



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

LEGISLATIVE, FINANCE, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

R-16-109
August 30, 2016

AGENDA ITEM 2

AGENDA ITEM

Legislative Briefing

SUMMARY

The District's Legislative/External Affairs Specialist, Joshua Hugg, will provide an update on primary state legislative activities taken by the District since the March 15, 2016 LFPAC meeting. In addition, potential legislative opportunities for the 2017 state legislative session will be reviewed. Ralph Heim and Russ Noack of Public Policy Advocates, LLC, (PPA) the District's legislative consultants in Sacramento, will attend the via conference call to answer additional questions.

DISCUSSION

The following are brief summaries of the legislation where support letters were sent to the legislature on behalf of the District. In each case where time constraints dictated timely action by the General Manager, the Board was informed shortly after.

1. **AB 2444 (Garcia, D) California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018.** – Would place measure on statewide ballot, which, if approved by the voters during June 5, 2018 primary election, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$3,497,500,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a parks, water, climate, and coastal protection and outdoor access for all program.

Status: Sent to Senate Rules Committee. Likely will not move further this session, but will likely be taken up again by Assemblymember Garcia in the 2017 session using the existing amended legislation.

Notes: Actively supported by coalitions led by Bay Area Open Space Council and California Parks and Recreation Society. Midpen participated through individual letters of support, group sign-on letters, and group visits to Bay Area legislators. The District also partnered with Senator Beall to specify provision targeted at the restoration of the Guadalupe River Watershed.

MROSD Position: Support (Coalition)

2. **AB 2087 (Levine, D) Regional conservation frameworks** – A three-year pilot that authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife, or any other public agency, to propose a regional conservation investment strategy (RCIS) that would be required to conduct a regional conservation assessment. The RCIS could be used for voluntary guidance on:
 1. Identification of wildlife and habitat conservation priorities, including actions needed to address the impacts of climate change and other wildlife stressors.
 2. Investments in natural resource conservation.
 3. Infrastructure
 4. Identification of priority locations for compensatory mitigation for impacts to species and natural resources.

The bill would authorize the department to approve a regional conservation framework for a period of up to 5 years. Also may be used to create a system mitigation credits that measurably advance RCIS goals.

Status: Referred to Senate Floor.

Notes: Supported by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA) and East Bay Regional Parks District, as well as a statewide Wildlife Corridor Working Group in partnership with Assemblymember Levine. Significant opposition from the California Building Industry Association over concerns it may stifle new development. Governor Brown’s office is now heading up negotiations for the bill.

MROSD Position: Support (Coalition)

Potential Legislation for Next Legislative Session:

A number of potential opportunities for legislation have arisen through the 2016 Legislative Session that may wish to be pursued in the 2017 Legislative session.

1. **AB 612 (Gordon) clean-up:** Minor fix to Section 5544.1 of the Public Resources Code to reflect the intent of the original legislation that extended the rate of Midpen’s indebtedness to 30 years.
2. **Board Compensation:** Update to Section 5536 of the Public Resources Code to modify Board compensation amounts and criteria that were established in 1984.
3. **Definition of Disadvantaged Community update:** An amendment to Section 75005 of the Public Resources Code. Pursued unsuccessfully as an amendment to AB 2444 (Garcia). This would expand funding eligibility criteria for disadvantaged communities in high-cost regions due to current inequitable funding formulas. Would also affect several existing funding sources like Prop 1 and Prop 84.
4. **Guadalupe River Watershed restoration legislation:** Dependent on passage of Parks Bond bill. Outcropping of \$10 million funding source in AB 2444 which asks for legislation that “demonstrates a comprehensive local and regional approach to restoration, public recreation, and management of the river corridor.” Would be pursued in concert with South Bay partner organizations and Senator Beall’s office.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

The Legislative/External Affairs Specialist and PPA will bring a legislative agenda proposal to the Board in preparation for the 2017 Legislative Session.

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