

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

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January-February 1994

Presentation to Park Commission: Los Lions by Ron Schafer

Editor's note: The following presentation by Ron Schafer and others worked. The Commission voted 7 - 2 to not allow the sale for private development.

"The function of the California State Park and Recreation Commission and the Department of Parks and Recreation is to acquire, protect, develop and interpret for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the people of the state a balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational and historic importance. These areas shall be held in trust as irreplaceable portions of California's natural and historic heritage." *(Taken from Preamble of the California State Park and Recreation Commission Statements of Policy and Rules of Order.)*

I'd like to focus on the last sentence of this mission statement. "These areas shall..." The word "shall" is not permissive; it is a mandate. ... be held in trust ... These areas are acquired with public funds for a specific purpose and placed in our Trust by the public. "... as irreplaceable ..." Irreplaceable inferring the incredible value these lands have to present and future generations. "... portions of California's natural and historic heritage."
(Continued on page 3)

CSPRA-PRAC Annual Workshop Sheraton — Holiday Inn* Riverside, California March 7 — 10, 1994

***The Sheraton hotel will
become the Holiday Inn on Feb-
ruary 1.**

The 1994 Joint Annual Conference for the Park Rangers Association of California and the California State Park Rangers Association is being held at the Riverside Sheraton, March 7-10, 1994. Programs for the conference include various topics involving Resource Management, Park Operations and Interpretation, with speakers, demonstrations, exhibits and hands-on workshops.

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Nina Gordon Named Consultant to Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

Nina Gordon has been appointed as consultant to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee effective January 24. Nina's primary responsibility is park issues and her duties include bill tracking and analysis, research on issues, and advising the committee chair.

Nina brings a variety of experience and background to the position.
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President's Message

First, let me offer my congratulations to Bud Getty, Susan Grove and Scott Nakaji. I hope you all enjoy your terms of service. Even more, I hope you all enjoy terms that go a full two years! The past two years have been challenging for the board, especially when it seemed as if each meeting began with a search to fill another vacancy.

The annual budget cycle is beginning again, and once again the California Park Service is faced with the monumental task of convincing the legislature that a healthy state park system is necessary for a healthy society. At the same time, we are faced with renewed calls for stiffer prison sentences, new prisons, and an expanded correctional staff, under the theory that putting more people in prison for longer periods will achieve the same result.

Is it cynicism alone that makes me think that the real reason our elected officials are jumping the "Lock 'em up" bandwagon is that an election year is upon us? Recent tragic events have made law and order the big issue (again) for 1994, overshadowing what may be more serious, if less emotionally charged, social ills. California's economy stinks, our educational system is deteriorating, and maintaining environmental quality is a back-burner issue. More and more, issues of quality of life seem to be dominated by fear instead of fulfillment.

With the above in mind, here are my predictions for 1994.

- Although most legislators will wring their hands, the 94/95 park budget will be a sacrificial lamb.
- Bail out money from OHV and Cal Boating will disappear because of unopposed opposition from special interest groups.
- Greater demands will be placed on the Park System to increase revenues, even if it means relying on private development and commercialization.

There will be new calls to organize a park constituency.

- It won't happen.
- Another round of budget cuts will result in the loss of field level positions .
- This time, parks will be closed.
- By October 1994, predictions of "more cuts next year" will be made.
- Lots of anti-crime bills will pass, and no one will feel any safer. However, the public will feel the loss of recreational opportunities, and wonder how it happened.
- CSPRA officers will urge all members to contact legislators, organize local support for parks, and push for a sound budget with a stable funding source.
- It won't happen, either.

You disagree? You'll all have the chance to prove me wrong, and I really hope you do. After all, I also predicted that the Edsel would be a great car.

Seriously, I think Director Murphy will have a hard time this year repeating the various funding miracles he pulled off last time, unless he enjoys the active support of many people throughout the state. CSPRA officers will again do what they can, but it won't be enough without your involvement.

* * * * *

As part of our effort to offer more to the membership, I'm pleased to announce the first cooperative CSPRA/CPS training program:

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

the "Motherlode Workshop," scheduled for May 9 through May 13. Based upon the former ecology workshops conducted around the state, this event will focus on the history and interpretation of California's gold discovery, travelling from Malakoff Diggins to Mariposa. Various issues will be presented as well, including the effect of the gold rush on native cultures. For more information, see the accompanying article in this issue.

Finally, one last prediction:

- CSPRA'S 1994 Conference and Workshop will be attended by mobs of members, all of whom will agree that it was the best ever.

This time, I know I'm right.

Los Lions (Continued from page 1)

Nobody is denying that it is desirable and even prudent to dispose of surplus state park property and if the surplus property can benefit the local community, so much the better. The problem is, this property has not been declared surplus. The unit's general plan does not identify it as surplus nor did then Chief Deputy Director Les McCargo when dialogue on this subject began.

Los Lions has a great deal of value to the State Park System and the people of the State of California. If the department didn't already own it, they would most probably be doing their level best to acquire it. Los Lions provides access to the largest urban state park in the United States and is the only link between the Pacific Ocean and Topanga State Park. Los Lions also provides access to the Backbone Trail which runs over 60 miles from Will Rogers State Historic Park to Point Mugu State Park and links other state park units and the Santa Monica National Recreation Area. This canyon is also served by two bus lines and provides easy access for inner city youths and other recreational user groups. In addition to the recreational values, this canyon has a riparian feature which is necessary to support wildlife, and although the canyon bottom has been altered, the slopes remain

pristine.

Transferring this property for the purposes of development would establish a dangerous precedent for urban parks. Previous to my present assignment, I was the superintendent at Chino Hills State Park. Chino Hills State Park was surrounded with development, and developers desperately wanted a piece of that park. Your actions could open the door for that kind of threat in other urban parks.

My experience with managing the interface between urban development and open space at Chino Hills has provided me some insight with which to predict what will happen at Los Lions. Development will cause one of two things: 1) It will exclude Los Lions as an access point to the backcountry of the Santa Monica Mountains, which is unacceptable. Or, 2.) People will park in the businesses' parking lots to access the trail. This will be unacceptable to the business owners. This is already happening at other urban parks. Residents complain at length about people parking on "their" (publicly owned) streets to access park units. It has been rumored that the Church has offered to be guardians of the canyon and keep out the "undesirables." I remind you that parks are for all people, and to be guardians of natural open space is what the Department of Parks and Recreation does.

The other issue that will arise is that of fuel modification. The fire danger here is extremely high as demonstrated by the recent wildfires. Fuel modification zones will severely impact the natural features by removing natural vegetation and introducing fire-resistant exotics.

Los Lions Canyon has a great deal of potential. A trailhead will eventually be developed that will provide parking, restroom facilities, trailhead and interpretive displays. Being 1/4 mile from Pacific Coast Highway, this canyon will be the gateway for large numbers of visitors to an outstanding resource.

So, to come full circle, back to the mission statement of our department and your commission I ask you to refocus on one word in the entire statement — Trust. Please don't violate the trust given to you by the public by transferring Los Lions for private development.

Annual Workshop (Continued from page 1)

This year's keynote speaker will be Huell Howser, host of the popular TV series "California's Gold." "California's Gold" is the only statewide series seen in California about California. Nearly 40% of these programs highlight parks. Huell will be speaking Tuesday morning, March 8.



Photo: Keynote Speaker Huell Howser of "California Gold."

The topic for this year's hot issues panel is Mountain Lions in Parks. On the panel will be Laura Itogawa, Supervising Ranger from Cuyamaca Rancho State Park; Dr. Paul Bier, author, "The Cougar in the Santa Ana Mountain Range;" Terry Mansfield, Chief, Wildlife Management Division, Department of Fish and Game; Joel Davis, Deputy Attorney General for the State of California - Los Angeles Office; and Ken Jones, California Department of Parks and Recreation, who will relate his department's new mountain lion/bear protocol and procedures.

The Operations track will include sessions on reserve ranger programs, use of the Handler 12, tactical communication, use of horses and bikes for patrol, reservations management and officer survival.

Time for winding down will occur each evening. Monday will feature a reception and Tuesday evening will include a fun run and barbecue. Wednesday's programs will be followed by a banquet and dance until midnight, followed on Thursday by the annual golf tournament and tours. This year's tournament will be held at the El Rivino Golf course.

For more information on the conference and golf tournament, please see articles on pages eight and nine and contact CSPRA headquarters.

Election Results

President

Maurice Bud Getty 227 Elected
Write ins 5

Director

Susan Chittum Grove 175 Elected
Jim Serpa 86
Scott Nakaji 139 Elected

Constitutional Amendment

Yes 170 No 33

Ballots mailed 570
Ballots returned 240 (42%)

Editor's Note:

In the November-December issue I forgot to tell you who wrote the article on the "Ocean Rescue at Carmel Point." It was written by Robert S. Leiterman, State Park Ranger I, of the Monterey District.

Humor In Unicorn

by Jeff Price

Sounds like a bad case of *salmonella verticalis*. "You are swimming uphill."

Pure reorganizational paranoia. "I'm not my own boss, I'm just a martinet pulled on someone else's strings."

This employee's advice seems to create a hiring dilemma. "You should always take your time and interview several candidates; never hire blind people right off the streets."

I think that this explanation makes everything much clearer. "...so you must see that your solution is not our biggest answer."

A response that sounds very chilling. "Oh! Just thinking about that gives me goose-cicles."

A confession? "I may have cast an omen over all this."

Notice!

The California State Park Rangers Association and the California Park Service are offering to all Argonauts and Seekers of Knowledge, a

Mother Lode Workshop

May 9 through May 13, 1994

Learn of the exciting Discovery of Gold in the Sierra Nevada Foothills, California Territory.

☆☆☆☆☆

Visit Captain Sutter's Mill and see the site of the Gold Discovery!

☆☆☆☆☆

Meet James W. Marshall, and hear his exciting tale of finding the famous Nugget of purest gold!

☆☆☆☆☆

Enter into the depths of the Richest Mine in the mother lode empire.

☆☆☆☆☆

Travel the Entire Length of the gold country, from the sylvan slopes of North Bloomfield, to the Colossal canyons of the mighty Merced!

☆☆☆☆☆

Visit the Musea, Mines, Mills, Foundries, Camps, and Centers of Commercial Trade, Recreation and Entertainment that will make California the Union's Richest New State!

☆☆☆☆☆

Indulge in Grand Cuisine and fine Hostelryes!

The modest fee of one hundred and sixty dollars will provide transport and drayage: many meals, snacks and beverages; admission fees and gratuities; publications; and diverse entertainments.

Special enrollment consideration will be given to all employees of the California Park Service, especially those charged with the interpretation of California's heritage: curators and protectors of important historical objects, buildings and collections: and managers or supervisors of same.

Brief Itinerary**Monday, May 9:**

- ➡ Rendezvous at American River Headquarters.
- ➡ Travel to Marshall Gold Discovery SHP for tours presentations, and discussions.
- ➡ Travel to Grass Valley and enjoy an evening program.

Tuesday, May 10:

- ➡ Tour Empire Mine SHP facilities, including the mine itself.
- ➡ Travel to Malakoff Diggins SHP and examine impacts of hydraulic mining. Return to Grass Valley.

Wednesday, May 11:

- ➡ Travel to Sutter Creek for tour of Knight's Foundry.
- ➡ Tour Indian Grinding Rock SHP and the Regional Indian Museum.
- ➡ Discuss Native American issues after dinner.

Thursday, May 12:

- ➡ Travel to Columbia SHP for more tours and presentations.
- ➡ Discuss the art of historic restoration, and the use of period costuming. Learn about the geology of the Mother Lode.

Friday, May 13:

- ➡ Examine Mother Lode geology first hand as we journey to Mariposa.
- ➡ Tour the State Gem and Mineral Museum, and visit other sites of interest. Return to American River Headquarters.

A complete itinerary will be provided upon request.

For more information, contact Bruce Thomsen, Calaveras District interpretive specialist, (202) 532-0150.

Interested parties should complete a training request submitted through department channels, and complete the following:

Name: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone: () _____

Please send me more information.

Please reserve a space for me pending approval of my training request (payment must be received by April 10).

Enclosed is my check for \$160.00, made out to the California State Park Rangers Association.

Return to: CSPRA, P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
or Fax to: (916) 383-1179

Pismo Beach Hotel

The following letter was sent to the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee of the Assembly questioning the wisdom of building a hotel at Pismo Beach State Park. Our main concern was the establishment of a precedent of building hotels in parks where they clearly are not to serve the park visitor.

The Committee amended the bill before passing it out to request DPR to study the sale of the land and to indicate that this is not to be considered precedent setting.

The Honorable Dominic L. Cortese
Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
California State Assembly
P O Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Dear Chairman Cortese:

AB — 186, Seastrand

The California State Park Rangers Association opposes this legislation for several reasons.

*We feel that a hotel at Pismo Beach State Park is not needed for the benefit of park visitors.

*The \$100,000 per year in expected revenue might be little more than the cost of additional maintenance of the park, operation of the concession agreement, and the cost of removing or refurbishing a fifty year old hotel at the end of the concession contract.

*What happens if the concession fails financially?

Would it be better to sell this land to the hotel developer or the City of Grover Beach. We understand that the Department feels this land is of no importance to the park. If that is true then it should be sold — not developed as a hotel that might become an added cost to the taxpayer.

* We feel that this would create a precedent for this type of development on park lands that are needed and enjoyed by the taxpayer.

We urge you to defeat this unneeded legislation. . . .

Sincerely, Doug Bryce, Exec. Manager

Jack Knight Remembered

On January 13 Chuck Lyden and Doug Bryce presented Mrs. Jack Knight (Barbara) a map and deed to the tree dedicated to the memory of Jack Knight in the Founders Grove Redwoods at Big Basin State Park. It is a living old growth redwood purchased in his memory by CSPRA from the Sempervirens Fund. Your donations paid for the tree.

Thank you from Mrs. Knight

Dear State Park Friends:

My children and I want to thank all of you for your contributions to the memorial redwood tree in memory of Jack Knight. We are pleased and proud that you wanted to remember him in such an appropriate and thoughtful way. His life was dedicated to State Parks and he truly loved the redwoods.

Sincerely,
Barbara Knight and family

Art Richter Dies

Art Richter, retired state park ranger, passed away on November 25, 1993.

Art began his career as a park ranger in 1960 when he was assigned to the newly acquired Bolsa Chica State Beach. His other assignments included Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Fort Tejon State Historic Park.

Art's knowledge of Anza-Borrego's back country and skills as a patrol ranger will be remembered by old friends and park rangers.

Art is survived by his wife helen; their five children, David, Robin, Gail, Arthur and Michael; and his mother Henrietta Richter.

Wayne & Wendy Harrison Receive Early Christmas Present

An early Christmas present greeted the Harrisons on December 10, 1993. A daughter, Katie, was born in Sonora. She weighed 9 pounds 1 ounce and was 21" long. All are doing fine.

Nina Gordon (Continued from page 1)

She was a state park ranger for 12 years on the San Mateo Coast before going to headquarters and working as an Associate Park and Recreation Specialist. She worked in the Planning office on the State Park System Plan and as project manager for the State Indian Museum study. She also served as statewide trails coordinator for the Off Highway Vehicles Division. Nina has experience with local park issues, having worked in the Local Assistance Section providing funding and technical assistance to city and county parks.

Volunteer management is a specific area of interest and she taught numerous classes on the subject. Nina served as Executive Director of the Ano Nuevo Interpretive Association. She was instrumental in starting the community volunteer programs at Ano Nuevo State Reserve and Pigeon Point Lighthouse. She served on the State Park Cooperating Association Task Force and co-chaired the Volunteer Program task force.

Nina also feels strongly about disabled access, and she initiated the disabled access trail and interpretive program at Ano Nuevo State Reserve, and served as chair on the state Parks Disabled Advisory Committee. She also served on the Women's Advisory and Equal Opportunity committees.

Nina has received a number of awards including the first State Park Director's Award for Special Achievement, the Superior Achievement Award also from state parks and Resolutions of Commendation from the Native American Heritage Commission and the California State Park Commission.

Nina served as a board member and as president of CSPRA. She has been a member of CSPRA since 1981.

She has an undergraduate degree in Biology and Environmental Studies and a masters in Public Administration.

We feel she will be a real asset to the committee and we look forward to working with her. You can contact Nina at:

Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
P O Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001
(916) 445-6164

Annual Workshop Educational Sessions

Operations Track

The topics for the Operations Track this year are diverse and exciting! There will be professionals from various areas offering insight, training and first-hand experience. The first program, on Monday, March 7, will be an open forum titled "You Want What?" The discussion will include the problems in creating a park ranger program. When should you be a public relations person and when should you be an enforcer of the law and how administrators perceive the difference. Monday's second topic, "Public Relations or Enforcement?" will discuss the points of view.

The first of three programs scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, is "Outdoor Displays and Demonstrations." There will be various displays and demonstrations in the hotel parking lot of vehicles, special units (K-9, horse, bike, etc.) and equipment. Jim Real, President of the California State Horsemen's Association and Joe Tafoya from Los Angeles City Parks and Recreation will present the next program, "Horses in Parks and on Trails." The third program, "Bikes in Parks and on Trails," will be presented by a POST-certified bike instructor and a member of the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department Bike Unit.

Wednesday, March 9, has several programs, the first of which is "Junior Rangers." Bertha Garcia, Public Safety Officer for the City of Norwalk, will discuss their program and provide reference material. Chief Ranger Jack Deaton and rangers Bill Greco and Richard Covos, from the City of Long Beach, will present the program, "Reserve Rangers." They will provide information on how to establish a reserve program and discuss its advantages. Martin S. Addison, President and CEO of Programmed for Success, Inc., will present the program "Facility Reservations Management," giving advice on how to get your agency's reservation program into the 21st century! "Handler 12 Workshop" is hands-on training in which Robert Kashet, President of Gripton International, will demonstrate this control and restraint device which reduces or eliminates officer and suspect injury. Next on the agenda is the "Tactical Communication Workshop," which is
(Continued on page 9)

Annual Workshop (Continued from page 8)

presented to aid the park ranger in effective and efficient communications skills at the onset of verbal confrontations. The last program for Wednesday will be the "Officer Survival Workshop." This 2-hour hands-on workshop is designed for the park ranger who is interested in learning current survival tactics and techniques.

Resource Management

The resource management track has about 1/3 cultural resource topics and the remainder are natural history. These topics will range from paleontology to archaeology to the film industry's use of state parks.

Monday's programs start with Dr. David Whistler (formerly of) L. A. County Natural History Museum discussing "Paleontology in Parks." Other topics on Monday include Paleo-Ecology; Monitoring Gradual Changes in Parks" and a talk by Alden Sievers of the Bureau of Land Management on "The West Mojave Plan" and the wave of the future — large land-use management plans.

Tuesday, March 8, programs include "Historic Preservation" and a discussion with Pete Schultz, DPR archaeology lab in Sacramento, on "Architectural Archeology."

Wednesday, March 9, programs, which culminate in a field trip to Lake Perris State Recreation Area, start with a discussion on the S"anta Rosa Plateau" with Gary Bell of the Nature Conservancy, Lake Elsinore; Bill Tippetts of the Department of Fish and Game will discuss coastal sage scrub and "Natural Community Conservation Planning;" Joe Albee, U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control Department will talk about "Tracking Animals;" Dan Preece and Lynette Hernandez from DPR Angeles District and a representative from Los Angeles County Parks will discuss "Filming - Industrial Use of Park Resources."

Wednesday afternoon will consist of programs presented at Lake Perris starting with "Management of Stephens Kangaroo Rat," presented by Karen Pluff, Resource Ecologist, DPR Southern Service Center; "Native American Rock Art" with Dan McCarthy, formerly of U. C. Riverside,

Curator of Rock Art Maturango Museum Ridgecrest; and "Home of the Wind Indian Museum," presented by Jack Boyce, Camp Host at Lake Perris.

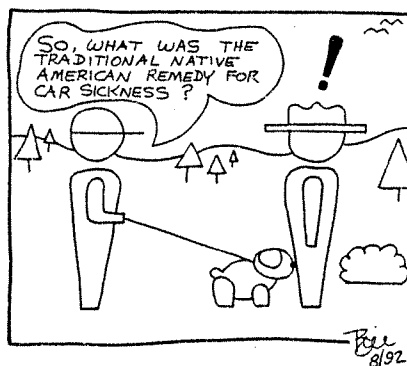
Interpretation

The interpretive programs for the 1994 CSPRA-PRAC annual conference range from bighorn sheep to tips for campfire programs. You will be introduced to the sky in "Astronomy for Everyone," learn about "The Interagency Bighorn Sheep Project" at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, take an active approach to learning with "Science With a Splash," and go "Where California History Lives" at the Jensen-Alvarado Ranch Historic Park and Gilman Ranch Historic Park and Wagon Museum.

Tuesday, March 8, programs will include "Planning for Franklin Canyon," located in the Santa Monica Mountains and discovering the diversity of the "Botany of the Riverside Area."

Wednesday, March 9, you can learn about the diverse art collection and the fascinating "History of the Mission Inn;" figure out "What Are We Trying to Teach" by trying to uncover our own and our institution's goals and assumptions that guide them; learn more about the complex issues that face the management of the California desert through "Desert Conservation;" get some great "Tips for Campfire Programs;" find out what the L. A. County Natural History Museum has to offer and learn about cooperative programs they have done with state parks in the Los Angeles area; discover new ideas through the "Marine Biology for Children" workshop; take a look at Hispanic populations recreating in wildland areas in southern California and "Minority Group Use of Natural Areas: Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Experience" and address issues related to fire and fire prevention through "The Fire Cycle."

RANGER LOGO



Asilomar Ignored Abuses Despite warnings, financial mismanagement persisted by Paul McHugh and David Dietz Chronicle Staff Writers

*Reprinted from the San Francisco Chronicle
of December 7, 1993*

Despite continuous assertions by an accounting firm that Asilomar needed to clean up its bookkeeping, managers at the business retreat ignored such recommendations for years, according to a state audit that examined financial abuses at the Monterey Bay conference center.

The new state controller's audit, which was obtained by The Chronicle, concludes that Asilomar — a facility run by a nonprofit corporation on state lands — failed to heed the advice of its own accountants, and this set the stage for inept bookkeeping, wretched accountability and numerous abuses of Asilomar finances and resources.

"It's a nightmare," State Controller Gray Davis said. "Asilomar was run like a private country club. The bloated salaries and pensions and generous amenities made it look like the former general manager (Donald Elisha) was a feudal king.

"And the bookkeeping! The books at Asilomar were in the shoddiest shape of anything we've audited in my seven years as controller," he said. "It may be virtually impossible to determine how much embezzlement and misappropriation of funds has occurred."

Davis told The Chronicle yesterday that the state's oversight of Asilomar also was sadly in arrears. Davis said that two audits by the state Department of Parks and Recreation that were critical of operations at Asilomar, in 1989 and 1990, were never even delivered to the conference center.

The state-owned center — one of the most popular retreats of its kind in the country — is currently the subject of a criminal investigation in Monterey County. Asilomar's controller was fired recently for allegedly embezzling \$60,000 from the center, and four of the center's board of directors were asked to resign.

The state controller's preliminary audit analyzed only the receipts from one of

Asilomar's six accounts over a six-month period. Officials have said these problems are only the "tip of the iceberg" at the resort, which is run by a non-profit entity called Asilomar Operating Corporation.

The newest audit's main revelations were that:

- * Year after year, the center's own certified accounting firm — Pannell Kerr Forster — had often urged Asilomar to provide much better controls over disbursement of money. But those recommendations went nowhere.

- * Donald Elisha, Asilomar's former general manager, was paid \$153,478 a year — almost \$40,000 more than Governor Wilson — and he received a pension plan that exceeds what the state supplies its own executives.

Elisha's salary exceeded the amount last approved by the state Department of Parks and Recreation (\$137,300 in 1992) by more than \$16,000. Six months before taking early retirement this year, Elisha negotiated a single-payment buyout of \$750,000.

As part of the buyout, the Asilomar board of directors also agreed to pick up many of Elisha's legal fees and taxes.

- * Elisha had a personal business relationship with R.J. Alexander of RJA & Associates, the administrator of Asilomar's retirement plan, receiving income of \$10,000 for a single transaction with the firm. The audit did not elaborate on the nature of the transaction.

Asilomar's former controller, Skip Perkins, allegedly attempted to use arbitrary journal entries to juggle accounts. For instance, \$57,492 was paid out of a \$25,229 publicity account for a new Asilomar logo. The shortfall was disguised by charging \$34,000 to other accounts.

- * In many cases, payments were apparently made to Asilomar vendors without invoices, contracts or purchase orders. In some instances, duplicate payments were made, or payments were made but apparently no work was performed on Asilomar grounds. Sometimes, the same invoice was used to account for payments to two separate companies.

- * Many of the Asilomar expense accounts appear to have been utilized by Elisha for

(Continued on page 11)

Asilomar (Continued from page 10)

his personal benefit, as reported by The Chronicle in July. These include Federal Express and United Parcel Service accounts, BancOhio and Mastercard charge cards, and accounts at Nob Hill Foods, the Camera Exchange and Couristan Carpets as well as two local travel agencies.

Following a Chronicle report on abuses at Asilomar in July, Assemblyman Dom Cortese, D-San Jose and chairman of the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee, called for a state audit of the facility.

At the same time, the director of state parks, Donald Murphy, took administrative measures to tighten up management at the site.

Under the arrangement with the state, any surplus funds from Asilomar are supposed to go to the state, but despite steady revenues that exceed \$13 million a year, the center has not sent a penny to Sacramento.

But the audit said that given the poor bookkeeping at Asilomar — one auditor described it as "a shambles" — "it is not practical for us to determine the surplus funds that should have existed and been transferred to the state."

The report does say that if the state wishes to continue running the facility through the Asilomar Operating Corporation, the same strict controls that apply to the California State University system should be applied. However, the audit says, the burden of state oversight could be reduced and state profits could be maximized by leasing Asilomar to a private operator.

"The malfeasance and gross mismanagement that occurred at Asilomar should never have taken place," Cortese said. "It's incumbent on all concerned to clean it up as fully as possible, and make sure nothing like it ever happens again."

"This conference center should enjoy a management philosophy as elegant as its physical setting. Then those who go there for a retreat can know all their business benefits the people of this state. Not just a few individuals."

Davis said the state should exhaust every remedy to restore integrity to Asilomar. "There's a basic accountability issue," he said. "I believe all of us who serve the public must treat taxpayers' funds as carefully as we treat our own money. Clearly, the former general manager at Asilomar did not share that view."

The Job You Save May Be Your Own!

Director Murphy has held two meetings lately called State of the State Parks meetings where organizations interested in the State Park System have been invited — CSPRA has attended both. Much of the concern at each meeting has been with the 1994/95 DPR budget. Discussions have centered around possible budget cuts of up to \$25 million. There are several things you can do.

Support CAL PAW The passage of Cal Paw will provide funds for many field and headquarters positions that are currently funded by bond funds that are nearly depleted. It will also fund Proposition 117 environmental commitments which will enable DPR to again borrow funds from Boating & Waterways. **Make certain your friends, relatives and you vote for CAL PAW on the June ballot.**

Protect Proposition 117 In an attempt to divide the State Parks supporters from other environmental groups the Governor is planning to get the legislature to put a measure on the ballot that would repeal Proposition 117 which provides \$30,000,000 to environmental concerns such as mountain lion habitat, support for various conservancies and 10% currently goes to DPR. If Proposition 117 is repealed the \$30,000,000 will go into the General Fund where it could go to education, prisons or whatever — there is no guarantee any of it would ever go to DPR. **Write your legislator today and ask him/her to reject any attempt to repeal Proposition 117 and to support the DPR budget at least at the level of the 1993/94 budget. We have done our part — we have taken enough cuts!**

If you don't know your legislators name phone 1 800 994-2530 and ask for that information and leave your name and we will send you a card with name address and phone number of your legislators.

January-February

**Attend the best ever
workshop in
Riverside 3/7-10**

**The Riverside Sheraton
Hotel is changing to the
Holiday Inn on
February 1.**

**Travel from the north
should not be affected
by the earthquake.**

1994

**California State Park Rangers Assoc
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Sacramento, CA 95829-2010**

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Calaveras Big Trees
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Vice President

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District Superintendent
Asilomar State Beach
(408) 372-4087

Secretary/Treasurer

Adrian Itaya
Four Rivers District
State Park Ranger 1
(209) 826-1196

**CSPRA
Calendar**

**Annual Workshop
Riverside
March 7-10**

**Gold Rush
Workshop
May 9-13**

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State Park Superintendent
Delta District
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Save Bodie! and all other
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**For additional information on the
association, write the
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