

# **CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION**

Forest Conference Center, Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley  
6001 La Madrona Drive  
Scotts Valley, California

## **Minutes of the Meeting - Friday, May 17, 2013**

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Ernest Chung  
Caryl Hart, CHAIR  
Maurice Johannessen  
Tommy Randle  
Myrian Solis Coronel  
Paul Junger Witt  
Elva Yanez

### **COMMISSION EX OFFICIO LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS**

Diane Colborn, REPRESENTING Assemblymember Anthony Rendon  
William Craven, REPRESENTING Senator Fran Pavley

### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

None

### **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS STAFF**

Chet Bardo, SUPERINTENDENT, SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT  
Jess Cooper, SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT  
Mat Fuzie, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PARK OPERATIONS  
Major General Anthony Jackson, USMC (Ret.), DIRECTOR  
Dave Keck, PROJECT MANAGER, BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN  
Karl Knapp, CHIEF, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
Sedrick Mitchell, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
Teresa Montijo, ACTING CHIEF, CONCESSIONS, RESERVATIONS, AND FEES DIVISION  
Steve Musillami, CHIEF, PLANNING DIVISION  
Louis Nastro, ASSISTANT TO THE STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Aaron Robertson, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
Victor Roth, DISTRICT SERVICES MANAGER, SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT  
Kathryn Tobias, SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL

### **GUEST PRESENTERS**

Stuart Drown, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION  
Jack Harrison, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA PARKS HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION (CPHA)

### **SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING**

Allen Baylis/Naturist Action Committee and Friends of San Onofre State Beach  
Lila Bringhurst/Self  
Alan Carlton/Sierra Club  
Lillian Carswell/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Kevin Collins/Self  
Carrie Cox/Self (submitted documents but did not speak)  
Lyndall Erb/Bay Area Barns and Trails  
Drew Fenton/Self  
Leslie Flint/Sequoia Audubon Society  
Mary Friis-Hansen/Self  
Elizabeth Goldstein/California State Parks Foundation  
Charles Harris/Naturist Action Committee and Naturist Education Foundation  
Bonny Hawley/Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks  
Shani Kleinhaus/Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
David Kossack/San Andreas Land Conservancy (submitted a written statement but did not speak)  
Robert Mallory/Self  
Georgina Monahan/Self (registered but did not speak)  
Robin Musitelli/Santa Cruz Supervisor Bruce McPherson  
Laurel Neel/Self  
Bruce Oneto/Self  
Lee Otter/California Coastal Commission  
Lynne Paulson/Washoe Meadows Community  
Brittany Schuler/Self  
Steven Singer/Self  
Anna Weinstein/Audubon California  
Tracey Weiss/Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools  
Grant Weseman/Lighthouse Field Beach Rescue  
Teri Ellen Westra/Self  
Shaye Wolf/Center for Biological Diversity

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Legal notice having been given, Commission Chair Caryl Hart called this meeting of the California State Park and Recreation Commission to order at 9:04 a.m. Chair Hart introduced the commissioners as well as Diane Colborn and William Craven, respectively representing Commission ex officio legislative members Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, and Senator Fran Pavley. The Chair also introduced the California State Parks staff who were present. Chair Hart announced that the closed session the Commission would be conducting with legal counsel would be moved to the end of the day's agenda.

### **AGENDA ITEM A1:**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2013 MEETING IN BRISBANE**

There being no changes or corrections to the draft minutes of the January 18, 2013 meeting in Brisbane, the Chair noted that reading of the minutes would be waived and the minutes of this meeting hereby approved by the Commission.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1:**

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT, COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS, RECOGNITIONS**

Chair Hart welcomed new Commissioners Ernest Chung and Myrian Solis Coronel, and congratulated Commissioner Tommy Randle on his reappointment to the Commission. The Chair also extended a welcome to the Commission's new legislative ex officio members, represented at this meeting by William Craven and Diane Colborn. The new appointments did not wish to address the Commission at this time.

The Chair then explained that the Commission traditionally honors those who recently retired from state service by reading their names at the meeting. Chair Hart introduced Commissioner Paul Junger Witt to read the list of recently retired employees.

Commissioner Witt read the following list of recently retired employees:

Deborah Adams, Accounting Services Section .....	18 years, 9 months
Anne Adrian, State Capitol & Governor's Mansion .....	5 years, 1 month
Charles Albert, Perris Sector .....	37 years, 1 month
William Alfano, Santa Cruz Mountains Sector .....	6 years, 8 months
Donald Amos, Northern Service Center .....	26 years, 9 months
Mary Brown, Accounting Services Section .....	26 years, 5 months
Patrick Caldwell, San Diego North Sector .....	12 years, 5 months
James Danaher, Silverado Sector .....	28 years, 4 months
Margaret Foxworthy, San Mateo Coast Sector .....	12 years, 4 months
Debra Gillespie, Archeology, History and Museums .....	23 years, 1 month
Theresa Gonsolis, Sacramento History & Railroad Sector .....	26 years, 6 months
Lon Graham, Orange Coast North Sector .....	28 years, 9 months
Gay Harvey-Kaestner, Personnel Services Section .....	23 years, 11 months
Phillip Hill, Oceano Dunes District .....	25 years, 7 months
William Hopping, Museum Sector .....	20 years, 6 months
Heidi Horvitz, Cascade Sector .....	21 years, 9 months
Patricia Keating, Grants and Local Services .....	39 years, 1 month
Bridget Madruga, Carnegie Sector .....	7 years, 6 months
William Mennell, San Diego Coast District .....	31 years, 1 month
Javier Morales, Redwood Coast Sector .....	22 years, 7 months
Margaret Morford-Hill, Museum Sector .....	10 years, 7 months
Donald Neely, Information Technology .....	17 years, 9 months
Helen Marie Nelson, Office of Historic Preservation .....	12 years, 5 months
Jeffry Payne, Museum Sector .....	39 years, 4 months
Denis Poole, Four Rivers Sector .....	8 years, 1 month
Jana Seely, Museum Sector .....	20 years, 9 months
G Jens Shelby, Mendocino District .....	23 years 8 months
Rodolfo Silvas, Museum Sector .....	6 years, 5 months
Susan Spanger-Ahrendt, Personnel Services Section .....	36 years, 8 months
Craig Swolgaard, Natural Resources Division .....	12 years, 2 months
Diane Thompson, Office of Historic Preservation .....	18 years, 9 months
O'Shaey Williams, Folsom Sector .....	32 years, 3 months

Commissioner Witt thanked these retiring employees for their service.

Commission Chair Caryl Hart noted that these many long years of service illustrated the dedication and passion of these valued members of the California State Parks family. She reiterated her own and the Commission's gratitude to these retiring employees for their contribution toward making the California State Park System the wonderful park system it is.

**AGENDA ITEM 2:  
APPROVAL OF COMMEMORATIVE REDWOOD GROVES**

Chair Hart asked Commissioner Maurice Johannessen to read the requests to establish commemorative redwood groves in units of the State Park System. Commissioner Johannessen read the following grove requests:

Commemorative groves as requested by Save the Redwoods League:

The Wilke and Lukasko Family Grove  
in Limekiln State Park  
*The Carl W. Wilke Trust, donor*

Teresa Keller Tilden & Doug Tilden Family Sea View Grove  
in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park  
*Doug Tilden, donor*

Commemorative groves as requested by Sempervirens Fund:

Sarah Jane Fuller Memorial Grove  
in Castle Rock State Park  
*Ted Fuller and Abigail T. Cooke, donors*

These grove requests were adopted by the Commission for establishment in the specified units of the California State Park System.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Commission Chair Caryl Hart introduced Major General Anthony Jackson, USMC (Ret.), Director of California State Parks, to present his Director's Report.

General Jackson noted that a written report had been provided in advance to each of the commissioners and that he would not be reviewing that report. He went on to note that today's date marked the passing of six months since his swearing-in as Director of California State Parks. The General explained that his time at State Parks had been wonderful and challenging. He added that he had thus far visited 15 of the 23 State Park System districts, and had had an extraordinary experience meeting the people who make the parks run: Employees, volunteers, foundations, and associations. The General reminded everyone that California State Parks operate with the assistance of over 30 thousand individual volunteers, and he noted that this tremendous contribution is sometimes overlooked. He described the 280-unit State Park System as the "eighth wonder of the world," adding that about the only natural feature that could not be found in the system was that of a tropical rainforest.

The General noted that state parks had been under appreciated, even taken advantage of, for decades, in that park users and constituents assumed that these wonders would always be properly funded and managed. He explained that the issues of the last year, namely that of underreported funds, resulted in a silver lining: State Parks' management and the people who use parks were now more conscious of their operations, and new policies and procedures would ensure that such a situation would never occur again.

General Jackson explained that his responsibilities as Director included rebuilding trust in park users, partners, employees, the legislature, and all those who appreciate California State Parks. He stated that he had recently signed matching fund agreements to contribute \$3.5 million toward the operation of 31 park units as permitted by Assembly Bill 1478 of last September, adding that \$6 million was still available for use in matching fund agreements. The General explained that this funding was represented approximately half of the \$20.5 million that had been inaccurately reported, and that the balance of approximately \$10 million had already been allocated to sewage, water treatment, and other essential projects in State Park System units. He further explained that the remaining amount of approximately \$5.5 million paid for the investigations that had been conducted into the matter.

The General described how California State Parks currently possessed no business or marketing division, and that with its estimated \$9.5 billion contribution to California's economy it was essential that marketing

and revenue generation be given top priority. He added that another high priority was rebuilding the trust of park users and bringing underserved, particularly youthful populations to parks to ensure the future of the system. General Jackson expressed his thanks to California State Parks' many willing partners, including the Commission, the California State Parks Foundation, the state's Natural Resources Agency, and the legislature. The General stated that he was looking forward to the years ahead.

**Parks Forward Initiative** – General Jackson introduced Sedrick Mitchell, California State Parks' Deputy Director for External Affairs, to provide an introduction to the Parks Forward Initiative for the commissioners. Mr. Mitchell described how the state's Natural Resources Agency, the Resources Legacy Fund, and California State Parks – motivated by Assembly Bill 1589 of September 2012 – had jointly developed the concept for an independent advisory body to be known as the Parks Forward Commission. He noted that the solutions of the past, including those employed to keep park units from the threat of closure during the last two years, were not long-term, sustainable solutions. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Parks Forward Commission would be comprised of nine-to-twelve members with a wide variety of professional, parks, and resource-related experience. Mr. Mitchell explained that Parks Forward, with support from private sector, philanthropic, and public contributions, would be gathering data and soliciting testimony from the public and stakeholders to develop an implementable report that would guide California State Parks for the next 100 years. He added that while details of Parks Forward structure and membership would be announced over the next several weeks, it had been established that with the facilitation of members of the State Park and Recreation Commission, Parks Forward would conduct a number of workshops to both engage the public and foster discussion regarding new ways to collaborate and partner for the benefit of all. He noted that as many as 15 meetings would take place over the next 18 months. Mr. Mitchell explained that it was anticipated that Parks Forward would present a final report including recommendations in the fall of 2014. Mr. Mitchell then addressed questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Elva Yanez asked about the role of Resources Legacy Fund. Mr. Mitchell explained that private donors had already contributed several million dollars to the Parks Forward Initiative and that these funds would be administered by Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird and the Resources Legacy Fund. Mr. Mitchell also reiterated that Parks Forward was independent of California State Parks and General Jackson, to ensure that they could provide an accurate and impartial evaluation of the State Park System. Commissioner Yanez also asked about staffing for Parks Forward. Mr. Mitchell replied that Parks Forward had its own, independent staff of three, but that State Parks staff and consultants could be employed to provide assitional support as needed.

Commissioner Ernest Chung stated that he wished to applaud State Parks for moving forward quickly in establishing the Parks Forward Initiative. Commissioner Chung asked for clarification regarding the meetings that would be conducted related to Parks Forward. Mr. Mitchell explained that 15 public meetings would be conducted with the participation of the State Park and Recreation Commission, and that it was anticipated that an additional six-to-eight meetings would be conducted by the Parks Forward Commission. He added that additional meetings would also be arranged as necessary, and that the intention was to provide venues by which any voices who wished to speak could be heard.

Commission Chair Caryl Hart asked if there were any other questions from commissioners. There being no further comments, the Chair explained again that the agendized closed session would be conducted later in the meeting, and that she had further restructured the agenda to allow for presenters that had commitments that afternoon to speak earlier in the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 (Taken out of sequence - Moved ahead of item 5):  
PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Hart opened the public hearing portion of the agenda at 9:42 a.m. She explained the process by which members of the public could address the Commission on agenda items and moved directly to the first public hearing item.

**AGENDA ITEM 6A:**

**Presentation, discussion, and possible action related to the Little Hoover Commission report, *Beyond Crisis: Recapturing Excellence in California's State Park System***

The Chair introduced Stuart Drown, Executive Director of the Little Hoover Commission.

Mr. Drown thanked those who had helped contribute to the Little Hoover Commission's report, including State Park and Recreation Commission Chair Caryl Hart, state legislators and their staff, Elizabeth Goldstein of the California State Parks Foundation, and State Parks Director General Anthony Jackson. Mr. Drown briefly described the structure and function of the Little Hoover Commission, emphasizing that its primary role is to provide recommendations for improving government organization and efficiency. He stated that the Commission's clients are the state legislature and the governor, and that the Little Hoover Commission chooses its own topics on which to report.

Mr. Drown explained that the recommendations of Little Hoover Commission reports are meant to stimulate discussion, and that this is done with the understanding that the recommendations may take years to implement. He highlighted two aspects of the report: That it had been developed in response to the threat of park closures and State Parks' closure list, prior to the discovery of unreported funds, and the transparency and accountability of such a list was critical, and the Little Hoover Commission's conclusion that the public interacts to a greater extent with California State Parks than they do with any other state agency with the exception of the Department of Motor Vehicles, making the operation of State Parks critical to the health of the state. Mr. Drown also acknowledged the progress that had been made in the last year; the new leadership at California State Parks and the transformative actions – like the Parks Forward Initiative – that very sort of action the Little Hoover Commission had hoped would take place.

Mr. Drown also stated that a significant conclusion and recommendation of the report was the acknowledgment that state parks are a public good that deserves taxpayer support; a stable foundation of general fund or other taxpayer-supported revenue. He added that this recommendation was made with the understanding that State Parks would also need to generate their own revenue, and the Little Hoover Commission recommended that the legislature and the governor's office provide the tools to accomplish this.

Another major recommendation of the report called for an assessment of each of the 280 units of the State Park System. As an assessment of sorts had already been conducted to develop the list of 70 parks slated for closure, the Little Hoover Commission believed the balance of park units should be evaluated for their statewide significance. Each park should be looked at for its value as a unit of the State Park System, and given consideration that it may be more appropriately operated as a local (city or county) park.

Mr. Drown concluded by adding that the Little Hoover Commission report had not recommended that the State Park System be kept from expanding, and that it recognized currently that there were resources outside of the State Park System that deserved protection. However, the report did recommend that California State Parks be able to maintain the current State Park System. Mr. Drown noted that the Little Hoover Commission report was available on the Internet at [www.LHC.ca.gov/studies/215/report215.html](http://www.LHC.ca.gov/studies/215/report215.html). Mr. Drown addressed questions from the members of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Ernest Chung stated that he had been impressed with the Little Hoover Commission report. He asked Stuart Drown if he had identified other roles for the State Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Drown replied that the State Park and Recreation Commission could serve as the public ears for State Parks, help develop criteria for evaluating the units of the State Park System, develop performance metrics for the department, and report annually to the director on progress in attaining stated goals.

State Parks' Director Anthony Jackson noted that he welcomed the Little Hoover Commission report and had been pleased to find that it recognized many of the same areas for improvement that he and his staff had identified, the exception being that State Parks also had been in need of leadership and a strategic action plan. The General added that State Parks was a large organization that would take time to change, but that it was especially valuable to hear these recommendations from sources outside the department.

Stuart Drown stated that Little Hoover Commission reports often presented no surprises for those who were the subject of the reports. He added that such recognition served as an entree to discussion.

Commissioner Maurice Johannessen noted that he had read the Little Hoover Commission report and recognized that it was very much in line with the improvements already being implemented by General Jackson. The Commissioner stated that he found this support comforting.

Commissioner Elva Yanez asked about the specifics of sustainable funding for State Parks and the challenges of local park operation. Mr. Drown replied that it was a practice of the Little Hoover Commission to not request funding, but rather to recommend the allocation of sufficient resources. He suggested that some park units operated by others, like many state beaches, were very successful. He added that consortiums could be created to operate parks in specific geographic areas, resulting in lower operating costs. Mr. Drown also explained that the Little Hoover Commission had not recommended the raising of fees for park use, but rather that State Parks should look at new, alternative means of generating revenue.

Commissioner Chung and Stuart Drown agreed that there were many new models to consider and that no one entity could provide all the answers.

Commissioner Paul Junger Witt asked if the Little Hoover Commission had explored the authority and capabilities of the State Park and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Witt noted that it had become increasingly difficult to comprehend the role of the Commission. Stuart Drown replied that this subject had been investigated and discussed. He added that with the recent legislative changes related to the Commission, the Little Hoover Commission preferred to observe the results of these changes rather than make specific recommendations with regard to the State Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Drown reiterated that he believed the Park Commission could be involved with the assessment of State Park System units, they could more actively engage the public, and conduct performance reviews. He also recommended that the Commission could work with public policy graduate programs to produce research.

There being no further comments from commissioners, Chair Caryl Hart thanked Stuart Drown and proceeded to call six speakers who made comments related to Mr. Drown's presentation on the Little Hoover Commission report. The speakers were called in the order in which they had registered to speak:

Lynne Paulson, representing the Washoe Meadows Community

Alan Carlton, representing the Sierra Club

Grant Weseman, representing Lighthouse Field Beach Rescue

Elizabeth Goldstein, representing the California State Parks Foundation

Allen Baylis, representing the Naturist Action Committee and Friends of San Onofre State Beach

Charles Harris, Naturist Action Committee and Naturist Education Foundation

There being no other registered or unregistered speakers, Commission Chair Caryl Hart closed public comment on this item and asked if there were any comments or responses from members of the Commission or Stuart Drown. There being none, the Chair called the next agenda items:

**ITEM 6B:**

**Consideration and possible action on the Department recommendation to approve the general plan and environmental impact report for Big Basin Redwoods State Park**

**AND**

**ITEM 6C:**

**Consideration and possible action on the proposal for a boundary amendment to add 390 acres to the West Waddell Creek State Wilderness in Big Basin Redwoods State Park**

Chair Hart explained that because of the close relationship between the two Big Basin Redwoods State Park agenda items, the Commission would hear a combined presentation on both items from staff. At the

conclusion of the presentation, the commissioners would hear public comment on both items, after which the Chair would ask for separate motions and actions on each of the two items.

The Chair also noted that the commissioners had received and reviewed materials related to these agenda items prior to this meeting, and that each of them had visited the park for a “skyline to the sea” briefing on the previous day. Chair Hart explained that a short overview of the proposals related to Big Basin Redwoods State Park would now be presented by Steve Musillami, Chief of State Parks’ Planning Division.

Mr. Musillami began by thanking State Parks’ Santa Cruz District Superintendent Chet Bardo and his staff who had contributed both to the general plan and to the Commission’s briefing in the park. He also thanked State Parks’ partners The Mountain Parks Foundation, the Waddell Creek Association, and the Sempervirens Fund.

Mr. Musillami next described what he referred to as the “essence” of the Big Basin Redwoods State Park general plan. He directed the commissioners to the information they had received, specifically calling their attention to the errata to the general plan which explained the changes made to the management and conservation guidelines related to the marbled murrelet, an endangered bird species. Mr. Musillami also reminded the commissioners that their informational packets included a statement of overriding considerations and findings in support of the statement of overriding considerations.

The presentation continued with a description of the history and unique nature of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Mr. Musillami explained some of the management challenges at this park, with particular emphasis on balancing the park’s abundant natural resources, the cultural resources (some comprising a California Historic Landmark, nominated for national landmark consideration) with recreational needs and public access. He explained that the proposed general plan provides a purpose statement for the park, and articulates a vision for the next 20 to 30 years, and he also explained how such a general plan serves as a management tool to set parameters under which more detailed management plans and resources inventories would be conducted.

Mr. Musillami stated that this proposed general plan had been developed as part of a regional planning effort that included general plans for nearby State Park System units Butano State Park, Año Nuevo State Park, and Castle Rock State Park.

Mr. Musillami noted that the general plan proposed no new development within the Headquarters/old growth redwoods area of the park, and he explained how several proposals of the plan were designed to attract visitor use in other areas of the park, away from the impacted Headquarters area. He added that a future road and trails management plan, as called for in the proposed general plan, would further evaluate use patterns and provide opportunities for dispersing visitation more widely throughout the park.

He also explained how the proposal to add 390 acres to the existing approximately 6,000 acres of the park’s West Waddell Creek State Wilderness would serve to aid in the management of this area, as what was currently an arbitrary boundary would be expanded to use the primitive roads in the park to mark the border of the wilderness.

Mr. Musillami also explained some of California State Parks’ efforts to mitigate impacts on the marbled murrelet. He explained how studies had been and were being conducted by State Parks and others, and how State Parks had worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on planning in the park. Mr. Musillami read excerpts from a Fish and Wildlife Service letter of May 13, 2013 in which the Service commended State Parks for their efforts related to the marbled murrelet and pledged to continue to work together to conduct research and develop management policies for the park. Mr. Musillami stated that the department was working as diligently as possible to address issues related to the marbled murrelet while managing Big Basin Redwoods State Park to balance the overlapping issues of natural resources, cultural resources, and public access and recreation.

Mr. Musillami then extended special thanks to Big Basin Redwoods State Park general plan project man-



ager Dave Keck, who had been involved in the development of the proposed general plan over the course of many years. Mr. Musillami requested that the commissioners consider and approve the draft resolutions before them to adopt the general plan for Big Basin Redwoods State Park and to approve the boundary amendment to add 390 acres to the park's West Waddell Creek State Wilderness.

State Parks Senior Staff Counsel Kathryn Tobias addressed the commissioners, further calling their attention to the documentation that had been provided with regard to the decisions before them today. Ms. Tobias explained that the errata to the general plan documented changes to some of the goals and guidelines of the plan, particularly as they related to concerns expressed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She also pointed out that the finding for significant impacts document compiled information that is otherwise distributed throughout the plan's final environmental impact report. Ms. Tobias explained that copies of these documents were available to the public at the meeting, and that she would provide additional information to the commissioners on request.

Commission Chair Caryl Hart thanked Miss Tobias and opened public comment on the two Big Basin Redwoods State Park agenda items at 10:54 a.m. The Chair proceeded to call 19 speakers on these agenda items in the order they had registered:

Lillian Carswell, representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Lee Otter, representing the California Coastal Commission

After Mr. Otter's comments Chair Caryl Hart asked Mr. Otter to explain whether or not a coastal permit would be required to perform work on the Highway 1 bridge. Mr. Otter replied that a permit may or may not be required, in that while Cal Trans was not exempt from the permit process, the agency utilized a detailed and complete list of situations under which permits were not required for what would be considered repair and maintenance work. Mr. Otter explained that such exemptions were employed to ensure that agencies would be able to work together to accomplish their respective missions.

Senior Staff Counsel Kathryn Tobias also addressed Mr. Otter. Ms. Tobias noted that Mr. Otter's comments included a request for changes to proposals related to parking near the coast in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. She pointed out that the parking changes Mr. Otter had requested had already been incorporated into the general plan. Mr. Otter thanked State Parks' staff for their responses to Coastal Commission concerns.

The Chair continued to call speakers:

Steven Singer

Lila Bringham

Teri Ellen Westra

Laurel Neel

Robert Mallory

Anna Weinstein, representing Audubon California

Leslie Flint, representing Sequoia Audubon Society

Shaye Wolf, representing Center for Biological Diversity

Tracey Weiss, representing Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools

Drew Fenton

Shani Kleinhaus, representing Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Brittany Schalter

Lyndall Erb, representing Bay Area Barns and Trails

Robin Musitelli, representing Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce McPherson

Kevin Collins

David Kossack, representing San Andreas Land Conservancy (submitted a written statement)

Mary Friis-Hansen

Chair Hart asked if there were any additional registered or unregistered speakers for the Big Basin agenda items. There being none, the Chair closed public comment on these agenda items at 11:51 a.m. Chair Hart asked State Parks staff if they would like to respond to any of the public comments on these items.

Senior Staff Counsel Kathryn Tobias addressed the Chair, requesting that the meeting be adjourned for a short break so that staff could consider their responses to the comments received. Chair Hart adjourned for a break at 11:51 a.m.

Commission Chair Caryl Hart reconvened the meeting at 12:06 p.m. The Chair recognized Planning Division Chief Steve Musillami to respond to the public comments on the Big Basin Redwoods agenda items.

Mr. Musillami presented staff responses to several of the public comments. He directed his responses to specific questions or comments. Regarding changes on Little Basin Road, Mr. Musillami explained that the general plan included what was known as a programmatic EIR, and that any changes to the road, widening, adding gates, etcetera, would be too detailed for inclusion in such a general plan. He explained that development projects – for the road or otherwise – would require that additional studies, inventories, and analysis be conducted. With regard to the McCrary Ridge trail being opened to bicycles, Mr. Musillami explained that a separate road and trails management plan would consider this as well as other alternatives. Mr. Musillami also clarified that the general plan proposed no new trails or other development in wilderness areas, and that any new trails would be constructed outside of the park's designated wilderness. With regard to references made to a 2003 general plan, Mr. Musillami explained that there had been no prior general plan for Big Basin Redwoods State Park, though studies had been conducted over a period of many years in preparation for the general plan. He noted that statements or recommendations of earlier studies were not necessarily included in the general plan. Musillami noted that a speaker's reference to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concern that there could be "take" of species at the park was erroneous in that State Parks had received a second letter from the Service, dated May 14, 2013, that clarified the agency's position that new activities or facilities in marbled murrelet habitat, especially in old growth forest, should be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that species take would be avoided. Mr. Musillami asked State Parks Santa Cruz District Superintendent Chet Bardo to respond to comments related to park wastewater.

Superintendent Bardo explained that Big Basin Redwoods State Park did discharge treated wastewater into Waddell Creek, and that this was accomplished legally and under license. The Superintendent added that the wastewater treatment facility had been recently upgraded, and that it was in full compliance with all requirements. He noted that the plant operators maintained a close relationship with the regional water quality control board to ensure that the system was operating properly and that it responded appropriately to storm water events.

Planning Division Chief Steve Musillami continued. He stated again that the general plan proposed no new facilities in the old growth redwood portions of the park, nor did the plan include the removal of any existing facilities there. He explained that the general plan did propose enhancing camping and other visitor opportunities outside of the old growth areas, and he further explained that the existing facilities in the park's Headquarters area consisted of listed historic resources which were protected by law, meaning that these facilities would need to be maintained even if a decision was made to remove them from use.

There being no further comments from staff, Chair Caryl Hart asked if the commissioners wished to make a motion to adopt the general plan and EIR for Big Basin Redwoods State Park. A clarification was made that the action before the Commission was adoption of a draft resolution approving the general plan and EIR, with preferred alternative 2. A motion was made by Commissioner Maurice Johannessen, seconded by Commissioner Paul Junger Witt. Chair Hart asked for discussion of the motion.

Commissioner Maurice Johannessen stated that he continued to be concerned about accessibility in parks. He noted that he would continue to champion the rights of seniors and other persons who were not as agile as some. The Commissioner asked if wheelchairs were considered to be mechanized equipment, like a bicycle. Steve Musillami replied that in accordance with state and federal law, wheelchair users are considered pedestrians, so that anywhere pedestrians are allowed wheelchairs are also allowed. Commissioner Johannessen went on to say that he believed the general plan was exceptionally well written, and that on the matter of the marbled murrelets he found State Parks to have made a considerable effort to accommodate the desires of those who sought to protect these birds.

Commissioner Tommy Randle asked if in researching locations for campgrounds all viable sites had been considered. Commissioner Randle noted that he was concerned that the desires and needs of local communities were always given consideration. Steve Musillami replied that a great deal of analysis had been performed with regard to the potential for additional overnight accommodations in the park. He added that State Parks concluded that there were very few locations that would be appropriate for overnight accommodations, and he reiterated that the earlier proposal for overnight cabins in the Sky Meadow area of the park had been removed from the general plan. Mr. Musillami also explained that public involvement always served as a key component of general plan development and that many public meetings had been conducted in conjunction with the Big Basin general plan. He added that future management plans, such as those for roads and trails, would also include an important public participation element.

Commissioner Ernest Chung noted that the errata to the general plan appeared to call for much more stringent food and trash management in the park as this related to the marbled murrelet. Senior Staff Counsel Kathryn Tobias replied that these measures had been added to the plan in response to concerns addressed in the letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She indicated that such discussions and efforts would continue, and that they appeared to already have resulted in a reduction in the number of corvids (crows and jays) which were known to prey on the marbled murrelet.

Commissioner Elva Yanez asked if the approval of the general plan would preclude or otherwise interfere with efforts to work with stakeholders on their concerns related to the marbled murrelet. Kathryn Tobias replied that State Parks enjoyed a close working relationship with most of the stakeholder groups and would continue to foster those relationships. Ms. Tobias added that protection of the marbled murrelet was a very high priority for California State Parks, and that she believed State Parks staff were as passionate as any stakeholders about protecting the birds. Commissioner Yanez noted that tension always existed between active recreation and wildlife, and that she believed the general plan should move forward.

Chair Caryl Hart asked if there were any other comments from commissioners. There being none, Chair Hart noted that she wished to commend State Parks and in particular Dave Keck for his efforts related to the Big Basin general plan. She added that since only what amounted to a small remnant of old growth redwood forest remained in California, it was no surprise that people would want every opportunity to experience these natural wonders. Chair Hart noted that the greatly diminished redwood habitat could only result in struggles like that of the marbled murrelet, and she added that she believed California State Parks was doing everything that it could to mitigate these issues – and that adopting a general plan was an important step toward improving management of the park. The Chair also noted that the educational efforts related to the marbled murrelet would provide yet another valuable learning opportunity for park visitors.

Chair Hart called for a vote on the motion to approve the general plan and environmental impact report for Big Basin Redwoods State Park with the preferred alternative 2. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution before them to approve the general plan and environmental impact report for Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Chair Hart then asked for a motion to approve the boundary amendment to add 390 acres to West Waddell Creek State Wilderness. A motion was made by Commissioner Elva Yanez, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Randle. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution before them to add 390 acres to West Waddell Creek State Wilderness in Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

**ITEM 6D:**

**District presentation on deferred maintenance, along with discussion and possible action related to Public Resources Code Section 535.5 (a)**

Chair Hart introduced State Parks' Deputy Director for Park Operations Mat Fuzie, who provided a brief introduction to the issue of deferred maintenance and the California State Park System. Deputy Director Fuzie introduced Karl Knapp, Chief of State Parks' Facility Management Division, and Jess Cooper, Central Valley District Superintendent, to make a presentation on deferred maintenance. He added that Mr. Knapp and Superintendent Cooper together possessed over 60 years of experience as park professionals.

Karl Knapp provided an update on the process related to deferred maintenance that had taken place since the Commission's January 2013 meeting in Brisbane. Mr. Knapp noted that in addition to the introductory briefing provided in January, staff had engaged members of the Commission to help establish relative priorities of projects to be addressed. He explained that a multidisciplinary team had utilized these priorities to establish which projects would be undertaken with the \$10 million allocated by Assembly Bill 1478.

Mr. Knapp called the commissioners' attention to the written materials that had been provided to them. He explained that the project selection process utilized the following criteria: Projects that were necessary to correct code or regulation violations, projects that were "shovel-ready" (i.e., ready to undertake) in that the deadline to encumber the \$10 million was June 2014, projects that are mission-oriented and appropriate for their respective park unit general plan or management plan, projects that would not increase operating costs, projects that are mission-driven, that protect or preserve unique or significant natural or cultural resources, projects that would allow funds to be leveraged so that available funds would go further, projects involving stormwater or wastewater compliance, and, as directed by State Parks' management, the reopening of Providence Mountains State Recreation Area to the public. Mr. Knapp explained that the criteria provided by the State Park and Recreation Commission was entirely consistent with the criteria developed by staff. The Commission priorities were keeping parks open, avoiding the risk of fines or sanctions, water quality or sewage non-compliance, projects in parks where visitation was high regardless of the revenue generated, projects that protected unique cultural or natural resources, and projects that were critical to public safety.

It was explained that a total of 31 projects had been selected for their compliance with these criteria. Karl Knapp noted that \$2.9 million had been directed toward storm water compliance projects in 24 parks, \$4.6 million for facility infrastructure projects, and \$1.28 million for natural and cultural resource projects. He explained that these projects were in the process of being implemented, adding that the nature of cyclic maintenance and deferred maintenance required that planning would continue to be evaluated every six, 12, and eighteen months.

Mr. Knapp also provided information on the inadequacy of the budget for maintenance throughout the State Park System, explaining that this was the cause of the deferred maintenance backlog. He pointed out that the facilities maintenance program had identified a maintenance need of approximately \$100 million each year, although in the most recent fiscal year the actual budgeted amount had been \$8.1 million for facilities and \$3.2 million for roads, for a total of just 11% of the estimated need. He added that during the previous fiscal year the actual budgeted amount met only 5% of the need, though as in any asset management program needs changed from year to year. Mr. Knapp stated that in general State Parks maintenance received only about 10% of the funding required to address yearly maintenance needs.

Mr. Knapp then explained that in California State Parks' Central Valley District the maintenance needs for the previous fiscal year amounted to \$5.4 million but the budgeted amount received was \$607,000.00 – approximately 11% of the required funding. Mr. Knapp then introduced Central Valley District Superintendent Jess Cooper to provide specifics of the deferred maintenance situation and needs in his district.

Superintendent Cooper referenced his 26-year career with California State Parks. He described State

Parks' Central Valley District: 16 park units and sub-units in 11 California counties, five reservoirs, four major rivers, three historic parks, two museums, six recreation areas, four units classified as state parks, and 86 separate resource management units. He also provided an introduction to the Park Infrastructure Database, known as "PID," a management tool that California State Parks employed. Superintendent Cooper provided details of the deferred maintenance situation in his district: A \$5 million backlog of cultural resources projects, \$166 million in facilities backlog, \$3.8 million in interpretation, \$5.3 million in natural resources, and \$3.1 million in planning for a total of \$184 million in backlogged maintenance projects. The Superintendent provided specific examples of deferred maintenance projects in the areas of natural and cultural resources, and facilities. He also provided examples of maintenance success stories that helped to preserve resources and provide improved access and educational opportunities for park visitors. Superintendent Cooper then addressed questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Myrian Solis Coronel asked if the projects costs provided included labor costs. Superintendent Cooper replied that the answer depended on the project; in some cases contracts for work included labor, while for others it was possible to use local labor or State Parks staff.

Diane Colborn noted that Superintendent Cooper had stated that he utilized a "highest estimate" calculator when putting together projects and she asked if this meant that the cost of the overall list of deferred maintenance projects represented a high estimate. Superintendent Cooper replied that in the example referenced – a restroom project at Caswell Memorial State Park – the requirements had been quite specific and for this reason the estimated costs of this project were very accurate. The Superintendent explained that each project was different, and that things like construction costs, and even the cost of crude oil, could have a significant impact on the overall cost of a project. Ms. Colborn also asked if the Park Infrastructure Database was available to the public. Karl Knapp replied that at this time the database was available only to the staff who worked with this data.

Central Valley District Superintendent Jess Cooper stated that the last thing he wished to say was "Thank you for letting us work in these wonderful parks." Commission Chair Caryl Hart thanked Superintendent Cooper for his presentation.

Chair Hart then asked if there were any speakers for this agenda item. There being none, the Chair closed public comment on this agenda item at 1:01 p.m.

#### **ITEM 6D:**

#### **Presentations, discussion, and possible action related to other duties of the Commission as described in AB1478**

Chair Hart explained that she had added this item to the agenda of the meeting because she thought it would be helpful to the commissioners to review the changes to Commission duties and responsibilities as added in Public Resources Code Section 535.5 by Assembly Bill (AB) 1478. The Chair read from the statute, which stated that after a presentation on deferred maintenance, such as the one they had just heard from Superintendent Jess Cooper, the Commission is to consider the nature and extent and establish the relative priority of prospective deferred maintenance projects. The Chair stated that she found it difficult to understand how the Commission was meant to assist in prioritizing deferred maintenance projects.

State Parks' Chief Deputy Director Aaron Robertson replied. He reviewed the deferred maintenance process as executed thus far, noting that a Commission committee had provided the commissioner's relative priorities as reviewed earlier by Karl Knapp. He also explained that there had been an immediate need to identify projects that would utilize the \$10 million for deferred maintenance identified in AB1478. Chief Deputy Director Robertson described the value of this process and explained how the Commission's contribution served to validate the criteria developed by the staff working group. He noted that such contributions would continue to add value in the future, and he briefly explained how a presentation by a superintendent outside of the local district (Jess Cooper from Central Valley District at the Santa Cruz District meeting) served to relieve some of the workload on the local superintendent who was engaged in

preparations related to the actual Commission meeting.

A discussion took place in which Chair Caryl Hart, Commissioner Ernest Chung, Commissioner Tommy Randle, General Jackson, and Senior Staff Counsel Kathryn Tobias discussed the Commission's Deferred Maintenance Committee. It was decided that this committee would continue as a two-member, ad hoc committee, with members Tommy Randle and Ernest Chung. It was also confirmed that commissioners' questions related to deferred maintenance should be directed to Karl Knapp or the Commission assistant.

**ITEM 6F:**

**California Parks Hospitality Association presentation on their organization's background and relationship to the California State Parks concessions program**

Chair Hart introduced Jack Harrison, Executive Director of the California Parks Hospitality Association (CPHA), to present this agenda item. Mr. Harrison noted that it had been quite some time since his organization had addressed the State Park and Recreation Commission. He explained that CPHA was an organization of contract service providers, also known as concessionaires, that provided services in parks. Mr. Harrison pointed out that concessionaires have direct contact with park visitors every day, making them an essential part of the State Parks family, right along with employees and volunteers. He also explained that the first state park concession was at nearby Big Basin Redwoods State Park in the early part of the 20th Century, and he noted that almost 200 contracts for services were in use at California State Parks. Mr. Harrison also described other contributions that California Parks Hospitality Association members made to parks, including working with cooperating associations, foundations, volunteer groups, working with the legislature, and through the organization's Public Lands Symposium at Asilomar. In closing, Mr. Harrison reminded the Commission and California State Parks of his organization's extensive business expertise, and he suggested they call on the organization at any time for assistance.

Commissioner Elva Yanez suggested that greater accessibility to park back country areas could be provided by equestrian concessions. She asked if there were any obstacles to expanding equestrian operations in state parks. Jack Harrison replied that California State Parks was responsible for determining the types of concessions offered in State Park System units. He suggested that the department must evaluate new concessions opportunities and then request assistance with any such proposals.

Commissioner Ernest Chung asked if the gross revenue of the approximately 200 concessions contracts could be provided. Chair Hart called on Teresa Montijo, Acting Chief of the Concessions, Reservations, and Fees Division to respond. Ms. Montijo and Chief Deputy Director Aaron Robertson explained that in the previous fiscal year the gross revenue generated by concessions amounted to approximately \$106 million, of which approximately \$10 million was paid to California State Parks as rent, with an additional \$1.7 million provided to State Parks as improvements to facilities. It was also noted that approximately 10 equestrian concessions currently operated in State Park System units.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 (Taken out of sequence):**

**Closed Session to discuss pending and/or potential litigation as permitted by Government Code section 11126, subdivisions (e)(2)(A) and (e)(2)(B)(i). People of the State of California, ex rel. Attorney General Bill Lockyer and State Park and Recreation Commission v. Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency, a joint powers authority; Board of Directors of the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (San Diego Superior Court Case No. GIN 051371)**

Chair Caryl Hart explained that the Commission would now adjourn to a closed session as permitted by law. The Chair apologized for this interruption to the meeting and noted that the commissioners would return in open session as soon as possible. The Commission adjourned to closed session at 1:26 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the public meeting at 2:13 p.m. Chair Hart noted that there were no publicly-reportable items from the closed session.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 (Taken out of sequence):**

**Public Comment**

Chair Caryl Hart apologized again for delay caused by the closed session and explained that the Commission would now hear public comment on other than the agenda items. The Chair called five speakers in the order they had registered:

Bruce Oneto, regarding a proposal to provide free access for school children at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park.

Charles Harris, representing the Naturist Action Committee and Naturist Education Foundation, regarding naturists and clothing optional use in State Park System units.

Allen Baylis, representing the Naturist Action Committee and Friends of San Onofre State Beach, regarding clothing optional use in State Park System units and the Commission's role in establishing policy.

Grant Weseman, representing Lighthouse Field Beach Rescue, regarding enforcement of off-leash dog policies at state beaches.

Bonny Hawley, representing Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, regarding her organization's activities and successes related to their operation of Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park.

There being no further registered or unregistered speakers, Chair Hart closed public comment at 2:29 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM 6G:**

**Report of the Nominating Committee and election of Commission officers**

Chair Caryl Hart explained that Commissioner Paul Junger Witt chaired the Commission's Nominating Committee, and that it was her understanding that the commissioners had each made their nominations to Commissioner Witt.

Commissioner Witt announced that the nominees for Chair and Vice Chair were, respectively, Commissioner Ernest Chung and himself, Paul Junger Witt, who would serve as Vice Chair until such time as another commissioner accepted the role. Commissioner Maurice Johannessen made a motion to elect these officers, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tommy Randle. Chair Hart called for a vote: Commissioners Hart, Johannessen, Randle, Solis Coronel, Witt, and Yanez confirmed their votes for Ernest Chung as Chair (Commissioner Chung abstained) and Commissioners Chung, Hart, Johannessen, Randle, Solis Coronel, and Yanez confirmed their votes for Paul Witt as Vice Chair (Paul Witt abstained).

Outward-bound Chair Caryl Hart congratulated Commissioners Chung and Witt, and suggested to new Chair Ernest Chung that he should assume responsibility for the meeting.

Chair Ernest Chung thanked the commissioners for their trust and confidence. He noted that as a new commissioner and new chair he looked forward to receiving a considerable amount of assistance from his fellow commissioners. Chair Chung also thanked Caryl Hart for her dedicated service as chair.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business newly elected Chair Ernest Chung adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

ATTEST: These minutes were approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on August 9, 2013, at its duly-noticed public meeting in Los Banos, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 8-9-13

Louis Nastro

Assistant to the Commission

For Major General Anthony Jackson, Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Secretary to the Commission





Meeting of the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Forest Conference Center, Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley 6001 La Madrona Dr., Santa Cruz  
Friday, May 17, 2013 - 9:00 a.m.

### Revised AGENDA of the MEETING

- A1. Approval of minutes of the January 18, 2013 meeting in Brisbane.
  1. Chair's Report, Commissioner reports/comments, Recognitions.
    - Introduction and welcome of Ernest Chung, new appointment to the Commission.
    - Congratulations to Commissioner Tommy Randle on reappointment to the Commission.
    - Welcome to Commission ex-officio members Senator Fran Pavley and Assemblymember Anthony Rendon.
  2. Approval of Special Redwood Groves – as requested by Save the Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund.
  3. Director's Report.
    - A. Discussion of "Parks Forward" initiative, facilitated by Sedrick Mitchell, California State Parks Deputy Director for External Affairs.
  4. CLOSED SESSION\* to discuss pending and/or potential litigation as permitted by Government Code section 11126, subdivisions (e)(2)(A) and (e)(2)(B)(i). People of the State of California, ex rel. Attorney General Bill Lockyer and State Park and Recreation Commission v. Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency, a joint powers authority; Board of Directors of the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (San Diego Superior Court Case No. GIN 051371).
  5. Public Comment (on subjects other than the listed agenda items).
  6. Public Hearing:
    - A. Presentation, discussion, and possible action related to the Little Hoover Commission report, *Beyond Crisis: Recapturing Excellence in California's State Park System*.
    - B. Consideration and possible action on the Department recommendation to approve the general plan and environmental impact report for Big Basin Redwoods State Park.
    - C. Consideration and possible action on the proposal for a boundary amendment to add 390 acres to the West Waddell Creek State Wilderness in Big Basin Redwoods State Park.
    - D. District presentation on deferred maintenance, along with discussion and possible action related to Public Resources Code Section 535.5 (a).
    - E. Presentations, discussion, and possible action related to other duties of the Commission as described in AB1478 (codified in PRC Sections 535.5 (b) through (e)).
    - F. California Parks Hospitality Association presentation on their organization's background and relationship to the California State Parks concessions program.
    - G. Report of the Executive (nominating) Committee and election of Commission officers.
  7. Adjourn.

\* Please note that the closed session will not be open to the public. The Commission will adjourn to an adjacent room for the closed session. At the conclusion of the closed session the Commission will reconvene in open session to provide an account of any reportable events as required.