



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR ON THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARK SYSTEM 2010



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION



Año Nuevo State Park

PRESERVE
EXTRAORDINARY
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

PROTECT
NATURAL &
CULTURAL
RESOURCES

CREATE
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR HIGH-
QUALITY
OUTDOOR
RECREATION



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS MISSION is to provide 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. The California State Park and Recreation Commission aids the department in this mission by approving general plans for units of the State Park System, classifying units of the system, and establishing general policies to guide the department director in the administration, protection and development of the system.

The period covered by this report is July 1, 2007 – December 31, 2009.

ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The California State Park and Recreation Commission conducted ten meetings during the period covered by this report. Commission meetings took place in:

Morro Bay – 8-24-07

Sonoma – 10-13-07

Via teleconference – 2-1-08

Chatsworth – 2-29-08

Fort Bragg – 5-16-08

Pescadero – 10-31-08

Big Sur – 5-8-09

Via teleconference – 6-12-09

Via teleconference – 6-30-09

Sacramento – 10-8-09

Actions taken by the Commission at the above meetings include the classification of six previously unclassified park properties. Though some of these

properties had been operating as units of the California State Park System, the classification process establishes an inventory of resources which then allows for development of a general plan for the park unit.

Classifications and names were adopted for the following State Park System units:

- Estero Bluffs State Park and Harmony Headlands State Park in San Luis Obispo County.
- Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park in Mendocino County.
- Martial Cottle Park, a new State Recreation Area, in Santa Clara County. This unit will be developed and operated in cooperation with Santa Clara County Parks.
- Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve and Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve in San Mateo County.

The Commission also acted to adopt reclassifications for two previously-



Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park

classified properties in order to increase protection of unit resources and streamline management of these units:

- The former William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach became part of the adjacent San Simeon State Park, and the combined unit was renamed Hearst San Simeon State Park.
- Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve was incorporated into Año Nuevo State Park. Resource protection that had been provided by the natural reserve is now afforded by the new Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve subunit of Año Nuevo State Park.

The Commission adopted general plans for *Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park* in Los Angeles County, for both *Año Nuevo State Park* and *Butano State Park* in San Mateo County, a combined general plan for *Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park* and *Folsom Lake State Recreation Area* in Eldorado, Placer, and Sacramento Counties, and a general plan amendment for *Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park* in El Dorado County. Each unit's general plan establishes long term goals and guidelines for the park's management.

The Commission approved 10 concession actions at three meetings. Commission authority over concession operations in California State Park System units is limited to a determination of compatibility with the established classifications and general

plans for each unit, and determination that proposals for the sale of alcoholic beverages are consistent with Department of Parks and Recreation policy.

In addition to its regular business meetings, the Commission also conducted five informational meetings/workshops and five "closed session" meetings. Informational meetings/workshops were held on the subjects of:

- Managing parks for Climate Change, including California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman's "Cool Parks" initiative.
- Director Coleman's Central Valley Vision implementation plan.
- California State Parks' recommendations for Proposition 84 expenditures.
- State Parks' budget proposals.
- Upcoming responsibilities of the Commission as they relate to the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act.

Closed Sessions were conducted to:

- Discuss the proposed construction of two commercial dairy operations near Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park in Tulare County.
- Discuss the Foothill-South toll road project in Orange County and related litigation.
- Discuss possible responses to State Parks' budget proposals.

*FIVE NEW
OR AMENDED
**GENERAL
PLANS**
ADOPTED
GENERAL
PLANS
PROVIDE
DIRECTION AND
LONG-TERM
GOALS
FOR EACH PARK
UNIT*





Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook at Kenneth Hahn SRA



Angel Island State Historic Park

*ANGEL ISLAND
STATE PARK*

***“ELLIS
ISLAND
OF THE
WEST”***

*TELLS THE
DRAMATIC AND
IMPORTANT
STORY OF
CHINESE
IMMIGRATION
TO THE U.S.*



SERVING PARK VISITORS BETTER: NEW PROJECTS

Despite the tremendous fiscal challenges California State Parks faced during the period covered by this report, many important projects came to fruition that help promote the department’s mission and better serve the over 72 million people who visit California State Parks each year.

At Angel Island State Park in Marin County, the U.S. Immigration Station at Angel Island reopened in February 2009 to terrific fanfare and national media attention. The restored Immigration Station tells the important story of Chinese immigrants at this “Ellis Island of the West.” Other new projects at Angel Island State Park included a concession operation for Segway Human Transporter tours, and the replacement of the island’s decades-old landing craft with an all-new vessel that will greatly improve the transportation of supplies to the island.

At Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in Los Angeles County, an all-new visitor center at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook provides the public with their first-ever access to this site with some of the most spectacular views in Los Angeles.

At Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County, construction began on the first new California State Parks campground in over twenty years. The 60-site family

campground will help fill the ever-increasing demand for coastal campsites, where months worth of reservations are typically sold out during the first few hours that they are available.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced an agreement with the City of Sacramento that will allow development of the long-awaited Museum of Railroad Technology on property adjacent to the California State Railroad Museum.

A significant public-private partnership was launched with the signing of a 50-year contract – worth a minimum of \$20 million – for the construction of the Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center at Pismo State Beach in San Luis Obispo County. This milestone project marks the first time California State Parks has partnered to construct a new full-service lodging facility. The project was made possible by a joint powers agreement between California State Parks and the City of Grover Beach. The new lodge will provide unique vacation and recreation access to California’s coast.

In another example of dynamic public-private partnership, new concessions operations at Malibu Pier offer unique dining and recreational opportunities on the pier for the first time in years. Two new restaurants opened to compliment the deep sea fishing and boat tour concessions in the rebirth of this destination that was once known as the “Riviera of America.”



Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park



Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

Visitor facilities in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park continue to benefit from \$18 million in improvements being carried out by California State Parks' concessionaire. The revitalized Old Town San Diego once again delights guests with the vibrant sights and sounds that have been part of this area for more than 150 years.

The Centennial celebration of the town of Allensworth marked the biggest-ever event to take place at Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park in Tulare County. Over 5,000 people attended this commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the only California township founded, financed, and governed by African Americans.

The Commission adopted a resolution to establish a "Sister Park" in Mongolia – A first for California State Parks. *Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve* became the officially recognized sister to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in San Diego County.

The Oakland Raiders football team renewed their partnership agreement with California State Parks, a pledge to promote the healthfulness of visiting state parks to members of the "Raider Nation."

California State Parks continued to address Climate Change. The reforestation project at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in San Diego County is helping to re-establish native conifer forests devastated by the 2003 Cedar Fire. When completed in 2012, the project will have replanted 2,500 acres that would not

have otherwise recovered. Estimates indicate that in its first five years the project will sequester the equivalent of over 11 thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide. A related public-private partnership with Stater Bros. supermarkets and Coca-Cola raised over \$600,000 to fund this activity.

PROTECTING PARKLAND

Even in difficult economic times, California State Parks acquires property for preservation as parkland for future generations. The department monitors its real property holdings with an eye toward opportunities to expand existing park units by acquiring adjacent properties or "inholdings." Such acquisitions simplify park management and reduce operating costs by establishing contiguous parklands. It's important to note that none of the acquisitions listed below result in additional operating costs or increased staffing.

During fiscal year 2007-2008 (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008), California State Parks secured 4,999 acres of land to be preserved; 2,015 acres in fee title and 2,984 acres to be managed via a lease and two easements. Expenditures for these properties totaled \$9.53 million. Funding sources included bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 84 and 117, Federal Trust Funds, and Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Funds. In addition to purchases, portions of the acquired land were gifted to California State Parks at a value of \$9.86 million,

8,267 ACRES
OF NEW
PARKLAND
FOR
72 MILLION
VISITORS
TO ENJOY





Gaviota State Beach



Auburn State Recreation Area

**INNOVATIVE
PUBLIC-
PRIVATE
PARTNER-
SHIPS**

CREATE NEW
& UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
PARK VISITORS



making the total value of the land acquired during this period \$19.390 million.

During fiscal year 2008-2009 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009), plus July 1 through December 31, 2009, a total of 3,363 acres were acquired along with an additional two acres to be managed via easements. The total expenditure for these acquisitions was \$14.053 million, comprised of bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 84 and 117 and Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Funds. Property was also gifted at a value of \$9.8 million, bringing the total value of the land protected during this period to \$23.853 million.

For the entire period covered by this report – July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009 – a total of 5,378 acres were protected and an additional 2,986 acres came under management of California State Parks. The total expenditure was \$23.583 million and the gift value was \$19.66 million. The total value of the land protected in this reporting period is \$43.243 million.

Significant acquisitions for July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009 include:

- 2,009 acres at Montaña de Oro State Park in San Luis Obispo County. Acquired with \$5.667 million in funds provided by Proposition 12 and a \$811,000 gift from The Nature Conservancy.
- 980 acres at Fort Ord Dunes State Park in Monterey County, a gift from the federal government through the Secretary of the

Interior and the National Park Service valued at \$5 million.

- 377 acres at Auburn State Recreation Area in El Dorado County. Acquired with \$480,000 from the Federal Trust Fund and a \$2.72 million gift from the Trust for Public Land.
- 267 acres at San Gregorio State Beach in San Mateo County. Acquired with \$2.65 million from Proposition 40 and a \$450,000 gift from the Peninsula Open Space Trust.
- 211 acres at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park in Monterey County. Acquired through a \$2.112 million gift from Monterey County.
- 198 acres at Malibu Creek State Park in Los Angeles County. Acquired with \$4.6 million from Propositions 40 and 117.
- 43 acres at Gaviota State Park in Santa Barbara County. Acquired with a combined gift of \$2.85 million from the County of Santa Barbara Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, and the Goleta Valley Land Trust.
- 38 acres for a proposed new park unit (now known as Santa Ines Mission Mills) in Santa Barbara County. Acquired with \$1.7 million from Proposition 40.

- 0.27 acres at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Park in San Diego County. Acquired with \$1.5 million in funds provided by Proposition 84 and a \$25,000 gift from the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.
- A conservation easement protecting 2,692 acres at Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park in Tulare County. Acquired with \$3.5 million from Proposition 84.

NOTE: Dollar amounts and acreage are rounded to the nearest whole number.

CONCESSION SERVICES

Concession operations provide much needed services to park visitors, including lodging, food & beverages, retail sales, equipment rental, and other services that add value for visitors and increase revenue for California State Parks. In total, the Concessions Program oversees 188 concession contracts and 54 operating agreements. Revenue from concessions in fiscal years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 exceeded \$11 million each year.

During the period covered by this report, California State Park and Recreation Commission support allowed California State Parks' Concession Program to execute contracts to design, construct and manage an all-new lodge & conference facility at Pismo State Beach, to initiate a 20-year contract at Asilomar Conference Grounds in Monterey County that includes a \$15 million minimum investment to enhance accessibility in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to negotiate contracts for extensive renovations at facilities in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, for marinas at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area in Butte County, and at Malibu Pier in Los Angeles County.

CONTRIBUTING TO CALIFORNIA'S RECOVERY

California State Parks makes essential contributions to the health and well-being of Californians and provides significant benefits to both local and statewide economies.

In response to California's budget crisis, in 2009 California State Parks implemented service reductions that will allow savings of \$14.2 million during fiscal year 2009-2010. Some park services have been reduced during low-use periods, and some programs have been curtailed to reduce costs. Park entrance fees and other charges have been increased so that visitors contribute more toward park operation and maintenance.

Nevertheless, demand for and enjoyment of California State Parks continues to remain at a record high. Visitation paid and free day use plus overnight camping – totaled 72.9 million visitors in fiscal year 2008-2009, down about nine percent from the previous year. Much of this reduction is attributable to the spike in gasoline prices during this time and unpleasant conditions caused by wildfires and drought during that summer's vacation season.

In addition to opportunities for low cost relaxation and family fun, California State Parks add value to our state's economy in other ways. California State Parks are important destinations for tourists, especially in coastal and rural communities and at historic sites. Park visitors support retail and services through purchases of recreational equipment, food, gasoline and transportation, and outdoor supplies. In June 2009 California State University Sacramento researchers who had surveyed visitors to 26 State Park System units estimated that visitors to California State Parks spend about \$4.3 billion on "park-related expenditures" each year.

Other ways that California State Parks plays a part in California's economic recovery are less easily measured. Our state parks are a key contributor to California's quality of life, embodying the outdoor lifestyle and attractive landscape that add to California's reputation as a great place to live, work, and do business. Surveys show these amenities are especially important to those employed in the knowledge-based businesses that many look to as leaders of California's recovery.

These highly-educated workers and their

393,000

CAMPSITE
RESERVATIONS

\$90 MILLION

GROSS
CONCESSION
SALES

\$4.3 BILLION

IN PARK-
RELATED
EXPENDITURES





families also benefit from learning opportunities that California State Parks offers. Each year over one-half million school-children attend educational programs at state parks, underscoring the importance of California State Parks as a component of the California Department of Education's curriculum standards. Almost 50 thousand additional students benefit from classroom programs presented at schools by California State Parks. In addition to playing these vital roles in the state's education system, California State Parks staff also inform and inspire over three million visitors who participate in guided tours, talks, demonstrations and campfire programs each year.

California State Parks is authorized to employ 1,816 permanent staff, and each year over 16 thousand volunteers augment employees by contributing almost one million hours of service to state parks. These workers, along with approximately 729 seasonal employees, do much more

than just operate and maintain parks and protect precious resources. California State Parks peace officers – rangers and life-guards – are an integral and essential component of law enforcement both within parks and in neighboring communities. Latest available data indicate that California State Parks staff performed over 12 thousand rescue operations and provided medical aid to over 13 thousand people in 2007. The same year officers issued over 18 thousand citations and performed more than 1,500 arrests.

These data illustrate that while it is at work preserving California's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting the state's natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation, California State Parks also plays a vital role in our state's economy, contributing to Californians' well-being, health, and education, and inspiring millions through the wonders of the Golden State.



California State Park and Recreation Commission

JANUARY 2010

Linda Briskman
Lindy DeKoven
Maureen Gorsen
Caryl Hart, Ph.D.
Alice Huffman
Gail Kautz
Lt. Col. (ret.) William "Bill" Kogerman
Mario Santoyo
Paul Junger Witt

These Commissioners also served during the period covered by this report:

Jack Baylis, 2006-2009
Clint Eastwood, 2001-2008
Sophia Scherman, 2004-2009
Bobby Shriver, 2001-2008
Acquanetta Warren, 2005-2009