

15th annual

PARK ADVOCACY DAY

Key Bills Lobbied at Park Advocacy Day

Assembly Bill 18 (E. Garcia) – SUPPORT

California Clean Water, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

AB 18 proposes a \$3.1 billion bond to be placed on the June 2018 ballot for approval by California voters.

Major categories in the bond include:

- Creation and expansion of safe neighborhood parks (\$900 million)
- State park restoration (\$330 million)
- Local park restoration & rehabilitation on per capita basis, and regional park districts, counties, and special districts competitive grants (\$535 million)

It is time to reinvest in California's natural infrastructure. Our state parks are in great need of funding to eliminate long-delayed backlogs of deferred maintenance, make critical repairs necessary to preserve visitor safety and enjoyment in our state parks, and improve amenities that will both enhance create visitor value and generate revenues.

Assembly Bill 250 (Gonzalez Fletcher) – SUPPORT

Low Cost Coastal Accommodations Program

AB 250 authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to create a new Lower Cost Coastal Accommodations Program. California has 1,100 miles of coastline, but coastal access is not equitable for all Californians. Since 1989, nearly 25,000 economy hotel/motel rooms have been eliminated. Coastal state park campgrounds are some of the most affordable overnight coastal accommodations, with fees ranging from \$40 to \$65 per night.

Yet the supply of affordable coastal state park campgrounds isn't enough to meet demand. Coastal campsites sell out months in advance and are usually booked every weekend throughout the summer. In addition to traditional motels/hotels and campgrounds, increasing the availability of group campsites within state parks and expanding innovative alternatives such as affordable cabins, rustic shelters and yurts, will allow more Californians to access and enjoy our coastlines and beaches.

Assembly Bill 1358 (Cooley) – SUPPORT

Discounted State Parks Admission Day

AB 1358 requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to make day-use admission to state parks half-price on California's Admission Day (September 9). Decreasing financial barriers to state park use increases all Californians' access to parks.

Recent, limited fee-free days in the state park system have been popular and successful. On the 2016 "Green Friday" (November 26, 2016), 60 percent of the more than 35,000 visitors who took advantage of free day use were first-time park visitors. In 2017, the National Park Service will host ten fee-free days to encourage Americans to visit and connect with their National Parks.

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Senate Bill 5 (de León) – SUPPORT IF STATE PARKS FUNDING INCREASED

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018

SB 5 proposes a \$3.5 billion bond to be placed on the June 2018 ballot for approval by California voters and includes \$150 million for state parks for statewide deferred maintenance and capital needs. Major categories in the bond include:

- Creation and expansion of safe neighborhood parks (\$800 million)
- State park restoration (\$150 million)
- Local park restoration & rehabilitation on per capita basis (\$200 million)

Making our state parks attractive and relevant to Californians requires an adequate investment that can effectively improve and develop amenities and park facilities. Park advocates support the \$330 million state parks funding level in AB 18 and urge that the final funding level for state parks in SB 5 or any negotiated agreement between AB 18 & SB 5 include \$330 million for state parks.

Senate Bill 50 (Allen) – SUPPORT Public Lands Protection Act

SB 50 requires the state to have the right of first refusal or option to arrange to transfer of any federal public lands that the federal government is attempting to sell. As a result of an April Executive Order by the Trump Administration, six of California's national monuments are under review and possibly under threat by the US Department of Interior.

Our parks and monuments are for all Americans, preserving America's heritage and history, as well as safeguarding irreplaceable wildlife, habitat and natural resources. Californians value, appreciate, and visit our world-class natural lands, parks, and open spaces. Over \$85 billion comes into our state economy because of outdoor recreation spending and economic activity, and it directly supports more than 730,000 jobs.