



## CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

Santa Rosa, CA  
March 5, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM:** 12 SB-630 State Parks: Real Property: Acquisitions and Leases Report

**STAFF:** Darla Guenzler, Chief, Acquisition and Real Property Services

**SUBJECT:** New Authorities for Land Acquisition

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### I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item: no recommendation offered.

### II. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) acquires land to create and expand the State Park units. Until January 1, 2026, DPR has not held authority to acquire land without the review and approval of the State Public Works Board, Department of General Services and Department of Finance. As of January 1, 2026, DPR has been granted two new authorities to acquire land.

### III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report
- PowerPoint Presentation



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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David Galaviz  
Thomas Huntington  
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## CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT

Clear Lake, CA  
March 5, 2026

**STAFF REPORT:** Agenda Item 12: SB-630 State Parks: Real Property:  
Acquisitions and Leases Report

**STAFF:** Darla Guenzler, Chief, Acquisition and Real Property Services

**SUBJECT:** New Authorities for Land Acquisition

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### OBJECTIVE

To share information about new authorities granted to Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to acquire new lands.

### INTRODUCTION

DPR acquires land to create and expand the State Park units. Until January 1, 2026, DPR has not held authority to acquire land without the review and approval of the State Public Works Board, Department of General Services and Department of Finance. As of January 1, 2026, DPR has been granted two new authorities to acquire land.

### DESCRIPTION

A PowerPoint presentation describing the three pathways by which DPR can acquire land, including the two new authorities.

### NEXT STEPS

DPR's Acquisition and Real Property Services Division are acquiring land to expand existing park units using the new authorities. Public announcements will be made as acquisitions are completed. The first biennial report will be submitted by December 31, 2027, to the California Legislature regarding properties acquired with the new authorities.

### RECOMMENDATION

The agenda item is informational; no recommendation offered.

### COMMISSION ACTION(S)

n/a

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

n/a



# New Acquisition Authorities

CA State Park and Recreation Commission

March 5, 2026

# Acquisition Process - Historically

## Every acquisition went through DGS and Public Works Board

- ▶ Multiple approvals by DGS, DOF and PWB
- ▶ Same process applied to all: donation or expensive purchase, small or large acreage, new parks vs small inholdings

## Slow and Expensive Process

- ▶ Minimum of 2-3 years for approvals
- ▶ Approximately \$90,000 in review fees

## Acquisition system essentially broken

- ▶ Partners have sometimes acquired properties of interest



# New Acquisition Authority for State Parks

## AB 679 (Pellerin) - “District Bill”

- ▶ Exempts acquisitions from PWB for Big Basin, Año Nuevo and Butano State Parks.
- ▶ Acquisitions still subject to DGS/DOF approval (6-9 months, \$30K )

## SB 630 (Allen) - “Statewide Bill”

Exempts certain acquisitions from PWB, DGS and DOF:

- ▶ Not a new state park
- ▶ DPR does not spend more than \$1M to purchase
- ▶ Does not require funds for initial or ongoing costs that cannot be absorbed with existing resources



## PWB PROCESS

Projects are ranked  
Traditional DART and  
PAC process  
Director approves  
project for evaluation  
Parks conducts due  
diligence & prepares  
package  
PWB, DGS/DOF  
approvals  
F&D ADD executes

## DISTRICT PROCESS

Projects classified  
DART, PAC processes;  
evaluation approval  
Property analysis  
presented for Site  
Selection Approval by  
Director  
Parks conducts due  
diligence and prepares  
package for DGS  
review  
After approval by DGS,  
Parks approves  
acquisition using its  
authority.

## STATEWIDE PROCESS

Projects classified;  
two rounds per year  
DART, PAC processes;  
evaluation approval  
Property analysis  
presented for Site  
Selection Approval by  
Director  
Completed due  
diligence review by  
Parks.  
Acquisition approved  
by Parks using its  
authority.

# Other Factors

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## New Authorities Began Jan 1, 2026

### New Requirements

- ▶ Notify adjacent landowners & Board of Supervisors
- ▶ Public meeting before acquisition completed - can be virtual; dedicated webpage for acquisitions on [parks.ca.gov](https://parks.ca.gov)
- ▶ Biennial report to the Legislature

### Seven Year Sunset

- ▶ Important to launch and implement program for early results
- ▶ Pipeline consistency critical



# Looking Forward

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Focus on backlog of projects

Two new Senior Right-of-Way Agents

Seeking agreements with outside legal counsel, title companies, appraisers

Website, meeting materials

Regular communications with public, including announcement of new properties

Biennial report to Legislature (first due by 12/31/2027)



# Procedures for Public Notices & Meeting

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Public meetings required no less than 30 days before acquisition.  
Can be virtual meetings; will hold virtually on a regular basis  
(e.g., Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

Public notice of meeting; landowners and BOS receive written notice 10 days in advance of meeting

New “Acquisition” page on Department’s website

Basic information about each specific property will be presented at public meeting



# Your Comments and Questions?

## Thank You!

Darla Guenzler, Chief  
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CA Department of Parks and Recreation

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