



MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

1623A Fifth Avenue • San Rafael CA 94901

(415) 485-6257 • Fax (415) 485-6259

e-mail: mcl@marinconservationleague.org • web site: www.marinconservationleague.org

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The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94814

May 12, 2008

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

Marin Conservation League (MCL), a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to support the protection and restoration of the environmental resources of Marin County, has had a long standing relationship with State Parks. Our organization was instrumental in the establishment of Samuel P. Taylor, Tomales Bay and Angel Island State Parks.

The proposal to close any state park is misguided and should be eliminated from consideration. State Parks are valuable assets that fulfill important needs of our state residents, now and into the future.

- 1) 6.5 million Californians use their state parks annually.
- 2) State parks provide inexpensive family recreational/educational opportunities, many within access of major metropolitan areas.
- 3) State parks protect and preserve valuable habitat and historic resources.
- 4) Without staffing, the current resources will deteriorate and cost more to restore.
- 5) Prop 84 demonstrated the public's commitment to State Parks. The funds were to be used for capital projects and should not be redirected to operations.
- 6) Current users are already paying directly for more than a quarter of the Parks budget. Any increase in fees must come with some improvements for users. Raising fees for reduced services and deteriorating facilities is not reasonable.
- 7) Closing parks and beaches could reduce costs by about \$8.8 million, but would reduce revenues of at least \$4.8 million.

The provision of State Parks in California has expanded educational and recreational opportunities for generations, while protecting valuable habitat for our native flora and fauna. With demand for use increasing and encroachment on habitat increasing it is shortsighted to close any state parks.

Yours truly,

Nona Dennis
President

Marin County's Environmental Guardian

A nonprofit corporation founded in 1934 to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County.