



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

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

AGENDA ITEM: Commission Business

STAFF: Prasanna Hankins, Commission Liaison

SUBJECT: Pending resolution on the Los Angeles Area Fires
Recovery Efforts

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend Commission takes action and approve the pending informational resolution.

II. BACKGROUND

Background on the agenda item

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report
- Informational resolution.



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Palm Desert, CA

March 26, 2025

STAFF REPORT: Agenda Item 15: Commission Business

STAFF: Prasanna Hankins

SUBJECT: Information Requests and Potential Agenda Item List;
Resolution regarding Los Angeles Area Fires Recovery
Efforts

OBJECTIVE

California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) staff will create and maintain on behalf of the State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) a list documenting informational requests and potential future agenda items, including, but not limited to, resolutions the SPRC may wish to adopt. The list will include items and topics that individual Commissioners have raised at previous meetings. These items will be addressed and prioritized in coordination with upcoming SPRC meeting locations, scheduled and standing agenda items, and authorities of the SPRC and State Parks. Any item brought for action will be agendaized and posted as required by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. (California Government Code Sections 11120-11133).

ACTION ITEM: RESOLUTION: LOS ANGELES AREA FIRES RECOVERY EFFORTS

The SPRC will consider and take action on the proposed Resolution: Los Angeles Area Fires Recovery Efforts.

REQUESTED INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

- Status of General Plans/ lifecycle and backlog (March 2025)
- Bi-Annual Hiring and Recruitment Updates (June 2025)

TOUR RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

- North Coast Redwoods District
- Col. Allensworth State Historic Park
- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (March 2025)
- Los Angeles State Historic Park (June 2025)
- Grant-Funded Parks

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

Vote on Resolution.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

State Park and Recreation Commission

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Armando Quintero, Director

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Phil Ginsburg, *Chair*

Francesca Vietor, *Vice Chair*

Christina Jaromay

Jeffrey Williams

Benjamin Bashein

Thomas Huntington

State Park and Recreation Commission Resolution Recognizing

PREAMBLE:

The State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC or Commission) hereby recognizes the devastation and loss that the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks or CA State Parks) incurred and has sustained from the Bidwell Mansion Fire in Chico and the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles; acknowledges the devastating toll the fires took on dedicated State Parks employees and appreciates the efforts of State Parks employees in responding to these devastating fires.

Resolution:

Whereas, on December 11, 2024, the historic Bidwell Mansion in Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park was destroyed by a senseless act of arson;

Whereas, on January 8, 2024, the Palisades Fire destroyed historic buildings and multiple structures at two California State Parks, including Will Rogers' historic ranch house and buildings at Will Rogers State Historic Park, as well as the historic Topanga Ranch Motel at Topanga State Park;

Whereas, Topanga State Park lost 28 buildings including state operated facilities, and leased concession buildings and structures, such as the historically eligible Topanga Ranch Motel complex;

Whereas, Will Rogers State Historic Park lost 19 buildings, many of them contributors to the Will Rogers National Register of Historic Places District, as well as historic landscape features such as fencing, gates, ornamental vegetation, and circulation elements;

Whereas, State Parks staff were both directly and indirectly impacted by the fires and suffered losses, including some 20 total employees, some with family members that had to be evacuated, and lost their residences;

Whereas, over 160 CA State Parks professionals helped respond to the Bidwell Mansion and Palisades Fires, including peace officers, natural and cultural resource specialists, interpreters, facilities maintenance workers, and administrative support staff from throughout the State Parks System;

Whereas, these State Parks staff logged over 10,000 hours of work towards the emergency response, investigations, hazard mitigations, artifact safeguarding, evaluations of loss, recovery work, restoration plans, administrative support, peer support, and work with partner agencies and Tribes;

Whereas, State Parks staff worked tirelessly to support communities in their time of loss, and provided other crucial roles and duties as required;

Be it resolved, the State Park and Recreation Commission appreciates and honors all California State Parks personnel, partners, and stakeholders for their tireless and extraordinary efforts and sacrifices in response to the Palisades and Bidwell Mansion fires;

Be it further resolved, the SPRC acknowledges the personal and professional losses that State Parks staff sustained, both during and after the tragic Palisades and Bidwell Mansion fires;

Be it further resolved, the SPRC commends State Parks staff for protecting our state parks, supporting communities and inspiring the Commission and the public to be better stewards of the State Park System, and

Be it further resolved, the SPRC recognizes the heroism, resolution, and dedication shown by State Parks staff in the wake of the devastating Palisades and Bidwell Mansion fires.

These should be comments that are made as part of the introduction of the resolution:

The State Park and Recreation Commission commits to support you in every way we can during the road to recovery of these special places. We are honored to express our deepest gratitude, empathy, and reverence for all that you have done, and will continue to do, for California State Parks in the face of these tragic events.