

Assembly Bill No. 2497

CHAPTER 462

An act to add and repeal Section 12805.3 of the Government Code, relating to public resources.

[Approved by Governor September 25, 2006. Filed with
Secretary of State September 25, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2497, Laird. Public resources: Resources Agency.

Existing law requires the Resources Agency in conjunction with specified entities within the agency to develop and maintain a database of lands and easements that have been acquired by those entities. Existing law requires the Wildlife Conservation Board to review and approve the acquisition of resource lands and easements for the Department of Fish and Game. Existing law requires the State Public Works Board to review and approve the acquisition of resource lands and easements for other state agencies and departments, including the Department of Parks and Recreation and the state conservancies.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Resources Agency and the Director of Finance to jointly convene a workgroup consisting of representatives from specified state agencies and natural resource organizations to evaluate and develop options for improving the efficiency of state resource land acquisition transactions for those departments and conservancies subject to the jurisdiction of the State Public Works Board. The bill would require the workgroup to address, at a minimum, issues raised by the California Performance Review in 2004 regarding the State Public Works Board's review and approval process for resource land acquisition. The bill would require the agency and department to report to the Governor and the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2008, on the outcomes of the workgroup.

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

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

(a) The Wildlife Conservation Board is responsible for the review and approval of the acquisition of resource lands and easements for the Department of Fish and Game.

(b) The State Public Works Board is responsible for the review and approval of the acquisition of resource lands and easements for other state agencies and departments, including the Department of Parks and Recreation and the state conservancies.

(c) In 2004, the California Performance Review identified numerous concerns with the existing State Public Works Board's review and approval process for land acquisition with cultural, natural, and recreational values.

SEC. 2. Section 12805.3 is added to the Government Code, to read:

12805.3. (a) The Secretary of the Resources Agency and the Director of Finance shall jointly convene a workgroup to evaluate and develop options for improving the efficiency of state resource land acquisition transactions for those departments and conservancies subject to the jurisdiction of the State Public Works Board. At a minimum, the workgroup shall address the issues raised by the California Performance Review in 2004 regarding the State Public Works Board's review and approval process for resource land acquisition, such as the length of time for the review and approval of acquisitions, the expertise of the board, and the level of confidentiality regarding site selection.

(b) The workgroup shall not exceed 11 members and shall include, but not be limited to, representatives from all of the following:

- (1) The Wildlife Conservation Board.
- (2) The Department of Parks and Recreation.
- (3) The State Coastal Conservancy and one or more other state conservancies with land acquisition responsibilities.
- (4) The Legislative Analyst's Office.
- (5) Natural resource organizations with an interest in and experience with the state land acquisition processes.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code, on or before January 1, 2008, the Resources Agency and the Director of Finance shall report to the Governor and the Legislature on the outcomes of the workgroup.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2009, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2009, deletes or extends that date.

(e) For purposes of this section, "resource land acquisition" means acquiring an interest in property that has cultural, natural, or recreational resource value.