



## Department's Weekly Digest January 23, 2015

### Quote of the Week

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous."

Aristotle, philosopher, (384 BC - 322 BC)

### Updates



### Transformation Team

The Transformation Team added a new member this week, Jared Zucker, from the Division of Boating and Waterways. The team, which is being led by Steve Szalay, includes the following members:

- Steve McCormick, Special Advisor, Resources Legacy Fund
- Ron Birkhead, Construction Supervisor III, Northern Service Center, Acquisition and Development
- Helen Carriker, Deputy Director, Administrative Services
- Jay Chamberlin, Chief, Natural Resources Division
- Ellen Clark, Statewide Volunteer Coordinator, Interpretation and Education
- Michael DeBoer, State Park Superintendent II, Community Involvement Section, External Affairs Division
- Dana Jones, District Superintendent, Capital District
- Karl Knapp, Chief, Facilities Management Division
- Todd Lewis, Sector Superintendent, Orange Coast Central Sector, Orange Coast District
- Clay Phillips, District Superintendent, San Diego Coast District
- Danita Rodriguez, District Superintendent, Bay Area District

- Andy Vasquez, Administrative Officer III, Orange Coast District
- Sean Woods, Sector Superintendent, Los Angeles Sector, Angeles District
- Jared Zucker, Program Analyst, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW)

The Transformation Team is already meeting, and will focus on several initiatives, including budget, partnerships, internal practices, revenue generation, technological innovation, and broader outreach to diverse communities, to name a few. These will be consistent with the Parks Forward report, which is being released at the end of next week.

## Field Report



Small Business  
**ADVOCATE**

### State Parks Honored as Finalist for SB and DVBE Best Practices Award

The Department of Parks and Recreation, along with other departments was recognized yesterday at the 2015 State Agency Recognition Award (SARA) Ceremony as an 'Agency of the Year Finalist' for furthering "Best Practice" activities and for providing contracting and procurement opportunities for Small Business (SB) and Disable Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE). We were pleased to report that the Department has consistently exceeded the SB and DVBE objectives of 25% and 3% respectively. For FY 2013/2014, the SB participation level was 31.49% and the DVBE participation level was 6.76%. The Contract Services Unit and Procurement/Cal-Card Services Unit, together with the districts and divisions were able to achieve these goals and obtain success.

Furthermore, Sammy Wong, our DPR SB/DVBE Advocate, received a "Finalist" Certificate of Award for "Advocate of the Year," in recognition of his efforts to continue DPR's drive towards excellence in assuring DPR not only achieves, but continues to exceed our annual participation goals.

Congratulations to the Department, Sammy and all who contributed to exceeding the annual goals for contracting/procuring with certified SB/DVBE companies. Your efforts are recognized and we could not have accomplished this goal without you! Keep up the great work!

### State Parks Staff, Volunteers Count Plovers

Twice each year monitors hit the beaches to count snowy plovers. They survey the Pacific Coast population of the western snowy plover (which is federally listed as threatened) throughout its range of Washington, Oregon and California. The two Window Surveys,

conducted usually in January and May, provide snap shot counts of the wintering and breeding numbers of the snowy plover on the Pacific Coast. State Parks up and down California participate in the surveys.

State Park volunteers with the Plover Watch program in the San Mateo Coast Sector mobilized Tuesday to count the snowy plovers for the Winter Window Survey. Twenty six volunteers assisted Parks staff in surveying 14 beaches along the San Mateo Coast, nine of which are State Parks. Volunteer Plover Watch monitors, based out of Half Moon Bay State Beach, counted a total of 152 snowy plovers that were found on six of the beaches surveyed. Twenty three of the plovers had color bands that uniquely identify the birds. The color band information helps researchers learn more about the movements of the snowy plover populations. The number of plovers reported Tuesday for the San Mateo Coast is the highest winter total in ten years. We won't know until all the reports in the range are tallied if there is an overall increased in the number of plovers. While the winter coastal counts usually include wintering snowy plovers from inland populations, State Park volunteers and staff look forward to the Breeding Window Survey with hopes of seeing increased breeding numbers of the Pacifica Coast population this year.



*Volunteers cruise a San Mateo Coast beach in search of snowy plovers in the first of two annual surveys.*



*A Snowy Plover sporting leg bands that help researchers track the small birds.*

### **Latest Issue of *Preservation Matters* newsletter available**

The first issue of 2015 of the Office of Historic Preservation's newsletter *Preservation Matters* is now available. This issue takes a look at cultural diversity as represented through the cultural resources of California, and the importance these resources hold for the state's people. Here is a link - [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/preservationmatters](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/preservationmatters).



*Camarillo Lion Dance Troup at Asian American Neighborhood Festival, El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park (© Clint Weisman Studio)*

## **California State Parks Postcards**

### **Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds**



## News Releases

January 22: [California State Parks Announces Transformation Team](#)

January 22: [California State Historical Resources Commission To Consider Twelve Properties for Action](#)

January 22: [Castle Rock Area In Mount Diablo State Park to Close for Falcon Nesting Season](#)

January 20: [California State Parks Seeks Public Input Regarding an Aerial Trail System \(Zipline\) Concession at Lake Perris SRA](#)

## News Clips

January 23: [RT: Scientists blame climate change for world's biggest trees dying](#)

New research carried out over 90 years has found that up to half of California's iconic big trees have disappeared, with scientists suspecting climate change as the prime reason.

January 22: [Half Moon Bay Review: Parks superintendent hangs up hat](#)

Paul Keel says he is leaving what is perhaps the best job in the world.

January 22: [San Diego Reader: Prisoners of lug](#)

Women inmates integral in removal of diseased Torrey pines in Del Mar

January 21: [San Jose Mercury News: Delta water weed problems called the worst in years](#)

A thick carpet of green spreading across Delta harbors and channels has confined boats to their slips, delayed cargo deliveries, imperiled migrating birds, even stirred fears for the safety of those who use the waterways.

January 21: [Capital Public Radio: Brown's Budget Gives State Parks System One Year To Turn Around](#)

California's state parks system has faced a rough few years: Deep cuts during the recession, and a financial scandal that rocked the department.

January 20: [Calaveras Enterprise: A road trip through Calaveras history](#)

As we all know, the Mother Lode is steeped in a rich and sometimes questionable larger-than-life history.

January 20: [The Fresno Bee: Gov. Brown's parks plan good for new Donner Party museum](#)

California parks officials say Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed budget would make it possible to nearly double the operating hours planned at a new visitor's center and museum at Donner Memorial State Park north of Lake Tahoe.

January 18: [Auburn Journal: Coloma seizes on golden opportunity](#)

State park commemorates 1848 gold discovery anniversary

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## Communications Request

If you have any stories or events at your park or unit that you would like us to profile in the Weekly Digest, or in other California State Park's Communications outlets (social media, News & Views, newsroom), please forward your entries to the department's Deputy Director of Public Affairs Vicky Waters at [Vicky.Waters@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Vicky.Waters@parks.ca.gov).

**Have a Wonderful and Safe Weekend!**