

R-22-52  
Meeting 22-07  
April 14, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM #5**

To: Board of Directors  
Open Space Authority

From: Andrea Mackenzie  
General Manager

**SUBJECT**

Informational Item: Legislative Update Spring 2022

**REVENUE/COST**

There is no cost associated with this item.

**BACKGROUND**

In December 2021, staff compiled information from research, inputs from partners, and advice from strategic consultants and presented a proposed list of legislative affairs priorities to the Board of Directors for their feedback and guidance.

In addition to identifying the priorities themselves, staff estimated the desired levels of engagement for each priority (which may change throughout the year) in order to strategize how the agency's resources can be most effectively and efficiently allocated. At the core of this priority-setting process is the commitment to the Authority's mission and values. In addition, the Authority has committed to prioritizing the values of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility as driving principles throughout all of the agency's work.

**DISCUSSION**

Since the most recent [staff update on December 9, 2021](#), the Authority has been engaged in the following legislative and policy-related opportunities. During the presentation, staff will provide additional context, insights, and summaries of how each bill could impact the Authority's mission. Additional items may be included at that time as new information becomes available prior to the Board meeting.

\*=expressed or intend to express support

**State Legislative Affairs:**

- Anticipated State budget surplus:
  - Coyote Valley Conservation Program requests
  - Wildlife Conservation Board and State Coastal Conservancy allocations
- State climate initiatives
  - 30x30 – Protection of 30% of State lands and waters by 2030
  - Climate Smart Lands Strategy – GHG reduction through strategies for nature-based solutions

- Air Resources Board 2022 Scoping Plan - modeling of natural and working lands GHG emissions
- Climate Smart Agriculture – funding for Healthy Soils, Pollinator Habitat, Organic Transition, Carbon Farm planning
- Current legislation:
  - Declare importance of outdoor access and environmental equity (\*[AB 30](#), Kalra)
  - Integration of climate impacts into Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process ([AB 1445](#), Levine)
  - Development of regional climate networks ([AB 1640](#), Ward)
  - Prevailing wage for fuels reduction public works projects ([AB 1717](#), Aguiar-Curry)
  - Williamson Act subvention payment appropriations ([AB 1773](#), Patterson)
  - Funding for new Trails Corps program within CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation (\*[AB 1789](#), Bennett)
  - Brown Act amendments for improved and more equitable processes (\*[AB 1944](#), Lee; [AB 2449](#), Rubio; \*[AB 2647](#), Levine)
  - Support and resources for farmworkers (incl. in indigenous languages) ([AB 2082](#), R.Rivas)
  - California Pocket Forest Initiative (\*[AB 2114](#), Kalra)
  - Support for wildlife corridor needs within Caltrans review process (\*[AB 2344](#), Friedman)
  - Online resources for environmental permitting ([AB 2362](#), Mullin)
  - Climate bond (\*[AB 2387](#), Garcia)
  - Public Works exemption, extension through 2030 (\*[AB 2463](#), Lee)
  - Natural and Working Lands (NWL) targets for meeting State GHG reduction goals ([AB 2649](#), C. Garcia, Stone)
  - Support for ecologically sensitive vegetation management projects (\*[AB 2610](#), Friedman)
  - Enable future use of design-build tool (\*[AB 2789](#), Mullin)
    - The Authority is a co-sponsor of this bill
- Statewide Voter Initiatives
  - Special district financing restrictions ([State Ballot Measures Initiative 21-0042A1](#))

#### **Federal Legislative Affairs:**

- Federal budget requests: Coyote Valley
- 2023 Updates to the Farm Bill
- Federal recognition of Muwekma Ohlone tribe (at state level, \*[SJR 13](#), Cortese)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund – [Great American Outdoors Act](#)

#### **Local and Regional Policy and Conservation Initiatives:**

- City of San Jose budget process
  - Mayor's Budget Message includes Coyote Valley as a priority
  - Ongoing discussions regarding funds for enhancing wildlife movement across Monterey Rd.
- Santa Clara County Climate Roadmap 2030
- Santa Clara County rural zoning ordinances

- [Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative](#)
- [Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance](#)
- Climate credits program
- [Climate Smart San Jose Natural and Working Lands Element](#)
- Partnership development and collaboration relevant to housing and conservation needs (incl. through RHNA process)
- [Bay Area Greenprint tool development](#)

**RECOMMENDATION**

This is an informational item, and no action is recommended.

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