

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

DATE	April 10, 2024
TITLE	Recommendation to Support State Legislation
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 Legislative Committee approves extending support of the following state legislation AB 3023 and AB 3147.

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2023-2024 Legislative Session, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) Board of Directors will take formal positions on bills as they are introduced and considered by their respective Legislatures. To guide bill analysis, the Park District's Board of Directors established seven key advocacy goals through Resolution NO.: 2024 – 01 – 003. These advocacy goals strive to align funding and policy advocacy with identified project and program needs and priorities. Guided by the Park District mission, elected Board of Directors and General Manager, Government and Legislative Affairs staff work to align advocacy goals with Park District needs. 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. The specific goals are as follows:

- Climate - Friendly Transportation: To expand accessible active and public transportation to and within East Bay parks and trails.
- Community Health: To ensure equitable access to parks so all East Bay communities can enjoy the physical and psychological benefits of nature.
- Ecosystem Stewardship: To support ecosystem health through restoration, acquisition and habitat enhancement, and improved efficiencies in regulatory approvals.
- Green Jobs: To guide the development of career pathways for all in the parks, recreation, outdoor and environmental fields.
- Sea Level Rise Preparedness: To address sea level rise with nature-based infrastructure and initiate mitigation strategies regarding climate change.
- Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities: To be sure all visitors are welcomed to the East Bay parks and trails by providing facilities which are safe, accessible, inclusive, and sustainable.

Wildfire Resilience: To minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the East Bay by using proactive vegetation management which is ecologically sound.

ANALYSIS

The legislation proposed for support by the Park District, as listed below, has been identified based on its alignment with at least one of the seven key advocacy goals of the Park District and support for overarching principles of advocacy as approved by resolution no.: 2024 – 01 – 03. To engage on the identified bills, the proposed resolution will direct staff on specific actions related to Park District supported legislation, including writing letters of support, participating in bill hearings in Sacramento and engaging with the author or relevant elected official's offices directly.

Of the two legislative acts recommended for support, one is focused on climate-friendly transportation and the other on ecosystem stewardship.

AB 3023 (Papan D-San Mateo) 30x30 Environmental Protection of Lands and Coastal Waters aligns with the advocacy goal of ecosystem stewardship. This legislation would provide transparency about how specific plans align with the 30x30 program. Specifically, it would require the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to post context as to whether a plan did or did not align with the program on their website. As the Park District continues to work in support of the 30x30 program at a local, regional, state, and national level, such information would be helpful in implementation of work.

AB 3147 (Garcia D-Coachella) California Trails Conservancy aligns with the advocacy goal of climate-friendly transportation. This legislation would establish the California Trails Conservancy Program within the CNRA. Specifically, this program would establish specific goals and objectives to promote, enhance and expand environmentally sound greenways and trail networks within the State of California. This program would align with and compliment the Park District's trail program and goals.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS

2024 State Legislation PowerPoint.