



CONTACTS:

Erin Couch
Landis Communications Inc.
415-359-2317
erin@landispr.com

Alicia Balkrishna
Landis Communications Inc.
415-359-2316
alicia@landispr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CALIFORNIA SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEM DON PERATA AND
ASSEMBLYMEMBER PEDRO NAVA
TO RECEIVE 2007 LEGACY AWARDS FROM
THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION**

*Annual award honors California legislative leaders for exemplary support of state parks
Recipients to receive award on Monday, March 26, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the State Capitol Eureka Room*

Kentfield, Calif. (January 25, 2007) – Citing their public policy work on behalf of California’s state parks, the California State Parks Foundation has named California Senate President Pro Tempore Don Perata (D – Oakland) and Assembly Member Pedro Nava (D – Santa Barbara) as 2007 Legacy Award recipients. The Award is bestowed annually by the California State Parks Foundation to legislative leaders for their exemplary support of state parks. Honorees Perata and Nava will receive their awards on Monday, March 26, 2007, during a legislative reception coinciding with the Fifth Annual Park Advocacy Day in Sacramento, CA.

“Both Senator Perata and Assemblymember Nava have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to protecting and supporting California’s state park system,” declared Elizabeth Goldstein, President of the California State Parks Foundation. “We are lucky to have such active champions in the Legislature, who recognize the important legacy our parks leave for future generations.”

“In particular, we are honoring Senator Perata for his leadership during last year’s budget negotiations to invest \$250 million over multiple budget years toward the burgeoning deferred maintenance backlog in the state parks system. Although the funding has been reduced substantially in the recently released proposed Fiscal Year 07-08 budget by the Governor, we look forward to working with Senator Perata to restore the much-needed investment to keeping our parks open, available and accessible for all Californians.”

-more-

“We also are pleased to honor Assemblymember Nava for his dedication and persistence in efforts that protect state parks from damaging development proposals, especially his work to protect San Onofre State Beach from a proposed toll road. As the state begins to roll out billions of dollars for infrastructure projects, we look forward to working with Assemblymember Nava to safeguard the investments made in the state’s “natural infrastructure” and protect state parks from dangerous threats.”

Previous winners of the California State Parks Foundation Legacy Award include Senator Sheila Kuehl (2003), Senator Tom Torlakson (2004), Assembly Member Fran Pavley (2004), Senator Denise Ducheny (2005), Assembly Member John Laird (2005), Senator Wesley Chesbro (2006) and Assembly Member Tom Harman (2006).

California State Parks Foundation’s Park Advocacy Day

In response to the challenges facing California state parks, the Foundation is leading a movement to bring diverse groups together in seeking solutions for the long-term survival of California State Parks. On Monday, March 26, the Foundation is sponsoring its Fifth Annual Park Advocacy Day. Each year, park advocates from around the state travel to Sacramento to lobby the Legislature for funding and policy protection for the state park system. Park Advocacy Day is scheduled for Monday, March 26, from 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. with a reception from 5 –6:30 p.m. at the State Capitol. For more information on how to participate in Park Advocacy Day, please call 916-442-2119 or visit the Foundation’s web site at www.calparks.org.

About California State Parks Foundation

The California State Parks Foundation is the only statewide organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and advocating for California’s 278 State Parks. Since its inception in 1969, the Foundation has raised more than \$120 million in land, funds and artifacts for State Parks. The Foundation’s support comes from its 75,000 members, corporate partners and foundations. For more information, please contact the California State Parks Foundation at 415-258-9975 or visit www.calparks.org.

Editor’s, please note: Media interested in attending, interviews or more information should contact Erin Couch at 415-359-2317 or erin@landispr.com.

###