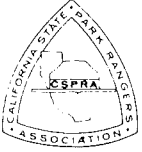


california state park rangers association

JUNE — JULY —
AUGUST, 1977



REPORTER

VOL. VI
NO. 30





PRESIDENT
Ron McCall

california state park rangers association

PRESIDENT:

Ron McCall, 758 Decatur Ave., Ventura, Ca. 93003

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Denzil Verardo, 1136 Denise Dr., Calistoga, Ca. 94515

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Doug Bryce, 8665 Florin Rd., No. 45, Sacto., Ca. 95820

MEMBERSHIP . . . ACTIVE: *current or retired, permanent or permanent intermittent employees of Department of Parks & Recreation of State Park Ranger or State Park Maintenance classes. ASSOCIATE:* *permanent or retired employees of the Department of Parks & Recreation in classes not eligible for active membership. SUPPORTING:* *any interested person not eligible for active or associate membership. HONORARY:* *distinguished person nominated by a member and approved by Board.*

President's Message ..

Senate Bill 79 has survived another hurdle on its way to enactment. It was recently passed through the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice. However, before passage, the Committee cut the sections on felony assault and battery on a park peace officer. The bill now provides the authority for park rangers to carry and use tear gas and the authority to close areas in time of major catastrophe.

OPPOSITION: DEPARTMENT, ACLU, PWA, PDA

As you know, the Department has opposed the assault and battery sections of SB79 from the beginning. The Department's representative, Ms. Keven Matessino, was joined by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Prisoner's Wives Association and the Public Defenders Association in speaking in opposition to the Bill. A statement made by Ms. Matessino in testimony before the committee indicates a need to provide her with more information about a ranger's duties. She testified that the only reason rangers were issued firearms was to

protect themselves from wild animals in the parks. I would hope that in the future a bit more research goes into the testimony of Departmental staff members before speaking to legislative bodies that are determining our future.

MONEY WELL SPENT!

The Board of Directors has authorized me to negotiate with Mr. Bob Meyer to work for us in the capacity of Legislative Advocate. Those negotiations are nearly complete and ready to present for the Board's final approval. The Board was unanimous in the belief that a person like Mr. Meyer could be extremely valuable to the Association in Sacramento to alert us to legislative action which effects our profession. I believe the money will be well spent.



BALLOT RESULTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Shall Article 4, Section 2 be amended to provide Active Membership to persons in the State Park Manager Series.

Yes 307

No 62

Shall Article 4, Section 2 be amended to provide Active Membership to persons in the State Park Technician Classification.

Yes 299

No 70

Ballot Return: 64%

NEWEST MEMBERS

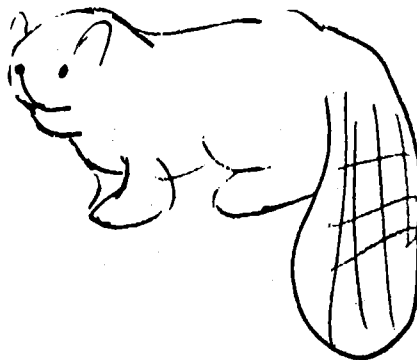
Michael Lunsford
Jerry Waggoner
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Dennis Hanson
Thomas Lindberg
Victoria Long
John Moore
Patrick Robards
Leon Lance
Lisa Thomas
Scott Cramolini
Charles Cherney

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES REPORT



EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the second in a series of reports on Calaveras County Water District's plans to develop water storage and hydroelectric power on the Stanislaus River. This large Sierra Nevada river drainage bisects a major State Park, and CSPRA's Environmental Issues Committee is concerned about possible detrimental effects caused by such development.



out altogether. SMUD chose not to invest in Calaveras County for the present. CCWD is now taking a new approach as of this writing.

BRIGHTER AT BIG TREES

When last I reported to you, the overall environmental situation at Calaveras Big Trees State Park appeared bleak. Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) was proposing to construct facilities on the Stanislaus above and below CBTSP including 3 dams, power transmission lines through the park, a 16 foot diameter tunnel under the park and a hydroelectric plant. CCWD at that time was looking to DOW Chemical Company and/or Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to buy water and power as well as put up the millions to finance the massive project.

CSPRA and EIC involvement came when President McCall, by Board action, wrote a letter to the SMUD Directors asking that they not enter into an agreement with the Calaveras County Water District. This reporter also offered oral and written testimony at a SMUD public hearing on whether or not to finance CCWD's project, and invited the SMUD Directors to Calaveras Big Trees State Park for a closer look at what was in jeopardy (several took me up on my offer.)

Matters have altered drastically since then. DOW Chemical pulled

The "new" proposal by Calaveras County Water District involves a modification of the "old" plan but with a new buyer - the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) serving such cities as Lodi and Roseville. The one outstanding feature of this new plan is that it omits any development in or near Calaveras Big Trees! It appears that they realize their original proposals would never pass close scrutiny by citizen environmental groups. I believe that pressure from CSPRA and its Environmental Issues Committee played some part in SMUD's decision to hold off with funds. We have, along with thunderous public support, had an impact in causing CCWD to reconsider tampering with the delicate natural balances in one of California's most unique State Parks.

In a discussion this morning with CCWD Manager, Steve Felte, I learned that the current proposal involves only two features; (1) expansion of existing Spicer Reservoir 25 miles above Calaveras Big Trees State Park and, (2) a single power plant well below. Considering what we faced before, this may be an

WHY WAIT 'TIL THE LAST MOMENT? We're after ads for our 1978 GEC program NOW! We hope ads will stream in from all over the state. Please send them to the address shown on the order form enclosed in this issue, no later than October 1, 1977.

The time to start is TODAY! Let's shoot for these minimum goals where Manager I Areas should try for 2 ads, Manager II Areas 4 ads and Manager III Areas going for 6 ads.

Remember, money for these ads help pay for our GEC.

Bill Krumbein, 1978 GEC Chairman
Denzil Verardo, Vice-Chairman



acceptable proposal. Specific effects are impossible to determine until CCWD and NCPA complete their negotiations so I may have a different story to tell when next I report on environmental issues at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Jeff Price
EIC, Region 3

Illustrations by Sean Stenman

Operations vs. Vertical Drop

COVER PHOTO: Brown's
Ravine at Folsom Lake
Photo by Steve Geissing

EDITOR'S NOTE: This year's drought is causing unique problems for our reservoir personnel. Following is Ranger Ron Angier's account of activities at Folsom Lake.

Article from News & Views
dated May 1977

"SAN LUIS RESERVOIR CONTINUES TO RISE—THREE FEET IN MARCH FOR A TOTAL OF 33 FEET IN THREE MONTHS. EAT YOUR HEART OUT, FOLSOM LAKE!"

Well we can't deny that we, at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, don't need more water at the lake but we've been too busy for envy. Top pool is 466 feet and at the time I'm writing this, the lake elevation stands at 376 feet; a ninety foot vertical drop. Within that 90 foot layer is approximately 67% of our water leaving us at 33% capacity as summer begins. The Bureau of Reclamation estimates that this 33% will shrink to 11% by the fall, leaving little more than two rivers meeting at the base of the dam.

Many of us felt that as Folsom's water line began to drop, so would the recreation and the work load. However, as the lake went down it changed the personality of the park, and covered a multitude of problems that we had never dealt with before. Our maintenance team faced an awesome amount of litter that had not been uncovered for 20 years or more, including a copy of a 20 year old local paper which had an article on the progress of Folsom Dam. Then the pump motor burned out at Peninsula Campground. From January 1 to May 20, the Folsom maintenance crew worked on one of the most difficult projects they have ever faced.

Peninsula's pump was inside a 14" casing submerged into the lake. It would have to be lengthened in order to deliver Peninsula's water through the coming draw down. Thanks to Four Rivers Area donating a water truck, Peninsula

received its critically needed water three days a week while the repair operations were in effect, a 56 mile round trip. After State Park Ranger Dive Team inspection of the lake bottom, the new casing was attached and submerged. It buckled 60 feet from shore. A realignment was necessary and a drag line was brought in to cut a channel through the rocky bottom. The dive team was sent down once again for inspection. Visibility, at times, was two to four inches at the 60 foot depth where little or no light penetrated and the diving team worked by rope or touch because they would lose each other any more than an arms length away. At a critical point as the casing was being laid, a barge operation (to hold the casing steady), the diving team (to see that it laid properly), and the maintenance crew (to put the casing in) were employed as one team to get the job done. And it was done well, with a special credit for the maintenance crew at Folsom Lake.

Without a moment's rest, the maintenance crew plunged into another problem; how to make the newly purchased portable launch ramps effective in areas of natural and uneven slope. To make matters more difficult the areas involved were composed of years of accumulated sediment, which once exposed, turned to a fine dry powder. Adapters or extension had to be built to lengthen some of the ramps to prevent vehicles from digging in as they tried to pull their boats out. On top of that, the receding water requires moving the ramp every two to three days.

Other problems were appearing to complicate matters as the water continued to recede. Old wells, mines and cellars began to show, presenting a hazard which has to be dealt with immediately.

A tremendous number of additional vehicle control signs had to be made. Vandalism began to increase due to reduced visitation. Surrounding all of the lake's problems came the threat of increased fire danger.

Along with Maintenance, Visitor Services was having its problems. Patrol access became difficult in the huge area bared by the receding waters. At the beginning of the year, the word was out - "You can run your ORV anyway, anywhere at Folsom Lake." Checkstations were opened early to disseminate park information to combat off-road vehicle misuse. Control points and signs had to be moved continually with the constant vandalism and receding water. ORV accidents began to increase and at one point, it was not unusual to lock in several stuck ORV's in the park day use area, each night. Hazards such as barb wire, stumps, glass and old equipment began to surface and pose a threat. Coupled to these problems was a change in recreational patterns. Lake Natoma began to pick up visitation while Folsom slowed down. New patrol patterns had to be developed and deployment of patrol personnel became more difficult as people and their problems became more dispersed and farther apart.

The situation that I have described would have been overwhelming if it had not been for two things: first, the hard work and extra initiative by Folsom's personnel in combating these problems and secondly, a park operation with experience behind it. By that, I am talking about well developed hazard elevation charts or the efficient seasonal buoy system or perhaps, most important, the general expertise that has been passed on from this unique operation's successive personnel. It is this type of operational commitment that has pulled Folsom Lake through some of its roughest times.



california state park rangers association

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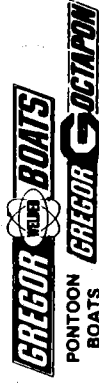
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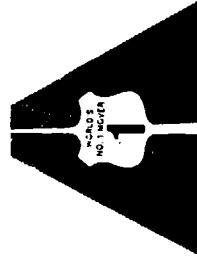


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Field Operations Task Force

CSPRA INPUT

By now you should all be aware of the composition and charge of the Field Operations Task Force. Following is CSPRA's input as composed by the Board and submitted by President McCall. — EDITOR

Dear Director Rhodes:

This letter is in response to the request presented by Mr. Van Horn relative to the Rangers Association's thoughts on the proposed task force to study the future of the field personnel of the State Park System.

We were asked to comment on two aspects of the task force, (1) The issues/goals that will be dealt with and, (2) the composition of the task force.

The Rangers Association believes that the task force should first look at the organization of the Operations Division and measure its effectiveness in dealing with the expanding State Park System. Because of the continual expansion of the system through acquisition and development, the present District concept may not be the most suitable for efficient management. The size and complexity of the Areas has reached a point where the District/Area structure may need a reevaluation.

With more emphasis being placed on urban parks and on recreation rather than resource preservation, we need to consider new and different controls on the visitors' activities, more restrictions in some cases, less in others.

The task force should analyze the maintenance series to develop a better means of advancing our most skilled people into those positions which require such skills.

One of the most pressing questions being asked by our members is what the role of the Ranger will

be in the future of the State Park System. The task force should look at the duties which must be performed within the park units and analyze the various means by which these tasks can be accomplished, i.e., specialization versus generalization. Minimum training standards should be developed in public safety and protection, management, and interpretation of the natural and cultural resources. The problem of park law enforcement must be confronted by the task force and the many unanswered questions finally resolved. These involve P.O.S.T. certification, weapons policies, enforcement philosophy and others.

The goal of the task force should be to formulate recommendations on the subjects covered and present them to you for consideration and action no later than July, 1978.

Our recommendation for the composition of the task force is as follows:

Three members from the Rangers Association

One lifeguard member, appointed by the Surf Lifesaving Association

Four members from the field at large

One member from the Director's Office

The Chief of Operations

The Chief of Resource Preservation and Interpretation

One member from the Human Resources Section, Mr. Al Ross

In addition, your legal staff should be available to keep the task force "in bounds".

This is a compilation of the thoughts expressed by our members. They are all vitally interested in the task force, the direction it takes, and the results of its efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into its organization.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. McCall
President

June Board Meeting Highlights

COMMUNICATIONS

Bill Haussler asking CSPRA to recognize the work of the Parks Ministry by a donation, (will be acted upon at September Meeting.)

Linda Leyva and Paula Morse asking for defensive tactics training for women Rangers. (Training is increasing tactics and range time for ALL.)

Wake Up America - Fitness Motivation Inst. asking to speak at GEC.

Continued on Page 7



FEATURED OPINION

DENZIL R. VERARDO
VICE-PRESIDENT, CSPRA

More On State Park Transfers

With the new push toward expanding the Redwood National Park (which I heartily endorse) we can look forward to a new push on an old subject (which I do not endorse): the transfer of state parks to the Federal Government. Jed Smith, Prairie Creek and Del Norte Redwoods are prime candidates for transfer to the National Park Service once acquisition of new lands for Redwood National Park is complete.

It is not that I object *per se* to transfer of state parks to another agency which will also protect them, it is the concept of state acquisition and development which results in a net loss of state parks that I object to. Both efficiency in acquisition and wise use of tax dollars could be achieved if the National Park Service and Department of Parks and Recreation heads would meet and discuss long range plans for California lands suitable for parks.

This would also avoid the increased tax burden on Californians for land whose tax acquisition base should have been nationwide. The net operating expense to an agency like National Park Service versus the operating expense to an agency like the Department of Parks and Recreation must be looked at also. It is well known that the Redwood National Park operations expense when compared with the state is very high. It might be shrewd for the Department of Parks and Recreation to operate all redwood areas and let the Federal Government purchase the land rather than vice versa. Finally, what in California is not of National significance?! Theoretically, the trend toward transfer could go on indefinitely since not only the redwoods but the coastline, urban areas, deserts, etc., all could be classed as Nationally significant. A look at some past, present and future transfer trends offers a clue as

to what we can expect in the future.

Grizzly Valley Reservoir, Heart Bar and Frenchman Reservoir were transferred to the U.S. Forest Service; Marin Headlands S.P., Stinson State Beach, Muir Beach and S.F. Maritime S.H.P. were transferred to the National Park Service; the National Park Service has plans for a possible Tahoe National Recreation Area, Pendleton National Recreation Area, Mohave Desert National Park and, of course, Redwood National Park which would include several state parks.

The only way to avoid duplicate planning efforts, wasted tax dollars, and a weakening of the State Park System is for a farsighted planning effort by all concerned parties.



Mailbox

The following letter is most representative of the flood of feedback Denzil Verardo received in reaction to his "Featured Opinion" article which appeared in the last Reporter.

Dear Denzil,

I want to thank you for your Featured Opinion article in the recent Reporter concerning park ranger duties. I couldn't have written it better. Your article expressed my exact feelings.

I have been a ranger for four years with assignments in the Marin, Big Sur, and Monterey Areas. I am a ranger because I thoroughly enjoy the wide range of duties and responsibilities. My favorite aspect of the job is interpretation. However, I like having the necessary authority to enforce park regulations when necessary. Without this authority, we would be unable to adequately protect the resource, once the resource is decimated, our whole purpose has been eliminated.

I have given numerous campfire programs and nature walks, written a couple of hundred citations, and made several bookings. This is all part of our job.

Interpretation and enforcement are interdependent, with quality interpretation, violations will decrease. With firm, consistent enforcement of park regulations, the resource will be protected. This protected resource will lend itself to interpretation much better than one that is virtually non-existent due to repeated violations.

I thoroughly enjoy the challenge and diversity of my job. If one of my job functions were eliminated, it would adversely affect my ability to protect the resource. Without the resource, we wouldn't

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be here.

Therefore, I strongly oppose any plan for reorganization of our job functions into specialized classes, i.e., Interpreters, Police, Administrators, etc.

I urge CSPRA to take up that fight against reorganization. Keep up the good work Denzil!

Sincerely,
Paul Larson

DID YOU HEAR?

The litter reducing - energy saving "bottle bill" legislation of Senator Omer Rains (SB 4) was rejected 5-7 by the Senate Finance Committee.

BOARD ACTION

(Continued from page . . . 5)

INTERPRETIVE NEEDS

Approved \$150 to purchase sound equipment for Grizzly Creek campground.

Approved \$450 for purchase of "At the Crossroads" film to be circulated to field. This film is available upon request.

Interpretive Manual will be loose leaf and hard cover for sale. CSPRA committed up to \$800 to expedite publishing. (Updated completion date approximately September 15, 1977.)

ASSOCIATION GOALS

The Board needs to get current goals lined out! Are we too social or employee organization oriented? Should we increase regions and membership classes to include life-guards and clerical workers. The Board has to make the decision and lead the way and will discuss in September.

CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

- No increase in use fees before January 1978. The whole fee structure will be reviewed and studied before any changes are made.
- Hearst Castle Security Guard position is only for the Castle and not intended to add another classification statewide.
- Redwood National Park. Probably some land exchange will be involved or a long term agreement. The Department has not finalized its position as yet. It is logical to believe the transfer will come about. Save the Redwood League does not approve of the piecemeal approach, but they are willing to cooperate and go ahead with the transfer to NPS if the Government completely protects the redwoods.

RANGER'S VIEW: Protection

Peace Officer Legislation Amended

DEPT.'S VIEW: Guns
Only to Shoot Animals

S.B. 79 was heard in the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee on June 13th. The felony assault section was amended out of the bill. The section dealing with mace and emergency closing of an area, passed out of the committee to the full Assembly where it will be heard after that body reconvenes in August.

The felony assault section appeared to have been amended out for two reasons. The first of these being the Committee's general philosophy on Peace Officer/enforcement issues. As indicated in the staff analysis, "There has been no evidence that higher penalties for these offenses have provided any protection to the officers currently covered. However, there is evidence that these sections are often misused to charge intoxicated persons

and belligerent arrestees with felony offenses for the purpose of plea bargaining later." The second reason for the failure of the felony assault section was the "Department" opposition to the assault section of the bill. A Department representative indicated that Rangers had only been issued guns to shoot wild animals, that this was a step toward safety retirement, that the statistics did not show a problem, and that the current assault sections were adequate.

As the CSPRA representative I made an initial statement and answered questions. Support for the bill was also made by a Forestry Association representative. Opposition speakers included the ACLU, the Public Defenders Association and a woman who related a personal dog enforcement incident.

All the opposition speakers, except the Department, appeared to be attending the committee meeting for another bill on prisoners, which was scheduled to be heard the same day.

Now is the time to write your Assembly member and indicate that you support not only the bill in its present form, but also in the Senate passed form, which includes the felony assault sections. Make your letter short and to the point. Use your own personal examples or the general view (SPPO are first line general Peace Officers) as the reasons for support.

Mike Lynch, Director
Region III

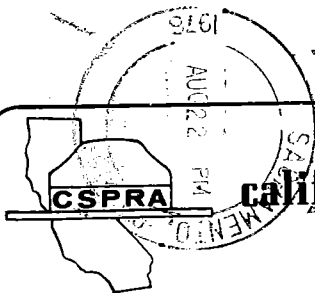


EVENTS

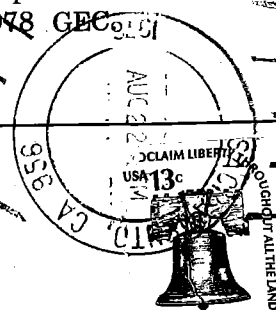
CALENDAR

September 17 - Board of Director's Meeting in Sacramento. Specific location to be announced.

December ? - The Board of Directors' will convene in Santa Rosa so they may inspect the facilities for the 1978 GEC.



california state park rangers association



First Class

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