



City Manager's Office – Intergovernmental Relations

City of Arts & Innovation

May 5, 2022

The Honorable Chris R. Holden
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2346 (Gabriel) - Outdoors for All Program – As Amended 4/19/2022 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Holden:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I write to express our support for AB 2346 (Gabriel), legislation that establishes the Outdoors for All Program at the California Natural Resources Agency and creates the Californians Outside Program to provide grants for outdoor access and education purposes.

Parks and open/green spaces provide numerous benefits to the community, environment, and economy. Access to nature has been related to lower levels of mortality and illness, higher levels of outdoor physical activity, and a greater sense of well-being. Parks and open spaces provide environmental benefits as they can remove pollution and filter air, provide shade, and replenish local groundwater reservoirs. Parks and open spaces are also highly valued as economic drivers, as they increase property values and draw new businesses and visitors to cities.

AB 2346 will provide funding to local jurisdictions and nonprofits to implement programs that enhance park access for all ages, extend outdoor education, and develop career pathways outdoors. The legislation seeks to reduce barriers and expand access to parks so that all Californians have equitable access to the positive impact of parks.

For these reasons, the City of Riverside supports AB 2346. If you have questions regarding the City's position, please contact Chekesha Gilliam, Intergovernmental Relations Officer at (951) 826-2419 or CGilliam@riversideca.gov.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor
City of Riverside

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
City of Riverside Legislative Delegation