



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

State Park and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, California 94286

Telephone: (916) 902-8651

Armando Quintero, Director

**STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE
Springhill Suites by Marriott
West Sacramento, CA
September 25, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Report

STAFF: Crystal Flores, Administrative Services Deputy Director

SUBJECT: 2025-26 Enacted Budget

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational Only

BACKGROUND

The Budget Act of 2025, SB 101 was officially enacted, along with two additional Budget Bill Jr.'s (AB 102, AB 104). The Staff Report shares information on what funds were allocated for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

State Park and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, California 94286

Telephone: (916) 902-8651

Armando Quintero, Director

**STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Springhill Suites by Marriott West Sacramento, CA
September 25th, 2025**

STAFF REPORT: Budget Report

STAFF: Crystal Flores, Administrative Services Deputy Director

SUBJECT: 2025-26 Enacted Budget

OBJECTIVE

Update on State Parks 2025 Enacted Budget.

INTRODUCTION

The Budget Act of 2025, SB 101, was officially enacted, along with the following Budget Bill Jr.'s (AB 102, AB 104, SB 105).

DESCRIPTION

Overview

The 2025-26 Budget includes \$1.014 billion to support the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department or State Parks). Of this amount, \$855.4 million is available for state operations, \$135.6 million is available for local assistance, and \$23.26 million is available for Capital Outlay projects.

The enacted budget includes \$216.6 million General Fund (GF) and \$291.3 million State Park and Recreation Fund (SPRF) to support operations and local assistance. Overall, the 2025-26 budget represents a \$16.5 million decrease from the initial 2024-25 budget. A significant portion of the decreases are attributed to funding reductions from the Government Efficiencies Reductions and Vacancy Savings and Position Elimination drills, as well as the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund Sustainability BCP.

Climate Bond Update

The enacted budget includes Proposition 4 funding in Senate Bill 105 for the 2025-26 fiscal year, which allocates funds to the following five State Park programs:

- Deferred Maintenance: \$84,400,000
- Forest Health & Watershed Improvements “Stewardship of State-Owned Lands”: \$33,400,000
- Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy: \$24,000,000
- Statewide Park Development & Community Revitalization: \$190,000,000
- Reduction of Climate Impacts on Disadvantaged Communities & Expansion of Outdoor Recreation: \$106,500,000

Budget Reductions

Statewide efforts to increase efficiency and reduce costs will affect the Department’s budget for fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26. These measures are vital for maintaining the state’s long-term fiscal stability and will ensure departments continue to manage resources responsibly.

The Department of Finance finalized the following changes:

- **Vacant Positions Funding Reduction and Elimination of Positions**
 - \$11,101,000 ongoing reduction to Support
 - \$10,443,000 GF
 - \$658,000 Special Fund
 - 85.0 Positions Swept
 - Removal delayed to 1/1/2026
- **State Operations Ongoing Reductions**
 - \$7,381,000 ongoing reduction to Support
 - \$7,239,000 GF
 - \$142,000 Special Fund
- **GF Solutions (Previously Enacted One-Time Funding)**
 - \$82,000,000 reduction
 - \$14,000,000 Deferred Maintenance Program
 - \$68,000,000 Stewardship of State-Owned Land – Parks Program

With a total of \$20,429,000 in ongoing funding reductions, State Parks will implement its share of these cost savings while continuing to maintain core services and fulfill its mission.

Budget Change Proposals

State Operations & Local Assistance

California State Parks Library Pass Program

Funding Request: One-time transfer of \$6.75 million (GF to SPRF) for FY 2025–26.

Request Summary:

- Continues the partnership with the California State Library to distribute 33,000 State Library Parks Passes to over 1,100 library branches, granting free day-use access to more than 200 state parks.
- Prioritizes library branches in areas with high poverty rates and large populations, ensuring greater access for lower-income communities.
- Extends the program to tribal libraries, allowing tribal members to visit ancestral lands at no cost.

State Parks Roads and Bridges Program

Funding Request: Increase annual transfer from the Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA) to the State Parks and Recreation Fund by \$8.6 million, raising the total to \$12 million beginning in FY 2025–26.

Request Summary:

- Last transfer increase was in 1993, \$1.5 million to \$3.4 million.
- California Construction Cost Index has roughly tripled since 1993.
- Addresses escalating maintenance and repair needs for 3,000 miles of roads, 152 bridges (56 major ones inspected by Caltrans), and over 38 million square feet of parking surfaces across the state park system.
- Supports more than 75 million annual visitors using state park infrastructure.

Chaptered Legislation Proposals – SB 1019 Firearms Destruction

Funding Request:

- \$420,000 in 2025–26 and \$398,000 ongoing from GF
- 2.0 ongoing positions (Superintendent II and Staff Services Analyst)

Request Summary:

- Complies with SB 1019 (Ch. 547, Firearms: Destruction), requiring law enforcement agencies to develop and maintain policies for firearm and weapon destruction.
- Includes maintaining records, reporting data in the Department of Justice's Automated Firearms System, and overseeing the destruction/disposal of firearms.

Climate Bond (Proposition 4) Statewide Bond Costs

Funding Request: California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), State Parks, and Department of Water Resources (DWR) request a combined \$2M in fiscal year 2025-26 to support bond oversight, management, and reporting. State Parks Statewide Bond Office additionally requests 1.0 positions in 2026-27 for bond accounting and cash management.

Request Summary:

- \$1.2 million for Parks in 2025-26.
- Statewide Bond Costs (SWBC) directly relates to ensuring all entities and programs authorized funding by the bond equally share the cost of oversight and reporting.
- \$75 million shall be set aside for SWBC over the life of the bond (0.75% of the total bond).
- State Parks Statewide Bond Office leads coordination, oversight, accounting, budgeting, and legal.
- CNRA is the overall lead and supports all aspects of bond accountability.
- DWR manages website support, bond systems, and application development.

Capital Outlay

Border Field State Park: Monument Mesa Day Use and Interpretive Area

Location: Border Field State Park (SP) spans 760 acres in the southwestern corner of California. It is part of the 2,400-acre Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, established in 1982 and administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Scope: The project will upgrade the outdoor educational plaza at Monument Mesa to accommodate mixed-use group events, add interpretive features and exhibits, and enhance walkways and landscaping.

Funding Request

- Working Drawings: \$1,000,000 from Reimbursement Authority

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$5,000,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$1,000,000
- Working Drawings: \$1,000,000
- Construction: \$2,980,000
- Equipment: \$20,000

Project Timeline

- Preliminary Plans: January 2024 – December 2025
- Working Drawings: January 2026 – December 2027
- Construction: January 2028 – December 2028

Candlestick Point State Recreation Area: Initial Build-Out of Park

Location: In Southeastern San Francisco, the first State Park in California designed to bring state park values to an urban area. Originally historic wetlands later converted to landfill, then landscaped park showcasing significant land-use changes in the Bay Area.

Scope: Design and construct an initial park build-out, including essential improvements, public access, and recreation enhancements. The project will provide core infrastructure, public access, and recreation enhancements

- Two-Phase Approach:
 - A portion of the necessary funding depends on future land transfers connected to neighboring redevelopment projects. Splitting the project ensures design documents and permits remain valid until all funding is finalized.

Funding Request

- Working Drawings: \$2,000,000 from Proposition 68

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$50,000,000

Phase 01: \$20,000,000

- Preliminary Plans \$2,660,000
- Working Drawings: \$2,000,000
- Construction: \$15,340,000

Phase 02: \$30,000,000

- Working Drawings: \$2,967,000
- Construction: \$27,033,000

Funding Sources:

- \$10,000,000: Proposition 68 (PRC §80070)
- \$10,000,000: the Natural Resources and Parks Preservation Fund (NRPPF)
- \$30,000,000: future land transfers to the State Park Contingent Fund

R.H. Meyer Memorial State Beach Parking Lot Expansion

Location: R.H. Meyer Memorial State Beach (SB) lies along Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) in Los Angeles County, about 10 miles northwest of Malibu and 3 miles southeast of Leo Carrillo Campground. It encompasses three “pocket beaches,” including El Matador, known for its white sands, dramatic cliffs, and rock formations.

Scope: This project aims to enhance public safety and visitor experience by adding parking within the park, repairing and stabilizing the beach access trail, and installing a more durable but still permeable parking surface to reduce erosion. Additional improvements include addressing the lack of permanent restrooms (currently served by portable toilets) to minimize hazardous waste concerns and improve aesthetics.

Funding Request

- Construction: \$4,802,000 from NRPPF

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$5,486,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$351,000
- Working Drawings: \$333,000
- Construction: \$4,802,000

Project Timeline

- Preliminary Plans: July 2018 – July 2023
- Working Drawings: November 2024 – January 2026
- Construction: April 2026 – December 2026

California Indian Heritage Center

Location: The project is located on the grounds of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park in Sacramento, where the State Indian Museum, built in 1940, currently faces operational and structural limitations.

Scope: Plans include creating a modern center for cultural preservation, learning and exchange, native land stewardship, and a celebration of California tribes. The new facilities could cover up to 120,000 square feet of indoor space, along with outdoor public areas, interpretive trails, demonstration sites, and related infrastructure. This effort addresses both the shortcomings of the 1940 facility and the need for improved educational and cultural spaces.

Funding Request

- Working Drawings: \$6,000,000
 - \$3 million from NRPPF
 - \$3 million in Reimbursement Authority
- Construction: \$3,000,000 from NRPPF

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$200,000,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$8,190,000
- Working Drawings: \$6,000,000
- Construction: \$185,810,000

Project Timeline

- Preliminary Plans: Began June 2019, estimated completion December 2025

- Working Drawings (Immediate Public Use): July 2025 – October 2025
- Working Drawings (Initial Construction Phase): January 2026 – June 2027
- Construction (Immediate Public Use): November 2026 – March 2027
 - First Construction Phase: December 2027 – May 2030
 - Second Construction Phase: Timing depends on additional reimbursement funding

Mount Diablo State Park: Visitor Center

Location: Mount Diablo State Park is a 20,000-acre preserve for native species at the northern end of the Diablo Range wildlife corridor. The visitor center is at the end of Mitchell Canyon Road.

Scope: This project will replace the existing visitor center trailer with a larger center, remodel the existing restrooms and site to meet accessibility standards, and construct an outdoor interpretive pavilion.

Funding Request:

- Construction - \$1,922,000 in reimbursement authority from the State Parks and Recreation Fund (SPRF).

Total Estimated Project Cost: 4,624,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$70,000
- Working Drawings: \$20,000
- Construction: \$4,534,000

Project Timeline

- Preliminary Plans: July 2022 – July 2025
- Working Drawings: To be donated and approved July 2025
- Construction: October 2025 – November 2026

Silver Strand State Beach (SB): Low-Cost Accommodations

Location: Silver Strand SB includes extensive beaches along the Pacific coast and San Diego Bay.

Scope: Provide planning, design, development, construction, operation, and maintenance of low-cost accommodations as part of the Low-Cost Coastal Accommodation Program (LCCAP).

Funding Request:

- Preliminary Plans - \$750,000 in reimbursement authority from the State Parks and Recreation Fund.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$17,000,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$1,250,000
- Working Drawings: \$1,250,000

- Construction: \$14,500,000

Project Timeline

- Preliminary Plans: March 2024 – September 2026
- Working Drawings: October 2026 – November 2027
- Construction: March 2028 – April 2029

Will Rogers State Historic Park: Restore Visitor Center and Other Fire-Damaged Facilities

Location: Will Rogers State Historic Park, nestled in Pacific Palisades with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean and city, offers a unique opportunity to explore the former ranch of the legendary humorist Will Rogers and enjoy scenic trails. It's a future destination for history and nature lovers.

Scope: This project will replace the visitor center that burned during the Palisades Fire in January 2025.

Funding Request:

- \$3,600,000 from the General Fund to implement the three phases below.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$3,600,000

- Preliminary Plans: \$360,000
- Working Drawings: \$360,000
- Construction: \$2,880,000

Project Timeline

- Exact timelines are still being determined.

NEXT STEPS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A – Informational only

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

N/A

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2025-26EN/#/Department/3790>

[Bill Text - SB-101 Budget Act of 2025.](#)

[Bill Text - AB-102 Budget Act of 2025.](#)

[Bill Text - AB-104 Budget Act of 2025.](#)

[Bill Text - SB-105 Budget Acts of 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025.](#)