

PROPOSED STATE PARK BOND

July 14, 2015

CURRENT STATUS

SB 317 – The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2016 has been authored by Senate Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon. This bill would serve as the vehicle for a statewide park bond to potentially be brought before the voters as early as November 2016.

The outline of the \$2.45 billion bond has four areas of emphasis:

1. Parks (\$1.45 billion)
2. Rivers, Lakes and Streams (\$370 million)
3. Coast and Ocean Protection (\$350 million)
4. Climate Resilience (\$280 million)

The bulk of the “parks” funding (\$800 million) is for a competitive grant program for disadvantaged communities – mostly highly urbanized areas. There is \$200 million for local park rehabilitation allocated on a per capita basis and \$200 million for restoration, preservation and protection of regional parks. Additionally, there is \$300 million allocated to the Coastal Conservancy.

NEXT STEPS

The Park District, State Park Partners and Bay Area Open Space Council have been advocating for a significant increase in the per capita program and a direct allocation for the Bay Area Program within the Coastal Conservancy. Specifically, the organizations mentioned above are seeking a more robust per capita distribution of between \$500 and \$600 million. Both of the last “true park bonds” – Proposition 12 and 40 – contained nearly \$600 million in discretionary funds to local agencies. The organizations are also seeking an allocation of \$100 million specifically for California Coastal Conservancy’s Bay Area Program. Both of these investments, along with the District’s funds and Measure WW local grant program, will leverage increased funding for parks and open space in local communities in the East Bay.