

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION

Garden Terrace Room, Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway
Santa Monica, California

Minutes of the Meeting - Friday, September 28, 2012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Caryl Hart, CHAIR
Maurice Johannessen
Tommy Randle
Paul Junger Witt
Elva Yanez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS STAFF

Janelle Beland, ACTING DIRECTOR
Lynette Brody, SUPERINTENDENT, TOPANGA SECTOR
Barney Matsumoto, PROJECT MANAGER, TOPANGA STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN
Steve Musillami, CHIEF, PLANNING DIVISION
Louis Nastro, ASSISTANT TO THE STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Craig Sap, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT, ANGELES DISTRICT
Kathryn Tobias, SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL

SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING

Allen Baylis/Naturist Action Committee and Friends of San Onofre
Melanie Beck/National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Don Brown/Self
Margaret Brown/Citizens for East Shore Parks
Rosi Dagit/Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
Laura Davick/Crystal Cove Alliance Cooperative Association
Ted Falencki/Self
Sara Feldman/California State Parks Foundation
Jim Hasenauer/International Mountain Biking Association
Rolf Holbach/Southern California Naturist Association
Patricia Jones/Citizens for East Shore Parks
Andy Leonard/Reel Inn Fresh Fish Market and Restaurant
Tim Mullins/American Association of Nude Recreation
Gary Mussell/Friends of Bates Beach
Dennis Craig Smith/Friends of Gaviota
Tony Sustar/Citizens for East Shore Parks
Rachelle Torres/Defense of Place
Tony Wilkinson/Self
Cameron Wilson/Citizens for East Shore Parks
Charles Woller/Self
Randy Young/Will Rogers Cooperative Association

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 9:00 a.m. Chair Hart thanked everyone attending the meeting and introduced the commissioners and California State Parks staff who were present. Chair Hart also thanked the staff and representatives of partner organizations that had made possible the Commission’s briefing on the Topanga State Park general plan that had been conducted the previous day.

AGENDA ITEM 1:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2012 MEETING IN BRENTWOOD

Chair Hart asked if there would be any changes to the draft minutes of the Commission’s January 27th, 2012 meeting in Brentwood. There being no changes or corrections, the Chair noted that reading of the minutes would be waived and the draft minutes hereby approved by the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 2:

CHAIR’S REPORT, COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS, RECOGNITIONS

The Chair asked if any of the commissioners wished to make reports or comments. Commissioner Maurice Johannessen noted that he wished to recognize the enthusiasm and good spirits expressed by State Parks staff during these challenging times.

Chair Hart then asked Commissioner Tommy Randle to read the list of employees who had recently retired from their careers with California State Parks.

Commissioner Randle read the following list of recently retired employees:

- Michael Allan, Topanga Sector 26 years, 5 months
- Darlene Atkinson, Acquisitions & Development Division 32 years, 4 months
- James Bazil, Mendocino Sector 15 years, 4 months
- Michael Brenenstall, Capital District 31 years, 4 months
- Mike Carbahal Jr., Marin District 29 years, 6 months
- Rebecca Carruthers, Museum Services Section 5 years, 10 months
- Steven Childress, Information Technology 24 years, 7 months
- Doris Coulter, Sierra Gold Sector 25 years, 4 months
- Steven Davis, Information Technology 30 years, 2 months
- Susan Dedina, Northern Communications Center 22 years, 11 months
- James Dice, Colorado Desert District 25 years, 4 months
- Barbara Diekmann, Diablo Vista District 27 years, 3 months
- Jonathan Drucker, Malibu Sector 23 years, 1 month
- David Estrada, Chino Sector 7 years, 6 months
- Ruth Field, Museum Sector 6 years, 5 months
- Wendy Franklin, Museum Collections Section 32 years, 11 months
- Alan Friedman, Information Technology 30 years, 7 months
- George Friend, Capital District 7 years, 6 months
- Mark Gibson, Law Enforcement & Emergency Services 21 years, 1 month
- Michael Goodwin, Valley Sector 5 years, 1 month
- Gayle Green, Lake Tahoe Sector 8 years, 4 months
- Gregory Grilli, Santa Cruz Mountains Sector 3 years, 11 months
- Jane Hall, Sierra Gold Sector 18 years, 5 months
- David Hallstrom, Facilities Management Division 14 years

Frank Halter, Sierra Gold Sector	8 years
Christopher Hansen, Marin Sector	28 years, 6 months
Danny Hepp, Orange Coast North Sector	7 years, 4 months
Eileen Hook, Planning Division	35 years, 2 months
Janet Howard, Cascade Sector	7 years, 9 months
Paul Kellett, San Luis Obispo Coast District	6 years, 1 month
Samuel Kelly, San Diego Historic Sector	11 years, 11 months
Eric Knapp, Coastal Sector	28 years, 4 months
Gudrun Lorensen, Northern Service Center	22 years, 9 months
Joseph Milligan, Orange Coast North Sector	29 years, 8 months
Sandi Mitchell, Business Management Services Section	10 years
Steven Moses, Sierra District	22 years, 1 month
Thomas Moss, Asilomar Sector	29 years
Nancy Otter, Silverado Sector	11 years, 6 months
Mary Pass, Silverado Sector	31 years
Georgina Perez, Big Sur Sector	14 years, 7 months
Jack Raymond, San Luis Obispo Coast District	26 years, 11 months
Michael Riddick, Carpinteria Sector	9 years, 11 months
Patrick Rogers, Acquisition & Real Property Services	12 years, 10 months
Michael Sampson, Southern Service Center	31 years, 7 months
Bedelia Sanford, Santa Cruz Mountains Sector	23 years, 9 months
David Saxby, Administrative Services	31 years, 9 months
David Schmoyer, San Diego South Sector	34 years, 3 months
Vincent Sereno, Calaveras Sector	21 years, 6 months
Randy Sloan, Folsom Sector	30 years, 1 month
Terry Stevens, Sierra District	23 years, 7 months
Veneta Stewart, Lake Tahoe Sector	10 years
Sandra Stillwell, Silverado Sector	30 years, 6 months
Arthur Troutman, Museum Sector	12 years, 6 months
Gary Walker, Ocotillo Wells South Sector	12 years, 9 months
Kevin Williams, Santa Cruz Mountains Sector	30 years, 4 months
Margaret Zentner, Acquisition & Development Division	18 years, 11 months

Commissioner Randle noted that this list represented retirements that took place January through August 2012, a total of over 1,140 years of service to the citizens of California. The Commissioner suggested that the service of these individuals be recognized by a round of applause and those present complied.

Chair Caryl Hart added that while she wished each of these retirees the best in their retirement she also wanted to recognize that they would be greatly missed at California State Parks.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:
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 and made a motion to approve these groves. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tommy Randle.

Commemorative groves as requested by Save the Redwoods League:

Riddle Family Grove
in Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area
Donald and Franklin Riddle, donors

George Sardina, M.D. Grove
in Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area
George Sardina, M.D., donor

Bonilla Family Grove
in Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area
George Sardina, M.D., donor

Lydia and Bob Johnson Memorial Grove
in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Charlene McAllister, donor

Penelope Smith-Anima Mundi-Soul of the World Grove
in Humboldt Redwoods State Park
Penelope Smith, donor

The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolutions establishing these commemorative redwood groves in the specified units of the California State Park System.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Commission Chair Caryl Hart introduced acting Director of California State Parks Janelle Beland to present a Director's Report. Director Beland explained that as a written copy of her report had been provided to the commissioners in advance of the meeting she would be restricting her presentation to updates on a few recent items of interest.

Investigations of State Parks – Director Beland noted that four investigations of the department were currently underway. Audits of various aspects of State Parks business were being conducted by the State Controller's office, the Department of Finance Office of Audits and Evaluations, and the Bureau of State Audits. The state Attorney General's office was conducting an investigation. Director Beland explained that these investigations would look as far back as 11 to 12 years, and that they were each expected to be completed before the end of 2012. She added that she was pleased to announce that thusfar no new issues had been revealed beyond those related to the surplus funds that had been identified in July 2012.

New legislation related to State Parks – Director Beland announced that Governor Jerry Brown had recently signed into law legislation that would be beneficial to California State Parks. She explained the benefits of Assembly Bill 1478, including the bill's provision of \$10 million in matching funds to assist donors in their efforts to keep state park units open, and the inclusion of specified funding to address the department's many deferred maintenance projects. AB1478 also established selection criteria for future members of the State Park and Recreation Commission, and added two ex-officio legislative members to the existing nine Commission seats. Director Beland also described the changes of Assembly Bill 1589, which established the California State Park Stewardship Act of 2012. She stated that State Parks field staff would be working to develop enhanced revenue generating capabilities at their respective units.

Chair Hart thanked Director Beland and asked if there were any questions from commissioners.

Commissioner Elva Yanez asked Director Beland to elaborate on the criteria district staff would be using to develop the new revenue targets. Director Beland replied that Park Operations staff would be evaluating their ability to generate additional revenue though she could not comment on specific aspects of this at

this time. She added that staff would be looking at the changes that would be required to enhance revenue generating opportunities. These included taking a close look at how special events had been handled at each park unit to identify opportunities there, more efficient means of collecting parking fees, and promoting use of park passes. Director Beland also stated that an opportunity to purchase State Park annual passes would be offered on the California Resident Income Tax Return in the coming year. She explained that filers could receive an annual pass for a minimum allocation of \$195.00 from what would otherwise be their tax refund amount. The Director noted that she would be continuing to work with park superintendents on revenue generation and hoped to have initial revenue targets in place during October 2012.

There being no further comments from commissioners, Chair Caryl Hart made several remarks related to recent events at California State Parks. The Chair noted that she had been surprised and shocked to hear of the unreported funds that came to light during July 2012. She stated that she was pleased with the recently-signed legislation and the intent to recognize and assist the members of the public and city and county governments that had worked hard to keep parks open in the face of budget cuts. Chair Hart also stated that as she had served on the Commission since 2000, she recognized that the Commission's primary roles had been to provide a public forum and consider park unit general plans like the one before the Commission today. She explained that the additional responsibilities for the Commission added by AB1478 were most welcome. Chair Hart stated that she looked forward to the Commission meeting and engaging the public more frequently, while working to address the department's extensive deferred maintenance backlog, improving visitor services, promoting California State Parks, and keeping all parks open. The Chair added that while she supported the proposal that would allow taxpayers to purchase annual passes with their tax refunds she believed the \$195.00 cost was too high and that this should be addressed. Chair Hart asked if there were any other comments from commissioners.

Commissioner Paul Junger Witt stated that it was unfortunate that the events of the last several months had reflected negatively on State Parks staff. Commissioner Witt added that in his experience California State Parks staff were the most extraordinarily dedicated in the state.

Commissioner Elva Yanez asked Director Beland to explain the additional oversight for State Parks provided by the new legislation. Director Beland replied that no specific processes or programs had been developed at this time. She explained that staff would be working closely with the Natural Resources Agency Secretary to evaluate the intent of the new legislation and develop and implementation plan.

Chair Hart asked Director Beland to explain how the 37 percent reduction in general fund support mentioned in AB1589 had been determined. Director Beland replied that she would investigate this and get back to the commissioner.

Commissioner Maurice Johannessen stated that he wished to offer his opinion regarding recent events. The Commissioner explained that the unreported funds that had been made public in July were to a great extent contained in special funds that could not be used for other than their designated purposes. Commissioner Johannessen stated that he believed the audits would reveal that nothing illegal had occurred, only that some rules were not followed properly and that there were questions that had gone unasked.

Commissioner Yanez added that she wished to thank State Parks staff for their dedicated service during this difficult time. She stated that she believed the department would benefit through a shift in how parks are operated, and that it was her hope that State Parks could regain and preserve the public trust in its role to protect California's resources.

In conclusion, Chair Hart noted that no speakers had registered to comment on the preceding items. She asked if anyone wished to comment at this time. There were no comments on the Director's Report.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Hart opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 9:38 a.m. The Chair explained the public

comment process and proceeded to call twelve registered speakers. Nine speakers expressed their desire for State Parks to permit clothing optional use in designated areas at State Park System units:

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

Gary Mussell, representing Friends of Bates Beach

Don Brown

Charles Woller

Tim Mullins, representing the American Association of Nude Recreation

Tony Wilkinson

Rolf Holbach, representing the Southern California Naturist Association

Dennis Craig Smith, representing Friends of Gaviota

Ted Falencki

Three speakers commented on other subjects:

Sara Feldman, representing the California State Parks Foundation, regarding the Foundation's work with the non-profit community, donors, park supporters, and the governor's office to push for public support for State Parks, a greater role for the Commission, and the Foundation's continued support for State Parks

Laura Davick, representing the Crystal Cove Alliance cooperative association, the first State Parks cooperating association to become a concessionaire, regarding an update on the continuing success of the lodging concession at Crystal Cove State Park

Rachelle Torres, representing Defense of Place, regarding the reclassification of portions of Washoe Meadows State Park and Lake Valley State Recreation Area

Chair Hart asked Laura Davick about how long the wait was to book a reservation at Crystal Cove Cottages (laughter). Ms. Davick replied that at 8 a.m. on the first of each month everyone's chances were the same, though since the cottages began operation in 2006 they had maintained a 98.8 occupancy rate.

There being no further speakers Chair Hart closed public comment at 10:12 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:
PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Caryl Hart opened the public hearing portion of the meeting at 10:14 a.m. The Chair described the speaker registration process and requested that each speaker complete a registration form.

**ITEM 6A:
Consent Items**

Chair Hart explained that the Commission could approve consent items all at once without discussion. There being no questions or comments on these items from commissioners or the public, the Chair asked for a recommendation to approve the items by Concessions, Enterprise, and Fiscal Committee member Paul Junger Witt. Commissioner Witt moved to approve the items, the motion seconded by Commissioner Tommy Randle. The following consent items were approved unanimously by the Commission:

**ITEM 6A-I:
Concurrence on the Director's appointments of Terry Nielson and Kurt Gunther to the board of the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation**

**ITEM 6A-II:
Determination that the concessions contract for the specialty retail store (currently Cousin's Old Town Candy Shop) located at 2711 San Diego Avenue in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is compatible with the classification and approved general plan for this park unit**

ITEM 6B:

Consideration and possible action on the Department recommendation to approve the general plan and environmental impact report for Topanga State Park

ITEM 6C:

Consideration and possible action on the Department recommendation to approve the establishment of a 158-acre cultural preserve in Topanga State Park to be named Topanga Cultural Preserve

Chair Hart explained that because of their close relationship, agenda items 6B and 6C would be presented to the Commission together, though action on each item would be considered separately. She further explained that in addition to the materials they had already received, the commissioners would now hear a short presentation on these two agenda items by Steve Musillami, Chief of State Parks' Planning Division.

Mr. Musillami summarized the briefing on the Topanga State Park general plan that the commissioners had experienced in the park the previous day. He provided historical and geographic information on the park, as well as details of previous Commission actions that had taken place, which included the adoption of the 1977 general development plan which was amended in 1978. He also described the addition of the 1,659 acre Lower Topanga property in 2001. He explained how this significant addition of the Lower Topanga property along with over 25 years of park management knowledge and changes in law had prompted the creation of the new general plan the Commission would be considering today. Mr. Musillami also reviewed the cultural and natural resources of the park along with its recreational opportunities, including an overview of the park's extensive trail system. He described the public process that had resulted in the new general plan, and called attention to the large-scale maps of the park that illustrated the plan's management zones and the "preferred alternative" for Topanga State Park. Mr. Musillami explained that State Park's staff believed the plan as presented to the Commission represented a balanced approach that appropriately addressed each of the park's resources. He requested the Commission's approval of the Topanga State Park general plan and environmental impact report, as well as their approval of the proposal to establish a 158-acre cultural preserve in the park to be named Topanga Cultural Preserve.

Commission Chair Caryl Hart asked if there were any questions for Mr. Musillami before she called the speakers on this agenda item. There being no questions for Mr. Musillami, Chair Hart announced that the Commission would now hear public comment on agenda items 6B and 6C, concerning Topanga State Park. The Chair called five speakers in the order they had registered:

Rosi Dagit, representing the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, regarding the Resource Conservation District's recognition of the very great effort that State Parks had contributed to the creation of the Topanga State Park general plan

Jim Hasenauer, representing the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), regarding the accommodation of mountain bikes on State Park trails and congratulations to State Parks on the quality of the public process that resulted in an excellent general plan for Topanga State Park

Randy Young, representing the Will Rogers Cooperative Association, regarding the transparent process that resulted in the Topanga State Park general plan and his expression of thanks to State Parks, the Commission and former State Parks Director Ruth Coleman

Melanie Beck, representing the National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, regarding the National Park Service's support for the Topanga State Park general plan

Andy Leonard, representing the Reel Inn restaurant, regarding State Parks' consideration of keeping the Reel Inn restaurant in operation at Topanga State Park.

There being no further registered speakers, Chair Hart called for unregistered speakers. There being none, the Chair closed public comment on agenda items 6B and 6C at 10:44 a.m. The Chair asked staff if they had anything to add in response to the comments received. There being no additional information from staff, Chair Hart called for a motion to adopt the resolution before the Commission to approve the general

plan and environmental impact report for Topanga State Park.

Motion Commission Randle, second Commissioner Witt. Chair Hart then asked if there were any comments or discussion from commissioners. There being none, Chair Hart stated that she wished to thank general plan project manager Barney Matsumoto for his exceptional work on the general plan. The Chair added that she also wished to express her gratitude to the late Ron Shafer, who had been instrumental in the development of the Topanga State Park general plan. Chair Hart noted that the general plan had been dedicated to Superintendent Shafer.

There being a motion and second, Chair Hart called for a vote to adopt the resolution before the Commission to approve the general plan and environmental impact report for Topanga State Park. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Chair Hart then asked for a motion to adopt the resolution before the Commission to establish a 158-acre cultural preserve in Topanga State Park to be named Topanga Cultural Preserve. Motion Commissioner Yanez, second Commissioner Johannessen. The Chair asked if any of the commissioners would like to discuss this item.

Commissioner Elva Yanez noted that she had been very impressed with the general plan and the work taking place in Topanga State Park. Commissioner Yanez stated that she lived east of the park and hoped that a greater audience could be exposed to Topanga State Park, perhaps through expanded programming. She noted that she believed that the new general plan would allow the development of new synergies with this park.

There being a motion and second, Chair Hart called for a vote. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution approving the establishment of a 158-acre cultural preserve in Topanga State Park to be named Topanga Cultural Preserve.

ITEM 6C:

Consideration and possible action to rename Eastshore State Park as McLaughlin Eastshore State Park

Commission Chair Caryl Hart explained that the Commission had received a staff report on this action as well as a Concurrent Resolution from the California Assembly requesting that this renaming take place. She added that the Commission had also received a number of letters, email messages, and personal contacts requesting the renaming. There being no questions or comments from commissioners, Chair Hart opened public comment on this item at 10:50 a.m. She proceeded to call four registered speakers, all of which indicated their enthusiastic support for the proposal to rename Eastshore State Park as McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. Each of the speakers noted that they were representing themselves and the organization Citizens for East Shore Parks:

Tony Sustar
Margaret Brown
Cameron Wilson
Patricia Jones

There being no further registered or unregistered speakers, Chair Hart closed public comment on this item at 10:57 a.m. The Chair then noted that she wished the commissioners to be aware that she would be making a motion to approve this item. She then asked for comments from the commissioners.

Commissioner Paul Junger Witt stated that he believed the Commission had been vigilant in the naming of park units, always ensuring that names were well justified. Commissioner Witt added that in the case of Sylvia McLaughlin a compelling argument could be made for changing the name of this park.

Chair Hart noted that she knew Sylvia McLaughlin and considered herself a fan of Ms. McLaughlin and

the important work that she had accomplished in the Bay Area. The Chair added that she and Commissioner Witt had been members of the Commission when the park was originally named in 2002. Chair Hart explained that the reason this park had not been named for Sylvia McLaughlin at that time was because Ms. McLaughlin was not given to self-promotion. The Chair further explained that Commission policy discouraged the changing of park names and that this was not something the commissioners took lightly. She went on to explain how previous requests to change the names of parks had not been approved by the Commission. Chair Hart stated that Eastshore State Park should have been named for Sylvia McLaughlin in the first place, as this park – and much of San Francisco Bay – would not exist today without the efforts of Ms. McLaughlin.

Commissioner Tommy Randle noted that he had read the accomplishments of Ms. McLaughlin, who was now 96 years old. Commissioner Randle added that the story of her climbing a tree to save a grove of oaks at 90 years old was alone enough to secure his support for the renaming.

Commission Chair Caryl Hart noted that she believed this name change was entirely consistent with the Commission's policy on naming, and she made a motion to rename Eastshore State Park as McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tommy Randle. The commissioners voted unanimously to rename Eastshore State Park as McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, comments, or questions, Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.



Meeting of the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Garden Terrace Room - Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, California
Friday, September 28, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA of the MEETING

1. Approval of minutes of the January 27, 2012 meeting in Brentwood.
2. Chair's Report, Commissioner reports/comments, Recognitions.
3. Approval of Special Redwood Groves – as requested by Save the Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund.
4. Director's Report:
 - A. Status, discussion, and update on legislation concerning fiscal issues at California State Parks.
 - B. Discussion of commissioners' request to develop a list of topics and a schedule for public informational hearings.
5. Public Comment (on subjects other than the listed agenda items)
6. Public Hearing:
 - A. Consent Items** (*reflecting staff recommendations*)
 - I. Concurrence on the Director's appointments of Terry Nielson and Kurt Gunther to the board of the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation.
 - II. Determination that the concessions contract for the specialty retail store (currently Cousin's Old Town Candy Shop) located at 2711 San Diego Avenue in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is compatible with the classification and approved general plan for this park unit.
 - B. Consideration and possible action on the Department recommendation to approve the general plan and environmental impact report for Topanga State Park.
 - C. Consideration and possible action on the Department recommendation to approve the establishment of a 158-acre cultural preserve subunit in Topanga State Park to be named Topanga Cultural Preserve.
 - D. Consideration and possible action to rename Eastshore State Park as McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.
7. Adjourn.

Copies of this agenda and the public notice of the meeting are available on the Internet
at www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=936

** The Commission may approve consent items all at once without discussion. Any person requesting an opportunity to be heard with regard to consent items must complete a Speaker Registration Form (names are not required) prior to the announcement at the meeting of agenda item 6A, Consent Items. If such a request is made, the item(s) in question shall be pulled from the consent list for discussion and/or public comment.