



## ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

The California State Parks Foundation is the only statewide non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and advocating for California's 278 natural, cultural and historic state parks. The Foundation and its 95,000 members are committed to ensuring that state parks continue to provide recreation, adventure, renewal and inspiration to all Californians. To that end, the Foundation raises funds from members, corporations and foundations to improve and expand park programs and facilities, with special emphasis on environmental education, diversity, volunteerism and stewardship. Through advocacy, the Foundation educates the public, media and elected officials of the great contributions our 278 state parks make to the quality of life in California. Some of the major areas of work for the Foundation include:

- Serving as the independent voice for state parks in advocating for adequate funding and sound policies for state parks, including deferred maintenance support, educational programs, capital improvements, habitat restoration and land acquisition
- Contributing more than \$136 million to support the state parks system, through gifts of land, funding for capital projects, artifacts, and more
- Cultivating stewardship of state parks by hosting annual Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup programs and supporting Volunteer Enhancement programs
- Encouraging environmental education and visitation of state parks by supporting programs such as *Coast Alive!*, *FamCamp®*, Bay Youth for the Environment, Junior Rangers and Junior Lifeguards

To help generate support among state policymakers for the state park system, the Foundation annually hosts a Park Advocacy Day. Each Spring, hundreds of park supporters meet with legislators and legislative staff to discuss state park issues and ask for continued support in permanently protecting state parks. During Park Advocacy Day, the California State Parks Foundation awards its Legacy Award to legislators who have made significant contributions to protecting, enhancing and advocating for California's state parks. Past winners include:

- Senator Sheila Kuehl (2003)
- Senator Tom Torlakson (2004)
- Assemblymember Fran Pavley (2004)
- Senator Denise Ducheny (2005)
- Assemblymember John Laird (2005)
- Senator Wes Chesbro (2006)
- Assemblymember Tom Harman (2006)
- Assemblymember Pedro Nava (2007)
- Senate pro Tempore Don Perata (2007)