

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Division of Boating and Waterways | Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division | Office of Historic Preservation

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California State Parks Updates Draft Application Guide for \$254.9 Million Statewide Park Grant Program *Additional Public Comment Period Open through Dec. 31*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks today released an updated “Draft Application Guide” (Guide) for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program that offers \$254.9 million to create new parks and recreational opportunities in underserved communities across California.

The latest version of the Guide reflects feedback State Parks received from the public during an initial public review and comment period (Oct. 2, 2018 – Nov. 9, 2018). The updated document reflects several proposed changes for the grant program, including:

- Addition of a separate application guide for Community Access Program proposals in response to public comment.
- Clarification on how land owned by school districts can qualify for park projects.
- Awarding points to applicants that follow the “Corps Consultation Process” established by the California Conservation Corps and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps prior to grant awards.

Feedback from the public during this process is key to developing a successful grant program. As such, the department has opened another public review and comment period. The public is encouraged to review the document and **submit feedback to the department by 5 p.m. Dec. 31, 2018**. Following the additional public review period, California State Parks’ Office of Grants and Local Services will finalize the Guide and announce an application workshop schedule. More than 15 application workshops will be offered statewide in early 2019.

Parks are unique places where children play, people exercise, families and friends bond, seniors socialize, cultures share and celebrate their differences, and everyone connects with nature. The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program helps communities invest in these parks, increasing recreational opportunities. Examples include aquatic centers, athletic fields, community gardens, outdoor gym equipment, public art, amphitheaters, etc. The competitive grant program was made possible through the passage of Proposition 68: *California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018*, the state’s largest investment in grant funding history targeted for

underserved communities in California. The bond also provides funds for aging infrastructure, amenities, and improvements to parks that will help attract new and diverse visitors.

For more information on the draft Guide and how to submit feedback, please visit www.parks.ca.gov/spp.

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California State Parks provides for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Learn more at www.parks.ca.gov.

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Office of Grants and Local Services provides local assistance grant funding. Since 1965, more than 7,400 parks throughout California have been created or improved through grant programs administered by the Office of Grants and Local Services. For more information on the Prop. 68 Statewide Park Program and other grant programs, visit www.parks.ca.gov/grants.