



# Bridgeport News

## South Yuba River State Park

### South Yuba River Park Association

SYRPA Newsletter

February 2012

**The Park is Off the “Closure List.”** To say that this has been the most challenging task in my career is a bit of an understatement, but I'm glad to see that we were able to make this happen within our current fiscal limitations. I cannot emphasize enough that this has been a community-wide effort, and we are lucky to live in an area that obviously supports parks. We have a great challenge ahead of us to make the parking plan work, and it will require the assistance of everyone involved at South Yuba River SP. Your support is vital, and we'll do our part to make sure that everyone has the correct information to give to the public in order to minimize confusion. I'm sure there will be some fits and starts, but the staff is working hard to get everything in place before we “go live”, so to speak. Thanks to everyone for your continued efforts to make South Yuba River SP a great park for all generations. *Don Schmidt, Acting Sector Superintendent*

**President's Message.** As most of you know already, Ruth Coleman, Director of California Parks and Recreation, has announced that our park is off the closure list. This came about because of the strong combined effort of many on behalf of our park including Hank Weston and the other members of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, the elected officials of the county and cities of Nevada County, strong community support including signatures on over ten thousand petitions, the South Yuba River Citizens League, and the students of the Grass Valley Charter School. The announcement is, of course a huge relief, but SYRPA has some large challenges ahead. One of the major enabling factors in keeping the park open is the imposition of a parking fee for automobiles in the Bridgeport District of the park. This was made possible by the Nevada County Board of designating Pleasant Valley Road through the district as a no parking zone. To make up for that loss of parking, the North parking lot will be expanded. The details as to how the parking fees will be collected are being discussed but it is clear that SYRPA's assistance will be needed in that effort.

Our park staff has been reduced to two rangers, one maintenance individual (our very invaluable Frank) and our Supervising Ranger Don Schmidt who is already in overload supervising three parks and acting as Sector Superintendent for the Sierra Gold Sector. There are no plans to return to our previous staffing and it is possible that it could be reduced even further in the future. This will require a greater effort on the part of our Volunteers and our Association to operate and support the park and the many activities provided for the public.

A detailed engineering analysis is being performed on the (currently closed) covered bridge and the results may be available as soon as late April. We do not know yet what the repairs might cost but a Federal grant has been requested to assist in the repair. This grant requires the availability of matching funds in the amount of \$110,000 which must be raised and available before work can commence. The State is searching for funds but there is no doubt that a major fundraising effort needs to be initiated to obtain those matching funds. Our SYRPA Board is investigating options and developing a plan. Your help will be required for this effort.

We are thrilled that the park is to remain open, and we continue to plan our Spring and Fall Festivals, our Sesquicentennial Celebration, and our fall fundraiser. We will continue our financial and interpretive support to the park and its very special volunteers, and we will continue with phase II of the gas station restoration. Our Park Volunteers are gearing up for tours, gold panning and walks. Our park will remain a vibrant and valuable resource for the public. [I ask for your active support](#) in recruiting new members; identifying potential park volunteers; fundraising; participation in efforts for park cleanup and beautification; and participation in our special events. SYRPA is a critical element of the success of the park. I am proud to be a part of that and know that you are too. *Dave Anderson, President*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2012

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**EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!**

## **Nevada County Supports Keeping South Yuba River State Park Open, State Parks says Yes**

California State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman announced today that action by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and community supporters will help keep South Yuba River State Park open.

At a recent meeting, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors gave their unanimous support to a State Parks' proposed Revenue Generation Parking Plan that will provide revenue critical to keeping the park open. The revenue plan will allow State Parks to collect entrance fees at this park for the first time. The action by the supervisors came following a community support campaign that resulted in more than 10,000 petition signatures being collected by elementary school students from the Grass Valley Charter School urging action to keep the park open.

"The Nevada County Board of Supervisors, backed by overwhelming community support, has helped make this possible," said California State Parks' Director Coleman. "We cannot thank them enough for their support. All concerned truly understand the importance of this park, not just for recreation, but for the tourism dollars that flow into the county because of this park."

In the Revenue Generation Parking Plan proposed by State Parks, community members agreed with the installation of "No Parking" signs along the county road at Bridgeport. Those signs will cause people to park within the newly installed fee area parking lots located in the Bridgeport District on the South Yuba River. This new revenue is the critical ingredient needed to keep the park open; however, State Parks cautions that the new fees are not expected to generate enough for full operations and a funding gap will remain. That means significant service reductions will continue at the park.

"The new fees are not expected to be enough to totally close the gap needed for full operations of the park," said Acting Sierra District Superintendent Matt Green. "But this overwhelming and greatly appreciated support from the community is a start that will keep the park open."

At this time, it is not known just how much revenue this new program will generate, since this has never been done for this park before. For that reason, all parties and stakeholders recognize that this is not the final solution and that there must continue to be an effort toward a more sustainable funding source to augment the full operation of the park. #####