



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens  
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Los Angeles, California 90065  
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May 1, 2013

Assemblymember Roger Hernández  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4146  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
**FAX: 916-319-2148**

**RE: AB 1359 (Hernández) - Support**

Dear Assemblymember Hernández:

On behalf of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), I am writing to express my support for AB 1359.

AB 1359 (Hernández) amends the Quimby Act to allocate existing funds that develop or rehabilitate new and/or existing parks or recreational facilities to areas most in need. This bill also allows for funds to be used to create joint use agreements between the school districts, universities, counties and cities.

Local governments in California provide a critical role in the effort to set aside parkland and open space for recreational purposes. Since the passage of the Quimby Act in 1975, cities and counties have been authorized to require developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Per the current Quimby Act, these funds stay in the area(s) undergoing development. Areas with little to no development, many of which are park poor, do not receive these resources.

The MRCA strives to integrate nature into the urban environment throughout all its projects in well provisioned and park poor communities alike. The MRCA is a strong advocate that parks and open space not only serve to revitalize communities, but that they also have the capacity to create multiple benefits, including habitat and ecosystem restoration, connectivity, water quality and supply, and resource conservation. Parks also provide excellent opportunities for environmental education and exposure to the abundant natural resources throughout all of California. The MRCA has a proven history of working with local government agencies to develop scores of innovative, multi-benefit natural parks in Southern California and believes that AB 1359 is an important addition to the Quimby Act that will prioritize funding to those areas most in need.

The MRCA believes that AB 1359 will invest in California's parks, which will provide much needed opportunities for multiple-benefit open space, and create more equitable access to green space producing healthier communities throughout the State.

The Honorable Roger Hernández  
May 1, 2013

We commend your attention and support for park poor neighborhoods and are pleased to support AB 1539.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA  
Executive Officer