



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

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<b>DATE</b>	January 16, 2024
<b>TITLE</b>	Resolution to Support Legislation S. Res. 400, S. 2728, S. 2749, S. 2353 and H.R. 4920, S. 2838 and H.R. 5573, S. 3127 and H.R. 6053, S. 3261 and H.R. 6311, H.R. 5719 and H.R. 5971 for Legislative Session 2023-2024
<b>DIVISION</b>	General Manager's Office
<b>FROM</b>	Erich Pfuehler, Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
<b>APPROVED</b>	Sabrina B. Landreth, General Manager 

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The General Manager recommends the Board of Directors adopt a resolution to support the following Legislation: S. Res. 400, S. 2728, S. 2749, S. 2353 and H.R. 4920, S. 2838 and H.R. 5573, S. 3127 and H.R. 6053, S. 3261 and H.R. 6311, H.R. 5719 and H.R. 5971. as identified in Attachment A.

**BACKGROUND**

As part of the 2023-2024 Legislative Session, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) Board of Directors take formal positions on bills as they are introduced and considered by their respective legislatures. The Board Legislative Committee (Committee) met on December 15, 2023 to deliberate the legislation mentioned previously in this report. The Committee voted unanimously to forward their support recommendation to the full Board of Directors.

To guide bill analysis, the East Bay Regional Park District's Board of Directors established seven key advocacy goals through Resolution NO.: 2023 – 01 – 015. 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, 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 advocacy goals of the Park District and support overarching principles of advocacy approved by Resolution NO.: 2023 – 01 – 015. 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 Washington, D.C., and engaging with the author and relevant elected official's offices directly.

Of the nine legislative items recommended for support, 11% would address ecosystem stewardship, 22% would advance efforts for welcoming visitor use facilities, 22% would invest in wildfire resilience, and the remaining would advance advocacy principles including guiding work with an environmental ethic, and climate mitigation and adaptation.

S. Res. 400 (Padilla D-CA) Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dianne Feinstein is a commemorative piece of legislation recognizing the life and legacy of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein. During her multidecade career in politics, Senator Feinstein supported efforts to address sea level rise and advance wildfire resiliency work across the State of California.

S. 2728 (Merkley D-OR) Reducing Waste in National Parks Act would codify a ban on the sale of single-use plastic water bottles in National Park facilities. This legislation is in alignment with the Park District's Environmentally Sustainable Purchasing Policy 8.0. This legislation supports the Park District's Legislative Program goal of welcoming visitor use facilities.

S. 2749 (Berkley D-OR) Wildfire Resilient Communities Act seeks to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires through economically beneficial practices including grant investments in vegetation management work, local community partnerships and stewardship investments. Though this bill is focused on Federal lands, the outcome of such investments will allow the Park District to leverage best practices and benefit from safer forests nation-wide while having a positive impact on air quality and ecosystem health. This legislation supports the Park District's Legislative Program goal of wildfire resilience.

S. 2353 and H.R. 4920 (Lujan D-NM and Leger Fernandez D-NM) Responsible Wildland Fire Recovery Act would waive cost-share requirements for damage recovery investments following wildfire events, resulting in faster response to natural and built infrastructure repair needs. This legislation is focused on National Forest Service lands. The Park District could, however, benefit from the precedent set through this program at a national level. This legislation supports the Park District's Legislative Program goal of wildfire resilience.

S. 2838 and H.R. 5572 (Markey D-MA and Ocasio-Cortez D-NY) Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act would invest in Federal workforce development programs to increase the service and career ladder opportunities for individuals 17 years of age or older with diverse backgrounds. The program includes competitive grant funding, for which the Park District is eligible, to advance climate-focused partnership projects across the nation. This legislation supports the Park District's Legislative Program goal of green jobs.

S. 3127 and H.R. 6053 (Merkley D-OR and Huffman D-CA) Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act would establish a national program to support reusable and refillable products, uniform recycling and compost standards, and invest in reuse support infrastructure, including water bottle filling stations. If advanced, the Park District would likely benefit from national standards and grant funded infrastructure investments. Additionally, a national decline in plastic use would benefit the global environment by mitigating microplastics and other harmful waste impacts. This legislation supports the Park District's Legislative Program goal of welcoming visitor use facilities.

S. 3261 and H.R. 6311 (Coons D-DE and Salazar R-FL) National Coordination on Adaptation and Resilience for Security Act is legislation seeking to advance a National Adaptation and Resilience Strategy and Implementation Plan. In response to a changing climate, this legislation would establish a new position in the White House, a Chief Resilience Officer, to implement the proposed plan. If advanced, the Park District would have opportunity to participate in plan development and liaise with the Chief Resilience Officer and their team to learn best practices and discuss partnership opportunities. This legislation aligns with the Park District's Legislative Program overarching principle to advance climate resiliency adaptation and mitigation.

H.R. 5719 (Lee D-CA) Black Panther Party National Historical Park would direct the National Park Service to advance a general management plan for a new National Historic Site in California commemorating the Black Panther Party. It is likely such a site would be based in Oakland, California where the Park District is headquartered. Recognizing the significant contributions the Black Panther Party made to the national civil rights movement would support inclusive interpretation for the region, state and country. This action aligns with the Park District's Legislative Program's overarching principle to support inclusive interpretation and educational opportunities.

H.R. 5971 (Neguse D-CO) Study on Improving Lands Act directs a report be advanced which studies and analyzes the state of soil health on Federal lands. The health of soils is directly connected to the health of the ecosystem. By understanding soil quality and carbon sequestration potential, agencies and organizations can better invest and plan for ecosystem restoration activities which maximize environmental and human health benefits. The Park District would have the opportunity to learn from best practices established during this study. This legislation supports the Park District's Legislative Program goal of ecosystem stewardship.

Additional details on these bills can be found in Attachment A.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There would be no cost impact as a result of this action.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Federal Legislation to Support



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01-  
JANUARY 16, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION S. RES. 400, S. 2728, S. 2749, S. 2353  
AND H.R. 4920, S. 2838 AND H.R. 5573, S. 3127 AND H.R. 6053, S. 3261 AND H.R.  
6311, H.R. 5719 AND H.R. 5971 FOR LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2023-2024**

**WHEREAS**, the East Bay Regional 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 Federal legislation as identified in Attachment A – Federal Legislation to Support align with these goals and principles; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby support following Federal bills S. Res. 400, S. 2728, S. 2749, S. 2353 and H.R. 4920, S. 2838 and H.R. 5573, S. 3127 and H.R. 6053, S. 3261 and H.R. 6311, H.R. 5719 and H.R. 5971 as identified in Attachment A as presented to the Board on January 16, 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 January 16, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: