

R-21-109
Meeting 21-20
October 28, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #5

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

SUBJECT

Informational Item: Legislative Affairs 2021 State and Federal Recap

REVENUE/COST

There is no cost associated with this item.

BACKGROUND

On December 10, 2020, staff received guidance from the Board of Directors on setting the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's (Authority's) 2021 legislative priorities. These priorities, which are being approached with a designed "level of engagement" (subject to change throughout the year), help support delivery of the Authority's mission to its constituents. As staff engage in legislative affairs, continue to strengthen new and existing relationships with community leaders and elected officials, and continue to build relationships and partnerships with both conservation and non-conservation focused agencies and organizations, staff will seek to integrate the values of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility as driving principles. Staff provided an update on legislative activity to date during the joint Board/Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on February 11, 2021 and in a presentation to the Board on April 8, 2021.

DISCUSSION

Since the most recent staff update on April 8, the 2021 State legislative session has officially ended and the deadline has passed for the Governor to take action on bills. The following list summarizes those bills that the Authority was tracking throughout the year, and which were signed into law. Staff will provide further context and detail during the Board meeting presentation*. Additional items may be included at that time as new information becomes available prior to the Board meeting.

2021 State Engagement

Budget:

- *Climate Resilience funding, including:*
 - Wildlife Conservation Board funding
 - State Coastal Conservancy (incl. Bay Program) funding
 - Resilience Corps funding
- *Other budget funding:*
 - Special Districts Covid Relief funding
 - Allocation for Laguna Seca acquisition in Coyote Valley

Bills: (**=expressed written and/or verbal support)

- *Conservation, Restoration, Ecosystem Services*

- [AB 271](#) (Rivas, Robert D) Santa Clara Valley Water District: contracts: best value procurement. **
- [SB 27](#) (Skinner D) Carbon sequestration: state goals: natural and working lands: registry of projects.
- [AB 36](#) (Gallagher R) Design-build contracting: Town of Paradise
- [SB 716](#) (McGuire D) Land use: habitat restoration, enhancement: mitigation lands. **
- [SB 790](#) (Stern D) Wildlife connectivity actions: compensatory mitigation credits. **
- [AB 315](#) (Stone D) Voluntary stream restoration property owner liability: indemnification. **
- *Agriculture and Food Systems*
 - [AB 941](#) (Bennett D) Farmworker assistance: resource centers.
 - [AB 1009](#) (Bloom D) Farm to Community Food Hub Program.
 - [SB 721](#) (Hueso D) California Farmworker Day.
- *Climate-Resilient Land Use and Development*
 - [SB 8](#) (Skinner D) Housing Crisis Act of 2019.
 - [SB 9](#) (Atkins D) Housing development: approvals.
 - [SB 10](#) (Wiener D) Planning and zoning: housing development: density.
- *Stewardship and Equitable Access*
 - [AB 379](#) (Gallagher R) Wildlife conservation.
- *Special District and Finance*
 - [AB 361](#) (Rivas, Robert D) Open meetings: state and local agencies: teleconferences. **
 - [ACR 17](#) (Voepel R) Special Districts Week.
 - [AB 1219](#) (Berman D) Income taxes: Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000.

Other State Policy Engagement:

- 30x30 implementation ([Executive Order N-82-20](#))
- [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#)
- [Air Resources Board 2022 Scoping Plan](#)
- CEQA Statutory Exemption for Climate-benefiting Restoration Projects
- [2021 Climate Adaptation Strategy](#)

2021 Federal Engagement

Budget:

- Still pending: infrastructure package

Bills: (**=expressed written and/or verbal support)

- [HR 535 \(Garamendi D\)](#) / [S 91 \(Sinema D\)](#): Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act**
- [Civilian Conservation Corps](#)**

Other Federal Policy Engagement

- 30x30 ([Federal Executive Order](#))

Local Policy Engagement Update

- City of San Jose General Plan 4-Year Review Updates
- City of San Jose Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)
- City of San Jose Climate Smart San Jose Natural and Working Lands Element
- City of San Jose Resilience Corps development
- Santa Clara County Climate Change Overlay Zone
- Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission (new)
- Santa Clara County Reid Hillview Airport transition
- Santa Clara County Zoning Ordinance - Outdoor Recreation Compatible with Natural Environment
- Valley Water Agricultural Groundwater Rates
- Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
- Plan Bay Area 2050

*Note that in December, staff will present to the Board on the proposed legislative priorities for 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item and no action is recommended.

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