

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 23, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 14, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 5, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 27, 2001

SENATE BILL

No. 1177

Introduced by Senator Polanco

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Cedillo and Goldberg)

February 23, 2001

An act to add Section 5006.42 to the Public Resources Code, relating to parks and recreation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1177, as amended, Polanco. Cornfield rail yards.

Existing law requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop, operate, and maintain units of the state park system.

This bill would authorize the department to use ~~\$38,500,000~~ \$36,000,000 appropriated by specified items of the Budget Act of 2001 for the acquisition, planning, design, environmental assessment, and environmental cleanup of the 32-acre parcel known as the "Cornfield" rail yards in the City of Los Angeles.

The bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation, not later than February 1, 2002, to ~~convene and appoint~~ *establish* the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee, which would be responsible for ~~making recommendations to the department regarding the development~~

~~of an urban state park and recreation area on the site of the former “Cornfield” rail yards in central Los Angeles. The bill would prescribe the duties of the advisory committee assisting the department, in an advisory capacity, to plan for interim and permanent land uses and facilities through the general planning process for the Cornfield site. The bill would also require the department to take specified actions with respect to the development of a state park at the Cornfield site.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) The Cornfield property is a 32-acre abandoned railroad
4 yard in downtown Los Angeles, adjacent to the Chinatown district
5 and the Los Angeles River.

6 (b) The development of the Cornfield property as a public park
7 presents a unique opportunity to create ~~the first major park, open~~
8 ~~space, and recreation complex ever developed~~ *a major park, open*
9 *space, and recreation complex* in downtown Los Angeles.

10 (c) The site’s history as a cornfield in the 19th century and as
11 the location of the city’s original aqueduct presents significant
12 opportunities for learning. A rail transit station is planned to be
13 located at the in the vicinity of the ~~Cornfield~~ property, making it
14 easily accessible to millions of low-income, transit-dependent
15 families, senior citizens, youths, persons with disabilities, and
16 children from across urban Los Angeles.

17 (d) The Cornfield site offers a once-in-a-century opportunity to
18 create a world-class park and playground, and to develop other
19 compatible uses in one of the city’s most diverse and park-poor
20 communities.

21 (e) Urban parks have historically played a pivotal role in
22 shaping the success of cities by bringing residents *and visitors* new
23 resources for environmental enrichment, educational, cultural,
24 and recreational opportunities, and otherwise enhancing urban
25 community life.

26 SEC. 2. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide *park*
27 *and* recreational opportunities for the Los Angeles region *and the*
28 *state* by appropriating funds to the Department of Parks and



1 Recreation to be used to purchase the 32-acre parcel known as the
2 “Cornfield” rail yards in the City of Los Angeles.

3 (b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that local
4 ~~community organizations and, state, and federal agencies,~~
5 ~~environmental, recreational, historic preservation, and cultural~~
6 ~~organizations, museums, educational institutions and~~
7 ~~organizations, private persons and entities, and community-based~~
8 ~~organizations, including groups instrumental in community~~
9 ~~advocacy leading to current plans for development of the~~
10 ~~Cornfield rail yards as an urban state park have the opportunity to~~
11 ~~participate in project planning and development.~~

12 SEC. 3. Section 5006.42 is added to the Public Resources
13 Code, to read:

14 ~~5006.42. (a) Not later than February 1, 2002, the director~~
15 ~~shall establish the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee. The~~
16 ~~advisory committee shall be responsible for making~~
17 ~~recommendations to the department regarding the development of~~
18 ~~an urban state park and recreation area on the site of the former~~
19 ~~“Cornfield” rail yards in central Los Angeles.~~

20 ~~(b) The advisory committee shall be convened and appointed~~
21 ~~by the director. The director shall select advisory committee~~
22 ~~representatives from groups including, but not limited to,~~
23 ~~Asian Pacific Americans including Chinese Americans, Latino~~
24 ~~community organizations, and other interested ethnic groups,~~
25 ~~local historic preservation and environmental associations, private~~
26 ~~sector entities, community based organizations, educational~~
27 ~~institutions, and local governments.~~

28 ~~(c) The advisory committee shall do all of the following:~~

29 ~~(1) Survey community preferences in a range of park services~~
30 ~~appropriate for urban regional park settings.~~

31 ~~(2) Seek input and cooperate with community recreation~~
32 ~~agencies, educational institutions, private sector entities, and~~
33 ~~community-based organizations, as appropriate, that are interested~~
34 ~~in the use or development of recreational facilities and programs~~
35 ~~for public benefit at the state park proposed to be located at the~~
36 ~~“Cornfield” rail yards, including the special needs of children,~~
37 ~~youths, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.~~

38 ~~(3) Assist the director, as appropriate, in the development,~~
39 ~~administration, and protection of this urban state park facility.~~



1 ~~(4) Identify and recommend to the director, on or before a year~~
2 ~~after the date of acquisition of a fee title, priorities for long-range~~
3 ~~plans for the site that meet the needs of Californians, including~~
4 ~~recreational facilities and programs serving residents within~~
5 ~~communities surrounding the Cornfield rail yards in central Los~~
6 ~~Angeles.~~

7 5006.42. (a) *On or before February 1, 2002, the director*
8 *shall establish the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee,*
9 *which shall be responsible for assisting the department, in an*
10 *advisory capacity, to plan for interim and permanent land uses and*
11 *facilities through the general planning process for the Cornfield*
12 *site. The director shall terminate the advisory committee after the*
13 *adoption of a general plan for the state park.*

14 (b) *The director shall convene and appoint the advisory*
15 *committee. The members of the committee shall be selected by the*
16 *director, who shall include, in the advisory committee,*
17 *representatives from entities, including, but not limited to, local,*
18 *state, and federal agencies, environmental, historic preservation,*
19 *and cultural organizations, museums, educational institutions and*
20 *organizations, individuals and private sector entities, and*
21 *community-based organizations, including Asian-Pacific*
22 *Americans, Chinese Americans, Latino community organizations,*
23 *and other interested ethnic groups.*

24 (c) *The department shall take all of the following actions with*
25 *respect to the development of a state park at the Cornfield site:*

26 (1) *Coordinate the implementation of the Cornfield rail yards*
27 *project, considering recommendations for uses and development*
28 *from the advisory committee.*

29 (2) *Survey statewide and community preferences in a range of*
30 *park services appropriate for urban state park settings, as assisted*
31 *by the advisory committee.*

32 (3) *Seek input and cooperate with local, state, and federal*
33 *agencies, environmental, recreational, historic preservation and*
34 *cultural organizations, museums, educational institutions and*
35 *organizations, individuals and private sector entities, and*
36 *community-based organizations, as appropriate, that are*
37 *interested in the use or development of park and recreational*
38 *facilities and programs for public benefit at the state park*
39 *proposed to be located at the “Cornfield” rail yards, including the*



1 *special needs of children, youths, senior citizens, and persons with*
2 *disabilities.*

3 *(d) The advisory committee shall identify and recommend to*
4 *the director, not later than 12 months after the date of acquisition*
5 *of a fee title to the Cornfield site, priorities for long-range plans*
6 *for the site that meet the needs of Californians and the general*
7 *public, including park and recreational facilities and programs*
8 *-serving residents within communities surrounding the Cornfield*
9 *rail yards in central Los Angeles.*

10 SEC. 4. The Department of Parks and Recreation may use the
11 sum of ~~thirty-eight million five hundred thousand dollars~~
12 ~~(\$38,500,000)~~ *thirty-six million dollars (\$36,000,000)* for the
13 acquisition, planning, design, environmental assessment, and
14 environmental cleanup of the 32-acre parcel of real property
15 known as the “Cornfield” rail yards in the City of Los Angeles,
16 to be expended from the following sources:

17 (a) The sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) appropriated
18 from the General Fund pursuant to Schedule (2) of Item
19 0540-101-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2001.

20 (b) The sum of thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000)
21 appropriated from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water,
22 Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund pursuant to Schedule
23 (30.92) of Item 3790-301-0005 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act
24 of 2001.

25 ~~(c) The sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars~~
26 ~~(\$2,500,000) appropriated from the Safe Neighborhood Parks,~~
27 ~~Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund~~
28 ~~pursuant to Item 3810-301-0005 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act~~
29 ~~of 2001.~~

