

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION

The Ranch House at Costanoa Coastal Lodge and Camp
2001 Rossi Road
Pescadero, California

Minutes of the Meeting - Friday, October 31, 2008

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Lindy DeKoven
Caryl Hart, CHAIR
Alice Huffman
Gail Kautz
William "Bill" Kogerman
Sophia Scherman, VICE CHAIR
Acquanetta Warren
Paul Junger Witt

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Jack Baylis

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS STAFF

Chet Bardo, SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
Ruth Coleman, DIRECTOR
Mark Hylkema, ASSOCIATE STATE ARCHEOLOGIST
Louis Nastro, ASSISTANT TO THE STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Dan Ray, CHIEF, PLANNING DIVISION
Roy Stearns, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS
Kathryn Tobias, SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL
Bradly Torgan, GENERAL COUNSEL

SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS STAFF

Kimberly Brousseau, PARK PLANNER
Lisa Killough, DIRECTOR
Jane Mark, SENIOR PLANNER AND PROJECT MANAGER
Julie Mark, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING

George Cattermole/Coastside Habitat Coalition
Lyndall Erb/Equestrian Trail Riders Action Committee (ETRAC)
Jon Harman/Self
Lynne Paulson/Self
Chuck Striplin/Amah Mutsun Ohlone

CALL TO ORDER

Legal notice having been given, this meeting of the California State Park and Recreation Commission was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Commission Chair Caryl Hart.

Chair Hart introduced the commissioners present, noting that for the first time during her tenure there were three new commissioners present: Lindy DeKoven, Alice Huffman, and William Kogerman.

AGENDA ITEM 1:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2008, MEETING IN FORT BRAGG

Chair Hart asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the May 16th, 2008 meeting in Fort Bragg. Motion Vice Chair Scherman, second Commissioner Kautz. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

AGENDA ITEM 2:

CHAIR’S REPORT/RECOGNITIONS

Recognition of Retiring California State Parks Employees

Chair Hart announced that the Commission wished to recognize employees who had recently retired from California State Parks. The Chair asked Commissioner Paul Witt to read the list of retirees.

Commissioner Witt noted that throughout his time on the Commission he and his fellow commissioners had been continually impressed by the dedication, passion, and long years of service of State Parks staff. The Commissioner added that California State Parks was often referred to as a “family,” and that he found this to be quite true. Commissioner Witt stated that the Commission wished to honor the following retirees:

Denise Baldwin, Oceano Dunes District	22 years, 10 months
Stanley Boettcher, Communications Office	32 years, 11 months
Alexandra Clausen, Southern Service Center	25 years, 9 months
Diane Dougherty, Personnel	5 years, 5 months
Neal Gordon, Capital District	9 years, 8 months
Stephen Hamill, Capital District	14 years
James Hatfield, Gold Fields District	8 years, 1 month
David Horvitz, Russian River District	27 years, 8 months
Toni McRorie, Silverado Sector	25 years, 4 months
Maureen O’Connor, Contracts	33 years, 8 months
Carroll Rakowski, Museum Sector	4 years, 11 months
Paul Romero, Director’s Office	3 years, 11 months
Peter Schulz, Cultural Heritage Division	32 years, 3 months
Peter Scott, Railroad Museum	24 years, 9 months
Joe Sturdivant, Alpine/Mono Sector	31 years, 6 months
Nancy Thompson, Northern Service Center	26 years, 7 months
Lorilei Wendt, Redwood Coast Sector	19 years, 1 month

This list of retirees represents 348 years, 4 months of service to the State of California. Chair Hart acknowledged these individuals for their long service to California State Parks.

AGENDA ITEM 2A:

Recognition of Richard C. Otter’s outstanding service to Save-the-Redwoods League

Chair Hart noted that Richard Otter served on the Save-the-Redwoods League Board for 30 years. Mr. Otter’s service included time on the League’s Board of Counselors, Board of Directors, and in the offices of Assistant Treasurer, President, and Chairman. During this time Richard Otter reviewed more than 200

acquisitions of real property that protected 73,000 acres of California redwood forest. Among these 73,000 acres were the acquisition that established Navarro River Redwoods State Park, the 25,000 acre Mill Creek addition to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, the Gray Whale Ranch addition to Wilder Ranch State Park, the acquisition that doubled the size of Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, and an acquisition that protects one of the earth's oldest living trees, the Bennett Juniper. Chair Hart stated that she personally was aware that Richard Otter's contribution had been phenomenal in terms of protecting such a large number of the state's remaining older redwoods. Chair Hart explained that the Commission had prepared a resolution recognizing Mr. Otter's valuable contributions, and she asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Motion Vice Chair Scherman, second Commissioner Warren. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution recognizing Richard C. Otter's outstanding service to Save-the-Redwoods League.

AGENDA ITEM 3:

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL REDWOOD GROVES

Chair Hart asked Commissioner Gail Kautz to read the requests to establish special redwood groves. Commissioner Kautz noted that it was appropriate to have recognition of these special groves follow the resolution for Richard Otter. The Commissioner read requests to establish the following special groves as requested by Save-the-Redwoods League:

The Sanborn Hawley Grove
in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Sanborn, donors

Tony Husch Grove
in Navarro River Redwoods State Park
David W. Husch, donor

Harry H. Lamar Memorial Grove (addition)
in Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Mrs. Frances S. LaMar, donor

Herbert and Ethel MacNeal Memorial Grove
in Portola Redwoods State Park
The Estate of Mrs. Ethel K. MacNeal, donor

H. Peter Nerger Memorial Grove
in Redwood National & State Park
Thomas J. Nerger, donor

Thomas J. Nerger Grove
in Redwood National & State Park
Thomas J. Nerger, donor

Phillips Family Grove
in Navarro River Redwoods State Park
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Phillips, donors

Ruth Krag Speraw Memorial Grove
in Portola Redwoods State Park
Mrs. Ruth Krag Speraw, donor

The Young Family Grove
in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
Mrs. Mary Jane Young, donor

Chair Hart asked for a motion to approve these grove requests. Motion Commissioner Kogerman, second

Commissioner Warren. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolutions establishing these special redwood groves. Vice Chair Sophia Scherman noted that the donations which establish these groves are substantial, and that she wished to thank these donors and formally recognize the value of the grove recognition programs of Save-the-Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund that made it possible for individuals to be honored in this way.

AGENDA ITEM 4: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Hart noted that before she introduced California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman, she wished to make a short report on the climate change initiatives she had been working on. The Chair explained that she had been involved in the effort to include California State Parks in the forestry protocols that were being developed by the California Climate Act & Registry and the California Air Resources Board. Chair Hart noted that an initial draft of the protocols had been completed and that California State Parks would likely become the first public land agency in the United States to participate in the process of how forests are used to sequester carbon dioxide emissions. The Chair added that she found this prospect very exciting, and she thanked State Parks Director Ruth Coleman for her leadership in addressing climate change. Chair Hart then introduced Ruth Coleman to present her Director's Report.

Director Coleman explained that a written Director's Report had already been provided to the commissioners and that this report was also available to members of the public. The Director added that the report highlights events that have taken place since the last Commission meeting. She added that since details had already been provided in the written report, she would now highlight a few items that had taken place since the written report was prepared and entertain questions on the report.

Climate Change – Director Coleman noted that she wished to follow up on Chair Hart's comments pertaining to climate change. The Director stated that it was very exciting to consider that California State Parks would become certified to provide carbon offsets. She explained that in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, where approximately 26,000 acres of conifer forest were lost to fire in 2003, an ecosystem restoration project was currently underway to displace the three-to-four-foot high ceanothus shrubs with conifers, which would not otherwise be able to regrow on their own. Director Coleman explained that several hundred acres had already been planted, mostly by volunteers, and that plans were in place to reforest 17,000 acres over the next 10 years or so. She noted that private funding was being made available by companies wishing to generate carbon offsets, adding that it was her hope that California State Parks would be the first public agency to offer offsets, which could then be made available to buy, sell, or trade. Director Coleman added that this was indeed a very exciting prospect for California State Parks.

The Director noted that in the future it may be desirable to create a new classification of state park unit called a carbon reserve, so that it would then be clear in state law that trees in such units were being replanted with the intention that they would still be there, sequestering carbon, 100 years in the future. She explained that when carbon offsets are created this is done with the provision that the offset will be permanent; this is a criteria for creating carbon offsets. Director Coleman noted that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger had been very supportive and was acting as an international leader in carbon offsets, inspiring California State Parks to move to the forefront of this important effort. The Director added that the interest the project was receiving from private sector businesses added to the excitement of California State Parks involvement with efforts to address climate change.

Budget – Director Coleman noted that though the budget situation in May 2008 had been ambiguous, the administration had supported State Parks and that so far the department had received no significant reductions in its budget. The Director noted that visitor fees had been increased by approximately \$1.3 million to offset a minor reduction in resources available from the state's general fund. She stated that the fee increase affected only some park units, and only increased the entrance fees in those parks by a couple of dollars each. Director Coleman noted that considering the overall poor condition of the state budget this

was good news for California State Parks.

Director Coleman explained that State Parks had faced many recent fiscal challenges. She explained that the price of gasoline has a profound effect on park operations, as so much of administering and maintaining park units involves driving. The Director stated that the weather also has a dramatic effect on park attendance, adding that a relatively cool July resulted in lower-than-normal attendance at many state beaches, and that low reservoir levels further contributed to the loss of about \$2 million in visitor fees. She commented that wildfires in park units also resulted in lower-than-average visitation during July 2008, but that August attendance figures indicated a recovery from this.

Vice Chair Sophia Scherman asked if campground reservations that had been made in advance were refundable should a visitor choose not to use their reservation. Director Coleman replied that fees are not refunded when the visitor chooses not to use their reservation, but that refunds are made if the park must be closed, for example, because of fire.

Director Coleman reported that State Parks had not experienced a decline in reservations. She stated that campground reservations in April 2008 were the highest ever recorded. The Director said that citizens continue to value parks, adding that the increase in gasoline prices had mainly had an impact on department vehicle use; high gasoline prices did not appear to have a negative impact on visitation.

The Director stated that campgrounds at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and Lime Kiln State Park would be closed as a result of wildfire; not because of actual damage to the facilities, but because the fires denuded upland slopes near park campgrounds, severely increasing the chance of dangerous mudslides. Director Coleman noted that two bridges were being removed at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park so that the bridges would not impede the expansive mud flows that will occur once the rainy season begins. The Director explained that the loss of the two campgrounds will mean several hundred thousand dollars in lost revenue. She added that a capital outlay project that is currently in the works will allow for a new bridge to be installed at Pfeiffer Big Sur so the campground can be reopened in summer 2009.

Director Coleman acknowledged the high volume of media coverage the state's budget situation had attracted. She noted that the governor would convene a special session of the legislature during the following week to address concerns about the budget. The Director added that State Parks would be effected by the budget shortfall as would all state agencies, though as the department received relatively little from the state's general fund it would not be possible to attain significant savings through cuts to State Parks. Director Coleman stated that she would keep commissioners informed of budget developments as they occurred, and asked if there were any questions on her report.

Commissioner Acquanetta Warren commented that she wished to commend Director Coleman and California State Parks staff for their outstanding job celebrating the centennial of the town of Allensworth at Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. Director Coleman noted that approximately five thousand visitors attended this event on October 11-12, 2008.

Commissioner Paul Witt stated that he would like everyone to be aware of California State Parks' role in fighting the recent wildfires at Big Sur in Monterey County. Commissioner Witt noted that though the fires consumed approximately 162,000 acres, California State Parks staff played a very significant role in minimizing the impact of the fires: The firefighting incident command center was located in Andrew Molera State Park, with thousands of firefighters and support staff set up there, a virtual city. Director Coleman added that Andrew Molera State Park was literally transformed. Commissioner Witt stated that he wished to recognize the tremendous contribution of California State Parks to fighting the Big Sur fires.

Chair Caryl Hart commented that she had recently visited Angel Island State Park, where wildfire had recently burned a considerable portion of the island. Chair Hart explained that California State Parks had faced a variety of challenges in recent years with its effort to remove eucalyptus trees from Angel Island, but as a result of this effort to remove highly-flammable eucalyptus, the fire was controllable and actually was healthy for the ecosystems of the island. The Chair added that the removal of eucalyptus allowed Cal

Fire firefighters to keep the fire away from the island’s historic structures, and that by confining the fire to the park’s natural areas, the incident acted something like a successful “controlled burn,” which might have otherwise spread from Angel Island to Tiburon. Chair Hart noted that she had been very impressed with how State Parks handled the Angel Island fire, and she specifically thanked Angel Island Sector Superintendent Dave Matthews for his work there.

Commissioner Gail Kautz also stated that she wished to commend State Parks staff for their fine job in controlling the recent wildfires throughout the state. Commissioner Kautz added that she had been sickened by the many reports of parks and open space damaged by wildfire, and that it was her wish that all citizens could be more proactive in stopping wildfires before they begin.

Chair Hart added that unfortunately, climate change science has indicated that there will be a greater number of wildfires in the future. There being no further comments or questions from commissioners, the Chair announced that she would open the public hearing portion of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:
PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Hart opened the public hearing portion of the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Chair Hart requested that anyone wishing to address the Commission complete a speaker registration form, adding that speakers time would be limited.

**ITEM 5A:
Consent Items**

Chair Hart explained that the Commission would now consider the agenda’s five concessions-related items on consent. There being no public speakers on the consent items, Chair Hart asked for a motion to approve the consent items. Motion Commissioner Scherman, second Commissioner Kautz. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the following concessions items:

**ITEM 5A-I:
Determination that the concession contract for food service is compatible with the classification and approved general plan for Santa Monica State Beach**

**ITEM 5A-II:
Determination that the concession contract for ferry service from San Francisco to Angel Island is compatible with the classification and approved general plan for Angel Island State Park**

**ITEM 5A-III:
Determination that the expanded footprint of the City Hotel Complex concession is compatible with the classification and approved general plan for Columbia State Historic Park**

**ITEM 5A-IV:
Determination that the proposed concession at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook is compatible with the classification and approved general plan for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area**

**ITEM 5A-V:
Determination that the proposal for the sale of alcoholic beverages at the proposed concession for Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook is consistent with Commission policy**

Chair Hart noted that the Commission’s Concessions, Enterprise & Fiscal Committee was comprised of Commissioners Jack Baylis and Paul Witt.

ITEM 5B:

Consideration and action on the Department's recommendation to approve the Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Butano State Park

Chair Hart explained that in addition to the materials that had already been provided to the Commission, as well as the Commission's briefing in the park, the commissioners would now hear a short presentation from Dan Ray, Chief of California State Parks' Planning Division. Chair Hart added that she wished to personally thank John Wade of the Pescadero Conservation Alliance, John Fox of the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association, and State Parks' San Mateo Coast Sector Superintendent Paul Keel for their hospitality and for their roles in the Commission's visit to Pescadero.

State Parks Planning Division Chief Dan Ray noted that the general plan for Butano State Park did not propose substantial changes to the park's existing facilities. Mr. Ray explained that the general plan maintained the existing campgrounds and day use areas and proposed the reopening of the Gazos Mountain Camp for environmental education and recreational use. He added that the general plan includes policies for a trail system, for the management of natural resources, for protecting the parks' cultural resources, and for general park operations. Mr. Ray explained that work on the general plan began in August of 2003, that public workshops were conducted in the community in December 2007, and that responses to public comments were prepared during August 2008. He added that no major issues arose during the general plan process and that State Parks recommended that the Commission adopt the general plan. Mr. Ray concluded that district and planning division staff were available to answer questions on the general plan.

Chair Hart thanked Mr. Ray and asked if there were any questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Sophia Scherman stated that she wished to give the public an understanding of what a park general plan is. The Commissioner read from the Butano State Park general plan, noting that "...recent additions to the park, new potential for regional open space connections and growing demand for recreation were factors in the decision to develop this general plan." Dan Ray added that there had not been a previous general plan for Butano State Park.

Commissioner Bill Kogerman asked if any of the proposals in the general plan carried fiscal implications.

Dan Ray explained that no changes proposed in the plan would increase or alter the cost of managing the park. Mr. Ray added that over time, changes in the trail system could lead to some incremental expenses as individual projects were carried out, but these projects would each be evaluated if and when they were to proceed.

Commissioner Kogerman noted that facilities in the park appeared rudimentary. He asked if the general plan considered increasing the number of available facilities, or made existing facilities more accommodating. Mr. Ray replied that the general plan proposed that the park's camping and day use facilities be retained essentially as they exist, adding that the surrounding redwood forest already constrained further development of the campground. Mr. Ray added that a non-profit concessionaire had been operating the Gazos Mountain Camp, and that this concessionaire would be taking actions related to developing additional use of the camp once the park's general plan had been approved and the necessary regulatory approvals had been obtained from the California Coastal Commission.

There being no further comments from commissioners, Chair Hart explained the process by which members of the public could address the Commission and proceeded to call the single speaker who had registered to speak on this agenda item:

Lyndall Erb, representing the Equestrian Trail Riders Action Committee (ETRAC), concerning the expansion of equestrian trails and facilities in the park.

Chair Caryl Hart thanked the speaker and noted that both she (Chair Hart) and Commissioner Gail Kautz were equestrians, and as such they greatly valued equestrian patrols like those provided by ETRAC. Chair Hart added that consideration would be given to providing additional parking and turnaround space for

equestrian trailers. Commissioner Gail Kautz added that safe and secure places for equestrians to park their vehicles were very important and that it was her hope that State Parks would provide such facilities.

Planning Division Chief Dan Ray noted that State Parks wished to provide a seamless recreation complex at Butano State Park and the adjacent Año Nuevo State Park. Mr. Ray added that while there were no specific equestrian facilities proposed in Butano State Park, the park's general plan discussed the potential for an equestrian camp in adjacent Año Nuevo State Park just south of Gazos Creek near the Costanoa resort.

Chair Hart added that she was excited to see that the Año Nuevo State Park general plan proposed the development of public access to the upland portion of the park. Noting that there were no other speakers on this agenda item, Chair Hart asked if there was a motion to adopt the resolution approving the general plan for Butano State Park. Motion Commissioner Witt, second Commissioner Scherman. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution approving the Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Butano State Park.

ITEMS 5C-5F:

Consideration and action on the Department's recommendation to approve the following actions related to Año Nuevo State Park:

5C - Reclassification and addition of the adjacent Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve into the existing Año Nuevo State Park

5D - Approval of the Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park

5E - Establishment of a Cultural Preserve named Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve in Año Nuevo State Park

5F - Establishment of a Natural Preserve named Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve in Año Nuevo State Park

Chair Hart explained that the staff presentation and public comment related to the four Año Nuevo items would be heard together, after which each item would be considered separately for action by the Commission. The Chair again introduced Planning Division Chief Dan Ray, who made a short presentation on the four proposals.

Dan Ray explained the proposal to consolidate the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve and Año Nuevo State Park properties into a single unit classified as a state park. Mr. Ray noted that State Parks believed this arrangement would reduce confusion among park visitors. He added that to retain the protection of the current state natural reserve designation State Parks proposed that 925 acres of the park's coastal area be classified as a natural preserve, a subclassification within the larger state park. Mr. Ray also explained that 225 acres of the most culturally significant portion of the park was proposed for designation as a cultural preserve. Mr. Ray briefly summarized some of the other proposals of the Año Nuevo State Park general plan and called the commissioners' attention to the proposed resolutions they had before them.

Chair Hart thanked Mr. Ray and asked if there were any questions or comments from the Commission.

Commissioner Bill Kogerman asked if the general plan addressed revenue generating opportunities, and, if it did not, would adoption of the general plan restrict future revenue generating opportunities in this park. A discussion took place amongst Planning Division Chief Dan Ray, Commissioner Bill Kogerman, Senior Staff Counsel Kathryn Tobias, and Commission Chair Caryl Hart. Dan Ray explained that State Parks endeavored to create general plans which identified opportunities for improvement and general uses which could occur in park units while avoiding specific details regarding development in a given location. Mr. Ray further explained that a typical general plan must serve a park unit for many years, adding that some state

parks were currently operating under general plans that had been adopted in the 1960s. General plans were written to provide direction rather than specific proposals. Mr. Ray noted that to some extent the Año Nuevo general plan constrained opportunities for new revenue generating operations, but that one of the goals of the Año Nuevo plan was to integrate the park with neighboring facilities like the private resort at Costanoa. Senior Staff Counsel Kathryn Tobias stated that state law required that a general plan be adopted before any development took place in a park unit. Ms. Tobias explained that the general plan provided State Parks best estimation of the potential for development in this park, and she added that a general plan could be amended at any time. Chair Hart explained that the classification of a park unit or sub-unit determined the type of development that could take place in that unit. The Chair noted that, for example, campgrounds would not be developed in a cultural or natural preserve, as these areas are classified as such to protect the resources there. Commissioner Kogerman stated that he understood that adoption of these proposals would restrict future revenue generating opportunities, but that he also understood that this subject could be revisited. Commissioner Kogerman added that it was important to consider each unit's ability to support the cost of its own operations. Dan Ray added that because of the great interest in elephant seals, visitation to the current state natural reserve does generate important revenue for this unit. Mr. Ray explained that the proposal for establishment of natural and cultural preserves within the larger state park unit was designed to compliment the private facilities immediately adjacent to the park, emphasizing that these proposals were developed with the understanding that State Parks would manage the natural and cultural resources with respect to the private facilities which provide overnight accommodations. Kathryn Tobias referred commissioners to the staff report on the Año Nuevo items, which included a map that indicated the proposed classifications and therefore areas where development would be restricted.

Vice Chair Sophia Scherman noted that allowing access for everyone by keeping visitor costs low were a priority in developing park properties, and that revenue generation was not always a priority.

Noting that there were no other comments from commissioners, Chair Caryl Hart opened public comment on agenda items 5C, 5D, 5E and 5F related to Año Nuevo. Chair Hart again explained the public comment process and proceeded to call the three speakers who had registered to comment on these agenda items:

George Cattermole, representing Coastside Habitat Coalition, concerning the protection of endangered species.

Jon Harman, concerning natural and cultural preserves.

Chuck Striplin, representing the Amah Mutsun Ohlone, concerning tribal partnership with California State Parks and the establishment of a cultural preserve at Año Nuevo.

There being no additional registered or unregistered speakers, Chair Hart closed public comment on the four Año Nuevo agenda items. The Chair then asked if State Parks staff would like to provide any additional information related to the comments.

Planning Division Chief Dan Ray noted that it was important to keep in mind that both cultural and natural preserve sub-units were being proposed for Año Nuevo, and that this, in conjunction with nearby State Park System units like Big Basin Redwoods State Park, were intended to provide a full spectrum of conservation and public use.

Commissioner Sophia Scherman asked about the condition and monitoring of the archeological sites in the proposed Quiroste Valley cultural preserve, specifically concerning accusations that excavations had not be properly backfilled. Chair Hart asked State Parks archeologist Mark Hylkema to respond.

Mark Hylkema replied that archeological excavations are always undertaken with great care and with respect to relevant laws. Mr. Hylkema noted that while settling of soil does occur when a hole is back-filled, he believed that every precaution had been taken to ensure these excavations had been properly performed. Commissioner Scherman added that anyone who believed otherwise should feel free to con-

tact Mr. Hylkema to discuss their concerns. Mr. Hylkema agreed that this was a good idea, and added that he was available to continue this discussion with anyone who had concerns about his work in the park.

Chair Caryl Hart added that she had been very impressed with how archeological work had been conducted at Año Nuevo. Chair Hart noted that she had made two previous visits to the archeological site. The Chair stated that she wished to recognize Mark Hylkema as well as Chuck Striplin, a Ph.D. candidate at U.C. Berkeley, who had been working closely with Mr. Hylkema to develop the innovative historical context being used to explore and interpret the archeological sites at Año Nuevo.

Commissioner Alice Huffman noted that though she had not been involved with State Parks for many years (Commissioner Huffman worked as Chief Deputy Director of California State Parks from 1976 to 1980), the issues appeared to have remained the same: the balance between public use and preservation. Commissioner Huffman commended State Parks staff for achieving balance in the proposed plan. She added that the plan allows for a cultural preserve, protects natural areas, and recognizes the indigenous people who came before. The Commissioner added that indigenous peoples are an important part of the history of California, and that there was great value in allowing park visitors to experience these lands as they were. Commissioner Huffman noted that she was an anthropologist, and she commended State Parks staff for being particularly sensitive in this area. The Commissioner praised California State Parks for the progress that had been made in understanding that all peoples belong, for recognizing the need for cultural interpretations that reflect all Californians, and for providing indigenous peoples with places in the State Park System that allowed them to experience their heritage and culture.

Commission Chair Caryl Hart asked if there were any other comments from commissioners. There being none, the Chair again explained that each of the four Año Nuevo items would be considered separately. She then asked for a motion on the reclassification and addition of Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve to the existing Año Nuevo State Park. Motion Commissioner Warren, second Commissioner Scherman. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution reclassifying Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve as part of Año Nuevo State Park.

Chair Hart then asked for a motion to adopt the resolution approving the Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park. Motion Commissioner Witt, second Commissioner Scherman. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution approving the Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park.

Chair Hart asked for a motion to adopt the resolution to establish a cultural preserve named Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve in Año Nuevo State Park. Motion Commissioner Huffman, second Commissioner Warren. Commissioner Acquanetta Warren added that she encouraged everyone to visit the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve site, adding that there was a great deal of energy at the site that Californians should experience. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to establish a cultural preserve named Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve in Año Nuevo State Park.

Chair Hart then asked for a motion to adopt the resolution to establish a natural preserve named Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve in Año Nuevo State Park. Motion Commissioner Scherman, second Commissioner Witt. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to establish a natural preserve named Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve in Año Nuevo State Park.

ITEM 5B:

Consideration and action on the Department's recommendation to classify and name the Martial Cottle Project property as a State Recreation Area named Martial Cottle Park

Chair Hart explained that once again the commissioners would hear a short presentation by Planning Division Chief Dan Ray.

Dan Ray introduced a short slide presentation on the proposal for the Martial Cottle property. Mr. Ray explained that this is a joint project between Santa Clara County and California State Parks, and that while portions of the 287-acre property are owned by both entities the entire project will be developed and managed by Santa Clara County Parks. He also explained that a portion of the property had been retained as a life estate by Mr. Walter Cottle Lester, who had donated the land to the county and the state. Mr. Ray explained that this property preserves the agricultural landscape of Santa Clara County, which was once one of the most productive and beautiful agricultural areas in the country, having once been known as the Valley of Heart's Delight. He explained that Mr. Lester's vision, which had been incorporated in the conditions of the grant deed of the property, was that this land would be used exclusively for a public historical park that will educate visitors about the agricultural heritage of the Santa Clara Valley. Mr. Lester specified that the property be used for passive recreation activities such as picnicking or trails, that there be interpretation of the area's agricultural history, that the land could be used for research purposes, and that any commercial uses would be limited to produce stands, commercial agricultural activities, or community gardens consistent with the agricultural landscape. The property is not to be used for formal urban recreation like athletic fields, playgrounds or swimming pools. Mr. Ray explained how the classification of state recreation area came to be recommended, and that this state classification was consistent with Santa Clara County Parks own classification system and plans for the property. He also explained that Mr. Lester's donation specified that the unit would be named Martial Cottle Park. Mr. Ray concluded by noting that Santa Clara County Parks had been a wonderful partner to State Parks and that County staff were present to answer questions from the commissioners.

Chair Hart noted that there were no registered speakers for this agenda item and asked if there were any unregistered speakers. There being none, Chair Hart asked Lisa Killough of Santa Clara County Parks to address the Commission.

Lisa Killough, Director of Santa Clara County Parks, introduced Jane Mark, Kimberley Brousseau, and Julie Mark of her staff. She then provided a brief summary of how the Martial Cottle Park project came to be, including an overview of the partnership between Santa Clara County and California State Parks, the joint powers authority that was created, and the operating agreement that had served so successfully in planning for the park and fulfilling the donor's vision for the property. Ms. Killough described the community outreach efforts that had been conducted for the project, and listed project milestones. She explained that the County would be recommending use of the property as an urban recreation and historic site. Ms. Killough noted that Santa Clara County was to act as lead agency in coordinating the project, and she explained that while the proposed schedule is ambitious it was the County's hope that they would be returning to the Commission with a general plan proposal in the fall of 2009. Ms. Killough thanked Ruth Coleman, Mat Fuzie, Eddie Guaracha, Dave Keck, and Dan Ray of State Parks for their involvement with the Martial Cottle project.

Chair Hart thanked Ms. Killough and asked if there were any questions from commissioners.

Commissioner Bill Kogerman inquired about details of the life estate. Santa Clara County Parks staff explained that the agreement allows Mr. Lester, now over 80 years old, to live on the property as long as he wishes, after which the property ownership transfers to the county for inclusion into the park. It was added that Mr. Lester wished for the life estate property to become an interpretive area, utilizing the historic buildings on the site to provide an environment for teaching the history of the Valley of the Hearts Delight through the eyes of the Cottle family.

Commission Vice Chair Sophia Scherman noted that she had visited the Martial Cottle project site and she encouraged others to do the same. A discussion took place during which Vice Chair Scherman and Lisa Killough talked of the uniqueness of the Cottle property, which is basically a 300-acre open space surrounded by densely-populated San Jose. Community involvement, balancing agricultural uses, recreational uses, and transportation and access issues at the property were discussed.

Commissioner Gail Kautz noted that she was involved in a California State Fair program that provided

recognition to California businesses that were over 100 years old. Commissioner Kautz suggested that the Martial Cottle farm would be a candidate for 150 year recognition as an agricultural heritage site. The Commissioner explained something of the program, which has no cost and offers no benefit other than the honor of being recognized. All agreed that this was a wonderful suggestion.

Chair Caryl Hart added that it was important for the Martial Cottle Park to include climate change-sensitive elements like low-impact agricultural techniques and encouraging consumption of locally-produced food. Chair Hart also suggested that climate-friendly elements be incorporated into signs and programs at the park.

Vice Chair Scherman asked about accessibility in the new park.

Lisa Killough replied to both Chair Hart and Vice Chair Scherman, explaining that all planning for the Martial Cottle Park would include access for persons of all different ability levels as required by law. Ms. Killough added that plans were also being made to emphasize a high level of cultural diversity in the park's programs, and that as Santa Clara County has an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) ordinance, the park would be operated as an organic farm. She stated that the project would be developed so that it operated as "green" and as environmentally sensitive as possible.

Chair Hart thanked Ms. Killough and asked if there was a motion to adopt the resolution before the Commission to classify and name the Martial Cottle Project property as a state recreation area named Martial Cottle Park. Motion Commissioner Kautz, second Commissioner Scherman. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to classify and name the Martial Cottle Project property as a state recreation area named Martial Cottle Park.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Hart noted that one speaker had registered for open public comment. The Chair called the speaker: Lynne Paulson, concerning Washoe Meadows State Park.

Ms. Paulson also provided a written statement to the commissioners.

Chair Hart asked if staff would like to respond to Ms. Paulson.

Senior Staff Counsel Kathryn Tobias thanked Ms. Paulson for speaking and for keeping communication open on the subject of the Upper Truckee River restoration project at Washoe Meadows State Park. Ms. Tobias explained that Washoe Meadows State Park is unique in that the property was acquired by State Parks as the result of a legal settlement – as Ms. Paulson noted – and that the property included an 18-hole golf course, which currently generates approximately \$800,000 a year in revenue for California State Parks. She further explained that the project in question involves moving some of the golf course holes to distance them from environmentally sensitive areas of the park. Ms. Tobias added that State Parks had been communicating with park neighbors and other interests in the Lake Tahoe area, including individuals, chambers of commerce, and golfers. Ms. Tobias explained that while the map Ms. Paulson distributed was somewhat out-of-date it did provide an overview of what is being proposed in the park. She added that a formal project description was being developed and that the Commission could expect to see a proposal for this project in approximately twelve to eighteen months. Ms. Tobias noted that State Parks had been working to increase communication with stakeholders on this project, and that a web site had been created to provide project information. She asked if there were any questions from commissioners.

Chair Caryl Hart also asked if any commissioners had questions on this issue. There being none, Chair Hart asked if there were any other speakers for open public comment. As there were none, the Chair closed open public comment.

Chair Hart thanked Santa Cruz District Superintendent Chet Bardo, San Mateo Coast Sector Superinten-

dent Paul Keel, and Supervising Ranger Gary Strachan for their hospitality and work on the Butano and Año Nuevo general plans. Chair Hart also acknowledged Bradly Torgan, State Parks General Counsel, for his tremendous personal and professional contributions to California State Parks (Torgan had recently announced his departure from State Parks).

Director Ruth Coleman also thanked Bradly Torgan, noting that he had brought State Parks legal office to “new heights,” cultivating the department’s strongest-ever legal office. Director Coleman noted that California State Parks was sorry to lose Bradly Torgan, adding that his shoes would be difficult to fill.

Chair Caryl Hart once again thanked Torgan for the over three years he served as head of California State Parks legal office.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:
ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hart asked if there were any additional comments or questions from commissioners or staff. There being none, Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

ATTEST: These minutes were approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on October 8, 2009, at its duly-noticed public meeting in Sacramento, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 10-8-09

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