May 14, 2021

Rue Mapp, Chairperson
State Park and Recreation Commission
1416 9th Street, Room 1405
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairperson Mapp and Members of the State Park and Recreation Commission:

Re: Memorial Trail for Karl Knapp

Pursuant to the State Park and Recreation Commission Statements of Policy, Policy II.2, Classification and Naming of Units, Features, Groves, and Trails of the State Park System, Section 6, Memorial Trails, I, hereby, request that the State Park and Recreation Commission (“Commission”) approve and permanently set aside the "Karl Knapp Memorial Trail" to be located at the current location of the "Prairie Creek Trail" within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park as a memorial trail in honor of Karl Knapp. Once approved by the Commission, a memorial plaque approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation (“State Parks”) will be placed on the trails south entrance and the memorial trail will be indicated on official maps in the headquarters of Prairie Creek Redwood State Park and in the archives of the Commission.

For the record, I, pursuant to my authority as Director of State Parks, as stated in State Park and Recreation Commission, Statements of Policy, Policy II.2, Classification and Naming of Units, Features, Groves, and Trails of the State Park System, Section 4, Naming of Features Within Units of the State Park System, directed and approved the naming of the “Karl Knapp Trailhead” to be located at the south entrance of what is currently “Prairie Creek Trail” by the visitor center at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. I also directed and approved the making of a map or maps with the Karl Knapp Trailhead indicated and signs indicating the Karl Knapp Trailhead to be placed at the trailhead.

The Karl Knapp Trailhead on the Karl Knapp Memorial Trail will go hand in hand to honor the legacy of Karl.

Karl began his life of service at State Parks 45 years ago at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. While he would go on to work in other districts, he never lost his special connection to the Redwoods. It was there that Karl would not only learn, but develop and advance new ways to design and build trails—establishing the State Park’s Trails program with District Maintenance Chief Don Beers. Those methods are still used today across the entire State Park System and the principles have been taught and adopted throughout the nation. The North Coast is also where Karl would meet his wife Paula and start their family including three sons.
Karl would leave the Redwoods in the early 1990’s to take the District Maintenance Chief position at the Sierra District. While there, he and Don developed and led the Trails Training program presented at the Mott Training Center. He also developed the largest and most sophisticated maintenance program in the Department, which was then modeled in other districts. Later, Karl promoted to manage the Statewide Roads and Trails program, later serving as the Facilities Management Division Chief.

Later in his career, Karl represented the Department with the Parks Forward Commission and high level leadership—including the Legislature, Governor’s Office, Natural Resources Agency, and philanthropic groups. He was a natural. He was credible. He was knowledgeable. He was humble. Rather than retire as planned, he stayed on to advise the Department and serve as a key architect of the Transformation Team projects, which are still in place today. He quickly became a trusted advisor and represented the Department at legislative hearings and countless commission meetings. He was an effective and respected ambassador for State Parks.

It is for these reasons that the Karl Knapp Memorial Trail to be located at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park is an appropriate memorial to honor Karl’s work for State Parks.

This trail naming proposal was prepared by Former California State Parks Director, Lisa Mangat. It is my pleasure to acknowledge, advance and fully support this naming opportunity for Karl whose work continues to benefit Californians and State Parks every day of the year.

Sincerely,

Armando Quintero
Director

cc: Kathy Amann, Deputy Director, Park Operations