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December 19, 2024

Secretary Wade Crowfoot  
California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Request for Support: East Bay Regional Park District Priorities for the 2024 Climate Bond – Proposition 4**

Dear Secretary Crowfoot,

We hope this letter finds you well. As you are aware, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) plays a critical role in preserving natural resources, providing recreational opportunities and ensuring the environmental resilience of the East Bay region. We are writing to request your support for key Climate Bond priorities that will allow the Park District to continue fulfilling its mission while addressing significant challenges such as climate change, wildfire resilience, extreme weather and equitable public access to natural spaces.

### **Enhancing East Bay Resilience**

As the Resources Agency works on implementation of the 2024 Climate Bond, we ask for your support to advance key funding allocations. Specifically, we urge prioritization of funding for watershed health, wildfire mitigation, equitable access and coastal resilience projects. These investments will enable the Park District to expand ongoing restoration efforts, improve resilience to extreme weather and impacts from the changing climate, and ensure the protection of natural resources for future generations. Projects such as the Lake Temescal Restoration, Grizzly Peak Wildfire Mitigation Collaboration, and the expansion of coastal access along the San Francisco Bay Trail are just a few examples of how these funds will directly benefit the East Bay community. Specific areas of the bond we would like to see prioritized for funding include:

- **Section 91031:** \$100 million for regional water management projects through the **Department of Water Resources**, to improve climate resilience across watersheds. This will help enhance the East Bay's water supply and ecosystem health.
- **Section 91032(e):** \$25 million to support multi-benefit urban stream and river projects under the **Urban Streams Restoration Program**. This funding will directly support vital stream restoration projects that benefit both the environment and urban communities.
- **Section 91520(a):** \$185 million for the **Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program** through the **Department of Conservation**. This funding will support forest and wildfire resilience efforts, essential for protecting our communities and ecosystems from the increasing threat of wildfires.

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- **Section 91520(c):** \$175 million for the **Forest Health Program** under the **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**. These funds will allow us to improve forest health, reduce fire risk, and protect critical natural resources in the East Bay Hills.
- **Section 91520(d):** \$185 million for the **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection** for local fire prevention grants to conduct wildfire resiliency work and workforce development for fire prevention.
- **Section 92010(b):** \$85 million for the **San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act** or the **San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program**. This funding will support habitat restoration and climate resilience efforts around the Bay, contributing to environmental and community well-being.

We believe the Climate Bond will not only enhance the environmental sustainability of the East Bay but also provide lasting benefits to our communities by improving public health, increasing access to nature, and promoting long-term climate and wildfire resilience. We would greatly appreciate your advocacy and support for these important programs which are receiving allocations from the Climate Bond.

Thank you for your attention to these important items. We look forward to working with you and the Resources Agency to ensure the continued success of the East Bay Regional Park District and the well-being of the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Landreth", written over a horizontal line.

Sabrina Landreth  
General Manager  
East Bay Regional Park District

Cc: Park District Board of Directors

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