



# Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

## AB 18 – The 2018 Park Bond for All Californians

### BACKGROUND

Not since 2002 have voters approved a statewide general obligation bond for parks. Since then, the protracted economic downturn had a disproportionate impact on California’s local, regional and state parks infrastructure. Park investments during this period dropped, perceived as less critical than other public funding investments. Disadvantaged urban and rural communities suffered disproportionately, with little or no access to safe parks, trails, recreation areas, and the great outdoors.

### PARK ACCESS FOR ALL

AB 18 (Garcia), if approved by voters, would allocate **\$3.105 billion** to address those disproportionate impacts on park access for disadvantaged communities across all of California. It builds off Assemblymember Garcia’s efforts to pass a park bond in last year’s AB 2444, which the Assembly approved with bi-partisan support but did not gain Senate approval.

**Balanced Statewide Allocations.** AB 18 balances the needs of communities across the state – urban, suburban, and rural; north and south; coastal and inland; state and regional. It includes a \$425 M allocation distributed based on population, so all communities can get at least some funding for their park improvement needs.

**Investments for Disadvantaged Communities.** Those communities without the economic base to pay for parks need the State’s help most. These communities may suffer some of the worst environmental degradation in the past. AB 18 therefore allocates almost 1/3 of its funds to those communities – \$900 M. It also allocates \$100 M to support low-cost accommodation along our spectacular coastline, so all Californians can afford an overnight visit to the California Coast.

**Established Need for Local Park Funding.** The California Park & Recreation Society conducted a survey of local and regional park districts to assess unmet need. 45 out of 500 agencies responded and estimated a total unmet need of \$1.8 B for local parks. After receiving applications for \$3 B, State Parks granted \$360 M to disadvantaged communities for parks.

**Deferred Maintenance for State Parks.** In the last decade, the recession caused substantial cuts to the State Parks department. The backlog of deferred State Park maintenance has grown, now totaling more than \$1.1 B today. AB 18 allocates 80% of its State Parks funding to deferred maintenance.

**Water and Parks.** State law has long required the State to protect “the public trust” in California waterways, which includes providing access. Restored rivers and the ocean can provide park and open space access to millions of Californians. AB 18 allocates \$405M to water-related park resources, including \$280M to protect coastal resources for enjoyment by all Californians.

**Open Space, Wildlands and Habitat.** California’s spectacularly beautiful environment offers habitat for humans and animals. Climate change has added stress and degraded natural habitats. Restoring habitat ensures that future generations will be able to enjoy our state’s diversity of wildlife and fishery resources. AB 18 allocates \$600 M for climate/habitat resiliency.

### PARK FUNDING ALLOCATIONS IN AB 18

#### Park Access for All Communities

- \$900 M Environment and Social Equity
- \$425 M California’s Local and Regional Outdoor Spaces (per capita distribution)
- \$110 M Competitive Park Grants for Regional Public Agencies
- \$5 M Competitive Park Grants for Public Agencies with Voter-Approved Funding

#### Statewide Park Resources

- \$330 M State Parks
- \$45 M Trails & Greenways
- \$40 M Rural Recreation, Tourism & the Economy

#### Water and Parks

- \$70 M River Recreation, Stormwater Improvement
- \$90 M Urban Creek Enhancement (LA & San Gabriel River, divided equally)
- \$10 M Urban Streams Restoration Program
- \$30 M Salton Sea & New River
- \$25 M Stormwater Capture Related to Parks

#### Conservancies, Coast and Climate

- \$145 M State Conservancies
- \$280 M Ocean, Bay & Coastal Protection (including low-cost coastal accommodation)
- \$600 M Climate Preparedness/Habitat Resiliency

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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