
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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*A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:
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City of Isleton*

Transmitted via email

May 31, 2016

Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan, Chair
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, STE 1450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks FY 2016/17 Budget Request

Dear Supervisor MacGlashan,

The Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) recently received a briefing from the Department of Regional Parks addressing its long-term goals to provide Sacramento County residents with recreational opportunities and services that complement demand while balancing the needs to provide adequate park maintenance and law enforcement to protect our park's environmental resources and public safety.

The Commissioners appreciate the importance of the regional park system on the environmental health of our community as well as the financial benefits the parks bring to the County. The Commissioners also recognize that the Board of Supervisors appreciates the contributions the parks add to the Sacramento region residents' quality of life while providing a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities and experiences.

The SEC supports the goals of the Department of Regional Parks to provide improved services to under-served areas of the County and to continue to improve and enhance the environmental quality of our park resources.

The County park system contributes economic benefit to our economy that exceeds the cost to maintain and operate them. Unfortunately, the costs of maintenance are increasing in recent years because of resource damage and increased management costs associated with illegal camping and excessive facility use. Population growth resulting in increased use will continue to place increased demand on park facilities and increased wear on park system infrastructure.

The SEC encourages the Board to support the value of our parks to County residents and enable the Regional Parks Department to implement both their immediate and longer-term programs to accomplish their goals. We recommend that the Department of Regional Parks be allocated sufficient budget in the 2016/17 fiscal year that will enable the accomplishment of these goals, provide sufficient law enforcement to protect public safety, and continue the needed maintenance of park infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Hunn".

Richard Hunn
Sacramento Environmental Commission, Chair

c: Clerk of the Board

Jeff Leatherman, Director of Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks