

California State Park and Recreation Commission

Resolution of Support

California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Resolution Number 2007-01

WHEREAS, positive emotional and physical health and well-being and the full, unbridled experience of the natural world and understanding of our heritage are the indivisible and essential birthright of all children; and

WHEREAS, studies document that children who are active outdoors do better in school, have better social skills and self-image, lead more fulfilled lives, and experience a marked benefit to health concerns; and

WHEREAS, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger supported the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights in his Proclamation of July 6, 2007, stating "Participating in outdoor activities is not only an enjoyable way for kids to get the exercise they need, it also helps them develop a greater appreciation for our magnificent environment;" and

WHEREAS, The California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is an initiative that states that all children between the ages of four and fourteen should have the opportunity to participate in outdoor recreational activities and discover their connection to California's story. These activities include discovering California's past, splashing in the water, playing in a safe place, camping under the stars, exploring nature, learning to swim, playing on a team, following a trail, catching a fish, and celebrating their heritage; and

WHEREAS, California State Parks is a leader in actively encouraging kids to explore the wide range of magnificent natural and cultural treasures preserved in California State Parks and provides programs for all kids from to experience the outdoors and their culture and reach their potential, including FamCamp®, Outdoor Youth Connection and Living History days; and

WHEREAS, The California Park and Recreation Commission shall make recommendations to the Governor through the Director on existing and operating recreational facilities, programs and activities of the state park system; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the California State Park and Recreation Commission is proud to join Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in promoting the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and announce that California State Parks is the first State Department to join the Governor in his support of this initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission supports California State Parks' continuing efforts to provide opportunities and programs so that children may experience the excitement and wonder of the outdoors and be inspired to appreciate and sustain our natural and cultural treasures.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on August 24th, 2007 and presented to California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman.

Bobby Shriver, CHAIR

