



For Immediate Release

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PARKS FORWARD COMMISSION TO HOLD FIRST MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18th IN SACRAMENTO

New Initiative to Ensure Long-Term Sustainability of California State Park System

Sacramento – The recently-named Parks Forward Commission will hold its first meeting as it undertakes its mission of addressing the financial, operational, cultural, and population challenges facing California’s state parks.

The meeting will be held in Sacramento on September 18, 2013, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Grand Capitol Ballrooms, 1025 Ninth Street, Third Floor. The public is welcome to attend. The meeting will also be webcast live on www.cal-span.org.

The meeting kicks off an 18-month effort for the 12-member independent panel of experts, citizens, advocates, and thought-leaders to conduct a wholesale assessment of the State Park System and recommend substantial improvements. The commission ultimately will design and adopt a long-term plan for a financially sustainable and functionally relevant State Park System that meets the needs of a changing population and provides an innovative model for the rest of the nation.

"This exciting new initiative is designed to bring out the very best in our state's storied parks," says Resources Agency Secretary John Laird. "I am confident that this panel will put forward the vision so that California's state parks will once again flourish and serve as prized destinations across our cities, mountains, valleys, and coastlines."

The Parks Forward Commission is supported by significant charitable funding, public agency commitments, the nonprofit community, and other stakeholders. The commission is co-chaired by former State Sen. Christine Kehoe of San Diego and Lance Conn, a Bay Area businessman and conservationist. For more information, visit www.parksforward.com.

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