

# **PARK ADVOCACY DAY 2021**

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Thank you for joining us for the General Session of our 2021 Park Advocacy Day! All participants will be muted during panel presentations. Please enter any questions you may have in the chat function at the bottom of your screen. We will do our best to address them in the time we have.

Thank you!



**CALIFORNIA  
STATE PARKS  
FOUNDATION**

# Park Advocacy Day: GENERAL SESSION

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## **10:00AM – 10:10AM**

- Welcome: Rachel Norton, Executive Director

## **10:10AM – 10:25AM**

- Director Quintero

## **10:25AM – 10:45AM**

- Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia

## **10:45AM – 11:00AM**

- Break

## **10:55AM – 11:20AM**

- Legislative and budget update

## **11:20AM – 11:45AM**

- Advocacy 101 + Virtual Park Advocacy Month

## **11:45AM – 11:55AM**

- Grassroots advocate: Tanisha Gupta

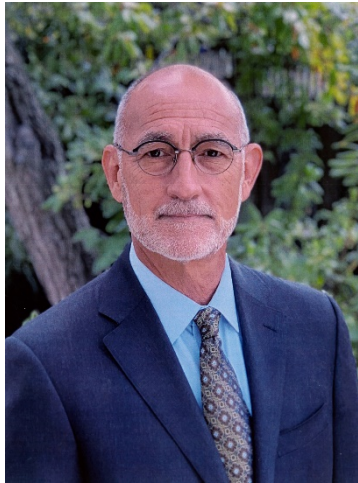
## **11:55AM – 12:00PM**

- Closing: Rachel Norton, Executive Director

# PARK ADVOCACY DAY



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**Director Armando  
Quintero**

California Department of Parks  
and Recreation



**Assemblymember  
Eduardo Garcia**

Assembly District 56



**Danielle Lynch**

Environmental and  
Energy Consulting



**Tanisha Gupta**

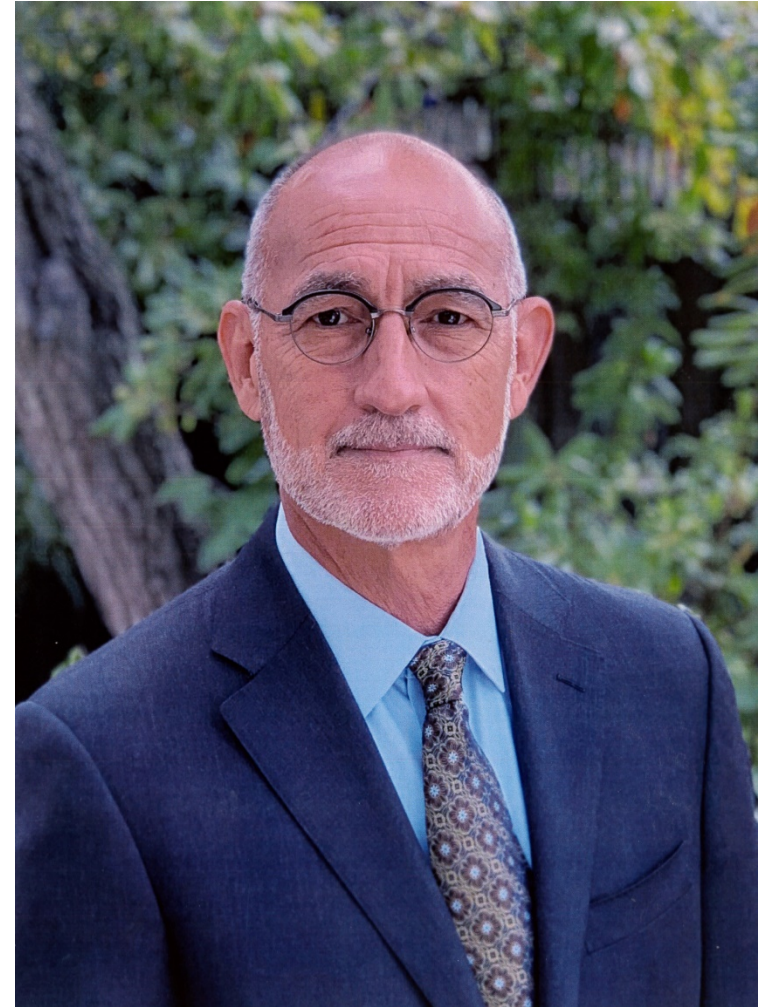
California State Parks  
Foundation volunteer

Join the conversation online | [#ParkAdvocacyDay](#)

# **Director Armando Quintero**

California Department of Parks and Recreation

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# **Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia**

Assembly District 56

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# WE'LL BE BACK SOON!

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We're taking a short break, but we'll be back at **10:55 AM** for our conversation about legislative and budget priorities for 2021.



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# LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATE

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# Danielle Lynch

Environmental and Energy Consulting

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# California State Budget + Parks

## Where are we?

- **January 10**
  - Governor released his proposed FY21-22 Budget
- **April 13**
  - Governor signed SB 85
- **By May 14**
  - Governor releases his May Budget Revision
- **By June 15**
  - Governor must approve the FY21-22 Budget



# California State Budget + Parks

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## Governor's January Budget Proposal

- **A focus on expanding park access** – \$82 Million for the “Advancing Parks for All” Initiative
  - \$33.4M for Woolsey Fire restoration projects
  - \$20M to support deferred maintenance projects
  - \$12.7M for the Youth Community Access Grant program
  - \$2.7M to improve public access at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area
  - \$585k to continue the Community Liaison programs that engage underserved and underrepresented urban communities
- **A focus on climate change** – \$85 Million to protect forests by increasing the pace and scale of forest management in state parks



# California State Budget + Parks

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## Senate Bill 85 (Ting) Budget Act of 2020

- Early Action Wildfire and Forest Resilience Package
  - Signed into law on April 13; Available immediately
  - \$536M total, including \$15M for State Parks

## May Revise

- Negotiations happening now; released by May 14

## FY21-22 Budget

- Must be signed by June 15



# 2021 Legislation + Parks

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## Building climate-resilient parks

***AB 1500 (Garcia, Eduardo D): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.***

***Our position: Support***

***SB 45 (Portantino D): Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022.***

***Our position: Support***

Although the bills differ in the size, scope, and priorities, there is broad consensus in both houses that a 2022 bond is needed to support increasing climate threats and to create jobs.



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# 2021 Legislation + Parks

## Building climate-resilient parks

### ***AB 585 (Rivas, Luz D): Climate change: Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program.***

The Office of Planning and Research would be required to coordinate the state's efforts to address extreme heat and to facilitate the implementation of local, regional, and state climate change planning by awarding competitive grants to eligible entities.

***Our position: Support***

### ***SB 604 (Hueso D): Natural resources: the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2021.***

State conservancies and the Wildlife Conservation Board would be required to establish independent grant programs to fund workforce development for climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience, natural disaster, and other climate emergency projects, as specified.

***Our position: Support***

### ***AB 67 (Petrie-Norris): Sea Level Rise: working group: economic analysis.***

This bill would require a state agency to take into account the current and future impacts of sea level rise when planning, designing, building, operating, maintaining, and investing in infrastructure located in the coastal zone or otherwise vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise or storm surges.

***Our position: Support***



# 2021 Legislation + Parks

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## Expanding access to parks

### ***SB 624 (Hueso D): Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act.***

The bill would make it the policy of the state to promote representation and ensure cultural competency among agency staff and each department, board, conservancy, and commission within the agency, to ensure all Californians and visitors of the state feel safe and welcome in the outdoors.

***Our position: Support***

### ***AB 30 (Kalra D): Parks: access to nature.***

This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state that access to nature and access to the benefits of nature is a human right and that every human has the right to safe and affordable outdoor access, among other things.

***Our position: Support***



# 2021 Legislation + Parks

## Expanding access to parks

### ***SB 266 (Newman D): State park system: Chino Hills State Park: expansion.***

The Department of Parks and Recreation would be required to provide assistance acquiring and accepting land immediately adjacent to, and that expands, Chino Hills State Park, by transferring three specified properties into the state park system. It would also require the department to manage the acquired properties and parcels with specified funds as part of the Chino Hills State Park, as provided.

***Our position: Support***

### ***AB 542 (Mathis R): State parks: park entrance fees: waivers: 4th grade children.***

Bill passage would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to waive the day use entrance fees to a unit of the state park system for any child in the 4th grade, or the 4th grade equivalent, who holds a valid federally issued “Every Kid in a Park” pass, as provided.

***Our position: Support***



# Advocacy 101 + Virtual Park Advocacy Month

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# Advocacy 101

## Why is advocacy important?

- It is your right – This is what living in a democracy is all about
- Advocacy helps to improve government services
- Advocacy holds elected officials accountable
- Advocacy mobilizes communities and generates movements
- Your priorities are important
- It is a proven way to get things done

# Advocacy 101

## First steps to becoming an effective advocate

1. Know who your Senator and Assemblymember are; and what they care about
2. Know your representatives' key staff
3. Be comfortable calling your representatives directly when needed
4. Be comfortable with virtual technologies! Get cell phone numbers!
5. Be able to describe why your priorities are important to *their district*
6. Become a resource to your representatives
7. Follow through
8. Know your elevator pitch
9. Be an expert; but also be *likeable*



# Advocacy 101

## Easy ways to get to know your legislators

- Schedule a meet-and-greet meeting (face-to-face, virtual, phone call)
- Ad hoc communications (email, phone call)
- Social media!
- Letters
- Legislators' website
- Town halls (virtual, in person)



# Advocacy 101



## Ways to engage in strategic advocacy

1. Establish a relationship with your Senator and Assemblymember
2. Learn the legislative and budget process
3. Call bill authors to learn about their bills and ask questions
4. State and reinforce your position on bills
  - Submit position letters to authors and committees
  - Provide comments during committee hearings
5. Build legislative support for bills
  - Contact your legislator(s) to educate them and ask for them to vote in favor of the bill (call, email)
  - Publish social media and other press



# Virtual Park Advocacy Month

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## 1. Make sure you know your legislator.

Go to our legislative look up and find out who your representative is.

[calparks.org/leglookup](https://calparks.org/leglookup)





# Virtual Park Advocacy Month

## 2. Educate yourself on the process and issues.

Read through the tools and resources to get even more information on the topics covered today.

[calparks.org/advocacytools](https://calparks.org/advocacytools)



# Virtual Park Advocacy Month

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## 3. Take action!

Action alerts have been set up to sign on the issues that need action now! See where you can email, call, and promote on social 2021 legislation for parks.

[calparks.org/action](https://calparks.org/action)



Join the conversation online | #ParkAdvocacyDay





# Virtual Park Advocacy Month

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## 4. Share with us!

We will be sharing stories from park advocates across California. You can join them! Share how you are advocating throughout the month of May and encourage your followers to join.

[calparks.org/padsocial](https://calparks.org/padsocial)



# Tanisha Gupta

California State Parks Foundation volunteer

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# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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- Let's keep the conversation going! Share your thoughts on today's discussion with **#ParkAdvocacyDay**.
- Raise your voice. Learn more about advocacy and the issues, sign an action alerts, or look up your legislator at **[calparks.org/parkadvocacyday](https://calparks.org/parkadvocacyday)**.

