

# **CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION**

Cayucos Room at the Inn at Morro Bay  
60 State Park Road  
Morro Bay, California

## **Minutes of the Meeting - Friday, August 24, 2007**

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Jack Baylis  
Clint Eastwood, VICE CHAIR  
Caryl Hart  
Gail Kautz  
Sophia Scherman  
Bobby Shriver, CHAIR  
Acquanetta Warren  
Paul Junger Witt

### **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS STAFF**

Ruth Coleman, DIRECTOR  
Nick Franco, SUPERINTENDENT, SAN LUIS OBISPO COAST DISTRICT  
Michael Harris, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POLICY AND STRATEGIC PLANNING  
Louis Nastro, ASSISTANT TO THE STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Dan Ray, CHIEF, PLANNING DIVISION  
Rick Rayburn, CHIEF, NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
Paul Romero, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
Roy Stearns, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS  
Bradly Torgan, GENERAL COUNSEL

### **SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING**

Chris Allebe/Self  
Barrie Bartulski/Self  
Nancy Bast/Self  
Assemblymember Sam Blakeslee/33rd Assembly District  
Dawn Borst/Self  
Marla Jo Bruton/Self  
Sarah Christie/Self  
Kelly Devaney/Safe Beach Now  
Ben DiFatta/Save Our Seniors (SOS)  
Dennis Fox/Self  
Bruce Gibson/Self  
Eric Greening/Self  
Sandra Hedges/Self  
Dr. Nell Langford/Safe Beach Now  
Marsha Lilly/Self  
Roger Lyon/Cayucos Land Conservancy  
Bill Martony/Self  
Steve Mathieu/AGP Video, Inc.  
Ray McKelligott/Self

## **SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING** CONTINUED

Linda Merrill/Self  
Dr. John Parker/Self  
Alon Perlman/Self  
Joey Racano/Ocean Outfall Group  
Rev. Donn Ragle/California Parks Ministry Board of Directors  
Verona ReBow/Self  
Richard Sadowski/Self  
Elizabeth Scott-Graham/Hearst Ranch Conservation Now  
Marie Smith/Self  
George Taylor/Self & Lini Owen  
Gewynn Taylor/Self  
John Thompson/Self  
T. Jane Von Koehe/Self  
W. Duane Waddell/Self  
Jerri Walsh/Self  
David Weisman/Self  
Betty Winholtz/Self

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Legal notice having been given, this meeting of the California State Park and Recreation Commission was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Commission Chair Bobby Shriver. Chair Shriver asked Vice Chair Eastwood to introduce the commissioners present. The Chair then introduced agenda item 2, followed by items 3 and 4, then returning to agenda item 1.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2:**

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT/RECOGNITIONS**

##### **2A: Adoption of a resolution in support of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights**

Chair Shriver announced that the commissioners were pleased to be formalizing their support for the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. The Chair then asked Commissioner Caryl Hart to read excerpts from the Commission resolution in support of this important initiative. Commissioner Hart read excerpts from the resolution, noting Governor Schwarzenegger's proclamation of July 6th, 2007 supporting the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, and recognizing that California State Parks was the first state department to join the Governor in endorsing it. Commissioner Hart then moved that the resolution to support the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights be adopted by the Commission and presented to California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. Second Commissioner Kautz. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution in support of the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Chair Shriver and Vice Chair Eastwood affixed their signatures to a copy of the Commission resolution supporting the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, and State Parks' Deputy Director of Communications Roy Stearns orchestrated an opportunity for the television and newspaper photographers attending the meeting to photograph the commissioners presenting the signed resolution to California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. Vice Chair Eastwood noted that the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights was particularly important in the current era of computers and television.

Commissioner Jack Baylis asked if California State Parks would be developing an action plan related to the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. Director Coleman responded that the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights had been created by the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism, and as such possessed a scope much broader than the involvement of California State Parks. Director Coleman noted that while California State Parks was the first state agency to adopt the Bill of Rights,

other state agencies and local governments would also be adopting it. The Director noted that the Bill of Rights would play an important role at the upcoming National Association of State Park Directors conference, and that the National Park Service would also be considering the adoption of a similar initiative. Director Coleman stated that while California was leading the way, it was State Parks' desire that the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights become a national movement that would serve to remind parents to take their children outdoors, and to remind all citizens of the benefits of outdoor play.

Commissioner Warren noted that she would like to present the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights to the League of California Cities to increase awareness of the movement among local governments. Commissioner Warren noted that she had been successful in promoting her community's "Healthy Fontana" program to Riverside County as a whole, and that she hoped to do the same with the Bill of Rights. Commissioner Warren also stated that she thought the Bill of Rights was fantastic.

Director Coleman noted that Governor Schwarzenegger had demonstrated great leadership in adopting the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, and that it was the hope of everyone involved that all cities, counties, and even other states would follow in adopting and promoting this or similar initiatives.

Commissioner Sophia Scherman stated that she had been discussing the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights with Commissioner Warren, and that they proposed that it be presented to the League of California Cities at the league's general conference in Sacramento in September 2007. Chair Shriver stated that it would be a good idea for Commissioners Scherman and Warren to make such a presentation.

**Letter from Speaker of the Assembly Fabian Núñez requesting Commission support of Assembly Bill 576** – Chair Shriver noted that on August 22, 2007, the Commission received a letter signed by Speaker of the Assembly Fabian Núñez and over 40 state legislators requesting the Commission's support of Assembly Bill 576, concerning animal feeding operations in the vicinity of Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. The Chair noted that because this letter was not received in time to allow adequate legal notice for Commission action to be taken at today's meeting, the commissioners would not be able to act on this request at this time. Chair Shriver asked if any member of the Commission wished to have this item agendaized for action at a future meeting.

Commissioner Warren stated that she would like to have the item agendaized for the next Commission meeting, but she noted that the date of the next meeting would be too late to affect the fate of the proposed bill during the current legislative session.

Director Coleman noted that the next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for October 13th, 2007, and that this would be day 29 of the 30 days the governor has to either sign or veto bills, and that while this date would be after the legislature had recessed it would be prior to the date that final actions may be taken by the governor. Director Coleman stated that this item would be agendaized for the next Commission meeting. She added that the Speaker requested that the letter be read into the record of today's meeting.

Chair Shriver asked for clarification regarding what could be done with the letter at today's meeting.

State Parks General Counsel Bradley Torgan replied that the commissioners could discuss the content of the letter but could not take any action.

Chair Shriver stated that the letter would be inserted into the record of today's meeting. The Chair added that he believed the Commission had expressed in the past that Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park was a very important park and that the Commission fully supported efforts to preserve the park, its history and traditions. Chair Shriver reiterated that he believed the Commission's position had been made clear in the past and that this remained the position of the Commission on the matter.

Commissioner Warren noted that the Chair's statement was correct, and that when this issue had been discussed previously there had been agreement that efforts must be made to stop what Commissioner Warren referred to as attacks on state parks that result in their being ravaged and remodeled in a way that people would not be allowed to utilize those parks.

Chair Shriver noted that the letter from Speaker Núñez would be entered into the record and agendized for action at the next Commission meeting.

**Letter from the California Boating and Waterways Commission** – The Chair announced that the Commission had received a letter from the California Boating and Waterways Commission requesting a meeting to discuss what was categorized as common interests amongst the two commissions. Chair Shriver asked Director Coleman to provide a summary of this request.

Director Coleman stated that the Boating and Waterways Commission had requested that two members of the State Park and Recreation Commission meet with two of their members to discuss the \$26 million California State Parks receives each year from the state Harbors and Watercraft Fund to help pay for operation and maintenance of state parks with boating facilities. Director Coleman noted that Commissioners Jack Baylis and Acquanetta Warren had volunteered to participate in such a meeting.

Chair Shriver acknowledged that Commissioners Baylis and Warren would act as Commission representatives to a meeting with members of the California Boating and Waterways Commission.

**Climate Change** – Chair Shriver introduced Commissioner Caryl Hart to address the Commission regarding climate change and California State Parks.

Commissioner Hart stated that since the Commission’s last meeting in Sebastopol she had been working with Director Coleman and State Parks staff on the issue of climate change, particularly as it applied to California State Parks and the plans of other public land agencies. Commissioner Hart noted that with the assistance of Michael Harris, State Parks Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Planning, significant accomplishments had been achieved, including the planning of a symposium to be conducted in conjunction with the Center on the Environment of the University of California Berkeley’s Boalt Hall School of Law. Commissioner Hart noted that the symposium would bring together leading academicians, representatives from private foundations, and public land managers to discuss responses to climate change. She also noted that the State Park and Recreation Commission would be discussing climate change in detail at its workshop on October 13th, 2007. Commissioner Hart noted that California State Parks intended to position itself as a leader in addressing the challenges of climate change, and she thanked Director Coleman for recognizing the importance of this issue to the future of California’s natural and cultural resources.

Director Coleman noted that the Berkeley symposium would take place on November 15th, 2007, and she called the commissioners’ attention to a staff memo on climate change which each of them had received.

Chair Shriver noted that it was important to publicize the symposium and other events so interested members of the public could attend.

Commissioner Hart stated that a climate change section should be established on the State Parks web site so that the various department initiatives and plans would be available for public review.

## **2B: Recognition of Employee Retirements**

Chair Shriver asked Commissioner Gail Kautz to read the names of staff members who had recently retired from California State Parks. Commissioner Kautz noted that in addition to their many years of service as employees of California State Parks, many of these individuals had also volunteered time in what could only be described as a labor of love. Commissioner Kautz expressed the Commission’s appreciation to the following individuals for their many years of dedicated service:

Michael E. Brouard, Orange Coast District ..... 30 years, 7 months  
Michael Coopman, North Coast Redwoods District ..... 10 years, 9 months  
M. Pauline Grenbeaux, Museum Services ..... 28 years, 5 months  
Gilbert A. McKinnon, Colorado Desert District ..... 6 years, 1 month  
Linda M. Pastrone, Northern Communications Center ..... 10 years, 9 months

Eileen Pope, Sierra Nevada Conservancy .....	23 years, 8 months
Mark R. Purkeypyle, Capital District .....	8 years, 11 months
Steve J. Radosevich, Grants & Local Services .....	20 years, 10 months
Sam F. Rich, Jr., North Coast Redwoods District .....	30 years, 1 month
Dianna Taylor, Business & Fiscal Services .....	32 years, 3 months
Albert G. Vasquez, Marin District .....	20 years, 6 months
Laura M. Wagner, Business & Fiscal Services .....	22 years, 7 months
William Walton Jr., Russian River District .....	26 years, 7 months
Oscar E. Warner, Capital District .....	11 years, 3 months
Wayne Woodroof, Planning Division .....	32 years, 2 months
Tom E. Wunder, Contracts & Asset Management .....	22 years, 11 months
Steve M. Yamaichi, Off Highway Vehicle Division .....	30 years, 7 months

Chair Shriver stated that he wished to personally recognize Wayne Woodroof, retiring Planning Division Chief, for being a terrific person and for his perfect service to the Commission and citizens of California.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:  
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL REDWOOD GROVES**

Chair Shriver asked Commissioner Sophia Scherman to read the special redwood grove requests. Commissioner Scherman acknowledged the following groves:

As requested by Save-the-Redwoods League:

Shirley & Farrel Schell Family Grove  
in Navarro River Redwoods State Park  
*Mr. and Mrs. Farrel L. Schell, donors*

As requested by Sempervirens Fund:

Peachy and Herb Cummings Memorial Grove  
in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Rick and Roberta Cummings, donors*

Laurie C. Duncan Memorial Grove  
in Butano State Park  
*Duncan Family and Friends, donors*

Robert and Carol Mathews Memorial Grove  
in Butano State Park  
*Carol Mathews, donor*

Gerrit and Merle Wiers Memorial Grove  
in Butano State Park  
*Carol Mathews, donor*

Catherine Mathews Smith and John Christopher Mathews Memorial Grove  
in Butano State Park  
*Carol Mathews, donor*

Circle of Circles, Mary and John Felstiner  
in Castle Rock State Park  
*Mary and John Felstiner, donors*

Jim “Skip” Cadile Memorial Grove  
in Castle Rock State Park  
*Cadile Family and Friends, donors*

Jo R. Drechsler Redwood Grove  
in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Bernadette Drechsler Family and Friends, donors*

Richard and Emmy Lou Levin Family Grove  
in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Mr. Sydney Levin, donor*

Gilliland-Turner Family Grove  
in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Mr. and Mrs. Clinton R. Gilliland, donors*

L. Leo and Ruth Taub Memorial Grove  
in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Ruth Taub Estate, donor*

Sierra Pacific Region Soroptomist Challenge Grove  
in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Sierra Pacific Region of Soroptomist International, donor*

Sierra Pacific Region Soroptimist Grove X  
in Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
*Sierra Pacific Region of Soroptomist International, donor*

Chair Shriver asked for a motion to approve these grove dedications. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolutions establishing these special redwood groves.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Chair Shriver introduced California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman to present her Director’s Report.

Director Coleman called the commissioners’ attention to the printed copy of her report, which provided updates on current activities at California State Parks. Director Coleman thanked Roy Stearns, State Parks Deputy Director of Communications, for the quality of the report.

The Director noted that State Parks would be providing the commissioners with a quarterly calendar of special events taking place at State Park System units, so that commissioners could participate in these events if desired. The Director added that it was always nice to have commissioners present at dedication ceremonies, ribbon cuttings, and the like.

**Budget Update** – Director Coleman stated that rather than review information provided in the written report she would present a brief update on the next year’s budget for California State Parks. The Director noted that State Parks had been treated very well by both the governor’s administration and the state legislature, in that its operating budget for the coming year had remained intact. Director Coleman added that reductions of over \$700 million were expected but that no decisions regarding this had yet been made. The Director noted that State Parks received a \$20 million budget reduction in fiscal year 2002-2003, which made for an already-low budget, but that this earlier reduction had to some extent compensated for by an increase in park user fees. Director Coleman added that there were now fewer opportunities to increase user fees because State Parks was at a point where fee increases would result in lost revenue as increased fees would result in fewer users visiting parks. She noted other types of cost reductions that could take place, including restricting equipment purchases, reducing ongoing maintenance, reducing num-

bers of seasonal staff, and keeping open staff positions vacant longer. Director Coleman noted that if the reductions in the final budget were significant enough, State Parks would have to consider reductions in park operating hours or perhaps even consider the closing of some parks. The Director added that State Parks would do everything possible to keep parks open and that closing parks would be only a last resort, though the final budget would have to be approached realistically. Director Coleman emphasized that while State Parks would be facing an extremely challenging budget situation in the coming year, at the current time no decisions had been made. The Director concluded her report.

Chair Shriver asked if there were any questions on the Director's Report.

Commissioner Sophia Scherman asked what would become of staff employed at parks that could face reductions in operating hours or closure.

Director Coleman replied that the process of laying-off staff takes about 18 months to implement, so that in order to realize immediate savings staff would be moved from one park to another. The Director explained that this would be possible because there currently exist a large number of vacant staff positions as a result of retirements and loss of staff to local government jobs where the compensation is often greater than in state jobs. She added that budget reductions would have to be extensive before State Parks reached a point where layoffs would need to be considered.

Commissioner Gail Kautz asked if an annual, itemized list of land acquisitions, whether by purchase or donation, could be provided to the commissioners.

Director Coleman stated that a list of acquisitions would be provided to the commissioners. She also noted that during the previous year State Parks added approximately 1,300 acres to its total of approximately 1.5 million acres. The Director added that property is occasionally deeded to State Parks by methods other than purchase, and as an example she cited Fort Ord properties that were given to State Parks by the U.S. government. Director Coleman noted that property acquisitions pose special challenges for State Parks in that the department employs as its guiding principle the philosophy of thinking seven generations ahead. The Director explained that the question of whether or not to purchase land for preservation when a means of managing new land does not exist makes for a public policy challenge. She elaborated by providing the example of the acquisition of Point Lobos during the Great Depression – a time when State Parks had virtually no funding for managing new properties, but when land was relatively inexpensive. For this reason a large number of valuable additions to the State Park System were made during the Great Depression. The Director suggested that everyone was grateful for Point Lobos today, even though many of the properties acquired during the depression were not developed as parks or opened to the public until many years – in some cases decades – after the properties were acquired. Director Coleman reiterated that this is a challenge State Parks must face when using bond funding to acquire land for which no management mechanism currently exists, adding that this question arose when addressing the Harmony property on the agenda of today's meeting. Director Coleman added that State Parks must continually balance its duty to preserve properties for the future with the reality of today's budget restrictions.

Chair Shriver asked if there were any other questions on the Director's Report. There being none, the Chair asked Director Coleman if any scenarios for closing parks were being developed in conjunction with the budget process. The Chair added that as the commissioners represented the public, a knowledge of scenarios that involved closing parks could be useful to the commissioners.

Director Coleman replied that park closure scenarios had been developed in the past when Governor Gray Davis had proposed large reductions in the State Parks budget, but that based on that closure list the budget cuts were substantially reduced so that park closures had not been required. Director Coleman explained the methodology employed to develop the closure list; the parks listed for closure would typically be those with the largest gap between revenues and expenditures. She added that a park like Hearst Castle, which is essentially a break even operation, would not be a candidate for the closure list because closing this park would not result in significant savings.

Chair Shriver noted that people would be happy to hear that Hearst Castle would not be closing.

Director Coleman continued that State Parks' urban beaches would likely not be proposed for closure because they represent a large source of revenue. The Director added that the parks that are the most likely to close are historic parks which have a high expense-to-revenue ratio, in that the cost of maintaining historic buildings is very high. Director Coleman explained that museums, where the doors can simply be closed and locked, represent greater savings than beaches, where there is no practical way to prevent the property from being used. She reiterated that the most likely candidates for closure are parks where the public can be physically excluded so that the state is not held liable for activities that take place in those parks, and those parks which have the largest gap between revenues and expenditures.

A brief discussion took place involving Chair Shriver, Director Coleman, and Commissioner Eastwood regarding the relationship between the number of visitors to a park and the fees charged, and how this could affect a park's suitability for closure. Director Coleman reiterated that it had been established that there was a relationship between fees and visitation; she cited the example of Hearst Castle, where reduced fees resulted in increased attendance and subsequent fee increases resulted in reduced attendance.

Commissioner Caryl Hart noted that the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, as adopted by Governor Schwarzenegger and the State Park and Recreation Commission, listed the number one opportunity that should be afforded children as "Discover California's past." Commissioner Hart stated that museums and historic sites are a critical part of discovering the past, which she believed made the suggestion to close these parks inconsistent with this important initiative. The Commissioner added that she believed it was very important for members of the public to support efforts to maintain State Parks' budget at the current level to avoid negative impacts on children and all Californians.

Director Coleman stated that the discussion of park closures was hypothetical, and that at this time it was not known whether or not proposed budget reductions would be significant enough to require closures.

Chair Shriver stated that while he understood this, he also understood that there was an awareness amongst the general public that there would be reductions in the discretionary portions of the state budget, and that while no such measures had yet been announced, State Parks could face reductions which could result in the need for park closures. The Chair suggested that local support from assembly and senate districts would play an important role in State Parks' ability to maintain its budget at the current level.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1:**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2007, MEETING IN SEBASTOPOL**

Chair Shriver apologized for taking this agenda item out of turn and asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the Commission's May 4th, 2007 meeting in Sebastopol. Motion Commissioner Scherman, second Commissioner Hart. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5:**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Shriver opened the public hearing portion of the meeting at 9:35 a.m. The Chair introduced Rick Rayburn, Chief of State Parks Natural Resources Division, to make a short presentation to the Commission on the first action item of the agenda.

#### **ITEM 5A:**

#### **Consideration and action on the Department's recommendation to classify and name the properties known as Estero Bluffs and Harmony Coast (Sea West)**

Rick Rayburn, Chief of State Parks' Natural Resources Division, made a brief presentation to the Commission on the Estero Bluffs item. He stated that in the year 2000 California State Parks received title to 355 acres along three-and-one-half miles of coastline in San Luis Obispo County. Mr. Rayburn explained



that earlier public meetings had resulted in the staff recommendation that this property be classified as a state park and named Estero Bluffs State Park.

Chair Shriver thanked Mr. Rayburn and asked the commissioners if they had any questions for staff. There being none, the Chair then explained the process that would be employed for calling members of the public who wished to address the Commission on these action items. The Chair then called eight registered speakers on the Estero and Harmony agenda items.

At the close of public comment the Chair asked if there were any additional comments or questions from commissioners, or if staff would like to clarify or respond to any of the issues raised by the speakers.

Mr. Rayburn responded to several concerns raised by speakers. In response to the suggestion that park resources could be better protected by the cultural preserve or natural preserve classifications, Mr. Rayburn stated that the state park classifications being proposed today were the overall unit classifications that would provide a very high level of protection for resources in these parks. He added that as general plans were developed for these parks consideration would be given to establishing sub-classifications, and he provided the example that a cultural preserve could be established for the archeologically rich areas. Mr. Rayburn clarified that the classifications of cultural or natural preserve alone would not be appropriate for these parks given their diverse resources. He reiterated that the appropriate classification for these units would be state park, while sub-classifications would be considered during the general plan process.

Mr. Rayburn then clarified that there were two actions before the Commission: The classification and naming of the Estero property and the classification and naming of the Harmony property. Mr. Rayburn then explained that the name Harmony Headlands was being recommended as Harmony had been the name of the agricultural community that had existed in the area since the early 1900s. He clarified that State Parks was aware of the importance of recognizing the historic use of the property by Chinese peoples, but that a Chinese name was not being proposed because the Chinese occupation of the area took place over a relatively short period of time. Mr. Rayburn emphasized that the interpretation of Chinese history and culture would be an important aspect of developing this area as a park. He also recognized that the Native American name that had been suggested for the park had never been in common use.

At this time Chair Shriver recognized an additional public speaker who wished to complete the statement of an earlier speaker. After the speaker Commissioner Jack Baylis suggested that the Chair clarify that there were two actions before the Commission. Chair Shriver thanked Commissioner Baylis and clarified that the Commission would first consider the proposal to classify and name the Harmony property as Harmony Headlands State Park.

Commissioner Caryl Hart noted that she supported the Harmony Headlands name, in that this name had been suggested at local public meetings. Commissioner Hart then spoke of what she described as the more important issue of public access to these properties. Commissioner Hart asked Roger Lyon if the Cayucos Land Conservancy could facilitate public access by issuing temporary use permits, much as the LandPaths organization (of which Commissioner Hart is a founding member) provides access to State Parks' Willow Creek property in Sonoma County.

Mr. Lyon replied that the Board of Directors of the Cayucos Land Conservancy had discussed such a proposal and that the Conservancy had expressed a strong interest in partnering with California State Parks to develop public access, as had already been done at the Estero property.

Commissioner Hart thanked Mr. Lyon.

Though he acknowledged that public access was not an issue before the Commission today, Commissioner Jack Baylis noted that the issue of access to park properties was very important, recalling the comments of Commissioner Eastwood and others during the previous day's visit to these properties.

Chair Shriver noted that the action before the Commission was the classification and naming of the Harmony property, but that the Commission could direct staff to explore partnerships with organizations like

the Cayucos Land Conservancy, and that they could request that staff make public access a high priority. Commissioner Clint Eastwood stated that as someone from outside of the local community, and a “hopeless romantic,” he supported the name Harmony for this property.

Chair Shriver stated that if there was no objection he would treat Commissioner Eastwood’s comments as a motion. Second Commissioner Kautz. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to classify and name the Harmony property as Harmony Headlands State Park.

The Chair then asked Commissioner Jack Baylis if he wished to direct State Parks staff to explore potential partnerships as a method to make this property accessible to the public. Commissioner Baylis replied that this was his desire. Chair Shriver elaborated that the Commission would like staff to move in an expeditious manner to open this property to the public. The Chair reiterated that there had been no public access to this property since its acquisition approximately four years ago, and that any reasonable actions that could be undertaken to enable public access should be pursued.

Bradly Torgan, State Parks General Counsel, requested clarification that the Commission action had been to both classify and name the Harmony property as Harmony Headlands State Park.

Chair Shriver clarified that this was correct.

The Chair then announced that the Commission would consider action on the proposal to classify and name the Estero property as Estero Bluffs State Park. Chair Shriver asked if there were any comments from the commissioners on this item.

Commissioner Paul Witt stated that he wished to assure the public that State Parks takes the protection of park resources very seriously, whether they are cultural or natural resources. Commissioner Witt reiterated that the state park classification in no way lessens or endangers the cultural resources for which concern was expressed by members of the public.

There being no further comments, Chair Shriver asked for a motion to adopt the resolution before the Commission to classify and name the Estero property as Estero Bluffs State Park. Motion Commissioner Scherman, second Commissioner Kautz. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to classify and name the Estero property as Estero Bluffs State Park.

#### **ITEM 5B:**

#### **Consideration and action on the Department’s recommendation to incorporate the unit known as William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach into the adjacent unit known as San Simeon State Park**

Chair Shriver asked Rick Rayburn to present this item to the Commission.

Mr. Rayburn explained that this action, if adopted by the Commission, would reclassify William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach as a state park and then merge the property into the existing San Simeon State Park on the northern San Luis Obispo Coast.

Chair Shriver then called three members of the public who had registered to address the Commission regarding this agenda item. Once the public comment had concluded, Chair Shriver emphasized that he wished to ensure that everyone who wanted to address the Commission on this item had done so. Once the Chair had confirmed this, he closed public comment on this item. Chair Shriver then recognized San Luis Obispo Coast District Superintendent Nick Franco.

Superintendent Franco stated that he wished to clarify, in response to public comment, that State Parks would be retaining the name William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beach as the name of this location within San Simeon State Park. Superintendent Franco also noted that the former Hearst Ranch properties which were now part of the State Park System were commonly referred to as the Hearst Coast, and that a proposal to rename this area as such could be brought forward in the future.

Commissioner Jack Baylis requested clarification on the action before the Commission.

Chair Shriver referred the clarification question to State Parks General Counsel Bradley Torgan. Mr. Torgan stated that the proposed action would be to incorporate William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach into San Simeon State Park, and to rename the former state beach area William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beach.

A brief discussion took place wherein Commissioner Baylis, Chair Shriver, and Mr. Torgan clarified that the action before the Commission would make the existing William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach part of the larger San Simeon State Park, with the beach area retaining the name William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beach.

Commissioner Baylis asked if it would be possible to change the larger unit's name to the Hearst San Simeon State Park at today's meeting.

Chair Shriver recognized Rick Rayburn to respond to Commissioner Baylis' inquiry.

Mr. Rayburn stated that it would not be appropriate to rename San Simeon State Park at today's meeting because that action was not noticed as being before the Commission. Mr. Rayburn added that such an action could be taken at the Commission's October meeting, as there were no legal requirements for naming actions to take place in the vicinity of the park to be named.

A discussion took place amongst Commissioners Caryl Hart, Jack Baylis, Clint Eastwood, Gail Kautz, and Mr. Rick Rayburn regarding the use of the Hearst name for the state park properties on the San Luis Obispo Coast. The discussion included concerns about confusing the name of Hearst Castle with other park properties that included the name Hearst, and whether or not duplicating a name conflicted with State Parks naming policies. Rick Rayburn explained that the naming principals were guidelines to which there could be exceptions, though he acknowledged that duplicative names should typically be avoided to limit confusion amongst park users. Mr. Rayburn explained that State Parks believed there was such a close geographic relationship between these properties, and that with the long history of local land ownership by the Hearst family, confusion would not be a significant issue. The discussion included the suggestion that the renaming of San Simeon State Park as Hearst San Simeon be addressed at today's meeting. Mr. Rayburn reiterated that the Commission could not legally take action on the issue beyond the proposal to combine William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach with San Simeon State Park as agendized.

Commissioner Acquanetta Warren noted that the names of State Park System units, the branding of California State Parks, were critically important with possible budget cuts on the horizon. Commissioner Warren stated that park unit names must be employed that will aid park visitors in finding and using parks.

Chair Shriver suggested that if he could obtain agreement from the commissioners the matter of adding the Hearst name to San Simeon State park would be agendized for the next Commission meeting, and that the general feeling was that the use of the Hearst name – which was a recognizable brand throughout the world – would enhance the San Luis Obispo Coast parks. The Chair also noted that the use of the Hearst name would help to recognize the hard work of State Parks and many others, including the Hearst family, to convert this property from private to public use. Chair Shriver asked the commissioners if they agreed that this item should be agendized for action at the October 2007 Commission meeting. The commissioners unanimously agreed (*Note: The October 2007 Commission meeting was a workshop with no actions on the agenda, it was not a business meeting. The Hearst/San Simeon naming item was agendized for action at the February 29, 2008 Commission meeting*).

There being no further comments, Chair Shriver asked for a motion to adopt the resolution before the Commission to incorporate the unit known as William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach into the adjacent unit known as San Simeon State Park. Motion Commissioner Baylis, second Commissioner Scherman. The Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to incorporate the unit known as William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach into the adjacent unit known as San Simeon State Park.

**ITEM 5C:  
Consent Items**

**ITEM 5C-I:  
Determination that the concession contract for the  
Annenberg Community Beach Club Concession is compatible with the classification and  
approved general plan for Santa Monica State Beach**

**ITEM 5C-II:  
Determination that the concession proposal for the sale of alcoholic beverages  
at the Annenberg Community Beach Club Concession at Santa Monica State Beach is  
consistent with Commission policy**

Chair Shriver announced that there were two consent items before the Commission relating to concessions at Santa Monica State Beach. The Chair noted that the Commission Concessions Committee typically makes recommendations on these items, and he asked Commissioner Jack Baylis to comment.

Commissioner Baylis stated that he wished to take the concessions items off consent.

Chair Shriver asked if Commissioner Baylis would like to comment on the items or hear from staff. Commissioner Baylis replied that he would like to have the items introduced by staff.

Chief Deputy Director Paul Romero spoke on behalf of State Parks' Concessions Division. Mr. Romero explained that these items were being presented to the Commission at the request of the City of Santa Monica, which operates Santa Monica State Beach under an lease agreement with State Parks. He explained that the requests were to authorize bids for concession operations at Santa Monica State Beach. Mr. Romero noted that the current concession agreement with the city would be expiring in the near future, and that as part of a new agreement, the city was requesting permission to establish a new concession at the beach that would include the operation of a café. Mr. Romero added that the second item on today's agenda was a request to allow for the sale of beer and wine at this same concession.

Chair Shriver stated that it was his understanding that the new concession would allow the City of Santa Monica to operate a café within the new Annenberg Community Beach Club facility. Mr. Romero replied that this was correct, but that he was not aware of whether the city would operate the concession or contract with another entity. Chair Shriver, who is a member of the Santa Monica City Council, stated that it was his understanding that the city intended to operate the concession. Mr. Romero added that the city had either recently released a request for proposals on this project, or would do so in the near future.

Commissioner Jack Baylis then made his comments on the concession proposals. Commissioner Baylis stated that he wished to recognize that State Parks, the City of Santa Monica, and the Annenberg Foundation had worked very well together on this project. The Commissioner added that State Parks staff should continue to monitor the project closely to ensure it follows State Parks policies and guidelines, and that the Commission should be made aware of the City of Santa Monica's request for proposals once it is available. Commissioner Baylis added that when the Annenberg Community Beach Club facility is opened to the public State Parks and the commissioners should have an opportunity to be involved.

Chair Shriver explained that the beach club property had been unused for more than a decade, but that through the efforts of State Parks, the Annenberg family, and the City of Santa Monica, the facility was going to be re-opened as a public beach club. The Chair noted that everyone involved had great expectations for the facility and the services it would provide to members of the public.

Commissioner Baylis noted that the Commission and California State Parks very much appreciated the opportunity afforded this project by the Annenberg Foundation. The Commissioner added that he hoped similar opportunities could be made available in the future.

Chair Shriver also acknowledged the extensive contributions to this project by the Annenberg Foundation,

adding that the beach club was a terrific example of a successful partnership between private and both state and local public entities. The Chair then asked Commissioner Baylis if he would like to make a motion for approval of the two Annenberg Community Beach Club items on today's agenda. The motion was made by Commissioner Baylis, second Commissioner Scherman. The commissioners voted unanimously to make a determination that the concession contract for the Annenberg Community Beach Club Concession was compatible with the classification and approved general plan for Santa Monica State Beach, and that the concession proposal for the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Annenberg Community Beach Club Concession at Santa Monica State Beach was consistent with Commission policy.

**AGENDA ITEM 6:  
OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Shriver explained that the purpose of open public comment was to provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission regarding items other than those on today's agenda. The Chair noted that the Commission could not take action on matters raised during open public comment, and he added that comments should be limited to issues that are under the jurisdiction of the State Park and Recreation Commission. The Chair stated that given the relatively large number of speaker registration forms he had received he would be limiting each speaker to two minutes. Chair Shriver then called 28 registered speakers in the order they had registered to speak:

Assemblymember Sam Blakeslee, concerning balancing the operation of existing park facilities with the acquisition of new properties to protect the coast and expand the state park system

Dennis Fox, concerning California State Parks' Central Valley Vision

Eric Greening, concerning a habitat conservation plan for Arroyo Grande Creek/La Grande Tract

Gwynn Taylor, concerning the removal of trees in state parks

Betty Winholtz, concerning a variety of state park management and policy issues

Jerri Walsh, concerning eucalyptus trees at Montaña de Oro State Park

Sarah Christie, concerning state park acquisition policies

Rev. Donn Ragle, concerning the California Parks Ministry

Nancy Bast, concerning removal of trees in state parks

Ray McKelligott, concerning a proposed development near a mobile home park and state park property

Steve Mathieu, concerning live web streaming and archiving

Ben DiFatta, concerning sewer development in Los Osos

Dawn Borst, concerning the Bayside Café concession at Morro Bay State Park

George Taylor, concerning the removal of trees in state parks

David Weisman, concerning local concessionaires in state parks

Dr. Nell Langford, concerning Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve

Kelly Devaney, concerning Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve

T. Jane Von Koehe, concerning birds

Richard Sadowski, concerning ocean pollution

Chris Allebe, concerning fees and trees in state parks

Marla Jo Bruton, concerning sewer and septic infrastructure

Marie Smith, concerning park philosophy

Linda Merrill, concerning irrigation of a local golf course

Joey Racano, concerning state marine reserve designations

Alon Perlman, concerning trees in state parks

Marsha Lilly, concerning the 1937 acquisition of Pismo Dunes land

Sandra Hedges, concerning trees in state parks

Verona ReBow, concerning Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve

At the close of open public comment, Chair Shriver noted that time was short and asked staff to provide an estimate of how much time would be required to complete the remaining agenda items. Staff member

responses indicated that approximately 20 minutes would be required to complete the agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM: CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PROPOSITION 84 EXPENDITURES**

Michael Harris, State Parks Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Planning, presented a brief overview of the planning process employed by State Parks to nominate projects for funding under Proposition 84. Mr. Harris emphasized that two over-arching goals for this process had been set by Director Ruth Coleman: sustainability – the projects had to provide long-term benefits, and efficiency – the greatest public benefit at the least cost. Mr. Harris explained the demographic conditions that influenced the selection of projects, as well as the selection criteria employed, the desired outcomes, and processes that would be employed to ensure accountability both during and after project construction. Mr. Harris added that as the current criteria were developed some time ago they did not include significant references to climate change; Mr. Harris noted that considerations for climate change would be added to the current guidelines.

Chair Shriver noted that the commissioners had just received the handouts related to Mr. Harris' presentation, and that because of this he would like to revisit the topic at the October 2007 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Jack Baylis stated that he would like to see a list of the proposed projects.

Chair Shriver agreed that he would also like to see a list of the proposed projects, to the extent that this was allowable under the law. The Chair also asked that this information be made available on the State Parks web site in addition to its availability on the California Department of Finance web site.

Mr. Harris replied that web links would be provided for the information.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM: UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS' CENTRAL VALLEY VISION**

Dan Ray, Chief of State Parks' Planning Division, introduced himself to the Commission as the staff member replacing Wayne Woodroof. Mr. Ray then presented the commissioners with a brief update on State Parks' Central Valley Vision project. He explained that the Central Valley Vision was Director Ruth Coleman's initiative to guide the future of park acquisition and development in California's central valley.

Mr. Ray explained that the area described as the central valley included 18 counties from Redding in the north to the Tehachapi Mountains in the south; the areas of the valley floor with an elevation of 2,000 feet or less. Mr. Ray noted that State Parks was working to enhance recreation experiences, upgrade existing park facilities, foster partnerships, and perhaps acquire new parkland in the central valley. He explained that the Central Valley Vision was a response to the tremendous wealth of natural and cultural resources available in the valley and the indications that the current valley population, approximately 5.5 million people, would be doubling by 2040. He noted that while the valley currently is home to 17 % of the state's residents it includes only 7% of state park acreage, with most of the valley State Park System units concentrated in the Sacramento area. He added that the Central Valley Vision included contributions from State Parks staff and partners, valley leaders, conservation organizations, local government agencies, and input from 11 public workshops conducted throughout the valley. Mr. Ray called the commissioners attention to the Central Valley Vision report which summarized the results of the public workshops.

Chair Shriver asked Mr. Ray to confirm that the Central Valley Vision report was available on the Internet for members of the public; Mr. Ray confirmed that the report was available online. The Chair also suggested that the Commission revisit the Central Valley Vision the next time they conducted a meeting in the central valley. Chair Shriver also stated that he would like to see a budget associated with the various proposals and goals of the Central Valley Vision. The Chair then asked if there were any comments or questions from commissioners.

A brief discussion took place during which Commissioner Eastwood inquired about a donation of 240 acres in the central valley by The Nature Conservancy. Commissioner Eastwood noted that he would make an inquiry directly to The Nature Conservancy for details on this donation.

Chair Shriver welcomed Dan Ray to his new role as Planning Division Chief, adding that in replacing Wayne Woodroof Mr. Ray had large shoes to fill. The Chair then adjourned for a 15-minute break at 11:45 a.m., noting that during this time the room would be cleared of all but essential staff for the closed session.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:**

**CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION**

**As permitted by Government Code section 11126(e) and specifically Government Code section 11126(e)(2)(C)(i), which authorizes a state body to confer with legal counsel when the state body has decided to initiate or is deciding whether or not to initiate litigation, regarding a project approved by Tulare County to allow construction of two commercial dairy operations near Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park**

Chair Shriver reconvened the Commission in closed session at noon.

**AGENDA ITEM 10:**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNT OF REPORTABLE ITEMS, IF ANY, FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Shriver reconvened the Commission in open session at 12:25 p.m. The Chair asked State Parks' General Counsel Bradly Torgan to report out from the closed session.

Mr. Torgan stated that the noticed matter had been heard and discussed, and that there were no actions to be reported out from closed session.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Shriver asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion Commissioner Baylis, second Commissioner Scherman. Chair Shriver adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

ATTEST: These minutes were approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on February 29, 2008, at its duly-noticed public meeting in Chatsworth, California.

By:                     ORIGINAL SIGNED BY                     Date:   2-29-08  

Louis Nastro  
Assistant to the Commission  
For Ruth Coleman, Director  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Secretary to the Commission