

2025 State Advocacy Conference Briefing

*Sacramento
January 28, 2025*

January 14, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting





East Bay Regional Park District **2025-2026 Legislative Program**

Advocacy Goals and Objectives of the East Bay Regional Park District

When: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Where: Sacramento

Purpose: To engage with the East Bay Regional Park District's state delegation on relevant priorities, opportunities and challenges

Who: East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, Leadership and Government and Legislative Affairs Staff

Park District Key Advocacy Goals

Meetings with the Park District's state delegation and partner agencies wherein the Park District Board of Directors will highlight specific priority issues in alignment with the 2025-2026 Legislative Program's goals and objectives, including:

- Advance legislation to modernize Public Resources Code 5500
- Advocate for state funding and policy support to advance the Park District's prioritized capital projects
- Advocate for state legislation and funding for wildfire resilience projects, including grants for vegetation management to enhance safe, healthy forests and grasslands

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



Extreme Weather Preparedness: To address sea level rise, lake health and other climate-related challenges with nature-based infrastructure and proactive mitigation strategies.

Equitable Park Access: 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.



Welcoming Visitor Use Facilities: To ensure all visitors feel welcomed to the East Bay parks and trails by providing facilities which are safe, accessible, inclusive and sustainable.

Climate-Friendly Transportation: To expand accessibly active and public transportation to and within East Bay parks and trails.



Overview of Conference Meeting Agendas

1. Introductions

2. Topics:

- Support for sponsored PRC 5500 modernization legislation.
- Support for sponsored East Bay Hills area of statewide significance legislation.
- Support for early implementation of Prop. 4 programs supporting the Park District.
- Thank you





Public Resources Code 5500 Modernization - Sponsored Legislation

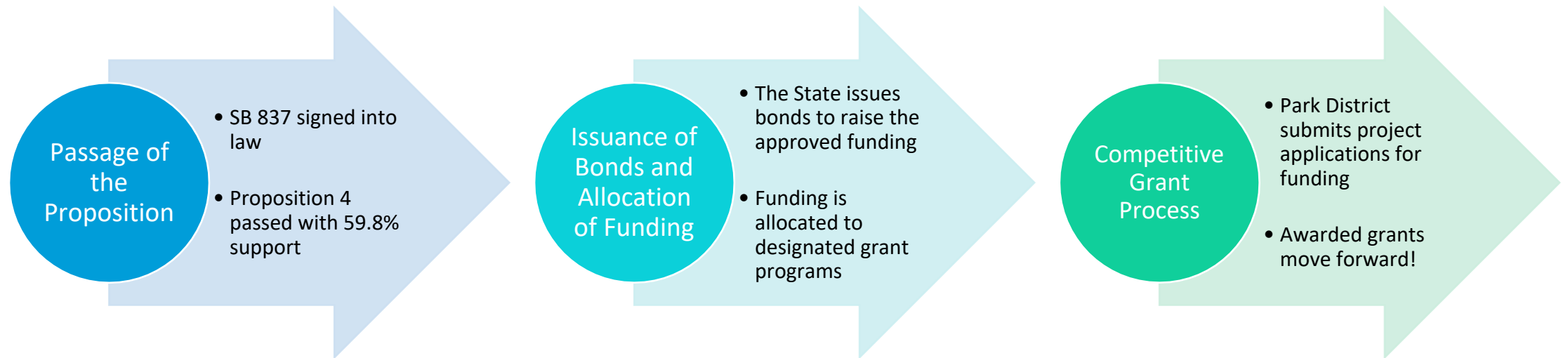
- Amendments would modernize governance, compensation, operational frameworks and land management practices for regional park districts under this code section.
 - Enhances inclusivity, efficiency and responsiveness to contemporary challenges such as climate change, extreme weather, equity and sustainable management of open space.
 - Key changes: Adopting gender-inclusive language, revising board member compensation to a flat monthly rate with annual adjustments and labor-saving administrative purchasing efficiencies.
 - Improves productivity and saves costs.
 - Revisions aim to improve governance, address evolving environmental and social needs, and support the long-term sustainability of regional park resources.
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East Bay Hills Conservation Program - Legislative Proposal

- Would establish the East Bay Hills Conservation Program under the Park District to protect and enhance the natural and recreational resources of the East Bay Hills, recognizing this over 30,000-acre area spanning Alameda and Contra Costa Counties as an area of statewide significance.
 - Aims to support the Park District's commitment to restore ecosystems, enhance watersheds, improve wildlife habitats, promote climate and wildfire resilience, manage erosion and maintain public trails, while recognizing the region's cultural significance as ancestral lands of Ohlone and Bay Miwok.
 - Opportunity to receive direct funding aimed at supporting the goals of the conservation area aligned with broader conservation, climate initiatives and expanded community access to nature.
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Proposition 4 “2024 Climate Bond” Progress Snapshot



The Park District would be competitive for approximately \$1.91 billion of the total \$10 billion bond.

Proposition 4 Competitive Funding Opportunities

Chapter 2, Section 91030

\$605M Watershed Health

Sec.91031 \$100M Regional Water Management Projects

Sec.91032(e) \$25M Urban Streams Restoration Program

Chapter 3, Section 91520

\$1.205B Wildfire Resiliency

Sec.91520(a) \$185M Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program

Sec.91520(c) \$175M Forest Health Program

Sec.91520(d) \$185M Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Chapter 4, Section 92010

\$415M State Coastal Conservancy
for Coastal Resilience

**Sec.92010(b) \$85M San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act
or the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program**

State Senate Delegation

(Clockwise)

- Jerry McNerney – SD 5
- Aisha Wahab – SD 10
- Jesse Arreguín – SD 7
- Tim Grayson – SD 9
- Christopher Cabaldon – SD 3



State Assembly Delegation

(Left to Right)

- Lori Wilson – AD11
- Buffy Wicks – AD 14
- Annamarie Avila Farias – AD 15
- Rebecca Bauer-Kahan – AD 16
- Mia Bonta - AD 18
- Liz Ortega – AD 20
- Alex Lee – AD 24



**Thank you - We look forward to a successful
2025 State Advocacy Conference!**