

CLASSIFICATION

Classification categories are described in Division 5, Chapter 1, Article 1.7, Sections 5019.50- 5019.80 of the California Public Resources Code, as follows:

State Parks

5019.53.

State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other similar values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains. Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as those improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements that do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

State parks may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the state.

State Recreation Areas

5019.56

(a) **State recreation areas**, consisting of areas selected and developed to provide multiple recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs. The areas shall be selected for their having terrain capable of withstanding extensive human impact and for their proximity to large population centers, major routes of travel, or proven recreational resources such as manmade or natural bodies of water. Areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves, or, for those areas situated seaward of the mean high tide line, shall be designated state marine reserves, state marine parks, state marine conservation areas, or state marine cultural preservation areas. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities, including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, waterskiing, diving, winter sports, fishing, and hunting. Improvements to provide for urban or indoor formalized recreational activities shall not be undertaken within state recreation areas.

AREA OF CONSIDERATION

Potential State Recreation Area (SRA) Classification

The Area of Consideration for the potential SRA is identified along the state park's eastern boundary with vehicle access from Lower Lake Road off Pala Road at the north end and below Silva Road at the southern end. This open space area includes seasonal ponds, slough and wetlands habitat that supported waterfowl hunting for many years.

The actual SRA boundary would be recommended by the state parks based on public input and further evaluation of the benefits of this classification change and potential conflicts between hunters and other park visitors and protection of resource values. With this change in classification, the natural and cultural resources in this area would continue to be managed for their protection and the preservation of important resource values. Provisions for public safety will be made to achieve land use compatibility and avoid potential conflicts with other park visitors.

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

5003.1.

The Legislature finds and declares that it is in the public interest to permit hunting, fishing, swimming, trails, camping, campsites, and rental vacation cabins in certain state recreation areas, or portions thereof, when it is found by the State Park and Recreation Commission that multiple use of state recreation areas would not threaten the safety and welfare of other state recreation area users. Hunting shall not be permitted in any unit now in the state park system and officially opened to the public on or before June 1, 1961, or in any unit hereafter acquired and designated by the commission as a state park, state marine reserve, state marine park, state reserve, state marine conservation area, or state marine cultural preservation area, and may only be permitted in new recreational areas and state marine recreational management areas that are developed for that use. Whenever hunting or fishing is permitted in a state recreation area or state marine recreational management area, and whenever fishing is permitted in a state park, state marine park, state marine cultural preservation area, or state marine conservation area, the Department of Fish and Game shall enforce hunting and fishing laws and regulations as it does elsewhere in the state.