

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2534

Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian

February 19, 2016

An act to add Section 33213.5 to the Public Resources Code, relating to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2534, as amended, Nazarian. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy: working group: Los Angeles River Greenway.

Existing law establishes the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and prescribes the membership and functions and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection and preservation of lands within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone, as defined.

This bill would require the conservancy to establish the Los Angeles River Regional Access and Economic Sustainability Working Group to evaluate and make recommendations for conservancy action pertaining to public access and business integration needs, opportunities, and constraints in areas along and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley, as prescribed.

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 Los Angeles River Greenway Trail system in the San
4 Fernando Valley continues to expand and provides an
5 unprecedented opportunity to establish a green, natural open space,
6 with recreational, environmental, and economic amenities, that
7 can serve all residents of the San Fernando Valley and other areas
8 in Los Angeles County, as well as visitors from around the world.

9 (b) River restoration and revitalization efforts throughout the
10 United States have successfully reunited urban rivers with both
11 the natural environment, surrounding communities, and area
12 businesses and have served to establish vibrant, regional,
13 visitor-serving resources that contribute to the quality of life, public
14 health, and regional economic sustainability.

15 (c) There are hundreds of visitor-serving businesses adjacent
16 to and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando
17 Valley, but these businesses primarily face away from the river
18 with limited or no established connection to the river or visitors
19 to the river.

20 (d) A planned regional bicycle network is being implemented
21 that includes the Los Angeles River, wherein the river is intended
22 to serve as the backbone of the network, and a plan is needed to
23 ensure that businesses adjacent to and in the vicinity of the river
24 are bicycle friendly and able to attract and serve visitors to the
25 river.

26 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to accomplish all of
27 the following:

28 (a) Advance the revitalization of the Los Angeles River in the
29 San Fernando Valley by addressing the need for regional public
30 access to the river and connectivity between businesses adjacent
31 to and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River with the Los
32 Angeles River Greenway, river trails, and bicycle networks.

33 (b) Enhance both the economic sustainability of businesses
34 adjacent to and in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River Greenway
35 in the San Fernando Valley and the experience visitors to the Los
36 Angeles River by linking those businesses with the Los Angeles
37 River Greenway.

1 (c) Identify the needs, opportunities, and constraints related to
2 regional public access and the establishment of permanent
3 connections between area businesses and the Los Angeles River
4 Greenway in the San Fernando Valley.

5 SEC. 3. Section 33213.5 is added to the Public Resources Code,
6 to read:

7 33213.5. (a) (1) The conservancy shall establish the Los
8 Angeles River Regional Access and Economic Sustainability
9 Working Group.

10 (2) *The conservancy shall consider requests from local*
11 *government entities to have a representative serve as a member*
12 *of the working group. The working group may include, but need*
13 *not be limited to, representatives from the conservancy, the City*
14 *of Los Angeles, nonprofit organizations, environmental*
15 *organizations, the business community, and city council districts*
16 *and legislative districts bordering the Los Angeles River.*

17 (b) The working group shall focus its efforts on the geographic
18 area from the headwaters of the Los Angeles River at the
19 confluence of Bell and Calabasas Creeks to Griffith Park and its
20 southern boundary along Ventura Boulevard in the San Fernando
21 Valley.

22 (c) The working group shall do all of the following:

23 (1) Review and evaluate the integration needs, opportunities,
24 and constraints with respect to regional public access and the
25 connectivity among businesses along and in the vicinity of the
26 river, visitors to the river, and the Los Angeles River Greenway,
27 river trails, and bicycle networks, including the use of the public
28 parking garage located at _____ Ventura Boulevard *between*
29 *Laurelgrove Avenue and Vantage Avenue* and adjacent to the river.

30 (2) Develop practical recommendations for establishing
31 permanent connectivity between area businesses, bicycle networks,
32 and the river.

33 (3) *Develop recommendations for appropriate outdoor education*
34 *and environmental interpretation signage for areas and facilities*
35 *along the Los Angeles River.*

36 ~~(3)~~

37 (4) Prepare a report of its findings and recommendations for
38 implementation by the conservancy, including geographic scope,
39 financing, and specific projects.

- 1 (d) To assist the working group in carrying out its duties, the
- 2 conservancy shall do both of the following.
- 3 (1) Retain experts to conduct necessary technical economic and
- 4 other studies and analyses, as requested by the working group.
- 5 (2) Provide necessary staffing for the working group.

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