



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

State Park and Recreation Commission  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296

Armando Quintero, *Director*

COMMISSIONERS

Rue Mapp, *Chair*  
Phil Ginsburg *Vice Chair*  
Danny Bakewell, Sr.  
Sara Barth  
Christina Jaromay  
Asma Mahdi  
Francesca Vietor

## TOUR AGENDA

### STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 2, 2023

1:30 P.M.

**Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park**

15701 E Ave M  
Lancaster, CA 93535

**Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve SNR**

15101 Lancaster Road  
Lancaster, CA 93536

1:30 P.M.	Commissioners meet and tour begins at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park
1:30 P.M. to 1:45 P.M.	Tour introduction and welcome speech at Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park
1:45 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	Commissioners tour grounds and facilities of Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park
3:00 P.M. to 3:45 P.M.	Commissioners travel to Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve SNR
3:45 P.M. to 4:15 P.M.	Commissioners tour grounds of Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve SNR and visitor center conclusion
4:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Tour ends and commissioners return to hotel

**Note:** Due to extreme weather conditions, changes have been made to the tour agenda. This document was updated on February 27, 2023.



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## **TOUR AND MEETING NOTICE**

### **STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

#### **March 2 and March 3, 2023**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Park and Recreation Commission, pursuant to authority contained in Sections 539, 5002.3, 5019.50, 5080.20 et al. of the Public Resources Code and Section 11120 et seq. of the Government Code, and other applicable law, will conduct a tour on March 2 and will meet on March 3 according to the following schedule:

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**Commission Tour:**

Thursday, March 2, 2023  
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Revised)

**Antelope Valley**  
**Indian Museum State Historic Park**  
15701 E Ave M  
Lancaster, CA 93535

**Antelope Valley**  
**California Poppy Reserve SNR**  
15101 Lancaster Rd  
Lancaster, CA 93536

**Tour Information:** The tour is open to the public and will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 15701 E Ave M in Lancaster, CA. Participants must find their own transportation to each venue. The tour group will explore the Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park before visiting the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve SNR. Fees will be waived upon entry. This tour will last approximately 3-4 hour(s). Tour participants are responsible for bringing their own food, water, and hiking supplies. Participants should also consider wearing appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for the forecasted weather. The current forecast for Lancaster, CA on Thursday, March 2 will be 53°F and sunny. Sunglasses, hats, and hiking shoes are recommended.

**Note:** Provided weather information is subject to change. Please check a preferred source for weather forecast information closer to the date of the tour for the most accurate information.

**Note:** While it is not required, commission staff requests that all participants RSVP at (916) 902-8651 or [SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov](mailto:SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov) so that an estimated attendance can be recorded. Participants that do not RSVP are still permitted to attend the tour.

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**Commission Meeting:**

Friday, March 3, 2023  
9:00 a.m. – until adjournment

**Lancaster City Hall**  
44933 Fern Ave  
Lancaster, CA 93534

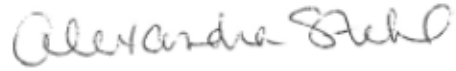
**VIRTUAL MEETING REGISTRATION**

**NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that the agenda for the Commission is posted on the [State Park and Recreation Commission](#) webpage. If individuals are unable to obtain information through this source, please contact the State Park and Recreation Division at (916) 902-8651. Referenced materials may undergo modification and will be available to the public as changes are made. The Commission will discuss and possibly take action on the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan and the Annual Report. The 2023 election of officers will also take place at this meeting.

Meeting facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. If you need specific accommodations, please call the State Park and Recreation Division at (916) 902-8651.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that any person may file a written statement on the proposed actions by writing to the State Park and Recreation Commission or may present written statements at the meeting on March 3, 2023. ***Any person providing written materials to the State Park and Recreation Commission shall provide the Recording Secretary with fourteen (14) copies. Members of the public presenting visual aids (projected media) as part of their public comments to the State Park and Recreation Commission are requested to submit the material(s) to the Commission five (5) days prior to the scheduled meeting. The State Park and Recreation Commission and the Department of Parks and Recreation reserve the right to decline showing photographs that violate personal privacy (photos without a release from the person/people shown in the photograph) or any other valid reason in the opinion of the Commission, the Department, and/or its legal counsel.*** Inquiries may be directed to the State Park and Recreation Division at P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296 or (916) 902-8651.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that the Commission meeting will be live webcast with archived video provided after the meeting at [CAL-SPAN.org](http://CAL-SPAN.org).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra Stehl".

**Alexandra Stehl**  
Deputy Director  
Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division  
California State Parks



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State Park and Recreation Commission  
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## **MEETING AGENDA**

### **STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**March 3, 2023**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Lancaster City Hall**

**44933 Fern Ave**

**Lancaster, CA 93534**

**[VIRTUAL MEETING REGISTRATION](#)**

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- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
  - II. AGENDA MANAGEMENT <sup>(1)</sup> (2a) (2c)**
  - III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
  - IV. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS <sup>(2b)</sup>**
  - V. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**
  - VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - VII. ACTION ITEM: ANNUAL REPORT**
    - a. Annual Report Discussion and Action
  - VIII. BUDGET REPORT**
  - IX. ACTION ITEM: GENERAL PLAN**
    - a. Red Rock Canyon State Park Discussion and Action
  - X. CONSENT ITEM: MEMORIAL GROVE RESOLUTIONS**
    - a. Sherman Starr Family Grove
    - b. The Talia Grove
    - c. Tom and Beth Hinkle Memorial Grove
    - d. Pamela Jean Farrell Memorial Grove
    - e. Vernon F. Vikingson Memorial Grove
    - f. Robert A. and Lawanda L. Hanson Family Coastal Grove



- g. The Brandenburg Family Grove
- h. The Brandenburg Memorial Grove
- i. The Barthold Memorial Grove

## **XI. ACTION ITEM: 2023 COMMISSION ELECTION**

- a. Chair and Vice Chair Nomination/Election

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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- (1) Unless the agenda is revised by majority vote, the Commission will proceed through the agenda in order until the agenda is completed. *The Commission may take action following presentation, public comment, and Commission discussion of those matters listed on the agenda. [Gov. Code §§ 11122, 11125 (a) and (b)].* The Commission may take a lunch break at the Chair's discretion (approximately 12:00 p.m.).
  - (2) **PUBLIC COMMENT**
    - (a) Public comment for agenda items: The Chair will hear public comment as the Commission takes up agenda items. Those individuals wishing to comment on agenda items should use the "raise hand" feature on Zoom or complete the green *Public Comment – Agenda Items* form and submit it to the Commission's recording secretary. Comments will be limited to two (2) minutes.
    - (b) Public comment for non-agenda items: Those persons wishing to address the Commission for non-agenda items during the public comment period should use the "raise hand" feature in Zoom or complete the blue *Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items* form and submit it to the Commission's recording secretary. Comments will be limited to two (2) minutes.
    - (c) Written materials: Members of the public presenting written or graphic materials as part of their public comments to the Commission are requested to submit material(s) to Commission staff at [SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov](mailto:SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov) no later than February 24, 2023, five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting date.  
  
Visual aids: Members of the public presenting visual aids (projected media) as part of their public comments to the Commission are requested to submit the material(s) to Commission staff at [SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov](mailto:SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov) no later than February 24, 2023, five business (5) days prior to the scheduled meeting date. The Commission is unable to accept files larger than 25MB. The Department reserves the right to decline showing photographs that violate personal privacy (photos without a release from the person/people shown in the photograph) or other valid reason in the opinion of the Department and its legal counsel.
  - (3) **CONSENT ITEMS:** The Commission may approve consent items all at once without discussion. Any person attending in-person or remotely who requests an opportunity to speak on consent items submit a request form or use the "raise hand" feature on Zoom prior to the announcement of Consent Items. If such a request is made, the item(s) in question may be pulled from the consent list for discussion and/or public comment.

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# California State Park and Recreation Commission

## Annual Report



**Reporting Period:**  
**January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022**

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## California State Park and Recreation Commission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

The California State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) aids DPR in this mission. The SPRC establishes general policies to guide the director in the administration, protection, and development of the California state park system, makes compatibility findings for proposed concessions, classifies units of the state park system, and approves general plans for units of the state park system.

California Public Resources Code 535 states that the State Park and Recreation Commission *shall report annually to the Governor, through the director, on existing and operating recreational facilities, programs, and activities of the state park system, and on the needs of the state and the local subdivisions thereof for recreational facilities, programs, and activities, and shall make recommendations for programs and activities to meet future needs of the state for parks and recreation.*

This report covers the actions of the SPRC during the years 2021-2022.

Learn more online:

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
<https://www.parks.ca.gov>

California State Park and Recreation Commission  
<https://www.parks.ca.gov/commission>



## Message From SPRC Chairperson Rue Mapp

California has 280 state parks, the largest state park system in the nation. More than 68 million visitors enjoy the memorable forests, beaches, mountains, deserts, lakes, rivers, and historic sites in our state parks each year.

In 1927, California established a State Park Commission, the first in the nation, when it accepted the Yosemite Grant from President Abraham Lincoln. Today, the California State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) is charged with:

- Upholding its legal mandates as specified in California Public Resources Code;
- Advising the Department of Parks and Recreation on necessary improvements in the management of state parks providing outdoor recreation; and
- Providing a forum to encourage public involvement and input on the administration of California's State Park System, and to help make the Department's management of state parks transparent to the public.

After virtual meetings during the global pandemic, the SPRC has returned to in-person meetings active and engaged, committed to build on the success of those who served before us and to set an example for those who will follow.

There were silver linings. Meeting in person again looks different - recognizing the broader engagement enabled by virtual meetings, we move forward with a hybrid model and can expand public engagement via virtual participation. The pandemic also drove significant increases in park visitation, especially with visitors previously less likely to spend time in parks. Broader demand for park access and services brought into focus the need for greater representation.

We identified new priorities as the result of a visioning process and are working closely with staff and partner organizations, closely aligned with key initiatives of the Administration, such as Outdoors For All and 30x30. Newly formed subcommittees enable us to work in support of these established priorities.

Most of all, we embrace the opportunity to work on behalf of all Californians, and believe the SPRC can follow the Path Forward set forth by the Department, a strategic initiative to drive process improvements and increase the effectiveness of the state park system, so we call all better protect its natural, historical, and cultural resources, and improve the visitor experience.

*Rue Mapp Digital Signature*

Rue Mapp, Chairperson of the California State Park and Recreation Commission

## **SPRC Priorities**

On February 2, 2022, the SPRC and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff held a facilitated visioning workshop. The goals of the workshop were to:

- Brainstorm potential areas of focus for the SPRC
- Prioritize the areas of focus for the next 1 to 3 years
- Identify support needed to help the SPRC address the priority areas of focus
- Map out next steps

Areas of focus were identified and consolidated, and the following are those identified as high priority:

### **Outdoor Access for All**

- Addressing underserved communities (culturally competent interpretation, externally facing equity and access, acquisition, expansion of parks, prioritization of areas that need parks, and grants to fund urban parks)
- Naming and renaming (Reexamining Our Past)

### **Supporting Department Operations**

- Equity in the workforce at all levels, budgeting, internal operations, enhancing the general planning process

### **Climate Change in Park Planning and Operations**

- Network of resiliency, protection, cooling centers, sea level rise, wildfire risk, public safety, facilities, transportation, etc.

### **Improving Public Engagement and Communication**

- Access to grants, greater visibility of meetings, public access to commissioners, ways commissioners can be effective listeners and operators

These areas of focus served as the launchpad for the SPRC to form and staff new subcommittees at the June 2022 meeting of the SPRC and enable commissioners to move forward with further learning and goal setting via their subcommittee work.

DPR hired and assigned staff to support the subcommittee work and the following key tools were identified: the SPRC Annual Report to the Governor, a Sharepoint site, and Path Forward 2026.

## **SPRC Subcommittees**

### **Annual Report to the Governor**

Members: Chairperson Rue Mapp, Commissioner Christina Jaromay

The Annual Report to the Governor subcommittee works with commissioners, SPRC subcommittees, and staff to develop a framework that will highlight the priorities of the SPRC and communicate areas of opportunity to achieve established goals. The new subcommittee views the Annual Report to the Governor as the lead communications vehicle for SPRC to the public as well as to Governor Newsom, and is eager to share the Annual Report broadly to bring attention to the priorities of the SPRC, and to build stewardship and partnership as we work to achieve our stated goals.

### **Golden Bear Awards**

Members: Vice Chairperson Phil Ginsburg, Commissioner Asma Mahdi

In 2019, the California State Park and Recreation Commission relaunched the annual Golden Bear Awards. Soon after it was interrupted by the Pandemic. In early 2023, three 2019 Golden Bear Awards were presented to the following individuals:

John Salcido for his volunteer work at Halfmoon State Beach;

Dr. Helen Henry Smith, for her advocacy and philanthropy supporting Emerald Bay State Park;

Linda Vandom, a long-time employee at Crystal Cove State Park

PHOTO

John Salcido, a volunteer at Half Moon Bay State Beach

PHOTO

Dr. Helen Henry Smith, an advocate and philanthropist supporting Emerald Bay State Park

PHOTO

Linda Vandom, a long-time employee at Crystal Cove State Park.

The 2022 and 2023 Golden Bear Awards will be selected and presented in 2023. Nominations can be submitted at <https://www.parks.ca.gov/goldenbearaward>.





Created and staffed in June 2022, the following SPRC subcommittees spent the latter half of 2022 meeting with subject matter experts to learn about programs and initiatives related to their efforts.

- Department Operations and Path Forward
- Climate Change in Park Planning and Operations
- Outdoor Access For All
- Public Engagement and Communications

A report from each subcommittee follows. In 2023, the goal of each subcommittee is to establish a subcommittee mission with supporting goals and objectives, and to include their detailed recommendations in the 2023 Annual Report to the Governor.

### **Department Operations and Path Forward**

Members: Vice Chairperson Phil Ginsburg, Commissioner Danny J. Bakewell, Sr.

Throughout 2021-2022, the Department worked on development of a new Strategic Operations Plan, now named **Path Forward**. The intent of the five-year plan is to guide the department in a direction of continual improvement and exceptional public service regardless of unforeseen circumstances. Path Forward is intended to strengthen departmental operations by focusing on prioritized set objectives, and ensure that all employees, supervisors, managers, partners, and stakeholders are working together to achieve these objectives, and in turn positively impact public experiences in California State Parks. With Path Forward launching in 2023, we will monitor the process and lend support where needed. We anticipate forward progress, measured results, and recognized successes.

In 2022, our subcommittee has learned much about grant funding awarded through DPR via the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS). Significant funding is awarded to organizations statewide each year. We applaud OGALS efforts to meet the needs of underserved communities and to enable community engagement via grant application requirements. We continue to learn more and are especially focused on closing any equity gaps as it relates to grant funding.

### **Climate Change in Park Planning and Operations**

Members: Commissioner Sara Barth, Commissioner Asma Mahdi

Created to focus on the department's response to climate change, our subcommittee is in the information gathering process with the goal to identify a project to steward forward into 2023 and beyond.



We are pleased that Path Forward includes the goal to strategically manage the department's natural and cultural resources and facilities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The objective is to develop and implement departmentwide climate change action strategies and action plans in collaboration with other agencies, entities, and partners. We look forward to learning about the plans as work progresses in 2023 and beyond.

In February 2022, the Department's Planning and Acquisitions Committee (PAC) created a Climate Change in Planning Work Group. The goal of the work group is to identify a consistent approach to incorporating climate change in the emerging Cornerstone Documents, a vision-setting tool, while also defining a broader approach on climate as it relates to other planning documents. The group has drafted the following five principles to guide the department's long- and short-term planning processes:

- (1) Integrate climate change considerations into all levels of the planning process.
- (2) Integrate the best available science and technology into the planning process.
- (3) Work collaboratively with local, state, and federal agencies; nonprofit partners; community organizations; and Tribes throughout the planning process to create and sustain an aligned response to climate change.
- (4) Embrace equitable access to the planning process, allowing for further engagement with vulnerable communities affected by climate change.
- (5) Align planning approach to climate change with California's efforts by incorporating statewide climate initiatives, guidance, and strategies into its planning process

Our subcommittee supports the creation of new positions to support integration of climate change in planning. DPR partners Parks California funded a Climate Fellow who is assisting the Planning and Natural Resources Divisions to spearhead this effort, and DPR is funding a Sea-Level Rise Planning Coordinator.

## **Outdoor Access For All**

Members: Commissioner Sara Barth, Commissioner Francesca Vietor

Our initial subcommittee goals are to identify available data and/or establish a data gathering methodology to understand barriers and opportunities to access; to learn, for example, which park locations are least accessible, which Californians are not accessing parks, which barriers, if addressed, would open access to the greatest number of Californians.

Outdoor Access for All is a broad initiative with many opportunities, in DPR but also well beyond. As we strive to narrow the subcommittee's work to specific prioritized efforts and issues, we want to leverage existing programs that we can help support and amplify. We see opportunity to connect work within DPR to the broader effort supported by the First Partner and others in the Administration i.e., interagency efforts. We seek to engage in ways that can help move the needle on these issues.

We seek to learn about the economics of the state park system - operational costs, funding sources, budget decision-making - to help us better understand the feasibility of new approaches, i.e., no-cost access to parks. A geographical analysis will help us understand how people access parks, and if transportation is a significant barrier to access.

We would like to better understand the scope and impact of programs managed in DPR's Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS), both grant funding programs and outreach programs via their Office of Community Engagement. Are there opportunities to expand effective programs? Do they have measurable goals and metrics? Are they capturing data to assess opportunities and impacts? Do grant programs increase access, or is there opportunity for grant programs to help close access gaps?

We look forward to learning about educational/interpretive programming. How is the department responding to AB209 legislative mandates to fund outdoor environmental education programs to serve disadvantaged youth? What resources are needed to implement these mandates?

We are interested in the shared goals of parks, schools, and communities. We have been excited about the Adventure Pass program for 4th graders and the Library Pass Program. We hope to learn more about which schools currently using parks and how and learn if there is opportunity to collaborate.

## **Public Engagement and Communications**

Members: Chairperson Rue Mapp, Commissioner Francesca Vietor

Our subcommittee focused on improving public communication and engagement, including access to grants, greater visibility of SPRC meetings, and to identify how Commissioners can be more effective listeners and operators. There are now two areas of focus. One, to improve public engagement in SPRC processes and decision-making, and two, on identifying opportunities to improve engagement and responsiveness between the department and the public. Adding communications staff, which is currently in process, will help make progress in these areas.

Commissioner Francesca Vietor has started a Parks Tour Campaign, with the goal of visiting all 280 state park units during her four-year term. Parks visited in 2022 are:

Año Nuevo SP  
Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve (SNR)  
Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland SP  
Azalea SNR  
Burleigh H. Murray Ranch  
Castaic Lake SRA  
Folsom Lake SRA  
Fort Humboldt SHP  
Governor's Mansion SHP  
Greenwood SB  
Half Moon Bay SB  
Hendy Woods SP  
Humboldt Lagoons SP  
Humboldt Redwoods SP  
Hungry Valley SVRA  
Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP  
John B. Dewitt Redwoods SNR  
Kruse Rhododendron SNR  
Lighthouse Field SB  
Little River SB  
Manchester SP  
McLaughlin Eastshore State Park (SS)  
Montara SB  
Natural Bridges SB  
Navarro River Redwoods SP  
New Brighton SB  
Pelican SB  
Pescadero SB  
Pigeon Point Light Station SHP  
Placerita Canyon SP  
Prairie Creek Redwoods SP  
Red Rock Canyon SP  
Salt Point SP  
Santa Cruz Mission SHP  
Schooner Gulch SB  
Seacliff SB  
Sue-meg SP  
Tolowa Dunes SP  
Trinidad SB  
Verdugo Mountains  
Wilder Ranch SP

As we begin 2023, DPR staff is coordinating alignment and planning an official campaign launch, which will be supported by the new Social Media Coordinator. Plans include integrating the tour into the California State Parks app to build excitement about it and to challenge the public to join the challenge, an approach that will both promote the app and drive public engagement and visitation.



## **SPRC Authorities and Responsibilities**

The SPRC has specific authorities and responsibilities which are defined in California law (numbered in no particular order for reference only):

- Approves general plans for units of the State Park System. (PRC Section 5002.2)
- Approves the name and classification of new units of the State Park System. Classification of state marine managed areas requires the concurrence of the Fish and Game Commission. (PRC Section 5019.50) (Commission Policy II.2)
- Approves resolutions accepting and naming memorial redwood groves and memorial trails in units of the State Park System. (Commission Policy II.2)
- Determines whether proposed concessions for units are compatible with the unit's general plan. (PRC Section 5080.03c) (Commission Policy I.4)
- Determines whether proposed concession contracts are expected to involve a total investment or estimated annual gross sales more than \$1M are compatible with the classifications of the units in which they will be operated. (PRC Section 5080.20a) (Commission Policy I.6)
- Reports annually to the Governor, through the Director, on existing and operating recreational facilities, programs, and activities of the State Park System, and makes recommendations for programs and activities to meet future needs of the state for parks and recreation. (PRC Section 535) (Commission Policy Preamble)
- Establishes general policies for the guidance of the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation in the administration, protection, and development of the State Park System. (PRC Section 539) (Commission Policy Preamble)
- Formulates and recommends to the Director a comprehensive recreation policy for the State of California. (PRC Section 540b) (Commission Policy I.1)
- Recognition of State Park Employees or any persons or organizations that have significantly contributed to the State Park unit or system. This currently includes recognition of retired employees, resolutions, and the Golden Bear Award, the highest award given by the Commission to persons or organizations for significant contributions to the State Park System.



- Determines whether hunting in certain State Recreation Areas would threaten the safety and welfare of recreation area users. (PRC Section 5003.1) (Commission Policy III.7)
- Provides general guidance to the Director when considering the sales of alcoholic beverages at State Park facilities and to describe the circumstances under which the sales of alcoholic beverages may be permitted within the State Park System. (Commission Policy IV.7)
- Concurs in appointments made by the Director to the Columbia City Hotel Corporation (Contract with Hotel Corporation) and by the Director to the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation Board of Directors. (Operating agreement with the Non-Profit Management Corporation). (Commission Policy I.4)

## Meetings of the SPRC

3/12/2021	Virtual Meeting <a href="https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2021-03-12">https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2021-03-12</a>
5/4/2021	Virtual Workshop: Planning Processes <a href="https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2021-05-04">https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2021-05-04</a>
5/21/2021	Virtual Meeting <a href="https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2021-05-21">https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2021-05-21</a>
9/29-30/2021	Virtual Meeting
12/17/2021	Virtual Meeting <a href="https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2021-12-17">https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2021-12-17</a>
2/7/2022	Virtual Workshop: SPRC Visioning Workshop <a href="https://cal-span.org/unipage?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2022-02-07">https://cal-span.org/unipage?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2022-02-07</a>
2/8/2022	Virtual Meeting <a href="https://cal-span.org/unipage?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2022-02-08">https://cal-span.org/unipage?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2022-02-08</a>
6/16/2022	Tour, Sacramento Region
6/17/2022	Meeting, McClellan CA <a href="https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2022-06-17">https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&amp;owner=CSPRC&amp;date=2022-06-17</a>
10/20/2022	Tour, Red Rock Canyon State Park
10/21/2022	Meeting, Lancaster CA <a href="https://cal-span.org/meeting/csprc_20221021/">https://cal-span.org/meeting/csprc_20221021/</a>

Meeting agendas and archived recordings are available at:  
<https://cal-span.org/meetings/CSPRC/>

Schedules for future meetings are available at:  
[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30545](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30545)



## SPRC Actions Taken

### General Plan Approvals

During this reporting period, the SPRC approved two General Plans, which apply to four park units of the state park system.

5.21.2021

[General Plan for Carmel Area State Parks](#) (includes Carmel River State Beach, Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve, and Ishxenta State Park)

9.27.2021

[General Plan for Auburn State Recreation Area \(SRA\)](#)

In October 2022, Commissioners toured Red Rock Canyon State Park in advance of their expected Spring 2023 hearing of the proposed General Plan.

### Classifications and Names

During this reporting period, the SPRC approved two name changes, one Day Use Area and one park unit of the state park system. Both name changes were results of the [Reexamining Our Past Initiative](#).

5.21.2021

- Classification and Naming: Ishxenta State Park
- Reclassification and Addition: Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
- Subclassification and Naming: Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve
- Subclassification and Naming: San Jose Creek Natural Preserve
- Subclassification and Naming: Tatlun Cultural Preserve

9.27.2021

- Renaming: Sue-Meg State Park (formerly Patrick's Point SP)

6.17.2022

- Renaming: Black Miner's Bar Day Use Area (Folsom Lake SRA) – (temporary, pending decision on permanent name change expected in June 2023)

### Concession Notifications and Compatibility Findings

During this reporting period, the SPRC reviewed one concession proposals for compatibility with the classification and approved general plan for the relevant park unit. The SPRC received 13 informational notices in 2021 and 7 in 2022.

5/21/2021

- Carmel Area State Parks Parking Concession

## Commemorative Redwood Groves

In partnership with Save The Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund, the following commemorative redwood groves were established via approval by the SPRC:

[PHOTO: Redesigned Certificate?]

9.27.2021

- Resolution No. 9-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in Navarro River Redwoods State Park now known as "Cantus Grove – Susan and Jerry Juhl" thanks to a generous donation by Susan Juhl to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 10-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park now known as "August Family Grove – Jerry, Barbara, Loni & Lee" thanks to a generous donation by Barbara August to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 11-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park now known as "The Karen Carr Family Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Suzanne Colwell to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 12-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in Wilder Ranch State Park now known as "Linda's Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Tyler Nelson to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 13-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in Portola Redwoods State Park now known as "Scarlett Family Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Robert Scarlett to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 14-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park now known as "Ranger Gerald (Jerry) E. Waggoner Memorial Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Elaine Wedegaertner to Save The Redwood League.

12.17.2021

- Resolution No. 17-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park now known as "The Britton Family Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Ralph Britton to Save The Redwood League.
  - Resolution No. 18-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park now known as "Erdman Family Memorial Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Erdman Family to Save The Redwood League.
  - Resolution No. 19-2021 established a commemorative redwood grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park now known as "Laurie Macdonald and Peter
-



Belmont Redwood Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Laurie Macdonald and Peter Belmont to Save The Redwood League.

2.8.2022

- Resolution No. 1-2022 established a commemorative redwood grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park now known as "Roberta Irene Bowman Sheltering Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Roberta Bowman to Save The Redwood League.

6.17.2022

- Resolution No. 3-2022 established a commemorative redwood grove in Castle Rock State Park now known as "Susan Jenkins Ten Eyck Memorial Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Susan Jenkins to Sempervirens Fund.
- Resolution No. 4-2022 established a commemorative redwood grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park now known as "Stangeland-Jennings Family Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Bruce Stangeland to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 5-2022 established a commemorative redwood grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park now known as "Mahan Family Descendants and Friends Grove" thanks to a generous donation by Mahan Family and Friends to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 6-2022 established a commemorative redwood grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park now known as "Daniel Ross Gallie Memorial Grove" thanks to a generous donation by The Daniel Ross Gallie Trust to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 7-2022 established a commemorative redwood grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park now known as "Daniel Ross Gallie Grove" thanks to a generous donation by The Daniel Ross Gallie Trust to Save The Redwood League.
- Resolution No. 8-2022 established a commemorative redwood grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park now known as "Daniel Ross Gallie and John A. McCabe Grove" thanks to a generous donation by The Daniel Ross Gallie Trust to Save The Redwood League.



## SPRC Commissioners

The California State Park and Recreation Commission was created as the State Park Commission in 1927. In its current form, nine voting commissioners are appointed to staggered four-year terms. The governor appoints the voting members of the Commission; these appointments require Senate confirmation. State law requires that:

- three members represent the public;
- one member have demonstrated expertise in cultural or historic resources management;
- one member possess a background as a parks professional;
- one member represent nonprofit or other organizations with statewide policy experience with the State Park System or in operating state parks (via operating agreement or other arrangement);
- one member represent a statewide conservation organization with expertise in the administration or programs of the department;
- one member have a background in the recreational industry;
- one member represent a local business community that has significant and beneficial relationships with state parks.

### Current Members

<b>Photo</b>	<p><b>Rue Mapp</b> May 2015 – January 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson March 2021 – present</li> <li>• Vice Chairperson April 2018 – March 2021</li> </ul> <p>I serve on the State Park and Recreation Commission because I.....</p>
<b>Photo</b>	<p><b>Phil Ginsburg</b> Member August 2019 - January 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chairperson March 2021 - present</li> </ul> <p>I serve on the California State Parks and Recreation Commission because it's an honor to combine my professional experience as San Francisco's Parks Director with my joy for the outdoors and my commitment park equity and access for all Californians in collective stewardship of America's best state park system.</p>

<b>Photo</b>	<b>Danny Bakewell, Sr.</b> April 2021 – January 2024  I serve on the State Park and Recreation Commission because I.....
<b>Photo</b>	<b>Sara Barth</b> May 2020 – January 2021  I serve on the State Park and Recreation Commission because I.....
<b>Photo</b>	<b>Christina Jaromay</b> March 2022 - January 2024  I serve on the California State Park and Recreation Commission because I believe in supporting the department's endeavors to meet the state parks mission. I believe we must uphold the mission and I want to be a voice for all our diverse Californians.
<b>Photo</b>	<b>Asma Mahdi</b> May 2020 – January 2023  I serve on the State Park and Recreation Commission because I.....
<b>Photo</b>	<b>Francesca Vietor</b> March 2022 - January 2026  I serve on the State Park and Recreation Commission because I.....

**Former Members** (served during reporting period)

- Diane Wittenberg, February 2014 – January 2022
  - Chairperson June 2015 – April 2018
- Tommy Randle, July 2011 – January 2021
- Katherine Toy, May 2020 – December 2021

**Ex-Officio Members**

- Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
- Senator Henry Stern, Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

**Former Ex-Officio Members** (served during reporting period)

- Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee

## **SPRC Honorees**

The SPRC honored the following individuals in recognition of their significant contribution to the State of California and the State Park System:

### **Honoring Resolutions**

[PHOTO: Redesigned Certificate?]

**Karl Knapp**, Karl Knapp Memorial Trail, Prairie Creek Redwoods SP (May 21, 2021)

**Ernest Chung**, Honoring Resolution (December 17, 2021)

**Dr. Nina S. Roberts**, Honoring Resolution (June 17, 2022)

### **Golden Bear Awards**

[PHOTO: Redesigned Certificate]

**John Salcido**

**Dr. Helen Henry Smith**

**Linda Vandom**



## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Lancaster, CA

March 3, 2023

**STAFF REPORT:** Annual Report to the Governor

**STAFF:** Alexandra Stehl, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and Consideration of the Annual Report to the Governor

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### Summary

Public Resources Code, Section 535, requires the State Park and Recreation Commission (Commission) to report annually to the Governor, through the director, on existing and operating recreational facilities, programs, and activities of the state park system and on the needs of the state and the local subdivisions thereof for recreational facilities, programs, and activities and, shall make recommendations for programs and activities to meet future needs of the state for parks and recreation.

### Discussion

The Commission Annual Report Subcommittee prepared this report with assistance from Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division (Division) staff. The Annual Report Subcommittee met multiple times and collaborated with other Commission Subcommittees to develop the report content, which was reviewed by the Commission body. This draft report summarizes the content required in PRC Section 535 (described above). The Commission will consider the draft report content and provide guidance to the Division on finalizing the report.

### COMMISSION ACTION(S)

Discuss the Draft Annual Report, take public comment, and provide guidance to the Division on finalizing the report. The Commission may consider approving the Draft Report as is or moving the agenda item to a future Commission meeting.

### ATTACHMENTS

Draft Annual Report to the Governor





## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Lancaster, CA

March 3

**STAFF REPORT:** Budget Report

**STAFF:** Will Schaafsma Deputy Director, Administrative Services

**SUBJECT:** 2023 Governor's Budget

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### OBJECTIVE

Update on State Parks 2023 Proposed Budget

### INTRODUCTION

The Governor released his proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year on January 10, 2023.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

N/A

### DESCRIPTION (REPORT / UPDATE)

#### **Overview**

The 2023 Governor's Budget includes \$1.039 billion to support the Department of Parks and Recreation. Of this amount, \$776.3 million is available for state operations, \$229 million is available for local assistance, and \$33.4 million is available for Capital Outlay projects.

Overall, the 2023 proposed budget represents a \$178.7 million reduction from the 2022 budget. About half of the reduction is attributable to one-time increases in last year's budget for the Parks Pass Program, State Parks' Tribal Lands Acknowledgments, African American History and Engagement, K-12 and Interpretive Enrichment Program, California Cultural and Art Installations, Malakoff Diggins Mine Remediation Project.

The remaining decrease is attributable to one time increases in last year's budget for Local Assistance grants for Statewide Park Program, legislative grants, and Public Beach Restoration Grants as well as one-time investments in Capital Outlay projects.

The proposed budget includes \$370.6 million General Fund (GF), \$272.1 million State Parks and Recreation Fund (SPRF) to support operations and local assistance. This split is generally consistent with prior years, with the GF provided for local assistance fluctuating depending upon the Administration's desired investment level.

### ***Proposed Reductions***

The Governor's Budget forecasts General Fund revenues will be \$29.5 billion lower than at the 2022 Budget Act projections, and California now faces an estimated budget gap of \$22.5 billion in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

For State Parks, reductions are proposed to state operations, local assistance, and certain capital outlay projects. Should certain revenue benchmarks be met in the upcoming fiscal year, some of these reductions would be restored. These reductions are not reflected in the budget numbers referenced above and include the following:

*Statewide Parks Program* - The Statewide Park Program was appropriated \$225 million GF across 3 years as part of the FY 22-23 budget. The 2023-24 Governor's Budget proposes a total reduction of \$150 million GF, reducing \$75 million from FY 22-23, \$31 million from FY 23-24, and \$44 million from FY 24-25.

*California Indian Heritage Center and Capital Outlay Investments* - In previous budgets, State Parks has received \$145.3 million in GF transfers from the General Fund to the Natural Resources and Parks Preservation Fund for future capital outlay investments and the California Indian Heritage Center. The 2023-24 Governor's Budget proposes \$110 million be returned to the GF (\$15 million related to State Parks Future Capital Investment and \$95 million related to California Indian Heritage Center).

*Deferred Maintenance Projects* - In last year's budget, State Parks received an appropriation of \$185 million GF for Deferred Maintenance Projects. The 2023-24 budget proposes a reduction of \$31 million from this appropriation.

### ***Budget Change Proposals***

#### **State Operations and Local Assistance Budget Change Proposals:**

*Dos Rios Ranch State Park Day Use Operation* - \$5.8M one-time and \$3.3M GF ongoing to establish and open Dos Rios Ranch as a new State Park for day use operations to create recreation opportunities and park access to historically underserved communities in the Central Valley. Funds initially allocated for

acquisition of a new state park in 2021-21 Governor's Budget will now be used for larger planning efforts, as well as any acquisition costs.

*Sonoma Open Space Area Operations* – \$3.0M reimbursement authority, to manage the open space park lands within the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). The requested funding will cover equipment and operation costs to address associated workload increases from the added acreage from SDC such as maintenance, installations, repairs, and vegetation management.

*Permitting Compliance and Habitat Management Plan for Restoration and Enhancement in Fort Ord Dunes State Park* – \$4.7M one-time and \$1.2M GF ongoing to fulfill requirements associated with the Department's Coastal Development Permit (CDP), as conditionally approved by the Coastal Commission, and US Fish and Wildlife permits required for the development the new campground project at Fort Ord Dunes State Park (Fort Ord Dunes SP). The funding will also enable the Department to meet long-term management commitments identified in the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) that was established as part of the disposition of the former military base properties.

*ADA Tucker Consent Decree* - \$23M GF one-time to complete additional ADA improvements under the Tucker Consent Decree.

*Office of Grants and Local Services' Federal Funded Program's Administration* - \$904K Federal Trust Funds and \$859K ongoing to administer the federally funded Land and Water Conservation Fund program, Outdoor Legacy Partnership program, and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

### **Capital Outlay Budget Change Proposals:**

*Humboldt Redwoods SP: Replace Founders Grove Restroom* - \$1.861M State Park Contingent Fund and \$4.052M Prop 84 for the construction phase of the Humboldt Redwoods State Park: Replace Founders Grove Restroom. This project will demolish the existing restroom facility and parking lot at Founders Grove. Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2024.

*Kings Beach SRA: Recreational Pier Replacement* - \$1.046M in reimbursement authority for the working drawings phase of the continuing Kings Beach State Recreation Area Pier Replacement and Support Buildings project in Placer County. This project will relocate the existing pier, construct a new support building for park operations, and provide access and recreational improvements, consistent with the 2018 General Plan. Design funds for this project will come from fully executed grant agreements between the Department and the California Tahoe Conservancy in the amount of \$650,000 and the Department and the State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board in



the amount of \$700,000, for a total of \$1,350,000. The Department will seek additional grant funds for the construction phase of this project. Construction is expected to begin in June 2026.

*Lake Perris SRA: Replace Lifeguard Headquarters - \$12.575M Prop 68*  
for the construction phase Lake Perris State Recreation Area  
Lifeguard Headquarters replacement project in Riverside County.  
Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2024.

*Malibu Creek SP: New Stokes Creek Bridge - \$7.296M Prop 68*  
for the construction phase of the Malibu Creek State Park New Stokes Creek  
Bridge project in Los Angeles County. Construction is scheduled to  
begin in December 2023.

*Mount Diablo SP: Visitor Center - \$2.612M in reimbursement authority from*  
for the construction phase of the Mount Diablo State Park Visitor Center project  
in Contra Costa County. This project includes replacing a small existing visitor  
center trailer with a larger visitor center, remodeling the existing restroom and site  
to meet accessibility standards, and constructing an outdoor interpretive  
pavilion. Construction is expected to begin in March 2025.

*Old Sacramento SHP: Riverfront Improvements - \$324k Prop 68*  
for the working drawings phase of the continuing Old Sacramento State Historic  
Park: Riverfront Improvements project in Sacramento County.  
This project will create a space that complements the natural riverbank  
environment and forms a strong connection to Sacramento's Waterfront. The  
improvements will result in an inviting space for visitors that provides opportunities  
for special events, a four-season river viewing experience, and a complementary  
space to the Sacramento Waterfront. Construction is expected to begin in  
August 2025.

*Picacho SRA: Park Power System Upgrade - \$2.123M Prop 68*  
for the construction phase of the continuing Picacho State Recreation Area: Park  
Power System Upgrade project in Imperial County. Construction is expected to  
begin in March 2024.

*Silver Strand SB: Low-Cost Accommodations - \$500k Prop 68*  
for the working drawings phase of the continuing Silver Strand State Beach: Low-  
Cost Accommodations project in San Diego County. Construction is expected to  
begin in September 2025.

## **NEXT STEPS**

N/A

## **RECOMMENDATION**

N/A- Informational only

**COMMISSION ACTION(S)**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

<https://ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2023-24/#/Department/3790>

**CITATIONS**

<https://ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2023-24>



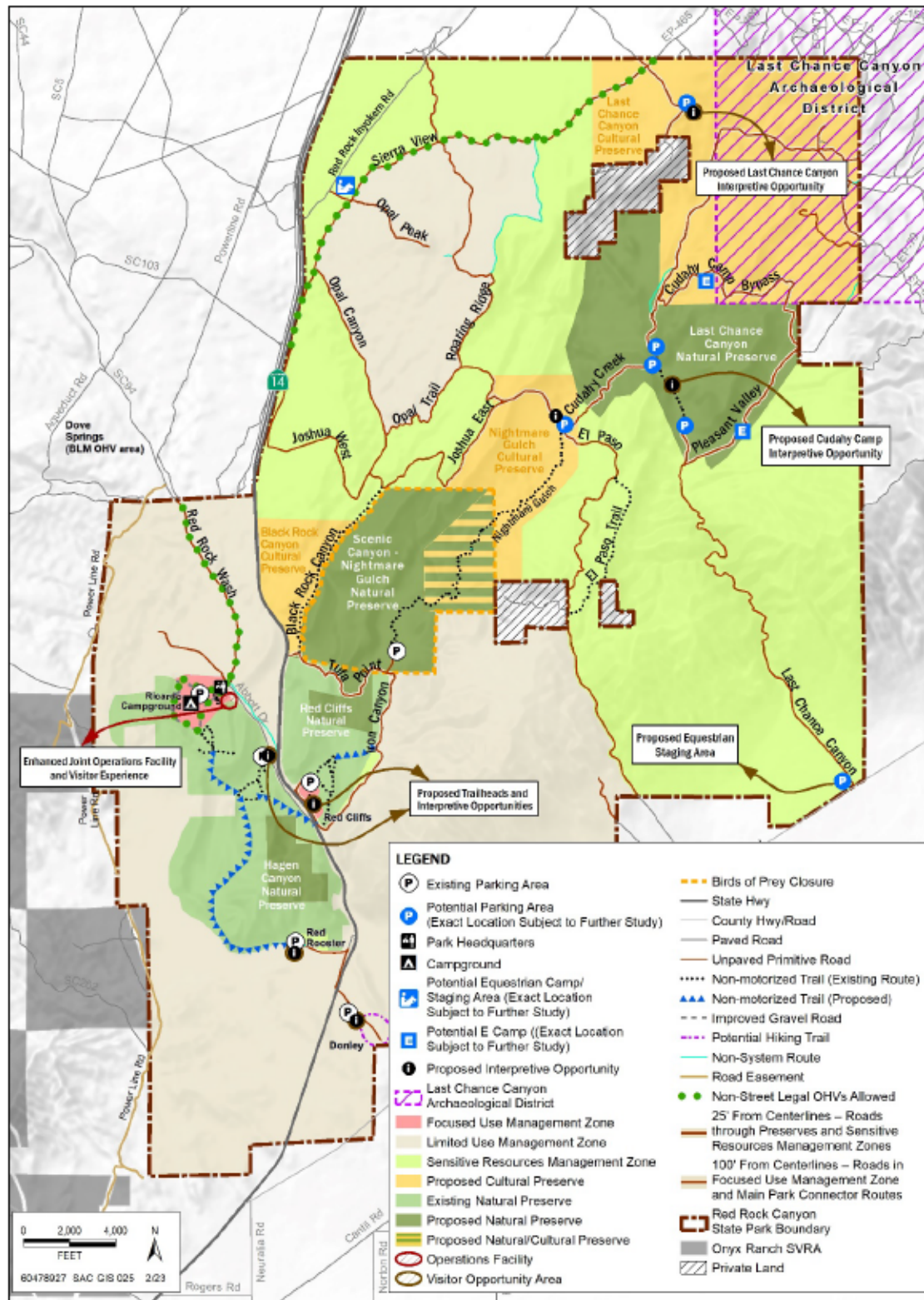


Figure 4-1. General Plan Concept Map for Red Rock Canyon State Park

Table 4-1. Management Zone Uses

Management Zone:	Focused Use	Limited Use	Sensitive Resources	Cultural Preserve	Natural Preserve
<b>Zone Descriptions:</b>	The zone is managed for high-quality recreational experiences and maintained to protect the natural character, including sensitive watersheds, wetlands, and creeks.	This zone is managed for moderate recreational use balanced with the protection of resources.	This management zone protects sensitive resources.	The zone contains a high concentration of significant cultural resources and focuses on preserving, protecting, and interpreting these resources.	The zone contains significant, rare, or endangered natural resources and focuses on preserving, protecting, and interpreting these resources.
<b>Classification:</b>	State Park	State Park	State Park	State Cultural Preserve	State Natural Preserve
<b>Resource Character and Management:</b>	The development includes visitor facilities (e.g., visitor center, campground), park operations facilities, vehicle access and parking, day-use areas, and interpretive elements to support orientation to the Park.	Minimal development includes primitive roads and parking/staging areas, primitive/environmental and equestrian camping areas, non-motorized trails, and interpretive elements mixed with open space and natural settings.	Minimal development includes primitive roads and parking/staging areas, primitive/environmental camping areas (if feasible), non-motorized trails, and interpretive elements mixed with open space and natural settings.	Same as Sensitive Resources Zone	Same as Sensitive Resources Zone
<b>Visitor Experiences:</b>	Moderate to highest intensity of visitor use. Moderate contact with others.	Moderate to low-level use and contact with others and some opportunities for quiet and solitude.	Low-level use, minimal contact with others, opportunities for quiet and solitude. Visitors will have maximum opportunity to experience nature's sights, smells, and sounds.	Same as Sensitive Resources Zone	Same as Sensitive Resources Zone
<b>Time of Use:</b>	Day Use; Overnight use in campground.	Day Use; Overnight use in designated primitive/environmental and equestrian camping areas.	Day Use; Overnight use in designated primitive/environmental camping areas (if feasible).	Same as Sensitive Resources Zone	Same as Sensitive Resources Zone
<b>Typical Visitor Activities/Uses:</b>	Diverse visitor-use opportunities, including enjoying scenic views; picnicking; accessing trailheads for hiking and horseback riding; biking; acquiring Park information (e.g., maps, services); partaking in educational programs and interpretive opportunities; self-guided driving tours; and individual or group camping.	Enjoying scenic views; primitive/environmental and equestrian camping; hiking, biking, horseback riding; interpretive opportunities; and self-guided driving tours.	Enjoy scenic views; hiking, biking and horseback riding; interpretive opportunities; self-guided driving tours on primitive roads; and, if feasible, primitive/environmental and equestrian camping.	Enjoy scenic views; hiking, biking and horseback riding; interpretive opportunities; self-guided driving tours on primitive roads; and, if feasible, primitive/environmental camping.	Same as Cultural Preserve
<b>Range of Appropriate Facilities:</b>	Campground; visitor center; campfire center; park operations facilities; vehicle access roads; day-use parking and picnic areas; trailheads; parking/staging areas for hiking, biking, and equestrian use;	"Dry" (no water or other developed facilities) primitive/environmental and equestrian camping areas; primitive roads; primitive trailhead/scenic vista parking and picnic areas; non-	"Dry" (no water or other developed facilities) primitive/environmental and equestrian camping areas (to be determined by Park staff and resource specialists); primitive roads;	"Dry" (no water or other developed facilities) primitive/environmental camping areas (to be determined by Park staff and resource specialists); primitive roads; primitive	Same as Sensitive Resources Zone



Management Zone:	Focused Use	Limited Use	Sensitive Resources	Cultural Preserve	Natural Preserve
	non-motorized trails; primitive roads; and interpretive/educational elements.	motorized trails; and interpretive/educational elements.	primitive trailhead/scenic vista parking and picnic areas; non-motorized trails; and interpretive/educational elements.	trailhead/scenic vista parking and picnic areas; non-motorized trails; and interpretive/educational elements.	
<b>Camping*:</b>	Individual and group camping allowed in the developed campground with primitive campsites and minimal facilities.	Primitive/environmental and equestrian camping in designated areas.	Primitive/environmental and equestrian camping in designated areas, if feasible (to be determined by Park staff and resource specialists).	Primitive/environmental camping in designated areas, if feasible. Will be adjacent to park roads and not within the Preserve boundary designation. Location will be determined by Park staff and resource specialists and project-level environmental review.	Same as Cultural Preserve
<b>Hiking*:</b>	Allowed throughout this zone	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Use Zone	Allowed on roads and trails	Same as Cultural Preserve
<b>Horseback Riding*:</b>	Allowed on designated roads and trails	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Use Zone
<b>Biking*:</b>	Allowed on designated roads	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Use Zone	Not allowed on unpaved roads in preserves. Biking is allowed on primitive roads, which are outside preserve boundaries (see Section 4.4.4 – Cultural and Natural Preserves for more information.)	Same as Cultural Preserve
<b>Street-Legal Vehicle Touring*:</b>	Allowed on designated roads	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Use Zone	Not allowed in preserves. Street-legal vehicle touring is allowed on designated roads, which are outside preserve boundaries (see Section 4.4.4 – Cultural and Natural Preserves for more information)	Same as Cultural Preserve
<b>Non-Street Legal Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)*:</b>	Only allowed in the Ricardo Campground and on designated connectivity roads to adjoining OHV riding areas (see Section 4.5.1.1 – Off-Highway Vehicle Definitions and Allowable Uses in Red Rock Canyon State Park)	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Use Zone	Not allowed in preserves. Non-street legal OHVs are only allowed on designated connectivity roads to adjoining OHV riding areas (see Section 4.5.1.1 – Off-Highway Vehicle Definitions and Allowable Uses in Red Rock Canyon State Park), which are outside preserve boundaries (see Section 4.4.4 – Cultural and Natural Preserves for more information)	Same as Cultural Preserve
<b>Academic/Scientific Research, Filming*</b>	Permit required	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Use Zone	Same as Focused Zone	Same as Focused Zone

\* Recreational use of specific trails and roads may be modified through Superintendent Orders and Change In Use due to concerns such as safety and impacts to sensitive resources.



## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Lancaster, CA 93534

March 3, 2023

**STAFF REPORT:** Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan Revision

**STAFF:** Katie Metraux, General Plan Manager, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

**SUBJECT:** Draft Final General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report

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### OBJECTIVE

Staff is bringing forward the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and Draft Final General Plan for Red Rock Canyon State Park and the classification and naming of the Scenic Canyon-Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve, Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve, Last Chance Canyon Cultural Preserve, Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve, and Black Rock Canyon Cultural Preserve for proposed approval by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

### INTRODUCTION

Red Rock Canyon became a park unit of the State Park System in 1968 with the acquisition of approximately 4,000 acres from private owners. By 1970, the park had opened to the public, and the first rangers were on site to assist park visitors. In 1994, the 103rd Congress of the United States enacted the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA). The law transferred 16,665 acres of BLM lands (known as the Last Chance Canyon Addition) to State Parks. The intent of this action, as defined by the CDPA, was to provide maximum protection of the region's outstanding scenic and scientific values. These lands were incorporated into Red Rock Canyon State Park following the transfer, more than tripling in size to its current extent of approximately 25,324.65 acres.

Red Rock Canyon State Park has been a popular destination for outdoor recreation and a respite from busy urban life. Camping is available at the Ricardo Campground. There are miles of primitive trails and roads for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Vehicle touring is also popular, although motorized vehicles are restricted to designated park roads. The park is known for its vast starry night skies, beautiful rock formations, spectacular wildflower



blooms, and rare desert riparian habitat. Scientists started surveying the area in the 1930s, and today, academic institutions continue to utilize the park for field studies, research, and teaching. One of the most famous uses of the Red Rock area was as a location for motion pictures and, later, television productions. It is still a desired filming location for commercials and films.

### **Existing Natural Preserves**

Red Rock Canyon State Park currently includes two designated natural preserves - Red Cliffs and Hagen Canyon. The Red Cliffs Natural Preserve is a 365-acre subunit located east of State Route (SR) 14 and includes spectacular cliffs and lands at the mouth of Iron Canyon. It was classified as a natural preserve in 1974 to provide for special protection and management of the outstanding geologic features and other natural resource values in the central area of the park. The Hagen Canyon Natural Preserve is 1,145 acres and is located west of SR 14 and south of Abbott Drive. It was classified as a natural preserve in 1974 to protect the natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural values in the vicinity of Hagen Canyon.

## **PREVIOUS STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION ACTIONS**

Red Rock Canyon was initially classified as a State Recreation Area (SRA) in 1973. This action was taken by the State Park and Recreation Commission (Commission) primarily because off-highway vehicle recreation uses historically occurred in the area. In addition, the Commission also approved the classification of Hagen Canyon and Red Cliffs Natural Preserves. In 1980, the Department recommended that the unit be reclassified from an SRA to a State Park to recognize the statewide significance of resource values in the unit and the original intent of preserving the area. The Commission approved the reclassification on February 8, 1980, and, in January 1982, approved the current General Plan.

## **GENERAL PLAN PROJECT BACKGROUND**

In the late 1990s, California State Parks (State Parks) initially decided to prepare an amendment to the 1982 General Plan to include the Last Chance Canyon Addition. State Parks collected data, performed inventories and assessments, met with stakeholders, and held public meetings; however, the effort was suspended in 2003 due to budget constraints.

In 2008, State Parks pursued a General Plan revision and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) effort that would supersede the 1982 General Plan. During the 2008/2009 revision effort, State Parks made significant progress in

documenting existing conditions and worked closely with stakeholders, visitors, and other interested individuals to begin preparing the plan. However, the project was put on hold again in 2009 due to budget constraints.

State Parks kicked off the current planning effort in 2018. Comments and data collected during previous planning efforts shaped the project description and draft planning concepts. The planning team prepared new natural and cultural resource studies, updated existing conditions, and consulted with Native American Tribes, regulatory agencies, and local government. The team held several public meetings and launched a project website to share information and receive input.

The General Plan will guide the management and development of the park unit for public use and resource protection for the next several decades. The Plan establishes goals and guidelines to assist in the daily and long-term management of the units to ensure the natural and cultural resources are protected while allowing for various appropriate recreational opportunities. Consistent with State Parks Planning efforts, the General Plan includes a programmatic Environmental Impact Report that analyzes the environmental effect of implementing the General Plan. Specific projects proposed by the General Plan may require subsequent California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance at the time of implementation in the form of second-tier environmental evaluations of the potential impacts of the specific project. Once approved, this General Plan will cover the entire park and will supersede the 1982 General Plan.

## **GENERAL PLAN AND EIR PROJECT PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- October 9, 2018 – The CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the General Plan and EIR was circulated to federal, state, and local agencies. State Parks held two planning/scoping meetings in October 2018 in Ridgecrest and Lancaster.
- March 26-27, 2019 – State Parks held public meetings in Ridgecrest and Lancaster to discuss the General Plan revision.
- October 23, 24, and 25, 2019 – State Parks held public meetings in Ridgecrest, Lancaster, and Bakersfield to solicit feedback on the Revised Plan Concept.
- October 17, 2022 – State Parks released the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR for public review for a 60-day review period ending December 16, 2022.

- December 2022-January 2023 – Minor updates to the Preliminary General Plan were made concurrently with preparing the Final EIR and were incorporated in the Draft Final General Plan.
- March 3, 2023 – Commission hearing for approval of the General Plan and certification of the EIR is scheduled for March 3, 2023.

## **GENERAL PLAN PROPOSED CHANGES AND ADDITIONS**

The General Plan Revision proposes an updated Declaration of Purpose and Park Vision. The declaration of purpose is a formal statement of the overall management intent for and significance of the park. The purpose statement provides a basis for decisions made about a park unit. It presents some of the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all planning recommendations, operational decisions, and management actions are measured. Management directives described in this General Plan shall support this declaration.

### **Declaration of Purpose for Red Rock Canyon State Park:**

The purpose of Red Rock Canyon State Park is to preserve and protect the extraordinarily high desert landscape, exceptional natural ecosystems, unique vegetation communities, wetland/riparian resources, diverse flora and fauna, and irreplaceable archaeological and historical resources, and to recognize, honor, preserve, and interpret the culture and traditions of people who once called the park home. Prime geologic and scenic resources in the unit include Red Cliffs, Whitehouse Cliffs, Mirage Cliffs, Red Rooster, Hagen Canyon, Scenic Cliffs, Red Buttes, Cudahy Camp, Last Chance Canyon, and Nightmare Gulch.

Consistent with the 1994 California Desert Protection Act (Public Law 103-433, October 1994), the priority is to manage the health of these resources while providing appropriate recreational opportunities for the public. Visitor use shall allow for and encourage enjoyment of the prime resource values of the unit without degrading these features so future generations have the same opportunities to experience these resources. Appropriate development in the Park includes enhancing public uses and providing for necessary management needs while protecting the integrity of the resources.

### **Park Vision**

In addition to the declaration of purpose, another State Park planning and management directive is found in the vision statement. Vision statements describe what the park unit will ultimately strive to become, fulfilling its highest



purpose and ultimate public value. The vision of Red Rock Canyon State Park is based on current and foreseen park management intent, desires of the public, and opportunities perceived by the General Plan planning team.

### **Vision Statement for Red Rock Canyon State Park:**

Red Rock Canyon State Park reflects the rugged beauty of California's Mojave Desert. As a natural area unencumbered by modern visual intrusions, it offers visitors of all ages and abilities opportunities to experience the majestic desert landscape with colorful badlands, cliffs, and canyons of California's backcountry. It is a place for visitors to seek personal renewal and inspiration from nature, far from the intrusions of bustling cities.

### **Proposed Natural and Cultural Preserve Subunits**

Cultural preserves are established within the boundaries of other state park system units to protect sites, buildings, or zones representing significant places or events in California's flow of human experience. Areas set aside as cultural preserves shall be large enough to effectively protect the prime cultural resources from potentially damaging influences and permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources. Within cultural preserves, complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity shall be permitted (PRC Section 5019.74)

Natural Preserves have the same level of protection as cultural preserves. Areas set aside as natural preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide, in all cases, a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations that constitute the basis for establishing the natural preserve (PRC Section 5019.71)

Permitted activities include hiking and horseback riding. Self-guided driving tours and primitive/environmental camping may be allowed on primitive roads that travel through preserves.

The Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan proposes to create three cultural preserves and two natural preserves in addition to the existing Hagen Canyon and Red Cliffs Natural Preserves. The proposed cultural and natural preserves are described below:



Last Chance Canyon Cultural Preserve – The proposed 2,170-acre Last Chance Canyon Cultural Preserve is in the northeast corner of the park. This area contains a wide variety of cultural resources, including a large concentration of Native American sites (46 recorded sites), some dating to over 4,000 years ago. A portion of the Last Chance Canyon Archaeological District within the park. This culturally significant archaeological district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Several petroglyph and pictograph (rock art) sites. There are 28 historic mining sites and camps potentially part of the NRHP- or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)- eligible Red Rock Canyon historic mining district.

Black Rock Canyon Cultural Preserve – The proposed 299-acre cultural preserve is between SR 14 and Black Rock Canyon Road. This area contains a wide variety of cultural resources, including an important rock art/cupule site, a probable ritual location, a large area of stone tool manufacturing, and a concentration of recorded archaeological sites that covers over half of the preserves' examined area.

Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve – The proposed 878-acre cultural preserve is in the Nightmare Gulch region of the park. This area contains a wide variety of cultural resources, including a high concentration of Native American sites within the areas of the preserve, 18 documented sites covering approximately 300 acres, an ancient (8,000-10,000 years ago) archaeological site, possibly the oldest site in the park, and the only known geoglyph/ground figure (intaglio) in Kern County. It also contains the largest single archaeological site (244 acres).

The Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve – The proposed natural preserve is 1,274 acres within Last Chance Canyon in the center of the park. The drainage and riparian area in the Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve comprise the most significant year-round stream riparian area within the park, providing much-needed surface water, habitat structure, and ecological processes for the desert ecosystem. This drainage is critical to the region's ecological health and is known to support many sensitive species. The Red Rock tarplant and the Red Rock poppy are found within this drainage. Charlotte's phacelia, Red Rock Canyon monkeyflower, Mojave fishhook cactus, Mojave spineflower, and other sensitive plants are known to occur in this drainage.

Sensitive wildlife within this area includes the Desert Tortoise, which is state and federally listed as "threatened." Birds of prey nesting have been documented in the area, and the riparian drainage supports a significant portion of raptor

prey species. Other declared "Species of Concern" from the Last Chance Canyon include the spotted bat, the ferruginous hawk, Le Conte's thrasher, the yellow warbler, Cooper's hawk, and the northern harrier. Last Chance Canyon is also the site of a recent discovery of a day-flying moth strictly associated with the Red Rock tarplant. Yet to be described scientifically, this moth is likely endemic to the park. The area also supports important palaeontologic resources, including a fossil trackway.

Scenic Canyon – Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve – The proposed natural preserve is 1,155 acres and encompasses southern portions of Nightmare Gulch, overlapping the Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve. The intricately eroded, steep-walled canyons and cliffs of Red Rock Canyon provide excellent habitat for various nesting raptors. Both Golden Eagle and Prairie Falcon have been documented utilizing ideal ledges high on the steep walls of Scenic Canyon as nesting habitats. Documentation of such utilization in 1985 and 1986 led to the federal government establishing a bird of prey closure annually from February 1 to July 1. Recent observations by park staff indicate that raptors can begin nesting as early as the end of December. This closure provides the solitude necessary for these two species to accomplish the highest degree of nesting success possible. When in effect, the closure prohibits all human entry. Many other sensitive species have been documented in Nightmare Gulch, including but not limited to the Desert tortoise and Red Rock Canyon monkeyflower.

Compound Subunit Classifications – In some cases, natural and cultural preserve subunit classifications are compounded (overlap each other), such as the Scenic Canyon-Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve and the Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve. These subunits overlap because significant natural and cultural resources occupy the same specific geographic location within the park. These significant natural and cultural resources and visitor experience values are equally important, respected, and worthy of the level of recognition and protection afforded by these subunit classifications while being compatible with the land use management intent for these specific areas.

The current Hagen Canyon and Red Cliffs Natural Preserves contain non-preserve "islands." With the adoption of the General Plan, these island areas will be incorporated into the existing preserves to improve park management efficiencies.

## **Recreational Opportunities**

The General Plan will change existing recreational opportunities and create several new ones, including:

- Allow pedestrian (hiking) and equestrian access on primitive roads and trails. Pedestrians and equestrians will be allowed on trails in cultural and natural preserves.
- Allow motorized street-legal vehicles, bicycles, and electric bikes on primitive park roads.
- Allow non-street legal motorized vehicles on Sierra View Road and from the Ricardo campground, Ricardo Complex, through a segment of Red Rock Wash. California Vehicle Code Section 38026 allows State Parks to designate up to three miles of a highway within a state park that provides a connecting link between OHV trail segments that meet certain distance requirements. Sierra View Road and Red Rock Wash will provide ingress and egress between the Ricardo Campground loop trail and BLM OHV area routes and the Onyx Ranch State Vehicular Recreation Area, and between popular BLM OHV areas that adjoin the park.
- Convert four primitive roads into nonmotorized trails. Black Rock Canyon Road will be renamed Black Rock Canyon Trail; El Paso Road Spur Road will be renamed El Paso Trail; an approximate half-mile section of Last Chance Canyon Road near Cudahy Camp will be named the Last Chance Canyon Trail; Nightmare Gulch will not be renamed.
- Convert the Roaring Ridge Spur Road to a non-system road. Convert several short primitive routes in the Last Chance Canyon and one along Abbott Drive into non-system routes.
- Add two new nonmotorized primitive trails in the Hagen Canyon Natural Preserve (exact trail alignment to be determined by park staff and resource specialists). Add a nonmotorized trail in the Red Cliffs Natural Preserve connecting existing trails to Iron Canyon Road (exact trail alignment to be determined by park staff and resource specialists). Potentially add a hiking trail at the Donley day-use area.
- Develop a proposed equestrian dry campsite at Sierra View Road/Opal Peak Road/Roaring Ridge Road. A primitive group campground may be considered at the Donnelly day-use area. The General Plan also proposes "dry" (no water or other developed facilities) primitive/environmental camping areas in the northeast section of the park. The walk-in camping areas with a single campsite would be unpaved in undisturbed natural



settings. The campsites, each with a clearing for a tent and may also offer a picnic table. All campsites would require project-level environmental review.

## **REVISIONS AFTER THE PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN AND DRAFT EIR**

Public comments were received following the release of the Draft Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR in October 2022. Staff carefully considered all comments received in formulating the final Draft General Plan. Throughout the planning process, some changes were made in consideration of the comments received, which are listed below. The revisions to the General Plan have been made for clarification purposes or, where needed, to add information or correct minor errors. These include corrections to adjacent land management, the park acquisition history and acreage, mining claim types, visitor attendance, visitor language barriers, and interpretive themes.

- Clarified that equestrian and pedestrian access is allowed in Scenic Canyon – Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve and other Cultural and Natural preserves.
- Clarified that the proposed environmental campgrounds within the Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve are not within the preserve boundaries.
- Added further clarification of the California Vehicle Code Section 38026, which defines motor vehicle use on a combined-use highway.
- Added a primitive group campground to be considered at the Donnelly day-use area that would require project-level environmental review.
- Added three figures in Chapter 4, The Plan, that describes the proposed road-to-trail conversion, additional proposed trails, and proposed routes closed to non-street legal motorized vehicles.
- No changes were made to the Draft EIR.

## **MAJOR ISSUES**

Chapter 3 of the Draft Final General Plan discusses the primary planning issues. Key issues highlighted here are cultural and natural resources management, public access, motorized and nonmotorized recreational use, facilities, and the Interpretation and Education Program.

### **Natural and Cultural Resource Protection and Management**

State Parks staff, Native American tribes, government agencies, interested stakeholders, the public, and representatives from various organizations expressed the desire to ensure a high degree of protection of the park's sensitive resources (physical, natural, and cultural) and desert landscape. Concerns included conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation types on roads and trails, off-trail vehicle damage to natural and cultural resources, and adequate management and protection of sensitive resources. The General Plan proposes goals, guidelines, and management zones to address these concerns and provide direction for managing and protecting resources.

The General Plan proposes several management zones for park planning and management. The zones describe a range of desired conditions for resources, appropriate types of visitor activities and facilities, and describe management approaches to be achieved and maintained in specific areas. The park includes five management zones: Focused Use, Limited Use, Sensitive Resources, Cultural Preserve, and Natural Preserve (see Figure 4-1 and Table 4-1 Management Zone Uses in the General Plan). The General Plan also proposes a robust set of management goals and guidelines to protect, preserve, and manage natural, cultural, and physical (e.g., geologic, hydrologic, and aesthetic) resources. In addition, the General Plan proposes converting several primitive park roads (described in Recreational Opportunities above) into trails and restricts motorized vehicle use to park roads to protect sensitive resources.

The numerous rare, endangered, and other special interest plant and animal species in the unit represent principal resource values of statewide significance. Many plants and animals are specifically adapted to the desert environment, and the habitats found here. Because of their limited distribution, environmental requirements, and often due to human impacts, these species become rare, threatened, or endangered. park staff has recorded the locations of many of these species in recent years. These records have resulted in a better understanding of species distribution, including distribution changes from year to year. The General Plan's goals and guidelines include ongoing monitoring and management to preserve and protect natural resources. It also encourages partnerships with academic institutions and ongoing scientific research. The proposed management zones, especially Natural Preserves, will provide additional protection for these resources.

The park includes over 240 known archaeological properties. These areas include Native American habitation and campsites, procurement and



manufacturing sites, ceremonial sites, and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century archaeological sites, including mining, homesteading, filming, transportation, early recreation sites, etc. Only about ten percent of the park has been examined for cultural resources in the past 30 years, so the potential for additional cultural sites to be present within the park is high. The General Plan provides goals and guidelines to identify, document, record, evaluate and manage archaeological and cultural resources within the park. The proposed cultural preserve subunit classification also provides a high level of protection and management for these resources.

The Kawaiisu and other local Native American groups consider various sites and areas sacred or highly sensitive. State Parks recognize their long relationship with these lands and have established certain programs and procedures to enable them to continue this special relationship. The General Plan's goals and guidelines emphasize the importance of Tribal Consultation and partnership to identify, manage, and protect Tribal Cultural Resources and provide access for Tribal Cultural Uses.

### **Motorized Vehicle Use**

*Existing motorized vehicle use often conflicts with state laws and State Parks policies, the Park 1982 General Plan, Park classification, and Park planning that authorized (and restricted) motor vehicle use in the park.*

Motorized vehicle use (OHVs and vehicle touring) is a historic and active recreational activity in the region, and the park is adjacent to popular BLM OHV Areas and Onyx Ranch SVRA. Motorized vehicles are also a primary way visitors access the park's 25,000-acre desert landscape, including visitors with mobility challenges.

The planning process revealed several concerns about inappropriate motorized vehicle use on and off the primitive road system that caused damage to physical, natural, and cultural resources. Input from State Parks staff, aerial photograph examination, and site analyses indicate that many of the routes currently used by vehicles are not a part of the park primitive road system. Due to a lack of signage and enforcement, vehicles continue to use unauthorized routes, non-system roads, or closed roads. This problem is worsened by not having a designated primitive road system for the Last Chance Canyon Addition. Also, access needs to be provided to adjacent areas that accommodate OHV use.

The General Plan proposes management zones that allow street-legal motorized vehicle-use on primitive park roads (any vehicle legally operated

on a public highway can be used on park roads). OHVs subject to identification in section 38010 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and the off-highway definitions in section 38012 would not be allowed to operate on park roads except for designated routes that allow ingress and egress through the park to connect to adjacent public lands.

The Planning Team heard from the public, stakeholders, and organizations about their concerns about restricting OHV recreation within the park and accessing adjacent public lands. This General Plan proposes to authorize non-street-legal vehicles registered as off-highway motor vehicles (per CVC sections 38010 and 38012) on Sierra View Road and Red Rock Wash per CVC Section 38026, Designating Highways: Combined Use. CVC Section 38026 allows State Parks to designate a section of a highway within a state park that provides a connecting link between OHV trail segments that meet certain distance requirements for combined use. Red Rock Wash will provide ingress and egress between the Ricardo Campground loop trail and BLM OHV area routes, and the Onyx Ranch SVRA. Sierra View Road will provide ingress, egress, and connectivity between popular BLM OHV areas that adjoin the park.

### **Other Recreation Access Concerns**

The Planning Team also heard from hikers and equestrian groups about conflicts with motorized vehicles on roads and trails. They also requested new trails designated for non-motorized recreation that offer opportunities for quiet and solitude. The General Plan proposes new trails for equestrian and pedestrian access and environmental camps (described in Recreational Opportunities above). Additionally, the General Plan proposes restricting motorized vehicles and electric bicycles to travel on park roads.

### **Interpretation and Education**

The Planning Team also heard from park staff and the public about the lack of park orientation and wanting to learn about the park's cultural and natural history before they arrive and while they are visiting. The Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association and park Interpretive staff also felt the 1982 General Plan interpretive themes, goals, and guidelines needed updating to reflect current school programs and visitor needs.

The park's Interpretation and Education program help connect visitors to the park's cultural, natural, and recreational resources. It provides orientation and trip planning, informs visitors of park rules and regulations, and fosters a stewardship ethic. Moreover, the Interpretation and Education program

connects students to nature, scientific exploration, and their shared cultural heritage. The General Plan proposes an interpretive mission and vision that guides the interpretation and education program into the future. It expands the 1982 General Plan's interpretive themes, goals, and guidelines and encourages partnerships with organizations and academic institutions to expand interpretive services to meet visitor and student needs.

## **LEGAL ISSUES**

There are no known legal issues relating to the State Park and Recreation Commission's approval of the Draft Final General Plan/Final Environmental Impact Report for Red Rock Canyon State Park.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no immediate fiscal impact because of the adoption of the General Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

California State Parks recommends that the Commission take actions related to the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan by adopting resolutions to:

1. Approve the Draft Final General Plan, including the current Red Cliffs Natural Preserve and Hagen Canyon Natural Preserve classifications, and 16,665 acres of federal unclassified property transferred to California State Parks in 1994 as part of the California Desert Protection Act, also known as the Last Chance Canyon Addition.
2. Certify the Environmental Impact Report.
3. Approve the naming and classification of three cultural preserves – Last Chance Canyon Cultural Preserve, Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve, and Black Rock Canyon Cultural Preserve.
4. Approve the naming and classifying of two natural preserves – Scenic Canyon-Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve and Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve.

## **COMMISSION ACTION(S)**

Consider the following actions:

1. Certify the Environmental Impact Report and approve findings.

2. Adopt the Final General Plan, including the current Red Cliffs Natural Preserve and Hagen Canyon Natural Preserve classifications, and the Last Chance Canyon Addition.
3. The naming and classification of three cultural preserves – Last Chance Canyon Cultural Preserve, Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve, and Black Rock Canyon Cultural Preserve.
4. The naming and classification of two natural preserves – Scenic Canyon-Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve and Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Red Rock Canyon State Park Plan Concept Map and Management Zones

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Draft Final General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report, available at [www.redrockcanyonnp.com/resources](http://www.redrockcanyonnp.com/resources).



Commission finds and certifies that the Plan reflects the independent judgment and analysis of this Commission and has been completed in accordance with CEQA; and be it

RESOLVED: in connection with its review of the Plan prior to approval, this Commission independently finds that the environmental conclusions contained in the Environmental Analysis Section of the Plan are supported by facts therein and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial evidence in the record and that goals and guidelines have been incorporated into the Plan that will avoid significant or potentially significant impacts; and be it

RESOLVED: The location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings on which the Commission's decision is based with the Department of Parks and Recreation, located in the Natural Resources Agency building, Sacramento, California; and be it

RESOLVED: -that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby certifies the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan, dated October 2022; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: A Notice of Determination will be filed with the Office of Planning and Research within five days of this approval.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on March 3, 2023, at the Commission's duly noticed public meeting.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jonathan Barros  
Secretary of the Commission  
For Armando Quintero, Director  
California State Parks





Resolution 02-2023  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
At its meeting on March 3, 2023

## **General Plan For Red Rock Canyon State Park**

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to the California Parks and Recreation Commission ("Commission") as the responsible party for approval of California State Park General Plans, the proposed General Plan ("Plan") for Red Rock Canyon State Park ("Park"); and

WHEREAS, the Plan covers the original Park and the portion of the Park to the east of SR 14 known as the Last Chance Addition and acquired in the 1990s through federal land transfers under the 1994 California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) which together comprises approximately 25,325 acres;

WHEREAS, the Plan will guide the development and management of Red Rock Canyon State Park for public use and resource protection for the next 20 or more years by establishing goals and guidelines to assist in the daily and long-term management of the Park to ensure that natural and cultural resources are protected while providing a variety of recreation activities and visitor experiences; and

WHEREAS, the Park is centrally located near existing state- and federal-owned Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHV) properties, and contains the only legal OHV crossing over Hwy 14, so to maintain the essential connectivity to those OHV riding areas, two routes, Red Rock Wash (1.7 miles) and Sierra View Road (3.1 miles), will remain open to OHV ingress and egress; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes a detailed series of environmental protection measures within its goals and guidelines to avoid significant environmental impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the Draft Plan prior to approving the Plan, and this Commission finds that the Plan reflects the independent judgment and analysis of this Commission; and be it

RESOLVED: In connection with its review of the Plan prior to approval, this Commission independently finds that the conclusions contained in the Plan are supported by facts therein and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial

evidence in the record and that goals and guidelines have been incorporated into the Plan that will avoid significant or potentially significant environmental impacts; and be it

RESOLVED: The location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings on which the Commission's decision is based with the Department of Parks and Recreation, located in the Natural Resources Agency building, Sacramento, California; and be it

RESOLVED: That the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan prepared for Red Rock Canyon State Park, dated October 2022.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on March 3, 2023, at the Commission's duly noticed public meeting.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jonathan Barros  
Secretary of the Commission  
For Armando Quintero, Director  
California State Parks



Resolution 01-2023  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
At its meeting on March 3, 2023

## **Final Environmental Impact Report For Red Rock Canyon State Park**

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to the California Parks and Recreation Commission ("Commission") as the lead agency for approval of California State Park General Plans, the proposed Draft General Plan ("Plan"), and Final Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR") for Red Rock Canyon State Park ("Park"); and

WHEREAS, the Plan covers the original Park and the portion of the Park to the east of SR 14 known as the Last Chance Addition and acquired in the 1990s through federal land transfers under the 1994 California Desert Protection Act (CDPA), which together comprise approximately 25,325 acres;

WHEREAS, approval of the General Plan is a discretionary decision that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared concurrent with the General Plan, pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 5002.2 and the California Code of Regulations Section 15166 (CEQA Guidelines), providing a discussion of the potential environmental impacts of implementing the General Plan and addressing all requirements of an EIR; and circulated to the public for the appropriate timeframe;

WHEREAS, the Plan is the "project" under CEQA, and the associated EIR functions as a "Program EIR" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168, covering implementation of the Plan, including its goals and guidelines and land use designations; additional CEQA review will be conducted for each specific project envisioned in the General Plan as the projects move forward; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes a detailed series of environmental protection measures within its goals and guidelines to avoid significant environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the EIR finds that there is no potential for significant and unavoidable impacts from the implementation of the Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the Plan prior to approving the Plan, and this





Resolution 03-2023  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
At its regular meeting on March 3, 2023

**Red Rock Canyon State Park  
Natural Preserve Subclassification & Naming  
(Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve and Scenic Canyon –  
Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve)**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into categories specified in California Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, the classifications of “Natural Preserve” (PRC 5019.71) consists of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding natural interest established within the boundaries of a state park unit to preserve features such as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems or representative examples of plant and animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization; and

WHEREAS, two areas within Red Rock Canyon State Park (“Park”) have previously been designated natural preserves to recognize their exceptional natural and scenic values. The Red Cliffs Natural Preserve was classified in 1974 and comprises 365 acres east of SR 14, including spectacular cliffs and lands at the mouth of Iron Canyon. The Hagen Canyon Natural Preserve was classified in 1974 and comprises 1,145 acres west of State Route 14 and south of Abbott Drive. It includes unique geologic formations and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Red Rock Canyon State Park (“Park”) General Plan proposes the establishment of an additional 1,274 acre Natural Preserve (the proposed Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve) in the central-eastern portion of the Park, in the vicinity of Last Chance Canyon, Pleasant Valley, and Cudahy Creek roads, to provide for the recognition and protection of the outstanding natural resources of this area. The perennial drainage and associated riparian area in Last Chance Canyon comprise the most significant riparian system within the Park, providing much-needed surface water, habitat structure, and ecological processes for the desert ecosystem. This riparian system is critical to the region’s ecological health and is known to support many common and sensitive species, including state and federally-listed “threatened” and “species of concern,” such as the Desert Tortoise; the area also supports important palaeontologic resources; and



WHEREAS, the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan proposes the establishment of a second new 1,155-acre Natural Preserve (the Scenic Canyon - Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve) that encompasses the southern portions of Nightmare Gulch; to provide for the recognition and protection of the outstanding and significant natural resources of this area; this proposed Natural Preserve overlaps with the proposed Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve; Nightmare Gulch represents the best fossil-producing exposure in the Park, spanning the oldest period of local fossil history. There are no other consistent fossil-bearing strata of similar age in the Park. Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons have been documented nesting on ledges high on the steep walls of Scenic Canyon, and documentation of such utilization in 1985 and 1986 led the federal government to establish a "bird of prey closure" annually from February 1 to July 1. This closure provides the solitude necessary for these and other raptor species to achieve a high degree of nesting success. When in effect, the closure prohibits all human entry to Nightmare Gulch. Many other sensitive species have also been documented in Nightmare Gulch, including but not limited to the Desert tortoise and Red Rock Canyon monkeyflower. The Scenic Canyon - Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve was recommended in the Park's original 1982 General Plan. Over 50 percent of Nightmare Gulch overlaps with the Birds of Prey Closure and is now contained within the Scenic Canyon - Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the Red Rock Canyon General Plan also proposes incorporating existing non-preserve "islands" within the existing Hagen Canyon and Red Cliffs Natural Preserves.

WHEREAS the establishment of the three proposed Natural Preserves and enlargement of the two existing Natural Preserves will provide for the recognition and protection of the outstanding natural resources within these areas;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 5019.71 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above-identified portions of Red Rock Canyon State Park as Natural Preserves with the names Last Chance Canyon Natural Preserve and Scenic Canyon – Nightmare Gulch Natural Preserve, and that the size and location of these preserves be as described and as delineated in the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan; and that the existing Hagen Canyon and Red Cliffs Natural Preserves be enlarged by incorporating non-preserve "islands" into these preserves.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on March 3, 2023, at the Commission's duly noticed public meeting.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jonathan Barros  
Secretary of the Commission  
For Armando Quintero, Director  
California State Parks

DRAFT



Resolution 04-2023  
Adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
At its meeting on March 3, 2023

**Red Rock Canyon State Park  
Cultural Preserve Subclassification and Naming  
(Last Chance Canyon Cultural Preserve, Black Rock Canyon Cultural  
Preserve, and Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve)**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into categories specified in California Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, the classification of "Cultural Preserve" (PRC 5019.74) consists of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of a state park unit to preserve special features that represent significant places or events in the human experience in California and where complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought; and

WHEREAS, the Red Rock Canyon State Park ("Park") General Plan proposes the establishment of a 2,170-acre Cultural Preserve (the proposed Last Chance Canyon Cultural Preserve) in the northeast corner of the Park to heighten the protection and interpretation of this distinct area of outstanding cultural interest. This area contains a portion of the Last Chance Canyon Archaeological District, a culturally significant archaeological district listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); other traditional cultural places important to the Kawaiisu and other tribes of this area; and historic mining sites and camps that are part of the Red Rock Canyon Historic Mining District which is potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); and

WHEREAS, the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan also proposes the establishment of a 299-acre Cultural Preserve (the proposed Black Rock Canyon Cultural Preserve) between State Route 14 and Black Rock Canyon Road to heighten the protection and interpretation of this distinct area of outstanding cultural interest, which includes a concentration of recorded archaeological sites that covers over half of the preserve's examined area; and

WHEREAS, the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan also proposes the establishment of an 878-acre Cultural Preserve (the proposed Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve) in the Nightmare Gulch region of the Park to increase the protection and

interpretation of this distinct area of outstanding cultural interest, which includes the largest single archaeological site in the Park;

WHEREAS these three proposed Cultural Preserves will provide for the recognition and protection of the outstanding cultural resources, ancient heritage, and cultural identity of the resources contained within these sites; and

WHEREAS, the Department will consult and pursue partnerships with the local native California Indian representatives to establish resource management practices and interpretation of native California Indian history, lifeways, and the protection of significant cultural sites and features located within the Cultural Preserves; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 5019.74 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above-identified three areas within Red Rock Canyon State Park as Cultural Preserves with the names Last Chance Canyon Cultural Preserve, Black Rock Canyon Cultural Preserve, and Nightmare Gulch Cultural Preserve, and that the size and location of these preserves be as described and delineated in the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on March 3, 2023, at the Commission's duly noticed public meeting.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jonathan Barros  
Secretary of the Commission  
For Armando Quintero, Director  
California State Parks