




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

DATE	February 18, 2025
TITLE	Recommendation to Sponsor Public Resources Code Article 3 Legislation
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	Erich Pfuehler, Division Lead of Government and Legislative Affairs Sabrina Landreth, General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends the Board of Directors sponsor legislation to amend Public Resources Code (PRC) Article 3 (Sections 5500-5595).

The Board Legislative Committee supported the recommendation to sponsor legislation to amend PRC Article 3 (Sections 5500-5595) without amendments to Section 5536.

BACKGROUND

Public Resources Code Sections 5500 through 5595 establish the framework for the governance, land management, and administrative processes of regional park and open space districts in California. As the needs of California's communities continue to evolve, it is essential the governance and operational structures of these districts adapt in order to remain responsive, efficient, and sustainable. This proposal aims to modernize these sections of the Public Resources Code to better support regional park and open space districts in addressing contemporary environmental, social, and operational challenges.

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District), Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, and other similar agencies are critical in preserving California's natural spaces while also providing essential recreational opportunities for their communities. However, many of the provisions in the current Public Resources Code (PRC) are outdated and do not adequately address the evolving demands of land management, governance, or sustainable environmental practices. Over time, issues such as climate change, equitable access to open space, and the need for more efficient administrative processes have become increasingly important. The proposed amendments are designed to address these challenges through a comprehensive update of Article 3 of the PRC.

This proposal was presented to the Board Legislative Committee on January 13, 2025, and the committee requested additional information about the specifics of the proposed changes. The item returned to the Board Legislative Committee in a Special Meeting held on February 5, 2025.

ANALYSIS

The proposed amendments to PRC Sections 5500-5595 address several challenges facing regional park and open space districts, which require immediate attention. With this legislation, the Park District is seeking to:

- Modernize Governance and Administrative Practices: Current provisions create barriers to efficiency in service delivery. With the proposed amendments, there would be increased opportunity to address contemporary issues like climate change and increasing demand for open space.
- Support for Inclusivity Updates: The proposal would revise the legislative section with gender-inclusive language.
- Address Environmental and Social Challenges: Current code does not adequately address extreme weather, climate change, or equitable public land management. Language changes will increase recognition of nature-based solutions within Article 3.
- Improve Land Management Policies: Restrictive provisions on property leases and land exchanges limit park district flexibility for expansion and efficient land management. The proposal would support revised acquisition policies for improved land conservation.

These challenges underscore the need for comprehensive updates to PRC Article 3. The proposed amendments aim to modernize governance practices, promote inclusivity, enhance flexibility in land management, and improve the overall sustainability and responsiveness of regional park and open space districts. By updating these provisions, this legislation will ensure regional park and open space districts can better meet both current and future environmental, social, and operational needs.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Policy Report.

Draft Legislative Language.

Presentation.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 02 -
FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

**RECOMMENDATION TO SPONSOR PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE ARTICLE 3
LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, the Public Resources Code Sections 5500 through 5595 govern the operations and land management practices of regional park and open space districts in California, but many of the provisions are outdated and no longer align with modern environmental, social, and operational needs; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District), along with similar agencies, play an important role in preserving natural spaces and providing recreational opportunities for California communities, but the current parameters of the Public Resources Code limits the ability to address emerging challenges such as climate change, equitable access, and sustainable land management; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to modernize the governance and administrative practices of park and open space districts, including enhancing inclusivity, recognizing the importance of nature-based solutions to climate adaptation and mitigation, as well as revised operational structures to reflect rising costs and modern best practices.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby support the General Manager's recommendation to sponsor Public Resources Code Article 3 Legislation as presented to the Board on February 18, 2025; 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 February 18, 2025, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: