

News Release



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Lawmakers, State Parks and Partners Give 69 of 70 Threatened Parks a Reprieve

Campsites Still Available for Fourth of July Week

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks recently announced that 69 of the 70 parks previously targeted for closure will remain accessible to the public for the near term. The recently signed state budget provides funding to keep open the parks that have not yet reached partnership agreements allowing more time for negotiations and outreach to potential partners.

A partnership agreement was signed today which will keep Saddleback Butte State Park, near Lancaster, open for the foreseeable future. This brings the number to 41 of the 70 parks on the original closure list that have reached agreements to keep those parks open for at least one year. These parks will be operated by non-profit partners, public entities, concession operators, or kept open by California State Parks with donations and assistance from various sources.

“Getting to this point has required an extraordinary level of hard work and dedication by State Parks employees, the Governor, the Legislature, and local communities,” said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks. “Californians can continue enjoying all of the amazing places in our park system.”

The park units with partnership agreements with non-profit organizations, public entities, or private concessionaires will be kept open with the partners assuming responsibility for keeping them accessible to the public. Parks with donor agreements will be staffed by and remain under the operational control of California State Parks. All of the partnership agreement contracts are for a term of one to five years. Many of the parks will have reduced services, reduced visiting hours, and a reduced number of days of operation.

While 41 parks have agreements, the negotiations for 24 other parks are ongoing in hopes of reaching agreements in the near future. These parks will remain open while good faith negotiations continue.

“While we have achieved a high level of success and continue to push for more parks remaining open,” added Coleman. “People need to realize that this is a temporary reprieve and not a permanent fix. If our budget situation does not improve, we will again be facing park closures as these agreements expire.”

In spite of extensive efforts to save all parks, there are presently five parks where there are no active negotiations for partnerships and no interest from donors or concession operators. All of these parks, with the exception of Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, will remain open for the near future. Providence Mountains is closed for major infrastructure repair. State Parks will renew efforts to seek out proposals and opportunities to keep these parks open for the long term.

“We are not done, we are not giving up,” Coleman continued. “Together with our partners, we will continue to pursue new and innovative ways to fund our great state parks, while preserving and protecting them as the magnificent park system we have always known it to be. We invite everyone who enjoys California’s parks to become enlisted in that effort and support us in finding the right path for our future.”

Though camping reservations are up over last year, more than 40 parks, primarily in Northern California, still have campsites available for the Fourth of July week. Parks with availability include Calaveras Big Trees State Park in the Sierra Nevada, Del Norte State Park in the redwoods on the North Coast, and San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area in the Central Valley. A list of parks with available campsites can be found by using the “Reservations and Fees” icon on the State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov.

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Attachment:

1 – Fact Sheet - Status of Park Partners and Park Closures

July 3, 2012

Status of Park Partners and Park Closures

Parks to remain accessible to public

These are parks where agreements --- Operating, Donor or Concession ---will keep the park accessible to the public.

D-Donor Agreement – Operated by State Parks

OG-Operating Agreement, Gov’t – No day-to-day state services or operations

ONP-Operating Agreement, Non-profit (PRC 5080.42) No day-to-day state services or operations

C-Concession Agreement – State Parks retains oversight

Other- Variable

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| 1. Antelope Valley Indian Museum | D – Donation |
| 2. Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area (SRA) | OG – City of Colusa to operate |
| 3. Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park (SP) | OG - NPS |
| 4. Henry W. Coe SP | D – Donation from CPPF |
| 5. McGrath State Beach (SB) | D- Donation/grants |
| 6. Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Res. (SRA) | C-Bodie Foundation |
| 7. Samuel P. Taylor SP | OG - NPS |
| 8. Tomales Bay SP | OG - NPS |
| 9. South Yuba River SHP | Other – County agreement |
| 10. Jug Handle SNR | D-Olmsted donation and Foundation matching \$\$ |
| 11. Plumas-Eureka SP | D-Plumas-Eureka Foundation |
| 12. Jack London SHP | ONP- Non-profit Valley of the Moon Interpretive Association |
| 13. Santa Cruz Mission SHP | D-Donor Agreement - Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks |
| 14. Bothe-Napa Valley SP | OG- Napa Valley Reg. Parks and Open Space District |
| 15. Bale Grist Mill SHP | OG-Napa Valley Reg. Parks and Open Space District |
| 16. Benicia Capitol SHP | OG – City of Benicia and Benicia State Parks Association |
| 17. Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP | OG – Humboldt County, with fund help from Save the Redwoods |
| 18. Sugarloaf Ridge SP | OG-Team Sugarloaf |
| 19. Palomar Mountain SP | D-Donor Agreement, Friends of Palomar State Park |
| 20. Petaluma Adobe SHP | D-Donor Agreement - Sonoma-Petaluma State Historic Park Association |
| 21. Los Encinos SHP | D- Los Encinos Task Force with donor/gift support |
| 22. Santa Susana SHP | D-Santa Susana Mountain Park Association |
| 23. Weaverville Joss House SHP | D- Weaverville Joss House Association |
| 24. Castle Rock SP | D-Sempervirens Fund, Portola and Castle Rock Foundations |
| 25. Shasta SHP | D-Shasta Historical Society and town of Shasta Interpretive Association |
| 26. Turlock Lake SRA** | C – American Land and Leisure |
| 27. Woodson Bridge SRA** | C – American Land and Leisure |
| 28. Brannan Island SRA ** | C – American Land and Leisure |
| 29. Governor's Mansion SHP | D-Co-op Assoc. and donation |

30. Limekiln SP	C-Private park companies
31. Portola Redwoods SP	D-Save the Redwoods League, Peninsula Open Space Trust, and Portola-Castle Rock Foundation
32. Annadel SP	OG --Sonoma Regional Parks
33. Pio Pico SHP	D -- City of Whittier and Friends of Pio Pico
34. Austin Creek SP	ONP--Stewards of Coast and Redwoods
35. George J. Hatfield SRA	D-Local donor group
36. McConnell SRA	D-Local donor group
37. Twin Lakes SB	Open with service reductions
38. Russian Gulch SP	Open with service reductions
39. Fort Humboldt SHP	Open with service reductions
40. Tule Elk State Natural Reserve	D – Bella Vista Water District
41. Saddleback Butte SP	Donor agreement

Parks with Partnership Agreements Possible

These are the parks where partnership negotiations are in progress and agreements may still be possible. These parks will stay open if good-faith negotiations between a park partner and State Parks continue. If a park is closed and an agreement becomes possible, the park could be reopened

1. Anderson Marsh SP	Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association
2. Bidwell Mansion SHP	Save the Mansion effort
3. Point Cabrillo Light Station SHP	Concession Agreement
4. Railtown 1897 SHP	D-Co-op and Tuolumne Co.
5. Hendy Woods SP	D-New non-profit group/SRL
6. Fort Tejon SHP	D-Fort Tejon Historical Assoc.
7. Leland Stanford Mansion SHP	Interagency funding agreement with Legislature
8. Morro Strand SB	ONP-Three non-profits submitting proposals.
9. Olompali SHP	ONP-Non-profit, MSPA
10. Standish-Hickey SRA	D- In negotiations
11. Castle Crags SP	D- In negotiations
12. Salton Sea SRA	D-Agreement being explored.
13. Benbow Lake SRA	C-Bid for Concession
14. China Camp SP	ONP-MSPA
15. Candlestick Point SRA	Calif. State Parks Foundation exploring options
16. Westport Union Landing SP	D-Being explored
17. Garrapata SP	Local agreement
18. Greenwood SB	Donor agreement

19. Malakoff Diggings SHP	Donor agreement
20. Manchester SP	Operating agreement
21. Moss Landing SB	Local agreement
22. Picacho SRA	Donor agreement
23. San Pasqual Battlefield SHP	Operating agreement
24. William B. Ida Adobe SHP	Donor agreement

Parks with no partnership, donor or concession agreements

These are parks with no partnership, donor or concession agreement. These parks, with the exception of Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, will remain open for the near term while efforts continue to find a partnership, donor or concession to continue operation.

1. Benicia SRA
2. California Mining and Mineral Museum
3. Gray Whale Cove SB
4. Providence Mountains SRA (closed for infrastructure repair)
5. Zmudowski SB

Park Disposition Totals as of this date

Parks to remain accessible	69
Parks with signed agreements	41
Parks still in negotiations	24
Parks with no active negotiations	5
Total parks on original list	70

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