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## **Sierra Club California Statement on State Parks Director's Resignation and Surplus Funding Disclosure**

SACRAMENTO—Today the director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Ruth Coleman, resigned. The resignation caps a week of press reports about improper finance practices within the parks department, including hanging onto a \$54 million surplus while parks faced closure.

For more than 30 years, parks funding and oversight have been in decline. Most recently, more than 70 of the systems 278 parks were at risk of closure after state budget cuts.

**Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips released the following statement :**

“This week’s revelations are disappointing, to say the least.

“We recently [sent a letter to Governor Brown](#)<sup>i</sup> asking him to show more overt leadership on the state parks issue. We asked him to step up and speak out. The latest news underscores the need for the governor to take a more active role in helping fix the parks problem.

“Governor Brown has a lot of issues on his plate. The parks issue needs a more prominent place. It’s one that touches nearly every part of this state and Californians of every stripe: rich, poor, old and young.

“The California parks system includes more than a million acres of some of the state’s most unique and amazing wild lands and cultural and educational assets. They represent the wisdom and vision of previous generations who knew that these assets deserved to be preserved for future generations to enjoy. They left a legacy we need to protect and pass on intact.”

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*Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club’s 13 chapters and more than 150,000 members in California.*

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<sup>i</sup> The letter can be found at:

[http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/State\\_Parks/SCC\\_Ltr\\_to\\_Gov\\_Brown\\_re\\_Next\\_Steps\\_for\\_state\\_parks.pdf](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/State_Parks/SCC_Ltr_to_Gov_Brown_re_Next_Steps_for_state_parks.pdf)