

RESOLUTION NO. 2234-08

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR
IN SUPPORT OF THE “SAVE OUR STATE PARKS CAMPAIGN”**

WHEREAS, the California state park system is home to 278 state parks, beaches, historic parks, recreation areas, and other park units; and

WHEREAS, annually, over 77 million visitors take advantage of the myriad low-cost opportunities for recreation, education, fitness and other outdoor pursuits in state parks; and

WHEREAS, many of the state’s most unique natural, cultural, and historic resources and artifacts are contained within the state park system; and

WHEREAS, our community relies on state parks for bringing California’s history to life for schoolchildren, allowing families and friends to enjoy recreation and solace in nature, and protecting irreplaceable resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, state parks are an important economic engine to the local communities in which they are located, and studies have shown that every \$1 invested in the state park system returns \$2.35 to the state’s General Fund, largely in the form of economic activity in local economies; and

WHEREAS, the proposal in the Governor’s 2008-09 State Budget proposes an unprecedented closing of 48 state parks and drastic lifeguard reductions on 16 popular state beaches; and

WHEREAS, the 48 state parks slated for closure represent 17 percent of the entire state park system, and visitation at the 16 state beaches that will have reduced lifeguard staffing represents more than 30 percent of the visitation to state parks; and

WHEREAS, the closing of Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve and Austin Creek State Recreation Area will affect over 1 million visitors, including 5,000 school children, who visit these parks annually for education, recreation, and personal inspiration; and

WHEREAS, the closing of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park will affect over 27,000 visitors, including 4,200 school children who annually visit the park for an historic educational experience; and

WHEREAS, such a proposal creates considerable harm for local governments that rely on tourism from state parks for their community’s livelihood and community identity; and

WHEREAS, closure of these state parks will jeopardize Californians’ access to treasures that were specifically set aside to be experienced by the public; and

WHEREAS, lifeguard staffing reductions will endanger public health and safety on California's state beaches; and

WHEREAS, the funding required to keep state parks open and restore lifeguards on state beaches represents a mere fraction (0.00006 percent) of the entire budget proposed by the Governor,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby supports the Save Our State Parks Campaign and urges the Legislature to reject Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to close 48 state parks and drastically reduce lifeguard staffing on 16 state beaches, to uphold the public's trust in protecting and preserving public access to the treasures in the state park system, and to identify funding to enable all 278 state parks to remain open for the public's access and enjoyment.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of March 2008, by the following vote:

**AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS ALLEN, GOBLE, PARKER, SALMON AND
MAYOR FUDGE**

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE


DEBORA FUDGE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


MARIA DE LA O, TOWN CLERK