



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

May 28, 2014

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Executive Summary

This memorandum contains pursuits of County positions on the following measures:

- **Pursuit of County Position to Support SB 1086 (De León).** This measure would enact the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2014, which, if approved by the voters in November 2014, would authorize the State to issue bonds to support a safe neighborhood parks, rivers, and coastal protection program. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policies to support proposals to fund the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space, and seek additional funding for the establishment of new urban parks in the underserved areas of the County, **the Sacramento advocates will support SB 1086.**
- **Pursuit of County Position to Support SJR 23 (Huff and De León).** This measure would request the United States Congress to adopt resolutions of apology to the Chinese community for the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Laws. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with the Board approved motion of July 16, 2013, directing the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and send a 5-signature letter to members of Congress requesting the adoption of an Apology Resolution regarding past racial discrimination policies and laws suffered by Chinese-Americans, **the Sacramento advocates will support SJR 23.**

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**SB 1086 (De León)**, which as amended on May 27, 2014, would enact the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2014, which, if approved by the voters in the November 2014 Statewide General Election, would authorize the sale of bonds to support safe neighborhood parks, rivers, and coastal protection programs. Funding derived under the bond program will be allocated across seven different program areas: 1) parks; 2) rivers, lakes, and streams; 3) coast and ocean protection; 4) forests and working lands; 5) regional conservation priorities; 6) employment in conservation for youth in disadvantaged communities, defined as a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average; and 7) urban forestry, greening, and greenprint projects. Specific funding allocations for each of the program areas have yet to be determined. SB 1086 is an urgency measure and would take effect immediately upon enactment.

In recent years, California voters have approved various measures to provide funding for parks, rivers, and coastal protection programs. Most recently, California voters approved the: 1) Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Act of 2000 (\$2.1 billion); 2) California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (\$2.6 billion); and 3) Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (\$5.4 billion).

Under SB 1086, projects funded with bond proceeds would be used to promote State planning priorities and sustainable communities' strategies. State agencies receiving funds under the bond proposal would be required to achieve wildlife conservation objectives through projects on public lands or voluntary projects on private lands. In evaluating projects for the protection of natural resources and wildlife, SB 1086 would give priority to projects that implement Natural Community Conservation Plans or endangered species recovery plans. The measure would also require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and adopt a statewide resource protection plan to identify priorities for expending funds provided under the Act reflect statewide and regional protection, public access, and availability to underserved populations.

According to the author of SB 1086, there has not been a true park and natural resources bond for over a decade, and recent years of budget deficits at the local and State level have impacted existing park and natural resources infrastructure, including limiting the ability to expand and build more park projects that would better serve the State's park-poor neighborhoods. SB 1086 is an effort to address these needs.

The Department of Parks and Recreation indicates that the department is supportive of SB 1086, as the measure seeks to provide funding opportunities to local governments for local park rehabilitation and improvement projects. Further, under the provisions of

Each Supervisor  
May 28, 2014  
Page 3

SB 1086, funding would be made available for the restoration, preservation, and protection of State parks that are maintained and operated by local/regional agencies, including the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Placerita Canyon Nature Center and Natural Area, and Castaic State Recreation Area which are maintained and operated by the County.

The Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) is supportive of SB 1086 given the potential availability of funding to support various park-related projects within the County; however, DBH suggests that SB 1086 be amended to clarify that the terms "beaches" and "coastal recreation areas" be included in the definition of "parks," consistent with existing Board-approved policy. DBH also notes that the author of SB 1086 should consider amending SB 1086 to identify or provide a direct funding amount for the County, which would eliminate the need for the County to compete for available grant funds.

This office, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Beaches and Harbors support SB 1086. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policies to support proposals to fund for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space, and seek additional funding for the establishment of new urban parks in the underserved areas of the County, **the Sacramento advocates will support SB 1086.**

SB 1086 is supported by: Audubon California; Big Sur Land and Trust; California Urban Forests Council; City and County of San Francisco; Environmental Defense Fund; Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; Peninsula Open Space Trust; San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council; and Sierra Club California, among others. There is no registered opposition to this measure.

SB 1086 passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a vote of 5 to 2 on May 23, 2014. This measure is currently on the Senate Floor.

**SJR 23 (Huff and De León)**, which as amended on May 22, 2014, would request the U.S. Congress to adopt resolutions of apology to the Chinese community for the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Laws.

SJR 23 makes various legislative findings regarding the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The Act restricted the immigration of Chinese laborers employed in mining from entering the country for ten years under penalty of imprisonment and deportation. It also required any Chinese person who already settled in the United States, and left, to obtain

Each Supervisor  
May 28, 2014  
Page 4

a certificate of reentry and excluded Chinese immigrants from U.S. citizenship. The Act was repealed in 1942 when China became an ally of the United States against Japan in World War II.

SJR 23 acknowledges that the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have passed resolutions expressing regret for the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act and other legislation that discriminated against people of Chinese origin. However, the measure notes that Congress has never issued a formal apology for the legalized governmental mistreatment marked under the Chinese Exclusion Act, and states that there are important distinctions between an expression of regret and an apology. SJR 23 concludes that it is important that the U.S. Congress make a formal and sincere apology for the enactment of discriminatory laws that adversely affected Chinese Americans.

This office supports SJR 23. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with Board action of July 16, 2013, which directed the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and send a 5-signature letter to members of Congress requesting the adoption of an Apology Resolution regarding past racial discrimination policies and laws suffered by Chinese-Americans, **the Sacramento advocates will support SJR 23.**

SJR 23 is sponsored by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance - Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge, and supported by: the American and Chinese World War II Memorial Monument Association; Association for Preserving Historical Accuracy of Foreign Invasions in China; and Confucius Institute at San Diego State University. There is no opposition on file.

This measure is currently on the Senate Floor.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:VE:IGEA:ma

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 721  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
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