



ASLA
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COUNCIL

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Legislature Passes Landmark Parks, Water, and Flood Control Bond

Mike Nichols, ASLA, CCASLA Director

California voters passed Proposition 40, the last true park bond, 15 years ago and since then parks have suffered through the Great Recession as cities struggled to shore up shrinking budgets. Many parks departments have not recovered and are still weighed down by deferred maintenance – leaving no funds available for design and construction of new park facilities.

But in September 2017, the California Legislator passed, Senate Bill 5 (de Leon, et al), the “Drought, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection & Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018” that will place a roughly \$4 billion general obligation bond measure on the ballot in 2018 to fund California’s parks, water and flood control infrastructure. If passed, this will bring long overdue investments into our state’s water, parks and recreational infrastructure, and will undoubtedly bring new work for landscape architecture firms throughout the State.

As proposed, SB 5 would allocate \$200 million for park rehabilitation and improvement grants for local governments, to be distributed on a per capita basis. In San Diego County, that amounts to over \$17 million in funds for projects that are designed by professionals, such as landscape architects. CCALSA has been closely monitoring the progress of SB 5, and as the measure moves closer to a vote next year we will provide our Chapter with updates and advocacy information.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Under Attack

Mike Nichols, ASLA
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For the past 50 years, America’s most important conservation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has helped to shape and protect the places that define San Diego, and provide the outdoor recreational opportunities we all enjoy. From neighborhood playgrounds; to larger regional parks, such as Kit Carson Park in Escondido; to even larger projects such as the 11,152-acre San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex; funds from the LWCF have provided San Diegans with the assurance that our region’s outdoor treasures will be preserved and passed on to the next generation.

LWCF projects also boost the economy, creating jobs and increasing tourism. Outdoor recreation in California supports 691,000 direct jobs paying over \$30B in wages and salaries, plus \$92B in direct consumer spending.

But, LWCF is under attack. The Trump Administration and some in Congress are proposing to weaken this landmark conservation law and eliminate over 80 percent of its funding, rolling back critical investments in America’s parks, lands, and historic sites, eroding outdoor recreational opportunities and access.

Landscape architects plan and design community parks and recreational facilities across the nation that receive LWCF funds, and ASLA supports protecting and preserving LWCF. We must demand that lawmakers stand up and oppose these attacks on conservation and outdoor recreation funding.

Visit ASLA’s website (www.asla.org) to learn more about advocacy on this and other State and Federal issues that impact our profession, and sign up for the ASLA “iAdvocate Network” to receive updates and the tools you need to quickly and effectively communicate with policymakers.