

## For Immediate Release

### **Parks Forward Initiative to Hold Workshops on State Parks Future** *Public Invited to Weigh In on Report Suggesting Major Changes to California State Parks. Meetings in Los Angeles, San Rafael and Sacramento*

SACRAMENTO – The Parks Forward Commission, an independent panel designed to address the financial, operational, and cultural challenges at California State Parks, will be holding workshops in three California cities to gather citizen input on potential recommendations designed to ensure the long-term viability of the state parks system.

The workshops, developed to receive specific feedback on the Commission's draft staff report [http://parksforward.com//site/uploads/Parks%20Forward%20Commission%20Staff%20Working%20Draft%20\(4-23-14\).pdf](http://parksforward.com//site/uploads/Parks%20Forward%20Commission%20Staff%20Working%20Draft%20(4-23-14).pdf), will be held in San Rafael (May 29), Los Angeles (June 2), and Sacramento (June 5).

“The recommendations in the staff's draft report focus on creating a more effective, efficient and financially sustainable California Department of Parks and Recreation to better provide park access to all Californians, engage young people, protect our state's treasured natural and cultural resources and help create healthy communities,” notes Parks Forward Executive Director Ken Wiseman. “These workshops are a unique opportunity to provide input on creating a robust and relevant state park system for future generations.”

A combined summary of all three workshops will be provided to the Commission to help inform the next draft of the report, expected in late July 2014.

The upcoming public workshops, which also can be viewed live via webcast at [www.cal-span.org](http://www.cal-span.org), include:

San Rafael:

Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Embassy Suites, Sausalito Room, 101 McInnis Parkway, San Rafael, CA 94903  
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Los Angeles

Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Radisson USC, Ballroom, 3540 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007  
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Sacramento

Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Capitol Plaza Ballroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 1025 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The workshop agenda will be posted to the Parks Forward website [www.ParksForward.com](http://www.ParksForward.com) before the meetings.

The Parks Forward Commission is expected to adopt final findings and recommendations in October 2014.

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