



March 3, 2021

California State Park & Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Transmitted via Email to Commission Liaison Vicki Perez at Vicki.Perez@parks.ca.gov

Re: White Paper: *Wasted Time and Resources: Three Examples of State Parks' Abandonment of Its Mission*

Dear Commissioners:

Sierra Club California is the state advocacy arm of the Sierra Club's 13 local chapters and more than 170,000 members in California. As you know, Sierra Club has a rich history of advocacy for parks and public access to the outdoors and nature. We are the Department of Parks and Recreation's (State Parks) most natural ally.

However, over decades, we have found ourselves at continuing odds with State Parks about several issues. We have watched anxiously as State Parks has abandoned its primary mission as it has addressed or ignored these issues.

Please find accompanying this letter a short white paper prepared by volunteers and staff at Sierra Club California outlining three key examples of parks actions—or inactions—that have led to decades of wasted resources and unnecessary conflict.

We believe each of the three issues could be rapidly resolved if State Parks respected its mission and was given the needed decisive direction to get these conflicts off the table.

As the Park and Recreation Commission continues its mission to serve the people of California, we urge you to press for resolution of these three issues in a way that will allow Sierra Club and our volunteers to focus less on challenging State Parks and more on partnering with State Parks to advance its mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn Phillips
Director

Cc: Armando Quintero, Director of the Department of State Parks and Recreation
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency