



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
July 20, 2011**

TO: City Council
FROM: Mitch Austin, Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: State Park Closure Protest Letter
DATE: July 15 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

Prepare and send a letter to our State legislators opposing closure of State Parks.

BACKGROUND:

At the July PRMCC meeting the Commission recommended that the City send a letter opposing the closure of State Parks.

The California Park Foundation President Elizabeth Goldstein in her correspondence to the PRMCC indicated

Permanent park closures will begin this September. Among the many state parks that will be off-limits to the public 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.

Attached is a letter for the City Council's consideration, if approved the letter will be sent to Senator DeSaulnier and Assemblymember Bonilla.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

ACTION:

Motion send a letter to Senator DeSaulnier and Assemblymember Bonnilla opposing the closure of State Parks.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Letter Opposing State Park Closures

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil Vucelja".

City Manager



City of Martinez

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553-2394

(925) 372-3505
FAX (925) 229-5012

July 20, 2011

(address)

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