



# Newsletter

California State Park Rangers Association

Volume VI Number 97

February 2000

## San Jose Mercury News Opinion

### Park Bonds would maintain quality of life Planning for pleasure

Tuesday, December 28, 1999

PROPOSITION 12, on the March 7 ballot, is a parks bond. Think about parks in the widest sense, from inner city parks that provide a respite from the concrete, to expanses of wilderness in the desert and mountains. Think about the environmental health of Lake Tahoe and the San Francisco Bay. Think about a community center in Gilroy.

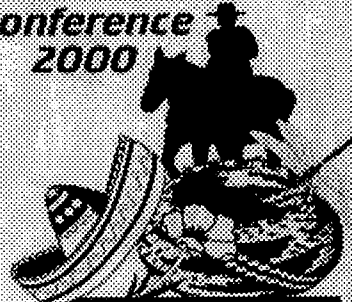
Think about keeping California livable for the generations to come.

Then vote in favor of Proposition 12.

Passage of Proposition 12 would authorize the state to issue \$2.1 billion in bonds for a variety of (Continued on page 5)

**CSPRA's Website has  
a new address It is  
<www.cspira.com>**

## California Parks Conference 2000



**Celebrating  
Cultural, Historical,  
Biological, & Social  
Diversity**

**Early Registration ends  
February 15**

**Hotel Reservations at  
conference rate by  
February 29**

## Silent Auction Donations Needed!

The donation drive is on! Do you have concessionaires in your park who'd like to donate to the annual parks conference silent auction? Do you have hidden creative talents that yield art or craft works that you'd like to donate? Do you have a great idea for an item for the auction but don't have the time to write a letter or make a phone call?

If your answer is "yes" to any of the above, please contact Dorene Clement <clement@midtown.net>.

## Inside

President's Message	2
Ranger Leads World Police Section	3
Malaprop Man	4
Davis Appoints Staffers	6
Customer Service Improvement	7
Earth Day Projects Funded	8
CA Parks Conference	9

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**Web Site**  
<http://members.aol.com/cspraweb>

## President's Message

by Nick Franco

..... make  
sure that people  
don't see parks  
as a perk, but as  
the necessity  
that it is.

This is my last President's message to you, but I'm not going to reflect upon the last year. Now is a time for looking ahead, especially towards March 7th. We are in exiting times in State Parks with a healthy economy and a Governor who is placing an emphasis on infrastructure and the importance of parks and a Director actively working to promote parks within the communities of California. The most important thing you can do for parks is to spread the word about the value of parks and the need for passing a bond on March 7th to re-invest in our most important resources.

I recently read that a city in the Bay Area is proposing elimination of their small parks and recreation department to save the money needed to continue paying the salaries of three police officers who had been paid from a federal grant that is ending. The city's decision is that it is more important to have the three police officers than it is to have park and recreation programs and facilities.

Parks are safe places and provide alternatives for youths at risk of committing crimes. It is you, the park professional, that keeps parks safe and wonderful. One of our own CSPRA members was involved in having to make the horrible decision to have to take another's life to save his own and others. It is one of the awful tasks we must do to make our parks a place of inspiration and recreation for people. But we do these awful tasks as proudly as we do the enjoyable ones because they serve the public well and create these places of respite from our > everyday tasks.

To be faced with a choice of police versus parks is abominable, but not all that uncommon. We are in a time where we must preach the value of parks to everyone and make sure that people don't see parks as a perk, but as the necessity that it is.

Life is meaningful because we have places with open space, beautiful views, clean air, clean water, safe beaches, abundant and healthy wildlife,

(Continued on page 5)

## California State Park Rangers Association

### Mission Statement

The California State Park Rangers Association is an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, and established to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations

Founded 1964

For more information about CSPRA and how you can become a member write:

CSPRA  
P.O. Box 292010  
Sacramento, CA  
95829-2010

## California Ranger Leads US Section Of World's Largest Police Association

Mike Lynch, a Ranger at Auburn State Recreation Area, has become president of the U.S. Section of the International Police Association (IPA). The IPA is the largest police association in the world, with over 275,000 members in 61 countries. The U.S. Section of the IPA has over 10,000 members nationwide.

An English police constable established the IPA in 1950 to promote friendship and social/professional bonds among all law enforcement officers of the world. With a motto of "Service through Friendship" the IPA's goal is to, "unite in service and friendship all active and retired members of the law enforcement service throughout the world."

Lynch says of the IPA, "The IPA is a great organization that assists its members with all kinds social, cultural and professional contacts worldwide". He adds, "Be it dirt cheap police recreational homes in New Zealand, home hosting or the insiders tour of the sights of London (and almost any other location), the IPA offers all kinds of interesting and unique benefits and contacts for its members". The IPA is open to all active or retired peace officers in the department. Many are already members including Dick Miller, Garth Tanner, Susan Ross and John Cleary. For more information on the IPA see the IPA Website at: [www.ipa-usa.org](http://www.ipa-usa.org) or contact Lynch at Auburn SRA.

On the personal side, Lynch has over 27 years of service as a ranger in variety of units in the California State Parks. Off duty, he could easily be called an association activist for his work with a large number of park and law enforcement associations. Just some of the association positions he has served in over the years are:

- Director & Vice President, California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA)

- Founder & President, State Park Peace Officers Association of California (SPPOAC)
- Treasurer, Western Interpreters Association (WIA)
- Director and Vice President, California Union of Safety Employees (CAUSE)
- Director, Labor & Legislative Committees, Peace Officers Research Assoc. of California (PORAC)
- Chairman, 125th Ranger Anniversary Committee
- Region President & National Vice President, International Police Association (IPA)
- CSPRA Representative, International Ranger Federation (IRF)
- Executive Committee, Resource Protectors Sesquicentennial Committee



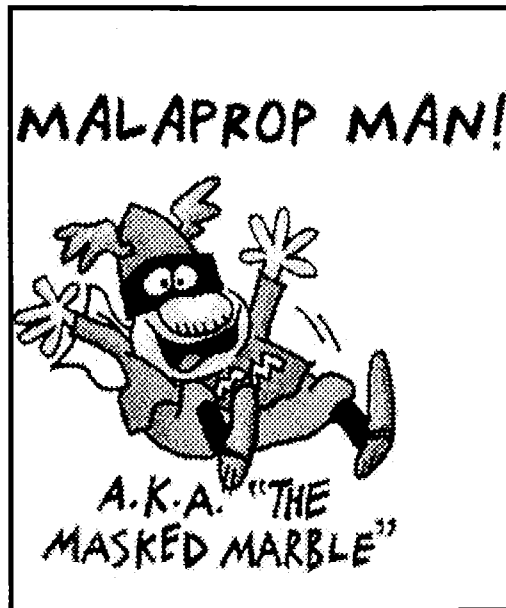
**Mike Lynch,  
President U.S.  
Section, Inter-  
national Police  
Association  
(IPA).**

In addition to this work, Lynch is a Registered Parliamentarian with the National Association Parliamentarians (NAP) and author of the book *Rangers of California's State Parks*. He is currently working on a new book on the history of insignia of the California Resources Agency.

Lynch also is a world traveler and his hobby is collecting conservation insignia. His extensive conservation collection has won many display awards in recent years. Much of his collection will be on display at the March 7-10, 2000 California Parks Conference in Van Nuys.



**Mike Lynch  
with uniformed  
IPA members.  
L-R Canada,  
Australia, U.S.  
(Mike Lynch)  
and Luxembourg**



A few more tweaked truisms.  
by Jeff Price, Marin

No future there!  
*It's like the Richter Scale, the effect is  
exponential.*

Hard to believe?  
*It looks like we are falling on deep eco-  
nomic times again.*

Relative to what?  
*Hey, everything is relevant!*

Endless issue.  
*... and it will only affect the 48 continu-  
ous states.*

Customer comment.  
*I'm sorry, but I just don't get your  
malaprophor column.*

Hooked on frenetics.  
*You know what they say, any porthole  
in a storm.*

Chippy orchard.  
*The CHPs were out in groves last night.*

Stimulating comment!  
*I will still be available by pager for any  
issues that may arouse in my absence.*

Positional difficulty?  
*It's OK, we have our hands on top of the  
problem.*

## Potluck Supper Recipes or Your Favorite Recipe from State Park Days

While putting together thoughts for the second edition of our Anza-Borrego Memory Book, we came up with the idea of adding favorite, and often memorable, recipes from our State Park Lives. We believe that every Ranger, Wife, or Child will have a favorite recipe or recipes, they would like added and saved in print for future generations.

Choose from one or more of the following categories, or make up a category of your choice, i.e. Potluck favorites.

Appetizers and Snacks, Soups and Sauces, Sandwiches, Salads, Breads, Casseroles and Main Dishes, Meats, Pies, Cakes, and Cookies, Desserts, Candies, Pickles and Relishes, Men's Recipes, Miscellaneous.

We recommend including the following information: Recipe of (author of recipe), Your Relationship to author of recipe: and finally your name for submitting the recipe. i.e. Recipe of Ruby Nelson; Submitted by Rosemary Nelson Strickler, Relationship: Mother. Also include any significant story relating to recipe.

How about it — think we have a good idea? If so, send us your recipe(s), photos and/or drawings, along with your new story or stories for the second edition of Reminisces and Remembrances — The Way It Was!

**Remember we need your input  
by August 1, 2000!**

Affectionately,

Clyde, Rosemary and Nancy

The Stricklers	Nancy Merkel
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Los Banos, CA 93635	Sonora, CA 95370
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## Editorial on Proposition 12

### (Continued from page 1)

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park, recreation and conservation programs. It will help preserve California's glorious natural heritage. And it will help make everyday life more enjoyable.

Almost half, \$940 million, of the funds would be spent where people live, to add or improve neighborhood parks and recreation facilities. Money will be allocated to cities, counties and park districts based on population, so all local governments, even if they don't have one of the few d projects in the bond issue, will be receiving funds.

One city that does have a specified project is Gilroy, with \$400,000 committed to a community center there.

The remaining \$1.16 billion will be spent on state projects, acquiring land to preserve it in a state or to save habitat for fish and wildlife, and also to improve the facilities in state parks so that they can better accommodate the millions of Californians who visit them.

In the 1980s, California financed parks through a series of bond issues. The last one passed in 1988. Those funds have been spent. In the 1990s, no new park bonds have been passed. In the meantime, the population has continued to grow. California cannot stop acquiring parkland. The need to buy land for preservation grows as suburbs expand into formerly remote areas. The need for parks to provide recreation and relief from everyday life, whether those parks are in the city or out in the country, grows along with the population

Acquisition is only part of the bond measure. Parks need to be kept up, even ones that are primarily in a natural state. Roads and restrooms and visitor centers need maintenance and modernization. Too much of UW maintenance has been deferred. It should be done now.

Proposition 12 has the support not surprisingly, of environmental groups and local governments up and down the state. Less predictably, it also has the support of two major business groups, the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Taxpayers Association.

They understand that parks are something in which California should invest for the long term, which is why paying for them with bonds, over 20 or 30 years, is appropriate. Bonds allow the land to be acquired now, and paid off over the years, as Californians of today and tomorrow continue to enjoy the parks.

Assuring that enjoyment is why voters should pass Proposition 12.

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## President's Message

### (Continued from page 2)

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magnificent redwoods, endless desert and representative examples of the cultural history of California. In addition, local parks give us a place to take our kids for a ride on the swing, to go down a slide, to fly a kite, to run on the grass or sit quietly under a tree. Local parks offer sports and activity programs that help families give their children opportunities that are unavailable at home or at school. Without these places, life would consist of going to work or school and coming home.

Preach the value of parks every day and every moment you can. Remember each day why you chose to be a park professional whether it's as a ranger, a lifeguard, a maintenance worker, a resource ecologist, an interpreter, an administrative officer, a park aid or the director.

You make parks valuable to the people of California. They may not thank you enough directly, but they do by supporting what you do. Let me say, "Thank You," for making parks important in my life. Let me also ask you to encourage everyone you know to re-invest in our health and the value of parks by voting for Proposition 12 on March 7th.

Preach the  
value of parks  
every day and  
every moment  
you can.

## **Governor Davis Appoints Three Staffers to the Department of Parks and Recreation**

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gray Davis today named Ruth G. Coleman as Deputy Director for Legislation, Sedrick V. Mitchell as Deputy Director for Community Affairs, and David Widell as Deputy Director for the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Coleman, 39, of Davis, has served as policy director in the office of Assemblywoman Helen Thomson since 1998. From 1996 to 1998, she was legislative director for then-Senator Mike Thompson and served as a committee consultant to the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee from 1993 to 1995. From 1991 to 1993, Ms. Coleman was an air pollution specialist at the California Air Resources Board, and from 1988 to 1991, served as a fiscal and policy analyst with the Legislative Analyst's Office. She is a member of the Davis League of Women Voters and the National Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Ms. Coleman earned a bachelor of arts degree from Occidental College and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University. Ms. Coleman will earn a salary of \$81,984, reflecting a 5% reduction as requested by the governor. This position does not require Senate confirmation.

Mr. Mitchell, 38, of Stockton, currently serves as district coordinator for Senator Patrick Johnston, a position he has held since 1996. From 1993 to 1996, he was senior consultant to the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Previously, he served in Senator Johnston's office as a field representative. Mr. Mitchell earned a bachelor of arts degree from California State University, Stanislaus. He will earn a salary of \$74,544, reflecting a 5% reduction as requested by the governor. This position does not require Senate confirmation.

Mr. Widell, 32, of Sacramento, has served as chief deputy director of the California Waterfowl Association since 1992, and concurrently served as assistant general manager of the Grassland Water District. >From 1989 to 1992, he was a legislative aide in the office of then-Assemblyman Rusty Areias. Mr. Widell is a board member of the California League of Conservation Voters. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Davis. Mr. Widell will earn a salary of \$81,072, reflecting a 5% reduction as requested by the governor. This position does not require Senate confirmation.

## **Apologies From the Editor**

Last issue I reprinted an article that originally appeared in the October issue. The article was by Denise Reichenberg entitled Ecology Worksjhop in the Rockies. I credited to Jeri Zemon in the last issue.

My apologies to Denise, Jeri and to all of the readers of the Newsletter.

## **CSPRA Has a New Web Site Address**

**<<http://www.cspra.com/>>**

## Capitol Corner

by  
Jill Dampier

I am dedicating this Capitol Corner to Proposition 12. This is a very important bond for all parklands and open spaces, park services and park programs. And it is up to us, those who work for parks, who enjoy parks and open space, and who feel it is important to preserve and enhance what we have for future generations to get the word out. Please put an effort towards promoting this bond and educating friends, acquaintances and the public about the needs for the bond and its urgency. The websites mentioned below provide valuable information, so please use them.

### Proposition 12 The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000

#### What's it all about?

Proposition 12 is a park and resource financing instrument. It will provide \$2.1 billion for the acquisition, development, improvement, restoration, enhancement and protection of state and local parks as well as other recreational, historical, wildlife, water, and clean-air resources.

It is the first park bond the voters have had an opportunity to vote on in over 10 years. This bond begins to address the many issues that have come about from lack of adequate funding in all areas of park and recreation usage and planning. It is divided into more than a dozen categories, reflecting the needs of California's diverse population. It is designed to benefit the entire state and is well balanced in its distribution of funds.

This bond has no direct opposition. Besides a variety of state and local civic organizations, the business community also supports Prop 12. California State Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Prop. 12 as it recognizes the value of clean water, clean air, and safe parks to business retention and development in local

communities. The California Manufacturers Association and the California Taxpayers' Association have endorsed Prop. 12. Cal-Tax states, "Cal-Tax endorses Proposition 12 because it is fiscally responsible, it does not raise taxes, and it pays for projects that are important for all Californians."

Proposition 12 **will not** increase taxes. According to Cal-Tax, November 1999, "State general obligation bonds like Prop. 12 do not cause a tax increase . . . Prop. 12 will require about \$140 million a year in debt payments – this is about 0.2 percent of next year's projected general fund budget. This small reaction is a reasonable amount to pay for investing in important facilities that will benefit future generations."

Proposition 12, as with any other general obligation bond, will be paid for over the next 20-25 years. Each year's payment is made from existing revenues in the state general fund. The passage of the bonds commits the Legislature to make these bond payments one of their highest budget priorities as they allocate funds.

If the voters approve Prop 12 on March 7, the Legislature can begin to appropriate funds in the FY 2001-02 budget. State agencies must approve all fund distribution. Life of this bond will be around 10 years.

The Governor and the Legislature are very supportive of Proposition 12. But this "blessing" is a two edged sword. Basically, if this bond does not pass, the Governor will not back another bond of this magnitude, nor will talk of supplemental funding for parks be heard.

#### So, What Can We Do?

There is so much we can do as CSPRA members, citizens and even as California State Park employees.

It does not matter for whom we do it; we must get the word out to our communities, friends and families that **this proposition is a necessity.**

#### As CSPRA Members

Attend one of the State Parks and Recreation Commission informational workshops. The purpose of **A** these workshops is to provide the public an opportu-

nity to recommend acquisition, development and rehabilitation projects for State Parks. (Meeting schedule is attached) Urge others to attend these workshops, too.

Attend one of the Regional Committee Meetings being held throughout the state. This is a great place to meet local activists and to get involved in the campaign on a local level. (Meeting information is available on Safeparks Website)

Contact local groups and share information. Ask to speak to a local community groups during their monthly meeting.

Write an article for local community group/church//PTA/professional association's newsletters. Just use the information included in this brief and/or other information available on the various websites.

Raise funds or donate to the statewide campaign.

Motivate local non profit organizations to adopt a resolution of support for Prop 12. (A sample resolution is available on the CPRS website.)

### **As a California State Park Employee**

We are encouraged to speak to local service organizations, park stakeholder organizations, and local agencies to see whether they are holding any forums or would like a guest speaker who can present information on this bond. Use the "Talking Points" developed by the department. Each district should have received an information packet. Ask your supervisor for a copy.

Know the projects unique to your area.

Within the guidelines set by the department, answer questions and provide information to park visitors.

There are three main web sites that have Proposition 12 information. These are:

<<http://www.safeparks.org>> – Prop12 official web site. It provides overall information, provides sample points to include in newsletters, editorials, etc., and provides links to other sites. Has information on how

to donate to the statewide campaign.

<<http://www.parks.ca.gov/bond>> – provides specific information on State Park allocations, local grant administration, upcoming State Park Commission public meetings on Prop. 12.

<<http://www.cprs.org>> – provides specific information on distribution of Local allocations. There are also sample letters, editorials, etc. available for use.

## **Proposition 12 Breakdown**

### **State Agencies:**

#### **State Park Development**

- \$415 million for general rehabilitation, restoration, improvement, and development of existing DPR units, facilities and trails, including Sno-Parks winter recreation facilities, to acquire inholdings and adjacent lands, and for air quality improvement projects (low emission vehicles and equipment) at state park units;

- \$20 million for grants to local entities that operate DPR-owned park units; (32 DPR units are state-owned but operated by a local government entity);

- \$18 million for cultural and natural resources "stewardship," defined as projects that protect, preserve, rehabilitate, restore, and improve natural systems and outstanding features of the state park system, historical and cultural resources;

- \$15 million to preserve and restore a unit of the state park system that preserves and restores historical and immigration resources in Northern California (presumably Angel Island State Park in San Francisco Bay);

- \$5 million for "restoration, study, and curation of paleontological, archeological and historical resource site protection" (presumably at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park);

- \$4 million for facilities and improvements to enhance volunteer participation in the state park system;

- \$2.5 million for Empire Mine State Park capital outlay projects;



- \$2.6 million to build visitor centers in state parks, state historic parks, and state recreation areas, with priority for Chino Hills State Park and California Citrus State Historic Park;

- \$2 million to build a visitor center at a state recreation area with a body of water along the American River (presumably Folsom Lake State Rec Area);

- \$1 million for restoration of state beaches;

- Up to \$500,000 to build trails, trailheads, and parking, and for nonvehicular public access between the Bear and Mendoza open space and adjacent to Henry Coe State Park;

- Up to \$650,000 for playground equipment upgrades in State Recreation Areas;

- \$250,000 to restore state reserves that maintain the state flower (presumably California Poppy Reserve);

- \$250,000 for Columbia State Park;

- \$250,000 to be allocated to Mount Diablo State Park;

### **State Park Acquisition**

- Although the majority of Proposition 12 funding is aimed at development and restoration projects, there is some funding set-aside for acquisition of key parkland for the California State Park System.

- \$50 million for acquisitions that are a high priority for the state park system and for habitat, with priority for Natural Community Conservation Plan projects that protect habitat; other properties may be acquired if approved by statute; these acquisitions could be for new park units; and \$10 million to acquire redwood forests from willing sellers, with priority for projects with matching funds from other public agencies, private parties, or nonprofits.

- Also, of the \$415 million general allocation to California State Parks, an unspecified amount can be used "to acquire inholdings and adjacent lands."

### **General Provisions**

Requires California State Parks (DPR) to annually provide the Legislature and the Resources Agency Secretary with a prioritized list and evaluation of proposed projects, and requires the Secretary to forward projects approved by the Secretary to the Director of Finance for inclusion in the Budget Bill. Requires DPR Director to determine, by November 1, 2001, the amount of funding needed to complete all deferred maintenance projects in each DPR unit. Prohibits the use of bond proceeds to acquire improved property for a DPR unit until 75% of the amount needed to complete the identified deferred maintenance projects at that unit has been appropriated and allocated from sources other than this bond act, unless the Director makes a finding that a unique and significant acquisition opportunity exists.

### **Other State Allocations**

- \$2.5 million to the CA Conservation Corps capital needs;

- \$265 million to the wildlife Conservation Board including \$5 million for the Central Valley habitat Joint Venture; \$5 million for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley;

- \$5 million for central coast property containing specified species; \$13 million for ancient redwoods and oak woodlands; \$82.5 million for habitat including at the Salton Sea; \$100 million for NCCP projects; \$5 million for the Salton Sea specifically;

- \$50 million to the Tahoe Conservancy;

- \$220.4 million continuously appropriated to the State Coastal Conservancy including \$25 million for the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program; \$25 million for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project; \$3 million for regional beach erosion projects; \$13 million for the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve; \$15 million for the coast north of Gualala River; \$25 million for the Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara area, including \$1 million for Window on the Bay in Monterey; \$5 million for the Coastal Trail; \$2 million for the Guadalupe River Trail and The San Francisco Bay Ridge Trail; \$22 million for acquisition, development, rehab, etc., for fish and C wildlife projects including \$10 million for north of

the Gualala river, \$800,000 for specified fisheries that feed the San Mateo, Devil Canyon, and San Onofre Creeks in San Diego County; \$25 million for salmon habitat projects; \$25 million for wetlands project in Los Angeles County; and \$12 million for a watershed in the Laguna Coast Wilderness park;

- \$35 million to the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy;
- \$5 million for the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy;
- \$15 million for the San Joaquin River conservancy;
- \$25 million to the Department of Conservation for Agricultural land Stewardship including \$5 million for lands around the San Pablo Bay;
- \$10 million to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for urban forest projects;
- \$12 million to the Department of Fish and Game including \$5 million for wildlife habitat;
- \$5 million for the California Waterfowl Habitat Program; and \$2 million for weed removal in San Diego County.

#### **Local Agencies:**

- \$388 million for per capita grants;
- \$200 million for Roberti-Z'berg-Harris allocation formula - 69% are in form of block grants, remainder on a competitive basis;
- \$100 million for Hayden-Murray grant programs to local agencies and nonprofit;
- \$71.5 million for zoos, museums, cultural centers grants;
- \$15 million for soccer/baseball fields that serve disadvantaged youth grants;
- \$10 million for non-motorized trails grants;
- \$10 million for urban rivers, creeks, lakes and stream access grants;
- 7 million for playground safety project grants;
- \$10 million for California Heritage fund grants;
- \$20 million for State Park facilities operated by local agencies;
- \$10 million for urban forestation project grants;

- \$25 million for agriculture land stewardship program grants;
- \$32.25 million for allocations to local agencies for specific projects;

#### **Other Agency Distributions:**

- \$7 million to Integrated Waste Management Board for matching grants to assist in funding playground upgrades using recycled materials to meet federal accessibility standards.
- \$6.25 million to the Resources Agency secretary to administer grants to the Sierra Nevada-Cascade program with the intent to preserve the Sierra-Cascade natural ecosystem. \$4 million for Commons Beach in the Lake Tahoe area, \$500,000 to an incorporated city within 5 miles of the boundary line between San Joaquin County and Sacramento County, and \$250,000 to DPR to renovate a point of historical interest near the intersection of Jack Tone Road and Highway 88.
- \$33.5 million to the Resources Agency Secretary to administer a river parkway and restoration local assistance program, and requires the Secretary to make \$10 million available to the Los Angeles River Watershed, \$15 million to the San Gabriel River Watershed, \$2.5 million to Kern County River area, \$1 million for Santa Clara Watershed, \$3 million for the Sacramento River and \$2 million to build a visitor center at a state recreation area with a body of water along the American River (presumably Folsom Lake SRA).
- \$6.1 million to the Resources Agency Secretary for other conservation, recreation, and wildlife protection programs including \$2 million for Sonoma County, \$100,000 for a community center in San Benito County, \$100,000 for a vets' park in San Benito, \$500,000 for a community center in the City of Galt, \$400,000 for a community center in the City of Gilroy, \$2 million for Camp Arroyo in Alameda County, and \$1 million for Wildhaven Center in the San Bernardino Mountains.

## Customer Service Continuous Improvement or What I Did With My CSPRA Scholarship

Customer Service. We have all heard about it, been trained in it, and are continuously trying to improve it. Some of us may even be secretly tired of hearing about it.

After a long busy summer, I was sitting in my office trying to complete the work that absolutely had to be completed before I left on vacation the following day. The park aid came back to my office to report to me that a park visitor had been stung by a hornet and would like to talk to a Ranger. I dropped everything and responded. As I was chatting with the visitor while applying an ice pack and monitoring for any possible allergic reactions, the subject of the recent California Condor releases in Big Sur came up. The man was obviously an avid birder and was quite interested in seeing one of these incredible birds. I told him that Condors were often seen in the area and suggested he walk outside and look. I promptly returned to my work that had to get done.

Three minutes later, the visitor came rushing back into the Big Sur Station and wanted to talk to me. As I was responding from my office and reviewing in my mind the protocol for allergic reactions, for why else would the visitor want to talk to me again so soon. The visitor, flushed with excitement, told me he had just seen a couple of Condors soaring overhead. He told me I had made his day. Suddenly, all those mundane work items that had to be done before I left on vacation no longer seemed quite so important. I had positively effected someone's Park experience.

I use this story to illustrate why I make the effort to attend the NAI National Workshops each year on my own time and at my own expense. I attend the Workshops so that I can learn new interpretive techniques and methods, learn how to better train interpreters and how to better manage the Sector's interpretive program, learn about new re-

source, and network with professionals from all over the world who make a living providing excellence in interpretation. And, yes, to improve customer service.

At this year's Workshop, I attended one hour training sessions including "Training Volunteers to Be Interpreters," "The Ecology of Imagination in Childhood," "Interpreting Mythology," "Trails with Tales" (how to create more effective self-guided trails), "Interpreting Insects," and "Trees: Living Symbols of Change." I listened to guest speakers speak of dealing with the loss of children's nature experience, searching for truth in the facts of history, race and slavery, and preaching to the choir but singing to your audience. I browsed and purchased from the table presentations of Interpretive vendors selling everything from rubber stamps to books to skull replicas to telescopes. And I explored the area surrounding Syracuse, where the workshop took place, traveling to castles and glacier made lakes, forests and waterfalls, museums and farms, learning how these sites are interpreted to the public. This was a week full of recharging my batteries, improving my own customer service and learning ways to train others on how to improve their own customer service.

At times, I must admit, when I can't see the bottom of my in box and I know there is something in there that was due yesterday or when I have to try to calm down one more camper who didn't get the "perfect" campsite or go through one more summer down two Rangers and trying to cover Sector operations and be a supervisor, I don't even want to think about customer service (external or internal). But then I attend some really great training and my worklife is put back into perspective. Protecting the resources and serving the Park Visitor is why I became a Ranger. Striving to continually improve customer service is important and worthwhile. Perhaps that visitor for whom I "made his day" will forever remember his first experience seeing that great bird that came so close to extinction. Isn't that what State Parks are all about?

Thank you CSPRA for making this opportunity possible for me through your scholarship program.

I use this story to  
illustrate why I  
make the effort to  
attend the NAI  
National Work-  
shops each year on  
my own time and  
at my own ex-  
pense.

## 72 Parks and Schools Awarded Funding for Earth Day 2000 Projects by California State Parks Foundation and Enron

SAN FRANCISCO - December 15, 1999

A "Recycle-a-Thon," national wildlife refuge restoration, inner-city tree planting and an underwater cleanup are among the 74 projects awarded funding today as part of the California State Parks Foundation's Earth Day 2000 Restoration and Cleanup presented by Enron. A total of \$102,032 was granted to State Parks, community parks, and schools in 28 California counties for urgent environmental projects to be completed by volunteers on Saturday, April 22, 2000.

Grant funding provided by presenting sponsor Enron, The Men's Wearhouse, American Express Foundation, Chevron, Starbucks Coffee, Levi Strauss, and Amgen Foundation will help relieve the existing billion dollar backlog in State Park maintenance and repair projects by providing funds for plants, tools and materials. The program will also assist community parks and schools statewide in restoring green spaces in honor of Earth Day's 30th Anniversary. Among the projects funded are:

- 36 State Parks from Crescent City to San Diego including Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, the California State Railroad Museum, Mt. Diablo State Park, Topanga State Park and Torrey Pines State Reserve;
- 27 community parks including South Park in San Francisco, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach, and Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in Los Angeles;
- 10 schools located in Sacramento, Berkeley, San Jose, Los Angeles and San Diego;
- 1 National Forest: Stanislaus National Forest.

The California State Parks Foundation developed its Earth Day program in 1998 in partnership with Enron, one of the world's leading providers of clean, natural gas, to encourage a day of action that would engage residents in caring for our state's

threatened natural resources. The grants provide the critical seed funding that enables parks, schools, community groups and nonprofits in diverse socioeconomic and geographic regions of the state to accomplish much-needed environmental improvement projects.

"The Earth Day program's impact goes far beyond the \$102,032 in grants awarded to the 74 project sites," said Susan Smartt, president of the California State Parks Foundation. "Millions of California residents and park users will reap the benefits of the environmental improvements made, and we are actively educating the next generation of environmentalists who will help sustain our planet's resources for the future. We are proud to spearhead such an important program in partnership with Enron."

Due to severe budget cuts over the past decade, State Parks are currently embroiled in a crisis for survival. At the same time that park budgets have decreased, over the past 30 years, California's population has doubled, and State Park visitors have increased eightfold. In March 2000, for the first time in 12 years, there will be a \$2.1 billion park bond on the state ballot, Proposition 12, aimed at improving run-down state and local parks, protecting the coast and critical watershed lands.

The California State Parks Foundation helps protect and enhance California's 265 State Parks. Since its inception in 1969, the Foundation has raised more than \$93 million for California's most important natural and cultural resources. A nonprofit membership organization, the Foundation relies on contributions from its 25,000 members, corporations, and foundations to accomplish its work.

For more information about the California State Parks Foundation's Earth Day 2000 Restoration and Cleanup presented by Enron call 1-888-98-PARKS or visit the Foundation's web site at [www.calparks.org](http://www.calparks.org).

## CA Parks Conference Special Activities

**Trip to Hollywood** Tuesday evening following the reception, join John Arbogast, City of Los Angeles Park Ranger who will share his knowledge as we travel by bus to fabulous Hollywood. Stops will include Mann's Chinese Theatre, the Walk of Fame and the world-famous Hollywood Sign. You'll want to hear John's stories. It's an experience not to be missed.

**Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage and Los Angeles Zoo** Wednesday evening visit the Los Angeles Zoo and attend a reception at the Gene Autry Museum, featuring an exhibit on Buffalo Bill Cody.

**The Getty Center** — Discover the Getty Center, Los Angeles' newest cultural attraction. Situated high atop the Santa Monica Mountains, this magnificent complex offers breathtaking views of Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean, and contains some of the world's finest art treasures.

**Whale Watching** — All aboard the Sunfish for a trip in and around the Santa Barbara Channel in search of the magnificent California Gray Whale during the prime migration period.

**California Condor Project** — Visit the Los Angeles Zoo for a rare, behind-the-scenes look at these magnificent creatures.

### Friday - Training Opportunities

**1. Using Magic in Your Interpretive Programs** (9:00 a.m. to noon) Join Ranger/Magician Frank Padilla as he shares with you some simple tricks and techniques involving the art of magic that you can use to spice up your programs. All attendees will receive a book and a videotape.

**2. Malibu Canyon Field Trip** Guided tour of Malibu Canyon from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. via car pool. It will focus on natural and cultural resource concerns of the Malibu Creek watershed, with an em-

phasis on the resources of Malibu Creek State Park and Malibu Lagoon State Beach.

**Malibu Creek State Park Camping Trip** Immediately after the field trip above, a campout will be available at Malibu Creek State Park (showers available). Tri-tip barbecue dinner will be prepared by Malibu Superintendent Hayden Sohm. Milt McCauley will present a slide show, "Parks, People and Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains," at the Campfire Center.

**3. Red Rock Canyon State Park Field Trip** Welcome and orientation by Superintendent Kathleen Franklin and Ranger Mark Faull at the Visitor Center. Dr David Whistler, Paleontologist from the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History will speak on the Desert and Paleontology and then lead a trip to a recent discovery.

**Red Rock Canyon State Park Campout & Liars Contest** Enjoy a terrific BBQ dinner prepared by Supervising Ranger Tom Tanner, watch a desert sunset, and attend an evening campfire featuring a Liars Contest.

**For more information consult the registration packet.**

**Check your  
registration  
packet for  
complete infor-  
mation on this  
years confer-  
ence**



**Ruth G. Coleman  
Darci J. Moore  
Ray Ann Watson**



## Robert E. Stewart Passes

Bob Stewart of Mountain Ranch died at home on December 31, 1999. Bob was 83. He was born in San Jose and had lived in Mountain Ranch for the past 28 years.

Bob was a Master Sergeant in the Army Air Corps in World War II, serving in the South Pacific. He was active in the Calaveras Masonic Lodge number 78 in San Andreas.

Bob worked in many parks throughout the state and completed his service at Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Bob was probably the best known ranger in the state of California when he served as Park Supervisor at Mount Diablo State Park. He was known as "The Man on The Mountain, Bob Stewart" for his early morning reports of the weather from the top of the mountain for a San Francisco radio station.

Bob is survived by his children, Robert E. Stewart Jr. of Nevada City, Joe Stewart of Angels Camp and Lorraine Stewart of Hayward; his sister; a grandchild; and three great-grandchildren.



## Carl "Andy" Anderson Passes

Andy Anderson was born September 8, 1922 in El Cerrito. He attended Saint Marys College and graduated as a Commissioned Officer in the Naval Air Corps and became an aviator. He flew single engine fighters in World War II.

His State Park career lasted for 37 years and included assignments at Cuyamaca Rancho, the Sierra District, the North Coast Redwoods as District Superintendent, District IV as Superintendent, and Assistant Deputy Director in Los Angeles.

His career lasted for 37 years and ended as Superintendent of the North Coast District.

After retirement he kept active working with the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association, the Boy Scouts, and the Save-The Redwoods League as a Councillor.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Luella; his son Bob of the North Coast Redwoods, and his daughters Enid Stoveland and Elaine Weedman.

Andy died on January 4, 2000, surrounded by his family, after a brief illness.

**CSPRA donated  
\$3,500 to the  
Californians for  
Safe Neighborhood  
Parks and Clean  
Water**

**District Reps**

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Work Phone</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Van Etten-Collins, L.	American River	916 988-0206	530 477-7145	916 988-9062
Padilla, Frank	Angeles, Coast	805 986-8484	818 880-4510	805 488-5367
Crossman, John	Angeles Inland	805 726-1671	805 942-0662	805 940-7327
Edgemon, Chuck	Bay Area-Coast	650 879-2025	650 879-0827	
Nielson, Carl	Bay Area-Diablo	925 837-2525	925 416-0763	925 855-1731
Harrison, Wayne	Calaveras	209 795-3488	209 795-5342	209 795-7306
Robinson, Rondalyn	Channel Coast	805 654-5301	805 654-0895	805 654-4667
Zemon, Jeri	Colorado	760 767-5311		760 767-3427
Stokes, Mary	Four Rivers	209 826-1196	209 632-1627	209 826-1196
Simmons, Kenneth	Gold Rush	916 445-7387		916 327-5655
Maris, Vic	Headquarters	916 653-9315		916 657-1856
Fuzie, Matt	Los Lagos	909 657-0676		909 657-2736
Whitehead, Mike	Marin	415 435-5390		415 435-0850
Moffat, William	Monterey	408 667-2315		
Grove, Susan	Northern Buttes	530 235-0956		
Jones, Ronald	North Coast	707 946-2409	707 725-4920	707 441-5737
Serpa, Jim	Orange Coast	949 496-5290	949 366-0885	949 496-9469
Vacant	Pismo Dunes			
Joe, Kevin	Russ-Mendocino	707 937-5804	707 877-3592	707 937-2593
Broderick, Karen	Russ-Mendocino	707 847-3286	707 785-3432	
Vacant	So Service Center			
Martino, Mike	San Diego Coast	619 484-4990		
Davis, Jeff	San Joaquin	209 822-2332		209 822-2319
Knapp, Eric	San Luis Obispo	805 772-7434	805 927-3516	805 541-4799
Van Schmus, James	San Simeon	805 927-2020	805 772-9166	805 927-2031
Sherr, Christy	Santa Cruz	831 338-8861		
Lindsey, Tom	Sierra	530 525-7232		530 525-6730
Nixon, Valerie	Silverado	707 279-4293	707 279-7713	707 279-0401

The District Reps are your best connection with the board.  
Give them your ideas, suggestions, questions and complaints.

**Do You Know Someone Who is Retiring?****Please Order Their Plaque Now!**

Yes, CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire if a friend, supervisor, spouse or even the employee themselves will let us know the following:

Name to appear on plaque: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years employed by DPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee would like to be remembered as a Ranger, Superintendent or: \_\_\_\_\_

Send plaque to CSPRA member \_\_\_\_\_ for presentation on \_\_\_\_\_. The address the plaque should be sent to is: \_\_\_\_\_

**C S P R A  
Finances**

**Checking**  
\$211.43

**General Savings**  
\$18,450.13

**SAVE BODIE!**  
\$1,234.87

**Whitehead**

**Feb/Mar**



**2000**

California State Park Rangers Assoc  
P O Box 292010  
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010

**Bulk Rate  
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MUETZ-HISTORIAN, MICHAEL  
2781 STONECREST COURT  
PLACERVILLE CA 95667-4965

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**Jr. Past President**  
Jill Dampier  
Supervising Ranger  
American River—Auburn  
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\*\*\*

**Directors**  
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## **CSPRA Calendar**

**California Parks  
Conference  
Van Nuys  
March 7-10, 2000**

### **Directors Continued**

Dana Jones  
State Park Sup't. I  
Mott Training Center  
(831) 649-2958  
e-Mail <>  
\*\*\*

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State Park Ranger I  
San Joaquin District  
(559) 822-2247  
e-Mail:  
\*\*\*

Mike Gross  
Supervising Ranger  
Northern Buttes District  
(530) 538-2200

All committees use CSPRA address. For  
additional information, write to:

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**Web Site**  
<<http://www.cspra.com>>