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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos ORIGINAL DATE 02/26/19
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Full-Time Park Ranger At Storrie Lake Park SB 530

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$51.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the annual general fund appropriation to State Parks in the General Appropriation Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill (SB) 530 appropriates \$51,056 from the general fund to the State Parks Division (State Parks) at EMNRD for a full-time park ranger at Storrie Lake State Park.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$51,056 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

According to State Parks, this appropriation does not cover the total cost of compensation (the value of both benefits and salary) for the position. The State Personnel Office position classification is a Natural Science Coordinator - Advanced Range 60 with a starting salary of \$14.11 and mid-point of \$19.33 per hour. Therefore, State Parks requests the salary appropriation be increased to \$60 thousand and made recurring to adequately fund this park ranger position.

The House Appropriation and Finance Substitute for House Bill 2 currently includes a general

fund increase of \$510 thousand and five additional FTE to support state parks operations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

State Parks also reported that in FY18, the park served 216,246 visitors with only three FTE. The addition of a Natural Science Coordinator-Advanced FTE at Storrie Lake will aid the park to administer and operate more effectively by serving visitors and improving response to public health, safety, and protection incidents that occur in a lake park environment.

SB 530 does not designate this position should be a law enforcement designated position. State Parks employs thirty-one (31) Natural Science Coordinator-Advanced positions statewide, and all are law enforcement positions. State Parks requests the position for Storrie Lake be designated as a law enforcement position. Due to this position classification, State Parks must be competitive in the recruitment and hiring process, and this position must be hired at or above mid-point.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

In FY14, EMNRD reports two law enforcement positions were cut from Storrie Lake.

The recommended education and experience by this position is a Bachelor's Degree in Parks and Recreation Management, Environmental Sciences, Forestry, Criminal Justice or Wildlife Management and two (2) years of experience in parks and recreation management, natural resources, biology, environmental sciences, forestry, criminal justice and/or wildlife management.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

State Parks would need to prioritize the additional FTE and cover the cost with existing resources.

AHO/gb