

Meeting of the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Santa Clara County Government Center
Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium
70 W. Hedding Street
San Jose, CA
October 25, 2000

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul Junger Witt, Chair
Ian Campbell
Joseph Cotchett
Caryl Hart
Marcia Hobbs

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

H. Martin Jessen

STAFF PRESENT

Rusty Areias, Director
Mary Wright, Chief Deputy Director
Dick Troy, Deputy Director, Park Operations
Roy Stearns, Deputy Director, Communications
Cheryl Lyles, Special Assistant to the Director
Tim LaFranchi, Chief Counsel
Rick Rayburn, Chief, Resource Management Division
Mark Schrader, Chief, Park Design and Construction Division
Dave Keck, Senior Landscape Architect, Castle Rock State Park General Plan Project Manager
Gary Waldron, Senior State Park Resource Ecologist, Northern Service Center
Dave Vincent, District Superintendent, Santa Cruz District
Bob Culbertson, Chief Ranger, Santa Cruz District
Holly Huenemann, Supervising Ranger, Santa Cruz District, Mountain Sector
Miles Standish, State Park Ranger, Castle Rock State Park
John Velleit, State Park Ranger, Castle Rock State Park
Ted Jackson, Assistant Secretary

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Richard M. Thalhammer, Supervising Deputy Attorney General

VISITORS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING

Jo Barrett / Individual
Bruce Bettencourt / Friends of Castle Rock State Park
Barry Boulton / Individual
Laura Davick / Alliance to Rescue Crystal Cove
Grey Hayes / Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, Ventana Chapter
Roberta Johnson / Individual
Bob Kirkwood / Individual
Stuart Langdoc / Individual
Claude Look / Individual

James Nee / Individual
Joe Rigney / California Native Plant Society
Jeff Spencer / Individual
Brian Steen / Sempervirens Fund
Janie Whiteford / Disability Rights

(Chair Witt requested that Commissioner Hobbs perform as the Chair for this meeting, and she accepted.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Legal notice having been given, Acting Chair Hobbs convened the Executive Session at 9:10 a.m. The Executive Session had been requested by legal counsel in order to discuss two law suits that have been filed against the Commission because of actions taken by the Commission at its March 8, 2000 meeting regarding the Castle Rock State Park General Plan. No action was taken during the Executive Session. (Minutes of the Executive Session are contained in a separate document.)

CALL TO ORDER

Legal notice having been given, the California State Park and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Acting Chair Hobbs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2000

Commissioner Witt moved for approval of the minutes of the March 8, 2000 meeting in San Jose as presented. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – UPDATES ON MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

Director Areias introduced the following department staff who were present for the meeting: Dave Keck, Senior Landscape Architect and Castle Rock State Park General Plan Project Manager; Bob Culbertson, Chief Ranger, Santa Cruz District; Gary Waldron, Senior State Park Resource Ecologist and Project Team Member, Castle Rock State Park General Plan; Dave Vincent, District Superintendent, Santa Cruz District; Rick Rayburn, Chief, Resource Management Division; Mark Schrader, Chief, Park Design and Construction Division; Dick Troy, Deputy Director, Park Operations, Ted Jackson, Assistant to the Commission; Roy Stearns, Deputy Director, Communications.

CONCESSIONS REPORT

The Concessions report (copy attached) was presented to the Commission. Deputy Director Troy explained that the report fulfills the statutory requirement that the department notice the Commission prior to issuing "Request for Proposals" on concession opportunities.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Director Areias directed the Commissions' attention to the Legislative report included in the meeting packet. Director Areias reported that the department was successful in securing \$900,000 for Admission Day activities during the recently concluded legislative session. Director Areias also spoke favorably about recently passed legislation, authored by Senator Kevin Murray, that establishes the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. This Conservancy will be used to purchase land and plan the Baldwin Hills "Urban Park" that is a very important initiative for the Governor, Resources Secretary Nichols, and the department.

UPDATE ON THREE MAJOR DISCUSSION FORUMS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT

Director Areias updated the Commission on the results of the three major discussion forums ("Visioning Forum," "Day of Imagination," and "Organizational Review") that had been conducted by the Department. Director Areias stated that

these forums had been successful beyond the department's expectations, and that the strategies and insights developed from these forums have and will continue to provide a useful and indispensable roadmap for the department to follow into the future.

Director Areias stated that upon his arrival at DPR, he found a group of remarkably dedicated professionals, who had tried very hard, through difficult economic and political times, to keep the park system functioning and intact. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of department staff, Director Areias states that when he became director the department was suffering from several problems including a staggering deferred maintenance backlog and sagging employee morale. Additionally, for many reasons, the department was in danger of becoming irrelevant to members of the rapidly growing urban communities throughout the state, as well as to the legislature. Thus, the idea was born to conduct three major discussion forums where the department could assemble some of the brightest and best minds to study and discuss the future of state parks and the appropriate role for state parks.

Director Areias spoke about some of the initiatives and innovative programs that his administration will be pursuing. The department has begun an ambitious marketing program, led by John McMahon, Deputy Director for Marketing. Prior to accepting the marketing position at DPR, Mr. McMahon was the marketing director at Vail Ski Resort in Colorado. The department is moving aggressively to improve and enhance its technological capabilities. Alan Friedman, the department's Chief Information Officer (CIO), was recruited from the Trade and Commerce Agency where he was that agency's CIO. Mr. Friedman brings to the department a wealth of knowledge and expertise that should dramatically improve the department's technology and information management activities and initiatives (including enhanced web-based programs, i.e., the Ano Nuevo State Reserve Webcam). Director Areias stated that the department is working on acquiring land in urban areas, consistent with Governor Davis' mandate for state parks, which is to fix existing parks and to acquire new park lands in closer proximity to where people live. Director Areias also stated that the department is also working on increasing the diversity of park users along with increasing diversity within the department. According to Director Areias, one of the challenges for the department is to have the "park family" (employees, volunteers, etc.) reflect the broad California collective experience.

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Director Areias introduced Mark Schrader, Chief, Park Design and Construction Division, to speak to the Commission on the Deferred Maintenance project. Chief Schrader told the Commission that he felt the department was making substantial progress in fulfilling the obligations of the deferred maintenance program. The program is a three-year, \$157 million program. Chief Schrader stated that the program is through its ramp-up phase, and Schrader states the program is on target to meet expenditures of up to \$60 million (of the \$157 million), as per the agreement between the legislature and the department. Some of the noteworthy achievements of the program to date include the completion of Phase I of the Malibu Pier Project. Phases II and III are currently underway. At Hearst Castle, the guest restrooms have been renovated, and the department is very proud of this work. In Sacramento, the Stanford Mansion has had a new roof installed, which is Phase I of a very large project that will ultimately result in the restoration of the entire upper structure of the mansion.

Acting Chair Hobbs asked the department to provide each Commissioner with a list of the deferred maintenance projects scheduled to be completed using the \$157 million.

PARK BOND UPDATE

Director Areias introduced Chief Deputy Director Mary Wright to update the Commission on activities related to the administration of the \$2.1 billion park bond act (Proposition 12). Chief Deputy Director Wright told the Commission that slightly less than half of the bond funds have been designated to support local parks. These funds are managed by DPR through its Local Grants Program. The Local Grants Program has three separate categories: (1) Per Capita (population-based formula for local parks and recreation); (2) Competitive Programs (develop separate criteria for each grant competition); and (3) Specified Grants (\$70 million specified in the park bond act). Chief Deputy Wright stated that an initial challenge for the department was to re-establish its grants and local assistance capabilities, and that effort began in earnest this past July and continues today. The department is also working with local park and recreation agencies to develop the criteria that will be used to award the Per Capita grants and the Competitive Program grants. In the area of Competitive Grants, Ms. Wright stated that some of those funds have already been distributed – Youth Soccer/Baseball Program, Marine Sanctuaries Program, Urban Youth Services Program. There

are other programs in the Competitive Grants category where criteria still needs to be developed in collaboration with the agencies that will be competing for those funds. Chief Deputy Director Wright stated that the department plans to hold public hearings in the spring where the criteria developed will be subject to public review and comment. Finally, Ms. Wright told the Commission that some of the Specified Grants from the bond act had been awarded. The recipients of the Specified Grants have until June, 2003 to apply, so the department can expect applications to be submitted throughout that time period.

STATE PARK FEE REDUCTION

Director Areias informed the Commission about the reduction in State Park Fees that began on July 1, 2000. The Director stated that the early indications are that attendance has increased significantly as a result of the fee reduction.

CULTURAL DIVISION AND RECREATION DIVISION

Director Areias stated that during his earlier comments about department initiatives and restructuring, he should have also informed the Commission that the department is in the process of establishing a separate Cultural Division and a Recreation Division, to better address those core components of the department's mission.

COAL CANYON ACQUISITION

Director Areias introduced Rick Rayburn, Chief of the Resource Management Division, to speak to the Commissioners about the Coal Canyon Acquisition and California's Continuing Resources Investment Strategy Program or CCRISP. Chief Rayburn began by informing the Commission that the Coal Canyon Biological Corridor acquisition is probably the most significant acquisition that the department has completed in the last ten years and it represents one of the most expensive acquisitions for the department. This acquisition is also unique in that it is the first time the department has purchased an expensive piece of property in an urban area, primarily to link existing preserved areas in order to preserve the biological diversity of Chino Hills State Park and a number of other park areas in the Puente/Whittier Hills area. Chief Rayburn stated there are approximately 10 million people located within 45 minutes of the Coal Canyon acquisition property. The department would not be acquiring this property were it not for its value in linking the surrounding large masses of habitat in order to preserve the species diversity within this large urban area.

The Coal Canyon property was purchased from the St. Claire Company. The parcel comprises 650 acres and the acquisition cost was \$40 million. The per acre cost was driven up by the fact that the Coal Canyon property had received approval from the city of Anaheim for the development of 1,500 housing units.

This acquisition is significant not only because of its close proximity to urban areas, but also because this particular area of the state has been identified by conservation biologists as one of the eighteen "hot spots" in the world where biodiversity is most threatened. Furthermore, a blue ribbon panel of conservation biologists put together by the department was queried and they described the Coal Canyon acquisition property as being of global significance, that would result, if not acquired to preserve this corridor, into substantial species extinction.

Chief Rayburn explained that the department had three studies completed prior to making this acquisition. The first study was the assembling of a blue-ribbon panel referred to above. The department asked the blue-ribbon panel to (1) determine if the freeway underpass could function as a viable corridor, and (2) to verify the assertion that there would be substantial species losses in Chino Hills State Park and other areas located to the north if the area was fragmented and the corridor was not preserved. The blue-ribbon panel confirmed that the underpass was a viable corridor and that significant species losses would occur without the corridor. The second study conducted by the department examined if the Coal Canyon area was the only place in which the linkage between these two large landscape masses could occur, and that was confirmed. The third study looked at the public's investment in open space and natural resources north of the 91 Freeway. Between city, county, and state agencies, \$150 million has been invested in open space, with more to come. This assisted the department in approving this acquisition because it was felt that spending \$40 million to protect the biological diversity of a \$150 million investment made sense.

The department will be celebrating the acquisition of Coal Canyon in a dedication ceremony at the site on November 29, 2000.

CALIFORNIA'S CONTINUING RESOURCES INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CCRISP)

Chief Rayburn provided each of the Commissioners with a handout on this program. CCRISP is one of the highest priority programs for Resources Secretary Mary Nichols. The objectives of the program are to determine what are California's most important land and natural resources, and what are the highest priorities for protection and how will those lands/natural resources be protected. The Resources Agency has proposed a \$2 million budget for the program for this year, which once approved, will lead to the hiring of an executive director for the program who will work out of the Resources Agency. State Parks will be one of four departments that will lend staff and expertise to the CCRISP program, which is projected to be a four-to-six year effort.

CONCURRENCE WITH DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA CITRUS STATE HISTORIC PARK NON-PROFIT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commissioner Campbell moved for approval of a motion concurring with the Director's appointment of Cathy Perring, Paul Renck, David Ruiz, Rosanna Scott, Seymour Van Gundy, and Beverly Wingate to the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation Board of Directors. Commissioner Witt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Acting Chair Hobbs asked Director Areias to delay in presenting his final item of business in the Director's Report. The Chair also postponed the Chair's Report. Chair Hobbs declared a recess at 10:40 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR WALK-IN CAMPSITES AT PARTRIDGE FARM – RESOLUTION 19-00

Acting Chair Hobbs reconvened the meeting and opened the public hearing at 10:47 a.m.

District Superintendent Dave Vincent, Santa Cruz District, introduced the Castle Rock State Park General Plan Amendment. In his introductory remarks, Superintendent Vincent summarized the steps taken by the department that had led to the development of the Castle Rock General Plan that had been approved by the Commission at their March 8, 2000 meeting. Superintendent Vincent pointed out that it was Commission members, concerned about the lack of campsites in the central coast region and growing demand, who had directed DPR staff to re-evaluate the camping issue, and to return with an amendment if appropriate. Superintendent Vincent introduced Dave Keck, Senior Landscape Architect and project manager for the Castle Rock State Park General Plan Amendment. Project Manager Keck gave the formal presentation (Power Point) for the amendment, which provided an overview of the park, highlighted the major components of the approved general plan, and outlined the details of the general plan amendment for adding walk-in campsites.

Acting Chair Hobbs called on the following individuals who had registered to speak:

Ms. Janie Whiteford, an individual, stated that she has been involved in the planning effort for Castle Rock for the last three or four years. As a disabled user of the park, Ms. Whiteford stated that Castle Rock State Park, in its current form, is not accessible to her or the many members of the disabled community. Ms. Whiteford told the Commission that she believes that the plan for the Partridge Farm area would help to alleviate some of the accessibility issues for disabled users. Ms. Whiteford called the walk-in campsites a "god-send." Ms. Whiteford stated that there is nothing comparable to what is being proposed currently at the park or in the local area. Ms. Whiteford also stated that she felt the Partridge Farm area would be an excellent location to develop some accessible trails for disabled users.

Ms. Roberta Johnson, an individual, stated that she and her husband were avid hikers and enjoyed the Castle Rock area. Ms. Johnson told the Commission that nine years ago, her husband suffered a stroke and as a result, he is confined to a wheelchair. Ms. Johnson stated that she, her husband, and her friends in the disability community would be in favor of the general plan amendment because it will lead to greater accessibility for all.

Mr. Bob Kirkwood, an individual, stated that he grew up in the Partridge Farm area when it was still called Partridge Ranch. Mr. Kirkwood stated that he strongly supports the amendment to allow walk-in campsites. Mr. Kirkwood told

the Commission that Partridge Farm is a great place to be and having a campground would significantly enhance visitor use because people could be at the park over a period of time, creating a fuller experience.

Mr. Bruce Bettencourt, representing the Friends of Castle Rock State Park (Friends), stated that there are several threatened or endangered species in Castle Rock State Park, with the most notable probably being the Marbled Murrelets. Mr. Bettencourt continued, human food attracts wildlife and alters their behavior, making them more aggressive. They displace other species. The problems with bears in Yosemite are well known. Castle Rock State Park is home to raccoons, coyotes, squirrels, and blue jays. Species that adapt well to human-modified environments, such as raccoons and blue-jays, have a fragmenting effect, decreasing the ecologically effective or functional size of the remaining wildlife habitat and affecting both plant and animal species. We need to protect endangered species by keeping food-rich activities from sensitive habitat. DPR has stated that walk-in camping is low-impact camping. But with food not conveniently stored in cars, walk-in campsites can have a greater environmental impact than car camping. Mr. Bettencourt told the Commission that there are two lawsuits pending on the general plan approved on March 8th. Mr. Bettencourt stated that the protective strategies offered in the general plan are essentially reactive and they ignore the fundamental issue of carrying capacity. Friends has asked DPR to address the issue of carrying capacity, to no avail. Friends continues to hope that it can work with DPR in a constructive manner to address the issues at Castle Rock State Park. Please defer the decision on camping until we can meet, confer and resolve the CEQA issues. We want to work with state parks. Mr. Bettencourt told the Commission that a decision on camping should be postponed until after the parking lot and visitor center are built and public impacts can be better determined. Mr. Bettencourt also asked the Commission to direct DPR to establish a regional planning process that considers the connectivity of larger regional ecosystems.

Mr. Jeff Spencer, an individual, spoke to the Commission about the key challenges facing the department as identified in the DPR document, "Path to Our Future." One of the challenges identified was the need to develop comprehensive parks and recreation master plans. Another challenge was the need for DPR to shift from parks as representational islands to sustainable ecosystems. Mr. Spencer stated that the document also recognized the need for DPR to promote greater public involvement and participation. Mr. Spencer told the Commission that unfortunately the vision articulated in the "Path to Our Future" document has not been reflected in the department's management practices with regards to Castle Rock State Park. The Friends of Castle Rock State Park (Friends) presents an opportunity for the department to achieve the vision that is embodied in its document, "Path to Our Future." Mr. Spencer stated that Friends believes that the vision for managing connectivity and sustainability of ecosystems is not achieved through the current general plan and this camping amendment. DPR has not done enough to identify cultural and historic resources in the park, or to propose mechanisms for the protection of those resources. Mr. Spencer requested that the mission for Castle Rock State Park include the intent to manage the greatest area of the park toward a wilderness designation. Mr. Spencer resubmitted a letter to the Commission from Assemblyman Fred Keeley that supports the wilderness designation for the park.

Mr. Barry Boulton, an individual, stated that the Commission should delay any decision regarding camping at Castle Rock State Park. Mr. Boulton told the Commission that the department's response to the public input regarding this amendment has not been adequate. Mr. Boulton stated that he had presented significant scientific data on predation, which he feels would occur in the proposed camping area. Mr. Boulton does not feel that the department, in its response to his material, has adequately addressed the concerns and issues that he has raised.

Mr. Stuart Langdoc, an individual, stated that he is a long-time user of Castle Rock State Park. Mr. Langdoc told the Commission that he had grave concerns regarding the walk-in campsites. Mr. Langdoc's primary objection to the amendment is that he feels the campsites will significantly increase the number of people using the Partridge Farm area, thus increasing the impact. He would like to see the department provide more data regarding these impacts.

Mr. Brian Steen, representing Sempervirens Fund, stated that the Sempervirens Fund has advocated the public's right to use the Partridge Farm property ever since the Fund purchased the land over twenty years ago. The Fund has stated their support for public use of this area in public resolutions in 1993, 1997, and 1999. Partridge Farm was bought with the purpose of providing public facilities to serve the public visiting Castle Rock State Park. Mr. Steen told the Commission that the Partridge Farm area is not wilderness. Agricultural uses over the century have disrupted natural communities with bulldozed fields, asphalt, farm, and residential structures and associated utility systems. Mr. Steen stated that the Sempervirens Fund agrees with the general plan amendment for walk-in campsites and they encourage DPR to open the Partridge property for public use in accordance with the general plan and the general plan

amendment. Mr. Steen also asked the Commission to restore the staffing levels at Castle Rock State Park. Previously, there were four park employees assigned to Castle Rock State Park. Today, there is only one employee assigned to the park.

Mr. Grey Hayes, representing the Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, stated that the Sierra Club views the proposed amendment as a segmentation of the EIR process and, therefore, illegal under CEQA. Mr. Hayes told the Commission that earlier, during today's Commission meeting, Resource Management Chief Rick Rayburn referred to a study identifying a property in Southern California as being particularly important to the conservation of bio-diversity. Mr. Hayes stated that the same report identified the Castle Rock eco-region as being equally significant for the preservation of bio-diversity. Mr. Hayes told the Commission that the black oak forest, in particular, is a significant part of Castle Rock's heritage and biological diversity, and is also a sensitive habitat. Mr. Hayes stated that the Sierra Club contends that the campsites and other proposed developments in the Partridge Farm area will create a significant impact to a sensitive resource (the black oak forest), and thusly, should be analyzed under CEQA. Mr. Hayes told the Commission that preserve areas should be well buffered. In the amendment under consideration, the campground is identified as being directly adjacent to the preserve, therefore no buffer is evident. Mr. Hayes also stated that the current general plan amendment lacks a regional perspective. DPR needs to adopt a regional planning process. Mr. Hayes concluded by telling the Commission that the current general plan process ignores basic tenants of conservation biology and the basic needs of California's people to enjoy recreation on a regional basis.

Mr. Claude Look, representing California Trails Foundation, stated that he, along with one other gentleman, had started the Sempervirens Fund in 1968. Mr. Look spoke in favor of the general plan amendment. Mr. Look stated that he had documentation supporting the fact that there are no rare plants located in the Partridge Farm area. Mr. Look also spoke briefly about the history of Castle Rock State Park and he endorsed DPR's management and operation of the park.

Ms. Jo Barrett, an individual, stated that she lives next to Castle Rock State Park and she was also a member of the Castle Rock State Park Citizens Advisory Board. Ms. Barrett stated that she is concerned about the project at Partridge Farm because the area is a historical area that could be further degraded or damaged by the increased impact. Ms. Barrett told the Commission that she opposes the amendment because several issues have not been addressed including development, vehicle traffic impacts, and the staffing of the park. Ms. Barrett stated that she would like to see any funding that is available for Castle Rock State Park spent on trails and trail improvement and the maintenance of trails.

Mr. Joe Rigney, representing California Native Plants Society, stated that he is concerned about the close proximity of the proposed campsites to the black oak woodland. The California Native Plants Society has identified the black oak woodland located in the Partridge area as the largest black oak woodland in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Mr. Rigney stated that he has attempted, through letters and in conversations with the department, to raise the issue of the sensitive black oak woodland habitat. Mr. Rigney states that in spite of his best efforts, DPR continues to fail to acknowledge the significant environmental impact caused by putting so many people in the Partridge Farm area. The impact from so many people will affect the Partridge Farm area and surrounding habitats, including the black oak woodland. Mr. Rigney stated that the lawsuits that have been filed against the department regarding these matters are very serious. The natural preserve that has been designated for Castle Rock State Park violates the Public Resources Code because it cuts the black oak woodland in half. The Public Resources Code clearly states that natural preserves must keep ecological integrity. Mr. Rigney continued, the plan also violates CEQA, because it fails to identify the significant ecological impact from putting so many people in proximity to sensitive resources such as the black oak woodland. Mr. Rigney also stated that the plan violates the Public Resources Code with regards to carrying capacity because DPR has failed to determine a scientific level of carrying capacity. Mr. Rigney told the Commission that the proposed management plan is lacking a resource management plan and that the park is in desperate need of a resource management plan. Mr. Rigney criticized the proposed plan for being very weak in its vegetation management components. Mr. Rigney also told the Commission that the amendment for camping at Partridge Farm violates CEQA because it fails to explore appropriate alternatives, such as putting campsites at Tin Can Ranch. The failure to consider reasonable alternatives is a violation of CEQA. Mr. Rigney stated that this plan has a lot of legal deficiencies and that is why it was necessary for a coalition of groups to bring suit against the department. Mr. Rigney told the Commission that he wants to work in good faith with the department. He concluded his comments by requesting that the Commission stop the general plan process and instruct DPR to meet with the critics of this plan so that an appropriate conclusion to these matters can be reached.

Mr. James Nee, an individual, stated that he has resided in Santa Cruz County for 13 years. Mr. Nee identified himself as a hiker, camper, and certified professional wildlife biologist. Mr. Nee stated that he supports the general plan amendment for walk-in campsites at Partridge Farm. Mr. Nee stated that he is not concerned about the protection of the black oak woodland in the vicinity of Partridge farm because state park policy and statements in the general plan require their protection. Mr. Nee told the Commission that the potential for wildlife to be attracted to camper food can be minimized by proper construction of trash receptacles. Mr. Nee stated that the general plan amendment estimates that the 20 walk-in campsites would generate a maximum of 70 campers per day in the park. Seventy campers is a modest number that would occur only a few days a year (mild/warm weather holidays). Mr. Nee explained that the impact on park resources from 70 campers would be minimal. Mr. Nee also stated that he felt appropriate safeguards had been put in place to ensure that the project has minimal environmental impact.

Acting Chair Hobbs closed the public hearing at 11:43 a.m.

Acting Chair Hobbs asked the Commissioners if they had any questions or comments. Commissioner Hart expressed her strong support for disabled access and for making the parks accessible to all. Commissioner Campbell stated that during the public hearing, he had heard no tangible evidence, scientific or otherwise, that would lead him to conclude that there are any sensitive species-related issues at Castle Rock State Park that the department could not manage in the due course of its normal operations. Commissioner Campbell read proposed Resolution 19-00, approving the Castle Rock State Park General Plan Amendment and moved for its approval, which was seconded by Commissioner Cotchett. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with Commissioners Campbell, Cotchett, Hart, Witt, and Acting Chair Hobbs voting yes.

ON-PREMISES SALE OF BEER AND WINE AT IZZY'S BURGER SPA AT TAHOE STATE RECREATION AREA – RESOLUTION 20-00

Acting Chair Hobbs opened and closed the public hearing on this item at 11:49 a.m., as there were no registered speakers.

Commissioner Campbell read and moved for approval proposed Resolution 20-00 regarding the on-premises sale of beer and wine at Izzy's Burger Spa at Tahoe State Recreation Area. Commissioner Witt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote with Commissioners Campbell, Cotchett, Hart, Witt, and Acting Chair Hobbs voting yes.

ON-PREMISES SALE OF BEER, WINE, AND DISTILLED SPIRITS AT THE OLD WHALING STATION AT MONTEREY DISTRICT – RESOLUTION 21-00

Acting Chair Hobbs opened and closed the public hearing on this item at 11:51 a.m., as there were no registered speakers.

Commissioner Cotchett read and moved for approval proposed Resolution 21-00 regarding the on-premises sale of beer, wine, and distilled spirits at the Old Whaling Station at Monterey District. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote with Commissioners Campbell, Cotchett, Hart, Witt, and Acting Chair Hobbs voting yes.

GRAZING CONTRACTS AT FOUR RIVERS DISTRICT – RESOLUTION 22-00 AND 23-00

Acting Chair Hobbs opened and closed the public hearing on this item at 11:53 a.m., as there were no registered speakers.

Commissioner Witt read and moved for approval proposed Resolution 22-00 regarding grazing within the Medeiros area at San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, Four Rivers District. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote with Commissioners Campbell, Cotchett, Hart, Witt, and Acting Chair Hobbs voting yes.

Commissioner Witt read and moved for approval proposed Resolution 23-00 regarding grazing within Pacheco State Park, Four Rivers District. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote with Commissioners Campbell, Cotchett, Hart, Witt, and Acting Chair Hobbs voting yes.

Acting Chair Hobbs asked Director Areias to resume the Director's Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

DECLARATIONS OF PURPOSE FOR 69 UNITS OF THE STATE PARK SYSTEM

Chief Deputy Director Wright stated that the Declarations of Purpose are an information item for the Commission that were requested by the Commission at an earlier Commission meeting. At the time of the Commission's request, there were 69 units within the State Park System that did not have an approved Declaration of Purpose. These Declarations represent the response from the department to the Commission's request that all State Park System units have an approved Declaration of Purpose.

Director Areias stated that he had completed the Director's Report.

CHAIR'S REPORT

RESOLUTION FOR TED BRAVOS – RESOLUTION 18-00

Commissioner Cotchett read and moved for approval proposed Resolution 18-00, lauding Ted Bravos for his efforts in supporting and assisting the department in the acquisition of the property that would later become Jack London State Historic Park. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by voice vote.

RETIREMENT CERTIFICATES

Acting Chair Hobbs announced retirement certificates for the following Department employees: Gary L. Bischof, 34 years; Sandra K. Butts, 6 years, 4 month; Alven B. Carty, 12 years, 10 months; Robert D. Cates, 29 years, 7 months; Eugene F. Erba, 36 years; John L. Hart, 22 years, 8 months; Joyce R. Knutson, 19 years, 10 months; Michael A. Lock, 25 years, 3 months; Robert G. Macomber, 30 years, 2 months; Kenneth E. Martin, 36 years, 11 months; William C. Seidel, 28 years; Frederick J. Soderlund, 28 years, 11 months; Arthur L. Vance, 20 years, 6 months. Commissioner Hobbs extended the Commission's thanks and gratitude to these employees.

COMMITTEES

Acting Chair Hobbs requested that the Commissioners volunteer to participate on one or more of the Commission Committees. Commissioner Hart expressed an interest in participating on the Policy Committee, the Programs and Resource Management Committee, and the Land Ownership Evaluation Committee. Commissioner Cotchett stated that he is interested in participating on the Finance and Funding Development Committee and the Programs and Resource Management Committee. Commissioner Campbell expressed an interest in working on the Policy Committee.

Commissioner Hart requested that the department provide each Commissioner with a description of each of the Commission Committees – purpose and objectives, duties and responsibilities, etc. Director Areias, following up on Commissioner Hart's request for Committee information, stated that the Commission Assistant should investigate the origins of the Commission Committees (why were they established, how are they established, are the current committees appropriate and effective, etc.) and report the findings to the Commission at the next meeting.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMORIAL GROVES

The following resolutions to establish memorial groves as requested by the Save-the-Redwoods League were read by Commissioner Campbell: 24-00 to establish the Martha McCoid Bennett and Alston Lyon Bennett Grove in Portola Redwoods State Park; 25-00 to establish the Oscie Louise Davis Crosland Grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park; 26-00 to establish the Marc and Alice Davis Grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; 27-00 to establish

the Kenneth and Marjorie Dawdy Grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park; 28-00 to establish the Mabel Thacher Edwards Memorial Grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park; 29-00 to establish the Estes Grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; 30-00 to establish the Oliver Chapin Field Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park; 31-00 to establish the Fraser Grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; 32-00 to establish the Paul and Robert Gerstley Grove in Wilder Ranch State Park; 33-00 to establish the Goble Grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; 34-00 to establish the Roger P. Guinee Memorial Grove in Wilder Ranch State Park; 35-00 to establish the Guy and Edna Jacobson Family Grove in Navarro River Redwoods State Park; 36-00 to establish the Betty M. Jones Memorial Grove in Navarro River Redwoods State Park; 37-00 to establish the Leonard Larson Grove in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park; 38-00 to establish the McGrew Grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; 39-00 to establish the Parthenia O'Connor and Antonie J. Koenig Grove in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park; 40-00 to establish the Judith Metzger Riggs Grove in Navarro River Redwoods State Park; 41-00 to establish the Jan and Edith C. Wolff Grove in Sinkyone Wilderness State Park; 42-00 to establish the Frank L. Babbott, Jr. Grove in Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

THE HONORABLE BYRON SHER, STATE SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT

Director Areias introduced State Senator Byron Sher to the Commission. Senator Sher is the chair of the senate subcommittee that approves the budget for DPR. Later in the day, Senator Sher and Director Areias are scheduled to attend a press conference to announce the acquisition by the Sempervirens Fund of 1,340 acres of redwoods and rolling hills in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The property, located in the San Lorenzo River valley and known as Waterman Gap, was purchased by the Sempervirens Fund with the intent of transferring ownership of the land to state parks, ultimately for inclusion in Castle Rock State Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NO ACTION

No comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Hobbs adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rusty Areias
Secretary

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