

**AGENDA
ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3
ON RESOURCES**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER VIRGINIA STROM-MARTIN, CHAIR

**Tuesday, February 2 1998
4:00 p.m. – Room 127**

OVERVIEW HEARING ON RESOURCES AGENCY: INTERIM REPORTS AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

- 4:00 p.m. Opening Remarks
 Assemblymember, Virginia Strom-Martin, Chair
 Committee Members**

- 4:10 p.m. Long-term Funding for Resources including the
 proposed federal Salmon Restoration Initiative**

 - Legislative Analyst Office Representative
Corey Brown, Trust for Public Land
Bill Craven, Sierra Club
Rachel Dinno, The Planning and Conservation League
Jill Dampier, California Park Rangers Association
Mitch Farro, California Advisory Committee on Salmon
& Steelhead Trout
Resources Agency Representative**

- 4:45 p.m. Committee Questions**

- 5:00 p.m. Interim Reports**
 - A) Resources Agency: CalFed
 Proposition 204 Expenditures**
 - B) Energy Commission:
 Changes in the Mission of the Commission**
 - C) Forestry & Fire Protection:
 Alternative Funding for Timber Harvest Plan Review**
 - D) Fish & Game: Departmental
 Reorganization Plan**
 - E) Fish & Game: Watershed
 Initiative**
 - F) Fish & Game: Poaching
 Strikeforce**

- G) Coastal Conservancy:
Southern California Wetlands Clearinghouse
- H) Coastal Conservancy:
Coastal Access Goals
- I) Parks & Recreation: 1998
Storm Damage
- J) Parks & Recreation:
Concessions
- K) Water Resources: CalFed
Bay-Delta Program---Economic Analysis and
Financing Strategy

Legislative Analyst Office Representatives
Barry Nelson, Save San Francisco Bay Association
Resources Agency Representative

5:30 p.m.

Committee Questions

5:45 p.m.

Public Comment*

6:00 p.m.

Closing Comments
Assemblymember Virginia Strom-Martin, Chair
Committee Members

*Public comments are invited but should be limited to two (2) minutes.

LONG –TERM FINANCING

Californians depend on our commitment to clean water, air free from pollution, and stewardship of our parks, public lands, and coasts. Adequate funding is necessary to implement and enforce our laws to protect the health of our citizens, develop and maintain existing parks, acquire lands to keep pace with the needs of our growing population, and protect critical habitat. The Governor's budget proposes expenditures of more than \$3 billion for these natural resources and environmental protection programs.

Over an eight-year period from 1989 to 1996, the state consistently reduced the amount of money resources programs received in the budget. Resources programs lost nearly \$1.2 billion in General Fund support. Special funds dedicated to protecting the environment such as the Environmental License Plate Fund, the Habitat Conservation Fund, and the Public Resources Account of Proposition 99 (PRA) were used to supplant base funding instead of being utilized for specific uses as required by law.

In the last two years, more than \$250 million of one-time General Funds have been invested by virtue of legislative augmentations to this budget in acquisition and development of local and regional parks, habitat acquisition, watershed protection programs on the north coast, coastal resource management and protection, increased pesticide use enforcement, local flood control projects, and air quality improvements. In addition funding was provided for the acquisition of the Headwaters Forest and related lands (\$245 million).

One reason for the lack of adequate funding for resource's projects is the depletion of bond funds. The last successful park bond was on the 1988 ballot. Last year the Legislature was unable to reach agreement to place either a water resources or a parks/coastal resources bond on the ballot. In this year's budget, the Governor directs the Secretary to explore the desirability, within the context of the Administration's overall infrastructure plan, of placing a bond proposal on the 2000 ballot.

Four bonds have been proposed to date by members of the Legislature. They are:

- AB 18 (Keeley) the Watershed, Wildlife and Parks Improvement Bond Act for the March 2000 ballot for \$1.5 billion;
- SB 74 (Murray-Sher) the Parks Wildlife and Watershed improvement Bond for the November 2000 ballot for \$1.084 billion;
- SB 2 (Chesbro-Wiggins) the Watershed Wildlife and Parks Improvement Bond for the November 2000 ballot for \$841,500 million; and
- SB 57 (Hayden) the Parks, Natural Resources and Clean Coastal Waters Bond act for the November 2000 ballot for \$500,000.

COMMENTS:

The Legislative Analyst Office will present a brief discussion of the challenges in funding resources programs and representatives of key constituencies will also discuss the funding needs.

INTERIM REPORTS

In adopting the 1998-1999 Budget the Legislature adopted a number of requirements for reports in both the Budget Bill and in the Supplemental Report to the Budget. The Legislative Analyst will provide comments on the status of these reports. The intent is to identify those reports that the Committee might address as the budget is being considered.