

# PARK ADVOCACY DAY

## ADVOCATES TALKING POINTS

### MEETING AGENDA

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| I. Team Leader         | Kick off meeting                             |
| II. Selected Advocates | Several advocates share their personal story |
| III. Team Leader       | Wrap up meeting with calls to action         |

### MEETING SCRIPT

#### I. Kick off meeting

**Team Leader:**

- Thank you for taking the time to meet with us
- Today, we are here to show our commitment to preserve and protect California's 280 state park system for the benefit of all

**All:**

- Introductions
- Consider sharing what community you are from – members and their staff love to hear from their constituents

#### II. Tell a story

**2-3 Select Advocates:**

- Tell a personal, meaningful and/or impactful park story
- Consider sharing a cherished memory, describe a park program that has inspired and moved others, or talk about the community connection to the park

#### III. Wrap it up with calls to action:

**Team Leader:**

- As you've heard from these stories, parks are really important
- We hope you will join us by supporting policy that:
  - 1) **Increase access** to state parks for all;
  - 2) **Preserve and protect state parks** for generations to come; and
  - 3) **Ensure adequate funding** to sustain California's 280 state park system
- Here is a packet for you to check out
- Within it reflects bills and budget items that support our priorities
- Thank you!

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## ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS – AS NEEDED

### 1) Help increase access to state parks for all...

#### *Support legislation that increase access to the outdoors*

##### ➤ Pass AB209 (Limon) and AB556 (Carrillo) that propose grant programs targeted toward Californians who experience greater barriers to the benefits of parks and green spaces, especially youth.

- We know youth are spending **more time indoors**, with the average child plays freely outside for just 4 to 7 minutes a day.
- Parks are a clear public health solution with mounting research supporting the **health and wellness benefits that access to outdoor green spaces provides Californians of all backgrounds.**

#### *Keep the Proposition 68 promise approved by voters*

##### ➤ Keep Community Access funding on the table to ensure all Californians experience parks.

- With great success, Proposition 68 passed voters in June 2018 brings in **\$205 million** to support state parks.
- With this bond, 5% of the funds were identified to support **community access** to parks, supporting comprehensive projects that promote equity and diversity in our public lands.
- This **funding has been jeopardized** based on the recent decision by the Department of Finance.
- We need community access funds so all Californians can be **connected to parks in meaningful, relevant ways.**

### 2) Your action to protect and preserve state parks is needed now...

#### *Support legislation that protect state parks from non-mission use threats*

##### ➤ With San Onofre State Beach still under threat by a proposal to build a toll road through the heart of it, we need your support of AB1426 (Horvath) to defend against non-mission use of state parks.

- A threat to one state park, is a threat to all when **non-mission use** proposes to destroy the natural, cultural, and historical integrity of the land.
- By supporting **AB1426 (Horvath)** you are taking a stance **to protect and preserve all state parks** for generations to come.

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☑ **Support legislation that acts now to ensure state parks are climate resilient**

- **By supporting SB45 (Allen), together we are taking necessary action to protect and preserve public lands against the imminent threat of climate change.**
  - We continue to witness the **damaging impact of climate change**, particularly with the recent catastrophic wildfires, in our communities.
  - **SB45 (Allen)** would enact the **Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**.
  - A **\$4.3 billion bond** that would invest in projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds and much more to **protect our natural resources**.

3) Your support of a budget that provides **adequate funding** is critical to sustaining California's 280 state park system...

☑ **Support funding that adequately sustains our state parks**

- **In the Governor's proposed budget for next fiscal year 2019-2020, it includes \$45.6 million to begin to tackle deferred maintenance projects.**
  - With an estimated **\$1 billion in backlog of deferred maintenance** with California's 280 state park system, funding is greatly needed to ensure our state parks are great places for everyone to experience.
  - We ask for your **support of this budget allocation** and future investments into the state park system.

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## PRIORITY LEGISLATION

BILL	POSITION	ABOUT
AB 209 (Limon)  Access	Support  <u>Current Status:</u> Assembly Appropriations Committee	This bill would establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program to increase the ability of underserved communities to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency.
AB 556 (Carrillo)  Access	Support  <u>Current Status:</u> Assembly Appropriations Committee	This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education programs, or recreational amenities. The bill would authorize the Natural Resources Agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences.
AB 1426 (Horvath)  Park Protection	Support  <u>Current Status:</u> Assembly Appropriations Committee	<p>AB 1426 would require the California Department of Parks and Recreation to report to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee about any proposed state or local agency infrastructure projects that would encroach or interfere with the operation of San Onofre State Beach.</p> <p><u>Background on San Onofre State Beach:</u> For almost two decades, the Save San Onofre Coalition has fought to prevent highway infrastructure through San Onofre State Beach, which is one of the top five most-visited state parks in California. The park protects the last remaining undeveloped watershed in southern California, is home to the world-famous Trestles Beach, and houses ten federally-threatened or endangered species. Over the past 15 years our coalition has won many victories to protect this world-class park. In 2008, thousands of activists showed up to the Coastal Commission hearing, defeating the permitting of a 6-lane toll road and fight for park protections. During the hard-fought lawsuit and settlement negotiations, support was received from the California Attorney General and many other agencies and leaders to ensure the park was protected from a toll road. While the lawsuit was successfully settled and an agreement secured bans Toll Road Developers from building a road through the park, concerns remain about recent statements by local government officials calling for building road construction through San Onofre State Beach and other protected conservation land. Such statements defy the decades-long battle to protect the park and, once again, put San Onofre State Beach at risk. Assemblymember Tasha Boerner-Horvath introduced AB1426 aiming to shore up protections for San Onofre State Beach.</p>
SB 45 (Allen)  Park Protection	Support  <u>Current Status:</u> Senate Appropriations Committee	This bill would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources.

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## BACKGROUND ON STATE BUDGET & PROPOSITION 68

### Governor Newsom's proposed budget

- On January 10, 2019, \$209 billion total proposed budget
  - \$144 billion general fund
  - \$8 billion increase to last year's total budget size
- Budget is largely an education and health care budget, with increased spending levels
- The budget includes one-time resources of **\$315.8 million** to address the most critical statewide deferred maintenance projects
- **The Department of Parks and Recreation will receive \$45.6 million, with \$34 million from General Fund and \$11.6 million from Proposition 68 funds** (one-time resource)

### Proposition 68

- **Proposition 68** passed on June 2018
- **\$4.1 billion** investment to guarantee clean drinking water, preserve California's unique natural resources and improve state and local parklands
- Governor Brown's budget for FY 2018-19 **allocated \$1.24 billion** for the first year of implementation
- Prioritizes existing programs, "shovel-ready" projects and phasing-in newly established programs
- **\$210 million** for climate adaptation and resiliency programs, including coastal protection
- **\$30 million** to restore important ecosystems at the Salton Sea
- **Park investments included in FY 2018-19 budget:**
  - **\$277 million** to provide grants through the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program, for the creation of new parks and recreation facilities, as well as the rehabilitation of existing local parks, in critically underserved communities
  - **\$186 million** for the acquisition and development of neighborhood, community and regional parks and recreation lands and facilities in urban and rural areas
  - **\$15 million** to protect forests in state parks, supporting restoration efforts including coastal redwoods, central Sierra sequoias, coastal pines and oak woodlands

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- **Community Access Program**

- The Community Access Program will provide funding for activities and transportation that give community residents new access to outdoor recreation areas and programs.
- CAP grants will meet the following intent from Proposition 68 (2018 Bond Act) Public Resources Code § 80008(c)(1):
  - "Up to 5% of funds shall, to the extent permissible under the State General Obligation Bond Law (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 16720) of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code) and with the concurrence of the Director of Finance, be allocated for community access projects including, but not limited to:
    - a) Transportation,
    - b) Physical activity programming,
    - c) Resource interpretation,
    - d) Multilingual translation,
    - e) Natural science,
    - f) Workforce development and career pathways,
    - g) Education,
    - h) Communication related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits."
- The Department of Finance recently determined that bond dollars could not be spent on community access projects, as written into the measure.
- This would have amounted to nearly \$33 million in community access funding for state and local parks.

## **State Budget and Legislative Calendar:**

Mid-May:	May revise released
May 17:	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report to the floor bills introduced in their house
May 31:	House of origin deadline for legislation
June 15:	Budget must be passed by midnight
Sept. 13:	Last day for each house to pass bills. Interim Study Recess begins upon adjournment of session