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STATE PARKS **FORWARD**

The biggest expansion of State Parks in decades.



Interior of community center

DUST BOWL CAMP (New Park near Bakersfield, Kern County)

WHY IT'S NOTEWORTHY

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, the Sunset Migratory Labor Camp was one of the first camps established by the federal government to house displaced farm workers who fled the Dust Bowl to seek work in California during the Great Depression. Notably, the camp served as the inspiration for John Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, which Steinbeck dedicated to the camp's administrator.

WHY IT MAKES A GREAT STATE PARK

Located near underserved and disadvantaged communities outside Bakersfield, the historic camp, which is not currently open to the public, would be California's first state park directly touching upon the Dust Bowl and the migrant farming camps of the Great Depression. With numerous historic buildings – the only original buildings left from the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s and 40s in any camp in California – the roughly 2-acre park would offer a new place for learning and exploration of an important era in our state and nation's history. Students and fans of *The Grapes of Wrath* could now have a place to visit to gain a first-hand understanding of what life was like in a migrant farming camp during the Dust Bowl and help give new life to a classic American novel.



STATE PARKS FORWARD

Introducing *State Parks Forward*, a bold vision adding three new state parks while growing existing parks by 30,000 acres by the end of the decade. Simply put, *State Parks Forward* means more parks in more places.

Map: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, USGS, FAO, NOAA, BLM, EPA, NPS, USFWS

We want to hear from you! Get updates on engagement opportunities and more at
parks.ca.gov/Forward