



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

Santa Rosa, CA
March 5, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: 09 Budget Report

STAFF: Crystal Flores, Deputy Director of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: 2026-27 Governor's Budget

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No action needed, informational only.

II. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

The Governor's proposed budget was released on January 9th, 2026, for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report



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Santa Rosa, CA
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STAFF REPORT: Budget Report
STAFF: Crystal Flores, Deputy Director of Administrative Services
SUBJECT: 2026-27 Governor's Budget

OBJECTIVE

Update on Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) 2026 Proposed Budget.

INTRODUCTION

The Governor released his proposed budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year on January 9th, 2026.

DESCRIPTION

Overview

The 2026-27 Governor's Budget includes \$1.008 billion to support the Department of Parks and Recreation. Of this amount, \$860.9 million is available for state operations, \$135.6 million is available for local assistance, and \$11.03 million is available for Capital Outlay projects. The proposed budget includes \$223.8 million General Fund (GF) and \$296.3 million State Parks and Recreation Fund (SPRF) to support operations and local assistance.

Overall, the 2026 proposed budget reflects a \$451 million decrease from the 2025 enacted budget. The majority of this reduction is attributable to one-time Proposition 4 funds that were appropriated in the prior year for local assistance grants and various projects. The remaining decrease is associated with statewide budget adjustments and the expiration of various one-time Budget Change Proposals (BCPs).

Climate Bond Update

The proposed budget includes Proposition 4 funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year, which allocates funds to the following five programs:

- Deferred Maintenance: \$400,000
- Forest Health & Watershed Improvements "Stewardship of State-Owned Lands": \$33,400,000



- Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy: \$250,000
- Statewide Park Program: \$1,900,000
- Reduction of Climate Impacts on Disadvantaged Communities & Expansion of Outdoor Recreation: \$5,800,000

Budget Change Proposals

State Operations & Local Assistance

California Indian Heritage Center — Access and Community

Funding Request: \$842,000 one-time funding, 3.0 Permanent positions (2.0 Park and Recreation Specialist, 1.0 Staff Services Manager I), and \$805,000 ongoing from the General Fund.

Request Summary:

- Supports staff to plan and run public programs, tribal events, and community partnerships at the CIHC.
- Helps deliver culturally meaningful education and interpretation shaped by Native communities.
- Grows programs over time to build steady visitation and increase public awareness.
- Ensures staff are in place to handle logistics, contracts, and ongoing coordination with Tribal partners as the CIHC opens.

California State Parks Library Pass Program

Funding Request: \$6.75 million ongoing transfer from General Fund to State Parks Recreation Fund.

Request Summary:

- Converts from one-time funding to ongoing transfer.
- Partners with the State Library and local libraries to provide free state park day-use passes, especially for communities with limited access to parks.
- Ensures Tribal and rural communities can continue accessing passes through participating libraries.

Chaptered Legislation Proposals — Off-Highway Electric Motorcycles (SB 586)

Funding Request: \$200,000 one-time funding from the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund.

Request Summary:

- Updates OHV regulations to implement SB 586 and formally include electric off-highway motorcycles (eMotos).
- Clarifies registration, identification, and safety requirements for eMotos in coordination with DMV and law enforcement.
- Supports safe eMoto use in State Vehicular Recreation Areas while advancing statewide electrification and sustainable recreation goals.



Sonoma Development Center Open Space Lands

Funding Request: \$4.866 million one-time funding and 4.0 permanent positions from Proposition 4

Request Summary:

- Continues core staffing through June 2029 to manage public access, visitor safety, and basic maintenance on SDC open space lands.
- Funds planning (General Plan and EIR) and priority maintenance, i.e., trails, signage, vegetation management, etc., to support long-term access, wildfire risk reduction, and coordination with Jack London SHP.
- Supports habitat and cultural resource stewardship to protect a key regional wildlife corridor as the site transitions to long-term management.
- Identifies the need to request ongoing funding starting in FY 2029-30.

Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund Local Assistance Grants

Funding Request: \$29 million one-time funding from the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund.

Request Summary:

- For local assistance grants that support various off-highway motorized vehicle projects and programs.

Capital Outlay

Angel Island State Park: Low-Cost Accommodations

Location: Angel Island SP sits in the middle of the San Francisco Bay and offers spectacular views of the San Francisco skyline, the Marin Headlands, and Mount Tamalpais.

Scope: This project will consist of planning the development of low-cost cabins and similar units to expand overnight coastal access. Provides accessible, affordable lodging options to expand multi-day stays, educational programs, and group visits at the park. Integrates new accommodations into the park's sensitive island environment while addressing resource protection and coastal access goals.

Funding Request:

- Preliminary Plans: \$450,000 reimbursement authority from the State Parks and Recreation Fund

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$5,900,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$450,000
- Working Drawings: \$450,000
- Construction: \$5,000,000

Project Timeline:



- Preliminary Plans: July 2026 - June 2027
- Working Drawings: July 2027 - October 2028
- Construction: January 2029 - December 2029

California Indian Heritage Center: Design and Construction

Location: The project is located on a 43-acre parcel in the City of West Sacramento and will address the operational and structural limitations associated with operating the State Indian Museum in a facility constructed in 1940 on the grounds of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park.

Scope: The project supports efforts to honor the traditions, values, and cultural heritage of California Native American Communities Immediate Public Use Improvements will make initial developmental elements available in advance of the greater construction of the park. Planned improvements may include the park entrance, restrooms, parking, walkways, landscaping, shade structures, gathering spaces, appurtenances, and other interpretive features.

Funding Request:

- Construction of Immediate Public Use (IPU) Improvements: \$2,100,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Natural Resources and Parks Preservation Fund

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$200,000,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$8,190,000
- Working Drawings: \$6,000,000
- Construction: \$185,810,000

Project Timeline:

Current project schedule is split between the IPU and the full build-out of the project

- Preliminary Plans IPU: Completed June 2025
- Working Drawings IPU: Approved December 2025
- Construction IPU: January 2026 - October 2026
- Preliminary Plans: June 2019 – October 2026
- Working Drawings: November 2026 - July 2029
- Second Phase of Construction: December 2029 - June 2032

Emma Wood State Beach (SB): Low-Cost Accommodations

Location: Emma Wood SB, located just north of Ventura, includes a linear primitive campground adjacent to the beach, as well as a group camp area. In between the two campgrounds lies the Ventura River estuary, which attracts a variety of wildlife, including songbirds and great blue herons.

Scope: The scope includes planning the development of low-cost cabins and similar units in an area better protected against vulnerability from sea level rise. It provides accessible overnight options and coastal access for a broader range of visitors.



Funding Request:

- Preliminary Plans: \$600,000 from the State Park Contingent Fund

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$7,700,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$600,000
- Working Drawings: \$600,000
- Construction \$6,500,000

Project Timeline:

- Preliminary Plans: July 2026 - September 2027
- Working Drawings: October 2027 - March 2029
- Construction: June 2029 - May 2030

Fort Ord Dunes State Park (SP): New Campground and Beach Access

Location: Fort Ord Dunes SP is located on the central California coast along Monterey Bay, in unincorporated areas of Monterey County adjacent to the Cities of Seaside, Marina, and Sand City. The property consists of approximately 990 acres of parkland, including 4 miles of ocean beach. Fort Ord Dunes provides both an expansive seascape and a landform of dune habitat and undeveloped seashore.

Scope: This project will result in up to 110 new campsites, half of which will have full utility hookups for utility vehicles. Funding allows for all facilities that are part of the original design. Improves coastal access via new trails and beach access routes. Implements habitat protection measures consistent with the park's Habitat Conservation Plan and Coastal Commission requirements.

Funding Request:

- Construction: \$1,000,000 from Proposition 68

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$42,766,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$1,198,000
- Working Drawings: \$2,291,000
- Construction: \$39,277,000

Project Timeline:

- Preliminary Plans: Completed July 2013
- Working Drawings: Approved April 2020
- Construction: May 2025 - May 2027

Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA): Entrance Kiosk

Location: Hollister Hills (SVRA) is located six miles south of Hollister, in the Gabilan Mountains. Popular for motorcycles, ATVs, four-wheel drives, and dune buggies, with over 64 miles of trails for two/four-wheel vehicles and custom off-road courses.



Scope: Project scope provides an entrance kiosk to reduce traffic backup, improving visitor and staff safety. Includes site work, utilities, and accessible parking in service of improved check-in, operations, and visitor experience.

Funding Request:

- Working Drawings: \$133,000 from the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$1,663,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$182,000
- Working Drawings: \$133,000
- Construction: \$1,348,000

Project Timeline:

- Preliminary Plans: Completed July 2026
- Working Drawings: August 2026 - December 2027
- Construction: January 2028 - October 2028

Pfeiffer Big Sur SP: Low-Cost Alternative Coastal Lodging

Location: Pfeiffer Big Sur SP is a popular park located on the western slope of the Santa Lucia Mountains, where its peaks tower above the Big Sur River Gorge.

Scope: Project creates up to 15 new, lower-cost camping cabins and a combination shower/restroom facility. Provides overnight accommodation and expands access for non-traditional visitors while supporting coastal resource protection. Implements Parks' MOU with the California Coastal Commission to use in-lieu mitigation fees for low-cost coastal lodging.

Funding Request:

- Construction: \$1,000,000 from Proposition 68

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$7,466,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$190,000
- Working Drawings: \$504,000
- Construction: \$6,772,000

Project Timeline:

- Preliminary Plans: Completed September 2022
- Working Drawings: Approved October 2025
- Construction: December 2025 - March 2027

Silver Strand State Beach: Low-Cost Accommodations

Location: Silver Strand SB includes extensive beaches along the Pacific coast and San Diego Bay.



Scope: Project scope improves overnight coastal access for lower-income and underserved visitors while protecting sensitive coastal resources and planning for sea-level rise. Coordinating with the State Coastal Conservancy and other agencies to address permitting, environmental review, and long-term resilience.

Funding Request:

- Working Drawings: \$750,000 reimbursement authority from the State Parks and Recreation Fund

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$17,000,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$1,250,000
- Working Drawings: \$1,250,000
- Construction: \$14,500,000

Project Timeline:

- Preliminary Plans: Completed September 2026
- Working Drawings: October 2026 - November 2027
- Construction: March 2028 - April 2029

Statewide: OHV Opportunity Purchases

Location: N/A

Scope: This project will provide for the purchase of parcels to expand, buffer, or connect to existing or planned State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). Secures key parcels to protect existing OHV opportunities from land encroachment and use-conflicts. Includes fund appraisals, due diligence, and related acquisition costs to position Parks for future development and expansion of SVRAs.

Funding Request:

- Acquisition: \$5,000,000 from the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$5,000,000

- Acquisition: \$5,000,000

Project Timeline:

- Acquisition: July 2026 - June 2029



NEXT STEPS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A - Informational only

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

N/A

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://ebudget.ca.gov/2026-27/pdf/GovernorsBudget/3000/3790.pdf>