

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION

Fairway Community Center, Lakeview Room
330 Fairway Drive
Tahoe City, California

Minutes of the Meeting - Friday, November 18, 2005

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Joseph Cotchett
Clint Eastwood, VICE CHAIR
Caryl Hart
Gail Kautz
Sophia Scherman
Acquanetta Warren
Paul Junger Witt

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Bobby Shriver, CHAIR
Phillip Tagami

STATE PARKS STAFF PRESENT

Ken Anderson, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST
Ruth Coleman, DIRECTOR
Louis Nastro, ASSISTANT TO THE STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Paul Romero, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Rich Rozzelle, ACTING DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, ORANGE COAST DISTRICT
Hayden Sohm, SUPERINTENDENT, SIERRA DISTRICT
Roy Stearns, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS
Kathryn Tobias, SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL
Wayne Woodroof, GENERAL PLANNING MANAGER

SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING

James Birkelund/Natural Resources Defense Council
Dan Bosshart/Self
James Brown/Foothill-Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency
Heidi Doyle/Self
Peter Eichar/Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Sara Feldman/California State Parks Foundation
Phil Fisher/Rocky Ridge Property Owner's Association
John Flynn/Foothill-Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency
Elizabeth Goldstein/California State Parks Foundation
Cindy Gustafson/Tahoe City Public Utility District
Virginia Graham/Highlands Homeowner's Association
Carol Hester/Self
Ray Lacey/California Tahoe Conservancy
Elizabeth Lambe/Sierra Club
Gaylan Larson/Self
Lynne Larson/Self

Michael LeFrancois/Self
Pam LeFrancois/Self
Kathy Long/North Tahoe Public Utility District
Richard Mallett/Villas at Lake Forest Property Owners Association
Mike McElravey/Tahoe Cross Country
Brittany McKee/Sierra Club & Friends of the Foothills
Kevin Murnane/Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area
Jay Russell/Self
Robert Schuchard/Self
Mark Spohr/Tahoe Cross Country Ski Education Association
Sabina Strauss/Self
Ron Treabess/North Lake Tahoe Resort Association
Richard Van Fossen/Self
Paul Vatisas/North Tahoe Conservation Coalition

CALL TO ORDER

Legal notice having been given, this meeting of the California State Park and Recreation Commission was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Commission Vice Chair Clint Eastwood. Vice Chair Eastwood introduced the commissioners and State Parks staff who were present and announced the first agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 1:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2005 MEETING IN SAN JOSE

Vice Chair Eastwood asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the September 23rd, 2005 meeting in San Jose. Motion Commissioner Kautz, second Commissioner Scherman. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

Note: The Vice Chair changed the order of agenda items 2-4 from the originally-published agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 2:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Eastwood introduced State Parks Director Ruth Coleman to present her report.

Director Coleman noted that the commissioners had already received a printed copy of the Director's Report, and that she would be drawing their attention to a few of the items.

The Director noted that a copy of the Commission's Annual Report to the Governor was also included in the materials the commissioners had before them. Director Coleman noted that several new photographs had been added to the report at the suggestion of Commissioner Cotchett. She also asked the commissioners to please consider their photographs as included in the Annual Report, and to advise staff if they would like to use a different photograph. The Director then provided an update on several new items that had become available since the publication of the printed Director's Report:

Angel Island Immigration Bill – Director Coleman announced that a bill authorizing \$15 million to assist with the restoration of the immigration station at Angel Island State Park had been recently passed by the U.S. House and Senate. She added that as an authorization bill, appropriation was still yet to come.

Take a Hike Program – Director Coleman noted that the California Recreation Policy recently approved by the Commission included among its principles *Recreation's Role in a Healthier California* and *Leadership in Recreation Management*. The Director stated that in support of these concepts California State Parks had recently launched a program called "Take a Hike" in downtown Sacramento. Director Coleman shared the first of many planned Take a Hike brochures designed to encourage workers to take walks. The brochures provide maps with routes and distances, and this first brochure was available to Sacra-

mento workers through large, eight-foot-tall displays in the lobbies of downtown office buildings. As an added feature, the California Department of Health Services is working in partnership with State Parks to compute the number of steps for each hike for those committed to completing 10,000 steps a day. Director Coleman explained that the downtown Sacramento Take a Hike program was just the first of many such programs, and that State Parks planned to add a new state park unit to the program each month.

A brief discussion took place during which commissioners made comments about the Take a Hike program and the availability of Take a Hike materials. Director Coleman explained that Take a Hike brochures were currently offered in the eight-foot-tall, colorful standees at the Resources Agency, Department of Health Services, and Cal-EPA buildings, and on the Internet at www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=23997, with the hope that other state departments would participate in the program as well. Commissioner Caryl Hart suggested that the Take a Hike brochures should also encourage the use of public transportation, especially for the routes in urban areas, by providing information on the public transit options that would be available to those traveling to each Take a Hike site.

Director Coleman concluded her Take a Hike presentation by noting that it was her desire that the initial urban program in downtown Sacramento would inspire similar programs in other cities.

Commissioner Joseph Cotchett addressed Director Coleman concerning the Commission’s Annual Report to the Governor, noting that the report should include additional photographs to better demonstrate the diversity of California’s population. Commissioner Cotchett also suggested that the report should include in its introduction statistics on the immense scope, number of users, and overall value of the 278-unit California State Park System. Director Coleman responded that such statistics were readily available through a series of State Parks publications called “Quick Facts,” and that these statistics could be incorporated into the Annual Report to the Governor.

AGENDA ITEM 3:

CHAIR’S REPORT - RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS

Vice Chair Eastwood asked Commissioner Sophia Scherman to read the names of staff members who had recently retired from California State Parks. Commissioner Scherman noted that these individuals represented a total of 249 years and 9 months of dedicated service to California State Parks:

- Elizabeth Carhart, North Coast Redwoods District 9 years, 11 months
- George Gray, Santa Cruz District 30 years, 9 months
- John Guelke, Jr., Colorado Desert District 27 years, 2 months
- Franklin Holik, Mendocino District 23 years, 4 months
- Robert Kane, Acquisition & Development Division 9 years, 10 months
- Marilyn Lortie, Office of Historic Preservation 24 years, 6 months
- John Neef, North Coast Redwoods District 33 years, 8 months
- Michael O’Connell, Sierra District 21 years, 3 months
- Paul Remeika, Colorado Desert District 29 years, 10 months
- Craig Wood, Office of Information Technology 28 years, 8 months
- Roy Woodward, Natural Resources Division 10 years, 10 months

Commissioner Scherman and Vice Chair Eastwood thanked these individuals for their time and dedication to California State Parks.

AGENDA ITEM 4:

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL REDWOOD GROVES

Vice Chair Eastwood asked Commissioner Acquanetta Warren to read the special redwood grove propos-

als requested by Save-the-Redwoods League. Commissioner Warren read the following:

The Jones and Kelly Family Memorial Grove in Navarro River Redwoods State Park
Stephen Jones and Nancy Dawson, donors

Les and Nancy Whatley Family Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park
L.H. and Nancy N. Whatley, donors

Commissioner Kautz moved that the Commission adopt the resolutions establishing these groves. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scherman. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolutions establishing these special redwood groves.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:
PUBLIC HEARING**

Vice Chair Eastwood opened the public hearing portion of the meeting at 9:18 a.m. The Vice Chair explained that each speaker wishing to address the Commission would be limited to three minutes, and he asked those who wished to speak to please complete a speaker registration form.

**ITEM 5A:
Consideration and action on the Department of Parks and Recreation's
recommendation for approval of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental
Impact Report for Burton Creek State Park**

State Parks Director Ruth Coleman introduced General Planning Manager Wayne Woodroof to make a brief presentation on the Preliminary General Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Report for Burton Creek State Park.

Mr. Woodroof explained that there were two action items before the Commission concerning Burton Creek State Park, this, the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report, and a separate item (Agenda Item 5B), a minor change in the boundary of the existing Burton Creek Natural Preserve.

Mr. Woodroof conducted a short presentation on the Burton Creek State Park General Plan. He made several references to the Commission's briefing on the plan that had been conducted in the park on the previous day. The presentation included information on the increasing statewide demand for campsites, particularly in the Tahoe basin as identified by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) report of 1986. Mr. Woodroof explained that the need for campsites had also been recognized by the Tahoe Conservancy, and he emphasized the opportunity to fulfill this need that existed at Burton Creek State Park.

Mr. Woodroof called the commissioners' attention to approximately 45 recently-received email messages protesting the development of a campground at Burton Creek State Park, many of which had been received the morning of the meeting. Mr. Woodroof explained that the objections in the messages focused on the possible impacts to traffic that would be caused by a campground, potential environmental quality issues, the possibility of increased potential for crime, increased fire risk, and concerns about the public noticing of meetings related to development in the park. Mr. Woodroof addressed each of these concerns in turn.

Regarding the traffic and the California Environmental Quality Act concerns, Mr. Woodroof stated that State Parks acknowledged that a campground at Burton Creek State Park would generate additional traffic. He further noted that local traffic during peak season had been identified by the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) as "Service Level F," a heavy traffic category. Mr. Woodroof stated that State Parks would be working with Cal Trans to design entrance and exits to the campground that would minimize traffic, and that the campground would only slightly increase traffic in the area. Proposed trails to nearby communities and the possibility of establishing shuttle services would also help limit the

impacts of increased traffic. Mr. Woodroof explained that State Parks was recommending that the Commission adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations to acknowledge that State Parks would take actions to limit impacts but that some impacts related to traffic could not be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Regarding the possibility of increased fire danger, Mr. Woodroof referred to the fire hazard and vegetation management projects the Commission had witnessed during the previous day's briefing, emphasizing that these programs had been in place for some time and would continue, particularly in the vicinity of the Rocky Ridge development and neighboring residential areas.

Mr. Woodroof addressed concerns related to the number of campsites in the proposed campground, noting that State Parks was obligated to address an established need for an additional 20,000 campsites in California by the year 2020. He also explained that to be fiscally viable the campground must include a minimum number of campsites to justify the required infrastructure, roads, restrooms, etc., and he added that the campground would likely be developed incrementally to eventually offer a variety of camping options, with an total of no more than 200 campsites. Mr. Woodroof added that a walk-in campground, as suggested in several of the comment letters, would not fulfill State Parks' responsibility to provide accessible campsites to citizens with disabilities.

Regarding the concerns related to the public noticing of activities related to the park, Mr. Woodroof called the commissioners' attention to a document that had been provided to them that listed the various efforts that had been made to make citizens aware of the General Plan for Burton Creek State Park, including 19 articles that appeared in local publications and the notices for four public meetings that had been conducted in the area. Mr. Woodroof noted that many of the park's neighbors were not full-time residents of the area, which created some challenges with regard to making everyone aware of local activities.

Mr. Woodroof noted that approval of a General Plan for Burton Creek State Park would be required to allow the transfer of ownership of the parcel known as the Dollar Property to State Parks from the Tahoe Conservancy.

Mr. Woodroof concluded that State Parks would continue to work with the local government, citizens, and other agencies to design and manage access and recreational opportunities in the Tahoe Basin, and noted that the Commission's approval of the Burton Creek State Park General Plan would provide additional opportunities for the people of California to enjoy this valuable resource.

Vice Chair Eastwood asked if there were any questions from the commissioners for Mr. Woodroof. There being none, the Vice Chair called the public speakers in the order they had registered to speak. The Vice Chair noted that some speakers had requested that they be allowed more than three minutes to address the Commission; Vice Chair Eastwood requested that these speakers condense their comments as much as possible to ensure that everyone who wished to do so would have time to speak.

The Vice Chair then called 23 speakers in the order they had registered. There being no unregistered speakers, Vice Chair Eastwood closed public comment on this agenda item and asked for questions or comments from the commissioners.

Commissioner Sophia Scherman stated that she had noticed during the previous day's briefing that members of the public appeared to have misunderstood the function of a park general plan. The commissioner explained that the general plan was a vital component in park management, but that it represented only the first step in the development process. The commissioner stated that she found some of the comments from today's speakers to be prejudicial, in that by requesting limited development in the park they were essentially asking that the park be kept solely for their own enjoyment. The commissioner noted that California State Parks and the Commission were responsible for providing access to state parks for all citizens, not just a few. The commissioner stated that campgrounds provided an opportunity for lower-income families to enjoy parks first-hand, and that while the general plan was a blueprint for future development, many of the concerns that had been expressed by speakers today would not be addressed for many years.

Commissioner Paul Witt stated that while he understood that all Californians were greatly concerned about fire danger, he believed that state parks served as a deterrent to this fire rather than an increased risk. The Commissioner cited professional fire management practices, educational programs, seasonal restrictions, and ranger patrols that took place in state parks as contributing to a significantly reduced risk of fire.

Commissioner Gail Kautz stated that she agreed with Commissioner Witt's comments regarding fire risk. The Commissioner stated that fire risk was much greater in large, unmanaged parcels than it was in park properties. Commissioner Kautz also noted that while she understood the concerns expressed by the park's residential neighbors, the park in question encompassed 2,000 acres and any campground development would undoubtedly allow for a buffer zone between the campground and residents. The Commissioner commended State Parks on the management of the campgrounds she had visited, and noted that while a campground would generate additional cars and traffic she believed State Parks would develop a project that was well planned and properly managed.

Commissioner Caryl Hart expressed her agreement with the comments made by the other commissioners. Commissioner Hart noted that she was a part-time resident of the North Lake Tahoe area, and that she had first-hand experience with the local traffic. The commissioner stated that while she was sympathetic to concerns about traffic, she believed it was more important to allow an opportunity for citizens throughout the state to experience the treasure that those who were lucky enough to live in the area experience every day, and to experience it without having to make a major investment. Commissioner Hart also explained that the specific number of campsites to be developed would be addressed in a later development plan, and that it was her hope that a campground could be developed in Burton Creek State Park in the very near future. The Commissioner noted that the number of campsites available at any one time could be limited to control traffic impacts via State Parks' reservation system, and that she believed opportunities existed to develop shuttles, ferries, and other alternatives to driving in to the campground. Commissioner Hart added that she believed concerns about bears in the park could be managed through educational programs, and that local residents should be equally concerned about the development of further residential housing in the area as they are about the development of campsites, and that the two should be balanced. Commissioner Hart also noted that she believed State Parks should investigate the current arrangement that allowed water to be diverted from Anton Meadows at Burton Creek State Park to the nearby golf course, and attempt to find alternatives for irrigating the golf course so that the water that is now diverted could be restored to Burton Creek. In conclusion, Commissioner Hart stated that the proposed campground at Burton Creek State Park offered a rare opportunity for Lake Tahoe and the people of California, and she thanked the Tahoe Conservancy for making the generous offer to add 940 acres to the park.

Commissioner Acquanetta Warren expressed her appreciation to all those who had commented on the general plan. Commissioner Warren stated that she had recently returned from a visit to China, where she witnessed local tourism being highly encouraged. The Commissioner noted that in the U.S. this is often not the case, and that instead local tourism is not developed and as a result opportunities for children to grow up appreciating the country's great natural resources was limited. Commissioner Warren explained that this was her first visit to the Lake Tahoe area, and that she found it to be quite beautiful and felt strongly that it should be shared with all Californians. The Commissioner added that she had seen that State Parks was sensitive to local concerns, and that she was confident every effort would be made to minimize the impact of park development on local residents.

In response to the speakers who suggested that a walk-in campground should be developed, Vice Chair Clint Eastwood noted that while the proposed campground site was quite beautiful it could not be easily accessed by those who were physically unable to walk-in. The Vice Chair suggested that the campground should include some drive-in sites, and he added that he believed the Commission and State Parks agreed that the objective was to make the park available to anyone who may wish to visit there.

Commissioner Joseph Cotchett stated that he agreed with Commissioner Sophia Scherman in her expression of the importance of sharing the treasured resources at Lake Tahoe with others. The commissioner

noted that when he first joined the State Park and Recreation Commission in 2000 there were at times only six or seven citizens in attendance at Commission meetings, but that this situation had changed in that when the Commission conducted a special meeting in San Clemente on November 3rd, 2005, between 700 and one thousand people attended. Commissioner Cotchett explained that he made this statement to underscore his appreciation to those who attended today's meeting, and to emphasize the importance of public participation in the political process. The Commissioner also expressed his concern that a bill had been recently introduced in the U.S. Congress to sell portions of federal parklands. The Commissioner stated his belief that it was vitally important for citizens to contact their legislative representatives and become involved in the issues that concerned them. Commissioner Cotchett commended State Parks staff and those who had involved themselves in today's meeting.

There being no further discussion or comments, Vice Chair Eastwood asked for a motion to adopt the resolution approving State Parks' recommendation for approval of the Preliminary General Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Report for Burton Creek State Park. Motion Commissioner Scherman, second Commissioner Hart. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to approve the Preliminary General Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Report for Burton Creek State Park.

ITEM 5B:

Consideration and action on the Department's proposal to adjust the southeast boundary of Burton Creek Natural Preserve, resulting in a reduction of the overall size of the natural preserve by 16 acres outside the riparian forest, to provide a safe, economical, and environmentally preferable access route into the park

Vice Chair Eastwood asked General Planning Manager Wayne Woodroof to introduce this agenda item.

Mr. Woodroof explained that a realignment of the existing Natural Preserve boundary was necessary to accommodate the development of a proposed entrance into Burton Creek State Park. Mr. Woodroof called the commissioners' attention to their visit to this site during the previous day's briefing, and he added that the realignment would allow the entrance to be located away from the Rocky Ridge residential area.

Vice Chair Eastwood asked if there were any questions or comments from the commissioners on this agenda item. There being none, the Vice Chair asked if there were any public comments on this item.

One unidentified speaker noted that he supported with the proposed realignment.

The Vice Chair recognized another unregistered speaker who identified herself as Joanne Russell. Ms. Russell noted that the agenda item described the realignment as the "main access road" to the park. The speaker asked if there were to be other access roads to the park.

Ken Anderson, Senior Environmental Scientist with State Parks' Sierra District, responded. Mr. Anderson stated that he believed Ms. Russell's concern was related to an earlier proposal to consider alternate routes into Burton Creek State Park. Kathryn Tobias, State Parks Senior Staff Counsel, noted that the word "main," though included in the agenda item's description, was not part of the proposed Commission Resolution for action on the realignment. The commissioners agreed that the realignment of the road was not described in the proposed resolution as the "main entrance road" to the park.

There being no further comments or discussion, Vice Chair Eastwood asked for a motion to adopt State Parks' recommendation for approval of the resolution to adjust the southeast boundary of Burton Creek Natural Preserve, resulting in a reduction of the overall size of the natural preserve by 16 acres outside the riparian forest, to provide a safe, economical, and environmentally preferable access route into the park. Motion Commissioner Cotchett, second Commissioner Scherman. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Commissioner Cotchett addressed the Vice Chair, asking if the Commission could take a short break. Vice Chair Eastwood adjourned the meeting for a break at 10:48 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 5C:

Consideration and action on a proposed Commission resolution pertaining to the proposed alignment of the Foothill-South Toll Road (South Orange County Transportation Infrastructure Improvement Project) through San Onofre State Beach

Vice Chair Eastwood reconvened the meeting at 11:06 a.m. The Vice Chair stated that he wished to hear public comment on this agenda item before hearing from staff or commissioners. The Vice Chair recognized seven registered speakers on this item, each of which spoke passionately about their position on the proposed Foothill-South toll road. After asking if there were any unregistered speakers on this agenda item (there were none) the Chair recognized Commissioner Acquafredda Warren.

Commissioner Warren addressed the representatives of the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) who were present, noting that it had been stated that TCA had been studying the road alignment in question for 25 years. The Commissioner asked if TCA had had conversations with State Parks during those 25 years.

James Brown, Chief Engineer for the Transportation Corridor Agencies, responded. Mr. Brown stated that over the years conversations had taken place, some as recent as June 2005. Mr. Brown added that TCA had been attempting to engage State Parks in meaningful discussions throughout this period, but that State Parks had not met with TCA since June of 2005.

Commissioner Warren then asked Mr. Brown to give his opinion regarding the water filters on the existing Highway 73 toll road, of which claims had been made that the filters were defective and had been causing environmental problems.

Mr. Brown replied that no evidence existed that the filters had caused pollution. He noted that the filters had been discussed with the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans), and that the filters represented the state-of-the-art as installed. Mr. Brown stated that Cal Trans had been responsible for maintaining the filters but had not adequately done so, the result being that Cal Trans had chosen to substitute for those filters other Best Management Practices that Cal Trans believed could be better maintained.

Mr. Brown reiterated that there was no evidence that the filters in question had not been performing as designed. He stated that some of the filters had been clogged with weeds or silt, but that this had not resulted in pollution that had reached California waterways. Mr. Brown concluded that the Highway 73 toll road was the only facility in California he was aware of that collected all runoff from its 15 miles of transportation corridor, and that this same concept would be employed on the proposed Foothill-South project.

Commissioner Warren thanked Mr. Brown for his comments.

Vice Chair Eastwood asked Commissioner Paul Witt to read the proposed draft resolution concerning the Foothill-South Toll Road. Commissioner Witt read as follows:

WHEREAS, lands of California's State Park System are designated for their protection and preservation on behalf of this and future generations and should not be used in a manner inconsistent with state park purposes; and

WHEREAS, California State Parks provide a significant economic benefit to the people of California, attracting millions of visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, San Onofre State Beach is located on property leased for fifty years from the United States of America and was established in 1971 by Executive Order of President Nixon and at the urging of Governor Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, San Onofre State Beach is one of the five most-visited of California's 278 state parks and provides valuable and rare upland and wetland habitats (including unique habitat for eleven protected species listed as threatened or endangered under federal laws), wilderness, coastal

beaches, affordable camping, nationally recognized historic and archeological sites; and

WHEREAS, the Foothill/ Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (Foothill Toll Road Agency) has proposed construction of a multi-lane toll road of over four miles in length through the heart of the nearly 1,200 acre inland Cristianitos Subunit portion of San Onofre State Beach; and

WHEREAS, the loss of over 320 acres or 27% of this portion of San Onofre State Beach for a toll road right-of-way would result in the park's fragmentation, adversely affecting the remaining acreage in the park, including the potential for additional recreational opportunities, such as hiking, equestrian use and camping; and

WHEREAS, all the sites in the popular year-round San Mateo Campground are reserved six months in advance and receive more overnight use than any other of San Onofre State Beach's two campgrounds and would be severely impacted by the noise, vibration, and visual intrusion of a major roadway if it were built; and

WHEREAS, San Onofre State Beach includes Trestles Beach, the only surfing World Championship Tour stop in the continental United States, so chosen because of the unique conditions that exist in the undeveloped San Mateo Creek watershed, conditions that provide the natural processes of erosion and sediment flows through the creek to the ocean, creating a clean, unique beach and surf, processes that would be altered and blocked by a multi-lane toll road through the watershed;

WHEREAS, critical protection provided by section 4(f) of the Federal Transportation Act of 1966 designed to protect and preserve public park and recreation lands has, by language contained in a year 2000 appropriations bill, been waived; and

WHEREAS, viable alternative routes and traffic improvements exist which do not depend upon San Onofre State Beach including, but not limited to, the Interstate-5 corridor; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2005 the California State Park and Recreation Commission meeting in the City of San Clemente and in a hearing held before a crowd exceeding 1,000, took public testimony which was overwhelmingly in opposition to the use of San Onofre State Beach as a toll road route;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the record of the hearing of the California State Park and Recreation Commission for the meetings of November 3 and 18, 2005 be transmitted to the Transportation Corridor Agencies for their records; and be it

RESOLVED that the Transportation Corridor Agencies reconsider and abandon a toll road route through San Onofre State Beach; and be it

RESOLVED that the California Department of Transportation be requested to review, investigate and report on alternatives to a toll road route through San Onofre State Beach including, but not limited to, Interstate-5 improvements; and be it

RESOLVED that the Commission requests that the State of California and its agencies take all appropriate and necessary actions within their power to protect the natural, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources of San Onofre State Beach; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission respectfully requests that the Governor, in concert with the Attorney General's office, oppose any major transportation arterial through San Onofre State Beach using all appropriate methods, including litigation if necessary, to defend this valuable and irreplaceable public resource.

Vice Chair Eastwood thanked Commissioner Witt and asked for comments from the commissioners.

Commissioner Gail Kautz noted that it was difficult for her to believe that there was no alternative to the proposed road through the park.

Commissioner Sophia Scherman stated that she supported the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Caryl Hart stated that she agreed with the comments of speaker Sara Feldman, who noted that if the toll road project was not opposed at this time, it would set a precedent that could threaten parks throughout California. Commissioner Hart added that she was strongly in favor of the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Acquanetta Warren stated that as a resident of the Inland Empire she was sensitive to the need to provide traffic relief in Orange County, but that she was not convinced that there was no alternative to the proposed project. The Commissioner added that she was particularly concerned about the TCA's need to approach the federal government for an exemption to the protections provided by Section 4(f) of the Federal Transportation Act of 1966. Commissioner Warren concluded that she supported the other commissioners in adopting the proposed resolution, but that she would like to see alternatives developed to alleviate traffic congestion in southern Orange County.

Commissioner Joseph Cotchett stated that he concurred with the other commissioners and wished to echo Commissioner Gail Kautz' statement that an alternative to the proposed road must exist.

Vice Chair Eastwood stated that he was very familiar with the area around San Clemente as he had been visiting there since the early 1950s. The Vice Chair stated that he wondered just how much effort had gone into exploring options to building the highway through the park. Vice Chair Eastwood then asked if a commissioner would like to make a motion to adopt the resolution before the Commission pertaining to the proposed alignment of the Foothill-South Toll Road through San Onofre State Beach.

Motion Commissioner Cotchett, second Commissioner Hart. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution *Opposing a Proposed Tollroad Alignment and Request for Action to Protect San Onofre State Beach*.

ITEM 5D:

Consideration of the draft Annual Report to the Governor for approval by the Commission

State Parks Director Ruth Coleman introduced this agenda item. Director Coleman noted that Commissioner Cotchett had provided several suggested changes to the draft report, and that Commission Chair Bobby Shriver had also suggested changes related to the appearance of the document. The Director noted that these changes would be incorporated into the report, but that they would not significantly alter the draft report the commissioners had reviewed. The Director also encouraged the commissioners to submit new photos to replace their out-of-date photos that appeared in the current draft report.

Commissioner Cotchett addressed the Chair, noting that he had reviewed the report with Director Coleman and others. The Commissioner then asked Director Coleman to have the report completed as soon as possible, and suggested it should be transmitted to every member of the state legislature. Commissioner Cotchett noted that he believed this report to be a particularly important document, as it conveyed the significance of state parks and their value to Californians during this time of limited resources.

Vice Chair Eastwood asked if there were any other comments from commissioners, staff, or members of the public on this item. There being none, the Vice Chair asked for a motion to approve the Commission's draft Annual Report to the Governor. Motion Commissioner Witt, second Commissioner Kautz. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Commission's draft Annual Report to the Governor.

ITEM 5E:

Consideration and action to determine if the Department's concession proposal for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the historic-style café and catering services at the California State Railroad Museum is consistent with Commission policy

Commissioner Caryl Hart made a motion that the Commission adopt the resolution approving this item.

Second Commissioner Warren. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution confirming that the Department's concession proposal for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the historic-style café and catering services at the California State Railroad Museum was consistent with Commission policy.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:
OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Eastwood asked if there were any speakers for Open Public Comment. There being none, the Vice Chair closed this agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:
CLOSED SESSION**

At 11:43 a.m. Vice Chair Eastwood asked that the room be cleared so the Commission could conduct a closed session to be briefed on litigation pertinent to Burton Creek State Park (Government Code sections 11126(e)(1), 11126(e)(2)(C)(i)).

**AGENDA ITEM 8:
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Eastwood adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

ATTEST: These minutes were approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on March 3, 2006, at its duly-noticed public meeting in Chico, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY _____ Date: 3-3-06

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Ruth Coleman, Director
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Secretary to the Commission