



June 7, 2025

The Honorable Diane Papan
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 630 (Allen) - State Parks

Dear Assemblymember Papan,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for SB 630 (Allen). There is a large backlog of projects currently on the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) acquisition list. Many of these lands were acquired at the bequest and with the support of State Parks and have been held by the undersigned land trusts for decades in anticipation of transfer to State Parks to complete existing parks for the benefit of all. This bill has several benefits:

1. It streamlines government processes and reduces costs.
2. Focuses Department of General Services (DGS) and Public Works Board (PWB) on projects with large investments while allowing smaller and simpler State Parks acquisitions to advance more efficiently.
3. Clears the backlog of State Park projects.
4. Relieves burden on nonprofit partners.
5. Gives DGS authority to delegate when it deems appropriate.

In addition, these property transfers will help address the significant recreational use demands on our park lands and, in many instances, actually reduce the burden of managing State Park units by lowering or eliminating the operational complications of inholdings or incomplete parks.

SB 630 provides State Parks a way to acquire properties that are low to no cost and low risk. Currently, even the simplest transactions take multiple years and cost State Parks considerable expense for redundant reviews even though both State Parks and land trusts have experienced real estate professionals. Acquisitions that would require large commitments would still go through the PWB. These amendments to the Government and Public Resources Codes are critical if we are to be able to finally address the backlog of the majority of the projects on State Parks' acquisition list.

It is with this context that we also support the commitment of much-needed funding for State Parks from Prop 4. This was one of the main reasons why the undersigned land trusts and the California Council of Land Trusts provided significant support and advocacy for Prop 4.

This bill establishes a meaningful process for state parks to strengthen their existing parks with the acquisition of highly ecologically valuable conserved parcels. Because of this, the undersigned are motivated now more than ever to do all in their power to work with State Parks to facilitate the straight-forward low and no cost transfers of many of these projects into their ownership.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support for SB 630 when it is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

Ana Ruiz
General Manager
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Christopher M. Cahill
General Manager
Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

Doug Johnson
Executive Director
California Invasive Plant Council

Nicholas Mueller
President
California Association of Local Conservation Corps

Rachel Dann
Director of Government Relations
Sempervirens Fund

Katharyn Muniz
CEO
Orange County Conservation Corps

Teresa Guzman
Division Director
Sequoia Community Corps

Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner
Executive Director
Community Services Employment Training

Shawn Riggins
Director
Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps

Paula Birdsong
Executive Director
Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps

Ted Clement
Executive Director
Save Mount Diablo

Angel Minor
CEO
Conservation Corps North Bay

Iman Sylvain
Western Regional Director
Rails to Trails Conservancy

Claire Schlotterbeck
Executive Director
Hills For Everyone

Dan Knapp
Executive Director & CEO
Conservation Corps of Long Beach

Stacy Gorin
Executive Officer
Southern California Mountains Foundation

Dorsey Moore
CEO

Bruce Saito
Executive Director

San Jose Conservation Corps

Betsy Reifsnider
Sacramento Policy Associate
Mono Lake Committee

Steve Watkins
Int. Director
Cesar Chavez Environmental Corps

Stephanie Stephens
Executive Director
California Park & Recreation Society

Jenny Hatch
Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Bert Whitaker
Director of Regional Parks
Sonoma County

Nicholas Mueller
Director
Greater Valley Conservation Corps

Suzanne Hume
Educational Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org

Linus Eukel
Executive Director
John Muir Land Trust

Abigail Fateman
Executive Director
East Contra Costa County Habitat
Conservancy

Dan Silver
Executive Director
Endangered Habitat League

California Local Conservation Corps
Foundation

Adrianne Calbreath
Chief of Staff
Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Michael Anzalone
Executive Director
California Mountain Biking Coalition

Liz Forsburg Pardi
Director of External Affairs & Policy
The Nature Conservancy

Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California

Jennifer Savage
California Policy Associate Director
Surfrider Foundation

Aaron Zettler-Mann
Executive Director
South Yuba River Citizens League

Paul Ringgold
Chief Program Officer
Save the Redwoods League

Rachel Norton
Executive Director
California State Parks Foundation

Tori Kjer
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Irma R. Munoz
CEO / President
Mujeres De La Tierra