



Senator Sydney K. Kamlager (District 30)

AB 963: Baldwin Hills Conservancy Expansion

IN BRIEF

Assembly Bill 963 expands and protects the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) to provide additional resources for communities that have faced historic disinvestment.

AB 963 expands the boundaries to include the Southern Ballona Creek Watershed and Upper Dominguez Channel area, changes the name to the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy Act and repeals the January 1, 2026 sunset date.

BACKGROUND

The Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) was created by the California Legislature in 2000. It is one of ten Conservancies within the California Resources Agency. The BHC's mission is to preserve open space and habitat while facilitating public access to California's wilderness and wildlife.

The Baldwin Hills area is located six miles from downtown Los Angeles and is one of the last large open spaces in urban Los Angeles County. The Baldwin Hills is within the County of Los Angeles and cities of Los Angeles and Culver City. It covers nearly two square miles of underdeveloped land, most of which is privately owned oil wells, but also contains the 500-acre Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, West Los Angeles College, and Holy Cross Cemetery.

The BHC achieves these goals through projects that preserve and restore wildlife habitat, improve watersheds, and provide low-impact recreational and educational uses. The BHC administers and leverages funding from various sources to support improvement projects throughout their territory which covers southwestern Los Angeles County, in the area surrounding the Baldwin Hills and the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

This agency addresses climate impacts and improves quality of life by land conservation, habitat restoration, increasing access to nature, cleaning our water, and engaging communities directly.

PROBLEM

While the Conservancy has successfully completed over \$60 million improvement projects within its territory,

several neighboring and nearby communities in need have not had direct access to the same planning and development opportunities.

In the absence of a dedicated Conservancy in the urbanized regions of Southern California, several key legislative districts, cities and portions of unincorporated county have essentially been omitted from accessing past state grant watershed-based programs and services offered through bond initiatives.

SOLUTION

AB 963 will ensure the expansion of the BHC territory, more communities of color would gain greater local access to watershed improvement information and climate resiliency investment opportunities offered by the State. These investments would improve neighborhood sustainability, build micro-ecosystems to improve habitat biodiversity, and create resiliency in areas where climate change is most impactful to health and quality of life.

SUPPORT

- The Nature Conservancy (Sponsor)
- Ballona Creek Renaissance
- California Conservation Corps Foundation
- City of El Segundo
- Climate Resolve
- LA County Bicycle Coalition
- LA Neighborhood Initiative
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- North East Trees
- Partners of the Parklands
- Prevention Institute
- SLATE-Z
- Walk 'n Rollers

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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