

A RESOLUTION TO SAVE OUR STATE PARKS

WHEREAS, The California state park system is home to 278 state parks, beaches, historic parks, recreation areas, and other park units;

WHEREAS, Annually, over 77 million visitors take advantage of the myriad low-cost opportunities for recreation, education, fitness and other outdoor pursuits in state parks;

WHEREAS, California's economy is dependent on travel and tourism revenues, a large portion of which are derived from visitation to the state's unmatched state park system;

WHEREAS, State parks are an important economic engine to the local communities in which they are located and studies have shown that every \$1 invested in the state park system returns \$2.35 to the state's General Fund, largely in the form of economic activity in local economies;

WHEREAS, The Governor's 2008-09 State Budget proposes an unprecedented closing of 48 state parks and drastic lifeguard reductions on 16 popular state beaches;

WHEREAS, Such a proposal creates considerable harm for local governments that rely on tourism from state parks for their community's livelihood and community identity;

WHEREAS, Closing 48 state parks and decreasing lifeguard staffing on 16 state beaches will reduce revenues for local businesses and will result in overall losses in local fees and taxes, thereby eroding financial savings envisioned by the closures;

WHEREAS, Closure of these state parks will jeopardize Californians' access to treasures that were specifically set aside to be experienced by the public;

WHEREAS, Lifeguard staffing reductions will endanger public health and safety on California's state beaches;

WHEREAS, The funding required to keep state parks open and restore lifeguards on state beaches represents a mere fraction (0.06 percent) of the entire budget proposed by the Governor;

WHEREAS, Topanga State Park and Will Rogers State Historic Park are our nearest state parks, and their closure directly affects our businesses and families;

WHEREAS, The 186-acre Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades was acquired by the state in 1944 and was the ranch home of the most popular actor in Hollywood and is now open to the public after a major renovation that includes the original restored structures, a polo ground and horseback riding, hiking trails and a

connector to the Backbone Trail that takes hardy hikers all the way to Point Mugu;

WHEREAS Topanga State Park is located in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, is marked by spectacular geological formations, features 36 miles of trails through open grassland, live oaks, and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and is considered the world's largest wild land within the boundaries of a major city — the City of Los Angeles — and is enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people every year;

WHEREAS, These two state parks provide low cost wilderness and cultural history experiences to the people of Los Angeles, the largest city in California;

WHEREAS, these two state parks receive 700,000 visits annually, and the visitors patronize dozens of small businesses near the park entrances, businesses which will be hurt by the closures;

WHEREAS, The Pacific Palisades Community Council was founded in 1973 to be an advocate for the Pacific Palisades to government upon those issues where there is broad community agreement;

WHEREAS, two parks that will be shuttered by the Governor's draconian proposal are located immediately adjacent to Pacific Palisades - Will Rogers State Historic Park and Topanga State Park;

WHEREAS, we believe there is broad community agreement in support of these parks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pacific Palisades Community Council hereby supports the Campaign To Save Topanga State Park and Save Our State Parks Campaign and urges the Legislature to reject Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to close 48 state parks and drastically reduce lifeguard staffing on 16 state beaches, to uphold the public's trust in protecting and preserving public access to the treasures in the state park system, and to identify funding to enable all 278 state parks to remain open for the public's access and enjoyment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Pacific Palisades Community Council does hereby adopt this resolution this, the _____ day of _____, 2008. Copies of this resolution will be transmitted to the Campaign To Save Topanga State Park, Save Our State Parks Campaign, the Governor, and the state Legislature.