

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1426

Introduced by Assembly Member Wolk

February 23, 2007

An act to add Chapter 1.57 (commencing with Section 5095.50) to Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, relating to parks.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1426, as introduced, Wolk. Parks and nature education facilities: Central Valley Vision.

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, an initiative statute adopted by the voters at the November 7, 2006, statewide general election, among other things, makes \$400,000,000 in bond funds available to the Department of Parks and Recreation for development, acquisition, interpretation, restoration, and rehabilitation of the state park system and its natural, historical, and visitor serving resources.

This bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a detailed plan of implementation for its Central Valley Vision. In developing the plan, the department would be required to identify and prioritize specific sites and projects for acquisition and development in the Central Valley with respect to the protection of natural, cultural, and historical resources and access to recreational opportunities at state parks.

The bill would require the department, by January 1, 2009, to report to Legislature on the plan and its timeline for implementation of the plan. The bill would provide that its provisions would be implemented to the extent that funds are appropriated pursuant to those provisions of the initiative or any other source.

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 finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The Central Valley is home to several of the fastest growing
4 counties and communities in the state. The number of residents in
5 the Central Valley is projected to grow from 6.3 million in 2005
6 to close to 12 million by 2040. With this increase in population
7 will come a corresponding increase in the need for open space and
8 for parks and recreational resources.

9 (b) Providing access to parks, open space, and outdoor
10 recreational opportunities is key to preserving the quality of life
11 for Central Valley residents. Access to such services is fundamental
12 to the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of
13 children, youth, and adults.

14 (c) The Department of Parks and Recreation’s Central Valley
15 Vision documents the serious lack of existing park and recreational
16 services in the Central Valley to meet the needs of the region’s
17 growing population.

18 (d) Park and recreation service providers in the Central Valley,
19 compared to other areas of the state, have received significantly
20 less park bond funding and other financial support. The Central
21 Valley is the largest geographically identifiable region in the state
22 with the greatest unmet need for park services.

23 (e) Through data collection and public input the Department of
24 Parks and Recreation has determined that there are significant
25 resource protection and recreation opportunities in the Central
26 Valley through which the department could better meet the needs
27 of Central Valley residents.

28 (f) The Central Valley also contains important natural, cultural,
29 and historical resources that are at risk of being lost to increased
30 growth and development, including, but not limited to, riparian
31 and wetland habitats, blue oak and sycamore woodlands, Native
32 American sites, and cultural and historical resources related to
33 California’s agriculture and the many contributions of California
34 immigrants.

1 (g) The rapid increase in population growth and development
2 in the Central Valley means that the state must act in a timely
3 manner to acquire and protect these resources before they are lost.

4 (h) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the
5 Department of Parks and Recreation develop a detailed plan for
6 implementation of the Central Valley Vision, and that a
7 proportionate amount of the funds authorized in Section 75063 of
8 the Public Resources Code for development, acquisition,
9 interpretation, restoration, and rehabilitation of the state park
10 system and its natural, historical, and visitor serving services, or
11 other funding sources that may become available, be used for those
12 purposes in the Central Valley and for implementing the Central
13 Valley Vision.

14 SEC. 2. Chapter 1.57 (commencing with Section 5095.50) is
15 added to Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

16
17 CHAPTER 1.57. CENTRAL VALLEY VISION
18

19 5095.50. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions
20 apply:

21 (a) “Central Valley” means the geographic region extending
22 from approximately the City of Redding in the north to the
23 Tehachapi Mountains in the south, and from the valley floor up to
24 2000 feet elevation along the coastal range in the west and the
25 Sierra Nevada range in the east.

26 (b) “Plan” means the detailed plan of implementation developed
27 by the department for its Central Valley Vision.

28 5095.51. The department shall develop a detailed plan of
29 implementation for its Central Valley Vision. The plan shall
30 identify and prioritize specific sites and projects for acquisition
31 and development in the Central Valley, based on the following
32 objectives:

33 (a) Expansion of resource protection and access to recreational
34 opportunities at existing state parks and other public lands.

35 (b) Acquisition of lands with important natural, cultural, and
36 recreational values, focusing on lands that link state parks with
37 other public lands, particularly along water corridors.

38 (c) Preservation and interpretation of historical and cultural
39 resources.

- 1 (d) Expansion of interpretive and recreational programs and
2 opportunities in state park units.
- 3 5095.52. To the extent feasible, the plan shall do all of the
4 following:
 - 5 (a) Identify specific opportunities and priorities for acquisition
6 and development of new and existing parks and recreational
7 opportunities, with priority given to the following:
 - 8 (1) Areas with significant or threatened natural resource values,
9 as blue oak and sycamore woodlands, riparian and wetland areas,
10 and native grasslands.
 - 11 (2) Areas along river corridors and other water bodies, and in
12 the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.
 - 13 (3) Areas that can be linked with other state park units or public
14 lands, providing natural corridors and linkages for wildlife and
15 trails.
 - 16 (4) Areas with unique California cultural and historical values.
 - 17 (5) Areas with capacity to support recreational activities for
18 which there is a demonstrated unmet public interest and demand.
 - 19 (b) Expand opportunities and facilities for multiple and diverse
20 recreational activities, based on identified public interest and
21 demand.
 - 22 (c) Expand educational and interpretive services and facilities,
23 focusing on the unique cultural and historical resources of the
24 Central Valley.
- 25 5095.53. The plan shall include a specific timeline for
26 implementation. By January 1, 2009, the department shall report
27 to the Legislature on the plan and timeline for implementation of
28 the plan.
- 29 5095.54. This chapter shall be implemented to the extent that
30 funds are appropriated pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 75063
31 or any other source.