

News Release



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\$12.2 Million Headed for Bolsa Chica State Beach

Major Renovation and Reconstruction About to Begin

Largest Project Since Park Founded 31 Years Ago

Bolsa Chica State Beach, one of the most popular state beaches in all of Southern California, is about to begin a major, multi-million dollar renovation project. Bolsa Chica State Beach will be receiving \$12.2 Million for demolition and reconstruction of everything from restrooms and trails, to lighting and parking lots. The money will come from three major sources: Proposition 12, the \$2.2 billion Parks Bond Act of 2000 passed by voters in March 2000, \$157 million in deferred maintenance money provided to state parks by Governor Gray Davis and the Legislature, and the state park contingency fund.

State Department of Parks and Recreation Director Rusty Areias said, "For nearly a decade, we endured economic hard times and budget cuts that prevented much needed repairs and improvements. The deferred maintenance money provided by Governor Davis and the Proposition 12 Bond Act money supported by the Governor, the Legislature and the voters of California, finally allows us to significantly improve this facility for the public."

"This capital improvement and repair investment", said Bolsa Chica State Beach Superintendent Don Ito, "is the largest ever undertaken since the beach park was established in March 1960. The Department apologizes for any inconveniences to the public during this project," said Ito, "but the end result of new, modern facilities, providing disabled access and better public service, is well worth the inconveniences. I feel the public will be very pleased with the results."

To do the work, the California Department of Parks and Recreation recently awarded a contract to Weeger Bros., Inc., Huntington Beach, for demolition and reconstruction of restroom and concession buildings, lifeguard headquarters, maintenance yard, two contact stations, sand walls and overhead trail light standards. All reconstructed facilities will meet the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Construction is expected to begin soon and be completed by December 1, 2001.

Some of the inconveniences will be no overnight camping, only portable toilet facilities, one-way automobile traffic only through the park, detours along the entire length of the multi-use trail, no drinking water and a reduction in available parking spaces. Ito said, "The Department is committed to maximizing public use without jeopardizing public safety around the construction sites. I feel the plan we have come up with, although inconvenient, will meet that commitment. We will continue to provide all the lifeguard, public safety and maintenance services to meet public expectations."

But while there will be inconveniences, there has been a strong effort to dramatically shorten the period for getting the project done, he said. "To have a project of this size, beginning from scratch in July 2000 and completed in 17 or 18 months, is unheard of," Ito said. "The normal timeline for major capital outlay projects is 3 to 4 years. It could not have otherwise been accomplished without the assistance of all levels and services within the Department."

Bolsa Chica is one of the most popular state beaches in all of southern California, with over 2.5 million visitors during the 1999/2000 year.

Weeger Bros., Inc., a local contractor, is very conscious of the need for public safety and recreational access during this construction project. The park facility design, developed by Roesling Nakamura Architects, Inc., San Diego, is very unique to Bolsa Chica State Beach. Funding for this project is provided from the Proposition 12 Bond Act, the Deferred Maintenance Project and state General Fund appropriations.

The breakdown for the \$12.2 million is as follows: \$7.5 million from Proposition 12, \$4.1 million from the deferred maintenance fund provided by Governor Davis and the Legislature, and \$664,000 from the State Department of Parks and Recreation contingency fund.

Press Tours and Photos

Press and media representatives wishing to see the areas for proposed changes can call the Superintendent of Bolsa Chica State Beach, Don Ito, listed on the top of page one, for personal tours and picture possibilities.

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