



## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa  
Palm Desert, CA March 26, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM:** Vote on New Golden Bear Awards Category

**STAFF:** Sonya Jones, Staff Services Manager I, Strategic Planning  
and Recreation Services Division on Behalf of the Public  
Engagement & Communication Committee

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and approval of proposed Partnership Award  
category for Golden Bear Awards Program

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### I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend approving the new award category.

### II. BACKGROUND

The Golden Bear Awards are presented annually by the State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) and celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations toward the Department's mission. The Public Engagement and Communications Subcommittee of the SPRC reviews and recommends award recipients for the SPRC to vote on. Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Bashein would like to propose and implement a new award category – the Golden Bear Partnership Award to an exemplary partner.

### III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report



## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Palm Desert, CA

March 26, 2025

**STAFF REPORT:** Commission Action Item: Golden Bear Awards

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**SUBJECT:** Discussion and approval of proposed Partnership Award category for Golden Bear Awards Program

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### OBJECTIVE

Approval to implement new Partnership Award category for Golden Bear Award Program.

### INTRODUCTION

The Golden Bear Awards are presented by the State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) annually and celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations toward the mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks or Department). The Public Engagement and Communications Subcommittee of the SPRC reviews and recommends award recipients for approval by the SPRC. Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Bashein propose to implement a new award category – the Golden Bear Partnership Award.

### DESCRIPTION (REPORT / UPDATE)

Creating the Golden Bear Partnership Award will further highlight the irreplaceable partners who:

- Are working to enhance visitor services and experiences,
- fully embrace the mutual cooperation and engage proactively with private, public, and volunteer services, and
- provide recreation benefits for all while protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources consistent with the Department's mission.

By creating the new award category, the Golden Bear Partnership Award, the SPRC would further highlight the transformative work of State Parks' partners, and those who continue to go above and beyond in providing support, resources and engagement in the stewardship of units of the State Park System and State Parks' programs and initiatives.

To qualify for the new Golden Bear Partnership Award category, nominees must be a past or present partner organization or member of a partner organization of the Department.

## **NEXT STEPS**

SPRC to review/approve proposal, will prepare to announce 2024 Golden Bear Award nomination period.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommend approving the new award category.

## **COMMISSION ACTION(S)**

Review proposed award category to confirm it meets Golden Bear Award Program criteria. The SPRC may consider approving or denying this new award category or moving this action item to a future SPRC meeting.