

State Historical Resources Commission

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-06

Resolution of Recognition

150th Anniversary of California State Parks

WHEREAS, on June 30, 1864 President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill granting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the State of California “upon the express condition that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation, and shall be inalienable for all time” and on September 28, 1864 California Governor Frederick Low issued an interim proclamation of the state's approval of the Federal grant of Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove and appointed the eight-member state park commission to manage the area; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 1866 the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation to formally accept the Grant of Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove; the legislation also established the “Commissioners to Manage the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove,” the first laws to protect this park area, and the authority to hire a guardian to manage the new park, and on May 21, 1866 at the first meeting of the Commission, Commissioner Galen Clark was appointed Guardian of Yosemite at \$500 per year; much later he was recognized as California's and the nation's first park ranger;

WHEREAS, in 1890 the Marshall Monument was established as the first state historical park and in 1891 Ezra Smith was appointed guardian of the monument; in 1902 the California Redwood Park at Big Basin was established and in 1903 the first park warden J.H.B. Pilkington was appointed; and,

WHEREAS, in 1927 the California Legislature created the Division of Parks and formally established the “California State Park System” with fourteen state parks; since these first parks, California State Parks has grown to be the largest and most extensive state park system in the United States with 280 park units and almost 70 million visitors annually;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State Historical Resources Commission, together with State Historic Preservation Officer Carol Roland-Nawi and the staff of the California Office of Historic Preservation do hereby recognize the year 2014 as the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of California State Parks, and encourage all related agencies, groups, associations, and persons to recognize and commemorate the 150th Anniversary by any and all efforts to highlight and honor the history, significance, contributions, and achievements that went into the development of California State Parks and their contribution to the people of California and the nation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be recorded in the archives of the State Office of Historic Preservation and a suitable copy presented to the California State Parks 150th Anniversary Committee.

November 8, 2013

STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Julianne Polanco
Chairperson

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary

