

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Parks Announces Closures

Closure Plan Preserves Majority of System's Attendance and Revenue

California State Parks today announced a plan to close up to 70 of its 278 parks (see attachment) due to budget cuts. The closures are necessary to achieve an \$11 million reduction in the next fiscal year 2011/12, and \$22 million in the following fiscal year 2012/13. These cuts were mandated by AB 95, which was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in March.

"We regret closing any park," said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks, "but with the proposed budget reductions over the next two years, we can no longer afford to operate all parks within the system."

"These cuts are unfortunate, but the state's current budget crisis demands that tough decisions be made," said Resources Secretary John Laird. "Hopefully, Republicans in the legislature will agree to allow California voters to decide whether we extend currently existing taxes or make deeper cuts to our parks."

State Parks had three primary goals for developing the closure methodology (see attachment): (1) protect the most significant natural and cultural resources, (2) maintain public access and revenue generation to the greatest extent possible and (3) protect closed parks so that they remain attractive and usable for potential partners. The methodology was included in the budget bill approved by the Legislature and the governor in March.

Despite the large number of parks identified for closure, at least 92% of today's attendance will be retained, 94% of existing revenues will be preserved, and 208 parks will remain open. State Parks believes the methodology developed preserves and protects parks critical to the mission, which provide for the diversity of experiences wanted by visitors across the state. For instance, State Parks has a variety of state historic parks, state beaches, state recreation

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areas, state nature reserves and state parks and most of the parks in all categories will remain open to serve the diverse preferences of park visitors.

“With this announcement, we can begin to seek additional partnership agreements to keep open as many parks as possible,” added Coleman. “We already have 32 operating agreements with our partners – cities, counties and non-profits – to operate state parks, and will be working statewide to expand that successful template.”

Attachments

- 1 – Park Closures of Meet 2012/13 General Fund Reduction
- 2 – Park Closure Methodology: Factors Considered

California State Parks Park Closures to Meet 2011/12-2012/13 General Fund Reductions

Anderson Marsh SHP	McConnell SRA
Annadel SP	McGrath SB
Antelope Valley Indian Museum	Mono Lake Tufa SNR
Austin Creek SRA	Morro Strand SB
Bale Grist Mill SHP	Moss Landing SB
Benbow Lake SRA	Olompali SHP
Benicia Capitol SHP	Palomar Mountain SP
Benicia SRA	Petaluma Adobe SHP
Bidwell Mansion SHP	Picacho SRA
Bothe-Napa Valley SP	Pio Pico SHP
Brannan Island SRA	Plumas-Eureka SP
California Mining & Mineral Museum	Point Cabrillo Light Station
Candlestick Point SRA	Portola Redwoods SP
Castle Crags SP	Providence Mountains SRA
Castle Rock SP	Railtown 1897 SHP
China Camp SP	Russian Gulch SP
Colusa-Sacramento River SRA	Saddleback Butte SP
Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP	Salton Sea SRA
Fort Humboldt SHP	Samuel P. Taylor SP
Fort Tejon SHP	San Pasqual Battlefield SHP
Garrapata SP	Santa Cruz Mission SHP
George J. Hatfield SRA	Santa Susana Pass SHP
Governor's Mansion SHP	Shasta SHP
Gray Whale Cove SB	South Yuba River SP
Greenwood SB	Standish-Hickey SRA
Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP	Sugarloaf Ridge SP
Hendy Woods SP	Tomales Bay SP
Henry W. Coe SP	Tule Elk SNR
Jack London SHP	Turlock Lake SRA
Jug Handle SNR	Twin Lakes SB
Leland Stanford Mansion SHP	Weaverville Joss House SHP
Limekiln SP	Westport-Union Landing SB
Los Encinos SHP	William B. Ide Adobe SHP
Malakoff Diggins SHP	Woodson Bridge SRA
Manchester SP	Zmudowski SB

Total Park Closures: 70

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California State Parks

Park Closure Methodology: Factors Considered

Statewide Significance: The statewide significance of the parks based on the department's established lists of *Outstanding and Representative Parks* as well as the *California State History Plan* and the *California State Parks Survey of 1928* (authored by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.).

Visitation: In order to protect public access.

Fiscal Strength: Estimated net savings from closure for each unit.

Ability to Physically Close: Some units are easily closed to public access while others cannot be physically closed.

Existing Partnerships: Units with substantial concession operations and/or non-profit support.

Infrastructure: Some units suffer from unstable infrastructure (primarily water and wastewater treatment facilities). Recent or proposed Capital Outlay investments were also considered.

Land Use Restrictions: Known deed restrictions and grant requirements. Parks will continue to work with the National Park Service to protect access to our Land and Water Conservation Fund parks.

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