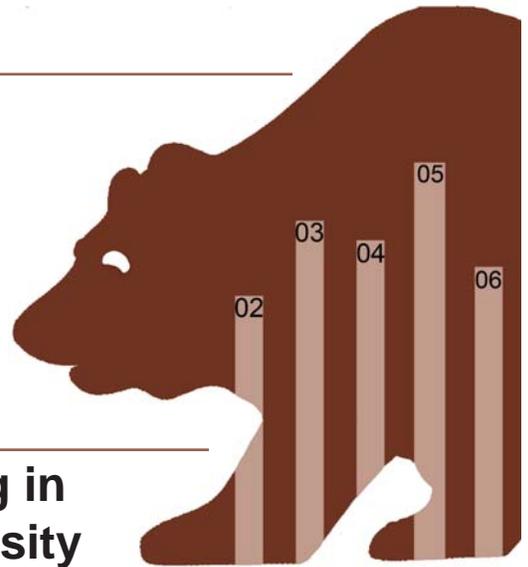


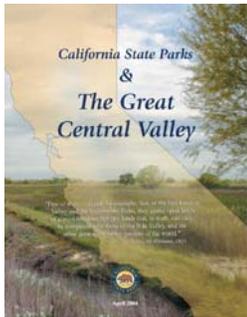
BEAR FACTS

Planning Trends and Information
from California State Parks

March 2006



Central Valley Vision



California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman introduced the Central Valley Vision in 2003 by asking residents and visitors for their recommendations on ways that State Parks can improve services to the Valley.

The initiative is a 20-year long-range plan targeting the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Valley and the Delta region. Currently, California State Parks operates and maintains 34 park units in the Central Valley, yet the acreage of these parks is just seven percent of the total State Park System.

The Central Valley is experiencing immense population growth that is projected to double over the next forty years. Today, about 5.5 million residents live in the Central Valley. The State Department of Finance projects that the population will grow to more than 11.5 million by 2040. This growth is stimulating rapid development that quickly will urbanize this predominately rural area. Urbanization will bring major demographic, economic and social changes to the region.

The Central Valley Vision is an ambitious strategy to identify current and near term actions that can meet the public's needs. These actions include a renewed efforts to build creative economic and volunteer partnerships; implement park development, upgrade existing facilities, and acquire new park lands.

(Continued on page 2)

Zooming in on Diversity

California's population now exceeds 36.8 million people. Almost half of the state's population lives in either Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego or San Bernardino county. More and more people are moving to California's Central Valley and Inland Empire from Los Angeles and the Bay Area. Population growth and changing demographics of such immensity - year after year - create equally immense demands for parks and recreation services and facilities. How can parks and recreation providers offer creative solutions and foster public-private partnerships to meet California's immense growth and diversity?

According to a recent study of migration and population change by the Brookings Institution, population trends have reversed in a number of metropolitan areas. Stockton is among the fastest-growing cities in the nation and San Jose is one of the slowest. Both trends are due to California residents continuing to migrate inward from the coastal areas to the Central Valley and the Inland Empire. Three metropolitan areas in the Central Valley - Stockton, Sacramento and Bakersfield - have been added to the list of the 10 fastest-growing major urban areas in the United States, along with the already listed Inland Empire. The Los Angeles and the Bay Area continue to feed a population explosion in inland California that made Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario the nation's second-fastest-growing metropolitan area from 2000 to 2004.

(Continued on page 2)

Central Valley Vision (continued)

Although there currently are no funds available for large scale implementation of the Central Valley Vision, Director Coleman's goal is to be prepared with a plan when funding becomes available.

More than a dozen public outreach meetings were held throughout the Central Valley from Redding to Bakersfield in 2005. At these meetings, State Parks staff asked: "What is important in the Central Valley that State Parks should protect and interpret?" Participants were asked to consider three questions: "Which natural features, historic sites and cultural resources should be protected before they vanish?" "What special stories should be told and what places need to be preserved in order to tell them?" "What and where should recreational facilities be developed?"

During the public outreach meetings, staff heard many creative and well-thought out suggestions:

Expand recreation facilities at existing parks: for picnicking, hiking, camping, interpretation, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, motorized boating, off-road vehicles, biking, walking; and public access to water, rivers, reservoirs and the Delta.

Expand landholdings at existing parks: key linkages along major river corridors to public lands; create land preservation agreements, trails and corridors, buffer zones, working farms and ranches, and open space along major transportation routes, such as Interstate 5 and Highway 99.

Acquire key cultural, historic, natural and recreation lands and corridors: blue oak and sycamore woodlands, geological, paleontological sites, vernal pools, wetlands, canyon-lands, rolling hills, indigenous grasslands, riparian habitat. Corridors include key linkages between natural habitat areas and multi-use trails to access day use parks and overnight camping.

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Zooming in on Ethnic Diversity (continued)

"California was always the golden ray of hope," said demographer William Frey, author of a September 2005 study based on four decades of U.S. Census data and a Brookings Institution demographer based in Washington, D.C., to the Los Angeles Times. "It was the Gold Rush, then post-World War II prosperity, then the high-tech boom. Now the magnetism is more for the foreign-born." California has remained the nation's No. 1 destination for foreign immigrants during the last four years, with about 1.1 million, or 22.4% of the U.S. total, settling here.

The greatest migration change across all metropolitan areas in the nation can be seen in Los Angeles, according to Frey's April 2005 report, *Immigration and Domestic Migration in US Metro Areas: 2000 and 1990 Census Findings by Education and Race*: "Not only has the magnitude of out-migration risen dramatically in the latest period, but the race/ethnic composition of that out-migration is dominated more by Hispanics than by whites. While white domestic net out-migration from Los Angeles increased by almost half, the net out-migration of Hispanics (which was already negative in the late 1980s) increased by more than five-fold in the late 1990's. At the same time, Asian domestic migration shifted from a net immigration to a net out-migration. As a consequence, the white contribution to total 1995-2000 net domestic out migration from Los Angeles was only 36 percent, with additional contributions from Blacks, Asians, and, to a much larger extent, Hispanics."

Fully one-third of Los Angeles County residents (33 percent) expect to leave in the next five years according to a 2005 statewide survey - a collaborative effort of the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and the School of Policy, Planning, and Development at the University of Southern California. PPIC's Statewide Survey Director Mark Baldassare said that the number of residents who plan to leave has grown dramatically since a similar survey question in 2003 found that 17 percent

(Continued on page 5)
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A State Parks Trails Program is Launched at Governor's Summit



Gov. Schwarzenegger, Maria Shriver and Lance Armstrong lead more than 800 children on a three-quarters of a mile "Get Healthy California" walk in an effort to encourage Californians to exercise

To increase recognition of the Department's important role in improving the health of Californians through outdoor recreation, the California State Parks' Health and Wellness Committee launched its Take A Hike! program on September 15, 2005 at the Governor's Summit on Health, Nutrition and Obesity.

In Spring of 2005 State Parks Deputy Director Sedrick Mitchell convened the Health and Wellness Committee following the Department's sponsorship of the California Childhood Obesity Conference in January 2005. Mitchell asked the committee to examine ways that the Department could further promote the health and well-being of Californians and their communities in light of the Administration's announcement that obesity costs California \$28 billion a year in medical bills, injuries and lost productivity.

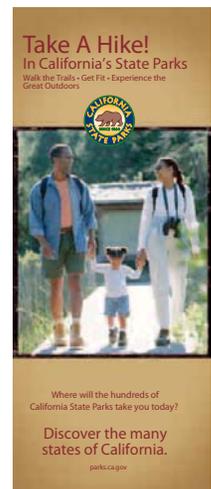
The first brochure to come out of the Take A Hike! program encourages the public to Take a Hike! in California's State Parks, to walk the *BEAR FACTS* – March 2006

trails, get fit and experience the great outdoors. The pamphlet contains basic information for new hikers, including suggestions for wearing appropriate clothing, starting a hiking program for exercise and notes on hiking safety. The brochure also references the new www.parks.ca.gov/takeahike website that periodically features new Take A Hike! maps for trails throughout California.

A companion Health and Wellness Committee program called City Walks also encourages physical fitness through a second brochure, *Take a Hike! City Walks in Downtown Sacramento*. This pamphlet contains pleasant descriptions, mileage information and a map detailing 10 easy downtown Sacramento walks, all starting from the west steps of the State Capitol. The City Walks brochure and maps highlight landmarks and destinations around downtown Sacramento, encouraging those who live, work or visit the downtown area to get out and walk to places like the California State Capitol and Crocker Art Museums and the Sutter's Fort, Old Sacramento and Governor's Mansion State Historic Parks. This pilot program is also being considered for expansion to other cities statewide.

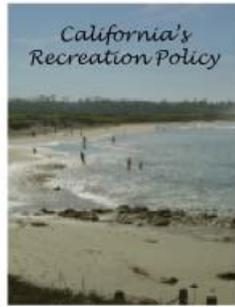
You can find more information about the Take A Hike! program on the www.parks.ca.gov/takeahike.

For more information about the Health and Wellness Committee, contact Pati Brown in the Office of Community Involvement at (916) 653-8776 or by e-mail at pbrown@parks.ca.gov. 



Recreation Update: State Parks Commission Enters War on Obesity

The State Park and Recreation Commission adopted a Recreation Policy that emphasizes a new direction in recreation services for improving health and well-being and combating the growing obesity epidemic.



“Our Commissioners and all those who participated in updating this policy are truly worried about the future health and well-being of our citizens,” said State Parks’ Director Ruth Coleman. “We hope the seriousness of this call-to-action is not ignored. The recommendations in this policy are right on target and must be turned into action to promote a healthier California with more recreational opportunities.”

The Recreation Policy is an energetic new blueprint, a call-to-action, for park and recreation providers from every level — city, county, regional, special district and state, public and private — to provide the leadership and to aggressively meet the demand for programs and activities that address significant trends, such as changes in health, wellness and obesity, environmental justice, placing parks closer to where people live regardless of income levels, making all park facilities more accessible to all, and providing more recreational opportunities and facilities to meet California’s rapid growth.

One of the major recommendations, that park and recreational professionals promoting and supporting increased physical activity among Californians, is critical to combating the obesity epidemic and preventing serious, chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes.

The new policy calls upon recreational providers across the state to take a leadership role in ensuring that a full range of stimulating, enjoyable and safe recreation experiences are available to their constituents.

California Recreation Policy (continued)

The Recreation Policy also calls upon providers to coordinate their efforts and provide more access to park and recreation facilities for people of all ages and abilities. In addition, the new policy calls upon the State to help local areas by means of grants and technical assistance to encourage a better delivery of recreation services.

Creating the policy included extensive collaboration. The California Parks and Recreation Society, the organization representing hundreds of local, county and regional park agencies across the state, played a vital role in formulating the new policy. “Californians have gained 360 million pounds in the last 10 years” said Jane Adams, Executive Director of the California Parks and Recreation Society. “More than 1/4 of our children and more than 1/2 of our adults are overweight. Through the California Recreation Policy, all the recreation and park providers throughout the state will gain a sense of direction and purpose.”

State Park Commissioners Gail Kautz and Caryl Hart and state park staff met with a multitude of park and recreation professionals from across the state. The process included meetings of a 27-member Recreation Policy Oversight Committee made up of local, regional, state, federal, public and private organizations and agencies. It was presented for review before eight different park and health planning agencies. It was also offered for review to more than 92 parks professionals across the state. The issue first came before the Commission in May 2004, with a draft policy reviewed and adopted in April 2005, and final adoption by the Commission in September 2005. The five recommendations of the California Recreation Policy for 2005 are:

1. Adequacy of recreation opportunities;
2. Leadership in recreation management;
3. Recreation’s role in a healthier California;
4. Preservation of natural & cultural resources;
5. Accessibility to all Californians.

To view the California Recreation Policy visit:
www.parks.ca.gov/planning



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Central Valley Vision (continued)

Preserve and interpret the Central Valley's rich history: Places that “tell a story” or have an historic theme, event or activity. Of special interest are the preservation and interpretation of archaeological, rock art and sacred sites of California's native people, as well as agricultural and industrial sites that have had a direct impact on Central Valley history. In addition, trade routes, railroad and river transportation, Dust Bowl events, migrant farm worker experiences, immigrant stories, mining, hydrology, oil industry development, flood control, water supply and aviation all have contributed to the Central Valley's rich history.

Strengthen partnerships and collaborative efforts: Very important to the success of the Central Valley Vision is the ability to coordinate with policy makers, non-profits, businesses, the travel industry, land trusts and many other highly valued partners.

California State Parks is currently compiling and analyzing the data collected. A final report reflecting that information will be published in Summer of 2006.

To view more information on the Central Valley Vision visit www.parks.ca.gov/centralvalley 

Which Park and Why?

The National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended, identifies four types of national trails; scenic, historic, recreation, and side/connecting. Each trail represents a mosaic of partnerships among citizens, landowners, trail users and public agencies. There is one scenic and four historic trails in California.



Can you name five State Parks that are part of The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail?



Can you name the four National Historic Trails?

(Answers on page 7 — Which Park and Why?)

Zooming in on Diversity (continued)

of residents did not see themselves living in the county in five years. Blacks (41%) are far more likely than whites (30%), Latinos (34%), and Asians (25%) to see themselves leaving the county.

PPIC's study, Second-Generation Immigrants in California, reported that more than half (55%) of all children in Los Angeles County are second-generation immigrants: Los Angeles County (26%), Ventura County (23%), and the San Joaquin Valley (23%) have the largest shares of second-generation immigrants, followed by San Diego and Orange Counties (20%), and the Bay Area and Inland Empire (19%).

The PPIC survey of Los Angeles County found that a majority (58%) of LA residents rate the quality of parks, beaches, and recreation facilities as excellent or good, but that their assessments fell from one year ago when 63 percent rated the quality of parks, beaches, and recreation as excellent or good. California State Parks has been working together with the City of Los Angeles, and hundreds of community members to bring more local parks and public recreation opportunities. This urban parks initiative is a joint City-State park partnership is an example of a creative solution with open space and natural trails along a re-greening Los Angeles River Parkway and local park and recreation facilities.

Examples of diversity outreach include State Park's urban initiative. This initiative created more parks near urban centers, bringing parks to people in underserved areas such as downtown Los Angeles. Public outreach meetings in the Central Valley and symposiums on diversity explored ways to reach non-traditional users and provide them recreation opportunities and programs. One such example is the annual “Beach Play Day” at Huntington State Beach, when hundreds of youth from the inner city come to the beach, many seeing the ocean for the first time in their lives. Making parks more relevant to diverse cultures, while

(Continued on page 7)

Land & Water Conservation Fund Directs Planning

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal program administered by the National Park Service that provides matching grants to states and through the states to local government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program includes a planning grant for the preparation of a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Congress determines states' funding level on an annual basis.



To be eligible for L&WCF assistance, California is required to update and refine the SCORP. The State Parks' Planning Division prepares the SCORP using extensive input from local government and private citizens. The SCORP sets the priorities for acquiring, developing and protecting outdoor recreation resources, serves as a practical tool for coordinating all outdoor recreation and environmental conservation programs in the state and can consist of a single document or include multiple documents.

SCORP requirements includes:

- Processes and methodologies chosen to meet LWCF guidelines;
- Public participation in the planning process;
- A comprehensive plan that: Identifies statewide outdoor recreation issues; Evaluates demand and public outdoor recreation preferences (not necessarily through quantitative statewide surveys or analysis); Evaluates the supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities (not necessarily through quantitative statewide inventories);
- An implementation program that identifies strategies, priorities, and actions to meet the obligation of its LWCF apportionment;

The SCORP is used by State Parks' Office of Grants and Local Services to prioritize acquisition and development projects through an

Land and Water Fund (continued)

“Open Project Selection Process” for grants. The process assures equal opportunity for all eligible project sponsors and enables the state to address and meet priority recreation needs. The Open Project Selection Process provides objective criteria and standards for grant selection based on priority needs for parkland acquisition and outdoor recreation development as identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

To prepare the updated SCORP, due in 2007, the State Parks Planning Division will undertake a survey of public opinions and outdoor recreation preferences, identify issues of statewide importance, and initiate a statewide inventory of local park and recreation lands.

The SCORP statewide master plan for parks, outdoor recreation, and open space is available online at: www.parks.ca.gov/planning 

New Report: **Planning Milestones of the State Park System**

The July 1, 2005 *Planning Milestones for the Park Units and Major Properties Associated with the California State Park System* is now available. This comprehensive report includes information on all of the State Park System's 278 units, properties, 81 classified “internal units”, and a pull-out color map.

This report lists major accomplishments of the last year; comparisons to past history and the current status of all park units and properties; and the evolution of unit-level land use and resource management planning. It also lists the definitive number and specific identity of all basic classified units and major unclassified properties that constitute the official State Park System as of July 1, 2005.

For more information on the California State Parks Planning Milestones visit: www.parks.ca.gov/planning 

Steve Musillami Appointed Manager of Statewide Trails

A Sacramento native, Steve has spent many years enjoying the recreational opportunities of Northern California. A licensed Landscape Architect for over 20 years, Steve's career includes a combination of private and public experience.

First coming to California State Parks in 1989, Steve spent six years planning and designing facilities and trails in the Development Division but returned to the private sector in 1995 when the Department reorganized. Steve spent the next five years managing a variety of recreation planning and design projects with The Dangermond Group in Sacramento, working with the California Tahoe Conservancy, California Department of Boating and Waterways, San Joaquin County Parks, Tahoe City Public Utility District, City of Laguna Hills and others.

Steve returned to State Parks as a Landscape Architect five years later and in 2002 coordinated the Department's Accessible Trail Program. As the new Statewide Trails Manager Steve is enjoying his responsibility for promoting the establishment and maintenance of trails and greenways that serve California's diverse population, both within State Parks and statewide.

Steve Musillami, Manager, Statewide Trails Unit, can be reached at (916) 653-6501 smusi@parks.ca.gov 

Which Park and Why? *answers*

State Parks on Pacific Crest Natl. Scenic Trail:

- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
- Castle Crags State Park
- McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park
- Mount San Jacinto State Park
- Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area

National Historic Trails in California:

- California National Historic Trail
- Juan Bautista De Anza Natl. Historic Trail
- Old Spanish National Historic Trail
- Pony Express National Historic Trail 

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Zooming in on Diversity (continued) increasing the ethnic diversity of park-goers, helps create the potential for stronger, multi-cultural park users in future generations.

State Parks has a history and long commitment to Los Angeles. There are 28 state park units in the County, providing over 32,000 acres of public parklands. The oldest of these state park units is Pio Pico State Historic Park, created in 1917, and the largest being Topanga State Parks with more than 1,600 acres of open space and recreational area.

Demographer Frey concludes that the recent race-ethnic migration patterns show that “we still have a long way to go before we become a coast-to-coast melting pot as immigration gateway states like California and metros like L.A. continue to stand out as the most racially and ethnically diverse in the nation. ...Gradually, these migration patterns will accelerate as they lead to further simmering among our diverse peoples toward a more integrated society.” 

New Report: **Park and Recreation Trends in California 2005**

California State Parks is pleased to announce a recent publication - *Park and Recreation Trends in California 2005*, which examines trends affecting all parks, recreation areas, programs, and services. This report provides useful information to help all park and recreation providers plan for the dynamic changes in California's population, diversity and urbanization patterns.

Park and Recreation Trends in California 2005 is online at: www.parks.ca.gov/planning 



Bear Facts

California State Parks
Planning Division

Bear Facts is published three times a year by the California State Parks Planning Division on a wide range of park and recreation trends, research, surveys, studies, and policy issues. Bear Facts is available at www.parks.ca.gov/planning

Please Note: Bear Facts is transitioning to an electronic-only newsletter beginning with the next issue. Please provide us with your Email address by sending an E-mail with "Subscribe Bear Facts" to planning@parks.ca.gov

21st California Trails & Greenways Conference May 5-7, 2006 in Agoura Hills *Registration is now open for this exciting event!*

This year's California Trails and Greenways Conference has a theme of "Healthy Trails" and will be held in beautiful Agoura Hills in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains – the gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the beaches of Malibu. The conference includes exciting keynote speakers, educational session and great entertainment. A kickoff on Friday is followed by field and classroom workshops and a welcome dinner featuring keynote speaker Dr. Richard Jackson. Saturday's schedule includes workshops and concurrent sessions, an awards ceremony and social hour with the entertaining Bill Roberts & Friends. The conference wraps up on Sunday with a public meeting of the California Recreational Trails Committee and an enlightening plenary session. Online registration is at www.parks.ca.gov/trails. For questions please contact Nicole Franckowiak at (916) 653-0386 or at franckowiak@parks.ca.gov.

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