



The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 19, Number 4

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2019

"State Park experts and professionals advocating for State Parks since 1964."

CSPRA Files Suit Against Parks

For the very first time in our 55 year history, CSPRA has taken legal action against the California Department of Parks and Recreation concerning a CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) filed on August 13, 2019, proposing to issue a five-year, Special Event Permit for 30 non-park related theater performances at Jack London State Historic Park.

The Executive Committee (EC), made up of CSPRA's Officers, became aware of the NOE in late August and was very concerned. We soon realized that there is no public comment component to the CEQA NOE process, and the filing of the NOE triggers a 35-day waiting period before the NOE becomes final. CSPRA was also able to determine that the only recourse to a CEQA NOE filing is legal action, taken within the 35-day window.

CSPRA met with the department on September 12th. Although some information was exchanged at the meeting, the department would not commit to taking any action



regarding the NOE until after the CEQA deadline had passed (and no official or legal objection could be raised).

This legal action was filed on September 16, 2019, in Sacramento County Superior Court. This filing is a public document, available through the court. However we are also providing the membership a copy of the legal filing at:
<http://www.cspira.com/legal.html>

The next step in the legal process is a mandatory settlement conference between the parties now expected some time in December.

The CSPRA Officers and Directors strongly feel that this legal action was absolutely necessary to protect the integrity of the California State Park System's cultural and natural resources, to provide for the proper and legal operation of units operated by non-profit organizations, and more specifically, to protect the integrity of the Core Historic District at Jack London State Historic Park, a California and National Historic Landmark.

Please see page 4 for a related story on this issue.



CSPRA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike Lynch, Retired Ranger/Supt.
(530) 613-4732, mike@cspira.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Ann Meneguzzi, Retired, Sup. Rgr.
(209) 373-9844, ann@cspira.com

SECRETARY

Jeff Price, Retired Ranger, Sup
(805) 278-9201, jeff@cspira.com

TREASURER

Tom Bernardo, Retired Ranger/Supt.
(916) 990-2009, tom@cspira.com

DIRECTORS

Miles Standish, Retired Ranger
(831) 466-9789, miles@cspira.com

Joanna Kerbavz, Env. Scientist
(650) 720-5007, joanna@cspira.com

Frank Padilla, Jr, Ret. Ranger/Supt.
(805) 660-0245, frank@cspira.com

Kim Preston, Ret. Admin. Chief
(530) 589-0250, kim@cspira.com

Steve Ptomey, Interpreter III
(559) 972-5844, steve@cspira.com

Neill Fogarty, Supervising SPPO
(707) 364-5173, neill@cspira.com

Rob Pickett, Supervising Ranger
(661) 618-6924, rob@cspira.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Victor Bjelajac, North Coast Redwoods
vbjelajac@cspira.com

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Lynch, Acting Executive Manager
P.O. Box 3212,
Bowman, CA 95604-3212

MEMBER SERVICES

Betsy Anderson
(707) 884-3949, betsy@cspira.com

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

Jeffery B. Price, Webmaster
webmaster@cspira.com
www.cspira.com

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Brian Cahill, Editor
Brian@cspira.com

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*Deadline for next issue
January 1*

President's Message

At the Borrego conference several members were recognized for outstanding service to CSPRA. **Tom Bernardo** was presented the "President's Award" for all of his financial work, especially for the Ranger Foundation. "Presidential Appreciation Medals" were presented to, **Jeff Ohlfs** (Latin American liaison), **Jeff Price** (recruitment & lawsuit support), **John Mott** (legislation) and **Ann Meneguzzi** (for just about everything). We appreciate everyone's hard work.



Member Resolutions Approved

In addition to acting through their elected officers, any CSPRA member may also bring forth a resolution at the annual membership meeting. This year three resolutions were presented and considered.

Bud Getty presented a resolution that read in part:

“It shall be CSPRA’s position that the state park units now being operated by non-profit groups (under Public Resources Code 5080.42) should be returned to direct California State Parks operation and management, while continuing to utilize and work with the park partners involved to support, augment and provide assistance, that enhances the overall operation.

Units operated by non-profit groups under Public Resources Code 5080.42, are Austin Creek State Recreation Area, China Camp State Park, Jack London State Historic Park, Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area and Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.

The CSPRA Board will take all action possible to ensure that the California State Parks directly operates and manages the park units currently operated by non-profit groups pursuant to under Public Resources Code 5080.42.”

“Section 7. A resolution may be submitted to the Board of Directors by any Active, Active Retired, or Professional Development member...Subsection 7.2 7.2 Resolutions for GEC [Annual Members meeting] must be submitted to the Secretary prior to the start of the General Executive Council. Late resolutions may be received only with a majority approval by the Board of Directors. Resolutions must be prepared in correct written form and signed by five (5) Active, Active Retired or Professional Development members.”

Honorary Ranger **Jerry Jackman** presented a resolution that read in part:

“We urge California State Parks to complete the Santa Barbara Presidio reconstruction project approved in the park’s General Plan. The Santa Barbara Presidio was the last Spanish fort built in North America and is a recognized site of State, National, and International significance.

This park is the only one in the California State Park System interpreting in depth the non-Mission Spanish Colonial History of Alta California.”



Bud Getty tells it like it is.

Dave Carle, Janet Carle and Dave Marquart presented a resolution that read in part:

“The California State Park Ranger Association supports restoring the full-time permanent Ranger/Peace Officer position at the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve as part of an effort to bring staff levels back to the level that fostered proper stewardship of a world-class resource and a jewel of the State Park system. CSPRA urges the Department of Parks and Recreation to restore staffing as soon as possible.”

All 3 Resolutions presented were approved by members.

Jack London Lawsuit Background

“Petitioner California State Parks Rangers Association petitions this Court for a Writ of Mandate, directed to Respondent California Department of Parks and Recreation. (“Respondent” or “Parks”). Petitioner challenges Respondent’s August 12, 2019 approval of the Transcendence Theater Company Summer Theater Festival 2020-2024 Seasons (“Project”).

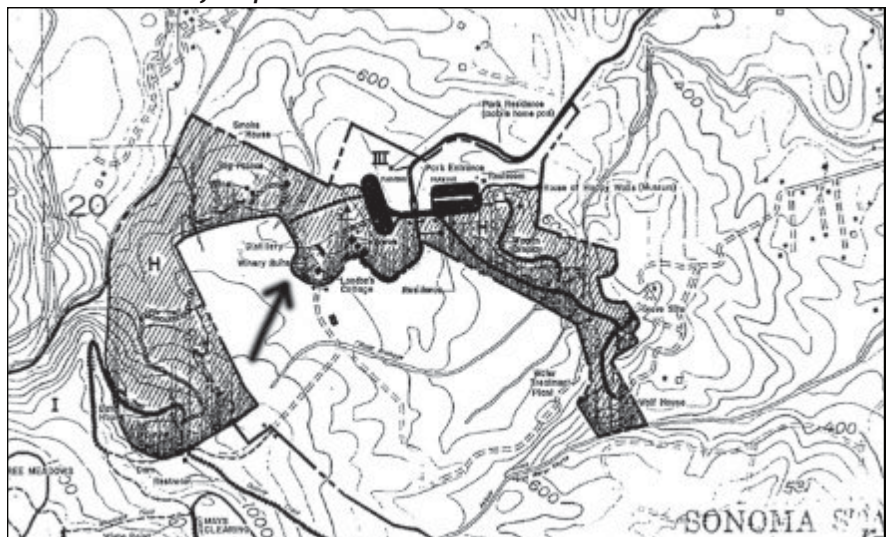
The Project is the grant of a five-year renewal of a Special Events Permit to the Transcendence Theater Company to stage performances in the Old Winery Ruins at Jack London Historic Park. The permit allows up to 4 annual theatrical productions (up to 30 performances in total) with up to 860 attendees at each performance.

Petitioner contends that Respondent’s approval for the Project based upon a Notice of Exemption violates the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. (“CEQA”), and State Planning and Zoning Law, Government Code §§ 65300 et seq.

Petitioner also contends that the approval of the Special Events Permit violates Public Resources Code, sections 5001.9(b); 5001.96; 5019.53; 5019.59; and 5080.03.”



Comparison views of London Winery Ruins all summer long when event is in full swing and what it was intended to look like for park visitors.



Map from General Plan showing the park’s crescent-shaped, designated, “Low Intensity Use Area,” (Arrow points to location of London Winery Ruins)

Excerpts from the Jack London General Plan, September 1988

(page 59) **Allowable Use Intensity:** The California Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, requires that a land carrying capacity survey be made prior to the preparation of any development plan for any state park or state recreation area. Section 5001.96 further requires that attendance be held within limits so established. Allowable use intensity is a refinement of the land carrying capacity concept, and is prepared as part of the Resource Element of the General Plan, in fulfillment of the above code sections.

(page 39, 40) **Primary Historic Zone:** Section 5019.59 of the Public Resources Code states, in part, that areas outside the

primary historic zone may be acquired, developed, or operated "as a recreation zone to provide limited recreational opportunities that will supplement the public's enjoyment of the unit".

The intent of a primary historic zone is to protect the environmental integrity of significant historic resources, and to restrict incompatible facilities in that area. A crescent-shaped parcel of land stretching from the eastern park boundary westward to London's lake has been designated the primary historic zone (see Allowable Use Intensity Map).

(page 71) **Land Use Categories:** The department has identified three basic land use categories in the park: the Primary Historic Zone, the entrance and parking lot area, and the remaining

parkland/upland open space portion of the park.

A. Primary Historic Zone: The Primary Historic Zone (PHZ) is a specific category identified by the department's Resource Protection Division, and thoroughly described in the Resource Element. Current recreational activities in the Primary Historic Zone are for the most part fairly low-key, passive activities such as: picnicking, walking, hiking, viewing exhibits, nature appreciation; and more active activities, like bicycling and horseback riding on designated routes and trails.

An analysis of public intent has indicated a desire to keep activities in this particular part of the park "low key." This would include considering the types of activities as well as the number of people participating in an activity.



Long lines at food trucks parked in the protected meadow, not in the paved parking area as required by General Plan and in Event Permit. Historic park structures in background.

Borrego Conference & Rendezvous



Frank Padilla, Jr. on the lookout for bighorn sheep



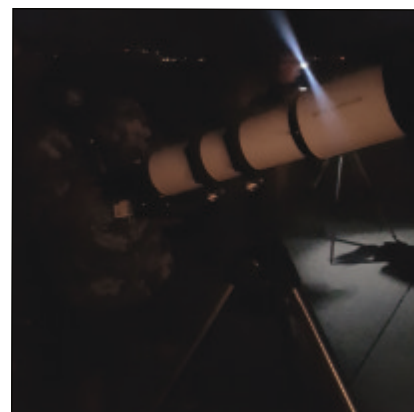
Paleontology tour by Jimmy Smith



UC Irvine Research Center manager Jim Dice was our gracious host



Font's Point tour



Viewing Jupiter's moons and Saturn's rings



We also enjoyed memorable tours of the Archaeology Center and hiking Palm Canyon with Mark Jorgensen



Mark Jorgensen congratulates Delores Lukina, our CSPRA 2019 Honorary Ranger.



Carne on the grill, everyone pitches-in



We appreciate Brianna Fordem and the Anza-Borrego Foundation for all of their fine work as longtime partner to the park, as well as for supporting the CSPRA conference & Rendezvous



A formal meeting of the Board of Directors closes out a very busy four days in Borrego Springs. Thanks to Janet Carle and John Mott for sharing their photos.



Doug Bryce Recollections

Longtime CSPRA Executive Director and Anza-Borrego Ranger **Doug Bryce** was disappointed that he could not join the gang in Borrego (especially the trip to Split Mountain - Fish Creek). He shares a few reminiscences:

“My Friendship with ABDSP”

[1933] Anza Desert established.

[1934] I was accidentally created & lived a few miles away at Oasis, Ca.

[1939] Anza Desert I attended an Easter Sunrise Service at a hill next to the north boundary of the park and I saw for the first time Anza Desert.

[1943] Anza Desert I visited the Calcite Mine with my father who as CA Division of Highways Maintenance Foreman at Westmoreland along with his crew had just refurbished the Truckhaven Trail to provide good access to the Mine. Calcite was used in Bomb Sites during WWII.

[1954] Anza Desert SP I went camping with my Boy Scout Troop in Blair Valley. Our Scout Master set the Cholla plants on fire so the Scouts could enjoy the sparkling fire.

On July 1, 1957 the "DESERTS" were reunited as Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. **Clyde Strickler** as Park Supervisor. I think he

was one of the best PR persons I ever met with State Parks. Also he was certainly one of the best Supervisors I ever worked for.

[1957] ABDSP I was hired by Park Supervisor **Clyde Strickler** to be one of 8 patrolmen for the big park. I was the first person to staff the Fish Creek Ranger Station.

This was the beginning of the first organized patrol system for the whole park. It included 8 districts of about 55,000 acres and 4 new patrol stations. These included Coyote Canyon, Truck Haven Trail, Fish Creek and Blair Valley and the increased size of the double station at Bow Willow. Two Patrol areas were operated from Palm Canyon and Tamarisk Grove.

The new stations were staffed in January 1958. I began as the first Ranger at Fish Creek. We had new radios in our Jeeps but they weren't hooked up until summer. There were several weeks that I came in on Tuesday evening and I never saw nor spoke to a soul until I finished my week on Sunday evening. I got so



I sang a lot so I could see if I could still speak.

Each new station had a 21' Kenskill trailer, a 10' by 12' storage building and a out house about 50' away. We didn't have electricity, running water, nor neighbors. The compound included room to park the Jeep and was enclosed with a Chain Link fence. It was my really first home away from [you name it]. But I do have fond as well as ridiculous memories.

I worked in the Palm Canyon Campground for a year and then I also staffed the Truck Haven Trail Station just before I transferred to Bolsa Chica in 1960.

[1968-69] ABDSP **Jim Whitehead**, District Superintendent, chose me to be Park Supervisor for a year before I promoted to Assistant District Superintendent in Eureka.

Wave Goodbye

Bob Philbrook

Robert Philbrook lived throughout the State Park System, where ever his father, Alan "Tiny" Philbrook was assigned. He and his wife Delarene settled in Modesto and he worked at Livermore Labs. Bob is survived by his wife of 48 years Delarene, their 3 children: Catherine, Wayne, and Justin, and 5 grandchildren.

After 20 years of service Bob retired as a Chief Petty Officer from the US Navy and worked for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory another 20 years. His service to others was evident in his volunteer work with the Boy Scouts and civic service on the Grand Jury. Bob was a committed father, friend and citizen; he will be missed. 1947-2019



Ray Westberg

Ray was known as a true State Parks devotee. He guided the California State Railroad Museum through its early years in operations. Ray was about the next to oldest of the California Park Rangers in both age and date of service.

For those that didn't know Ray, he was a Ranger in most of the types of State Parks, from the Redwoods to the Lakes and from the North to the South. He retired from the position of the first Regional Director, assigned to Stockton.

Ray's friends gathered at the Moose Lodge to celebrate his life. He is interred at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon. May his position of "Ranger" in the Great Park above the Clouds be as successful as his career was on earth. 1925-2019

Michael Rodriques

Michael was the big, friendly guy who ran the Visitor Center at Anza-Borrego for many years. He later promoted to Regional Interpretive Specialist serving the entire Colorado Desert District.

After an early career driving a bread delivery truck, Mike started work with the Department of Fish and Game in the Arcata office in the summer of 1993 as a seasonal aid. He joined State Parks in June 1995, and retired on Disability in 2015.

He outlived his wife Pat by only two years. Their retirement plan was to sell the house and become full time RVers visiting State and National Parks.

Faced at the end with liver cancer, he elected not to have any treatment, having fought cancer twice before. He will be greatly missed. 1957-2019



Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

by Jeff Price, Retired

Mixed Metaphor: A combination of thoughts that when strung together produce a ridiculously funny effect of melded clichés. Send along any overheard slips of the tongue malaprops@cspira.com

Shaft?

I am walking the straightened arrow now.

Problematic zoology.

This can of worms is turning into a barrel of monkeys.

Indirect avoidance?

He's not afraid to shy away from the tough questions.

Whale of an idea.

Some think that because they pay road taxes, they are free willy to park anywhere they choose.

Freudian slip?

. . . they are just jumping to collusions on what happened with the Ukraine president.



Lumbering along toward a climate disaster . . .

Sometimes we forget the forest and the trees.

You might be doing it wrong.

. . . and now I have a bladder infection so have to self-catheterize, what a pain in the ass that is.

. . . and a clash?

So in baseball terms I'm now battling over 100.

An accessible award?

He should have gotten a special accommodation for his bravery.

What choice did he have?

That was a terrible thing to do, how can he sleep with himself?



Next year CSPRA Rendezvous

Donner Memorial State Park

Truckee CA, September 14-17, 2020

CSPRA is affiliated with other non-profit organizations that share our goals.

The Park Rangers Association of California is a professional organization for park Rangers and other uniformed park employees of municipal, county, special district, state and federal agencies.



The International Ranger Federation is a non-profit organization established to raise awareness of and support the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs was established in 1932 for Mutual Service and for the Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Recreation Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers is an organization created to communicate for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and to provide a forum for professional enrichment.



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Retiring Soon?

If you or a co-worker will be retiring soon, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Betsy Anderson at (707) 884-3949.

betsy@cspira.com.



Already Retired?

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join Gray-Bears email ListServ - FREE and EASY

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Job Classification: _____

District / Park: _____

Social Security # _____ (req'd for payroll deduction)

Phone(W) _____ Phone (H) _____

Email: _____

Membership Type (Check one)

- ☐ Active \$10/month
- ☐ Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- ☐ Supporting \$36/year*
- ☐ Organization \$50/year*
- ☐ Benefactor \$1,000/life*

* Please include check for 1 year's dues for these membership levels.

I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until canceled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization.

Signature _____

Date _____

Membership by Mail:

CSPRA — Betsy Anderson
PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445



California State Park Rangers Association



CSPRA is an organization of State Park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, established to support and preserve California State Parks for present and future generations

Founded 1964