

# NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK  
RANGERS ASSOCIATION

January, 1986

## STATE PARKS UNDERSTAFFED

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Worker shortages and belt-tightening measures threaten much of California's 1.2 million acres of parkland. Leaving "skeleton crews" to crack down on crime, control packed campgrounds and clean up litter left by droves of visitors, legislators were told by Park Rangers and environmentalists yesterday (12/5/85).

In some parks, staff shortages have become so serious that Rangers can no longer patrol campgrounds during early morning hours when most car break-ins, assaults and robberies occur, according to Rick Parmer, speaking for the 550-member State Park Rangers Association.

And at one State Park, the 12,700 acre San Luis Reservoir near San Jose, Rangers dispatched on water rescue missions have no backups to assist the rescue from shore, he said.

"Urgent legislation is needed to arrest the decline in the State Parks," Parmer said. "Without it, our parks will be undermined."

However, Parks Director William Briner disputed statements that parks are suffering greatly from lack of staff. He said the Department is drafting creative ways to farm out work, including a proposal to contract with outside firms on surveying jobs.

"You can always do more with more people and funds," he told the legislators. "The question is: Are

we shortchanging our field staff to the point that resources are jeopardized? The answer is no."

Testimony from Parmer, Briner and others came during an all-day session called by a legislative committee charged with overseeing State Parks. The committee's Jeff Hunt said legislators scheduled the session after a series of articles by The Tribune and an auditor general's report detailed problems in the State's 267 parks.

Lawmakers plan another follow-up meeting in January to look at ways of streamlining the Parks Department, including Briner's proposal to hire outside firms and several calls for major staff increases.

A January auditor general's report criticized the Parks Department for having a 55-year backlog in the writing of general plans, lengthy volumes that summarize a Park's features and recommended land use. The plans are required by law before any park can be developed.

Not all of the problems cited at yesterday's session dealt with money and staff shortages.

Dr. Robert Mark, a Sierra Club spokesman warned legislators that redwoods 2,000 years old will soon fall under the logger's axe unless the state moves to buy land near the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park in Northern California. Last summer, Gov. Deukmejian vetoed funds set aside to buy the virgin



## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 11, 1985

The Park and Recreation Commission met October 11, in Los Angeles. Mike Whitehead represented CSPRA.

Director Briner discussed the POP-INTO-A-PARK program, commenting that it has been received with great enthusiasm by school teachers and children and appears to be a success "from the outstanding reports received." Briner also called attention to another promotional idea of the California State Parks calendars for 1986. The calendars show pictures of State Parks as well as activities within State Parks. The calendars are presently on sale for \$5.00.

On another matter Briner said that the Department is doing well in meeting its affirmative action goals. A statistical ethnic breakdown will be made available (to the commission).

### Sinkyone Wilderness

Richard Gienger who represents the Sinkyone Council announced that a lawsuit was won in the Court of Appeal against Georgia-Pacific Corporation to stop logging in the old-growth Redwood Sally Bell Grove. Mr. Gienger asked for support from the Commission and Department to protect the 7,000 acres of Sinkyone wilderness now owned by Georgia-Pacific.

Director Briner responded that the Department and Commission wish to acquire this land but the money is not available at this time. Georgia-Pacific has withdrawn its offer to sell.

### Baldwin Hills SRA General Plan Amendment

There was much discussion on the amendments. Private speakers and those representing local property owners spoke against allowing camping in the "Ridge" area. However, several speakers were in favor of allowing camping, hoping it would offer an opportunity for people to experience a camping trip in an area where campgrounds are limited.

The Commission voted to adopt the Baldwin Hills SRA General Plan Amendment as modified. The amendment will allow groups to camp for a two year period, after which the Director will meet with a representative from the County of Los Angeles at a public hearing to recommend to continue or change this use. Part of the amendment restricts the use of "amplified sound" and open fires.

### Castiac Lake SRA General Plan Amendment

After hearing several speakers the Commission voted to approve the Cas-

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redwood groves from Georgia-Pacific lumber company.

Mark, Chairman of the clubs parks committee, said the new Henry Coe State Park near San Jose is plagued by poachers, urban development and grazing cattle that wander on to the park's borders.

But Mark also urged the Legislature to push the administration for more workers.

"There are not enough biologists, ecologists, geologists and archeologists within the Department to protect the resources," he said.

Citing a list of overdue projects, Parmer told legislators of the need for a new drainage system at San Elijo State Beach in San Diego one of the busiest campgrounds and day use areas in the state.

Fifteen campsites were flooded by rainfall because of a poor drainage system at the campground, he said. Parmer said money has been needed for at least 10 years to fix the system.

Several conservation groups vowed during the meeting to push the Legislature and Deukmejian to increase park staffs, both in the field and in the Department's Sacramento headquarters.

Gerry Meral, Director of the Planning and Conservation League, Mike Lynch and Brian Dressler of the State Park Peace Officers Association, and Chris Voight, of the California Association of Professional Scientists all urged the Legislators to back larger staffs.

Parmer said the number of perman-

ent jobs in the Park's Department has fallen 13 percent over the last 10 years. By contrast, attendance at the parks has increased 37 percent and acreage is up 32 percent.

"We recognize the need for state government to maintain a lean, efficient work force, but the Department of Parks and Recreation is beginning to look more like a skeleton crew," he said.

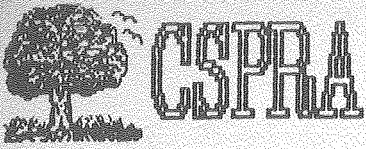
Parmer, citing several examples, said Anza Borrego Desert State Park now attracts nearly one million visitors per year to its 600,000 acres - half the total land in the State Park System.

Yet, the park employs only two journey-level maintenance workers to repair and maintain two campgrounds, 12 restroom facilities, a \$1 million visitor center, 13 state residences, a district office and two water wells. Each Ranger covers 60,000 acres of land.

"This past holiday weekend major new evidence of off-road vehicle damage was reported to sensitive desert plants," he said.

Despite the repeated calls for more workers, legislators said there was little hope of seeing major increases in staffing. Jim Costa chairman of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, said any attempts by the Legislature to add employees would probably be vetoed by Deukmejian.

Editor's note: Should you be facing similar problems with staffing please contact your CSPRA Rep. The more facts we have, the more effective we will be with this.



## CSPRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

One of the goals of the California State Park Rangers Association is to encourage continued training and education in topics that will further the aim of the State Park System. To accomplish this goal, a scholarship has been set up through the Education and Training Committee so that tuition, books and or partial travel costs can be given to qualified CSPRA members.

The current Chair for the Education and Training Committee is Fred Jee of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. It will be his responsibility to screen all requests for funding. Once CSPRA criteria for scholarships have been met, he will send approval for grants to Treasurer, Ken Gray.

The criteria for all education and training requests are:

1. Person requesting funds must be a CSPRA member.
2. Person has sent in a Training Request through normal DPR channels (DPR 392). If their request has been denied because of lack of funds or not falling in DPR guidelines, the candidate may send a request for funding to the Chair of the CSPRA Education and Training Committee.
3. Partial funding by DPR and partial funding by CSPRA may also be considered as long as a DPR 392 has been sent to Training Section in Sacramento.
4. The criteria for approval of Training and Education funds are:
  - a. The training or education will be a benefit to your park.
  - b. The training or education will be a benefit to the Park System.
  - c. The training or education will be a benefit to your professional career.

If the candidate meets the criteria, funds may be approved up to \$200 by the Chair. This money can be used to cover tuition, books, registration fees, materials, and or travel expenses. The limit on funding is \$200 per person per year.

A final requirement of CSPRA funding for training is that the member write an article about his/her training to the Newsletter. All articles to be submitted to the editor. Any questions about the program may be sent to Fred Jee, P.O. Box 483, Borrego Springs, 619-767-3674.



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taic Lake State Recreation area General Plan Amendment with the provision to return to the Commission before the bidding process on the Water Park.

#### Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors' Revenue-Producing Programs

Victor Adorian the Director of Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors presented a marketing program to produce revenue for the County and to increase the quality of service on the State Beaches. He requested the Commission's support to modify some policies which would exempt the County regarding attractions within themselves, donor recognition, and advertising in State Park Units. He also requested support in changing the Public Resources Code on concession requirements, and exempting the County from the General Plan process or to support State funding for General Plan development.

The Commission voted not to support legislation that would exempt any entity from the General Plan process as mandated by State Laws. The Commission also voted to not exempt any entity from concession approval under the requirements of the Public Resources Code.

Editor's note: The above material was taken from the minutes of the October California State Park and Recreation Commission Meeting. A reminder that these meetings are open to the public and members are encouraged to attend, contact your representatives for information on the next meetings, or look for announcements in the NEWSLETTER.

-----clip and mail-----  
Education and Training Committee Scholarship Request Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

CSPRA member? \_\_\_\_\_ When did you send your DPR 392 in? \_\_\_\_\_

Description of training \_\_\_\_\_

How will it be of value to you? \_\_\_\_\_

To the profession? \_\_\_\_\_

Tuition \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Materials \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Travel \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How much will the Department pay? \_\_\_\_\_

Attach your returned DPR 392 and course announcement and mail to Fred Jee, Chairperson ETC, P.O. Box 483, Borrego Springs CA 92004



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Commission Bills

by John Mott

You may have heard about SB 533 and SB 534 relating to the California Park and Recreation Commission. CSPRA was the main group urging Senator Walter E. Stiern (D-Bakersfield) to sponsor these bills. Since March, SB 533 (establishing more specific minimum qualifications for State Park and Recreation Commissioners) has died in Committee. Although SB 534 (which creates independent staff for the commission) passed committee, CSPRA and Senator Stiern have decided to place the bill "on hold" pending more legislative support and greater acceptance of the bill by the commission.

Background: SB 533 - Sponsored by CSPRA and supported by the Planning and Conservation League and other groups, would have mandated that appointees be "exceptionally well qualified" prior to their four year appointments to the nine member commission. Currently commission appointees need only have "an interest in park, recreation and conservation issues" to be appointed. SB 533 would have mandated four of the nine commissioners have specific types of expertise or backgrounds relevant to DPR and the Commission's policy making role.

SB 533 was inspired by appointees of then Governor Jerry Brown with marginal interest in and or virtually no background in DPR issues, trends, philosophies or mission. CSPRA representatives worked closely with Senator Stern, various environmental groups and past commissioners in developing SB 533. Unfortunately the bill died in committee on a tie vote

(3-3). DPR opposed 533.

SB 534 - Also sponsored by CSPRA would have given the State Park and Recreation Commission its own staff, independent of the Director's office.

Despite an "opposed" position by DPR, the bill passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee on a close 4-3 vote. The Committee seemed most impressed by testimony from Senator Stiern and CSPRA representative John Mott that the State Park and Recreation Commission is unlike most state commissions in that our commission is totally dependent on existing DPR employees for all staff research and support and does not have independent officers or staff. Most California Department commissions (for example Fish & Game, Board of Forestry, Water Resources, Mines & Geology, etc.) have their own independent executive officers and staff. Despite passing the first committee hearing, full Senate passage appears unlikely at present. Therefore the bill has been placed on "hold" and will probably not be reconsidered.

### TRAINING TAX DEDUCTION

The United States Treasury Regulation number 1,162-5 permits an income tax deduction for education expenses undertaken to maintain or improve skills required in your employment, trade or business.

This includes registration fees and cost of travel, meals and lodging.



## "DARK SIDE OF THE FOREST"

Early in 1985 the NEWSLETTER published a letter from SPR I Carl Burger at Portola State Park, in an attempt to generate membership interest in a cassette tape of some of Carl's songs. Carl wishes to thank CSPRA members for their encouragement, and announces that the tape, "Dark Side of the Forest" is ready for sale. The \$5.00 price includes tax and shipping. Proceeds will go to CSPRA.

The program is approximately eighteen irreverent minutes long, and consists of:

- \* Still DPR to Me
- \* Don't Touch That Chipmunk
- \* Peripheral Canal
- \* Standing Modified
- \* One Tree at a Time
- \* Mr. Ranger
- \* Warhead

As promised, the tape is multi-track, and of rather marginal technical quality (lo-fi) but clear enough to get Carl in lots of trouble... Shipments have begun to those who sent checks with their initial responses... No credit given for box tops! Make checks out to:

Carl Burger, Portola State Park, Route 2, La Honda, CA 94020

## RETURN OF THE FIRST (unofficial) STATE PARK BELT BUCKLE

This is the same handsome buckle many purchased in 1978 for the State Park System's 50th anniversary. The only difference is that this new production doesn't have the commemorative information on the back and the corners are more rounded. NOW, this very popular buckle can be yours for only \$15.00 plus tax and shipping. To order yours today fill in the order blank below and send to: Miles Standish/Don Munson at 15000 Skyline Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95030. This production run is limited so order soon!

-----clip and mail-----

Name _____	# _____	@ \$15.00 = _____
Address _____		Tax @ \$.98 = _____
City _____		Shipping \$1.50 ea. = _____
State & Zip _____		Total = _____

Editor's note: I recently received one of these buckles - they look very nice! Would make a nice gift.



# EDITOR'S PAGE

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"One of the greatest threats is that there's always someone with dollar signs in his eyes...That's not what parks are all about. The integrity of parks is something we owe to people who are going to come later."

Jim Whitehead

"Do all the good to my neighbor and myself that I can and do as little harm as I can help and trust in gods mercy for the rest."

Daniel Boone

"Of the many advantages...one of the greatest is the gaining a real knowledge of animals as fellow-mortals, learning to respect them and love them, and even to win some of their love."

John Muir

"...a diminishing habitat raises a flag of warning for the future."

John Madson

"I suppose if I had only an hour to spend at Yosemite, I'd just walk over there by the river and sit down and cry."

Dr. Carl Sharsmith

"I stop work...and think how insignificant I am in this wilderness. But then I realize that I do have a place and a significance in it. If people were not here, would these mountains and waterfalls be really here? It is the experiencing of our world that truly makes reality. ..."

Annie Barrett

"Where can you find a better place than this? This is God's country. I feel better here than anywhere else."

Ray Miller

"And the essence of all humankind is in wildness. From whence we came, anon we will return - our human society's earliest history stems from the very core of nature. So tread lightly as not to damage the present and ruin the future."

ed.



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membership.

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street: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_

zip: \_\_\_\_\_

clip and mail to Doug  
Bryce, CSPRA P.O. Box  
28366, Sacramento CA  
95828

SALE ITEMS

PIG .....\$18.00

Decals-3" .....\$ 1.00

Decals-1.5" .....\$ .75

Lapel Pin .....\$ 2.50

Tie Tac .....\$ 3.00

Patch .....\$ 3.00

Trivia .....\$ 2.00

order from Doug Bryce  
P.O. Box 28366  
Sacramento CA 95828



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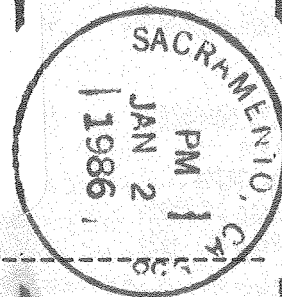
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