public Access Project	<i>Direct Funding</i>	\$5 million	<i>Sea Level Rise Preparedness, Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities</i>
Senate District 9 – Steve Glazer	Workforce Development Support	<i>State Program Support</i>	Support Permanent CCC Crew Facilities	<i>Green Jobs</i>
Senate District 3 – Bill Dodd	Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management Funding	<i>Grant Support</i>	CAL FIRE, SCC and WCB Funding Support	<i>Wildfire Resilience</i>
Senate District 10 – Aisha Wahab	SERP Legislation	<i>Sponsored Legislation</i>	Expanding Access Language in CEQA	<i>Ecosystem Stewardship</i>

Meetings held during the 2024 State Advocacy Conference achieved success by gaining a commitment from the elected official or agency partner to collaborate on the focus topic in a park, at a future Park District hosted event, or at a staff level.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

State Advocacy Conference Reflection Presentation