



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

State Park and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296

Armando Quintero, Director

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Phil Ginsburg, *Chair*

Francesca Vietor, *Vice Chair*

Danny Bakewell, Sr.

Sara Barth

Christina Jaromay

Jeffrey Williams

TOUR AND MEETING NOTICE **STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

September 20 and September 21, 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 September 20 and will meet on September 21 according to the following schedule:

Commission Tour:

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

10:00 a.m. – early afternoon

[Candlestick Point State Recreation Area](#)

500 Hunters Point Expy

San Francisco, CA 94124

[San Bruno Mountain State and County Park](#)

555 Guadalupe Canyon Pkwy

Brisbane, CA 94005

Tour Information: The tour is open to the public and will begin at approximately 10:00am on Wednesday, September 20 at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area (first stop of the tour). The tour group will explore Candlestick Point State Recreation Area before traveling to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park (second stop of the tour). Fees will be waived upon entry for members of the public participating in the tour. Participants must find their own transportation to each venue. The tour is expected to last approximately 5-6 hours. Lunch is expected to occur at approximately 12:00pm and tour participants are responsible for bringing or purchasing their own food, water, and supplies. Participants should also consider wearing appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for the walking portion of the tour. Comfortable hiking boots or running shoes, sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses are recommended.

Note: While it is not required, commission staff requests that all participants RSVP at (916) 902-8651 or 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.

Commission Meeting:

Thursday, September 21, 2023

9:00 a.m. – until adjournment

Residence Inn by Marriott

2121 Center St

Berkeley, CA 94704

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 via email at SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov. Referenced materials may undergo modification and will be available to the public as changes are made.

Meeting facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. If you require additional accommodation, please contact the State Park and Recreation Division using the contact information at the bottom of this page.

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 September 21, 2023. ***Any person handing out 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 Commission are requested to submit the material(s) to the State Park and Recreation Commission five (5) days prior to the scheduled meeting. The State Park and Recreation Commission and the State Park and Recreation Division reserve 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 Division and its legal counsel.*** Inquiries may be directed to the State Park and Recreation Division using the contact information provided below.

Contact Information

Email address: SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov

Mailing address: P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296

Phone number: (916) 902-8651

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Commission meeting will be live webcast with archived video provided after the meeting at www.cal-span.org.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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Sacramento, California 94296

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MEETING AGENDA
STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 21, 2023

9:00 AM

Residence Inn by Marriott

2121 Center St

Berkeley, CA 94704

VIRTUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

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- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
 - II. AGENDA MANAGEMENT (1) (2a) (2c)**
 - III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - IV. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
 - V. CHAIR'S REPORT**
 - VI. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**
 - VII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - VIII. PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 GOLDEN BEAR AWARDS**
 - IX. BUDGET UPDATE**
 - X. PARTNERSHIPS OFFICE UPDATE**
 - a. Partnerships Office
 - b. Bay Area Partnerships Efforts
 - c. Parks California
 - d. California State Parks Foundation
 - XI. CONSENT ITEMS**
 - a. Concession Agreements**
 - i. Bolsa Chica State Beach
 - ii. San Elijo State Beach
 - b. Memorial Grove Resolutions**
 - i. In Memory of Richard J. Christy
 - c. California Cirtus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation Board of Directors Appointments**
 - XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

XIII. CLOSED SESSION of the State Park and Recreation Commission

Pending Litigation – *Center for Biological Diversity v. California Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Park and Recreation Commission*. Pursuant to California Government Code § 11126(e)(1) and (e)(2)(A), the Commission will hold a closed session at its meeting on September 21, 2023, in Berkeley, California to confer with and/or receive advice from its legal counsel regarding the pending litigation of *Center for Biological Diversity v. California Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Park and Recreation Commission* as discussion in open session concerning the litigation would prejudice the position of the Commission in the litigation.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

(1) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT

- (a) Public comment for agenda items: The Chair will entertain 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 no later than September 14, 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 no later than September 14, 2023, five business (5) days prior to the scheduled meeting date. We are 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 public comment or discussion. Any person attending in person that requests an opportunity to speak on consent items shall inform the Commission prior to the announcement of the Consent Items. Any person attending remotely that requests an opportunity to speak on consent items must use the "raise hand" feature on Zoom prior to the announcement of Consent Items. If any such requests are made, the item(s) in question shall be pulled from the consent list for discussion and/or public comment.



California State Parks – Bay Area District Factsheet

1. Angel Island State Historic Park

Angel Island State Park, the largest natural island in the San Francisco Bay, offers some of the best views of the surrounding Bay Area. With great hiking trails and many other recreational opportunities readily available.

- a. General Info
 - i. Acquired: 1955
 - ii. Established: 1960
 - iii. Acreage – 776
- b. Day Use
 - i. Group Day Use sites: 2
- c. Campsites
 - i. Developed Sites – 10
 - ii. Group Sites – 1
- d. Trails/Roads
 - i. Public Roads/Trails –
 - Pedestrian ~13 miles
 - Bike ~ 9 miles
- e. Co-Op: Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation
 - i. Since 1983

2. Bale Gristmill SHP

This Park is the site of a water-powered grist mill that was built in 1846. It was once the center of social activity as Napa Valley settlers gathered to have their corn and wheat ground into meal or flour. The mill remained in use until the early 1900s.

Park Operated by Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (2012)

- a. General Info
 - i. Established 1974
 - ii. Acreage – .75
- b. Day Use
 - i. Picnic Sites – 6
- c. Trails/Roads
 - i. *Roads .25 miles
- d. Co-Op: Napa Valley State Parks Association

3. Bothe – Napa Valley SP

Bothe-Napa Valley State Park offers visitors a different kind of California wine country experience. Nestled in the historic Napa Valley, the 1,900-acre park features campsites and yurts, rugged trails, and a swimming pool.

Park Operated by Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (2012)

- a. General Info
 - i. Established 1960
 - ii. Acreage – 1905 Acres
- b. Day Use
 - i. 50 Picnic Benches
 - ii. 1 Group day use site
- c. Campsites
 - i. Developed sites 50
 - ii. Group Sites 1
 - iii. Cabins – 15 (10 being Yurts)
- d. Trails/Roads
 - i. Trails – 10 miles
- e. Co-Op: Napa Valley State Parks Association

4. Candlestick Point SRA

From Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, visitors can enjoy panoramic views of the San Francisco Bay, the East Bay hills, San Bruno Mountain as well as relax in the peaceful scenery of the park itself. From its location on the western shoreline of the San Francisco Bay, this urban park provides a variety of recreational opportunities and open space.

- a. General Info
 - i. Established – 1977
 - ii. Acreage – 252 acres
- b. Day Use
 - i. Community Garden – 1
 - ii. 4 picnic sites
- c. Campsites
 - i. Hike, bike, and Boat access only
 - ii. 6 accessible campsites
- d. Trails/Roads
 - i. Roads – 3.3 miles*
 - ii. Trails – 10 miles*
- e. Co-Op: Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ)

5. China Camp SP

China Camp State Park is nestled along the shore of the San Pablo Bay. The road through the park offers beautiful views of the waterfront. Features include an extensive intertidal marsh, meadow, and oak habitats. A Chinese shrimp-fishing village thrived on this site in the 1880's. The museum at China Camp Village helps tell the story of these hardy shrimp fishermen.

Park operated by Friends of China Camp (2012)

- a. General Info
 - i. Established – 1977
 - ii. Acreage – 160 acres
- b. Day Use
 - i. 5 picnic areas
- c. Campsites
 - i. 30 developed
 - ii. 1 Primitive Group site
- d. Trails
 - i. Trails - ~15 miles
- e. Co-Op: Friends of China Camp

6. Jack London SHP

Ramble among the historic structures of author Jack London's Ranch, explore the innovative "Pig Palace," and discover how Jack's new approaches to farming are still relevant today. A one-mile walk takes visitors to a dam, lake, and bathhouse built by London. Other hikes lead up through fir and oak woodlands to views of the Valley of the Moon.

Park Operated by Jack London Park Partners (2012)

- a. General Info
 - i. Established – 1956
 - ii. Acreage – 796 acres
- b. Day Use
 - i. 2 group day use picnic areas
- c. Trails/Roads
 - i. Roads – 16 miles*
 - ii. Trails - ~50 miles*
- d. Co-Op: Jack London Park Partners

7. Marconi Conference Center

History and nature blend seamlessly at the Marconi Conference Center State Historic Park, where overlooking the Tomales Bay, native Coast Miwok, global radio communication, and a controversial cult have each left their mark.

Park Operated by Oliver Hospitality and Marconi Conference Center Operating Corp.

- a. General Info
 - i. Established – 1989
 - ii. Acreage – 62 acres

8. Mount Tamalpais SP

Just north of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Tamalpais State Park rises majestically from the heart of Marin County. Its deep canyons and sweeping hillsides are cloaked with cool redwood forests, oak woodlands, open grasslands, and sturdy chaparral.

- a. General Info
 - i. Established - 1928
 - ii. Acreage - ~6400
- b. Day Use
 - i. Mountain Theatre
 - 3750 seat theatre
 - ii. Bootjack
 - Enough picnic space for 50 people
 - iii. East Peak
 - Small picnic area available
 - iv. Pantol
 - Small Picnic space in lower lot
- c. Campsites
 - i. 2 primitive campsites
 - ii. 9 Cabins (only 6 available for reservation currently)
 - iii. 2 group sites
 - iv. 30 first come first serve sites
 - 15 Pantoll
 - 15 Bootjack
- d. Trails/Roads
 - i. Fire Roads – 18 Miles
 - ii. Trails – 60+ Miles
 - 200 miles of interconnected trails through other jurisdictions
- e. Co-Op: Friends of Mt. Tam

9. Olompali SHP

Olompali State Historic Park offer exquisite views from the Petaluma River basin out to the San Francisco Bay. This 700-acre park features former ranch buildings with adobe ruins. Visitors enjoy hiking on trails, picnicking, horseback riding and touring the historic grounds.

- a. General Info
 - i. Established - 1977
 - ii. Acreage – 687 acres
- b. Day Use
 - i. 3 picnic areas
 - Mansion
 - Native Plants Garden

- Mount Burdell
- c. Trails/Roads
 - i. Trail Pedestrian/Equestrian - 8.37 miles
- d. Co-Op: Friends of Olompali (FOO)

10. Petaluma Adobe SHP

A visit to the Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park will bring you back to the largest privately owned adobe building in Northern California in the 1830-40's and the center of activity on one of the most prosperous private estates established during the Mexican Period.

- a. General Info
 - i. Acreage – 14 acres
- b. Day Use
 - i. 1- Picnic Area by parking lot
- c. Co-Op: Sonoma Petaluma Parks (SPPARKS)

11. Robert Louis Stevenson SP

Robert Louis Stevenson State Park is the place where the famous author of Treasure Island and Kidnapped spent his honeymoon in 1880. The area features rough terrain, with evergreen forests in the canyons on north-facing slopes and chaparral on the south-facing slopes.

Park Operated by Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (2012)

- a. General Info
 - i. Land acquired 1951
 - ii. Established (registered with OHP) – 1959
 - iii. Acreage – 5272 acres
- b. Day Use
- c. Trails/Roads
 - i. Roads - ~35 miles (4 miles fire road)
 - ii. Trails – ~18
 - Pedestrian – 9.5 miles
 - Hike/Bike - 8.5 miles
- d. Co-Op: Napa Valley State Parks Association

12. Samuel P. Taylor SP

Samuel P. Taylor State Park offers shady strolls through the stately redwoods along Lagunitas Creek as well as exhilarating hikes to the top of Barnabe Peak, one of the best viewpoints in Marin County. You can camp among redwoods, bike along the creek, explore easy-to-moderate hiking trails, watch salmon spawn, relax in the shady picnic area, and learn the story of its namesake pioneer.

- a. General Info
 - i. Established – 1946 (opened)
 - ii. Acreage – 2882 acres
- b. Day Use
 - i. 2 group picnic areas
 - ii. Standard day use
 - Azalea picnic area – Capacity +50
- c. Campsites
 - i. Developed Camp Sites – 58
 - 1 hike/bike site
 - ii. Group Sites - 6
 - 1 group equestrian site
 - iii. Cabins – 4 (3 currently available)
- d. Trails/Roads
 - i. Fire Roads – ~21 miles
 - ii. Trails – 48 miles
 - 4.5 miles accessible trail

13. Sonoma SHP

Unlike most parks with a single plot of land and a continuous boundary, Sonoma State Historic Park is a scattering of historical attractions consisting of six mid-town locations near Sonoma's Plaza. Off the Sonoma Plaza are Mission San Francisco Solano, the Blue Wing Inn, Sonoma Barracks, the Toscano Hotel and Kitchen, and the Servants Quarters (the remains of La Casa Grande). General Vallejo's home, Lachryma Montis, is less than a mile west of the plaza.

- a. General Info

- i. Established
 - Mission acquired 1906.
 - Vallejo home acquired 1933.
 - Barracks acquired 1958.
 - Blue Wing Inn acquired 1968.
- b. Acreage
 - i. ~ 65 acres
- c. Co-Op: Sonoma Petaluma Parks (SPPARKS)

14. Sugarloaf Ridge SP

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park is a 4,020-acre park located northeast of Kenwood in the Mayacamas Mountains between the lush Sonoma and Napa valleys. Elevations in the park range from 600 feet at the entrance to 2,729 feet at the top of Bald Mountain, overlooking the Napa Valley and Mount Saint Helena to the north.

Park Operated by Sonoma Ecology Center and Team Sugarloaf

- a. General Info
 - i. Acreage - 4700 acres
 - ii. Established - 1964
- b. Day Use
 - i. 2 group day use sites
 - ii. 11 picnic areas along trails
- c. Campsites
 - i. 50 developed sites
 - ii. 1 Group site
- d. Trails/Roads
 - i. Roads – 10 miles
 - ii. Trails – 21 miles of trail
 - 10 equestrian* (info from older park doc)
- e. Co-Op: Team Sugarloaf

15. Tomales Bay SP

Situated on the eastern edge of the Point Reyes Peninsula, the blue waters and sheltered coves of Tomales Bay State Park are a popular destination for a day of picnicking, hiking, or water-oriented activities.

- a. General Info
 - i. Established 1952
 - ii. Acreage – 2000 acres
- b. Day Use
 - i. 4 beaches
 - ii. Picnic bench locations
 - Hearts Desire
 - Visitor center/Kiosk
- c. Trails/Roads -12 miles*

16. Trionne-Annadel SP

Trionne-Annadel State Park sits in the historic Valley of the Moon, an area popularized by author Jack London. This peaceful, unspoiled park is 60 miles north of San Francisco on the eastern edge of Santa Rosa. The Park has more than 5,500 acres of rolling hills, seasonal streams, meadows, and woodlands free from modern intrusions.

- a. General Info
 - i. Acquired - 1971
 - ii. Established - 1974
 - iii. Acreage - ~5500
- b. Day Use
 - i. 21 separate picnic locations along trails
- c. Trails/Roads
 - i. Trails – + 25 miles
- d. Co-Op: Friends of Trionne-Annadel (FOTA)



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Berkeley, CA
September 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Partnerships Division Overview

STAFF: Carlene Croisdale, Chief, Partnerships Division

SUBJECT: Overview of Partnerships Division Programs and Agreement Types

OBJECTIVE

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) provides an overview to the State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) of the Partnerships Division, the various programs in place for our partners, and the current partnership agreement types.

INTRODUCTION

The Partnerships Division envisions a thriving system of partnerships in the California State Parks System through mutual cooperation that engages outstanding private, public, and volunteer services to provide recreation benefits for all while protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources consistent with the Department's mission.

The mission of the Partnerships Division is to support park operations to empower, inspire, and strengthen public and private partners to create, promote, sustain, and expand visitor services to California's diverse population.

DESCRIPTION

The Partnerships Division's core partnership programs are Concessions, Cooperating Associations, Donors, Operators and Co-managers, Proud Partners, and Volunteers in Parks. The Tribal Affairs Program, housed within the Cultural Resources Division, manages the Tribal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Program.

The Concessions Program provides a crucial part of the park visitor's experience. The purpose of the program is to seek involvement and assistance from private

and public-sector entities, where appropriate, to provide services, programs, and facilities to enhance the convenience, enjoyment, education, and recreational experiences of state park visitors. Concessions range from food carts to multi-million-dollar lodging operations and everything in between, as long as the business is compatible with the park's general plan or unit classification.

- Concession Agreement: (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5080.02 et seq.)

Cooperating Associations are qualified nonprofit organizations that help provide State Parks with critical funding and donated services to enhance the educational and interpretive programs and improve and maintain facilities, as well as offer approved goods and services to add to the visitor experience.

- Cooperating Association Agreement: (PRC § 513)

The Donors Program consists of individuals, nonprofit organizations, or corporations that contribute funds, goods, or services to support our parks. These donations are essential. California's state parks thrive when people give back, helping to keep our parks open and accessible to all and preserving these special places for future generations to enjoy.

- Donor Agreement: (PRC §§ 5005, 5009.1, & 5009.2)

The Operators and Co-managers Program is comprised of qualified public entities or nonprofit organizations that may enter into agreements with State Parks to develop, improve, restore, care, maintain, manage, or operate a park or a portion of a park. There are two types of agreements a qualified organization can enter into:

- Operating Agreement: An agreement with a government agency or qualified nonprofit, to operate the majority of a park unit with minimal involvement and oversight by Department staff. (PRC § 5080.30 et seq. – government entities; PRC § 5080.42 – nonprofits)
- Co-management Agreement: An agreement with a government agency or qualified nonprofit, to operate a portion of a park unit, sharing management and financial roles and responsibilities for the park unit with the Department. (PRC § 5080.30 et seq. – government entities; PRC § 5080.42 – nonprofits)

Proud Partners are nonprofit and private organizations that partner with State Parks to provide funding and/or donated goods or services to support and enhance the visitor experience. Proud Partnerships generate critical financial support that helps to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy California State Parks.

- Proud Partner Agreement: (PRC § 5009.3)

Individuals supporting the Volunteers in Parks Program have enhanced, maintained, and restored our state parks. They interpret our treasured resources, keep facilities clean and trails in good repair, spearhead special events, and offer a welcome face in our campgrounds and visitor centers. Volunteers assist staff in countless ways, in nearly all of California's State Parks. (GOV § 3110 et seq. – California State Government Volunteers Act)

Through the Tribal MOU Program, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between California Native American Tribes and California State Parks are created to systematically address cultural and natural resources of concern or interest to the tribes within Parks Districts, Units, and Programs. These MOUs establish protocols for continuous open discussions and outline the responsibilities of each party to promote successful cooperation and partnership.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[PARTNERSHIPS \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/partnerships)



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Berkeley, CA
September 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Bay Area District Overview

STAFF: Maria Mowrey, Bay Area District Superintendent

SUBJECT: Overview of the Bay Area District and Partnerships

OBJECTIVE

Maria Mowrey, Bay Area District Superintendent, plans to provide a brief overview for commissioners and the public regarding the Bay Area District and information pertaining to the district partnerships. Highlights from the commission tour will also be discussed.

INTRODUCTION

The Bay Area District is spread across 5 counties and consists of 16 state park units (1 State Recreation Area, 9 State Parks, and 6 State Historic Parks), of which 3 are co-managed with a county open space district, and 5 are co-managed with non-profit operating partners. With over 30,000 acres, the state parks in the Bay Area District protect a myriad of natural and cultural resources while providing recreation to three million visitors per year. Recreational opportunities include equestrian access, bioluminescence tours, hiking, camping, boating, mountain biking, beach access, conference facilities, fishing, and more. The district also hosts a variety of programs such as poetry in parks, museum tours, beach clean ups, and hip-hop youth camps. Special events include Transcendence Theater Company, Sound Summit, Redwood Rides, the Dipsea Race (the oldest trail race in America), and numerous other recreational events from mountain biking and group picnics to weddings and family gatherings.

DESCRIPTION (REPORT/UPDATE)

Bay Area Partnerships

The Bay Area District is what we like to call “partner rich,” hosting 13 partnership agreements, six concessions, and five donor agreements all providing programs, services, park management, and enhanced services to the public. The following partnership updates were selected to provide you with a small sampling of just a few of the incredible and important partnerships in our District.

Marconi Conference Center State Historic Park

Marconi Conference Center State Historic Park (Marconi SHP) is located along Tomales Bay near the community of Marshall in Marin County. Formerly the site of the famed Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company beginning in 1912, was once owned by the Synanon cult beginning in the 1960s, the property was acquired by the California State Parks Foundation in 1984 and transferred to the Department in 1989. It was classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission as a State Historic Park in 1991.

Background

The purpose of Marconi SHP is to promote small and medium sized conferences in a rural setting, preserve and restore the historic buildings on the property, interpret the history associated with the Marconi period, and to preserve the natural resources of the site. Public resources Code § 5080.38 allows State Parks to enter into an operating agreement with a qualified nonprofit organization for the development, improvement, restoration, care, maintenance, administration, and control of the Marconi SHP.

During the COVID pandemic, the property was shuttered and quickly fell into disrepair. The Department worked closely with MCCOC and developed a sub-operating agreement with Marconi Hospitality LLC, a private corporation with the objectives of bringing hospitality expertise to Marconi, and to bring funding to get the property back into service for the enjoyment and benefit of the public, and ultimately restore and protect the historic structures.

Report/Update

The new 55-year operating agreement began May 1, 2022. Marconi Hospitality LLC quickly began to complete deferred maintenance projects and reopen the property to the public. These projects included landscaping maintenance and development of a landscape plan, roof repairs and replacements, building crack repairs and painting, trail maintenance, and overall beautification of the exterior buildings and grounds.

In June of 2023, the operations completely closed down to complete major interior renovations of the 40 hotel rooms, including improvements and upgrades to all interiors, adding safety features and energy consumption/conservation features of all existing guest rooms, and modernizing Cypress, Pine and Redwood Halls.

A soft reopening occurred on September 1, 2023, and the property is back in business with a fresh new look. Rooms and conferences are now available to be booked moving forward, and the grounds will remain open for public access to recreation opportunities.

Tamalpais Lands Collaborative (One Tam)

The Tamalpais Lands Collaborative, known as “OneTam” was officially formed in 2014, when State Parks, the National Park Service, Marin Water, Marin County Regional Parks, and the Golden Gate Park Conservancy signed an MOU around a collective vision to preserve, restore and interpret Mount Tamalpais, an iconic natural landmark in the San Francisco Bay Area, and an important source of

drinking water, recreational opportunities and ecologically significant protected natural habitats as part of the UNESCO recognized Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve/Network.

Report/Update

OneTam has been a successful partnership that other groups aspire to model their collaborative efforts after. Through the collaborative, the OneTam partners have increased community engagement with programs focused on youth engagement and citizen science. Key trail projects like the Redwood Creek Trail Realignment have improved access for park visitors while also restoring natural resources. As one of the original OneTam projects, which is being built by State Parks trail staff, the Redwood Creek project has been a vital component of an effort to restore endangered Coho salmon in the Redwood Creek watershed across jurisdictional boundaries, connecting with restoration work being carried out by the National Park Service in Muir Woods.

Most recently, the OneTam partners, in collaboration with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, have released the Marin Regional Forest Health Strategy. Utilizing best available data, local knowledge, and expert analysis, the Forest Health Strategy provides essential insight into the threats currently impacting forest resilience in Marin. In addition, it furnishes a science-based framework for identifying how and where agencies can work both independently and together across jurisdictional boundaries to increase and protect forest health in our region.

The OneTam partners are currently working on renewing the MOU which expires in 2024, and strategic vision, for another ten years. Using lessons learned from the first ten years, and building on the partnerships' successes, all of the partners are committed to continuing the landscape-scale stewardship and community engagement work of OneTam forward into the next ten years.

Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF)

Located in the middle of San Francisco Bay, Angel Island State Park has diverse natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The island is the ancestral land of the Coast Miwok people, now the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria, a tribe made up of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo people. In later years a cattle ranch, US army base, US Quarantine Station, and US Immigration Station all operated on the island. Angel Island State Park has two cooperating associations, the Angel Island Conservancy which operates island-wide and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF/Foundation) which focuses its efforts on the historic immigration site.

The US Immigration Station, Angel Island was in operation from 1910-1940. The site was also used during WWII housing US soldiers and detaining Japanese Americans as well as Prisoners of War. Originally built to enforce the Chinese Exclusion Laws which excluded immigrants based on race, the facility ultimately held people from about 80 countries including returning American citizens with Chinese ancestry. The facility's role was to process immigrants arriving in San Francisco and keep out 'undesirable' immigrants based on race, class, health, sex, as well as political and moral standards.

California State Parks's original plan for the old immigration station was to remove the buildings to make way for camping and picnicking. Ranger Alexander Weiss spoke to professors and students at San Francisco State University about writing he had seen on the walls of the former station's detention barracks. Their classes made informal field trips to the site and some students later learned their own parents had been detained on Angel Island when they immigrated to the United States. Those students and teachers spread the word and created the community-based organization, the Angel Island Immigration Station Historical Advisory Committee (AIISHAC). The Committee evolved into AIISF.

This year the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation commemorates 40 years of their continuing work to preserve the US Immigration Station and share the stories of those impacted by detention on Angel Island. The US Immigration Station is now one of the park's most significant historic resources and a National Historic Landmark. In partnership with California State Parks, the Foundation has raised over \$40 million in public and private funds toward the restoration efforts of the buildings, infrastructure improvements, and interpretive exhibits. The work done so far has helped preserve inscriptions left behind by detained immigrants from around the world in a dozen languages, as well as writing from World War II including Japanese American internees and POWs from Germany and Japan. The most well-known writing in the building are more than 100 Chinese poems carved into the wooden walls expressing detained immigrants' frustrations, fears, and hopes as they awaited the US government's decision on whether they would be allowed to enter or be deported.

Report/Update

The latest efforts of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and California State Parks were focused on the historic hospital building at the US Immigration Station. The building had been abandoned since 1946 and was in disrepair. Water was intruding through the roof as well as from the hillside above the building damaging the structure and without intervention ultimately the building would have collapsed. A phased project on the site started with building stabilization and hazardous materials removal, as well as relocating Townsend's big-eared bats living inside the structure. The construction work replaced the crumbling plaster on the walls and provided all new electrical, plumbing, and climate control in the building. Due to continued fund raising, the final interpretive elements in the building are phased as well, but three permanent exhibits were completed in 2020. Due to pandemic delays the building's official opening event was held virtually on January 22, 2022. 102 years to the day after the first immigrant was detained on the island. The new museum space is called AIIM (Angel Island Immigration Museum) and highlights personal stories of historic and contemporary immigration. The space features some flexible spaces as well where temporary exhibits, speakers, performances, and public and private events can be held.

An additional permanent exhibit in the World War II era mess hall opened in May 2022 funded by Japanese American Confinement Sites grant awarded to AIISF. "Taken From Their Families" introduces visitors to the story of 600 Japanese Hawaiians and 100 mainland Japanese Americans detained on Angel Island on

their way to more permanent camps around the US. There is a poignant oral history turned into an animated feature of one family describing their experiences. They recall the day their father was taken away in the days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and later their own internment and birth of their younger sibling in a horse stall at the Tanforan Racetrack.

The Foundation also hosts many of the permanent exhibits from the park online as virtual exhibits for those who cannot visit the island, as well as collects oral histories related to stories of immigration through “Immigrant Voices” on their website (www.aiisf.org).

Roots and Branches – Sound Summit

Quick Facts:

- Roots and Branches founded Sound Summit in 2015 to support Mount Tamalpais State Park
- Sound Summit is an outdoor concert that takes place once per year at the Cushing Memorial Amphitheater (a.k.a. Mountain Theater) within Mount Tamalpais State Park
- Roots and Branches has donated over \$250,000 to California State Parks since 2015
- California State Parks and Roots and Branches formalized a Donation Agreement in early 2020 which runs through Fall 2026
- In 2023, Roots and Branches donated \$50,000 to California State Parks’ Steep Ravine Trail repair project

Report/Update

Roots & Branches Conservancy is a San Francisco Bay Area-based non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of natural resources, both physical and cultural. Their mission ranges from regional environmental and educational work to the preservation and evolution of artistic and cultural traditions – musical, visual, narrative, and beyond. Wherever possible, they aim to create intersections between the environment, education, and the arts to their mutual benefit.

During budget shortfalls for State Parks, roots & Branches created Sound Summit, a celebratory music and arts festival held high atop Mount Tamalpais in Marin County. This was launched in the fall of 2015. Sound Summit’s aim was to raise money for, broaden awareness of, and deepen community connection to this very special place in the neighborhood. And it has succeeded in doing just that, raising \$250,000 for Mount Tam to date and fostering old and new ties to this gem of our local landscape.

Just this year, \$50,000 in funds we’ve donated from Sound Summit were allocated to the restoration of the recently reopened Steep Ravine Trail, one of the most beloved and well-traveled on the mountain, which had been closed to the public for over six months due to unsafe conditions. The grants paid for the replacement of all decking and railings on nine key bridges, as well as supported the replacement of a tenth failed bridge. “It’s rewarding to see funds we’ve been able to contribute through our work and your support go to projects that have

direct positive impact on the public's access to and enjoyment of the mountain's wealth of resources."

Districtwide Wildfire Prevention Stats and Partnerships

The Bay Area District and surrounding communities have experienced some of the largest and most devastating wildfires in recent years in California, starting with the Nuns and Tubbs fires (the "Wine Country fires") in 2017 which burned Robert Louis Stevenson, Trione-Annadel, and Sugarloaf Ridge State Parks, and the 2020 Glass Fire, which burned Bothe-Napa Valley, Bale Grist Mill, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sugarloaf Ridge, and Trione-Annadel State Parks. Following the 2017 fires, the Bay Area District (District) has engaged in building and maintaining a range of partnerships aimed at increasing wildfire prevention and resilience, forest health, and the use of prescribed fire, or "good fire" on a regional basis.

Report/Update

State Parks is part of a unique public/private partnership called the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative (SVWC) with the Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma Valley Regional Parks, Sonoma County Ag and Open Space District, Audubon Canyon Ranch, and Sonoma Mountain Ranch Preservation Foundation. The six partners work together, with the local CalFire unit, across 18,000 acres to maintain and improve ecosystem health, increase resilience to wildfires and climate change, and reduce future impacts of wildfire to communities in the Sonoma Valley. The district also participated in the 2022 North Bay TREX, a regional prescribed fire training exchange, in which fire practitioners from many different organizations come together for an intensive training exchange to build skills and networks for prescribed burning. State Parks hosted TREX participants in pile burning in Trione-Annadel State Park. Also key to increasing the pace and scale of wildfire prevention and resilience work, the district has built collaborative working partnerships with CalFire's Sonoma Lake Napa LNU unit, Marin County Fire, and local fire agencies that help to increase both fire preparedness and on-the-ground fuel reduction and prescribed fire work in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and wildland areas of the district.

Approximately 1,800 acres of varied treatments have been accomplished over the last couple years including broadcast and pile burning, shaded fuel break work, dead tree removal, invasive plant removal, grassland, and scrubland maintenance. As part of this work, over 2,000 piles of dead and cut vegetation have been burned in partnership with CalFire, Marin County Fire, and the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative (SVWC). This work has been funded by a combination of grant funding obtained by the SVWC, state Wildfire and Forest Resilience Program funding, and State Parks natural resource funding. Through the SVWC, over \$750,000 in direct financial support has come to the district to support contract labor, surveys and compliance, and implementation of fuel reduction work. This partnership has provided access to equipment and expertise to support on-the-groundwork and expanded community outreach capacity through the SVWC's website, community presence, and targeted efforts

to share collaborative work with broader and more diverse audiences (i.e., hosting a webinar on the collaborative's work with Spanish translation).

ATTACHMENTS

Bay Area District Fact Sheet

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Bay Area District](#) webpage



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Berkeley, CA
September 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Parks California Report

STAFF: Kindley Walsh Lawlor, President & CEO of Parks California

SUBJECT: Introduction to Parks California

OBJECTIVE

Provide State Park and Recreation Commissioners and the public with an introduction to Parks California.

INTRODUCTION

Kindley Walsh Lawlor, President & CEO of Parks California, will provide a general overview of Parks California, including why it was formed, the issues it works on, and what it has achieved in its first four years.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2015, The Parks Forward Commission issued recommendations for how State Parks could meet the needs of all people – now and into the future. The Parks Forward Commission's core recommendation was for a new, statewide statutory nonprofit partner to California State Parks, as articulated in Senate Bill 1111.

As a result, Parks California was established as a nonprofit extension of the State Parks team and began operating in early 2019.

Each year, Parks California meets with State Parks leadership to set Joint Priorities, as prescribed in SB 1111. We work closely with State Park staff to catalyze innovation and advance projects which address the mission critical needs identified.

DESCRIPTION (REPORT / UPDATE)

The general overview will include:

- The history of Parks California

- How Parks California works with California State Parks as its statutory partner
- Parks California's mission and core programming areas
- Highlights of the progress made in Parks California's first 4 years in partnership with CSP partners and nonprofits across the state.

ATTACHMENTS

Presentation slides forthcoming on 9.19. The presentation will include a short video.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Website: <https://parkscalifornia.org/>

On Instagram and Facebook: @parkscalifornia

We will include a short video of a grantee partner in the presentation.



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Berkeley, CA
September 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT: California State Parks Foundation Partner Updates

STAFF: Randy Widera, Director of Programs

SUBJECT: Partnering for the success of California State Parks for all

OBJECTIVE

Present California State Parks Foundation's 2024-2027 Strategic plan, our current programs and impacts, and how we partner with California State Parks to achieve our aligned missions.

INTRODUCTION

As Californians, it is our responsibility to experience, steward, and defend our parks so that they can continue to provide these benefits to us and future generations.

Experiencing parks firsthand is crucial for developing a personal connection with the natural environment. When we visit a park, visitors can engage through the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of nature. This sensory experience can help us develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world and its beauty. We can also learn about the history, geology, flora, and fauna of the park, which can enhance our appreciation of its significance.

Spending time in a park can create an emotional connection with the natural world. We may experience feelings of awe, wonder, and gratitude, which can deepen our appreciation of the park and its importance. These experiences can inspire us to take action to protect and preserve the natural world. By experiencing the beauty and diversity of nature firsthand, we may be motivated to make lifestyle changes or advocate for environmental conservation.

Experiencing parks is crucial for people to appreciate their beauty, significance, and value, allowing us to connect with nature in a personal way and develop a sense of stewardship for the environment.

Stewardship involves individual actions and community involvement, such as volunteering, following park rules, advocacy, and financial support. By taking an active role in caring for these valuable resources, Californians can help maintain the beauty and ecological integrity of these areas, while also enjoying the many benefits they provide.

It is important to defend parks by advocating for funding, staff, and protections because parks require adequate resources and staffing to maintain and protect their natural and cultural resources, provide high-quality visitor experiences, and address emerging threats such as climate change, invasive species, and overuse. Without such advocacy, parks may be subject to degradation, closures, or reduced services, which can negatively impact the environment, local economies, and the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

A LEGACY OF PARK PROTECTION

“Parks need a strong constituency to flourish, one that mirrors the true size and diversity of the population that uses them. As the world becomes more crowded, that constituency will become more important.”

William Penn Mott, Jr., Founder of California State Parks Foundation

California’s state parks comprise the largest and most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state in the nation. They include beaches, underwater refuges, Indigenous peoples’ cultural preserves, museums, lighthouses, ghost towns, recreation areas, and wilderness areas. State parks’ peaks, deserts, redwoods, and coastlines are some of the most immediately recognizable natural features in the world. For over 50 years, California State Parks Foundation has been the leading statewide voice in advocating for a sustainably funded state park system, access to parks for all, and enduring park protection.

The organization was founded in 1969 by William Penn Mott, Jr., to be a partner to the California State Parks in protecting and preserving the California state park system. As director of California State Parks, William Penn Mott, Jr. rallied a core group of friends and park supporters to form California State Parks Foundation. With Director Mott, this group believed that parks needed an independent nonprofit partner to help engage a broader audience of park supporters, inspire philanthropy, and better serve more diverse communities. They committed to improving the quality of life for all Californians by expanding access to the natural beauty, rich culture and history, and educational and health opportunities offered by California’s state parks.

Early in its history, California State Parks Foundation helped grow the system by acquiring land for the state, thereby preserving these treasures for generations to

come. As California's state parks were in a period of rapid growth, we were a leader and partner in safeguarding our state's natural and historical resources.

As the new millennium approached, the California state park system began to show its age with crumbling infrastructure and mounting deferred maintenance. It was also increasingly apparent that many Californians do not have access to their state parks and all the health and wellness benefits they provide. State parks were suffering at the mercy of the state's boom-and-bust budget cycle and were a target for development threats such as road construction, powerline corridors, trains, racetracks, golf courses, and more. California State Parks Foundation needed to increase its advocacy and presence in Sacramento to defend the state park system in the Capitol.

Over the course of 50+ years, the organization has built a dedicated movement of over 70,000 members and raised more than \$300 million to benefit state parks. Today, California has the largest and most biologically diverse state park system in the nation, with 280 park units that are vitally important to the well-being of our state's environment, economy, and quality of life. California State Parks Foundation continues to fight for our state parks wherever and whenever they need us.

DESCRIPTION (REPORT / UPDATE)

How California State Parks Foundation Drives Impact

Our Theory of Change

Every nonprofit needs a roadmap for change. A theory of change outlines how to create that change. Developing a theory of change framework is an essential part of a thriving community transformation effort.

Every step of the way, we carry our legacy and foundational values. Our Theory of Change is how we drive impact and change to achieve our mission.

- Learn: To determine the best solutions and practices, we work to develop a deep understanding of significant issues facing parks and to monitor current trends in the environmental, social justice, and parks spaces.
- Educate: The future of parks depends on a diverse and informed constituency of individuals and partners that is engaged and has a voice in the halls of power.
- Activate: California State Parks Foundation activates a base of park supporters to be champions for their parks.
- Influence: We create change by connecting in-the-field learnings and collective wisdom from all constituencies to inform policy solutions in the halls of power, where decisions are made at the highest level.

Our Programs

Climate Resilience: We are using the best available science and research to learn deeply about climate threats and solutions, educate Californians and the Legislature, activate people to take action, and ultimately influence policy and legislation that prioritizes communities most impacted by climate change.

Access and Experiences: While California state parks are public spaces, many people cannot access or experience them. Barriers to park access include lack of transportation, cost of visiting, lack of awareness of parks or the activities they offer, and more. Though we are working to reduce these barriers, this is just the beginning of the effort to ensure that every Californian feels welcome in and can enjoy state parks.

Park Excellence: Sufficient staffing, funding, and effective park policies are critical to ensuring a thriving state park system. We ensure park excellence by fighting for a fully funded California state park system and by creating thriving partnership programs so that state parks can benefit from all the work of nonprofit partners.

Park Stewardship: By expanding park staff's capacity, volunteers help overcome resource constraints and carry out essential tasks such as trail maintenance, habitat restoration, planting, and more. Their involvement fosters community engagement and connection, spreading awareness and inspiring others to appreciate and protect these natural and cultural treasures.

California State Parks Foundation 2024 to 2027 Strategic Plan

We took most of the last year to think deeply about what parks and Californians need from California State Parks Foundation right now. For over 50 years, that has been our commitment — to be there for what parks need.

Over the course of over 50 years, the organization has adapted to the changes in California, the state park system, the people who live here, and visitors from near and far. To think deeply about what parks needed, we followed an intentional process of listening, reflecting and collaborating, and planning for the future.

Our Process

We listened to our community to understand our strengths and challenges through over 20 interviews and additional survey responses from our staff, our board, California State Parks staff, consultants, and park partners throughout California. The feedback was invaluable with many partners grappling with similar challenges, like climate change and park equity, and expressed appreciation for California State Parks Foundation's strengths, contributions, and the opportunity to provide feedback.

Through reflection and collaboration, we identified focus areas for the next three years. Our staff and board came together to discuss the feedback we receive from our community, our unique role, and our priority to move forward. Through this process, we identified five focus areas — three programmatic and two operational — that, taken together, will deepen the impact and capacity of the organization to protect and preserve the California state park system.

These are:

- Defending parks: Working with our network of partners to identify looming issues for individual parks and the park system, then crafting effective strategies to defend against threats.
- Developing solutions: Pursuing innovative programs and projects that exemplify solutions to issues facing state parks, and then we scale them statewide, through funding, awareness, and advocacy.
- Building a movement: Building a diverse, inclusive movement of park champions, enabling Californians to engage with, experience and advocate for their state parks.
- Strengthening operational excellence: Improving business planning, processes, staff recruitment, engagement and culture, and the integration of justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity into the fabric of the organization.
- Enhanced governance: The Board of Trustees actively supports and promotes our organizational vision, values and programs, has well-defined roles and responsibilities, and is engaged, diverse, and collaborative.

Our role in making the parks more just, equitable, inclusive, and diverse:

As an organization that seeks to support California's state park system, we have several essential roles and responsibilities to create a parks system that is equitable and inclusive.

As an advocacy organization, we have a responsibility to influence the California Legislature to push for public funding and policies that provide the building blocks for a park system that reflects the needs and values of Californians, particularly those who are the most marginalized.

As a park support organization, we have a role to play in curating information and communicating about state parks history, and perhaps especially the painful stories in our history, to inspire donors, members, volunteers, and parks users to better understand how parks are sites in which powerful JEID work can happen, be it through programming, parks management, or parks planning.

We have a role to play as a connector, network builder, and funder. As a powerful and visible organization, we have a responsibility to connect with, fund,

and amplify the needs of California Native American Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples, communities of color, disabled communities, and LGBTQ+ communities to ensure their needs are centered in California state parks.

Finally, we recognize that justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity work is not just about our external work, but also about our internal work. We have an obligation to live the values we are advocating for in our own workplace, meaning that all staff and board members should feel a sense of belonging and be able to thrive in their positions here at California State Parks Foundation.

Recent success

Pathways to Parks

Introduction

State parks belong to all Californians, and it's up to us to break down barriers and build stronger accessibility to parks. The reality is that too many Californians, especially those from disadvantaged communities, are not afforded the opportunity to experience the wonders in their own backyard. We believe that equitable access to the benefits state parks provide is a right for all Californians – especially youth, who should be able to access state parks as incredible playgrounds and places to explore, learn, grow, and improve their overall wellness.

Additionally, the future of our unparalleled state parks system is at risk. We know that our state parks are only as strong as the people who care for them and protect them from real and potential threats. Current state park visitors are incredible champions today, but we must work to ensure that we foster tomorrow's champions by increasing state park access for youth and their families.

In response to these issues, California State Parks Foundation launched Pathways to Parks, a campaign that will introduce and advocate for solutions that increase equitable access to the outdoors.

The Pathways to Parks initiative began by creating opportunities to learn from and listen to Californians, particularly youth, about the barriers they encounter when accessing the outdoors. In the process, we also heard how transformative that access could be. California's First Partner, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, herself a longtime advocate for the health and wellness benefits of nature, joined us as a champion for solutions that would get more youth into state parks.

Pathways to Parks Timeline

SPRING 2018 California State Parks Foundation granted \$130,000, bringing 5,736 youth (57% from low-income households) into state parks, highlighting service gaps in the Central Coast and Central Valley.

FALL 2018 We partnered with UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability to study state park access, reviewing outdoor benefits for youth, analyzing visitor demographics, and surveying 22 million Californians, including 5 million under 18.

FALL 2018 We funded 27 programs with \$259,500, providing California state park experiences to 2,700+ youth, with over 50% Latinx, 15% Black, 50% aged 15-18, and 30% aged 10-14.

FALL 2019 At our first-of-its-kind Policy Forum, the First Partner announced her partnership on the Pathways to Parks initiative. We presented research results on youth park access, including an interactive map of demographics in our 280 state parks' visitorsheds.

FEBRUARY 2020 We convened a meeting in Los Angeles with the First Partner, California State Parks Foundation, State Parks Department, and stakeholders to discuss increasing outdoor access for underserved youth as a public health solution.

JANUARY-JUNE 2020 With the pandemic impacting California's budget, we mobilized advocates to protect state park funding, successfully restoring \$20 million in youth outdoor equity grants in the final 2020-21 budget.

AUGUST 2020 Armando Quintero was appointed Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation on August 19th, 2020.

NOVEMBER 2020 Our second annual Policy Forum brought together park stakeholders, policy experts, legislative staff, and leaders to address youth park access, public health, and climate change. Speakers included the First Partner, California State Parks Director Armando Quintero, and more.

JANUARY-JUNE 2021 In the May 2021-22 state budget revision, substantial investments were made in state parks, including youth access. This comprised \$9 million for youth programs, library partnerships, CalWORKs access, and funds for 6.1 million public school students to visit state parks.

JULY 2021 Governor Newsom signed AB 148 into law, establishing the California State Park Adventure Pass, waiving day-use fees for fourth graders and their families at 19 state parks for a full year. SB 129, signed earlier, allocated \$5.6 million for this program and \$3 million for the State Library Park Pass, enabling library patrons to access state parks for free.

SEPTEMBER 2021 California State Parks launched the State Park Adventure Pass. To date, over 42,000 students have received a pass.

MARCH 2022 California State Parks and the California Department of Social Services made it easier for CalWORKs families to receive a free, annual Golden

Bear Pass. To date, more than 61,000 Golden Bear passes have been distributed to Californians – compared to an annual average of 2,500 passes before this partnership.

APRIL 2022 California State Parks and the California State Library launched the California State Library Parks Pass during National Library Week. Each library branch received at least three California State Library Parks Pass hangtags for patrons to borrow.

FEBRUARY 2023 The library pass program has been so well-received that Governor Newsom allocated an additional \$13.5 million, resulting in 28,000 more passes. To date, a total of 33,000 passes have been placed in more than 1,100 public library branches throughout the state. Libraries report that this is one of the most checked out items.

AUGUST 2023 California State Parks and the California Department of Social Services announced the expansion of the Golden Bear Pass to participants of California's Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Outcomes as of Sep 2023

- Adventure Pass total: State Parks launched the first-ever "Adventure Pass" which allows every 4th grader in California and their family to visit 19 state parks for free all year. To date, over 42,000 students have received a pass.
- Golden Bear Pass total: To date more than 61,000 Golden Bear passes have been distributed to Californians – compared to an annual average of 2,500 passes before this partnership.
- Check out Parks Pass: Through this program, a total of 33,000 passes have been placed in more than 1,100 public library branches throughout the state. Libraries report that this is one of the most checked out items in the library.

California State Parks Foundation continues to partner with California State Parks and State Libraries to promote and evaluate the State Library Park Pass program.

MARKETING & OUTREACH: California State Parks Foundation has funded the printing of collateral to help promote the program. We provided 240,000 bookmarks (200 per branch) to let library visitors know that they can now use their library card to check out a free vehicle day-use pass for 200+ California state parks. We also funded the printing of 50,000 half-page sheets to encourage participants to complete a survey about the program.

GEAR & BACKPACKS: CSPF has also been providing items that can add additional value to the passes being checked out. Our friends at REI Co-op generously donated 500 of their Flash 22 Packs to launch a pilot program where

Californians can check out gear backpacks along with their park pass, allowing them to connect more deeply with their parks. These backpacks include binoculars, hand lenses, compasses, wildlife guides, and a postcard about the organization.

SURVEY & EVALUATION: Program participants are encouraged to complete a survey about their experience. Those who submit the survey are eligible to win a California Explorer Vehicle Day-Use Annual Pass. These surveys are providing invaluable data on how participants are using the passes and reducing barriers to state parks. Key insights from the Library Pass surveys (3,638 responses through August 1, 2023):

For many Californians, income is the most significant barrier to visiting state parks. 63% of respondents to a survey completed by State Library Parks Pass patrons indicated cost of day use fees as being the main reason for not having visited state parks previously.

- 45.2% of respondents during the reporting period indicated an income level of \$60,000. With 24.6% reported an income level of \$30,000 or less.
- 63.5% of respondents during the reporting period indicated that they were BIPOC2.
- 90.1% of respondents plan to visit State Parks again 7+ times a year thanks to the Parks Pass.
- 48.2% of respondents plan to visit 7+ times per year.
- 30.8% of respondents plan to visit 3-6 time per year.
- 81% of respondents are more likely to use other library resources and services after using the California State Library Parks Pass.

“It was very easy to use, and the 2 weeks is plenty of time to enjoy it. The savings are amazing as well. We go to different state parks all the time and it adds up, especially if you are a family of five with one income. Thank you for this amazing program!”

“Thank you so much for offering this free pass for us to use. We get so busy working and living our lives that we forget that nature, the fresh air, the beaches, give us a sense of peace and relaxation. It's wonderful for our mental health. Very good use of Taxpayers money. :). I hope this pilot project becomes a regular annual thing that we CA residents can enjoy and take advantage of.”

Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

Summary

The Yosemite Slough Restoration Project is a historic \$30+ million wetlands restoration and park development project taking place in Candlestick Point State Recreation Area in southeastern San Francisco, one of the most park-poor and underserved areas of the city. The project provides a rare opportunity for San

Francisco to realize the full environmental, recreational and economic potential of its historically industrialized southeastern waterfront and open Candlestick's northern Yosemite Slough waterfront area to the public for the first time in the park's history. This landmark project will complete a pivotal link in the major revitalization effort underway for San Francisco's waterfront, expand public waterfront access, protect vital wildlife and habitat, enrich environmental education for Bay Area youth and park visitors, and improve the quality of life for the Bayview Hunters Point community.

Phase 1 of the restoration, a \$12.2 million site clean-up and creation of 7 acres of tidal wetlands, was completed in 2012, along with a portion of the Bay Trail. Phase 2 is being broken down into sub-phases that address access and visitor usage. Phase 2A, completed in September 2021, involved construction of the core infrastructure needed to maintain and operate this section of the park and native planting.

Accomplishments

Phase 1 of the Yosemite Slough wetlands restoration, along the north shoreline of Yosemite Slough, was completed in 2012. Key project elements included:

- Removal of existing structures on the north side of the Yosemite Slough canal along with debris and contaminated soils.
- Reduction in the amount of polluted runoff as a result of the creation of 7 acres of restored seasonal wetlands catching and filtering water.
- Re-vegetation with native plants to increase local biodiversity.
- Creation of a nesting island for shorebirds, isolated by a tidal channel to protect nesters from feral animals and human disturbance.
- Completion of a segment of the Bay Trail, along the north shoreline of Yosemite Slough (October 2012).

Phase 2A of the Yosemite Slough Restoration, the addition of capital improvements to the project site, was put out for public bid by the California Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) in March 2019 and completed in August 2021. The key project elements included:

- Construction of the core infrastructure needed to maintain and operate the Yosemite Slough section of the park including all of the utility connections.
- Potable water, fire protection, sanitary sewer, irrigation, telecommunications, electricity, and outdoor lighting.
- Connection of the park entrance to the intersection of Griffith and Thomas Street, vehicular access control and security.
- A parking lot with storm water drainage and treatment system.
- ADA pedestrian and cyclist connection to the San Francisco Bay Trail, safe access for pedestrians from the intersection of Griffith and Thomas to the park entrance and, completion of the SF Bay Trail and signage.
- Completion of the tidal marsh restoration and planting.

California State Parks Foundation continues to work with California State Park on ongoing stewardship and community engagement work for Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

ATTACHMENTS

- California State Parks Foundation, 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Justice, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity](#)
- [How to build climate resilient parks: What we learned from our 2022 Building Climate Resilient Parks grantees](#)
- [Partnerships: An Essential Part of a Thriving State Park System](#)



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Berkeley, CA

September 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Beach Stand Operations at Bolsa Chica State Beach

STAFF: Erik Hernandez, Concessions Program Manager

SUBJECT: Request for the State Park and Recreation Commission to determine the concession's compatibility with the Park's General Plan and Park Unit Classification.

I DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) requests the State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) determine the continued operation and development of Beach Stand Operations at Bolsa Chica State Beach (SB) through a concession contract is compatible with the unit classification and the General Plan. This project is presented in accordance with Public Resources Code § 5080.20 because the concessionaire gross receipts are anticipated to exceed \$1,000,000 annually.

II PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Bolsa Chica State Beach is a family friendly beach located in the city of Huntington Beach along Pacific Coast Highway and extends three miles from Sunset Beach to Seapoint Avenue. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 the unit had 1,266,858 visitors and revenues of \$6,882,234.07. Bolsa Chica SB is four miles south of the City of Long Beach, with convenient freeway and highway access. A popular universal asphalt path connects Bolsa Chica State Beach to Huntington State Beach, seven miles south. Across Pacific Coast Highway from the beach is the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, designed by the California Department of Fish and Game for preservation of coastal wetland species and their habitats. Current activities at Bolsa Chica State Beach include fishing, bird watching, biking, running, surfing, camping, use of campfire rings, volleyball and more. Camping facilities include partial hookups (water and electricity) for 57 RV's and the campfire center. There is a day use fee for vehicles entering the park and overnight fees for campers utilizing the campground. Bolsa Chica SB experiences heavy winds that also impact park usage and maintenance.

The existing concessionaire, currently operating month-to-month, provides visitors with hot and cold food, alcoholic (beer and wine) and non-alcoholic beverages, beach and camping

sundries, and equipment rentals as well as special event and catering services at four (4) beach stands identified as building #s 13, 16, 19, and 24.

- Facility #13 the furthest south of Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center/Lifeguard Headquarters is located in an area heavily used by surfers year-round. The facility has approximately 1690 square feet of enclosed space and 200 square feet of secure outdoor storage space.
- Facility #16 is located adjacent to the campground and campfire center. The campground is usually filled to capacity from May through September and on weekends most of the year through a reservation system. The facility was designed to serve both as a general provisions store and a food service facility. The facility has approximately 1690 square feet of enclosed space and 200 square feet of secure outdoor storage space.
- Facility #19 is centrally located and in close proximity to the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center/Lifeguard Headquarters. The facility has approximately 1802 square feet of enclosed space and 200 square feet of secure outdoor storage space.
- Facility #24 is the furthest north of the Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center/Lifeguard Headquarters located in an area that has been specifically designed and developed for group picnic and special event activities. This facility has approximately 1160 square feet of enclosed space. Two large group picnic areas, controlled by the Department, are adjacent to this facility. Each area can accommodate approximately 100 people.

The Department intends to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a ten (10) year concession contract with the State's option to extend the contract an additional five (5) years for the operation and development of the four (4) beach stands and surrounding plaza areas at Bolsa Chica State Beach to provide hot and cold food, alcoholic (beer and wine) and non-alcoholic beverages, beach and camping sundries, and equipment rentals as well as special event and catering services. The new contract will include a minimum facility improvement expenditure of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) including but not limited to facility upgrades to address the impacts of sea level rise.

Minimum required annual rent will be two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) annually or nine percent (9%) of gross receipts, whichever sum is greater; plus, a minimum of three percent (3%) of gross receipts to be deposited into a Facility Maintenance and Improvement Account (FMIA). The future concessionaire will fund unit upgrades or projects which provide for the sustainability, improvement, and benefit of the unit and the public through the FMIA.

III CLASSIFICATION AND GENERAL PLAN

Park Classification: The unit was classified as a state beach in 1963. In accordance with PRC section 5019.56(c), such classification applies primarily to areas with “frontage on the ocean, or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities. Coastal areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves, or, for those areas situated seaward of the mean high tide line, shall be designated state marine reserves, state marine parks, state marine conservation areas, or state marine cultural preservation areas.” The proposed concession operation will enhance park visitor use and enjoyment of Bolsa Chica SB’s scenic and cultural features. Management of the unit shall continue to preserve and protect public opportunities for ocean beach-oriented recreation in a high quality environment.

Consistent with the General Plan:

The General Plan for Bolsa Chica SB was drafted in 1970 and amended in 1971 and 1987. The concessions element of the draft General Plan states, “Five building sites, spaced evenly along the beach, will provide for snack bars, beach equipment rental and sundry sales essential to beach users. On the terraces surrounding the snack bars will be tables and benches with planting for people to picnic and to enjoy snacks.” Regarding General Plans (GP) and General Development Plans (GDP) the 2022 Planning Milestones document notes that “the very earliest GDPs often consist of only one or more maps” as a footnote explaining the approval date of the 1971 General Plan Amendment. The 1971 General Plan amendment map showed a facilities summary of five concession buildings. The 1987 General Plan amendment outlines the 1986 agreement with the City of Huntington Beach for the area between the Huntington Beach Municipal Pier and the City of Huntington Beach northerly municipal boundaries for “the maintenance and operation of the unit” and the change in responsibility “brought about the need for an amendment to the General Plan”. The proposed plan “relocated the existing concession building to the parking structure”, but this was not approved or included in the amendment. The plan states that the entire unit “can be classified as an appropriate area for high intensity use”.

The proposed RFP for Bolsa Chica SB Beach Stand Operations is consistent with the General Plan because it accounts for concession buildings.

IV PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS

Previous SPRC actions include approval of the Bolsa Chica SB General Plan Amendment, Resolution 79-87 adopted on December 1, 1987. Following a 5-year contract agreement with the current concessionaire and increasing gross receipts over the past 5+ years, this action is brought before the SPRC for review and approval based on PRC section 5080.20, because the overall gross receipts from this operation as a concession will exceed \$1,000,000 annually.

V PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Following approval by the Commission and notice to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the Department will prepare and advertise to the public an RFP in accordance with PRC Section § 5080.23(b). The competitive process provides for public input.

VI LEGAL ISSUES

There are no known legal issues relating to the Commission's approval of this project.

VII FISCAL IMPACT TO STATE

Following is the fiscal impact during the past five reported years of this concession operation.

Fiscal Year	Gross Sales	Rent to State
2017/18*	\$1,736,251.77	-
2018/19*	\$1,230,037.09	\$94,173.14
2019/20 ¹	\$898,175.93	\$80,779.58
2020/21 ¹	\$3,988,963.86	\$357,662.09
2021/22 ¹	\$2,993,940.97	\$269,416.69

* Rent to State includes facility rent abatements.

¹ Reflects alterations in operations due to Covid.

VIII RESULT OF NO ACTION BY COMMISSION

If there is no action by the Commission the concession contract will continue to operate on month-to-month status. The Department will lose the opportunity for increased revenue as well as facility improvements established through the competitive bid process.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Public Resources Code Sections 5019.56, 5080.03, 5080.18(a)(1), 5080.20, 5080.23(b)

Appendix A

Public Resources Code

5019.56. State recreation units consist of areas selected, developed, and operated to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. The units shall be designated by the commission by naming, in accordance with Article 1 (commencing with Section 5001) and this article relating to classification.

In the planning of improvements to be undertaken within state recreation units, consideration shall be given to compatibility of design with the surrounding scenic and environmental characteristics.

State recreation units may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the state and shall be further classified as one of the following types:

(a) State recreation areas, consisting of areas selected and developed to provide multiple recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs. The areas shall be selected for their having terrain capable of withstanding extensive human impact and for their proximity to large population centers, major routes of travel, or proven recreational resources such as manmade or natural bodies of water. Areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves, or, for those areas situated seaward of the mean high tide line, shall be designated state marine reserves, state marine parks, state marine conservation areas, or state marine cultural preservation areas.

Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities, including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, waterskiing, diving, winter sports, fishing, and hunting.

Improvements to provide for urban or indoor formalized recreational activities shall not be undertaken within state recreation areas.

(b) Underwater recreation areas, consisting of areas in the nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environment selected and developed to provide surface and subsurface water-oriented recreational opportunities, while preserving basic resource values for present and future generations.

(c) State beaches, consisting of areas with frontage on the ocean, or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities. Coastal areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves, or, for those areas situated seaward of the mean high tide line, shall be designated state marine reserves, state marine parks, state marine conservation areas, or state marine cultural preservation areas.

(d) Wayside campgrounds, consisting of relatively small areas suitable for overnight camping and offering convenient access to major highways.

5080.03. (a) The department may enter into contracts with natural persons, corporations, partnerships, and associations for the construction, maintenance, and operation of concessions within units of the state park system for the safety and convenience of the general public in the use and enjoyment of, and the enhancement of recreational and educational experiences at, units of the state park system.

(b) Concessions shall not be entered into solely for their revenue producing potential.

(c) With respect to any unit of the state park system for which a general development plan has been approved by the commission, any proposed concession at that unit shall be compatible with that plan.

5080.18 (a)(1). The maximum term shall be 10 years, except that a term of more than 10 years may be provided if the director determines that the longer term is necessary to allow the concessionaire to amortize improvements made by the concessionaire, to facilitate the full utilization of a structure that is scheduled by the department for replacement or redevelopment, or to serve the best interests of the state. The term shall not exceed 20 years without specific authorization by statute. Except as provided in Section 5080.16, all renewals of concession contracts pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to competitive bidding requirements.

5080.20. A contract, including a contract entered into on lands operated pursuant to an agreement entered into under Article 2 (commencing with Section 5080.30), that is expected to involve a total investment or estimated annual gross sales in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), shall not be advertised for bid, negotiated, renegotiated, or amended in any material respect unless and until all of the following requirements have been complied with:

(a) The commission has reviewed the proposed services, facilities, and location of the concession and determined that they meet the requirements of Sections 5001.9 and 5080.03 and are compatible with the classification of the unit in which the concession will be operated.

(b) At least 30 days advance written notice of the proposed concession has been provided by the director to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

(c) The proposed concession is accompanied with documentation sufficient to enable the commission and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to ascertain whether the concession will conform to the requirements of this article and to evaluate fully all terms on which the concession is proposed to be let, including the rent and other returns anticipated to be received.

5080.23(b). For any concession contract authorizing occupancy by the concessionaire for a period of more than three years of any portion of the state park system that is entered into pursuant to this section, the department shall prepare a request for proposal, which shall include the terms and conditions of the concession sufficient to enable a person or entity to submit a proposal for the operation of the concession on the basis of the best benefit to the state. Proposals shall be completed only on the basis of the request for proposal.



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Berkeley, CA

September 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Camp Store and Restaurant at San Elijo State Beach

STAFF: Erik Hernandez, Concessions Program Manager

SUBJECT: Request for the State Park and Recreation Commission to determine the concession's compatibility with the Park's General Plan and Park Unit Classification.

I DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) requests the State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) determine the continued operation and development of a Camp Store and restaurant at San Elijo SB through a concession contract is compatible with the unit classification and the General Plan. This project is presented in accordance with Public Resources Code § 5080.20 because the total investment for facility improvements will exceed \$1,000,000.

II PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The San Elijo SB campground is a popular beach camping destination for surfers, snorkelers, divers, and beach combers and is approximately .5 mile from end to end, located along Coast Highway 101 in Cardiff, CA. The beach entrance is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north from San Elijo Lagoon's entrance channel and near the community of Cardiff-by-the-Sea. The campground offers bluff-top campsites overlooking the ocean. There are 162 campsites within the campground offering sites for tents, RVs, and trailers. The nearest grocery store is located approximately 0.4 miles from the camp store in a strip mall that includes several restaurants and a grocery store.

San Elijo SB campground would greatly desire a concessionaire willing to improve upon the already existing footprint while enhancing the features of inside and outside offerings.

The camp store is located in the center of the park, just west of the park entrance. The existing store footprint is 28' x 24' which extends to the outside edges of the camp store, a footprint of 51' x 54'. The store footprint includes an outside deck and seating area which wraps around the building.

The Department intends to advertise to bid a 10-year concession contract to provide food and beverage, beach-related services, camping supplies, laundry, and souvenirs at the existing camp store location at San Elijo SB. The new contract would include the sale of alcohol for on- and off-premises consumption.

The new contract will require a minimum annual rent of \$135,000 per year or 13% of annual gross receipts, whichever is greater. In addition, the contract will require Construction and Completion of Improvements, with a minimum expenditure of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) for the concessionaire to make major capital improvements to update the facility and grounds; and a minimum of 2% of gross receipts to be placed in a Facility Maintenance Improvement Account (FMIA). The future concessionaire will fund renovations to the existing camp store through the FMIA.

Capital Improvements, to update the facility and grounds include:

1. Improvements to the architectural elements of the interior and exterior of the building
2. Additions to facilities and grounds including but limited to, storage cooler, laundry appliances, employee restroom facility, heating and air appliances, lighting fixtures, shelving, public seating, commercial kitchen appliances, dining equipment, and counter tops.
3. Installing new decking and railing to the existing exterior bluff seating area and surrounding patio.
4. Replacing the fence to the north of the concession building to ensure integrity and security of storage space.

III CLASSIFICATION AND GENERAL PLAN

Park Classification:

San Elijo SB was classified as a State Beach in May 1969. In accordance with PRC section 5019.56(c), such classification applies primarily to areas with “frontage on the ocean, or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities. Coastal areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves, or, for those areas situated seaward of the mean high tide line, shall be designated state marine reserves, state marine parks, state marine conservation areas, or state marine cultural preservation areas.” The proposed concession operation will enhance park visitor use and enjoyment of San Elijo SB’s scenic and cultural features.

Consistent with the General Plan:

The General Plan for San Elijo SB was originally approved on November 4, 1983. The concessions element of the general plan states “A single retail concession near the campground entrance currently provides food, beverages, and sundry articles to campers. This plan proposes that this concession operation continue in its present form, with the addition of extended seating areas with tables adjacent to the concession building to improve visitor services.” San Diego Coast District provides access to one of the most popular state beaches, San Elijo SB offering blufftop camping and accessible beaches. San Elijo SB provides panorama views of the ocean, with opportunities of fishing, beachcombing, swimming, surfing, beach games, boating, and camping.

San Elijo SB would greatly benefit from a concessionaire operating a camp store and restaurant to enhance visitor experiences by offering camping supplies, rental equipment, beach related souvenirs, toys, laundry facility, and a restaurant to include food and beverages (including alcohol).

The General Plan states: "The purpose of San Elijo State Beach is to make available to the people, for their benefit and enjoyment forever, the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the ocean beach and related uplands."

IV PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS

Previous SPRC actions include approval of the General Plan, including Resolution 78-83 adopted on November 4, 1983. Resolution 1-2018 was approved on January 26, 2018, for similar concession services. This action is brought before the SPRC for review and approval based on PRC section 5080.20, because the overall gross receipts from this operation as a concession will exceed \$1,000,000 annually.

V PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Following approval by the Commission and notice to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the Department will prepare and advertise to the public an RFP in accordance with PRC Section § 5080.23(b). The competitive process provides for public input.

VI LEGAL ISSUES

There are no known legal issues relating to the Commission's approval of this project.

VII FISCAL IMPACT TO STATE

Following is the fiscal impact during the last five reported years of this concession operation.

Fiscal Year	Gross Sales	Rent to State
2015/2016	\$1,181,848	\$175,119
2014/2015	\$1,231,292	\$184,694
2013/2014	\$1,304,103	\$195,962
2012/2013	\$1,209,623	\$193,593
2011/2012	\$1,182,540	\$177,381

Visitation to San Elijo SB camp site over the past 5 years without a concession operation.

Fiscal Year	Visitation
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2021/2022	105,790
2020/2021	102,786
2019/2020	69,381
2018/2019	100,527
2017/2018	183,304

VIII RESULT OF NO ACTION BY COMMISSION

If there is no action by the Commission the concession property will remain vacant. The Department will lose the opportunity for increased revenue as well as facility improvements established through the competitive bid process.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Public Resources Code Sections 5019.56, 5080.03, 5080.20, and 5080.23(b).

Appendix A

Public Resources Code

5019.56: State recreation units consist of areas selected, developed, and operated to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. The units shall be designated by the commission by naming, in accordance with Article 1 (commencing with Section 5001) and this article relating to classification.

In the planning of improvements to be undertaken within state recreation units, consideration shall be given to compatibility of design with the surrounding scenic and environmental characteristics.

State recreation units may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the state and shall be further classified as one of the following types:

(a) State recreation areas, consisting of areas selected and developed to provide multiple recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs. The areas shall be selected for their having terrain capable of withstanding extensive human impact and for their proximity to large population centers, major routes of travel, or proven recreational resources such as manmade or natural bodies of water. Areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves, or, for those areas situated seaward of the mean high tide line, shall be designated state marine reserves, state marine parks, state marine conservation areas, or state marine cultural preservation areas.

Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities, including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, waterskiing, diving, winter sports, fishing, and hunting.

Improvements to provide for urban or indoor formalized recreational activities shall not be undertaken within state recreation areas.

(b) Underwater recreation areas, consisting of areas in the nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environment selected and developed to provide surface and subsurface water-oriented recreational opportunities, while preserving basic resource values for present and future generations.

(c) State beaches, consisting of areas with frontage on the ocean, or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities. Coastal areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves, or, for those areas situated seaward of the mean high tide line, shall be designated state marine reserves, state marine parks, state marine conservation areas, or state marine cultural preservation areas.

(d) Wayside campgrounds, consisting of relatively small areas suitable for overnight camping and offering convenient access to major highways.

5080.03: (a) The department may enter into contracts with natural persons, corporations, partnerships, and associations for the construction, maintenance, and operation of concessions within units of the state park system for the safety and convenience of the general public in the use and enjoyment of, and the enhancement of recreational and educational experiences at, units of the state park system.

(b) Concessions shall not be entered into solely for their revenue producing potential.

(c) With respect to any unit of the state park system for which a general development plan has been approved by the commission, any proposed concession at that unit shall be compatible with that plan.

5080.20: A contract, including a contract entered into on lands operated pursuant to an agreement entered into under Article 2 (commencing with Section 5080.30), that is expected to involve a total investment or estimated annual gross sales in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), shall not be advertised for bid, negotiated, renegotiated, or amended in any material respect unless and until all of the following requirements have been complied with:

(a) The commission has reviewed the proposed services, facilities, and location of the concession and determined that they meet the requirements of Sections 5001.9 and 5080.03 and are compatible with the classification of the unit in which the concession will be operated.

(b) At least 30 days advance written notice of the proposed concession has been provided by the director to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

(c) The proposed concession is accompanied with documentation sufficient to enable the commission and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to ascertain whether the concession will conform to the requirements of this article and to evaluate fully all terms on which the concession is proposed to be let, including the rent and other returns anticipated to be received.

5080.23(b). For any concession contract authorizing occupancy by the concessionaire for a period of more than three years of any portion of the state park system that is entered into pursuant to this section, the department shall prepare a request for proposal, which shall include the terms and conditions of the concession sufficient to enable a person or entity to submit a proposal for the operation of the concession on the basis of the best benefit to the state. Proposals shall be completed only on the basis of the request for proposal.



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Berkeley, CA
September 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Appointments to the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation Board of Directors

STAFF: Kelly Elliott, Inland Empire District Superintendent

SUBJECT: Consent of the nomination appointments to the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation Board of Directors

OBJECTIVE

The Inland Empire District has advanced nominations for the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation Board of Directors (NPMC) for consent the State Park and Recreation Commission, as defined in Commission Policy 1.4.

INTRODUCTION

The State Park and Recreation Commission concurs in appointments made by 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 1.4)

DESCRIPTION (REPORT / UPDATE)

The California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation Board of Directors (NPMC) had two members leave the board. Alan Washburn's term has ended, and Connie Librejak has resigned. The Inland Empire District and the NPMC Board have advanced three nominations for consideration, Heather Ross, Dr. Benjamin Jenkins, and Andrew Emery. All three nominations have recommendations from the District and the NPMC Board and have been approved by California State Parks Director Armando Quintero.

Additionally, the two members that have left the board, Connie Librenjak and Alan Washburn have requested they be considered for redesignation.

The NPMC Board needs additional members to continue to support the management of the California Citrus State Historic Park as outlined in the Operating Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

To concur with the appointment of above-stated members to the NPMC Board.

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

Commission to act at the publicly noticed State Park and Recreation Commission meeting on September 21st in Emeryville, CA.



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Budget Report

STAFF: Crystal Flores Acting Deputy Director, Admin Services

SUBJECT: Budget Act of 2023-24

OBJECTIVE

Provide an update on State Park's enacted Budget Act of 2023-24.

INTRODUCTION

This report is for the enacted Budget for 2023-24. The individual bills are SB 101, AB 102, and SB 104. AB 102 and SB 104 are the most recently signed and chaptered.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

N/A

DESCRIPTION (REPORT / UPDATE)

Overview:

The Budget Act of 2023 includes \$1.1 billion to support the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department). \$870.5 million is available for State Operations. Of this amount, \$386 million is from the General Fund and \$272 million is from the State Parks and Recreation Fund. \$219.95 million is available for Local Assistance. Of this amount, \$86.5 million is from the General Fund. \$38.92 million is available for Capital Outlay projects. Of this amount, \$22.8 million is from Prop 68.

Budget Change Proposals – State Operations:

2023 Winter Storm Damage: Statewide Repairs and Adaptation –

\$14 million in one-time General Fund and \$94 million in one-time reimbursement authority, plus \$1 million in ongoing reimbursement authority and five positions. These one-time funds are allocated for the initial rebuild efforts following the State's exposure to a series of formidable atmospheric rivers, that resulted in extensive flooding, destructive winds, and perilous surf conditions, coupled with king tides and storm debris that severely impacted the coastline. The Department anticipates the necessity of requesting additional funding in subsequent budget cycles to address ongoing needs.

ADA Tucker Consent Decree - \$23.2 million one-time General Fund for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements under the Tucker Consent Decree. Due to the complexities of barrier-removal projects in the state park system, the current pace of barrier-removal project completion by the Department is not quick enough to meet the timelines imposed by the Tucker Consent Decree. The Department must increase the pace by completing more projects, and speeding up the process, to meet the terms of the Tucker Consent Decree. These funds are in addition to already appropriated funds for this purpose and will allow the Department to complete additional projects, above and beyond what the Department would normally complete in a typical fiscal year.

New State Park - Dos Rios Ranch Day Use Public Access - \$5.8 million one-time and \$3.3 million ongoing General Fund. This funding includes 17 positions and 21 vehicles to establish and open Dos Rios Ranch as a new state park to create recreation opportunities and park access to historically underserved communities in the Central Valley.

Permitting Compliance and Habitat Management Plan for Restoration and Enhancement in Fort Ord Dunes State Park – \$4.7 million one-time and \$1.2 million ongoing General Fund which includes seven positions, for the Federal Endangered Species Act, Section 10 compliance as specified in the Habitat Conservation Plan and deed covenants that stipulate the Department's obligations for lands referred to as Fort Ord Dunes State Park.

Sonoma Open Space Area Operations – \$3 million reimbursement authority to manage the open space parklands 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.

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

Providing Efficient Environmental Review for Federal and State Projects - \$724K ongoing General Fund and four positions to address the increase of federal and state reviews performed by the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). OHP reviews all federal undertakings in California under the National Historic Preservation Act and reviews state projects that may affect historical resources on state-owned property. This workload has increased significantly over the past ten years with no new resources during that timeframe.

State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program - \$443k one-time and \$416k ongoing General Fund and three positions to handle the increased workload in the OHP from the implementation of the State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit enacted by Chapter 703, Statutes of 2019 (SB 451). The requested staff will work with the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee to carry out program requirements as well as review and approve applications for state tax credits.

Budget Change Proposals – Capital Outlay Projects:

Border Field State Park: Monument Mesa Day Use and Interpretive Area - \$1 million for the preliminary plans phase from the Natural Resources and Parks Preservation Fund for the outdoor educational plaza, interpretive exhibits, walkways, and landscaping.

Kings Beach SRA: Recreational Pier Replacement - \$1 million 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.

Mount Diablo SP: Visitor Center - \$2.6 million 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.

El Capitan SB: Entrance Improvements - \$1.3 million in reimbursement authority and \$1.9 million from the Natural Resources and Parks Preservation Fund for the construction phase of this improvement project in Santa Barbara County.

Humboldt Redwoods SP: Founders Grove Parking Lot & Restroom Replacement - \$1.3 million increase from the State Park Contingent Fund for the construction phase of this project. This will result in \$7.3 million from a combination of Prop 84 bond funds and State Park Contingent Funds to construct new restroom and parking facilities. This project will demolish the existing restroom facility, which is

currently out of service, as well as the parking lot at Founders Grove, and construct new restroom and parking facilities with the necessary infrastructure in an alternative location. The new site will also include a new water source and treatment system and a new accessible trail connection to Founders Grove. Total project costs are estimated to be \$8.1 million.

Malibu Creek SP: New Stokes Creek Bridge - \$7.3 million from Prop 84 Bond funds for the construction phase. This project will replace an existing, undersized arch culvert with a bridge to restore a secondary escape route for park visitors in the event of fire or other emergencies, reduce deferred maintenance costs and disruption to campers, and restore the creek to its natural configuration. Total project costs are estimated to be \$8.3 million.

Picacho State Recreation Area: Park Power System Upgrade - \$2.1 million Prop 68 for Construction Phase of the continuing Picacho State Recreation Area: Park Power System Upgrade project in Imperial County.

Old Sacramento State Historic Park: 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.

Lake Perris State Recreational Area: Lifeguard Headquarters Replacement - \$12.6 million Prop 68 for the construction phase of the Lake Perris State Recreation Area Lifeguard Headquarters replacement project in Riverside County. This project will result in the demolition of the existing 45-year-old lifeguard headquarters and construct a new, multi-purpose lifeguard headquarters.

Silver Strand State Beach: Low-Cost Accommodations - \$500k Prop 68 for working drawings phase of the continuing Silver Strand State Beach: Low-Cost Accommodations project in San Diego County.

NEXT STEPS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Link to Full Budget Change Proposals –
[2023-24CPs \(DOF\)](#)

Link to Budget Bills –
[SB-101 Budget Act of 2023](#)
[AB-102 Budget Act of 2023 \(BB Jr.\)](#)
[SB-104 Budget Act of 2023 \(BB Jr.\)](#)

CITATIONS

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

To: The California State Park and Recreation Commission
From: Will Harris, Geologist
Date: September 2023

Re: Science vs. Regulation and State Parks.

Dear Commissioners,

For your last meeting, I submitted a video which demonstrates but one facet of how an agency has proven itself to be a bad actor in a regulatory partnership with State Parks. That agency is the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD), and the video I submitted shows how the SLOAPCD falsely claimed silica dust was in the air downwind of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (Oceano Dunes). This lie began in 2008. It was not until 2019 that the SLOAPCD finally admitted there is no concern regarding silica, but they never apologized to State Parks and the community for their lie.

As I said, this was only one example where the SLOAPCD created and promoted a falsehood at the expense of State Parks and Oceano Dunes. Since 2011, the SLOAPCD has made repeated attempts to regulate Oceano Dunes and State Parks for particulate pollution (PM10) detected on the Nipomo Mesa (Mesa), a semi-rural area about two miles east of Oceano Dunes. These attempts have been based on various, scientifically-flawed claims. The gist of their claims is that the PM10 on the Mesa is dust that comes from the sand at Oceano Dunes.

Initially, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division) of State Parks successfully disputed these claims. For example, the OHMVR Division asked me to investigate the silica claim, and industrial hygienist John Kelse and I subsequently proved the silica claim to be false, as I detailed in the video.

But the State Parks reorganization process known as Transformation effectively absorbed the OHMVR Division and its authority when Transformation was implemented in earnest in 2018. (Indeed, that is one reason I am presenting this document to you and not the OHMVR Commission—their authority, along with the Division's, has been significantly clipped following Transformation.)

Now, State Parks executive management intercedes on behalf of the OHMVR Division when it comes to regulatory matters involving Oceano Dunes and the SLOAPCD. Unfortunately, their involvement has been decidedly unilateral, technically ignorant, and passive. For example, in April 2018—behind closed doors and without involvement of OHMVR Division technical staff—State Parks accepted a SLOAPCD Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA) which held that PM10 was coming from the sand at Oceano Dunes and that State Parks was therefore responsible. They accepted this while ignoring a growing body of evidence that showed the SOA premise to be incorrect. And on November 13, 2019, at a meeting with the SLOAPCD Hearing Board, the then Director of State Parks and the current Chief Deputy Director of State

Parks agreed to an amendment of the SOA which closed off 50 acres of prime camping lands at Oceano Dunes without justification. As before, the two State Parks executives made this decision without technical input from staff. What's more, they said nothing of their plan to give up the prime camping land though they toured and discussed Oceano Dunes that previous week at the OHMVR Commission's quarterly meeting held on November 7 and 8, 2019.

I provide this background information as an introduction to the layperson briefing that follows and is entitled "Science v. Regulation: The Nipomo Mesa' PM10 and Oceano Dunes." It details the setting, the dune formation process, the players, and the history of the Oceano Dunes/Nipomo Mesa PM10 regulatory saga.

To date, the SLOAPCD and its SOA have cost State Parks \$25.2 million, and the attached briefing shows that that expenditure has been for nothing. And sadly, that figure continues to climb because, despite the well documented evidence that proves the SLOAPCD's fundamental claim against State Parks and Oceano Dunes to be false, State Parks executives are choosing to ignore that evidence.

You are the California Park *and Recreation* Commission. You are to report on operating recreational facilities. You should therefore know the background of this needless expenditure of public dollars and this needless taking of public recreational lands, so that you can ask State Parks hard questions and report on it, as is your charge. And more basically, I want you—and as many people as possible—to know about this passivity and waste by State Parks. State Parks should stand up and defend *all* of the recreational lands they are charged with managing. Instead, they choose to lie down and mindlessly allow public dollars to blow away. I respectfully ask that you inform yourself on this matter and take positive action in defense of public recreational lands and frugal, responsible management of the public's money.

-Will Harris

Attached: Science v. Regulation: Nipomo Mesa's PM10 and Oceano Dunes.

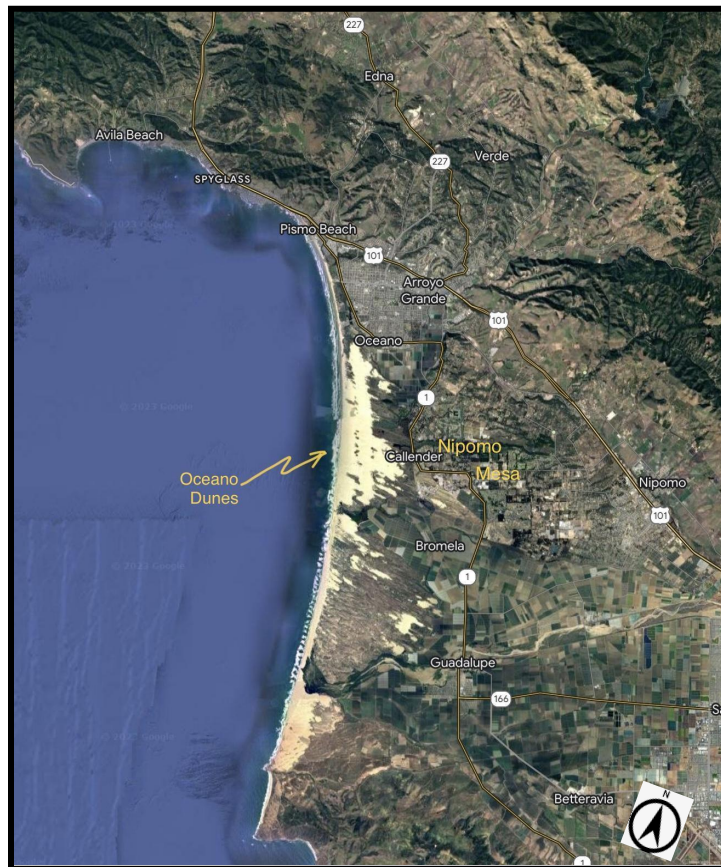
Science v. Regulation: The Nipomo Mesa's PM₁₀ and Oceano Dunes

by
Will Harris, Geologist

CHAPTER 1: A Goldilocks Setting for Sand Dunes and Recreation

The Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (Oceano Dunes) is in the coastal dunes south of Pismo Beach. It is approximately 3,500 acres and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). On less than 1,000 of those acres, State Parks allows shoreline camping for \$10 per night per vehicle, as well as off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation.

The park lies within the 18,000 acre Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex, which stretches from Pismo Beach to dunes south of the Santa Maria River mouth.



Oceano Dunes and Vicinity (modified and rescaled from Google Maps)

Sand dunes have formed here for hundreds of thousands of years thanks to three ingredients:

1. Lots of sand that is essentially stockpiled offshore—sand provided by local streams and rivers, and the longshore current.
2. Strong prevailing winds blowing onshore from the west and northwest. These winds blow predominantly in the spring and to a lesser extent in the fall.
3. A low-lying, west-facing shoreline, which acts as a catcher's mitt of sorts, receiving the brunt of the prevailing winds.

CHAPTER 2: Saltation Maketh the Dunes

The subdued, nearly flat topography along the shoreline of Oceano Dunes provides a low ramp for the tides and surf to feed sand to the upper reaches of the beach. The sand is then pushed by the wind, causing the grains to creep and bounce further up from the shore in a process called saltation.

The sand forms small ripples that inch downwind. Each ripple works conveyor-like, laying down a thin layer of sorted sand as the ripple rolls over the landscape. These layers build on each other, sand ripple by sand ripple, to create the dunes.



Sand Ripples and Underlying Layers within a Sand Dune, Oceano Dunes SVRA (Photo: Will Harris)

The topmost sand layers are ephemeral, obliterating whenever the wind shifts, or when the dunes are stepped on or driven over. The layers form again when the wind blows strongly enough to reinitiate the saltation process.

CHAPTER 3: The Nipomo Mesa, the SLOAPCD, and PM10

The Nipomo Mesa (Mesa) is a semi-rural region of south San Luis Obispo County that is a bit more than a mile east of Oceano Dunes. Since 2010, the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) has blamed OHV recreation at the state park for elevated concentrations of particulate matter, or PM10, detected on the Mesa.

PM10 refers to any airborne particle that is 10 micrometers in diameter or smaller. Instruments used to measure PM10 detect dust, smoke, water vapor and other aerosols—even sea salt in the air—as the same generic thing: particles suspended within a known volume of air.

Powerful winds from over the ocean roll onto this stretch of the central California coast every spring and fall. Mostly in the spring, when these prevailing winds are strongest, the SLOAPCD's air monitoring stations on the Mesa record PM10 concentrations that exceed California's air quality standard for PM10. The California PM10 standard is 50 micrograms of PM10 per cubic meter of air averaged over 24 hours.

That's a bit jumbled, so let me break it down a bit: Each automated instrument the SLOAPCD uses to monitor PM10 collects a measurement every hour. That means of course that each instrument takes 24 measurements every day. The average of the 24 PM10 measurements made at any station on any given day provides the official PM10 reading for that day at that station. That average is then compared to the state's PM10 standard to determine if there has been an exceedance of the standard at that location.



The SLOAPCD's "CDF" Air Monitoring Station on Nipomo Mesa (Photo: Will Harris)

CHAPTER 4: The Shifting Rationale to Regulate and The Silica Scare

Since 2011, the SLOAPCD has attempted to regulate and fine State Parks for PM10 exceedances on the Mesa.

Over the years, the SLOAPCD has given varying reasons as to why State Parks should be held to account. Their initial reasons attempted to directly associate OHV recreation with the PM10. They claimed the recreational activity itself was causing the high PM10 on the Mesa, which is more than a mile downwind from the OHV recreation. They said there was a crust on the dunes, akin to desert salt flats, and that when OHV's broke the crust, fine particles of dune sand were exposed and then lofted by the wind to the Mesa. And they claimed a statistical correlation between OHV recreational activity and elevated PM10 concentrations on the Mesa. But all of these reasons did not bear up to scientific scrutiny, and so they were dropped from the SLOAPCD's parlance of complaint regarding Oceano Dunes.

The Silica Scare

The SLOAPCD also reasoned that because the sand grains are mostly composed of the silica mineral quartz, the dust from sand saltation must also contain silica in the form of tiny bits of quartz. They repeatedly warned the community and agencies such as the California Coastal Commission about what they perceived to be an acute health risk associated with silica—something far more serious than just PM10 (Allen, 2017). This garnered fevered support for the SLOAPCD's attempts to regulate State Parks (Carl, 2017).

But the SLOAPCD never analyzed the sand or the PM10 for silica content.

Had they bothered to conduct a basic review of the geological literature regarding the dunes, they would have discovered that the sand grains are mostly feldspar, which is not a silica mineral. And had they sampled and analyzed the PM10 for silica, which is what industrial hygienist John Kelse and I did in 2017 and 2018 on behalf of State Parks, they would have found, per John Kelse, that there was “no evidence of a realistic pulmonary inhalation risk with respect to crystalline silica” (Kelse, 2018).

REFERENCES

Allen, L., 2017. Letter from SLOAPCD Air Pollution Control Officer Larry Allen to Dan Carl, District Director for Central Coast District of the California Coastal Commission, March 17, 2017. Subject: “2017 Dust Mitigation Proposal for the Oceano Dunes SVRA.”

Carl, D., 2017. Letter from District Director for Central Coast District of the California Coastal Commission Dan Carl to Ronnie Glick, State Parks, Oceano Dunes SVRA, March 29, 2017. Re: 2017 Dust Mitigation Proposal to Comply with APCD Rule 1001.

Kelse, J., 2018. Report to Matt Fuzie, Deputy Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation, from John W. Kelse, Industrial Hygienist, March 16, 2018. Subject: Determination of Airborne Crystalline Silica (Quartz) Exposure at Oceano Dunes SVRA and CDF Air Monitoring Station, 2391 Willow Road, Arroyo Grande, CA

CHAPTER 5: Enter the Scientific Advisory Group and its Search for Delta

In 2018, the SLOAPCD imposed a stipulated order of abatement (SOA) against State Parks. The SOA effectively required State Parks to eliminate ongoing violations of the state PM10 standard on the Mesa.

To implement the SOA, the SLOAPCD, with tacit approval from State Parks, appointed a team of specialists known as the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). Each SAG member has some expertise relevant to sand dunes, air quality, or botany.

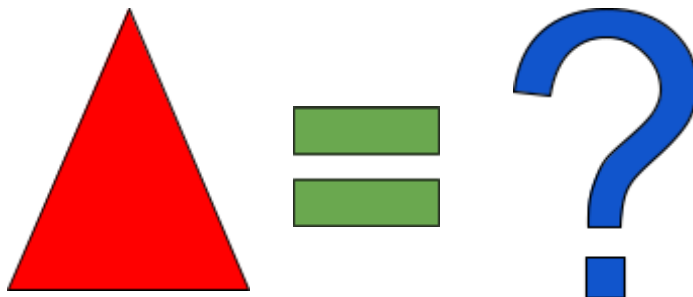
Based on investigations and data analyses it undertakes, the SAG dictates to State Parks the measures to be taken to meet the obligations of the SOA.

And State Parks foots the bill for the SAG's services.

In considering the SOA, the SAG first postulated that intensive OHV recreation in specific areas of the dunes creates "hot spots" of dust emission. But this idea was abandoned after a couple of years because identifying theoretical hot spots via measurements of dust emissivity on dune surfaces proved elusive.

They next turned to examining years' worth of dust emission data that had been collected in the dunes by one of the SAG members. Eventually, through statistical analysis that aggregated data collected from multiple years, they claimed there were two different dust emission values for the dunes—one for inside the OHV riding area, and one for outside the riding area. Per the SAG, that difference—or "delta"—indicated that the OHV riding area of the park had a higher saltation-generated dust emission potential than elsewhere in the dunes, at least when the data were aggregated. But discerning a dust-emission "delta" using any specific year of the dune emission data—well, that also proved elusive.

Nonetheless, the SAG felt they could move forward with what they had.



CHAPTER 6: Of Computer Modeling, Plastic Fencing, Reductions in Park Acreage, and Cost


The SAG plugged their “delta” data into custom computer models that are used to simulate PM10 dispersion from the dunes to the Mesa. This enables the SAG to quantify the amount of PM10 emitting from the riding and non-riding areas of the dunes to the Mesa, at least according to the models.

The computer modeling also estimates the PM10-reduction effectiveness of plastic fencing, hay bales, and vegetation plots placed in the riding area of the dunes to hamper the saltation process. These installations have been deemed necessary by the SAG to meet the obligations of the SOA.

The fencing, hay bale, and vegetation projects have thus far reduced the recreational area of the park to approximately 700 acres. Prior to the SOA, approximately 1,500 acres of the state park were open to riding and camping.

As of March 2023, State Parks has spent \$25.2 million on SLOAPCD/SAG/SOA-related measures and services, including \$3.1 million this past fiscal year. The expenditures are on-going.

Air Quality Expenses at ODSVRA FY 2011-12 through 2022-23	
Fiscal Year	Air Quality Expenses
2011-12	\$860,262.80
2012-13	\$1,398,060.00
2013-14	\$1,480,397.63
2014-15	\$1,671,675.81
2015-16	\$1,295,593.36
2016-17	\$1,380,027.51
2017-18	\$975,789.36
2018-19	\$2,807,721.49
2019-20*	\$2,899,099.35
2020-21*	\$3,153,834.32
2021-22*	\$4,137,332.75
2022-23*	\$3,095,936.00
Total	\$25,155,730.38



**State Parks' SLOAPCD/SOA-Related Expenses as Reported March 24, 2023, OHMVR Commission Meeting
Redding, CA**

CHAPTER 7: Continuing Violations of the PM10 Standard

Despite the money spent and dune acreage covered to theoretically reduce PM10 on the Mesa, violations of the PM10 standard have only increased. In 2022, for the months April, May, and June, which are the windiest months in any given year, there were 40 violations of the PM10 standard on the Mesa.

That is more than any of the previous 8 years for the same three-month timeframe.

Springtime Violations of the State PM10 Standard by Month and Year at the CDF Air Monitoring Station on the Nipomo Mesa				
Year	April	May	June	Spring Totals
2014	10	19	6	35
2015	12	5	5	22
2016	13	4	10	27
2017	14	10	9	33
2018	8	9	9	26
2019	6	6	2	14
2020	10	12	7	29
2021	6	7	6	19
2022	14	16	10*	40
*For June 2022, data are only through June 20, 2022. Note: The CDF station is approximately two miles downwind (east) of the Oceano Dunes SVRA.				

Springtime Violations of the California PM10 Standard, SLOAPCD CDF Station on Nipomo Mesa. Data from:
<https://www.arb.ca.gov/aqmis2/display.php?param=PMBAM&units=001&year=2022&report=SITE1YR&static=DAVG&site=3762&ptype=aqd&std15=>

CHAPTER 8: Dust and PM10 are not Synonymous

A key term that the SLOAPCD and the SAG have used synonymously with the Mesa PM10 is “dust.” The measures to cover the dunes, the computer modeling, and the SLOAPCD’s basic premise that the high PM10 on the Mesa is from the OHV riding area of the dunes, all assume that the PM10 on the Mesa is from dust generated by the saltation process in the dunes.

Saltation does indeed generate dust: As the wind pushes the sand, sand grains bounce along the dune surface, and in so doing they dislodge other grains, including finer grains that can be considered dust. The finer particles are lofted by the wind, sometimes settling out downwind, sometimes becoming entrained in the wind.

But PM10 and dust from sand saltation are not synonymous. PM10 is a generic term. As mentioned earlier, PM10 can be smoke, water vapor or other aerosols—even sea salt—as well as dust.



Sand Saltation in Process, Blurring the Near-Horizon, Oceano Dunes (photo: Will Harris).

CHAPTER 9: Assuming but not Verifying

Dust from the saltation of dune sand has the same mineral composition as the dune sand. That's because the dust particles are just smaller bits of that sand. The proportional amount of mineral dust in a sample of PM10 can be determined in a relatively straightforward, if precise, combined analytical process called gravimetry and speciation.

Gravimetry is the before-sampling and after-sampling weighing of a PM10 filter to determine the total mass of PM10 collected on the filter from a known volume of air drawn through the filter.

Speciation, broadly speaking, enables the determination of the proportional mass of crustal minerals in the PM10 sample. Note here, the term “crustal” refers to bits of rock and soil--aka, mineral dust.

If the mass of the mineral dust equals the total mass of the PM10 sample, then 100% of the PM10 sample consists of dust. And obviously, if the mass of dust is less than the mass of the PM10 sample, then one fraction of the PM10 sample is dust, and the remainder consists of other things, such as water vapor, other aerosols, and sea salt. Without this testing, claiming the PM10 is dust from the dunes is just an assumption.

Unfortunately, the SLOAPCD made this assumption but never verified if it was true. They never conducted the combined gravimetry-speciation analysis to actually determine how much of the PM10 was dust.

And of equal concern, the SAG also did not test the PM10 for dust content. That meant they never determined if the most fundamental assumption in their computer modeling—that the PM10 was 100% dust—was correct.



CHAPTER 10: Scripps Collaboration with State Parks

Early on, I knew the SLOAPCD's 100% dust assumption to be incorrect because I looked at the particulate under a microscope. Collecting a bulk sample of the stuff was simple: In the spring, the particulate gloms onto the seaward side of fences and just about everything else sticking up from the dune surface. It was just a matter of knocking the dried, glommed bits of the particulate into a plastic bag and then placing a bit of the collected material on a glass slide for microscopic viewing. What I saw were bits of plankton—evidence that the PM10 was not just dust from the dunes.

This was in 2014, and I shared what I discovered with the SLOAPCD. They were not intrigued, and so ignored the information. But State Parks was at least curious and allowed me to pursue an investigation. This led to my collaboration with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at U.C. San Diego (Scripps).



Particulate Material at Oceano Dunes and Photomicrographs of Planktonic Pieces in the Material (collected and photographed by Will Harris).

My initial work was with marine microbiologist Dr. Brian Palenik, and we confirmed that phytoplankton were a contributing source to the PM10. With that success, we expanded the investigation in a simple way.

The SLOAPCD has said many times over that the PM10 is dust from Oceano Dunes and so the manager of the park, State Parks, is responsible. That meant for State Parks that determining the amounts of all of the ingredients that make up the PM10 was not necessary. We only needed to know the amount of just one ingredient--dust. So to determine the proportional amount of dust in the Mesa PM10, Dr. Lynn Russell, atmospheric chemistry professor at Scripps, joined our investigation.

Chapter 11: Targeted Sampling of Mesa PM10 by Scripps

As mentioned previously, the prevailing winds along this stretch of California coast are strongest in the spring and fall. And typically during these seasons, the winds rise to their greatest on-shore strength from late morning to early evening. This is also when the SLOAPCD's automated hourly measurements of PM10 on the Mesa are at their highest.

As part of her three-year investigation, which began in 2019, Dr. Lynn Russell targeted the high wind/high PM10 seasons of spring and fall, sampling the Mesa air for PM10 on consecutive days. On each day, sampling was from late morning to early evening. This ensured “worst-case scenario” conditions—when PM10 concentrations on the Mesa would be greatest, and presumably, when the amount of dust in the PM10 would also be greatest.

31 Day Summary for Hourly PM10 (BAM) for Arroyo Grande-2391 Willow Road Display Ends 05/31/2021 Micrograms/Cubic Meter (ug/m3)																									
GraphIt		Hours 00-07 Hours 08-15 Hours 16-23																							
Date	Day's Max	00 - 01	01 - 02	02 - 03	03 - 04	04 - 05	05 - 06	06 - 07	07 - 08	08 - 09	09 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12	12 - 13	13 - 14	14 - 15	15 - 16	16 - 17	17 - 18	18 - 19	19 - 20	20 - 21	21 - 22	22 - 23	23 - 00
05/31	16.0	16.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	5.0	11.0	1.0			2.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	6.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	13.0	14.0	11.0	9.0
05/30	30.0	30.0	21.0	28.0	29.0	28.0	23.0	19.0	23.0	30.0	17.0	8.0	18.0	20.0	20.0	18.0	28.0	25.0	30.0	24.0	18.0	28.0	17.0	13.0	12.0
05/29	122.0	24.0	26.0	21.0	25.0	18.0	21.0	15.0	21.0	12.0	5.0	0.0	20.0	82.0	76.0	107.0	122.0	100.0	51.0	33.0	26.0	47.0	48.0	46.0	42.0
05/28	106.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	2.0	14.0	74.0	77.0	106.0	92.0	106.0	85.0	86.0	47.0	31.0	45.0	46.0	40.0	29.0
05/27	102.0	27.0	19.0	20.0	16.0	19.0	19.0	18.0	20.0	17.0		16.0	18.0	16.0	53.0	74.0	102.0	80.0	54.0	28.0	22.0	38.0	35.0	12.0	7.0
05/26	54.0	22.0	23.0	20.0	26.0	30.0	16.0	19.0	27.0	26.0	34.0	17.0	21.0	25.0	22.0	23.0	27.0	27.0	28.0	23.0	25.0	54.0	41.0	27.0	22.0
05/25	305.0	28.0	31.0	36.0	32.0	37.0	53.0	50.0	48.0	31.0	50.0	111.0	198.0	223.0	305.0	201.0	152.0	115.0	51.0	35.0	37.0	37.0	38.0	35.0	27.0
05/24	142.0	13.0	9.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	9.0	10.0	22.0	24.0	8.0	36.0	56.0	142.0	100.0	44.0	42.0	41.0	46.0	34.0	22.0	42.0	35.0	37.0	32.0
05/23	151.0	26.0	35.0	20.0	20.0	24.0	12.0	24.0	21.0	24.0	12.0	15.0	16.0	33.0	56.0	151.0	143.0	96.0	51.0	20.0	17.0	28.0	29.0	17.0	15.0
05/22	59.0	42.0	28.0	25.0	21.0	24.0	29.0	37.0	31.0	31.0	10.0	14.0	11.0	30.0	36.0	36.0	38.0	45.0	59.0	38.0	34.0	43.0	43.0	37.0	33.0
05/21	84.0	24.0	35.0	22.0	20.0	25.0	35.0	46.0	44.0	36.0	15.0	24.0	41.0	70.0	67.0	64.0	84.0	63.0	57.0	34.0	31.0	48.0	52.0	49.0	44.0
05/20	375.0	25.0	24.0	26.0	30.0	39.0	46.0	38.0	27.0	36.0	45.0	165.0	286.0	314.0	375.0	336.0	316.0	244.0	148.0	102.0	57.0	57.0	52.0	47.0	37.0
05/19	314.0	31.0	23.0	20.0	16.0	30.0	24.0	41.0	49.0	48.0	74.0	163.0	251.0	257.0	288.0	314.0	278.0	204.0	119.0	84.0	52.0	59.0	48.0	38.0	30.0
05/18	171.0	11.0	18.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	15.0	20.0	14.0	8.0	43.0	159.0	171.0	162.0	165.0	125.0	149.0	109.0	64.0	44.0	69.0	50.0	44.0	29.0
31 Day Summary for Daily Average Resultant Wind for Arroyo Grande-2391 Willow Road Display Ends 05/31/2021 Miles Per Hour (mph)																									
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Date	Day's Max	00 - 01	01 - 02	02 - 03	03 - 04	04 - 05	05 - 06	06 - 07	07 - 08	08 - 09	09 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12	12 - 13	13 - 14	14 - 15	15 - 16	16 - 17	17 - 18	18 - 19	19 - 20	20 - 21	21 - 22	22 - 23	23 - 00
05/31	9.2	CALM	340/01.3	CALM	CALM	CALM	255/02.0	301/01.4	306/02.1	1295/04.1	1296/05.5	5277/06.8	272/08.4	274/09.2	281/08.1	1284/07.9	9297/06.5	5287/05.8	8283/05.2	281/03.7	281/03.4	299/03.1	1282/02.0	289/02.5	CALM
05/30	11.0	288/02.9	CALM	289/03.1	306/03.8	300/03.1	1287/02.7	278/02.1	CALM	205/02.4	231/04.7	280/08.3	285/10.9	279/10.2	274/10.4	4271/11.0	272/09.9	9255/08.2	256/07.3	3248/05.0	227/04.0	0250/02.8	165/02.7	172/04.4	159/02.6
05/29	15.5	301/04.6	277/04.9	309/01.5	5331/02.3	292/03.6	286/02.4	299/02.2	CALM	306/01.4	4268/06.8	8272/07.7	7293/10.1	286/13.0	284/15.2	2290/15.5	298/14.2	2303/12.6	302/11.2	306/09.9	9307/07.1	1306/04.7	305/04.2	2302/03.5	5294/03.3
05/28	13.1	133/03.3	142/02.0	CALM	159/01.3	183/03.0	304/01.8	343/01.6	266/05.5	CALM	287/07.5	5292/09.6	292/11.9	295/12.3	3294/12.9	295/13.1	305/10.2	2304/10.4	4305/09.4	310/09.2	311/07.1	1307/06.8	8301/05.2	2302/05.3	3310/05.6
05/27	11.1	CALM	306/02.0	296/02.8	251/03.1	1259/01.7	149/02.9	138/04.7	233/01.4	272/06.8	8269/05.1	1259/04.3	3278/09.5	5281/10.7	7294/10.8	8303/11.1	307/10.2	2312/09.8	8305/07.0	312/05.1	1321/03.0	139/03.0	127/03.7	099/03.9	122/03.2
05/26	12.6	103/02.7	085/01.2	2073/01.5	CALM	CALM	CALM	100/02.2	141/04.3	142/05.7	242/04.2	2282/08.2	283/08.9	276/12.3	278/11.8	270/12.6	269/11.4	4268/10.6	262/08.2	2266/07.3	3225/02.7	104/04.0	0092/02.3	CALM	CALM
05/25	14.1	CALM	CALM	CALM	CALM	CALM	123/01.2	249/01.2	287/05.0	0290/07.0	0307/07.6	310/09.7	7303/10.1	314/11.0	0308/14.1	1311/12.1	1311/11.8	14/09.7	302/06.7	7292/04.5	5281/02.4	323/01.5	CALM	152/02.0	2099/01.8
05/24	9.0	CALM	CALM	083/01.4	CALM	CALM	CALM	CALM	272/02.9	277/06.0	9282/08.0	0286/08.2	2290/09.0	0294/08.4	4286/08.1	1279/07.5	5270/06.0	0245/04.6	0205/03.0	139/05.1	128/05.0	121/03.6	102/02.5	CALM	CALM
05/23	13.1	CALM	CALM	CALM	CALM	CALM	293/02.1	271/03.5	248/02.7	7247/03.5	CALM	259/03.5	5285/06.1	1288/09.0	291/11.7	292/12.2	2303/12.8	8307/13.1	1306/11.1	08/09.5	309/05.9	9279/02.8	CALM	CALM	CALM
05/22	15.5	062/01.2	CALM	CALM	105/01.5	105/02.9	100/03.3	140/03.7	193/02.2	2273/06.1	1290/08.1	1293/10.0	0290/11.8	8277/15.5	5275/13.9	277/15.2	288/10.9	9293/10.2	2301/08.8	8309/06.9	311/03.3	304/03.3	343/01.4	CALM	335/01.2
05/21	15.4	056/01.4	072/01.8	090/02.1	1105/02.1	1108/02.1	1096/03.3	CALM	151/02.9	298/06.6	6278/10.3	3280/13.7	289/14.2	282/15.4	4287/15.1	1286/15.0	286/15.4	4291/13.1	1296/11.3	3302/10.3	3308/08.6	306/07.9	9306/05.2	2298/03.7	297/01.2
05/20	17.3	CALM	050/01.3	CALM	CALM	064/01.7	CALM	327/03.3	332/07.3	3317/07.5	293/11.5	5301/13.8	301/15.2	2296/16.2	2296/16.2	3299/16.9	303/16.7	304/15.3	3307/13.4	07/10.4	309/04.5	CALM	CALM	081/01.2	CALM
05/19	16.0	054/01.2	CALM	CALM	063/01.3	069/01.2	CALM	CALM	290/05.6	293/08.8	299/11.2	2299/12.8	306/15.6	306/16.0	302/15.4	4303/14.8	302/14.7	302/12.1	00/09.9	9306/07.5	296/06.7	CALM	CALM	099/01.4	4050/01.2
05/18	14.2	269/02.3	CALM	CALM	263/01.4	CALM	CALM	301/02.8	288/04.4	278/06.0	278/07.3	7301/09.1	307/13.3	3310/14.2	3306/12.7	309/14.0	308/12.5	06/10.5	5307/07.9	9303/03.6	CALM	CALM	119/01.9	056/01.6	6282/01.6

May 2021 Daily/Hourly PM10 and Wind data, CDF Monitoring Station, Nipomo Mesa. Hours when PM10 was 100 micrograms or higher (boxed in red) and northwesterly winds were 11 mph or stronger (boxed in blue) demonstrating temporal correlation. Source: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/aqmis2/aqdselect.php>

Chapter 12: Scripps Findings and Implications

Year to year, the results of Dr. Russell's investigation were remarkably consistent. When PM10 sampling was completed in the third year and the data analyzed, the conclusion was undeniable: The Mesa PM10 contained just 14% dust.

Additionally, because the Mesa is more than a mile downwind of Oceano Dunes, that meant that the amount of dust in the Mesa PM10 that could be attributed to Oceano Dunes is something less than 14%.

Dr. Russell's findings are significant. The implications include:

1. The SAG's computer modeling assumes that the Mesa PM10 is 100% dust. Findings of 14% dust in the PM10 invalidate the SAG's computer modeling.
2. The plastic fences, hay bales and vegetation placed within Oceano Dunes at SAG direction are designed to suppress saltation-generated dust. These projects were placed within hundreds of acres of public recreational lands, effectively extracting those acres from use. With dust from Oceano Dunes at something less than 14% of the overall Mesa PM10, the SAG-mandated measures to suppress dune saltation will do little to nothing to reduce Mesa PM10, This negates any given rationale for sacrificing the public recreational lands.
3. With dust contributing just 14% to the Mesa PM10, and Oceano Dunes contributing something less than that, it appears the SLOAPCD's long held premise that the PM10 is dust from Oceano Dunes has itself been invalidated.
4. State Parks has thus far spent **\$25.2 million** on a slew of activities based on the SLOAPCD's premise. The Scripps findings prove that premise to be false, which means the public money spent by State Parks to appease the SLOAPCD has been for nothing.

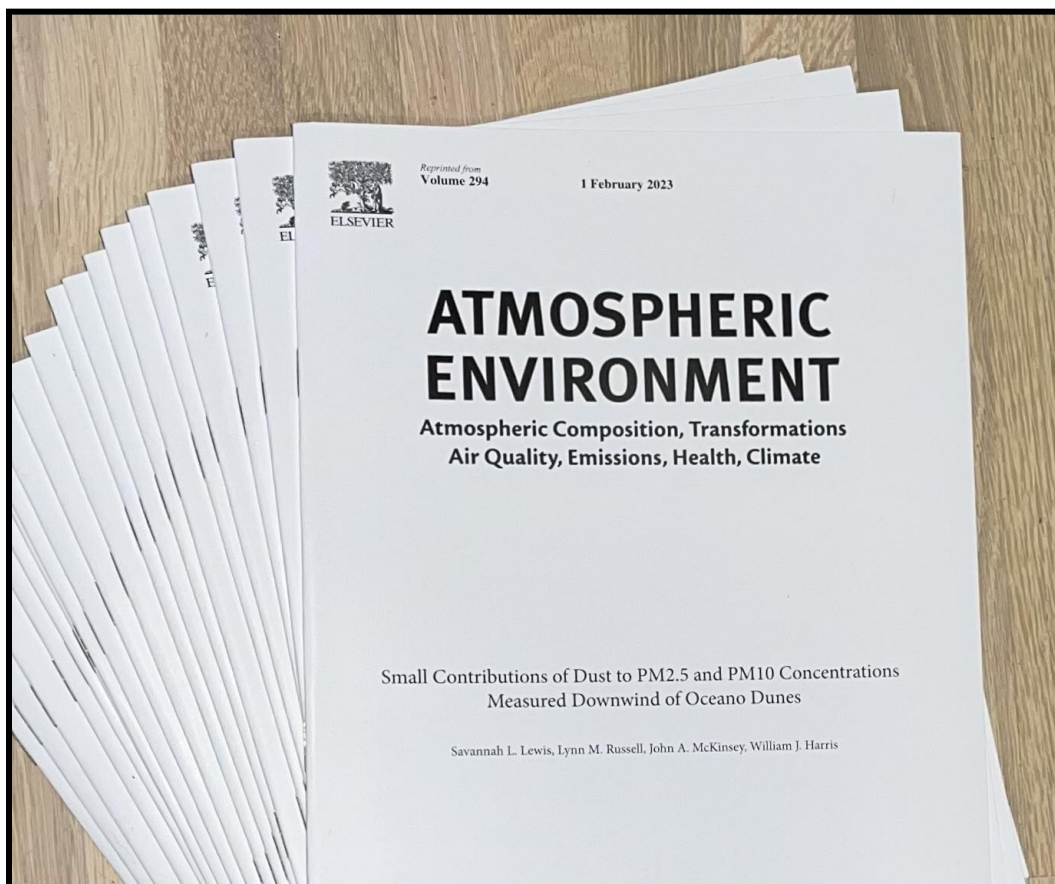


CHAPTER 13: Record of Reporting by Scripps and Publication of Investigation Results

As stated, Dr. Russell began her three-year investigation in 2019. First season findings of the work were presented to State Parks in a report dated February 21, 2020. Dr. Russell presented second season findings to the state's Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission (OHMVR Commission) on September 24, 2020, as well as in a written report to State Parks dated that same day. She submitted a report of third season findings to State Parks on November 8, 2021 and presented those findings to the OHMVR Commission on December 9, 2021. The final report of the Scripps investigation was submitted to State Parks on February 24, 2022.

Dr. Russell's work was also published in the February 1, 2023 printed issue of the scientific journal Atmospheric Environment. The peer-reviewed document can also be viewed online at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1352231022005805>. The online version of Dr. Russell's published report was first available on November 24, 2022.

With increasing documented certainty, each report and presentation from Dr. Russell to State Parks and the OHMVR Commission indicated that dust was but a small fraction of the Mesa PM10. The peer-reviewed publication of her work further cemented those findings.



CHAPTER 14: Crickets from the SLOAPCD and Costly Passivity from State Parks

The SLOAPCD, the SAG, and even executives at State Parks thus far refuse to acknowledge the significance of Dr. Russell's work. Meanwhile, State Parks continues its costly allegiance to the baseless mandates of the SOA without objection.

State Parks has in hand all that it needs to show the door to the SLOAPCD and the SAG. It has all that it needs to stanch the bleed of public money, reclaim recreational acreage taken by the various SOA projects, and recoup the \$25.2 million spent to appease the SLOAPCD and its false premise that Mesa PM10 is dust from Oceano Dunes.

Yet State Parks ignores the history of the SLOAPCD's duplicity (e.g., The Silica Scare) and continues to willingly pay for ongoing SOA-related expenses.

The evident, costly passivity of State Parks spotlights its inability to operate in a responsible fiscal manner. And the Oceano Dunes/SLOAPCD saga on the whole demonstrates the inability of State Parks to effectively manage and defend public recreational lands in California.

-Will Harris



***Plastic Fencing Project Installed in Oceano Dunes at the Direction of the SAG.
The purpose of the fencing is to halt sand saltation in the dunes (photo: Will Harris).***