

News Release



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CONTACT: Roy Stearns
(916) 654-7538

GOVERNOR DAVIS SIGNS TAYLOR YARD LEGISLATION

MEASURE GIVES FINAL GREEN LIGHT TO CITY-STATE PARK PLAN

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gray Davis has signed Assembly Bill 413, by Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg, D - Los Angeles, which authorizes the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to lease up to 20 acres of DPR's 40-acre Taylor Yard property to the City of Los Angeles. The legislation allows the City to lease the property for a period of up to 25 years, with an additional 25 year option, and it clears the way for State Parks and the City to continue with the joint planning and development process announced in August. The measure was signed into law on October 9, 2003.

“Our desire has been to bring parks closer to where people live,” said Ruth Coleman, Director of State Parks. “This measure completes the task of establishing the framework to get the job done and we are delighted to bring the best of State parks and the best of Los Angeles City parks to this site.”

“I applaud the Governor for signing this measure,” said Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles, the author of the Assembly Bill 413. “This is the final official ingredient for bringing a park to this site, something residents have been requesting for more than a decade. The Governor has again helped us and finally this critically needed park is really on-the-way for these under-served downtown neighborhoods.”

In August, California State parks and the City of Los Angeles unveiled the framework for a unique partnership agreement for the cooperative planning and development of a State Park at Taylor Yard. That agreement was contingent upon the Goldberg legislation which gives State Parks the authority to enter into a lease agreement longer than the 10 years.

In the joint state-city proposal, the State and City would plan, fund, and operate the entire park in a joint and cooperative manner to insure that both portions are compatible and seamless. About one-half of the new park, about 20 acres, would be the City's leased land, dedicated to sports activities including recreational ball fields for soccer and baseball. The other half of the park, the State's portion, would be devoted to nature trails, picnic areas, and habitat restoration, possibly including riparian areas, bioswales and constructed wetlands.

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