



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

To preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Parks Anticipate More Closures and Service Reductions in Coming Year

2010-2010 State Budget Continues Starvation Diet for Local State Parks

(Santa Barbara, CA) – Local state parks anticipate additional closures and service reductions because of politicians' continued underfunding of state parks as part of the 2010-2011 state budget. This starvation diet will continue the more than 30-year downward spiral for state parks, which already resulted in local state parks and campgrounds closing or severely reducing services. This latest round of underfunding for state parks further underscores the need for the dedicated state park trust fund that Proposition 21 will create.

“Our region’s state parks deserve better than the severely inadequate funding they have received for decades from Sacramento politicians,” said Jarrell C. Jackman, Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. “This latest budget will force more local state parks to close and further compound their growing backlog of maintenance and repairs. Proposition 21 is the only credible solution to ensuring that we continue to have access to state parks in our region.”

In the local area the Channel Coast District anticipates that the 2010-2011 state budget will force state parks to face additional closures and reductions similar to those resulting from 2009-2010 budget cuts. Anticipate closures include the Emma Woods SB Group Campground and partial closures of McGrath SB, Carpinteria SB, Refugio SB, and El Capitan SB. No funding is expected for road repairs, and vehicle or equipment replacement. Lifeguard coverage will also be limited during the off season.

Among the most glaring reductions and issues facing local state parks are staff reductions including: park rangers, lifeguards and maintenance staff, closed campgrounds, closure or reduction of cleaning in restrooms, reduced hours, cuts to educational programs and full or partial closures.

Decades of underfunding and budget cuts by Sacramento politicians have forced state parks to amass more than a \$1.3 billion backlog of needed maintenance and repairs. Throughout California's state parks, roofs and sewage systems leak, restrooms are not cleaned, bridges have collapsed, trails are washed out and campgrounds and visitor centers are shuttered. Further compounding this problem, staffing levels have remained the same during the past 20 years while visits have climbed.

Approval of Prop. 21 will provide California vehicles with free, year-round day-use access to state parks and beaches, in exchange for a new \$18 surcharge. This new surcharge will be assessed as part of California's annual vehicle registration. All California vehicles will be subject to the surcharge, except larger commercial vehicles, mobile homes and permanent trailers. Funds from the surcharge will be placed in a trust fund dedicated specifically to state parks and wildlife conservation, which cannot legally be used for other purposes.

Prop. 21 has received support from a wide-ranging coalition of interests, composed of more than 475 organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, California Travel Industry Association, California State Park Rangers Association, California State Firefighters' Association, California State Lifeguard Association, Location Managers Guild of America, Save the Redwoods League, Audubon California, California Action for Healthy Kids and the California State Parks Foundation. For a full list of supporters, please [click here](#). For more information on Prop. 21, please visit www.YesForStateParks.com or www.facebook.com/YesForStateParks.

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ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) works to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks and recently purchased the neighboring building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra and his family—the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. Recently, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinct history. Learn more at www.sbthp.org.

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