

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, California Building/Atrium
570 West Avenue 26
Los Angeles, California

Minutes of the Meeting - Friday, June 10, 2005

ALPHABETICAL LISTINGS

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clint Eastwood, VICE CHAIR
Caryl Hart
Gail Kautz
Sophia Scherman
Bobby Shriver, CHAIR
Phillip Tagami
Acquanetta Warren
Paul Junger Witt

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Joseph Cotchett

STATE PARKS STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Coleman, DIRECTOR
Ted Jackson, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK OPERATIONS
Dianna Martinez, PROJECT MANAGER, CORNFIELD AND TAYLOR YARD GENERAL PLANS
Louis Nastro, ASSISTANT TO THE STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Tony Perez, SOUTHERN DIVISION CHIEF
Paul Romero, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Ron Schafer, SUPERINTENDENT, ANGELES DISTRICT
Roy Stearns, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS
Kathryn Tobias, SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL
Wayne Woodroof, GENERAL PLANNING MANAGER

SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING

Mary Benson/LA Trails Project
James Birkland/Natural Resources Defense Council
Alicia Brown/Solano Canyon Committee, Cornfield Advisory Committee
Lynn Brown/Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral #38
David Brunk/Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, Mt. Washington Association, Friends of Cypress Park,
Coalition for a State Park at Taylor Yard
Susan Di Rende/Self
Joyce Dillard/Self
Sara Feldman/California State Parks Foundation
Risa Freeman/Self
Astrid Garcia/Congressman Xavier Becerra
Robert Garcia/Center for Law in the Public Interest
Edgar Garcia/Latino Urban Forum
Ruth Gerson/California Equestrian Trails & Lands Coalition
Jackie Goldberg/Assembly District 45

SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING - CONTINUED

Tim Grabel/Natural Resources Defense Council
Russ Guiney/Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation
Marcus Gutierrez/Self
Christopher Hicks/Anahuak Youth Soccer Association
Gerald Everett Jones/Self
Christopher Kroll/California Coastal Conservancy
Irma Munoz/Mujeres de la Tierra
Darrell Readmond/Equestrian Trails, Inc.
Guillermo Reyes, Jr./Friends of Cypress Park Improvement Association
Mary Rodden/Self
Jill Sourial/Councilmember Ed Reyes
Alexia Terran/Coalition for Taylor Yard
Georgia Umano Jones/Unleash the Beach
Fabian Wagmister/Remapping LA-UCLA
Betty Winholtz/Self
Melanie Winter/The River Project

CALL TO ORDER

Legal notice having been given, this meeting of the California State Park and Recreation Commission was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Commission Chair Bobby Shriver. Chair Shriver introduced the commissioners present, noting that Commissioner Acquanetta Warren had been delayed and would be arriving shortly.

AGENDA ITEM 1:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2005 MEETING IN SACRAMENTO

Chair Shriver asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the April 8, 2005 meeting in Sacramento. Motion Commissioner Kautz, second Commissioner Scherman. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

AGENDA ITEM 2:

CHAIR’S REPORT - RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS

Chair Shriver asked Commissioner Gail Kautz to read the names of staff members who had recently retired from California State Parks:

Deborah Hollis, Personnel 19 years, 6 months
Cynthia Larkin, Grants & Local Services 24 years, 5 months
Diana Newington, Central Valley District 26 years
Randal Trefry, Gold Fields District 30 years, 8 months
Lucille Valentine, Personnel 23 years, 3 months
Steven Wagy, Training Office 34 years, 5 months
Michael Williams, Sierra District 29 years, 2 months

AGENDA ITEM 3:

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL REDWOOD GROVES

Chair Shriver asked Commissioner Sophia Scherman to read the special redwood grove proposals requested by Save-the-Redwoods League:

Mary Cole Titus and Leo Marting Grove in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Estate of Helen Titus, donor

**AGENDA ITEM 3:
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL REDWOOD GROVES - CONTINUED**

Max and Margaret Lichenheim Grove in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Estate of Margaret Lichenheim, donor

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

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

Chair Shriver introduced State Parks Director Ruth Coleman to present her Director's Report. In addition to the written Director's Report that was provided to the Commission, Director Coleman addressed the following in her oral report:

- New Branding and Advertising Campaign – California State Parks launched a new branding and public service campaign on May 26th. The campaign was developed at no cost to taxpayers, being entirely the result of a unique public/private partnership between California State Parks and the California State Parks Foundation. Titled “The Adventure Series,” the campaign is designed to raise awareness of the State Park System and educate the public about the system’s diverse offerings. The campaign features the theme “Discover the many states of California.” Commissioner Sophia Scherman attended the official launch of the campaign in Sacramento.
- Pigeon Point Lighthouse – On May 25th U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton presided over a ceremony to officially transfer ownership of the historic, 134-year-old Pigeon Point Lighthouse from the United States Coast Guard to California State Parks. Commissioner Gail Kautz attended the ceremony.
- California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism – The Roundtable’s 2005 symposium, titled “Connecting Californians to the Outdoors” took place on May 25th and 26th in Los Angeles. Commissioner Caryl Hart attended many of the symposium sessions and also presented an overview of the draft California Recreation Policy. Commissioner Hart added to the Director’s comments that she was particularly impressed with the quality of the symposium and the fact that the attendees represented exceptionally diverse backgrounds. Commissioner Hart emphasized that the symposium attendees were particularly interested in connecting the changing population of California to the resources available in state, regional, and local parks. Commissioner Hart stated that this was a subject of great importance to anyone interested in protecting natural and cultural resources, and she expressed her desire to see State Parks develop a larger, national conference on this subject to reach an even more diverse audience.
- California Service Corps Overview, “Who are we and what we do” – Director Coleman introduced Marie Moretti, Executive Director of the California Service Corps, who made a short presentation describing the California Service Corps’ role as the state’s lead agency for promoting service and volunteerism. Ms. Moretti described the California Service Corps’ various programs and activities, including the organization’s relationship to the national AmeriCorps program. Chair Shriver noted that the AmeriCorps program was actually founded as VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) by his father, Robert Sargent Shriver II.

Chair Shriver welcomed Commissioner Acquanetta Warren who joined the commissioners on the dais.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:
PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Shriver opened the public hearing portion of the meeting at 9:25 a.m. The Chair asked those who wished to address the Commission to please complete a speaker registration form. He also explained that

elected officials and their representatives would be invited to speak first, and that time limits would be imposed on all speakers.

Chair Shriver also explained, with the assistance of General Planning Manager Wayne Woodroof, that public comments on both the classification/naming and the preliminary general plan proposals for the Cornfield and Taylor Yard properties would be heard together, after which the Commission would take separate actions for each proposal.

ITEM 5A:

Consideration and action on the Department's proposal to name and classify the Cornfield property as Los Angeles State Historic Park

Chair Shriver recognized State Parks Angeles District Superintendent Ron Schafer, who made a brief presentation on the need for and evolution of the park at the Cornfield site. The Chair then called the public speakers on this agenda item. Chair Shriver closed public comment on items 5A & 5B at 10:13 a.m.

Following the close of public comment, Commissioner Tagami made a motion that the unit name be Zanja Madre rather than the proposed Los Angeles State Historic Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scherman. A discussion ensued during which Commissioner Tagami, Commissioner Hart, State Parks staff, and members of the assembled public discussed the appropriateness of the name Zanja Madre ("Mother Ditch" or "Mother Trench" after the nearby historic aqueduct), and whether or not the Zanja Madre actually passed through the park property. Chair Shriver then asked Director Coleman to comment on the proposed name and what consideration had been given to the name Zanja Madre.

Director Coleman explained that the proposals for this property had been handled differently from those for other state historic parks, in that a state historic park usually interprets a particular time period, for example 1835 to 1865, the goal being to take the park visitor back to that particular moment in time. Everything else pertaining to the park, including the name, then relates to that interpretive period. Director Coleman noted that the rich history of the Cornfield site would not be well-served by selecting a single interpretive period, in that the property's historically significant period could date from as long as 10,000 years ago – pre-Zanja Madre – right up to the recent struggle to establish this urban park in Los Angeles.

Director Coleman concluded that since the many public meetings that were conducted failed to produce a consensus regarding any one name for this property, State Parks was proposing a name that would be easy for new park users to identify that did not focus on any one time period or people. Director Coleman asked General Planning Manager Wayne Woodroof to elaborate.

Commissioner Tagami stated that he did not wish to imply that there was anything inappropriate about the State Parks-proposed name, but that he merely preferred the name put forward in his motion.

General Planning Manager Wayne Woodroof noted that there had been a considerable amount of public input on the subject of a name for this property. Mr. Woodroof referenced comments from Dr. Munson Kwok of the Museum of Chinese American History in Los Angeles and Dr. Leonard Pitt of California State University Northridge, noting in particular Dr. Pitt's declaration that the name "Los Angeles State Historic Park" was superior to any other suggested names in that it established "...a broad flow of history as the thematic structure for a new Los Angeles State Park instead of focusing on a single decade or so." Mr. Woodroof clarified that the Cornfield Advisory Committee and State Parks staff concluded that the name "Zanja Madre" focused too much on a particular era when the desire was for this park to celebrate the site's cultural history and diversity.

Commissioners Kautz, Scherman, and Eastwood expressed their support for the name Los Angeles State Historic Park. Commissioner Tagami withdrew his motion proposing an alternate name.

Commissioner Hart asked staff if the plans for the park included a viewing area for the exposed portions of the Zanja Madre. General Planning Manager Wayne Woodroof replied that State Parks was working with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority and community members to incorporate a viewing

platform into the proposals of the property's Interim Public Use Plan.

Chair Shriver then asked for a motion to adopt State Parks' proposal to name and classify the Cornfield property as Los Angeles State Historic Park. Motion Commissioner Witt, second Commissioner Warren. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to name and classify the Cornfield property as Los Angeles State Historic Park.

ITEM 5B:

Consideration and action on the Department's proposal for approval of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Cornfield property (now Los Angeles State Historic Park)

Having heard public comment on this item in conjunction with Item 5A, Chair Shriver asked for a motion to adopt State Parks' proposal to approve the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Cornfield property (now Los Angeles State Historic Park). Motion Commissioner Tagami, second Commissioner Scherman. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution approving the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Cornfield property (now Los Angeles State Historic Park).

ITEM 5C:

Recognition of the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee

Chair Shriver introduced George Marianas from Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg's office. Mr. Marianas explained that certificates of recognition would be presented to members of the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee and the Commission for their roles in establishing this new park. Chair Shriver noted that given the number of recognitions and the number of individuals to be recognised, the individual resolutions would not be read aloud. Certificates were also presented jointly by representatives of Senator Jack Scott and Assemblymember Goldberg, and of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. A resolution was presented by a representative of Los Angeles City Councilman Ed Reyes.

Chair Shriver noted that the members of the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee that were present would also be assembling for a group photograph with the State Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Marianas distributed the certificates/resolutions as the recipients proceeded outside for the photograph.

Chair Shriver commented that the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee had participated in over 19 separate meetings and workshops, and had assisted stakeholders and California State Parks in developing the proposals that were adopted this day. The Chair also noted that the Commission would be presenting its own resolution formally recognizing the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee at a later date.

From 10:37-10:44 a.m. there was a break in the proceedings while the group stepped into the courtyard to be photographed.

ITEM 5D:

Consideration and action on the Department's proposal to name and classify the Taylor Yard property as a state recreation area named Rio de Los Angeles State Park

Chair Shriver introduced General Planning Manager Wayne Woodroof and Angeles District Superintendent Ron Schafer to provide a staff report on the proposals for the Taylor Yard property, both the classification & naming and the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report. The Chair reminded those present that public comment on both the classification and naming and the general plan proposals would be heard at the same time. The Chair then called the speakers on these agenda items.

Chair Shriver closed public comment on items 5D & 5E at 11:15 a.m. He then opened the item for discussion. Commissioner Tagami stated that he supported adoption of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR, and the proposed name and classification, but he would be also open to discussing alternative names.

Commissioner Hart moved that the Commission adopt the Department's proposal to classify the Taylor Yard property as a state recreation area named Rio de Los Angeles State Park. Second Commissioner Kautz. A brief discussion took place during which Commissioner Eastwood recommended that staff adopt a more basic approach when proposing future names. Commissioner Tagami requested that future staff reports on naming projects include more detailed background information on the process employed to select the recommended name, and he explained that this would better equip the commissioners to discuss alternative names suggested via public comment. Commissioner Scherman noted that the park would likely be known as *El Rio* ("The River") de Los Angeles State Park, but added that she supported the recommended name and classification. Chair Shriver called for a vote, and the commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to classify the Taylor Yard property as a state recreation area named Rio de Los Angeles State Park.

ITEM 5E:

Consideration and action on the Department's proposal for approval of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Taylor Yard property (now a state recreation area named Rio de Los Angeles State Park)

Having heard public comment on this item in conjunction with Item 5D, Chair Shriver asked for a motion to adopt State Parks' proposal to approve the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Taylor Yard property (now Rio de Los Angeles State Park). Motion Commissioner Tagami, second Chair Shriver. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to approve the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Taylor Yard property (now a state recreation area named Rio de Los Angeles State Park).

ITEM 5F-I:

Consent Items

Determination that the following concession contracts are compatible with the classification and general plans of their respective units

- Lodging, food, and beverage sales at Crystal Cove State Park
- Operation of the conference grounds at Asilomar State Beach & Conference Grounds
- Ferry service at Angel Island State Park

ITEM 5F-II:

Determination that the following concession proposals for the sale of alcoholic beverages are consistent with Commission policy

- Lodging, food, and beverage sales at Crystal Cove State Park
- Food, beverage, and beach-related items at the Calafia Beach Concession (operated by Orange County) at San Clemente State Beach

Chair Shriver noted that the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area parking item had been removed from the agenda. Commissioner Tagami, in his role as a member of the Commission's Concessions, Enterprise, & Fiscal Committee, explained that he had discussed this item with representatives of the San Francisco 49ers, as well as with his fellow committee member Commissioner Joseph Cotchett and State Parks staff, and that it had been decided to postpone this item until the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Tagami requested that a brief report on this item be presented at the Commission's next meeting.

Commissioner Hart asked that the Angel Island ferry service item be pulled from the consent list for discussion.

Commissioner Tagami moved that the remaining consent items be approved. Second Commissioner Scherman. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolutions stating that the above-refer-

enced concessions contracts were compatible with the classification and general plans for their respective units (Agenda Items 5F-I) and to adopt the resolutions stating that the above-referenced concession proposals for the sale of alcoholic beverages were consistent with Commission policy (Agenda Items 5F-II).

Chair Shriver then opened discussion on the Angel Island ferry service agenda item. Commissioner Hart stated that while she understood the item before the Commission would allow the continuation of the existing ferry service from Tiburon to Angel Island, she believed it was very important, especially in terms of making parks accessible to a more diverse population, for State Parks to provide access to Angel Island from other points, especially from San Francisco.

Commissioner Tagami noted that the recently-established San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority could serve as a resource to assist in providing additional access to Angel Island, in that access to recreation was among the mandates of the organization.

State Parks Director Ruth Coleman confirmed that providing access to Angel Island from San Francisco was a priority. The Director noted that an existing partnership between State Parks and the National Park Service provided transportation to Angel Island from Pier 39 in San Francisco.

Chair Shriver asked if under these circumstances Commissioner Hart would make a motion to adopt the proposal before the Commission regarding the ferry service to Angel Island State Park. Motion Commissioner Hart, second Commissioner Tagami. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution stating that the concession proposal for ferry service to Angel Island State Park was compatible with the classification and general plan for this unit (see Agenda Items 5F-I).

AGENDA ITEM 6: OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Shriver opened the Open Public Comment portion of the meeting at 11:21 a.m. The Chair noted that there were a great many speaker registration forms for a variety of topics under Open Public Comment. The Chair added that those speaking should note that the Commission would not be taking action on any items addressed in Open Public Comment. He asked that each speaker please state their subject and he reiterated that each speaker would be given three minutes to speak. After the last speaker the Chair closed Open Public Comment at 12:10 p.m.

During Open Public Comment, and as a result of comments received, the Commission requested that staff provide an update on the proposed toll road project through San Onofre State Beach (in Orange County) at the Commission's next meeting. At the close of Open Public Comment several commissioners made statements:

Commissioner Witt noted that public art projects like the "Not a Cornfield" project on the Cornfield property would always be subject to debate. The Commissioner added that this was a healthy discussion that got people talking about art. Commissioner Witt also noted that complaints alleging that there had been insufficient public involvement with the project would be seriously considered.

Commissioner Tagami suggested that complaints pertaining to public involvement in park planning projects, proper public noticing of meetings, availability of information, etcetera, could be directed to the Commission's Executive Committee.

Commissioner Kautz addressed the public speakers who had spoken about trail use. The Commissioner noted that she had reviewed the written comments that had been submitted. She added that the comments were well-written, and that these trail advocates should now focus their efforts on distributing these comments to hikers and bicyclists in addition to equestrian trail users.

Chair Shriver noted that he was surprised to hear that a Monday meeting to discuss the "Not a Cornfield" art project was announced on the previous Friday with less than 72 hours notice. The Chair acknowledged that 72 hours notice was not sufficient for an important meeting, but he clarified that this was not a deci-

sion that the Commission had any authority to influence. Chair Shriver explained that a public meeting was not required to make decisions such as this, and that in fact thousands of such decisions were made by the Governor and his administration every day, all without public input. The Chair announced, with the assistance of Ted Jackson, State Parks' Deputy Director of Park Operations, that another public meeting on this subject would be held at 7 p.m. on June 16th, 2005, at the northeast end of the Cornfield site. Chair Shriver added that those who wished to influence administrative decisions such as these should do so through the Governor's office, State Parks staff, and through their local elected officials.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:
ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair asked if there were any other comments from the Commission. There being none, Chair Shriver adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

ATTEST: These minutes were approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on September 23, 2005, at its duly-noticed public meeting in San Jose, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY _____ Date: 6-10-05

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