



Agenda Report

TO: City Council
Legislative Committee

DATE: June 22, 1998

FROM: Acting City Manager

SUBJECT: Opposition of Senate Bill 2010 - Santa Monica Mountains and Rivers
Conservancy, unless amended.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution and authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the appropriate officials *opposing* Senate Bill 2010 - Santa Monica Mountains and Rivers Conservancy unless amended as follows:

1. Appropriate languages are added to guarantee local control authority including land use.
2. Appropriate languages are added to guarantee San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG) Board representation.

BACKGROUND:

SB 2010 - Santa Monica Rivers and Conservancy introduced by Senators Hayden, Polanco, and Solis (Co-Author - Assembly Member Martinez) would rename the Mountains Conservancy the Santa Monica Mountains and River Conservancy and would establish within the renamed conservancy the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Conservancy to establish policies and priorities concerning acquisition of land, river management, habitat and wildlife restoration, water conservation recharging and storage, and recreation and community development projects within the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds. The Los Angeles River includes the **Arroyo Seco** and the contiguous rights-of-way, access routes, pathways, green ways, and open adjacent spaces thereto.

The Legislative Committee of City Council at their June 16, 1998 meeting voted to oppose SB 2010 unless appropriate languages are added to guarantee local control authority including land

use issues and to guarantee San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG) Board representation. Communication has been received from Michael D. Antonovich, Supervisor, Fifth District on this proposed bill, indicating that a number of cities have contacted him expressing their concerns over the intent of the bill. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will be discussing this bill at their June 30, 1998 meeting.

The League of California Cities has indicated their concerns on the clarity of the bill in terms of intent and control. Given the current language, the League is not clear whether the intent is to promote coordination and consultation, or whether the proposed Board would have approval (and veto) authority over City projects within that could impact the area. Based upon information received from the bill's author, the intent of the bill is to authorize the Conservancy to approve its own projects and **not** to grant any authority to the Conservancy to approve or disapprove City or County projects. The Los Angeles Division of the League has taken the position to oppose the bill based upon previously listed desired amendments and had communicated their position to Senator Hayden.

On May 21, 1998, the Governing Board of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments COG voted to oppose SB 2010 until it is amended with language that guarantees COG Board representation and local control authority. The current proposed Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Conservancy membership roster is as follows: Governor Appointment (3), Expert in Hydrology, Resources Agency, Resident L.A. or San Gabriel River; Senate Rules Committee (3), Non-Profit, L.A. County Coastal Waters, For Profit, Riparian Restoration, Resident, San Gabriel River; Los Angeles City Council (2), Member of San Gabriel River Area, San Gabriel River; U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers (1), Ex-Officio; Chairperson of Conservancy (1); the Speaker of Assembly (3), Non-Profit River Resources, Expert Watersheds, Resident, L.A. River; Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (2), Experts in Environmental Restoration and Sustainable Development; Mayor of Los Angeles (2), not specified; City Council Members (1), Representing Los Angeles River, not City of Los Angeles; State Coastal Conservancy (1); Federal Environmental Protection Agency (1), Ex Officio; and Director of Public Works Los Angeles County (1), Ex Officio.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION:

The Recreation and Parks Commission at their June 2, 1998 meeting, discussed the proposed bill. Representatives from the Mountains Conservancy presented their reasons and position in support of this bill. The Commission questioned the need for this new Board and how Pasadena would be impacted. City staff informed the Commission on past and current cooperative projects between the City and Mountains Conservancy. Recent cooperative projects included the Conservancy funding the City approximately \$75,000 for improvements in the Lower Arroyo in the 1980's. The Conservancy also provided key support in the allocation of \$1.86 million for Hahamongna Watershed Park improvements and \$1.47 million for Lower Arroyo improvements

in the 1992 L.A. County Park Bond project funds. Hahamongna Watershed Park is in the Conservancy's "Rim of the Valley Corridor" and as such has been included in various project and environmental considerations to improve the park area. The Commission was made aware of the COG's current position on this bill. After further discussion, the Commission supported, in principle, to support the bill, only if certain language amendments were made to include COG representation on the Board and clearly state that local control on all projects including land use issues remain with cities and appropriate jurisdictions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Although there are not estimates of potential funding available based on this recommendation at this time, there could be additional funding opportunities through this proposed bill with appropriate amendments to improve and enhance the regional areas of the Arroyo.

Respectfully submitted,



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
Acting City Manager

Prepared and Approved:



ROBERT C. BADERIAN, Director
Parks and Natural Resources