



california state park rangers association

July 3, 1969

Notice to all Active California State Park Rangers Association members.

On June 28, 1969 the Directors of C.S.P.R.A. met in Sacramento to decide what training, equipment, and procedures were necessary in order to make a concrete recommendation to management for necessary police training.

There was one question of such importance that it was decided to put it to a vote of the membership to get the opinion of all field personnel. The question is in regard to rangers carrying firearms.

Please give this question your careful consideration. Here are opinions of your fellow rangers For and Against carrying firearms. Read them and then vote. Ballots are being sent only to Active C.S.P.R.A. Members. Only the official ballots returned to me will be counted. It is not necessary to sign them.

All ballots must be returned by July 18, 1969 at 5 p.m. at which time they will be counted and the vote certified by Glen Jones and Jack Rowe.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Shall State Park Rangers be authorized to carry firearms while on duty? YES _____ NO _____

Mark an "X" for your answer. Mail the ballot to:

California State Park Rangers Association, Box 151, Columbia, California, 95310.

VOTE YES To protect your fellow Ranger!

A yes vote on this ballot would mean that your C.S.P.R.A. Board of Directors would recommend to Director Mott that a few selected Rangers be authorized to carry firearms. The C.S.P.R.A. Board of Directors approved a proposed firearms policy at their June 28 meeting in Sacramento. The proposed firearms policy is quite restrictive as to who will carry a firearm and when he will carry it. Two hundred (200) hours P.O.S.T. approved law enforcement training is the minimum required training.

Rangers who don't want to carry firearms wouldn't have to, nor would the "Gun Happy" untrained Ranger be permitted to carry one, but the trained Park Peace Officer in our "hot spot" parks would be able to do proper enforcement in our parks without fear of not being able to defend himself in case of an EXTREME situation.

You may not be in a park that is now classified as a "hot spot", and you may not have the proper training, but think, what of the future? If you personally don't want to carry a firearm, don't jeopardize your fellow Rangers who may need one. VOTE YES.

R. L. Allen

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Supervisor Protective Services
Folsom Lake S.R.A.

THIS STATEMENT PRESENTS THE ARGUMENT AGAINST RANGERS BEING ARMED
WITH FIREARMS AT THIS TIME.

The Board of Directors of the California State Park Rangers Association at their most recent meeting recognized the enforcement needs of the field Rangers. They are aware of certain problem areas and as a result have already made recommendations for Management to provide the field Ranger with more protection.

This added protection would include the complete 200 hour Police Officer Standards Training program as soon as funds can be budgeted. They also recommended that adequate staffing be provided to insure the protection of our patrol Ranger and park visitor. All Directors concurred that radio equipment be provided at the earliest possible date. Properly equipped patrol vehicles were also recognized as one of the most urgently needed pieces of equipment. The Board will ask the Director to include Park Rangers in legislation that will allow them to carry Mace as one of the defensive tools. They also recommended that the Director allow Rangers, after proper training, to use other defensive weapons such as the night stick, handcuffs, saps, etc.

After the Ranger has received his training and has been provided with radios, properly equipped patrol vehicles, Mace and other defensive weapons, he should be able to cope with the enforcement problems of the State Park.

When a person is approached by any armed peace officer, he instinctively has a feeling of apprehension. This defensive attitude can destroy the traditional image of the Park Ranger as a friendly, outgoing individual. We must maintain the Ranger image which has been developed over the years and not allow it to be destroyed by the wearing of a sidearm.

Remember, although Rangers may be allowed to carry and use sidearms, there is no automatic guarantee that they will receive the protection and retirement benefits that some law enforcement groups now receive. Many law enforcement groups have been trying for years to obtain these benefits to no avail.

If some Rangers are armed and others are not, the lives of the unarmed Rangers may be placed in Jeopardy. The criminal who has once been contacted by an armed Ranger may assume that all Rangers are armed.

Does the wearing of a gun insure that a Ranger will better perform his duties? A SIDEARM IS MEANT FOR KILLING. THE ONLY TIME AN OFFICER MAY DRAW HIS SIDEARM IS WHEN HE IS LEGALLY JUSTIFIED IN KILLING.

The future of the field Ranger is at stake. For all of the above reasons, we URGE you to vote AGAINST Rangers being armed with firearms at this time.

Cliff Wade

Will Jaret

Address Correction Requested
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOC.
P.O. BOX 151
COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA 95310

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U.S. POSTAGE
1.4¢ PAID
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COLUMBIA, CALIF.

N. E. POWER	III
P. O. BOX 151	
COLUMBIA, CALIF	95310

Important ballot inside. Open immediately.