



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

June 22, 2015

The Honorable Mark Stone
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Support for AB 988 (Stone) – Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grant Programs

Dear Assemblymember Stone:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 988 (Stone). This bill would authorize the Legislature to appropriate unencumbered funds from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40) for projects via the Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grants Program. This grant program will enable Long Beach to increase the ability of outdoor recreation and educational experiences for underserved at risk populations.

Long Beach already provides and maintains open, recreational spaces such as the De Forest Wetlands, El Dorado Park and Los Angeles River Bike Paths in efforts to provide equitable access to outdoor educational and recreational experiences in the community. These programs provide a unique opportunity for our youth to receive environmental education, but additional dollars are needed to continue funding parks programs that benefit underserved youth.

AB 988 ensures outdoor environmental education and recreation programs remain accessible to underserved youth by considering local communities, such as Long Beach, that collaborate with local agencies for the purposes of expanding these unique benefits. The City looks forward to building upon our existing programs by utilizing Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grant dollars.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 988.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

