

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 102

Introduced by Assembly Member Smyth

January 8, 2009

An act to add Section 5006.43 to the Public Resources Code, relating to parks.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 102, as introduced, Smyth. Santa Susana State Park.

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

This bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation, not later than January 1, 2012, to establish the Santa Susana State Park Advisory Committee, which would be responsible for assisting the department, in an advisory capacity, to plan for interim and permanent land uses and facilities through the general planning process for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site in Ventura County. The bill would also require the department to take specified actions with respect to the development of a state park at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory 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 finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The Santa Susana Field Laboratory property in Ventura
- 4 County can play an important role in aiding the preservation of
- 5 critical habitat and wildlife corridors, as well as historical artifacts

1 of regional, statewide, and national importance. Remarkably
2 preserved Native American cave paintings exist at this site and
3 should be safeguarded for future generations.

4 (b) The property played a crucial role in the development of our
5 country's space and nuclear programs. Equipment used to develop
6 that technology still exists at the site and should be preserved as
7 educational monuments for future generations.

8 (c) Testing done at the site had the great misfortune of
9 contaminating the ground, causing the property to become a source
10 of regional controversy. The enactment of Chapter 729 of the
11 Statutes of 2007 guarantees that the property will be cleaned to
12 the highest standards. With the issue of cleanup of the property
13 codified in state law, it is important to establish a vision for the
14 property once the cleanup is complete.

15 (d) The site offers a rare opportunity to create a diverse park
16 that incorporates wildlife and habitat protection, recreational
17 opportunities, as well as the education of visitors on both the
18 historical significance of the site and the importance of applying
19 appropriate land use protocols in order to avoid contamination of
20 sensitive ecosystems in the future.

21 (e) The Department of Parks and Recreation is the appropriate
22 state agency to lead the development of the creation of this property
23 as a new state park.

24 (f) In creating a new state park in the Ventura and Los Angeles
25 region, it is important that the Department of Parks and Recreation
26 work with local groups and allow them to play an advisory role to
27 guarantee that the region has a voice during the creation of the
28 park.

29 SEC. 2. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide park
30 and recreational opportunities for the Ventura and Los Angeles
31 region and the state by designating the Department of Parks and
32 Recreation to develop into a state park the property known as the
33 "Santa Susana Field Laboratory" in Ventura County.

34 (b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that local, state, and
35 federal agencies, environmental, recreational, historic preservation,
36 and cultural organizations, museums, educational institutions and
37 organizations, labor groups, private persons and entities, and
38 community-based organizations, including the groups instrumental
39 in community advocacy that led to current plans for development

1 of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site as a state park, have the
2 opportunity to participate in project planning and development.

3 SEC. 3. Section 5006.43 is added to the Public Resources Code,
4 to read:

5 5006.43. (a) On or before January 1, 2012, the director shall
6 establish the Santa Susana State Park Advisory Committee, which
7 shall be responsible for assisting the department, in an advisory
8 capacity, to plan for interim and permanent land uses and facilities
9 through the general planning process for the Santa Susana Field
10 Laboratory (SSFL) site. The director shall terminate the advisory
11 committee after the adoption of a general plan for the state park.

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

22 (c) The department shall take all of the following actions with
23 respect to the development of a state park at the SSFL site:

24 (1) Coordinate the implementation of the SSFL project,
25 considering recommendations for uses and development from the
26 advisory committee.

27 (2) Survey statewide and community preferences in a range of
28 park services appropriate for the setting of the SSFL site, as assisted
29 by the advisory committee.

30 (3) Seek input from and cooperate with local, state, and federal
31 agencies, environmental, recreational, historic preservation, and
32 cultural organizations, museums, educational institutions and
33 organizations, labor groups, individuals and private sector entities,
34 and community-based organizations, as appropriate, that are
35 interested in the use or development of park and recreational
36 facilities and programs for the public benefit at the state park
37 proposed to be located at the SSFL site, including the special needs
38 of children, youths, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

39 (d) The advisory committee shall identify and recommend to
40 the director priorities for long-range plans for the SSFL site that

1 meet the needs of Californians and the general public, including
2 park and recreational facilities and programs serving residents
3 within communities surrounding the SSFL site in Ventura County.
4 SEC. 4. The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) property
5 shall not be transferred to the state and a park shall not be opened
6 at the SSFL site until the site has been cleaned pursuant to Article
7 5.5 (commencing with Section 25359.20) of Chapter 6.8 of
8 Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code.

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