

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

VOLUME VI NUMBER 6

March 1989

CSPRA CELEBRATES 25th BIRTHDAY

At its annual conference in Palm Springs, March 7 - 10, 1989 CSPRA celebrated 25 years of service to its membership, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the people of the State of California. Highlights of the conference include:

*Seventeen Charter Members were honored at the banquet.

*The Park Rangers Association of California presented the California State Park Rangers Association with a cake honoring their 25 years of service.

*Chief Deputy Director, Jack Harrison, won the tennis tournament.

*Jackie Ball won the women's golf tournament.

*Joe Engbeck won the men's golf tournament.

*Tours of the Desert Museum, Indian Canyons, and the Living Desert Reserve were both educational and enjoyable.

*Educational sessions included panel discussions and presentations on: Park Development; Problems Faced by Cooperating Associations; the Homeless and Parks; (Continued on page 4)

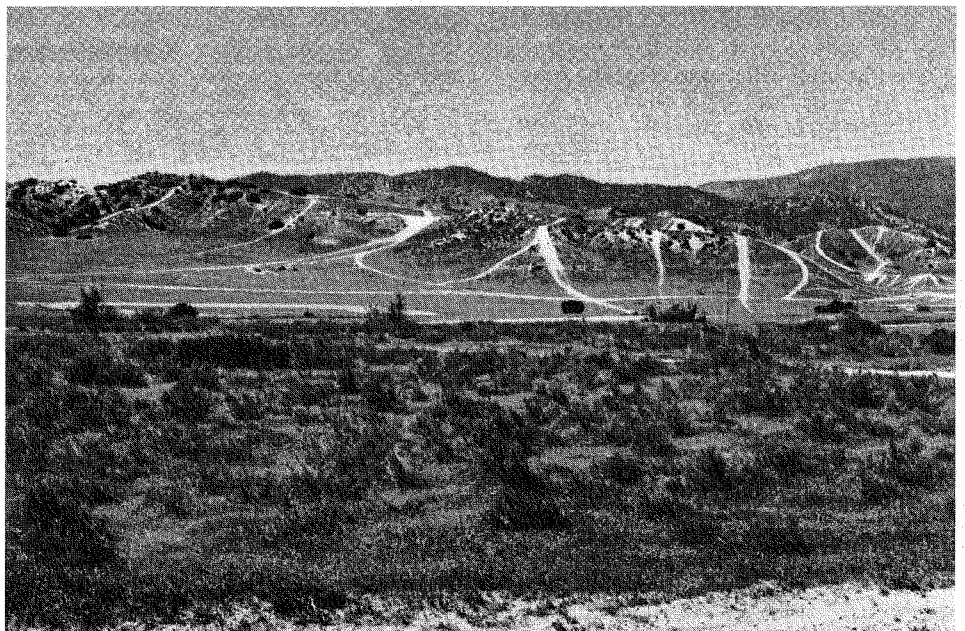
HUNGRY VALLEY SVRA

The Best Kept Secret Not In The State Park System
by Kate Foley

A Personal View

When I started work as Chief Ranger of the Hungry Valley District in December of 1985, I was aware that my new District was not considered one of the great "plums" of the Department. Not that it had a bad reputation--far from it: I had heard that the staff was good; that Dennis Doberneck was a good Superintendent to work for; and I knew and liked the Maintenance Chief, Jerry Lawrence, from a class at Asilomar. My husband, one of the last fanatic motorcycle riders, was thrilled to be going to a place where he could ride in all kinds of terrain from 3000 to 5000 feet (and beyond, if you count the connecting U S Forest Service OHV trails), and went right out and bought himself a new Husky to put in the garage. There had been a fair amount of competition for the job, but that was probably because there just aren't many Ranger III jobs available (ever!)--people in those days weren't necessarily falling all over themselves to get into the OHV Division, then considered the stepchild of the DPR. Well, hang on to your hats, folks, because I'm here to tell you that **Hungry Valley is The Best Assignment I've Ever Had!**

1. It's a beautiful place, with some gorgeous backcountry. Everybody (Continued on page 3)



Hungry Valley

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STATE PARK RANGERS
ASSOCIATION**

A professional association.

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(Vacant)
* * * *

For additional information on the association, write the Executive Manager.

Luxury Lodge vs. Campground

Plans for San Mateo Park Debated

*By John Wildermuth
Chronicle Peninsula Bureau*

A plan to build an exclusive health and fitness resort on an untouched stretch of San Mateo County coast has turned traditional environmental allies into adversaries.

The proposal calls for a 98-room lodge and 240-space luxury campground on the old Cascade Ranch, a former dairy farm on Highway 1 with sweeping views of the ocean.

The plan was intended to end more than seven years of fighting over the future of the property, but it has not worked out that way.

The private Trust for Public Lands bought the ranch in 1985 to save it from being turned into an expensive housing subdivision. Under the land deal, some of the property had to be developed to bolster the county's tax base.

A lodge and campground development "seemed like a good compromise at the time and still looks like the best possible development today," said Nelson Lee of the Trust for Public Lands.

Too Exclusive

But several environmental groups usually in agreement with the trust are fuming. They say a high-priced lodge would effectively keep out most of the people who want to visit that part of the coast, near the Ano Nuevo Marine Reserve, almost midway between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz.

Plans for the \$18 million lodge call for a dining room, two swimming pools, gymnasiums, spas, indoor sport courts and up to five tennis courts. A basic room at the lodge would go for about \$240 a night for an overnight guest, while people wanting meals and the fitness curriculum will pay more.

Georgia Perkins of the Sierra Club said the proposed development "doesn't serve the coast, the state park or the general populace visiting the coast."

'Conspiracy'

A letter from the San Gregorio Environmental Resource Center added that the agreement between the San Francisco-based land trust, the state Coastal Conservancy and



lodge developer Paul Gould is "so self-serving and prejudiced that it may well represent a conspiracy to defraud the public."

The county Planning Commission has approved the project's environmental impact report, but appeals from groups opposed to the development will send the question to the Board of Supervisors later this month for a final decision. If the supervisors support the plan, opponents have suggested they will sue.

All of this has been bad news for Gould, a Connecticut developer.

Gould's wife and co-owner, Denise Medved, describes the planned lodge as "an extension of our lifestyle, through which we could do something profitable, but give something back to people by making them aware of things like nutrition and stress management."

The 98-room lodge will be modeled on the well-known Canyon Ranch fitness resort outside Tucson, Ariz., and will offer counselors who could help guests reach personal fitness goals on an individual basis, according to Gould and Medved. "We want to utilize the peace and serenity of the surroundings to help visitors improve themselves in mind, body and spirit," Medved said.

No Profit in Campgrounds

The original plan for the site, which was favored by environmental groups, was to put a large campground on the 480-acre parcel Gould

now owns. But the Trust for Public Lands could not find a private developer willing to build one.

"There's not a lot of profit in campgrounds," said Lee. "We needed to combine the campground with a lodge to make it more attractive."

Gould's development plan calls for a \$3 million campground with areas for recreational vehicles and tent campers, as well as some cabins and hostel-type rooms. Although Gould has called the campground an integral part of his plan, local residents believe his real interest is the more profitable lodge.

Gould has promised to build at least a basic, 50-space campground before the lodge is built, but that does not satisfy those who feel that a full-size campground is the only justification for the development.

Waste of Public Money

"Unless there are legal guarantees that the campground be built and maintained, there is nothing in this deal for the taxpayers," said George Cattermole of the San Gregorio Environmental Resource Center. "We taxpayers paid \$5,773,938 for the state-owned land, but without a hotel or campground, how can we enjoy it?"

The \$5.77 million is what the state paid the Trust for Public Lands in 1985 for 2,900 acres it used to form Cascade Ranch State Park. The landmark deal also provided 644 acres for the state Coastal Conservancy to resell for agricultural use and reserved 480 acres for commercial development. Gould purchased that land for \$2.1 million.

The compromise was designed to end years of uncertainty over the Cascade Ranch, the site of the Portola expedition's first meeting with the coastal Ohlone Indians in 1789.

In 1983, San Mateo County had approved a plan to build 32 luxury homes on the ranch. An effort to have the state buy the entire ranch for a park was vetoed by Governor Deukmejian after complaints that too much county land was being taken off the tax rolls for park use.

Gould's plans call for construction to begin next May, with the campground opening in the summer of 1990 and the lodge three months later.

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HUNGRY VALLEY

(Continued from page 1)

thinks the OHV parks are thrashed, right? Well, we have our heavily used areas, its true, but the interior of the SVRA is classic high desert, with pinon-juniper woodland, sandstone cliffs, and some fascinating geological formations. There is a gratifying quantity and variety of wildlife, and the views out over the Transverse Ranges from the higher elevations defy one to believe that LA and all its millions are only 70 miles away--they are spectacular.

2. It has an absolutely **Great Staff!** I can't go into detail about **Everybody**, because there isn't space, but I have to say that the Visitor Services Staff here is outstanding. Without exception, they are enthusiastic, capable, bright, and fun to be around. This place has the most incredible **Institutionalized** sense of humor of any place I've ever been. If you can't have fun with this group, you are a sour puss indeed. These fine qualities are certainly not limited to Visitor Services, either--overall, for all the services, this is one of the best groups of people I've ever worked with. I look forward to coming to work every day here.

3. The variety of things to do here keeps the adventure moving right along. The fact that Hungry Valley has land in three counties, borders Interstate 5 on one side and two National Forests (Angeles and Los Padres) on the others, and sits at the convergence of a number of earthquake faults and geomorphic provinces means that the Rangers here get involved with everything from technical rescues on the forest to helping the CHP with medical care for accident victims on the freeway. We have excellent relations with the nine other agencies we work with, and the cross fertili-



HUNGRY VALLEY

zation makes everybody's job more interesting.

4. We are one hour's drive from three major cities (Bakersfield, Lancaster, and Valencia/Newhall), a little over one hour's drive from Los Angeles, and right next to a sportsman's paradise--the Mt. Pinos, Lockwood Valley area. Whatever you like to do with your spare time, you can do it here: hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, you name it (I won't even mention OHV recreation...). Housing in the area isn't too expensive either. Of course, you **do** have to live on top of or right next to a Fault (and all the faults here come with a capital F: the San Andreas, the Garlock, the Frazier Mountain Thrust, and the San Gabriel).

5. The OHMVR Division definitely has its advantages. Because it is small, one's chances of attending any given type of training are good. The Division must have its share of D. T. Instructors, Firearms Instructors, etc.--and there are a lot fewer names on the waiting list. In addition, personnel auto-

matically get training not routinely given to other DPR employees. All Rangers are sent through the CHP's 40-hour Traffic Collision Investigation course, for example, and all permanent Hungry Valley employees are sent to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's 16-hour 4WD Vehicle Operations class in Azusa.

6. The OHMVR Division is, believe it or not, in many ways in the forefront of resource management programs in the DPR. We have to be! Because we deal with a form of recreation which has a definite impact on the environment, we are constantly working out new (and old) ways to manage that impact. For example, Hungry Valley is now working with two Division Resource Ecologists and San Diego State University on a computerized Geographic Information System for the park. We are also developing a resource maintenance program, and have been involved for years in the special management of 4200 acres of native grasslands, which were set aside at the inception of the SVRA (Continued on page 4)

HUNGRY VALLEY

(Continued from page 3)

because of the unique species associations there.

Field staff here have had a more direct input into major management decisions than in any other District I've worked in. Again, it has to be that way! It's the Rangers out on the bikes, the equipment operators trying to maintain the trails, etc., etc., who have the best ideas of what the users want and what they are doing in all the obscure corners of our 20,000 acres. Their input is crucial for the success of our programs, and management knows it.

Now that I've sold all of you on the virtues of Hungry Valley, I'm sorry to report that we don't have any openings at the present time. You are welcome to stop by and look us over, though, and I guarantee you'll be pleased and surprised at what you've been missing all these years. 🍎

CSPRA BIRTHDAY

(Continued from page 1)

Mountain Bikes; the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail; Marketing and Merchandising for Visitor Centers; Sign Language; and three technical papers.

*Banquet speaker Frank Bogert spoke on the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

*Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Ride and Spaghetti Dinner.

*Palm Springs and the Racquet Club combined to provide the best weather and atmosphere we have ever had at a conference.

*Wayne Guthrie hosted the Welcome Party which really got the conference off to a good start. 🍎

SAVE BODIE! UPDATE

Word about CSPRA's efforts is getting out and letters are beginning to come in from all over the state. Many ask for more information; others send copies of letters they've already sent to various public officials and to Galactic. One young girl wrote: "I am a fourth grader. I like the way you have organized a group that will try to save Bodie. I have been to Bodie myself. I found many interesting things and I would like to keep it that way, so that I could visit there again or many other people could see what is left of the ghost town. I hope you can think of another way to get the gold out without blasting the whole thing to bits." Well, Erica, we hope so too. Better yet, leave it be!

Along with the letters, we've started to get some donations. Thank you to the following people for their generous contributions:

Bruno Pozzi Jim Peat
Ed Dolder Joe McCall
Kirk & Mary Sturm
George Cook

Donations should be sent to SAVE BODIE! P. O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828. Please make checks payable to CSPRA or, for tax deductible donations we can now accept checks made out to: PCL Foundation-Bodie Fund.

If you want to get involved, Donna Pozzi can be reached at (916) 443-3359 - home or (916) 322-9587 - work. Write: 300 23rd Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 🍎

LETTERS

Dear CSPRA Friends and Colleagues,

This was the first time in eight years I missed the CSPRA confer-

ence and I heard from John Mott it was truly "inspirational"! I sure won't miss next year!

This has been both an exciting and difficult month for me career-wise.

The reason I was unable to attend the conference is that I have left State Parks to take a position with Fish and Game as an Interpreter III in the new California Wildlands Program. It feels similar to leaving your family after high school and going off to college. You know you can come back to visit but somehow you know it just won't feel the same.

I do intend to keep active in CSPRA because it remains my most important "professional" family. Perhaps my new "outsider" perspective can even be of benefit at times.

Thank you all for your support over the past nine years. I look forward to keeping in touch. You can reach me at the Region III headquarters in Yountville at (707) 944-5500. My home address at 421 Keokuk Street, Petaluma, 94952, remains the same.

Warmest Regards,
Rick Parmer
Junior Past President

Editor,

About your one paragraph regarding Las Cruces. What ever happened to the Department's flag waiving and CSPRA's for that matter. I wonder how much money the Department received for dropping their opposition to the gas pipe line. I grew up in the area. It hurts to see what's happened. There were no victories at Gaviota.

Brian Dressler
Mendocino

Certificate of Recognition

Presented to: CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

In honor of:

The celebration of twenty-five years of professional service to the State Park System. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success.



SEAL OF THE SENATE

SENATOR

Richard S. Corbett

34th

SENATE DISTRICT

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

March 1989

GENERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Approved 1989-90 budget as printed in last month's NEWS-LETTER.

Reports on the status of SAVE BODIE!, Las Cruces School site, and use of Green Sticker vehicles at Anza-Borrego Desert SP.

Passed a motion urging CSPRA to attempt to get legislation passed protecting State Parks from condemnation.

Established a committee composed of Joe Engbeck, Chair and Terry Brann, Carl Burger, Kate Foley, Vickie Araujo, Milt Frincke, and John Mott as members. This committee will develop suggested qualifications for DPR Director and members of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

Passed a resolution reaffirming our support of Cooperating Associations and stating that we believe that the DPR should provide managerial control over interpretive programming and/or day-to-day park operations.

Passed a resolution directing the president to request the California State Park and Recreation Commission to hold a hearing in the Santa Barbara area regarding the sale or transfer of Las Cruces land.

Passed a resolution to ask the Director to have the California State Park and Recreation Commission to meet in the same time and location as CSPRA's annual conference.

Passed a resolution to thank Senator Hart for his introduction of SB (Continued on page 7)


The San Diego Union

Col. Ira C. Copley, 1864-1947
James S. Copley, 1916-1973

Editorials/Opinion

Helen K. Copley, Publisher
Gerald L. Warren, Editor

Page B-8

 A Copley Newspaper

Thursday, March 2, 1989

Protecting the desert...

California's magnificent desert is a magnet that draws tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world each year. Because nature in this precious resource is delicately balanced, it must be protected against mass intrusion and destructive abuse. Special interest, therefore, attaches to legislation Sen. Alan Cranston is re-introducing to protect 7.5 million acres of the desert as wilderness and parkland.

The California Desert Protection Act (S 11) would expand the Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and re-designate them as national parks. It would create an Eastern Mojave National Park and designate an additional 4.5 million acres of desert as a wilderness area. The expanded 7.5 million acres of desert in the public domain now under the jurisdiction of the federal Bureau of Land Management, would pass to the National Park Service.

Sen. Cranston's desert bill died last year, largely for want of support from Sen. Pete Wilson. The bill also was vigorously opposed by then-Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, who insisted the BLM's multiple-use policy was preserv-

ing the desert's ecological balance even while encouraging people to enjoy its many splendors. His assurances were contradicted by BLM wildlife biologist Kristen Berry, who warned: "In fact, the desert habitat is deteriorating and being destroyed at a rapid rate by off-road vehicles, development of urban communities, and sheep and cattle grazing, among other things."

Unfortunately, the alarming warnings of Miss Berry and many environmentalists were drowned out by a vociferous coalition of miners, ranchers, and off-road-vehicle enthusiasts. The group raised sufficient questions for Sen. Wilson to withhold support from the Cranston measure. This time around, S 11 contains some concessions that improve the odds of its passage.

Sen. Cranston, for instance, has removed 82,600 acres from the original proposal that would have jeopardized access to specific utility easements, pipelines, and mining claims, as well as grazing and agricultural uses. The new bill would guarantee the military the right to continue air flights over the protected areas. And it would not interfere with opera-

tions at the China Lake Weapons Center and the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range.

Sen. Cranston's biggest challenge will be to pacify the off-road-vehicle users, many of whom oppose his bill. They are so accustomed to having the run of the desert, there may be no reasoning with them.

S 11, for example, would give drivers of dune buggies and other recreational vehicles access to 37,000 miles of desert roads and routes, plus 770,000 acres of public and private lands. The bill would exclude those areas that are heavily traveled now by such vehicles. Nevertheless, off-road enthusiasts are unhappy, even though they would have access to an area larger than Yosemite National Park.

Five years ago, Sens. Cranston and Wilson persuaded Congress to enact the California Wilderness Act, which placed an additional 1.8 million acres of state forest land under federal protection. The 7.5 million acres of California desert specified in S 11 are no less deserving of protection and should command the same effective Cranston-Wilson collaboration.

Hello Doug & Susan,

These editorials (above and next page) were in the San Diego Union March 2, 1989. The editorial on the next page refers to CSPRA's efforts to limit OHV traffic in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Thought the membership might be proud of the fact that our efforts are recognized and applauded, but they're not over with yet. I miss my State Park affiliation and friends but am enjoying the challenge of developing a new "Ranger" niche in urban parks. I'm developing the ranger position for the city of San Diego, specifically for Mission Trails Regional Park. At 5700 acres it's thought to be the largest urban park in the U. S. Lots of territory for one ranger, but worth it. More rangers will be hired in July. Randy Hawley

...from off-roaders too

Speaking of the need to protect natural wonders, the battle for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park has begun anew.

State Sen. Cecil Greene, D-Norwalk, has introduced SB 603, which would let dirt bikes, dune buggies, and other off-road vehicles roam throughout the 600,000-acre state park. He's lined up such influential co-authors as Senate Minority Leader Ken Maddy, R-Fresno, and Senate Republican Caucus Chairman John Doolittle, R-Roseville. It's worth noting, however, that Sen. Marian Bergeson, R-Newport, is not among the measure's supporters. Sen. Bergeson, who represents the portion of San Diego County that includes the park, is acutely aware of the damage that would be done to this fragile natural resource should the Greene bill become law.

In 1986, for example, more than \$27,000 was required to re-

pair the damage by irresponsible drivers in just one small section of the park. Many drivers of off-road vehicles have no regard for the plant and animal life in the desert, which they destroy in their reckless pursuit of pleasure. Yet, this doesn't appear to bother the California Off-Road Vehicle Association, which is mounting a full-court press for the Greene bill.

The powerful lobby is angry because it feels betrayed by Parks and Recreation Director Henry Agonia. When Mr. Agonia was being confirmed last year, he promised to reopen some of the park to off-road enthusiasts. And he might have done so had it not been for a united front by Anza-Borrego park rangers and other park employees. Their strong objections persuaded the California Park and Recreation Commission, the department's policymaking board, to ban the operation of such vehicles in state

parks except in specifically designated areas.

The commission's enlightened policy is consistent with the state law that is very clear on this point. As a consequence, the California Park Rangers Association reports a dramatic reduction of resource damage done by off-road vehicles.

It's not as though off-road-vehicle enthusiasts are being denied a place to go in the desert. Just east of Anza-Borrego there is the 25,000-acre Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area, which offers them plenty of room in which to rip and roar and roam.

If Sens. Greene, Maddy, and Doolittle would take the time to visit Anza-Borrego, the park rangers there would gladly show them the destruction caused by off-road vehicles. Meanwhile, desert preservationists should spare no effort to defeat SB 603.

GEC

(Continued from page 6)

885 and express our support for it. This bill would "encourage all elementary and middle schools in the state to 'adopt' an endangered species in their own area."

President Murphy installed returning board member Bud Getty, and new members Kevin Joe and Jeff Price.

Next year's GEC will be held in Chico March 6 - 9, 1990. 🍏

BOARD MEETING RESULTS

A short board meeting was held after the GEC.

Geary Hund will assist Dan Preece on the Legislative Committee.

The 1989 Conference Committee

reported that the raffle netted \$864.50

Kathy Franklin will chair a committee to review the proposed bridge across Lake Natomas at Folsom Lake SRA. Mike Muetz will send information to her.

Bud Getty appointed Vice President.

Board members agreed to develop fund raising ideas and send them to Kevin Joe before the next meeting.

The next meeting of the board will be in Southern California on the 24th of June. Part of this meeting will be held with the League to discuss mutual concerns about volunteers and Cooperating Associations. 🍏

Endangered species

SACRAMENTO — State Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, introduced a bill yesterday that would enlist the aid of California's schools in the battle to save endangered species. SB 885 would "encourage all elementary and middle schools in the state to 'adopt' an endangered species in their own area."

On Saturday, the state Fish and Game Commission, meeting in Redding, added bank swallows (*Riparia riparia*) to the state's growing list of threatened wildlife species.

San Diego Union 3/7/89



1990 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Next year our annual conference will be held in Chico at the Holiday Inn if negotiations with the hotel are successful. The conference will be held Tuesday, March 6 through Friday, March 9. If you have ideas for next year's conference and/or you would like to be on the conference committee please let Doug Bryce know. 🍏

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The second Regional meeting was held at Henry Cowell Redwoods SP on March 1. There were fifteen people in attendance including Director Bud Getty. The next meeting will be somewhere in the San Joaquin Valley during the month of May. Members, non-members, and spouses are encouraged to attend. 🍏

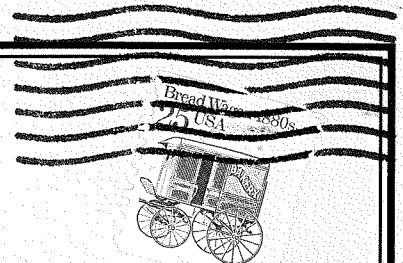
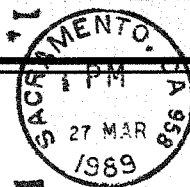
WELCOME TO CSPRA

We are glad to introduce these new members to our organization. CSPRA offers a forum for sharing ideas and concerns and a means of making an impact in the professional field of the ranger. There is a place for each of you here, and your commitment to CSPRA requires a commitment to you from this organization. Each of us by getting involved can help the other. Again, welcome to CSPRA. 🍏

Craig A. Engel, Calaveras District
Glenn J. Farris, Cultural Heritage Section

Linnette A. Wells, Office of Field Services
Nancy C. Reid, Santa Monica Mtns. District

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