



CITY OF MARTINEZ

PARKS, RECREATION, MARINA & CULTURAL
COMMISSION

DATE: June 21, 2011
TO: Parks, Recreation, Marina & Cultural Commission
FROM: Mitch Austin, Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: State Park Closure Letter

RECOMMENDATION

Review report and provide staff with direction.

BACKGROUND

At the June PRMCC meeting staff was directed to bring back the closure letter as an action item for formal recommendation to the City Council that the City send a letter protesting the closure of State Parks.

Attachments:

Email Notice from the State

Letter Protesting Closure of State Parks



City of Martinez

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553-2394

July 20, 2011

RE: Closure of State Parks

Dear (State Representatives)

As a strong supporter of California's state parks, I'm writing to oppose the park closure plan announced by the Department of Parks and Recreation. As proposed, the closures span the entire state from San Diego County up to Del Norte County. Thirty-six of the state's 58 counties are impacted, but more importantly, millions of Californians will have access to their parks cut off under this proposal.

This plan is chipping away at the legacy of California. More than 40 percent of the state's historic parks will be shuttered under this plan, places that are important destinations for field trips and educational opportunities for California schoolchildren. The home of famous author, adventurer, and California native Jack London will be closed. Access to one of the oldest lakes in the entire northern hemisphere, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, will be closed, and the second-largest state park, Henry Coe State Park, in the state will be shuttered. These are just a few of the 70 examples from the closure list.

Closing state parks is bad for Californians, bad for the resources our parks are supposed to protect, and bad for businesses.

Respectfully,

Rob Schroder, Mayor

Lara DeLaney, Councilmember

Janet Kennedy, Vice Mayor

Mark Ross, Councilmember

Michael Menesini, Councilmember

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Join Us and Oppose the Closure of 70 State Parks
From: "California State Parks Foundation" <@calparks.>
Date: Wed, May 18, 2011 4:30 pm
To: @silcon.

Dear Donald,

Earlier today, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) released a list of 70 state parks that will be permanently closed to the public as a direct result of the \$22 million budget cut enacted by Governor Jerry Brown and the Legislature earlier this year. Although closure lists have been released in the past in response to previous budget cut proposals, this is the first time in the 100 year history of California's state park system that state park closures will be implemented.

View the list of parks slated for closure here:

[://my.calparks.org/site/R?i=gXeEYIvzTq9Zx](http://my.calparks.org/site/R?i=gXeEYIvzTq9Zx) ..

Permanent park closures will begin this September. Among the many state parks that will be off-limits to the public with will be Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, Henry W. Coe State Park, Pio Pico State Historic Park, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park and many more. The full list is devastatingly long and includes 40% of all state historic parks in CA.

This unprecedented plan will close the doors to 25% of California's state park system and will impact all regions of our state. As you know, park closures will have very real impacts on the people of California, the resources our parks protect and our economy.

Please join us today to send a letter to your legislators and the governor opposing these closures and showing your continued support for California's state parks. Your action is urgently needed, as policymakers will be making additional decisions in the next weeks about the state park budget that may have further impacts to our state parks.

[://my.calparks.org/site/R?i=](http://my.calparks.org/site/R?i=) ..

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Goldstein
President

California State Parks Foundation
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714 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 717 Los Angeles, CA 90015 1510 J Street, Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95814