

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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January 24, 2012

Mr. Matt Green
Acting District Superintendent
State Department of Parks and Recreation
Sierra District, Sierra Gold Sector
10556 E. Empire Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Matt:

In response to the public outcry and concern shown by the entire community over closure of Nevada County's two State parks, you indicated that if you could attain increased revenue generation or reduced overhead costs, that the State would revisit the listing of the South Yuba River State Park for closure and remove Malakoff Diggins State Park from "caretaker" status.

To keep this in a positive vein, we will not rehash all of the aspects of this ill-conceived solution to close 70 parks in order to save a minimal amount of State general fund dollars. Instead, the County, with the backing of the community, would like to provide the necessary support so you can meet your goals of enhanced funding and reduced costs.

Following meetings and discussions with State Parks staff and evaluation by County Public Works staff, we hereby submit to you the following proposals:

(1) South Yuba River State Park (SYRSP) - proposed parking plan

The attached parking plan is intended to direct users to existing and proposed parking lots where pedestrians will be separated from dangerous vehicle traffic on Pleasant Valley Road. Pedestrian access can then be more safely controlled and monitored on site by State Parks staff. Any revenue generated would go to SYRSP to offset costs.

The County can install the initial "no parking" signs and then State Parks would be responsible for sign replacement if they were vandalized or stolen. After the first summer of operation we can evaluate the necessity for other adjustments.

North of the river and east of Pleasant Valley Road it appears that the roadside parking is within the State's property. We have not included that in the "no parking" zone as the State can either relocate the fence or charge for those existing spaces. If the State decides to relocate the fence to prohibit parking, we may need to revisit whether this area will be posted.

As we understand State Parks' intention, with the ability to derive additional income, the South Yuba State Park would be removed from the closure list. As soon as the County receives written assurance that the South Yuba State Park will remain open and adequately staffed the Board of Supervisors will adopt an ordinance placing the proposed parking plan into effect.

(2) Malakoff Diggins State Park

Although it is not part of the Bridgeport parking plan, the County is still very concerned about Malakoff Diggins State Park. We understand the State's primary concern with this park is the cost of fuel to run power to several buildings for generators, lighting and security systems. Currently it is in "caretaker" status, but in order to also remove it from the closure list and keep it property staffed we understand that these operational costs need to be reduced. To that end the County would propose, and be willing to facilitate, a collaboration of solar system providers in the County to plan and install an adequate solar system to operate the park and campground, thereby reducing a major infrastructure operation cost. Again, as soon as the County receives written assurance that Malakoff Diggins would re-open under this arrangement, the County will work with local contractors to develop a formal proposal.

We realize that these proposed solutions are only first steps in the goal to sustain the operations of South Yuba State Park and Malakoff Diggins State Park into the future. We would encourage State Parks to continue to work with all the users and beneficiaries of these two important citizen-owned assets in order to reach a long term solution.

Sincerely,



Hank Weston, Vice-Chair
Nevada County Board of Supervisors

cc: Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks
Scott Nakaji, Northern Division Chief, California State Parks
Senator Doug LaMalfa
Senator Ted Gaines
Assemblyman Dan Logue
Caleb Dardick, Executive Director, South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)
Dave Anderson, President, South Yuba River State Park Association



South Yuba River State Park Proposed "No Parking" Zones

Proposed no parking zones to be signed by Nevada County

Parking near existing lot to be controlled by State Parks by either relocating existing fence or charging for existing parking adjacent to public right-of-way

Proposed no parking zones to be signed by Nevada County

Pleasant Valley Road

