News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 19, 2003 Contact: Nick Franco 805-927-2065

California State Parks to Reopen Morro Bay State Park Campground

Morro Bay, CA – Portions of Morro Bay State Park Campground will reopen for camping on Wednesday, December 24, 2003. Camping will continue at the park until California State Parks embarks on a \$3.2-million rehabilitation of the campground this spring requiring the entire campground to be closed, officials announced today.

"While we are waiting to begin this much needed rehabilitation project, we want the public to have a chance to camp at this wonderful park," said Nick Franco, Superintendent of the San Luis Obispo Coast District for California State Parks.

Portions of the campground will remain closed, however, due to hazardous trees. A State Parks forester surveyed the park earlier this month and identified a number of trees that pose a potential hazard to public use. The campground areas adjacent to those trees will remain closed due to public safety concerns.

The campground had been closed earlier this year in anticipation of the rehabilitation project but the start date now has been delayed until after the monarch butterfly roosting season.

The renovation project includes construction of new restrooms that, as required by law, are accessible to those with disabilities; relocation of the entrance station to reduce traffic hazards; and realignment of the campsite access vehicle routes through the campground. The entire campground will be closed during the renovation.



In conjunction with the rehabilitation project, State Parks plans to remove 72 non-native trees . State Parks plans to enhance the habitat and camper's experience by planting over 250 native trees, and more than 500 native shrubs. # # #