

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2002

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California State Parks to Hold Public Hearing on Addition to Castle Rock State Park on April 11

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a public hearing on its proposal to acquire San Lorenzo River Redwoods for addition to Castle Rock State Park. The hearing will be held in the boardroom of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District Operations Building, 13057 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, on Thursday, April 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Off-street parking is available and the hearing room is accessible to people with disabilities.

The 1,482 acres of land in Santa Cruz County known as San Lorenzo River Redwoods is adjacent to the south side of Castle Rock State Park in the San Lorenzo River watershed. It is steep, forested land with second- or third-growth redwoods, mixed conifers, and hardwoods. Except for some roads, trails, a power line and a cabin, it is undeveloped. Road access is via State Highway 9, which passes through the property near Waterman Gap. The Sempervirens Fund, a non-profit land conservation organization, now owns all but about 100 acres of the land within this acquisition proposal. Until recently the San Lorenzo Valley Water District held 1,340 acres of this land.

The purpose of the hearing is to record comments from local public officials and the general public about the proposal. The California Department of Parks and Recreation will then submit a summary of the comments to the State Legislature no later than 30 days prior to acquisition approval. The hearing is required by state law (Public Resources Code, Sec. 5006.1). Comments at the hearing will be limited to acquisition issues

State Parks staff will give a background presentation before opening the podium for comments. The department will also accept written comments for the record if received by April 18, 2002. Written comments may also be submitted at the hearing or may be sent to Warren Westrup, Chief, Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services, California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1 Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814. E-mailed comments should be sent to Roger Willmarth at rwillm@parks.ca.gov.

For information about the proposal, call Roger Willmarth at (916) 445-9099, or check the DPR website at www.parks.ca.gov under News and Announcements/News Releases 2002.