


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

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