



21ST ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION AWARDS CEREMONY



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS DIRECTOR
ARMANDO QUINTERO

AUGUST 2024

Prerecorded Ceremony is
Now Available Online at
parks.ca.gov/DirectorAwards

ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS



CLIMATE ADAPTATION AWARD

Recognizes those who have taken remarkable steps in preparing for and protecting against the adverse and imminent consequences of climate change, including wildfires, flooding, erosion, air pollution and droughts, as well as threats to park habitats, ecosystems, and people.

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Michelle Succow

COMPASS AWARD

Recognizes remarkable long-term visioning, innovative thinking, and mentorship that fosters talent and provides support to staff at all levels.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Catherine Caldwell

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY AWARD

Recognizes those who have made an exceptional contribution to ensuring all Californians have access to the outdoors and cultural sites and who have significantly contributed to the department's values of equity and inclusion.

BIG BASIN PLANNING TEAM

Santa Cruz District

Will Fourt
Garret Hammack

Parks California

Myrian Solis Coronel
Emily Henry
Geoff Kish

Kindley Walsh Lawlor
Becky Rittenburg

INNOVATION AWARD

Recognizes those who have demonstrated the remarkable ability to complete tasks and projects or address park problems through creative and innovative means.

2023 WORLD OCEAN DAY LIVE DIVE TEAM

Isabella Brown	Jennifer Langer	Volunteers
Brandon Caskey	Kara Lu	Stan Burns
Erika Delemarre	James Nothhelfer	John Ittelson
Lee Hausner	Riley Rhodes	Micheal Slade
Kayla Jones	Lydia Stinson	Eric Sturm
Alec Knapp	Mathew Trotter	Patrick Webster
Kenneth Kramer	Ashley Wemp	

INSPIRATION AWARD

Recognizes those who have achieved a major public objective while emphasizing community involvement.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSERVATION CORPS TEAM

Colorado Desert District	La Jolla Reservation	Native American
Donna Chandler	Fire Department	Conservation Corps
Fania DeLugo	Wes Ruiz	Field Team Members
Hayley Elsken	Resource Conservation	Anthony Alvarado
Emelyn Hernandez	District of Greater	Dominick Chapparosa
Mike Hopkins	San Diego County	Josh Denmark
Lisa Gonzales-Kramer	Ann Baldrige	Christian Dominguez
Frank Padilla	Morgan Graves	Cory Knott
Zachary Staley	Stan Hill	Andrew Leyva
Hector Valencia	Heather Marlow	Raymond Martinez
Campo Kumeyaay Nation	San Diego River	Wanish Tortes-McGinnis
Michael Connolly Miskwish	Conservancy	Gary McVey
Kumeyaay	Julia Richards	Henry Najera
Community College	Volunteers	Warren Paipa
Dr. Stan Rodriguez	Jen MacDonald	Donald Pena
Kumeyaay Diegueño	Tom Smith	Albert Quihuis
Land Conservancy		Jeremiah Sanchez
Johnny Elliott		Cullen Smith
Lisa Haws		Jacob Stone
		Edwin Ward

LEADERSHIP AND VISION AWARD

Recognizes staff with the ability to motivate and inspire others to positive action and who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the ideals and values of the department.

DIABLO RANGE DISTRICT

April Marson

PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Recognizes partners who have demonstrated a high level of commitment over a substantial period of time toward accomplishing the mission of the department.

MOJAVE RIVER NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Leonard Wilson

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY AWARD

Recognizes employees who have demonstrated a high degree of honesty, integrity, and idealism in the face of adverse pressure.

PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION

Larissa Ison and Lisa Jaycox

RESILIENCE AWARD

Honors an individual or team who tirelessly and valiantly rose to enormous challenges during an emergency response situation and/or recovery effort.

SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT

Jake Bentley

TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Recognizes those who have introduced new ideas or methods to accomplish the mission of State Parks or pioneered new ways to introduce the public to California's outdoors.

BAY AREA DISTRICT

Brooke Sullivan

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Recognizes employees who have made a significant contribution by going above and beyond the norm and made a substantial impact.

SIERRA DISTRICT

Eric Draper

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Leah Gardner

CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Kathleen Kennedy

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Jimmy Low

FACILITY IGNITION PREVENTION PROGRAM TEAM

Kathleen Kennedy

Peter Saelee

Branigan Schoppman

Brooke Sheridan

SPECIAL ACT/SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes employees who have performed an extraordinary act of heroism extending far above the normal call of duty or service and who performed at great risk to their own safety in an effort to save human life and/or property.

COLORADO DESERT DISTRICT

Michael "Clyde" Cafferty

INLAND EMPIRE DISTRICT

Matthew Cantelme

OCEANO DUNES DISTRICT

Jake DiNolfi and Jaycee Hollins

ORANGE COAST DISTRICT

Cameron Faris

OCEANO DUNES DISTRICT

David W. Flanagan

SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT

Maxwell Hunter and Riley Rhodes

ORANGE COAST DISTRICT

Justin Quiggle

CHANNEL COAST DISTRICT HIGH SURF RESPONSE TEAM

Tim Allen
Brandon Alvarez
Scott Anderson
Ted Anning
Richard Barry
James Bray
Wyatt Calhoun
Ross Carey
Ray Cervantez
Eric Fedde

Jackson Feller
David Flora
Skylar Goodner
Winnie Hsiao
Kai Huff
Casey Huffman
Maria Mendez
Chris Pistone
Greg Shaner
Sydney Smith

Priscilla Soto
Ryan Stolla
Benjamin Sweet
Mary Thorne
Dion Von Der Leith
David Wilson
Katherine Wilson
Jaret Wrobel
William Wulff

THANK YOU

Thank you for “Living the Parks Life.” Although not all employees could be selected for a Director’s Recognition Award this year, know that your dedication to our mission does not go unnoticed.

Your support in providing safe, equitable and inclusive outdoor and recreational spaces for the enjoyment and mental and physical health of all Californians, while preserving the state’s extraordinary natural and cultural resources for current and future generations, continues to be vital.

All of us, whether in the office or in the field, are helping to enable all Californians to access these important resources. Your dedication to the California Department of Parks and Recreation and its programs has a direct and positive impact on the state’s diverse population. Your skills and abilities to not only adapt, but also thrive under the challenges of climate change—including wildfires, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events—are to be commended and are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your service and commitment.



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

To view the video, please visit:
www.parks.ca.gov/DirectorAwards.
