

5. An Open California (for afternoon session)

California State Parks Administers Public Funds for Local Parks

California State Parks' Office of Grants and Local Services serves to address California's diverse recreational, cultural and historical resource needs by developing grant programs, administering grant funds, and offering technical assistance. Through this office and its predecessors, the Department has successfully administered local grants from nine different bond acts, from the Cameron-Unruh Beach, Park, Recreational, and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1964 through the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40).

In March 2000, voters passed Proposition 12, the \$2.1 billion "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000" (2000 Bond Act). This bond act provided \$845.5 million for local assistance grants to be administered by California State Parks. Of these funds, 14% were allocated to "competitive" or "need-based" grant programs.

In March 2002, voters passed Proposition 40, the \$2.6 billion "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002." This bond act provided \$956 million for local assistance grants that are being administered by State Parks. Of these funds, 29% were allocated to "competitive" or "need-based" grant programs.

These bond acts have, and will continue to make, significant improvements in all parts of the state in partnership with local entities for the creation of new sports fields, swimming pools built or repaired, skate parks, 10's of thousands of acres acquired for green belts for hiking, camping, and other uses, mile upon mile of new and improved trails, new nature centers constructed, and there has also been habitat conservation and restoration for myriad species.

While our achievements to date have been significant, there is compelling evidence of a need for continued capital outlay funds for recreation. Using Geographic Information Systems, the funding by county has been mapped to define the eligibility provided by the Department's past competitive grant programs. These maps have served to communicate where past program legislation has provided funding and the need for further diverse funding.

Debra Gonzalez
dgonzalez@parks.ca.gov
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Office of Grants and Local Services
California State Parks
1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654 -1618