

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: July 21, 2008

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: East Bay Regional Parks District Proposed Extension of Regional Open Space, Wildlife, Shoreline and Parks Bond Measure AA on the November 4, 2008 ballot

FROM: Beth Pollard, City Administrator

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 08-51 supporting the extension of Measure AA.

BACKGROUND

In 1988, voters of Alameda and Contra Costa counties approved a \$225 million East Bay Regional Park District bond measure, which has been used to preserve 34,000 acres of open space, create 17 new regional parks, add more than 100 miles of trails, and fund 2235 neighborhood recreation projects. The District reports that it nearly doubled this investment by leveraging the money to secure matching funds for parks projects.

Now that the 1988 bond program is reaching completion, the proposal being placed before the voters in November 2008 is to continue the Measure AA program by extending the bond measure at the same tax rate. The bond funds would be used to restore urban creeks; to protect wildlife; to purchase and save open space, wetlands, and bay shoreline; and to acquire, develop, and improve local and regional parks, trails, and recreational facilities.

Attached is information from the District on the work accomplished with the 1988 Measure AA and the proposed uses for the 2008 Measure AA bond.

DISCUSSION

Some key points of the 2008 Measure AA are:

- The total amount is \$500 million
- \$375 will fund regional park acquisitions and capital projects, of which 7 percent (\$26.2 million) will be reserved for unanticipated needs and opportunities
- \$125 million will go to cities and other local governments
- The tax rate is \$10 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, the same as the 1988 rate
- Requires a 2/3 voter approval in Alameda and Contra Costa counties

ANALYSIS/FINANCIAL IMPACT

Besides expanded, restored, preserved and improved regional parks and recreational facilities, other benefits from the measure to Albany include:

- \$774,036 to the City of Albany for parks and recreation projects from the \$125 million allocation to local governments on a per capita basis
- \$27 million for improvements to Eastshore State Park, which is located in the city of Albany and neighboring cities along the waterfront
- \$12.3 million for Bay Trail connections between Martinez and Fremont, which could include the Albany waterfront

There is also a reserve of \$26.2 million in unallocated funds to be available for future needs and/or opportunities.

Attachments

1. City Council Resolution No. 08-51
2. East Bay Regional Parks Measure AA Facts Sheet
3. EBRPD Open Space Bond Measure Extension announcement and website links
4. 2008 Regional Parks Bond Project List