

SARA BELIEVES

- Park Rangers are essential to public safety. Proposed cuts will expose users to significant risk as Parks degrade due to vandalism, neglect, and increasingly greater criminal activity. **Oppose** reduction of Park Ranger patrols.
- Regional Parks have been acquired with taxpayer money. The County has the fiduciary duty to budget enough money to protect them from damage from vandalism and neglect which lead to increased criminal activity. **Oppose** reduction in maintenance personnel
- The County should provide transition funding to the American River Natural History Association to allow for smooth transition of Effie Yeaw Nature Center operation. The abrupt disclosure of the County budget crisis has not allowed for adequate transition planning.
- The County should provide transition funding for the nonprofit organization selected to provide Therapeutic Recreation Services.
- Gibson Ranch should not be closed and continue to operate on weekends.
- Regional Parks Department merger with another department must ensure that the most knowledgeable and effective personnel are retained.

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SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION

*Guardians of the American River
and Parkway Since 1961*

**Sacramento County
Budget Crisis Threatens
the American River
Parkway and all Regional
Parks Facilities**

**HELP DEFINE THE FUTURE
FOR OUR REGIONAL PARKS
SYSTEM**

LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE

CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED BY SACRAMENTO COUNTY

- **2/3 REDUCTION** in number of Park Rangers -- leaving a total of five rangers to patrol ALL Regional Parks
- **50% REDUCTION** in maintenance staff leaving three maintenance staff & limited seasonal help to maintain the 5,000 acre American River Parkway
- **CLOSE** Effie Yeaw Nature Center unless American River Natural History Association or other nonprofit takes over the operation.
- **CLOSE** Eppie G. Johnson Therapeutic Recreation Center and **ELIMINATE** therapeutic recreation service if a nonprofit does not provide the service.
- **CLOSE** Gibson Ranch Park & **ELIMINATE** financial support for Elk Grove Park.
- **MERGE** County Parks Department with another Department and **ELIMINATE** most Parks Administrative Staff.
- **ELIMINATE** Community and Leisure Services that makes picnic and other reservations.
- The share of the County's discretionary revenue spent for Regional Parks has declined from 1.73% in 2001, to 0.36% of total discretionary revenue and may be further reduced by these changes.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

- Sacramento County government is unable to provide adequate, long term, stable funding of our Regional Parks System.
- Our Regional Parks System is important to our quality of life and economic future.
- Preservation and protection of the American River Parkway requires a thriving, successful Regional Parks System.
- A grassroots effort is needed to identify and evaluate options for adequate, long term, stable funding of our Regional Parks System.
- Options analyzed should include, but not be limited to, an independent regional parks district such as East Bay Regional Parks District.
- Results of the options analysis should be presented to the public as soon as practicable for a decision regarding the future of the Regional Park System in Sacramento County.
- The County will need to fund the Regional Parks System until the option selected to provide adequate, stable, long term funding is operational.
- User fees that have as a goal -- full cost recovery -- should be a funding component to the greatest extent practicable.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Telephone, e-mail or write the County Board of Supervisors and tell them you:
 - a) Believe the Regional Park System is important to the quality of life and economic well being of residents and businesses,
 - b) Believe that, at a minimum, their fiduciary responsibility is to protect Regional Parks Facilities from damage due to vandalism and negligence until the option for adequate, stable, long term funding is operational.
 - c) Support a grassroots effort to develop options, including an independent regional park district, such as East Bay Regional Parks District, that provide adequate, long term, stable funding or our Regional Parks.
 - d) Request that the Board endorse, support and facilitate the grassroots effort to develop options that provide adequate, long term, stable funding of our Regional Parks System.
 - e) Support continued operation of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center by the American River Natural History Association
- Contact SARA and tell them that you want to help with the grass roots effort.