



The CSPRA

# Wave

Volume 23, Number 1

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2023

*"State Park experts and professionals advocating for State Parks since 1964."*

## Jack London SHP Lawsuit Resolved Favorably

*By Mike Lynch*

In mid-August 2019, CSPRA became aware that the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) had filed a CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) to extend and expand for five years the multi-million-dollar, multi-performance theater performances (that also had large food and alcohol sales) in the Jack London SHP historic district

In the previous three years, CSPRA had regularly been meeting and expressing to the department its concerns about the extensive and

invasive theatrical performances at Jack London. These concerns included violation of the Jack London General Plan, violation of the department's special event policy, violation of the law and department's policy regarding concessions, significant loss of revenue (\$100,000s), and shortcomings in the ongoing theatrical operation, including failure to comply with resource protection restrictions, violation of fire marshal requirements, and violations of the department's policy regarding alcohol sales.

With the NOE filing, the department stated it had determined that there was no impact of any significance to the historical and natural resources at Jack London and as such it was exempt from CEQA review. The CEQA rules governing NOE filings do not provide for any public input or public comments. More importantly, once a NOE is filed, it becomes final 30 days later. Once the NOE becomes final, no appeal or objection has any standing. The only way to protest a NOE filing is to go to court.

CSPRA was faced with only



Photo by Bill Krumbein

two alternatives, file a legal action contending the NOE was inadequate or give up the fight. During this time, CSPRA took two actions. First, they found and received advice from an attorney who had extensive experience in CEQA litigation representing non-profits and environmental groups against public agencies. Secondly, a meeting was arranged with high level officials in the department, just prior to the NOE deadline. At the meeting, the department declined to seriously consider CSPRA concerns or to extend the NOE deadline to allow further discussions.

Based on all that had gone on, a special CSPRA Board of Directors meeting was held on the evening of 9/12/19. All the various factors involved were laid out to the Board and the Board unanimously voted to employ the attorney and file a court challenge to the adequacy of the NOE.

The court action was filed on 9/16/19, just days before the deadline, naming the department, the London partner (who issued the special events permit), and the theatrical company (putting on the

performances). What followed was a long series of settlement meetings, discussions and other work, which did not produce any results. The legal process continued with the review of hundreds of pages of documents, several filings, a London partner requested change of venue from Sacramento to Sonoma (perhaps in the hope of getting a more favorable judge), and a long shutdown of civil courts during the Covid era.

In the end, on 6/7/22, the court issued its final judgement in CSPRA's favor on numerous aspects of the filing, set aside the NOE, and ordered the department to do a full CEQA review. As a part of prevailing in the legal action, CSPRA was awarded (and was paid) all its attorney fees by the department.

The legal action taken by CSPRA in this case was a sound, serious and ultimately successful effort to protect the historical and natural resources at Jack London SHP. It more generally will hopefully help set a higher standard for the proper CEQA review of similar large, non-park related activities in other



state park units.

CSPRA, in its 50+ year history, had never taken legal action against the department until the Jack London case. However, this action was entirely consistent with CSPRA's long-term role as the "conscience" of California State Parks.

Note: Mike Lynch was CSPRA president leading up to and at the time of the legal action. The CSPRA Executive Committee, made up of **Mike**, **Ann Meneguzzi**, **Jeff Price** and **Tom Bernardo**, were the team that oversaw the legal action on behalf of the CSPRA Board of Directors. See CSPRA [website](#) for more details on the London legal issue, including links to all the official documents.



Photo by Bill Krumbain





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# President's Message

Thanks to all who voted in the CSPRA election. We received 100 ballots back from 413 eligible voters (24% participating). I am glad to see that the number of eligible voters increased from 372 a year ago, though the percentage responding dropped a bit. **Cindy Begbie, Jonathan Irwin, Steve Ptomey and Jean Rhyne** will serve the next 2-years as Directors on our Board, and **Joanne Kerbavaz** will continue as Secretary, and I as President. We asked about awareness of CSPRA's scholarship/grants: 20 of the 100 respondents had not been aware. It was good to see that 24 of those responding have used that member benefit, which can provide up to \$500 for active duty and \$250 for retired members. The application is at our website and goes to Director **Rob Pickett**.

For the 2023 Rendezvous question, November 6-9 were the preferred dates. Please block out those dates on your calendar and watch for more information to come. In fact, now is a good time to revisit CSPRA.com, because **Jeff Price** has completely redesigned those pages with great photo backgrounds throughout the reorganized site.

In August, incremental progress was made toward our goal to identify long-term, stable, dedicated funding for State Parks. A four-hour meeting in Sacramento, facilitated by

**Clay Phillips** for CSPRA, included leadership from the State Parks Foundation, the Save the Redwoods League, The Nature Conservancy, the Resources Legacy Fund, and the California League of Park Associations. **Rich Rojas** could not attend this meeting, but represents Latino Outdoors with this effort. The group composed a letter to **Director Quintero** and **Secretary Crowfoot**, requesting an in-person meeting to discuss how we might work together to address gaps and ensure that our efforts are aligned with their objectives. A January date to meet with the Director is to be scheduled.



*Jeff Ohlfs Presented CSPRA "President's Award" by Ron Krueper*

This year we intend to make a major CSPRA membership push, using the new 3-minute "Add Your Voice" video that was recorded during the Donner Rendezvous last September, then edited and just finalized by Professor Jesse Dizard in the Department of Anthropology at CSU Chico. You can view the film [here](#).

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# Celebrating the Sisterhood of Salty Seas at Laguna Mar Chiquita

By Janet Carle

During our decades presenting programs as Rangers at the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, Dave and I often talked about Laguna Mar Chiquita in Argentina. It is the winter destination of the Wilson's Phalarope, a small migratory bird that breeds in Canada and Alaska, molts and fattens up mainly at Mono Lake and the Great Salt Lake, and continues on for thousands of miles to their warm southern refuge. Mar Chiquita always seemed a far away, mystical place that we never thought we would actually see.

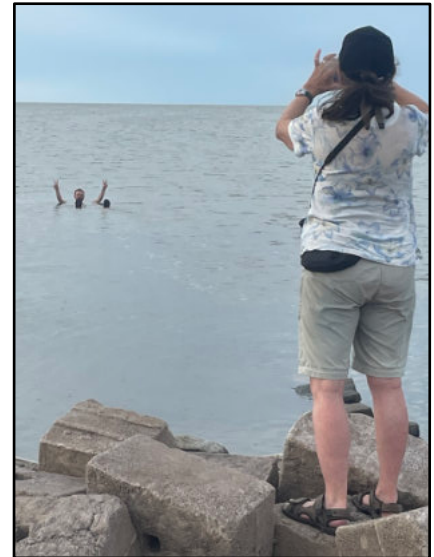
In 2019, our son Ryan, an avian scientist for the non-profit Oikonos, organized a hemisphere-wide meeting at Mono Lake to foster cooperation among all the agencies, NGOs, and scientists involved with the Phalaropes. Some of those people came all the way from the mysterious Mar Chiquita. That first meeting led to much more communication and collaboration among all the salty lakes that support the phalaropes along their incredible migration, including scientifically sound counts of the birds during the same time frames, to build an accurate picture of their population numbers and trends.

Last summer, Argentina created a new National Park

at Mar Chiquita, given the local name: Parque Nacional Ansenzuza. There has been an existing Provincial Park along some of the shore, but this new park encompasses the entire lake, which is huge, 14 times the size of Mono Lake.

Meantime, a cooperative effort began in international Environmental Education spearheaded by the group Experiencia Ambiental (Environmental Experience) which was building relationships between high school students at Mono, Great Salt Lake and Ansenzuza Mar Chiquita.

During the summer of 2022, we welcomed **Marina** and **Marcela Castellino** as they visited the Mono Lake Basin. These powerhouse sisters are key organizers of the phalarope research, the environmental education efforts, and the campaign for the new park. During dinner at our home, we asked if there would be a



big celebration for the park. Perhaps in early December? The stars aligned and it came to be!

A delegation from Mono Lake included State Park Environmental Scientist **Dan Shaw**, the two of us as former Mono Lake rangers and CSPRA representatives, the Inyo National Forest biologist, and several Mono Lake Committee staff members. The US Forest Service also sent

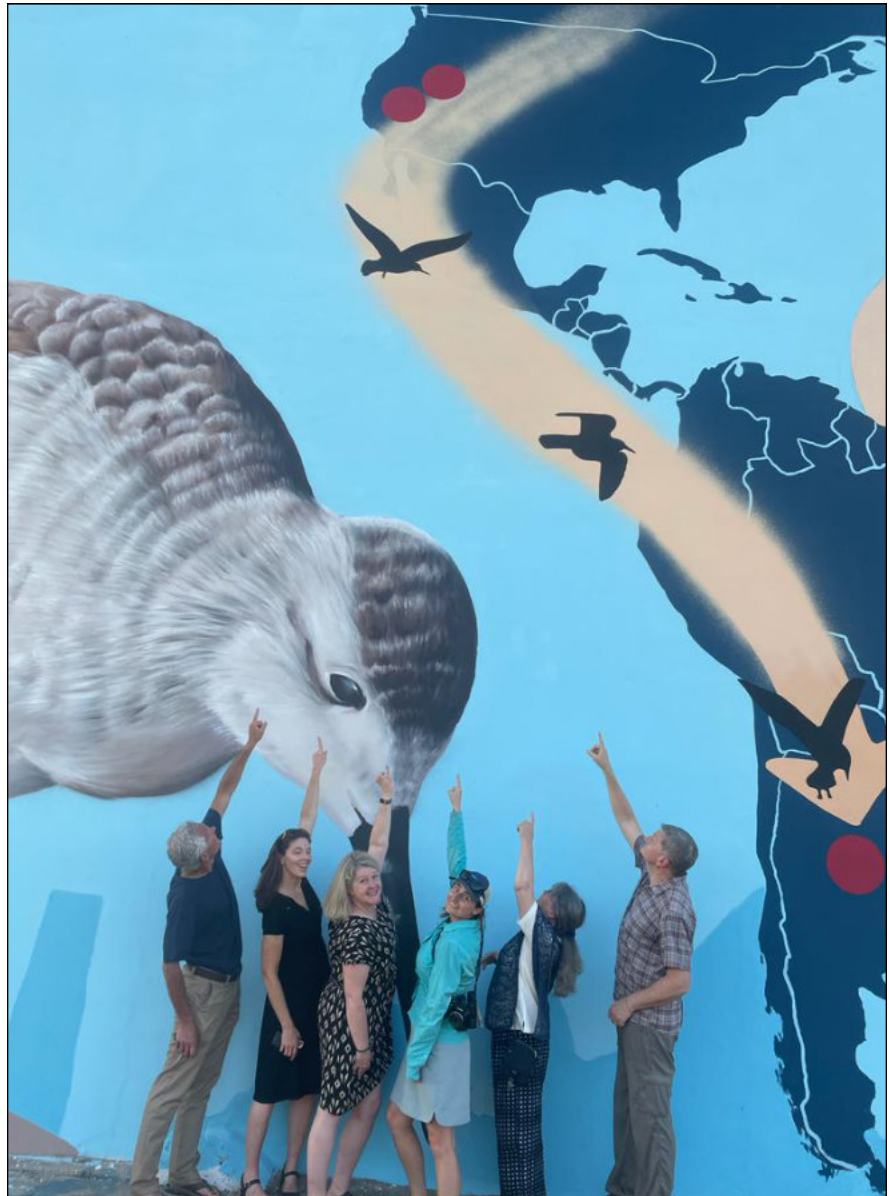




representatives from Alaska and from their international office. The event additionally marked the 30th anniversary of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network that “paired” Mono Lake, Great Salt Lake, and Mar Chiquita.

What a celebration it was! A gorgeous, gigantic mural was finished just in time for the event on a wall of our hotel. It will greet visitors to Mar Chiquita with a strong message about the phalaropes and their hemispheric travels. Forty young local environmental leaders were present to welcome us as they celebrated their annual Environmental Experience Leadership Forum. Their energy was contagious and gave us so much hope for the future. We gave out 90 commemoration patches to all who attended, as a special gift from CSPRA (thanks for the design by **Mike Lynch**).

The Director of the National Park Service of Argentina spoke on a panel with the Mayor of Miramar, the main town on Mar Chiquita. They then met in a side-group with the North American



leaders, including **Dave** and **Dan**. Good will and promises of exchange were fostered, the local media spread the word of the event and much was learned about our various salty lakes. We were especially pleased to meet several of the new ranger staff and hear about their plans to grow Mar Chiquita is not so mysterious any more. We have flown over it, kayaked upon it, and floated in it. It was a thrill to see the

phalaropes we know from Mono Lake feeding amongst the flamingos.

The phalarope is a small bird with a big migration, and a powerful symbol of what brings us together across the hemisphere. It will take all of us to protect the resources this tiny bird needs as it travels north to south and back again. The phalarope brought us together and will continue to inspire us to care for our sisterhood of salty lakes.

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# Oceania Ranger Forum

By Ann Meneguzzi

This past October, I was lucky enough to travel to New Zealand for 3 weeks. The impetus for the trip was my wish to attend the Oceania Ranger Forum held in Rotorua NZ 17-20 October 2022. CORA (Council of Oceania Ranger Associations) put on this first ever Oceania Ranger Forum so park professionals in the South Pacific could come together for a conference.

The Forum offered a valuable opportunity for park people from some island countries dotting Oceania as well as the larger nations of Australia and New Zealand to share experiences and learn from each other while at an in person gathering.

Nearly 200 rangers from New Zealand, Australia, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and other island nations came. Four Californians also attended- CSPRA members Mike and Patsy Lynch, Ann Meneguzzi, and Patricia Skelton.

Oceania is made up of many isolated islands throughout the Central and South Pacific Ocean. It includes



New Zealand, Australia (the smallest continent), and isolated small island nations. Park operations in some tiny countries may not have adequate staff or training. Through grants and donations, CORA funded rangers who could not attend without help. In some places, park protection is in its infancy and the ranger profession is new. CSPRA's Mike Lynch, a

featured speaker at the Forum, gave a well-received presentation on how professional associations like CSPRA can help strengthen the identity of the park ranger as a necessary guardian of parks.

“Inclusive Conservation” was the Forum’s theme. It has importance in many places where new thought is being given to old ways of



caring for the land. Respect for indigenous cultures which predate European settlement is increasingly evident. In New Zealand itself, the Māori language is now recognized as an official language for that country. Both the Māori and English names are shown on many road and location signs. “Aotearoa”, the Māori name for the country of New Zealand, often appears on public buildings. In California there is an example of this emerging respect for native tribal culture. Recently the Yurok

name “Sue-Meg” replaced the name used for a north coast state park previously known as Patrick’s Point. Present day Yurok tribal leaders repeatedly requested the change and late last year the State Parks Commission approved “Sue-Meg” in respect for its cultural significance to the Yurok tribe.

Being at the Forum sessions, and tea breaks, and social activities was a great way to meet new friends who share a similar dedication to preserve and protect



natural, cultural, and historic resources just as we do here in California. People stayed in a variety of hotels and campgrounds but gravitated to a handful of restaurants (OK- they were pubs) during the last two evenings where informal and lively conversations among folks from different places were a convivial highlight.

Field trips took place on Forum’s final day. I chose the visit to the Māori village Whakarewarewa where we learned about history and cultural activities. We enjoyed a Haka performance and talking with the dancers afterwards.

Being at the Oceania Ranger Forum was a way to strengthen my belief that parks and park people can affect a society outside the parks themselves. Interpretation is one tool that helps people learn what and why things happened in the past. It can also be way to show new directions when changes are needed. The Forum gave me a way to see what parks are like in the southern hemisphere and to observe similarities and differences in ways they operate. A good trip!





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# Theodore “TED” Jackson Memorial

About 40 family, friends and colleagues came to together last September in the “Remembrance Grove” at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park to dedicate a Memorial Bench in honor **Ted Jackson** who had a 30 year career with California State Parks. Ted wore many hats ranging from Ranger Cadet, Human Rights, Parks & Recreation Commission liaison, to Deputy Director of State Park Operations during his career. For those of you knew Ted, he was person of inclusion; bringing people together and making you feel comfortable in his



presence. He had an infectious laugh and had many passions in life that inspired many others to be the best they could be. **Ted** passed away Sept. 12, 2018 while on a Sierra Nevada backpacking trip pursuing one his passions.

Through the efforts of **Ted’s** brother, **Tony Jackson** and the entire Jackson Family they organized and funded the Memorial Bench

Dedication, plus a weekend gathering together of many friends, State Park staff and retired colleagues to celebrate **Ted’s** life. An afternoon lunch for attendees and early evening remembrance video tribute at the campfire center captured and told the story of **Ted’s** life so well. Many, many great stories were told and many of us reflected on those times that **Ted** touched our lives. A big thank you goes out to North Coast Redwoods District Superintendent **Victor**

**Bjelajac, Erin Gates,** Deputy District Superintendent and the entire Redwood National and State Park Staff.

You can view **Ted’s** video tribute and another video on the day of the Memorial Bench Dedication listed below. Both videos are truly moving and inspirational.

Video Tribute [here](#)

Bench Dedication [here](#)





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# Wave Goodbye

## Mary Pass

**Mary Therese Pass** born June 5, 1955 in Minot, ND passed peacefully in the company of family and friends on November 17, 2022.



A life-long advocate of animal welfare and state and national parks conservation, with a joy for living, hospitality, and celebrating successes, her presence is sorely missed. She is survived by her mother, siblings, and extended family and friends. She had a long and varied career with State Parks serving at Burney Falls, Oroville, Big Basin, Mount Diablo, Folsom, San Juan Bautista, Hollister Hills, Headquarters (T&D) and Sonoma. Mary was a co-worker, an ally, a friend and an unstoppable supporter of State Parks. **Mary** always had a way of making the room a brighter place. She always had a smile and projected positivity. She had a way of recognizing everyone in a way that made them feel included and appreciated. She set such a positive, professional and fun example for others.

**Tom Bernardo** noted "I supervised **Mary** on Mt. Diablo in the late '80's, although there were times when it was questionable who was supervising who. The sweetest spirit I have ever known and her passing brought a tear to my eye. Whenever I would see her around Sacramento after retirement it was as if time had stood still all those years"

**Mary's** wish was for her memorial service to be a picnic/pot luck for people to gather and have fun. This service will be announced at a later date. If you wish to make a donation to the "Save the Redwoods League" in her name you would greatly honor her.

## Ron Rawlings

**Ronald Rawlings** was born in Selma, California to parents **Elmer** and **Pauline** (Byfield) Rawlings. He graduated from CSU Fresno and served in Korea 1954-55. **Ron** had a 30 plus year career with California State Parks, beginning as a Park Ranger at Hearst Castle. His career took him to positions in Planning, Grants, the Legislative Office, Off-Highway Vehicles and Field Services. He was proud to be a peace officer and his role in securing legislation to fund the OHV Division suited his passion for off-roading and snowmobiling.



**Ron** loved to go snowmobiling with wife **Roberta** and their wide network of friends and family. He was actively involved in many organizations, including the 88 Spur Riders Snowmobile Club, the California-Nevada Snowmobile Association and many Peace Officer and gun safety associations. He was Snowmobiler of the Year in 1992 and 1993. While participating with a local search and rescue team, he found and rescued a snowmobiler that had been missing for days.

**Ron** passed away at 90 years old with family by his side. He will be remembered for telling jokes and stories around a campfire or a kitchen table; for his enthusiasm for outdoor recreation; and for his generosity to friends and family. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, **Roberta**; sister **Barbara Werho**; children **Cindy Rawlings** (**Mike Hogan**) and **Linda McDonald** (**Vince**); stepchildren **Greg Rose** (**Laurie**), **Kerry Stockton** (**Larry**) and **Jeff Rose** (**Brandy**); 13 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

# Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

By Jeff Price

*Mixed Metaphor: A combination of unrelated clichés strung together to produce a ridiculously funny effect. Malaprop: Derived from the French “mal a propos” which means “something out of place.”*

**So, it makes you squint?**

*. . . that just leaves a sour taste in my eye.*

**The boss is a demanding contortionist!**

*Let’s roll up our elbows and get to work...*

**Components are in accordance with our pentagonal wishes.**

*So, the issue complies in 5 basic parts...*

**Not 4-door poultry.**

*There is a rainbow over my back yard, so I will be searching the rest of the day for my pot of gold, maybe in the chicken coupe.*

**Fire up!**

*The team was rolling on all cylinders until the fumble.*



**Aquatic attack protection?**

*He realized there were alligators in the swamp and that it was time to circle the wagons.*

**Flexible highways and full metal jacket sports?**

*So now he is dealing with the rubber meeting the road, and instead of biting the bullet and admitting to these criminal charges, he just wants to punt.*

**Seedy auditing!**

*He’s just a ham-fisted, salami-slicing, by-the-bean counter.*

**Shouldn’t they get some credit?**

*I have volunteered for years in undeserved communities...*

CSPRA is affiliated with several other non-profit organizations that share our goals.

**The Park Rangers Association of California** is a professional organization for park Rangers and other employees of municipal, county, special district, state and federal agencies.



**The International Ranger Federation** supporting the critical work that the world’s park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



**Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs** Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America’s Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Resources.



**Association of National Park Rangers** communicating for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and providing a forum for professional enrichment



**California Park Hospitality Association** representing companies and individuals who provide hospitality services under contract with the California State Parks.



**California League of Park Associations** supporting the Non-profits that are partners with State Parks.



**Ranger Foundation — Rangers Helping Rangers.** Our 501(c)3 charitable organization helps rangers worldwide. **Eighty-Four Wildfire Relief grants have been granted to members of our state park family.** **More information about how you can help [HERE](#).**







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Betsy@CSPRA.com



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Just send your email address (no State emails please) to [webmaster@cspra.com](mailto:webmaster@cspra.com) with the subject line "add me to CSPRAnet"



## Retiring Soon?

If you or a co-worker will be retiring soon, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Betsy Anderson at (707) 884-3949.

[betsy@cspra.com](mailto:betsy@cspra.com).



## Already Retired?

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join Gray-Bears email ListServ - FREE and EASY

[graybears@cspra.com](mailto:graybears@cspra.com)

### Join CSPRA Or join us online at [cspra.com](http://cspra.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Job Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

District / Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ (req'd for pay deduction)

Phone(W) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Type (Check one)

- Active \$10/month
- Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- Supporting \$36/year\*
- Organization \$50/year\*
- Benefactor \$1,000/life\*

\* Please include check for 1 year's dues for these membership levels.

I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until canceled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445



*See page 6 for Oceania Ranger Forum. Hole in the Rock (Māori-language name Motu Kōkako), Bay of Islands, NZ*

## California State Park Rangers Association

CSPRA is an organization of State Park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, established to support and preserve California State Parks for present and future generations

*Founded 1964*

