


REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: May 8, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst
Council File No: 14-0002-S59
Assignment No: 14-05-0345

SUBJECT: Resolution (O'Farrell - Blumenfield) to SUPPORT SB 1086 (De Leon)

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (O'Farrell - Blumenfield) to include in the City's 2013-2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 1086 (De Leon) which seeks to provide funding for safe neighborhood parks, rivers and coastal protection.

SUMMARY:

Resolution (O'Farrell - Blumenfield), introduced May 2, 2014, states that the lack of green open space is a serious problem in urban communities throughout the state. The demand for local parks has exceeded available state funding by a factor of eight to one. The Resolution follows that in the City of Los Angeles, more than 1.8 million people live in areas where parks and open space are not easily accessible.

SB 1086 (De Leon) would establish The Safe Neighborhood Parks, River, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2014 which seeks to finance a variety of open space projects throughout the state. The Resolution notes that the measure would fund the construction of new parks and green space as well as provide funding to rehabilitate existing parks.

The Resolution follows that SB 1086 would also provide funding to protect and restore the state's rivers, lakes, streams, coastal waters, and related watersheds. In addition, the measure's objectives are consistent with the City's River Revitalization Master Plan efforts and would assist in restoring the Los Angeles River and its watershed. The Resolution therefore requests that the City support SB 1086.

BACKGROUND:

According to the author, there has not been a true park and natural resource bond for over a decade - since the passage of Proposition 40 in 2002. The author notes that there remains a large unmet need to improve and expand parks and protect natural resources throughout the state.

Proposition 84 in 2006 contained \$400 million for state parks and \$400 million for an associated local competitive grant program. The local competitive grant program awarded \$368 million in grants in under-served neighborhoods across the state. However, the program received \$3 billion in requests statewide. This represents a ratio of eight project applications for every one application awarded.

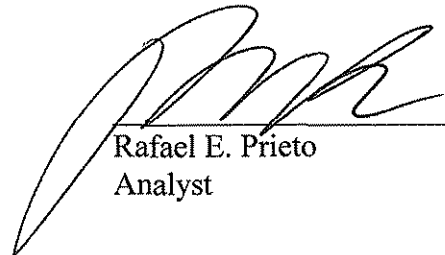
In addition, recent years of budget deficits at the local and state level have impacted existing park and natural resource infrastructure, including limiting the ability to expand and build more park projects to better serve the state's park-poor neighborhoods.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
Department of Water and Power

BILL STATUS

2/19/14	Introduced
5/5/14	Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee



Rafael E. Prieto
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (O'Farrell - Martinez)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the lack of green open space is a serious problem in urban communities throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the demand for local parks has exceeded available state funding by a factor of eight to one; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Los Angeles, more than 1.8 million people live in areas where parks and open space are not easily accessible; and

WHEREAS, SB 1086 (De Leon) would establish The Safe Neighborhood Parks, River, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2014, which seeks to finance a variety of open space projects throughout the state; and

WEREAS, SB 1086 would fund the construction of new parks and green space as well as provide funding to rehabilitate existing parks; and

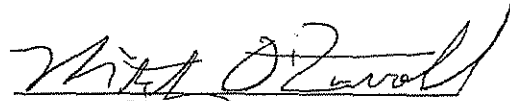
WHEREAS, in addition to funding valuable open space projects, SB 1086 would also protect and restore the state's rivers, lakes, streams, coastal waters, and related watersheds; thereby improving water quality and reliability; and

WHEREAS, SB 1086 also seeks to fund youth employment opportunities in conservation projects - including targeting youth from disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, this measure's objectives are also consistent with the City's River Revitalization Master Plan efforts and would assist in restoring the Los Angeles River, its watershed and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-14 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 1086 (De Leon) which seeks to provide funding for safe neighborhood parks, rivers and coastal protection.

PRESENTED BY:



MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:

