



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

Loma Linda, CA
December 17, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 12. Golden Bear Award Presentations

STAFF: Sonya Jones, Staff Services Manager, Strategic Planning
and Recreation Services

SUBJECT: Presentation of the 2024 Golden Bear Awards

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A

II. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

The State Park and Recreation Commission's (Commission) Golden Bear Awards are presented annually to individuals or organizations who have demonstrated leadership and contributed significantly toward the mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). Awardees may be past or present State Parks employees, volunteers, partner organizations, members of a partner organization, legislators, or members of the public.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report



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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT

Loma Linda, CA
December 17, 2025

STAFF REPORT: Golden Bear Award Presentations
STAFF: Commissioner Jeff Williams and Commissioner David Galaviz
SUBJECT: Presentation of the 2024 Golden Bear Awards

OBJECTIVE

Recognize the 2024 Golden Bear Award recipients for their outstanding contributions towards the department's mission.

INTRODUCTION

The State Park and Recreation Commission's (Commission) Golden Bear Awards are presented annually and celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations toward the mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks): 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.

DESCRIPTION

Lead by the Public Engagement and Communication Subcommittee of the Commission, Commissioners reviewed the 2024 Golden Bear Award nominations at a public meeting in September of 2025. The Commission then voted and approved the presentation of awards to seven individuals in the following award categories: Central Division, Coastal Division, Desert Division, Northern Division, Statewide and Honorary Partner. Please be advised there are two awardees for the Coastal Division.

The Commission is proud to honor the following individuals/organizations with a 2024 Golden Bear Award:

- Tim Hyland, Natural Resources Program Manager, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Barbara Tejada, Cultural Resources Program Supervisor, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Jason Finlay, District Trails Coordinator, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Walter Kirkwood, Volunteer, Department of Parks and Recreation



- Lauren Shoemaker, Sector Superintendent, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Dr. Stephen Lockhart, Founder and Board Member, Parks California
- Coastside State Parks Association

NEXT STEPS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

Formally present the 2024 Golden Bear Awards (framed certificate), provide timeline for the 2025 Golden Bear Awards and extend a thank you to those who submitted nominations.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[State Park & Recreation Commission's Golden Bear Awards](#)