

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Hearing on Proposed Acquisition for El Capitan State Beach in Santa Barbara County on April 3

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a public hearing on a proposed acquisition for El Capitan State Beach on Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Goleta Public Library at 500 North Fairview Avenue in Goleta. The facility has adjacent public parking and is accessible to persons with disabilities.

The proposal would acquire approximately 2,500 acres of the El Capitan Ranch property from a willing seller. The land is located 9 miles west of Goleta in Santa Barbara County.

The purpose of the hearing is to record comments from local public officials and the general public on reasons the El Capitan Ranch should or should not be acquired for state park purposes. A brief introductory presentation by State Park staff will precede the formal receipt of comments.

The El Capitan Ranch property is a spectacular 1.5-mile stretch of unprotected and mostly undeveloped upland coastal foothills providing a relatively intact example of an historic California coastal ranching landscape. Bordered on the south by El Capitan State Beach and on the north by Los Padres National Forest, the property contains habitat critical for several threatened and endangered species, including the California red-legged frog and southern steelhead trout. The water source for El Capitan State Beach is located on the property. Acquisition by State Parks could provide watershed and viewshed protection, cultural sites preservation, mature oak woodland and riparian habitat stability, and forest to coast habitat and trail linkages. The acquisition is consistent with the Local Coastal Plan and Santa Barbara County General Plan.

Notice of the meeting and a map of the proposed acquisition have been provided to the hearing location library for posting. They are also available at www.parks.ca.gov.

Written comments will also be accepted at the hearing or subsequent to the hearing if received no later than April 17, 2002. Written comments may be either mailed to Warren Westrup, Chief, Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services, California Department of Parks and Recreation, One Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814, faxed to (916) 327-7307 or e-mailed to smill@parks.ca.gov

Any inquiries regarding the notice or requests for special assistance should be directed to Skip Mills at (916) 445-9088 or smill@parks.ca.gov.

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