

Meeting of the  
**CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION**

Westin Los Angeles Airport Hotel  
5400 West Century Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California

**Minutes of the Meeting - Saturday, October 12, 2002**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Joseph Cotchett, Chairman  
Raquelle de la Rocha  
Caryl Hart, Vice Chair  
Bobby Shriver  
Paul Junger Witt

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Clint Eastwood

**STAFF PRESENT**

Bill Berry, Deputy Director, Park Operations  
Ruth Coleman, Acting Director  
Tim La Franchi, Chief Council  
Kathleen Franklin, Sector Superintendent, Angeles District/Mojave Desert Sector  
Mark Faull, Supervising Ranger, Angeles District/Mojave Desert Sector  
Russ Guiney, District Superintendent, Angeles District  
Louis Nastro, Assistant to the State Park and Recreation Commission  
Clay Phillips, Chief, Southern Service Center  
Hayden Sohm, Sector Superintendent, Angeles District/Malibu Sector  
Roy Stearns, Deputy Director, Communications  
Steve Treanor, Southern Division Chief  
Wayne Woodroof, Project Leader, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area General Plan Amendment

**SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING**

**Antelope Valley Indian Museum Classification and Naming**

Todd Battey/Individual  
Mark Campbell/Antelope Valley Archeological Society and Campbell Archeological Research  
Phyllis Comstock/Individual  
Charlie Cooke/Chumash and other Indian Tribes  
Beebe Oliver Nuetzman/Individual  
Beth Padon/Discovery Works, Inc.  
Bill Schneider/Individual  
Richard Thompson/Individual  
Thom Thompson/Individual

### **Tomo-Kahni Project Classification and Naming**

Mark Campbell/Antelope Valley Archeological Society and Campbell Archeological Research  
Phyllis Comstock/Individual  
Charlie Cooke/Kawaiisu Tribe  
Elizabeth Kachmar/Mountain Valley Association  
David Laughing Horse Robinson/Kawaiisu Tribe  
Bea Lostaunau/Individual  
Chris Padon/Discovery Works, Inc.  
Laura Rene Johnson/Individual  
John Scrogum/Individual  
Harold Williams/Individual

### **Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area General Plan Amendment**

Welton Abbott/Horse Lovers  
Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor/United Homeowner's Association  
Alvin Austin/26th Senate District, Office of Senator Kevin Murray  
Bilson Davis/Individual  
Saundra Davis/Culver City Interest Group  
Mary Ann Greene – for Dorothy Steiner/Blair Hills Association  
Carol Gross, Mayor/City of Culver City  
Steven Leon/Ladera Heights Civic Association  
David McNeill/Baldwin Hills Conservancy  
Joe Mendez/West Los Angeles College  
Jim Park/Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation  
Gary Silbiger/Individual  
Mike Thompson/City of Culver City  
Elaine Towns/Individual  
Bill Vanderberg/Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club  
Mary-Ann Webster/Sierra Club

### **Open Public Comment**

Randy Young/Will Rogers Cooperative Association

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Legal notice having been given, the California State Park and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Chairman Joseph Cotchett. Chairman Cotchett introduced each of the commissioners. Chairman Cotchett then introduced Acting Director Ruth Coleman and Deputy Director of Park Operations Bill Berry.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2002 MEETING IN PALM SPRINGS**

Chairman Cotchett asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the April 27, 2002 meeting. There being no changes, Chairman Cotchett asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion Commissioner Shriver, second Commissioner Hart. Commissioner de la Rocha abstained, as she was not present at the April 27, 2002 meeting. The rest of the commissioners present voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Cotchett asked Acting Director Ruth Coleman to provide a report on developments that had taken place since the last Commission meeting. Acting Director Coleman reported the following:

**Attendance Figures for Last Year** – For the 2001/2002 fiscal year, State Parks received approximately 85.7 million visitors, which is a record high, about 10% higher than last year. These visitors provided a significant much-needed economic boost. State Parks estimates that visitors spend about \$2.6 billion a year during their trips to parks. The department hopes to communicate this important message to the California Legislature this year as budget deliberations start to proceed.

**Budget** – In the 2002/2003 budget (current year), State Parks did quite well, considering economic conditions. The department was authorized to spend \$116 million of Proposition 40 bond funds for Acquisitions and Improvements, and \$3.1 million for twelve new positions in the Los Angeles area. The department also has \$10 million to begin implementing its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. State Parks will be spending about \$10 million a year over the next 8 years to make parks more accessible to persons with disabilities. State Parks also received \$10 million for new deferred maintenance projects.

**Acquisitions** – Several new acquisitions were made possible by Proposition 12 and Proposition 40 bond funds. State Parks recently completed an acquisition of more than 7,000 acres at Big River in Mendocino County. These 7,000 acres encompass the largest undeveloped, unprotected estuary in Northern California. This was a \$25.6 million purchase made possible with funds from a variety of sources, including private monies and funds from other departments, and \$1 million in federal funds. Another recent acquisition was at Jack London State Park in Sonoma, California, near Glen Ellen. It's a transfer of about 600 acres from the State Department of Developmental Services to State Parks. It will expand Jack London State Park. This property includes a "Grandmother Tree," which is a redwood that's estimated to be between one and two thousand years old.

**Federal Lighthouses** – Interior Secretary Gail Norton recently announced the U.S. Government's intent to give away about 300 lighthouses across the country. There are two lighthouses in California that State Parks is very interested in. One is the Pigeon Point Lighthouse, which is near Pescadero, in San Mateo County. The Coast Guard owns the lighthouse and the surrounding property, but the department currently operates the property as a State Historic Park. The other one is Point Sur Lighthouse, which is at the northern end of the Big Sur Coast, south of Monterey. The property surrounding the lighthouse is Point Sur State Historic Park. The department would like to obtain ownership of these lighthouses and make them integral parts of the surrounding parks. However, as both lighthouses are in disrepair, the department will first pursue funding through the normal budget process as evidence to the Federal Government that we can be good caretakers.

**Endangered Species** – The Western Snowy Plover is a small sea bird, a shore bird that makes its nest in the sand. Its range covers the entire coastline of California. In a coordinated effort with the Federal Government, State Parks recently implemented a series of measures to protect these birds, fencing off nesting sites, and restricting access by dogs in many places. About 25 miles of State Beach was closed to dogs altogether. It's important to note that we still have about 125 miles of State Beach along the coast that's open to dogs on-leash. The department is being proactive in order to keep these beaches open to the public. If the birds start to show a decline in population, the Federal Government will start closing areas off completely to public access. State Parks is committed to working with the public to ensure that we can keep these areas open to the public, and at the same time, recover the Western Snowy Plover populations.

**Legislation** – Acting Director Coleman highlighted three bills: AB 716 (Firebaugh), appropriated \$90 million of Proposition 40 Cultural and Historic monies for opportunity grants. Of that \$5 million will be going to a project in which State Parks will work with Native American groups to develop a statewide Indian Museum. The governor directed that \$10 million go to the State Office of Historic Preservation for competitive grants for historic preservation. Another bill is AB 2274 (Keeley), which was a bill put forward by Off-Highway Vehicle stakeholders. This bill has created significant policy changes to State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Program, to better balance the environment with the use of off-highway vehicles. The bill establishes noise limits, and requires representatives of law enforcement and non-motorized recreation interests on the Off-Highway Vehicle Commission. The third bill is SB 2063 (Brulte) that creates an Indian Museum Task Force. This task force will be involved with developing the statewide Indian Museum.

**Lower Topanga** – State Parks recently purchased 1,659 acres in Lower Topanga Canyon, There are 62 residential and 10 business tenants on this property that need to be relocated. About 30 of the residents have accepted their eligibility payments and have moved. Twenty of the remaining residents have filed formal grievances, challenging the relocation plan. State Parks goal is to eventually relocate all the residents, and then remove most of the structures and put in trails and rehabilitate the environment so that eventually, people from the valley can walk all the way from the valley to the coast.

**Crystal Cove State Park** – State Parks preliminary plan to preserve and protect the historic district is now nearly finished and will be made available to the press and the public in the next few weeks. State Parks is ready to go ahead with the construction of 60 campsites on the site of El Morro Village, the mobile home park on the Crystal Cove property. Residents of El Morro have filed suit against State Parks, contesting the project’s environmental impact report.

**Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park** – State Parks today is opening two historic buildings at Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park in Tulare County. The completion of these historic structures is one of the most ambitious reconstruction and restoration projects at this park in 26 years. It’s part of an \$8 million capital outlay program that is attempting to restore and reconstruct many of the historic structures that were present in the town when it was thriving in the early 1900s. The town of Allensworth, which is now Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, is the only California town that was founded, financed, and governed by African Americans. It was the first of its kind in the nation, and State Parks is very excited to be bringing it back to life.

**Office of Historic Preservation** – State Parks Office of Historic Preservation has developed a book which describes the important work that the Civilian Conservation Corps performed in California State Parks in the 1930s and 1940s. The book will be sold at state parks and through the State Parks website. Many of the features we enjoy today: the campsites, fire rings, campfire circles, and visitor centers of our state parks were built during this period by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

**Fire Closures** – There has been a lot of news coverage about fire threats, and State Parks has had several temporary closures due to the extreme fire danger. Most notably in Mount San Jacinto State Park, at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area, and at Mount Tamalpais State Park. The department is being proactive to protect the public.

Acting Director Coleman concluded her report.

## **RETIREMENT CERTIFICATES**

Chairman Cotchett commented that it is people that really make the State Park System what it is. Chairman Cotchett expressed his gratitude to the employees of State Parks, especially those in uni-

form, and he asked that everyone present join him in thanking these folks for their work. Chairman Cotchett then introduced Angeles District Superintendent Russ Guiney to read the names of the State Parks employees who had recently retired.

Superintendent Guiney read the retirement certificates for the following department employees:

Ronald Angier .....	30 years 9 months
Edward Bastien.....	23 years 1 month
Terry Brann .....	30 years 6 months
Jorge Cabala .....	4 years 11 months
Richard Campbell.....	28 years 2 months
Phillip Cerda.....	39 years 1 month
Diane Christopherson .....	11 years 4 months
Herschel Clarke .....	15 years 7 months
John Crowley .....	10 years 4 months
Priscilla Davis.....	17 years 11 months
Kyle Icke .....	1 year 1 month
Gerald Johnson .....	36 years 4 months
Thomas Lindsey .....	29 years 4 months
Nancy Reid .....	23 years 4 months
Robert Smith.....	26 years 3 months
John Tranmer.....	29 years
Dick Troy.....	29 years 7 months
James Van Schmus .....	30 years 9 months
Douglas Warren.....	26 years 2 months
Laurence Warren .....	14 years 3 months
Paul Wheelon.....	20 years 9 months

## **APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL REDWOOD GROVES**

Chairman Cotchett called on Commission Vice Chair Caryl Hart to make this presentation. Vice Chair Hart explained that the Memorial Grove Requests are requests from Save the Redwoods League and the Sempervirens Fund to name groves of (generally) old growth redwoods in state parks throughout California after individuals in return for which a significant donation is made to these non-profits to support the purchase of additional redwood groves. Vice Chair Hart commented that it is a wonderful program, and she encouraged anyone who is interested to contact Save the Redwoods League, the Sempervirens Fund, or State Parks for more information. Vice Chair Hart then read the grove requests.

As requested by Save-the-Redwoods League:

Wolff Family Grove, in Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area  
*Mr. & Mrs. Jan Wolff, donors*

Patricia M. Woodbury Memorial Grove, in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Mr. Robert L. Woodbury, donor*

Neal Family Grove, in Navarro River Redwoods State Park  
*Mr. and Mrs. Jay Neal, donors*

Max and Margaret Dallas Shaffrath Memorial Grove, in Portola Redwoods State Park  
*Dr. Max D. Shaffrath, donor*

As requested by Sempervirens Fund:

Alexandre M. and Lornie White Family Grove, in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Lornie White, donor*

George and Alberta Stauss Family Grove, in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*George and Alberta Stauss, donors*

Vice Chair Hart read the resolution to establish these groves. She then asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion Commissioner Cotchett, second Commissioner Hart. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution establishing these memorial redwood groves.

## **CONCESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Cotchett called on Deputy Director of Park Operations Bill Berry to present the concessions agenda items.

Deputy Director Berry explained that the agenda item for Woodland Opera House State Historic Park had been cancelled.

Deputy Director Berry then introduced the next concession agenda item, which was a request to sell alcoholic beverages during group picnics, special events, and with meals at San Buenaventura State Beach. Deputy Director Berry asked that the Commission approve the Acting Director's recommendation and the resolution to allow the concessionaire at San Buenaventura State Beach to offer the on-premises sale of beer, wine, and/or distilled spirits under such terms and conditions as the Director may require, and subject to regulations established by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Chairman Cotchett asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion Commissioner Hart, second Commissioner Cotchett. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Deputy Director Berry then introduced the next concession agenda item, a new proposed concession on Malibu Pier at Malibu Lagoon State Beach. The concession would include on-site sale of alcohol with meals. Deputy Director Berry explained that this new concession was actually returning to "business as usual," at the Pier, but that the Commission's approval of the concession, and the on-site sale of alcohol was required.

Deputy Director Berry asked that the Commission approve the Acting Director's recommendation and the resolution to allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into concessions contracts for restaurants, sportfishing boat tours, and retail stores on Malibu Pier at Malibu Lagoon State Beach, to allow the on-premises sale of beer, wine, and/or distilled spirits under such terms and conditions as the Director may require, and subject to regulations established by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Chairman Cotchett asked Deputy Director Berry when the construction would be completed at Malibu Pier. Deputy Director Berry responded that the concessionaire should start final work on the interior of the buildings at the beginning of this summer, and that the department expected that the concessions would be operating by October 2003.

Chairman Cotchett took a moment to introduce State Parks Chief Council Tim La Franchi and Deputy Director of Communications Roy Stearns. Chairman Cotchett thanked these two for their work and for ensuring that the Commission meetings proceed in an orderly fashion.

Chairman Cotchett then asked for a motion to adopt the resolution for Malibu Pier. Motion Commissioner Shriver second Commissioner de la Rocha. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Cotchett opened the public meeting at 10:03 a.m.

### **Antelope Valley Indian Museum Classification and Naming**

Chairman Cotchett asked Southern Service Center Chief Clay Phillips to introduce the agenda item on the Classification and Naming of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. Clay Phillips asked Kathleen Franklin, Sector Superintendent of the Mojave Desert Sector of the Angeles District, to make a presentation on this topic.

Superintendent Franklin gave a slide presentation that highlighted the resources and features of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum property and the department's reasons for recommending the name and classification "Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park."

### **Public Comment on the Classification and Naming of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum (AVIM)**

Chairman Cotchett asked if there were any registered speakers on this topic. He then called on the speakers in the order they had registered:

**Mark Campbell, Antelope Valley Archaeological Society** – Mr. Campbell explained that he was an archaeological consultant with his own firm, Campbell Anthropological Research. He is also employed as an adjunct faculty member for Saracosa Community College. Mr. Campbell explained that he was concerned about the kinds of uses that would be permitted on Piute Butte. He further explained that he felt a thorough assessment identifying the resources, potential impacts, and establishing a mitigation plan for impacts to resources should be conducted before any change in use is allowed. Mr. Campbell referred to his letter to the Commission outlining his concerns.

Chairman Cotchett explained that Mr. Campbell was referring to his letter to the Commission dated October 5th. Chairman Cotchett thanked Mr. Campbell for his letter.

Mr. Campbell explained that he was very concerned about the adverse impact bouldering could have on resources at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum property.

Chairman Cotchett asked Mr. Campbell to explain to the audience what bouldering is.

Mr. Campbell described bouldering as climbing rocks and boulders, and he reiterated that he was concerned that climbers, without archaeological training, wouldn't recognize resources that could be damaged by the climbing. He further stated that among the boulders are a number of Native American ceremonial and religious sites, and that he felt strongly that these should be protected.

Commissioner de la Rocha thanked Mr. Campbell for his comments, but explained that the question of whether or not bouldering would be allowed on the Antelope Valley Indian Museum property was not on the agenda today. She emphasized that State Parks staff were investigating this issue, and she asked that speakers please consider that today the Commission is only deciding the issue of the name and classification of the unit.

Mr. Campbell explained that he only had raised this issue because it was his understanding that this was related to today's decision.

Chairman Cotchett thanked Mr. Campbell for his comments and reiterated that the bouldering issue was not on today's agenda.

**Richard Thompson/Individual** – Mr. Thompson stated that he was not a professional archaeologist, but that he was very concerned about activities that might be taking place amongst the boulders. He

stated that the pictographs are very subtle, and fading, and that any damage would be irreparable. He stated that regardless of the classification established he hoped it would help to preserve them.

Chairman Cotchett recognized Deputy Director Bill Berry. Deputy Director Berry explained that the classification process actually starts with the preservation of resources. He further explained that in asking the Commission to approve the designation of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum property as a State Historic Park, the department was taking the first step in an overall planning process. The next step would be the development of a general plan, which in State Historic Parks typically designates a historic core on the park property, in which extra protection of resources is provided for by the allowance of certain uses. Determining the historic core and the various types of uses that will be appropriate for this property will be the next big phase in this project.

**Charlie Cooke/Chumash and other Indian Tribes** – Mr. Cooke stated that he was hereditary leader of the Chumash People, and that he also belonged to other tribes. He stated that he was very concerned about the possible desecration of the many shrines and sacred areas on the AVIM property, particularly on Piute Butte. He stated that protecting these types of areas is what State Parks is all about. He stated that protecting these sites preserves and enhances the area for future generations. He stated that he supported designating the property as Antelope Valley Indian Museum Historic Park.

Chairman Cotchett thanked Mr. Cooke for his comments, and asked that he make a point of staying in touch with Superintendent Kathleen Franklin with regard to the future of this park and the Native American peoples he represents.

**Todd Battey/Individual** – Mr. Battey stated that he was a professional geologist, with Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and that he works at Edwards Air Force Base in close proximity to Piute Butte. He further stated that he'd had many discussions with Superintendent Franklin and others on the subject of the recreational opportunities on the Butte. He stated that it's a wonderful place for local residents to enjoy activities like hiking, rock climbing, or other outdoor pursuits. He stated that it was his understanding that rock climbing had not been explicitly forbidden in this area, and that since it had been occurring there for some years it would not be considered a new use.

Mr. Battey stated that according to the AVIM Resource Summary, 147-1/2 acres are currently owned by State Parks. He further stated that there are an additional 240 acres that State Parks would like to acquire. This is a total of 387.5 acres to be managed in a way consistent with the classification and naming that is being considered. Mr. Battey asked the Commission to consider that the property containing the buildings of the museum and the four documented archaeological sites, or historical sites, are contained on approximately five acres. He stated that this means approximately 1% of the AVIM property is focused on the museum and the documented sites. He stated that this means that for every acre of museum property, there is 99 acres of basically undeveloped wilderness

Mr. Battey gave a detailed description of bouldering, emphasizing that it is an extremely low impact activity. He stated that climbers have no intention of damaging archaeological sites. He stated that he did not think bouldering had been adequately addressed in the AVIM Resource Summary. He stated that rock climbing is a valid, low impact activity, and that Piute Butte was a unique recreational resource, and that there were 225 documented rock climbs on Piute Butte. Mr. Battey stated that he had provided extensive information on rock climbing to both the Commission and to Superintendent Franklin.

Chairman Cotchett explained to Mr. Battey that the Commission's function today was not to decide uses of the AVIM property. Mr. Battey replied that he understood.

Mr. Battey concluded by stating that he was concerned the classification of this large property as a historical area would basically frame the discussions for the future in terms of whether climbing will



be allowed to continue. He stated that he understand that it could be a large historical unit with a small recreational unit carved out within it. He stated that alternatively, it could be a large recreational unit with a small historical unit carved out surrounding the museum and the other documented sites, and from his perspective, that latter case would be a much more appropriate decision.

Chairman Cotchett thanked Mr. Battey for his comments, and assured him that State Parks staff and the Commission appreciates his concerns and the materials he sent. He asked that Mr. Battey and others recognize these issues are not on the agenda today, and that Mr. Battey's concerns about climbing, and the concerns of many other speakers would be addressed in the future.

**Bill Schneider/Individual** – Mr. Schneider stated that he was representing the interest of rock climbers. Mr. Schneider stated that there may have been some misunderstanding in that many rock climbers did believe that classifying this property as a historic site would have an effect on the activities involved. Mr. Schneider stated that there was a misconception amongst people about rock climbers, and that most rock climbers are educated professionals. He stated that climbers are a very responsible, very environmentally conscious people that are very interested in protecting resources. He stated that climbers had established the "Adopt-A-Crag" clean up in which volunteers helped to clean up areas adjacent to the state park. Mr. Schneider asked that the Commission classify this area in a way that doesn't prevent recreational rock climbing, and that the rock climbing community is very interested in working with State Parks to create a harmonious solution that will work for everyone.

Chairman Cotchett repeated Mr. Schneider's comment that rock climbers ordinary people; engineers, teachers, what have you, and that they are not "weird people."

**Phyllis Comstock/Individual** – Ms. Comstock stated that she was a 20-year volunteer with the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. She further stated that the museum touches one's heart and spirit, and that it instills a wonderful feeling in those who come there. She stated that rock climbing in this area would be a desecration of it. Ms. Comstock asked for the Commission's support in designating this area as a State Historic Park.

Chairman Cotchett reminder Ms. Comstock that the Commission was not here today to determine uses of the park. Ms. Comstock stated that she understood. Chairman Cotchett then thanked Ms. Comstock for her 20 years as a museum volunteer.

**Beth Padon/Discovery Works, Inc.** – Ms. Padon stated that she was a professional archaeologist, and that she had conducted research at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. She stated that the museum was a very special place and that she was present today to support the naming and classification of it as a State Historic Park.

**Thom Thompson/Individual** – Mr. Thompson stated that he was a landscape historian, and that until recently he worked with the Federal Government as Historical Landscape Architect at Point Reyes National Sea Shore in Marin County. Mr. Thompson stated that his purpose was to state the case in defense of historic and archaeological resource protection for the land encompassed by the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. He asked the Commission to consider exclusively this site as a State Historic Park in lieu of development of future recreational purposes. Mr. Thompson stated that Piute Butte is a significant ethnographic landscape, describing it as an under-documented prehistoric fertility landscape. He stated that as a result of contemporary sexual mores and religious beliefs, resource protection here is all the more problematic. Mr. Thompson related Piute Butte to archaeological resources that are not promoted as public visitation sites. He stated that a full ethnographic, archaeological, and cultural landscape peer-reviewed study should be completed on this area before uses are designated, and that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) required the identification and examina-

tion of significant adverse environmental effects which may result from any given project. He emphasized that a management plan must be developed before uses can be determined.

**Beebe Oliver Nuetzman/Individual** – Ms. Nuetzman stated that she was present to support the designation of the AVIM property as Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park. She stated that she has been a docent volunteer at the museum for over 30 years, and that she is the daughter of Grace and Joe Oliver, who were the second developers of the museum. Ms. Nuetzman stated that there was a movement to add the title “Recreational Area” to the name and classification of the park. She stated that the Antelope Valley Indian Museum park is an archaeological treasure, and that it is surrounded by rock art in the form of pictographs, petroglyphs, and fertility symbols. She stated that the grounds are considered sacred to Native American Groups, and that they qualify for cultural landscape status under the California State Historic Preservation Act. Ms. Nuetzman stated that the sacred sites on the property must be respected, and that bouldering or other recreational activities could damage the relationship that had been established with the Native Americans. Ms. Nuetzman asked that the Commission approve the name and classification of Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park, and that it not be altered to include “and Recreational Area.”

Chairman Cotchett thanked Ms. Nuetzman for her comments and for her 30 years of service as a volunteer.

Chairman Cotchett asked if there were any other speakers on this topic. Mr. David Laughing Horse Robinson had not registered on this topic but asked if he could speak.

**David Laughing Horse Robinson/Kawaiisu Tribe** – Mr. Laughing Horse Robinson stated that he was the chair of the Kawaiisu Tribe, and that this includes the Antelope Valley Area throughout Lake Isabella, Tehachapi, and most of the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Laughing Horse Robinson stated that there was a great deal of history associated with the uses of the Antelope Valley property, and that to truly preserve it, people should be kept out. Specifically, that rock climbers should be kept off the land.

Chairman Cotchett pointed out to Mr. Laughing Horse Robinson that since he had entered the meeting late he did not hear the earlier explanation that today’s meeting was not to determine uses of the property. Chairman Cotchett explained that there would be time for Mr. Laughing Horse Robinson and others to make their concerns known to State Parks and to work together in determining uses.

Mr. Laughing Horse Robinson stated that the Kawaiisu Tribe wished to go on record as supporting the designation of this area as a State Historic Park. He further stated that there were other issues that would have to be considered in the future.

Chairman Cotchett reminded Mr. Laughing Horse Robinson to stay in touch with Superintendent Kathleen Franklin regarding future developments at the AVIM.

Chairman Cotchett reminded those present that before the Commission is a recommendation to formally designate this unclassified unit of the State Park System as Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park.

Chairman Cotchett then asked for a motion to approve the resolution to classify the Antelope Valley Indian Museum property as a State Historic Park with the name Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park.

Commission Vice Chair Caryl Hart asked for a brief discussion.

Vice Chair Hart stated that California State Parks has a Mission Statement, and that the Mission Statement says that State Parks exists to protect the natural resources, the cultural resources, and also to provide recreational opportunities. Vice Chair Hart stated that she believes that all the Commis-

sioners take the Mission very seriously, and that she wished to reassure all of today's speakers, whether they're interested in bouldering or the preservation of cultural resources, that everyone at State Parks from the Commission down to the people maintaining the parks takes the Mission very seriously. Vice Chair Hart explained that planning for park use was a matter of balancing the desires of all of the constituent groups in a way to better pursue the Mission. She stated that the desires of the bouldering group, the Native American group, and the volunteers of the museum, all of these, would be taken very seriously. Vice Chair Hart stated that she wanted those present to understand that as a name and classification are adopted, State Parks will proceed forward from there to consider all of the wishes that have been expressed in making a plan for how the park is ultimately used.

Chairman Cotchett thanked Vice Chair Hart for her comments and asked if there were any other comments or discussion. Chairman Cotchett then again asked for a motion to adopt the resolution to classify the Antelope Valley Indian Museum property as a State Historic Park with the name Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park. Motion Commissioner de la Rocha, second Commissioner Witt. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

### **Tomo-Kahni Project Classification and Naming**

Chairman Cotchett asked Southern Service Center Chief Clay Phillips to introduce the agenda item on the Classification and Naming of the Tomo-Kahni Project. Clay Phillips then introduced Kathleen Franklin, Sector Superintendent of Mojave Desert Sector of the Angeles District, to make a presentation on this topic.

Superintendent Franklin gave a slide presentation highlighting the history, resources, and features of the Tomo-Kahni Project and the department's reasons for recommending the name and classification Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park.

### **Public Comment on the Classification and Naming of the Tomo-Kahni Project**

**Charlie Cooke/Kawaiisu Tribe** – Mr. Cooke stated that he was not a Kawaiisu, but actually of the Kitanemuk people, a neighboring tribe. He further stated that he had been designated as a liaison for the Kawaiisu people by the family of Andy Green. Andy Green was a person that did a lot of work at Tomo-Kahni. Mr. Cooke stated that Tomo-Kahni is of great cultural significance because it's an area that was not important to just one tribe, but that it was a kind of passover place for numerous tribes. The artwork, tools, and house rings of many different tribes can be found there. Mr. Cooke stated that a kind of cultural genocide was being practiced when things were taken from cultural sites, and that Native Americans have long stressed that these sites should be saved for everyone. Mr. Cooke asked that State Parks work to protect this property, and work towards acquiring more property. He volunteered to help in any way that he could.

Chairman Cotchett explained that designating this area as a State Historic Park would help to provide the kind of protection Mr. Cooke was referring to. He asked Mr. Cooke to clarify that he was speaking in favor of designating Tomo-Kahni as a State Historic Park. Mr. Cooke confirmed that he was.

Vice Chair Hart asked Mr. Cooke if he was aware of anyone or any other tribes that might be opposed to the name Tomo-Kahni. Mr. Cooke replied that he did not.

Vice Chair Hart asked Mr. Cooke to clarify that as far as he knew there were no objections to the name. Mr. Cooke agreed that this was the case.

Chairman Cotchett asked Superintendent Franklin if the department received any negative comments on the name Tomo-Kahni. Superintendent Franklin replied that the comments that were received were very supportive.

Southern Service Center Chief Clay Phillips asked if he could explain Mr. Cooke's reference to acquisitions. Chief Phillips stated that State Parks recognized that there were additional, very important acquisitions that should be considered with regard to Tomo-Kahni, and that the department was definitely including these properties on lists of future acquisitions.

**David Laughing Horse Robinson/Kawaiisu Tribe** – Mr. Laughing Horse Robinson introduced Harold Williams and Luther, two Tribal Elders that look after Tomo-Kahni. He stated that Tomo-Kahni was one of the first places named in the State of California, that the name means Winter House, and that it was a place where people stayed when they came down from the high country. Mr. Laughing Horse Robinson stated that academic studies had been conducted through UC Santa Barbara using various types of calendars, and that these studies concluded that the Tomo-Kahni site was approximately 50,000 years old. He closed by stating his support for the name Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park.

**Harold Williams/Individual** – Mr. Williams stated that he was a Nuooah Indian, and that he was in attendance with his cousin, representing the Nuooah. He stated that he was present to support the name Tomo-Kahni, out of respect for Andy Green. Mr. Williams stated that other names had been considered, but that out of respect for Andy Green the name should be Winter House. Mr. Williams introduced his elder cousin Ralph, and stated that Ralph speaks the Nuooah language fluently, one of only four or five people that speak the language.

Vice Chair Hart asked Mr. Williams if the Nuooah language had been recorded, or if there'd been an oral history of the Nuooah. Mr. Williams explained that the language had been recorded by a Dr. Zigman, and that a Nuooah dictionary had been created. He further stated that one must be fluent in English to use the dictionary. Mr. Williams stated that Luther (another Nuooah present) and his sisters had attended meetings where they were able to converse in the Nuooah language, and that in the wintertime, they would tell stories, because it was taboo to tell stories in the summertime. Mr. Williams further explained that when the Indians used to tell stories, all the animals would come and listen too, and along with them would come the rattlesnake. As they did not wish to have rattlesnakes around, they would wait until wintertime and tell the stories when the rattlesnake was sleeping.

Vice Chair Hart asked if recordings of the language were available. Mr. Williams replied that some recordings had been made, and that they had been turned over to the docents, or to county volunteers at the park.

**Phyllis Comstock/Individual** – Ms. Comstock stated that she had referred to Tomo-Kahni as a state park for the past nine years, and that she certainly supported the name and the designation State Historic Park. She stated that the park had a very spiritual quality, and that it should remain pristine.

**Laura Rene Johnson/Individual** – Ms. Johnson stated that since the Commission had clarified the scope of their work here today that her comments didn't really concern the classification. She stated that she would wait for a more appropriate time to speak.

Chairman Cotchett stated that the Commission would be delighted to have her speak.

**Elizabeth Kachmar/Mountain Valley Association** – Ms. Kachmar stated that she was speaking as Secretary of the Mountain Valley Association of Tract 3312, and as a homeowner. Ms. Kachmar asked a question of Acting Director Ruth Coleman: She asked which park Acting Director Coleman was speaking of when she stated that there was a possibility of litigation related to the tenants vacating the property.

Acting Director Coleman replied that the park in question was Topanga State Park.

Ms. Kachmar stated that she lives in Sand Canyon. She referred to a map that she saw at a meeting that indicated that park property would extend almost on the other side of a place called Sugar Loaf.

Ms. Kachmar stated that property owners that would be included in this area were not notified. She stated that she was talking about Horse Canyon. She stated that there were proposed boundaries that would include over 600,000 acres.

Chairman Cotchett asked if he could interrupt. He reminded Ms. Kachmar that this issue was not one that was on today's agenda, and that the Commission must complete the business at hand. He asked what Ms. Kachmar wished to say about naming of the historic park.

Ms. Kachmar stated that her "bottom line" was that she wanted a hold put on the whole project until more things are done, because things are being rushed through.

Chairman Cotchett thanked Ms. Kachmar, to which she replied that he had been very courteous to everyone.

Superintendent Kathleen Franklin explained that Ms. Kachmar was referring to an acquisition hearing that occurred in late September. Superintendent Franklin said that the map that was displayed was labeled "area of interest," not area for acquisition. She explained that the purpose of the public meeting was for people to give their input regarding properties that should be considered for acquisition, related to Tomo-Kani. Superintendent Franklin assured Ms. Kachmar that there is no intent on the part of the State to usurp any land whatsoever, and that the department only acquires property from willing sellers. Superintendent Franklin asked if she could get Ms. Kachmar's address so that she could be included in any future meetings on the subject.

**John Scrogum/Individual** – Mr. Scrogum stated that he was from Tehachapi. He stated that he wanted to ask about the same topic that Ms. Kachmar had brought up, and that he was concerned that if property was being considered for acquisition as part of a park, could eminent domain come into effect.

Chairman Cotchett asked Acting Director Coleman to respond.

Acting Director Coleman explained that there were two sources for funds that have been used to purchase land: Proposition 12 and Proposition 40. She stated that both bonds included language that prohibited purchase of lands from anyone other than a willing seller. She reiterated that State Parks can only purchase from willing sellers. Acting Director Coleman emphasized that with all the parcels that were discussed earlier, including the ones that have tenants that need to relocate, the owner of the land was a willing seller. The difference is, if one is a renter and a private-sector interest buys the property, they give you 30 days notice. If the state purchases land for a park, the renters get six months of relocation assistance.

Mr. Scrogum asked what would happen if when he dies, one of his children wished to sell.

Acting Director Coleman replied that a purchase could only occur if Mr. Scrogum's children were willing sellers.

**Chris Padon/Discovery Works, Inc.** – Mr. Paden stated that he was the owner of Discovery Works, a small business that provides archaeological services, and that they had worked with State Parks in the past, compiling the Cultural Resource Management Guide for State Parks. The Guide is an unofficial guidebook for archaeologists, historians, and administrators in the park system. Mr. Paden stated that he had visited Tomo-Kahni on several occasions, and that it is an important place that should be protected and recognized as part of the heritage of all California. Mr. Paden stated that he was present today to encourage the Commission to adopt the name Tomo-Kahni.

**Mark Campbell/Antelope Valley Archeological Society and Campbell Archeological Research** – Mr. Campbell stated that he supported the adoption of the name Tomo-Kahni. He stated that the park is a true community resource, and that it was acquired to be protected. Mr. Campbell stated that he

had toured the area and discussed its many resources with the late Andy Green. He stated that he could not overly stress how important this area is.

**Bea Lostaunau/Individual** – Ms. Lostaunau stated that she was a resident of Tehachapi, and that she had been a volunteer docent at Tomo-Kahni for nine years, ever since it became a unit of the State Park System. She stated that she was present to stress the importance of designating Tomo-Kahni as a historic park. She stated that the park needs to be protected, and that she believes that everyone will benefit from this.

Chairman Cotchett thanked Ms. Lostaunau for her volunteer service. He then asked if there was anyone else that wanted to be heard on this topic. There being no one, Chairman Cotchett asked for a motion to adopt the resolution to classify the Tomo-Kahni Project as a State Historic Park with the name Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park. Motion Commissioner Witt, second Commissioner Shriver. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

### **General Plan Amendment for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area**

Chairman Cotchett introduced State Parks Southern Division Chief Steve Treanor to present this agenda item.

Chief Treanor thanked Chairman Cotchett for his kind words about State Parks and State Parks people, and all the people who wear the bear, not just those who wear the hat. Chief Treanor then introduced Craig Lekven of the California Department of Boating and Waterways to present the General Plan Amendment for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.

Mr. Lekven explained that State Parks partners with Los Angeles County for the operation of Castaic Lake State Recreation Area. Los Angeles County has proposed the development of a Boating Instruction and Safety Center complex to enhance delivery of the current water safety programs and to further complement water-related recreation at Castaic Lake. The current General Plan for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area includes provisions for a water safety education program and its operation by California State University Northridge, but a general plan amendment is required to permit construction of the Boating Instruction and Safety Center. The Commission is being asked to approve the general plan amendment.

The 9,000 square foot building will provide classrooms, a boat storage and maintenance area, offices, restrooms, and general storage. The \$1.6 million cost of the building will be provided by the Department of Boating and Waterways Harbors and Watercrafts revolving fund. If approved, it is anticipated that construction will be completed by September of 2003.

California State University Northridge, which operates the current water safety programs at Castaic Lake out of temporary facilities, will operate the Boating Instruction and Safety Center.

Commissioner de la Rocha and Vice Chair Hart conducted a brief discussion on the current water safety program and the relationship between California State University Northridge, Los Angeles County, State Parks, and the Department of Water Resources (which actually owns the property). Mr. Lekven, Southern Division Chief Steve Treanor, and Los Angeles County Parks Director Jim Park discussed the program and the cost for classes in the program. They concluded that the general park entry fee is \$6.00 per vehicle, and that the students attend the classes for little or no charge. Vice Chair Hart asked if a fee structure could be provided.

Chairman Cotchett asked if there were any other comments from staff or speakers on this topic. There being none, Chairman Cotchett asked for a motion to adopt the resolution to approve the General Plan Amendment for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area. Motion Vice Chair Hart, second Commissioner Shriver. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

## **General Plan Amendment for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (SRA)**

Chairman Cotchett recognized Sara Feldman, Southern California Director for the California State Parks Foundation. Chairman Cotchett suggested to everyone present that if they are not currently a member of the Foundation, they should become one.

Chairman Cotchett then recognized David McNeill, Executive Director of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Chairman Cotchett asked Mr. McNeill to provide an overview of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, and their role in Baldwin Hills and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

Mr. McNeill explained that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy had been created approximately two years ago by legislation authored by Senator Kevin Murray and Speaker Herb Wesson. The Conservancy is the primary agency responsible for acquisition and development of open space in the Baldwin Hills, in an effort to create the world-class park that has been dreamed of for so long. Mr. McNeill thanked the Conservancy's partners California State Parks, the County of Los Angeles, Resources Agency Secretary Mary Nichols, Governor Gray Davis, and the members of the Board of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Mr. McNeill then thanked the Commission, and explained that the General Plan for this area had been 20 years in the making, and that he looked forward to acquiring more land for the park and having even more amendments to the General Plan. Mr. McNeill stated that all of the stakeholders in this park are committed to the growth of this area, and to having a state park that everyone can enjoy.

Wayne Woodroof, Project Leader for the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area General Plan Amendment, presented the Amendment and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Commission. Mr. Woodroof provided a brief history of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area property, along with an accounting of the many features and resources of the current park. He then explained the reason for the General Plan Amendment and the projects that approval of the Amendment would allow. He then presented the department's recommendation that the Commission adopt the resolution to approve the General Plan Amendment and EIR.

## **Public Comment on the General Plan Amendment for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (SRA)**

Vice Chair Hart asked if there were any registered speakers on this topic. Louis Nastro, Assistant to the Commission, stated that there were 12 registered speakers as well as one written statement to be entered into the record. Chairman Cotchett called the speakers in the order they had registered:

**Alvin Austin/26th Senate District, Office of Senator Kevin Murray** – Mr. Austin apologized on behalf of Senator Murray, who was traveling and unable to attend. Mr. Austin thanked the Commissioners for the work they do for the State of California, and for what they were doing today for the residents of Los Angeles. Mr. Austin stated that Senator Murray had asked him to communicate the Senator's unwavering support for the Kenneth Hahn SRA General Plan Amendment, and he asked that Commissioners support it as well.

**Steven Leon/Ladera Heights Civic Association** – Mr. Leon stated that he served as Secretary of the Ladera Heights Civic Association, representing the residents of nearly 4,000 homes in upper, lower, and old Ladera. He explained that these are the communities to the immediate south of the planned Baldwin Hills Park. Mr. Leon stated that he was Ladera's designated representative to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, and that he was also one of many leaders who organized a coalition of homeowners associations and other groups to save the idea of a Baldwin Hills Park when a power plant had been proposed. He asked the Commission to vote yes on adopting the Kenneth Hahn SRA General Plan Amendment.

Commissioner de la Rocha stated that she used to live in Old Ladera, and that she could attest to the sincerity of the residents there.

**Bill Vanderberg/Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club** – Mr. Vandenberg stated that he was speaking as the Chair of the Urban Environment and Parks Committee of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. He urged the Commission to adopt the Amendment to the General Plan. Mr. Vandenberg stated that he had been involved with the Kenneth Hahn Park since the early 1990s, and that the proposed General Plan Amendment was consistent with the long-term vision/Master Plan for the One Park Concept/Baldwin Hills Park. He also stated that he was involved with the Boy Scouts, and that the Scouts were involved with re-vegetating and other important volunteer projects in the park. He stated that the General Plan Amendment will go far to expand the uses of the park and help to make it available for everyone in the community.

**Jim Park/Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation** – Mr. Park stated that Los Angeles County was very happy to be a partner with State Parks and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. He stated that the growth of the park had been wonderful for the community, and that this General Plan Amendment would allow expanded opportunities for the public in the Baldwin Hills, and in the South Central Areas. He urged the Commissioners to adopt the General Plan Amendment.

**Mike Thompson/City of Culver City** – Mr. Thompson stated that he was the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Culver City. He stated that the City of Culver City wished to go on record in support of the Amendment to the General Plan. He further stated that although there were several concerns, it had been a pleasure to work with Mr. Woodroof and Barney Matsumoto of State Parks. Mr. Thompson stated that there were some areas in the Baldwin Hills Master Plan, as adopted by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, that overlap into Culver City's redevelopment area. He stated that it was his desire that these areas not be in conflict as the projects progress.

**Sandra Davis/Culver City Interest Group** – Ms. Davis stated that she was a Culver City resident, and a member of the Culver City Board of Education. She stated that the plan includes many benefits for Culver City, including valuable resources for senior citizens, for the educational system, students, and the future. She praised the constructive, practical, hands-on learning experiences that are available in the park. She stated that there was an inherent connection between Culver City schools and the park. Ms. Davis praised the Weeds to Wonder program (in Kenneth Hahn SRA), and expressed her hope that programs like this could also benefit students in Culver City schools. She stated that she hoped the approval of the plan would lead to educational benefits in Culver City.

**Carol Gross, Mayor/City of Culver City** – Mayor Gross welcomed the Commission to Culver City. Mayor Gross stated that with the purchase of the Pacifica site (of Kenneth Hahn SRA) by State Parks, the department had made its first venture into Culver City. She stated that while Culver City is a small city with limited resources, they are putting a lot into the development of the park and the surrounding area. Mayor Gross stated that the city was working very closely with State Parks and local residents on many issues, including trails, temporary ranger housing, an agreement with the fire department, and other services. She stated that she was very happy to see the park developing, and that Culver City parks served an area much greater than just the city.

**Bilson Davis/Individual** – Mr. Davis stated that he was a resident of Blair Hills, and that he lived near property that had recently become part of the park. He stated that he was an engineer, and also a football and track coach at Culver City High School. Mr. Davis stated that his students run in the hills because it's good for conditioning and training. He stated that he was very excited to see the park grow, because these students could now run on dirt instead of asphalt, and they can enjoy the scenery as they run. Mr. Davis stated that he was present today to ask the Commission to approve the Kenneth Hahn SRA General Plan Amendment. He further stated that he felt today's children spent too much time indoors, and that this park would be a great asset to these children, to the community, and to parents.



Chairman Cotchett asked Mr. Davis how his football team was doing, to which Mr. Davis replied that they were undefeated.

**Mary Ann Greene – for Dorothy Steiner/Blair Hills Association** – Ms. Greene stated that she was present as both the Chair of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, and also representing Dorothy Steiner of the Blair Hills Homeowner’s Association, who could not be present today. Ms. Greene stated that Ms. Steiner serves on the Executive Board of the Blair Hills Homeowner’s Association, and that as a 40-plus-year resident of Blair Hills, Ms. Steiner had been engaged in the development and maturation of the park and this area for many years. Ms. Steiner had recalled that during the early 1970s there were attempts to develop this type of park, but nothing happened. Ms. Greene stated that Ms. Steiner urged the Commission to adopt the General Plan Amendment, and to continue to support the efforts to develop the one great park concept, for the use and benefit of all. Ms. Greene thanked the Commissioners for their time and efforts on this project.

Chairman Cotchett stated that it was the Commissioners who should be thanking Ms. Greene for allowing them to be there and see that beautiful property.

**Mary-Ann Webster/Sierra Club** – Ms. Webster stated that she was representing the Sierra Club, and the community, because she lives in Culver City. She stated that she had been involved with keeping the area known as Vista Pacifica from being developed, and that this had been a great victory. She emphasized the importance of preserving open space and protecting the habitat, native flora and fauna, and in building trails. She stated that she had been a member of the Sierra Club Trail Crew, builders of many trails, including four trails in Kenneth Hahn SRA. Ms. Webster praised the General Plan Amendment, saying that it was well conceived, and she noted that it had not been created in isolation, but rather with a great deal of input from the community. She asked the Commission to adopt the General Plan Amendment.

**Elaine Towns/Individual** – Ms. Towns stated that she had been very concerned when it looked as though a power plant could occupy the site that is now part of the park. She asked on behalf of those who had rallied to support the park that the Commission approve the General Plan Amendment.

**Gary Silbiger/Individual** – Mr. Silbiger stated that he was one of five city council members in Culver City. He thanked the Commissioners for coming, and for being obviously concerned about what the public needs and wants. He stated that adding to park property is a very high priority, and he cited the example of there not being enough space for athletic activities in Culver City. Mr. Silbiger stated that he was looking forward to the Commission’s approval of the General Plan Amendment.

**Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor/United Homeowner’s Association** – Ms. Ann Arbor stated that she was one of the members of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, but also a long time resident of the area. She thanked the Commissioners, and stated that the General Plan Amendment was a wonderful plan. She stated that as someone who grew up in the community, it was very exciting for her to see the park coming to fruition in her lifetime. She stated that it was her hope that she would someday be able to break ground and say that all the surrounding communities collectively came together and got things done.

**Welton Abbott/Horse Lovers** – Mr. Abbott stated that he was a resident near the park, and that he walked there two or three times a week, and that he was a horse lover. Mr. Abbott stated that he had been told that there was a plan to connect the west side of the park to the east (Culver City) side. He expressed his disappointment that in looking at the map today this was apparently not the case.

Chairman Cotchett explained that there were yet many obstacles to be overcome before the park could become one big park, not the least of which is La Cienega Boulevard.

Mr. Abbott said that he wanted to find out if such as thing was still a possibility, to which Chairman Cotchett replied that the implementation of the Master Plan (as adopted by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy) would require acquisitions of other properties to turn the existing park into the one big park concept. Chairman Cotchett explained that this was still very much the goal, the dream for this park, but that it remained to be implemented in the future.

Chairman Cotchett asked if there were any other speakers.

**Joe Mendez/West Los Angeles College** – Mr. Mendez thanked the Commissioners for their support of the park. He stated that it was his hope that the one big park would become a reality in his lifetime. He stated that West Los Angeles College was ready and willing to partner with the community, and that they were looking forward to partnering with environmental groups, parks groups, and recreation groups. He stated that West Los Angeles College was looking forward to participating in projects that involve nature and other resources that the park has to offer. He stated that West Los Angeles College supports moving forward with this project.

Chairman Cotchett asked if there were any other speakers or staff members that wished to comment on this topic. Wayne Woodroof, Project Leader for the Kenneth Hahn SRA General Plan Amendment, stated that there had been a great deal of partnering taking place between State Parks and West Los Angeles College. Mr. Woodroof reiterated that the department was recommending that the Commission adopt the resolution to approve the Kenneth Hahn SRA General Plan Amendment and EIR.

Chairman Cotchett then called for a motion to adopt the resolution approving the General Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Report for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Motion Commissioner Shriver, second Commissioner Witt.

Commissioner de la Rocha asked if she could make a comment before the vote. Commissioner de la Rocha stated that she grew up in this community, in Morningside Park and Ladera, and that she learned to drive on Fairfax and Stocker Streets (through what is now Kenneth Hahn SRA). Commissioner de la Rocha stated that she'd like to join the neighboring communities in expressing joy that these once-deserted places were now occupied by this park. She stated that the park was truly a joy to have in the community.

The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

## **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Cotchett asked if there were any registered speakers. He then called on the one registered speaker:

**Randy Young/Will Rogers Cooperative Association** – Mr. Young stated that he wished to provide the Commission with an update on Will Rogers State Historic Park. Mr. Young stated that it had been one year since Rusty Areias (former State Parks Director) formed the Will Rogers Advisory Committee on Equestrian Use of the Park. He stated that it had been a very active year, and very dramatic. Mr. Young stated that the Committee had been led brilliantly by Lisa Beutler, and that he had been deputized by the Committee to come here and let the Commission know that Ms. Beutler had been a godsend. He stated that the Committee had reached compromises on almost every single point, except one or two. Mr. Young thanked the Commission, State Parks staff, and especially Acting Director Ruth Coleman. He also singled out Camille Valencia (of the State Parks Director's Office) for praise. Mr. Young then stated that Deputy Director Bill Berry's role had been especially important of late, and that Deputy Director Berry had been working out arrangements so that the park will be completely restored. He also mentioned that Steve Wright had been a great help. Mr. Young then stated that he was present today for District Superintendent Russ Guiney, as Superintendent Guiney is leaving State

Parks. Mr. Young stated that Superintendent Guiney came to Will Rogers State Historic Park at a time when the park needed a leader badly, and that Superintendent Guiney applied much-needed standards to the park, and that things had improved exponentially since his arrival. Mr. Young stated that both he and the Will Rogers Cooperative Association salute District Superintendent Russ Guiney.

Superintendent Guiney thanked Randy Young.

Chairman Cotchett thanked Randy Young for all he'd done at Will Rogers State Historic Park.

Chairman Cotchett thanked all who were present, and noted that if there was no further business, he would like to appoint a committee to nominate a Commission Chair for 2003. Commissioner Cotchett appointed himself, along with Commissioner Witt and Commissioner de al Rocha to the nominating committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Chairman Cotchett then asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion Commissioner Shriver, second Commissioner Hart. The commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn. Chairman Cotchett adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Coleman, Secretary