

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

DATE	February 6, 2024
TITLE	Resolution to Support Legislation H.Res.881 and S. 3416 for the Legislative Session 2023-2024
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 of Directors adopt a resolution to support of the following legislation, H.Res. 881 and S. 3416 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 will take formal positions on legislation as 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 – 03. 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.

At their January 10, 2024 meeting, the Legislative Committee of the Board unanimously supported the General Manager's recommendation.

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 for overarching principles of advocacy 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 Washington, D.C., and engaging with the author/sponsor and relevant elected official's offices directly.

Of the two legislative acts recommended for support, both address climate resiliency. This includes acknowledging climate change has caused local species loss, increases in disease and ecosystem restructuring. As well as, issuing climate bonds annually for climate resiliency work. All of these components align with the Park District's advocacy goals including ecosystem stewardship and others.

H.Res. 881 (Byer D-VA) Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 aligns with the advocacy goal of ecosystem stewardship. The non-binding resolution is a commemorative piece of legislation recognizing the importance of the Endangered Species Act. Furthermore, the legislation recognizes, as of October 2023, a total of 2,363 species of animals and plants were listed as either endangered or threatened. This increased awareness allows the Park District to continue its conservation and stewardship work.

S. 3416 (Durbin D-IL) Climate Change Resiliency Fund for America aligns with multiple advocacy goals. The legislation would authorize the U.S. Department of Treasury to issue from \$200 million to \$1 billion in state and local tax-exempt "climate bonds" annually. The funding would establish grant programs to invest in national climate work. The Park District would likely be eligible to participate in such programs.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Federal Legislation to Support



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 02 -
FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION H.RES.881 AND S. 3416 FOR THE
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 education opportunities, increasing conservation through land acquisition, and ensuring the fiscal health of the Park District; and

WHEREAS, the Federal legislation H.Res. 881 and S. 3416 align with these goals and principles; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby support the following Federal bills H.Res. 881 and S. 3416 as presented to the Board on February 6, 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 February 6, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: