

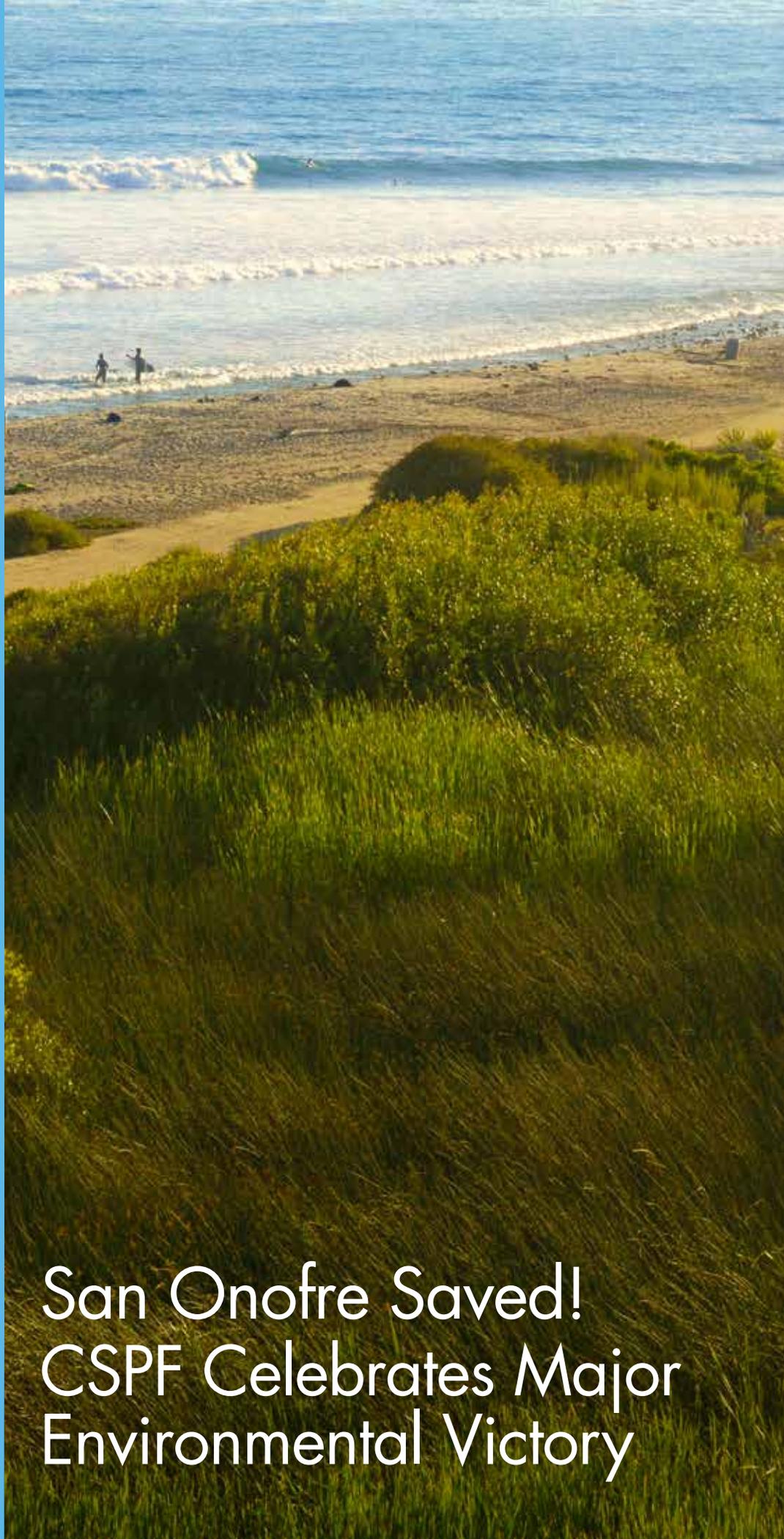


CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION

parklands

The Newsletter for Members of CSPF | Winter 2016

San Onofre Saved!
CSPF Celebrates Major
Environmental Victory



A CSPF Chapter Closes

Thank You and Farewell!

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After more than 12 years as President of California State Parks Foundation, I am stepping down on December 31. I am so honored to have served CSPF and the broader state parks community. It has been quite the ride! Who knew when I joined CSPF in 2004 that we would face three park closure threats, as well as many attempts to use parks for inappropriate purposes such as toll roads and power lines.

We can all take great pride in what we have accomplished together, laying to rest those threats. CSPF and the whole community have had to step up and in on issues of grave consequence for state parks. And having weathered these storms, the state parks themselves, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the entire state parks community are now stronger. We bent in the wind, but were not broken!

I want to thank CSPF's dedicated board and staff — as well as all of our park partners — for their strength, creativity and willingness to take risks and do whatever was necessary for our shared cause. Rest assured that our work on behalf of state parks and all Californians will continue unabated and with more dedication than ever.

And to you, our members and supporters, words cannot describe how much I appreciate your determination to see that state parks are California's finest civic institution, providing solace, fun and memories for generations to come.

Elizabeth Goldstein, President

ABOUT CSPF

California State Parks Foundation is a member-supported nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving our state parks and expanding access to their natural beauty, rich culture and history, and recreational and educational opportunities for all Californians, now and in the future.



WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU

Contact us at any time at members@calparks.org, sign up for eNews and action alerts at calparks.org, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates and news.



SAN ONOFRE STATE BEACH © JUSTIN MEISSEN VIA FLICKR



You Saved San Onofre! CSPF Celebrates Major Environmental Victory

After almost 15 years of pitched battle between the Save San Onofre Coalition (a stalwart collection of nonprofit environmental organizations, including CSPF) and the Transportation Corridor Authority (TCA), the fight over San Onofre State Beach (SOSB) finally came to an end on November 10.

The TCA Board approved a long-negotiated settlement that at its core protects SOSB and the Richard and Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy from future routes of the Foothill-South toll road (SR 241). The fight over San Onofre became the poster child for development projects that threatened state parks. For CSPF, this iconic issue was so important that we entered into our first-ever lawsuit to prevent a project from being built.

We fought battles in many venues and under many different circumstances — from our persuasion of Congress to undo special legislation that granted the TCA exemptions from state and federal laws, to the decision of the California Coastal Commission to reject a TCA permit request for the so-called Green Alignment that would have destroyed SOSB, to heated discussions about the proposed Tesoro Extension.

In the end, new leadership at the TCA, Michael Kraman, and Lucy Dunn, the president and CEO of the Orange County Business Council, brought the Coalition to the table to talk about whether there were ways to protect San Onofre and the Conservancy that would allow us to move on. To be

honest, Coalition members were concerned at first. Slowly but surely, however, trust was built that allowed the settlement to move forward.

We are especially grateful to the thousands of members and supporters who showed up at hearings, wrote letters and joined the fight for San Onofre. This effort has ensured public access to important lands for every purpose suited to them, from sacred

“California law is still not protective enough of our state parks, but this settlement is a good reminder that where there is a will to find a solution to some of the state’s thorniest problems, there is often a way.”

ELIZABETH GOLDSTEIN, CSPF PRESIDENT

practices of the Juaneño/Acjachemen people to the pursuit of the next great wave at Trestles Beach and family gatherings in one of southern California’s most popular state parks and most pristine habitats. As a result of our work with some surprising partners, that may indeed be possible for a long time to come. ●

KEY SETTLEMENT TERMS

- Settles five lawsuits challenging TCA’s 2006 and 2013 approvals of the Foothill-South and Tesoro Extension projects brought by the California Attorney General and the Coalition
- Provides that TCA will rescind its 2006 approval of the so-called Green Alignment that would have run through SOSB and its 2013 approval of its Tesoro Extension project
- Requires TCA to refrain from building or funding a road project within an Avoidance Area that includes SOSB, the O’Neill Conservancy and other open space, habitat and cultural resources in the San Mateo Creek watershed
- Establishes a \$28 million conservation fund to help preserve and restore San Mateo Creek and its watershed
- Requires TCA and the Coalition to jointly develop a Coastal Access Management Plan to ensure public coastal access at SOSB is maintained and enhanced



These are a few examples of improvements in progress thanks to past contributions. There are many more projects to fund, and we need your help!

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK: TRANSFORMING A VITAL CULTURAL RESOURCE

Some say the conservation movement got its start at Big Basin, and you can learn about it at the park's Nature Lodge Museum. This project is making multiple improvements to update exhibits and inspire future visitors — and even provide the park's first Wi-Fi hotspot. *With your help, CSPF has provided \$7,500 for this major effort.*

HENRY W. COE STATE PARK: EXTENDING THE LIFE OF A HISTORIC STRUCTURE

At over 80 years old, the white barn is one of the first things many visitors see at Henry W. Coe State Park, and it was in urgent need of repair. With its new roof installed in October, the barn can now be used for tours, presentations and meetings. *With your help, CSPF provided \$10,000 for critical repairs.*

EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH: RESTORING 40 ACRES OF VENTURA RIVER ECOSYSTEM

Volunteers and trained youth workers are removing invasive plants and reversing the effects of pollution to restore riparian habitat for steelhead trout and other wildlife. *With your help, CSPF has provided \$6,000 toward habitat restoration.*

Protect the Parks You Love



CHINO HILLS STATE PARK © PHILIP OTTO

2017 State Parks Improvement Campaign

Our state parks are wonders of nature and history, but they need our help. Regular usage and weather take a big toll, and over time many trails and wilderness areas, historic buildings, and visitor amenities fall into disrepair. Park facilities need improvements both to protect wildlife and to enhance visitor experiences.

We can't wait for enough state funding to fix the parks we love to enjoy. Instead, we must lead the way to addressing the most pressing deficiencies in our parks now.

We've launched our 2017 State Parks Improvement Campaign to help meet these growing needs. When you donate to the campaign by December 31, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar.

If you haven't given yet, or if you have already given but would like to take advantage of this great opportunity again before time runs out, please help us meet our \$200,000 campaign goal.

Your contribution, plus the match, will allow CSPF to award Park Enrichment Grants for critical improvement projects around the state, while we also work to ensure our state parks system reaches its full potential by being your voice for parks. ●



GIVE BY DECEMBER 31 AND DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Great news! The CSPF Board of Trustees will match all gifts to the campaign up to a total of \$100,000.

You can do twice as much to ensure state parks are thriving — now and in the future.

\$25 BECOMES \$50

\$50 BECOMES \$100

\$250 BECOMES \$500

calparks.org/match2017

Distinguished Leader Elizabeth Goldstein Steps Down after 12 Years

President Elizabeth Goldstein, who has guided California State Parks Foundation through a transformative era both for the organization and for state parks, is stepping down at the end of 2016. Under her leadership, CSPF has experienced significant membership and revenue growth and widened its impact throughout the parks community.

A life-long advocate for parks, Elizabeth has worked for nearly three decades in conservation and historic preservation. Prior to joining CSPF in 2004, she directed San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department and the western office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and worked for state and city parks in New York City. Throughout her career, she has focused on increasing public engagement with parks, fostering sustainable park funding and public-private partnerships, and making world-class urban parks a reality.

"I have had the great pleasure of working with Elizabeth to implement the Department's Urban Strategic Initiative in Los Angeles," says Sean Woods, Los Angeles Sector Superintendent for the Department of Parks and Recreation. "Over the years, I have admired her intelligence, wisdom and, most importantly, her great sense of humor, particularly in the face of park closures and the great economic downturn. The Department owes her a tremendous debt of gratitude."

Elizabeth has also strengthened the network of park partners and conservation groups working to protect and improve California's state parks. "Elizabeth has brought a whole new level of professionalism and accountability to the parks world, and we have all been touched by her infectious enthusiasm and commitment," says Carolyn Christian, President of the California League of Park Associations. "She has supported our organizations through very challenging times, and I think I speak for all the park partners when I say that she will be greatly missed. We are truly in a better place for having worked with her."

Stefanie Sekich-Quinn, Coastal Preservation Manager for the Surfrider Foundation, adds, "For over a decade, Elizabeth boldly led our Save San Onofre Coalition to stop a six-lane toll road from ruining one of California's most treasured state parks. Her tremendous work will benefit Californians for generations to come." ●

"Elizabeth's vision and leadership have transformed the landscape for California's state parks over the past 12 years, leaving them stronger and more enriching for all of us, now and in the future. Her partnership has been invaluable for those of us dedicated to protecting our state parks – members, donors, park staff and volunteers, and other conservation leaders. Thank you, Elizabeth!" ”

DAVID MANDELKERN, CHAIRMAN, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION



12 YEARS OF NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Your support and participation make great things possible for state parks and park users. These are just a few examples of what CSPF has accomplished under Elizabeth's leadership and with your help over the past 12 years.

- Secured permanent protection for San Onofre State Beach from toll road development (see page 3)
- Completed Phase 1 of Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration and Park Development Project (Phase 2 launching soon)
- Rallied the voices of members and advocates to successfully fight major statewide park closure threats in 2008, 2009, and 2011
- Created Park Partnership Grants and Technical Assistance Center to bolster the community of park partners to better steward parks and serve visitors
- Launched year-round Park Champions volunteer program (now active in 44 state parks) to provide solutions for unmet needs in parks
- Created Park Enrichment Grants program, which has awarded over \$1.2 million to date to enhance parks and visitor experiences
- Launched the Summer Enrichment Program, which has enabled more than 15,000 urban youth to expand their education by connecting with nature



CALIFORNIANS APPROVE PLASTIC BAG BAN!

CSPF is pleased that Californians voted to uphold the first-ever statewide ban on plastic bags. The passage of Proposition 67 will reduce litter and waste and will positively impact California's natural environment, including our parks, open spaces and wildlife.

- Californians currently use between 13 and 20 billion single-use plastic bags every year, but only 3 percent are recycled.
- An estimated \$34 million to \$107 million is spent each year to manage plastic bag litter in our state.
- Plastic bags have been deemed the second deadliest threat to sea turtles, birds, and marine mammals.

Your Voice Matters: California Voters Shape a Stronger Future for State Parks

Illegal marijuana cultivation in California has been damaging the health of public lands, including our state parks, for decades. The National Forest Foundation estimates that tens of thousands of pounds of fertilizer, over 700 miles of irrigation lines, 4,800 gallons of insecticide, and 300 tons of garbage are deposited in California forests every year from detected and undetected illegal grows.

That's one reason why the results of our recent election are good news for parks! In November, California voters passed Proposition 64, which not only legalizes the recreational use of marijuana but also sets in place two taxes designated for various purposes, including supporting California's state parks.

The initiative requires that 20 percent of the excise tax, based on the retail price of marijuana sold, be set aside to create the Environmental Restoration and Protection Account to benefit California's Departments of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Fish and Wildlife. The projections for possible revenues to the Environmental Restoration and Protection Account have varied from \$150 million to \$230 million – annually. In addition, the proposition stipulates that this funding has to be applied on top of

the General Fund allocations that DPR and Fish and Wildlife receive.

Priority in the early years is on clean-up, remediation and restoration of the damage sustained from years of illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands and watersheds. After the fund mitigates these impacts, the funding may be applied to stewardship of state parks and state-owned wildlife habitat lands.

CSPF has already begun working with policymakers and a community of environmental organizations to ensure that Environmental Restoration and Protection Account revenues will be spent appropriately, and that this new source of funding won't result in a reduction in General Fund allocations for state parks. Stay tuned in the coming months and years to learn how you can help! ●



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Explore Winter Wildlife in Your State Parks

Winter is a prime time for viewing wild creatures in their natural habitat. The following state parks are a few great places to start.

Elephant seals: During the breeding season from December 15 to March 31, access to the Año Nuevo State Reserve (San Mateo County) is available only via guided walks (advance reservations are recommended).

American bald eagles: Make a reservation for the annual winter bald eagle tours at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area (Fresno and Madera Counties), which take place on Saturdays and Sundays in January and February.

Monarch butterflies: Visitors can view large colonies of over-wintering Monarchs from the wheelchair- and stroller-accessible eucalyptus grove observation deck at Natural Bridges State Beach (Santa Cruz County) and at Pismo State Beach's Monarch Grove (San Luis Obispo County).

Coho salmon: At Samuel P. Taylor State Park (Marin County), salmon can be viewed migrating upstream and engaging in spawning behaviors such as digging gravel to lay eggs and fighting for territory or mating rights. The spawning season typically runs through mid-January, with Steelhead Trout runs continuing through March.

Gray whales: Through March, state park visitors can view the annual migration of California's official marine mammal at many state parks and beaches including Humboldt Lagoons, Prairie Creek Redwoods, and Patrick's Point in Humboldt County; MacKerricher and Mendocino Headlands in Mendocino County; Montaña de Oro and San Simeon State Beach in San Luis Obispo County; El Capitán in Santa Barbara County; and Crystal Cove in Orange County. ●

Learn more at www.parks.ca.gov.

Mark Your Calendar



First Day Hikes

Make a New Year's resolution to your health and happiness by kicking off 2017 with an invigorating First Day Hike at a state park

near you! This annual national event on New Year's Day provides guided hikes and other outdoor explorations in state parks throughout the country.

Specific California state parks and programs – including recommended gear, food and water, and sun protection – will be announced by the Department of Parks and Recreation in mid to late December – check www.parks.ca.gov to find out more. And be sure to share your adventures online with the hashtag #FirstDayHikes!

Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup

Plans are underway for CSPF's 19th Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Thousands of volunteers will be needed throughout California to assist with projects such as campfire center improvements, habitat restoration, native garden conservation, fence building, trail maintenance and beach cleanup.

Earth Day 2017 provides an opportunity for all of us to do something meaningful for our planet by giving back to the state parks in our communities. For more information, visit calparks.org/earthday, where a list of participating parks will be posted in late December.



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READ PARKLANDS ONLINE

View this or previous issues of *Parklands* at calparks.org/Parklands-Online.

THANK YOU!

Our power comes from thousands of people like you who have joined together to protect the natural and cultural beauty of our parks, and enjoy membership benefits too! calparks.org/membership

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are critical to the work we do for state parks. Together, we can accomplish so much to make our parks safe and enjoyable for visitors and their natural inhabitants. calparks.org/volunteer

SPEAK UP

Your voice matters! For ways to use your voice to help state parks, visit calparks.org/speakup.

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Your legacy gift, most often a bequest in a will, will strengthen the future of California's state parks for generations to come. To learn more, call (415) 578-6084 or visit myplanwithcalparks.org.

CALIFORNIA PARKLANDS

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