



## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Berkeley, CA

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**STAFF REPORT:** Partnerships Division Overview

**STAFF:** Carlene Croisdale, Chief, Partnerships Division

**SUBJECT:** Overview of Partnerships Division Programs and Agreement Types

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### OBJECTIVE

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) provides an overview to the State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) of the Partnerships Division, the various programs in place for our partners, and the current partnership agreement types.

### INTRODUCTION

The Partnerships Division envisions a thriving system of partnerships in the California State Parks System through mutual cooperation that engages outstanding private, public, and volunteer services to provide recreation benefits for all while protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources consistent with the Department's mission.

The mission of the Partnerships Division is to support park operations to empower, inspire, and strengthen public and private partners to create, promote, sustain, and expand visitor services to California's diverse population.

### DESCRIPTION

The Partnerships Division's core partnership programs are Concessions, Cooperating Associations, Donors, Operators and Co-managers, Proud Partners, and Volunteers in Parks. The Tribal Affairs Program, housed within the Cultural Resources Division, manages the Tribal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Program.

The Concessions Program provides a crucial part of the park visitor's experience. The purpose of the program is to seek involvement and assistance from private

and public-sector entities, where appropriate, to provide services, programs, and facilities to enhance the convenience, enjoyment, education, and recreational experiences of state park visitors. Concessions range from food carts to multi-million-dollar lodging operations and everything in between, as long as the business is compatible with the park's general plan or unit classification.

- Concession Agreement: (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5080.02 et seq.)

Cooperating Associations are qualified nonprofit organizations that help provide State Parks with critical funding and donated services to enhance the educational and interpretive programs and improve and maintain facilities, as well as offer approved goods and services to add to the visitor experience.

- Cooperating Association Agreement: (PRC § 513)

The Donors Program consists of individuals, nonprofit organizations, or corporations that contribute funds, goods, or services to support our parks. These donations are essential. California's state parks thrive when people give back, helping to keep our parks open and accessible to all and preserving these special places for future generations to enjoy.

- Donor Agreement: (PRC §§ 5005, 5009.1, & 5009.2)

The Operators and Co-managers Program is comprised of qualified public entities or nonprofit organizations that may enter into agreements with State Parks to develop, improve, restore, care, maintain, manage, or operate a park or a portion of a park. There are two types of agreements a qualified organization can enter into:

- Operating Agreement: An agreement with a government agency or qualified nonprofit, to operate the majority of a park unit with minimal involvement and oversight by Department staff. (PRC § 5080.30 et seq. – government entities; PRC § 5080.42 – nonprofits)
- Co-management Agreement: An agreement with a government agency or qualified nonprofit, to operate a portion of a park unit, sharing management and financial roles and responsibilities for the park unit with the Department. (PRC § 5080.30 et seq. – government entities; PRC § 5080.42 – nonprofits)

Proud Partners are nonprofit and private organizations that partner with State Parks to provide funding and/or donated goods or services to support and enhance the visitor experience. Proud Partnerships generate critical financial support that helps to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy California State Parks.

- Proud Partner Agreement: (PRC § 5009.3)

Individuals supporting the Volunteers in Parks Program have enhanced, maintained, and restored our state parks. They interpret our treasured resources, keep facilities clean and trails in good repair, spearhead special events, and offer a welcome face in our campgrounds and visitor centers. Volunteers assist staff in countless ways, in nearly all of California's State Parks. (GOV § 3110 et seq. – California State Government Volunteers Act)

Through the Tribal MOU Program, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between California Native American Tribes and California State Parks are created to systematically address cultural and natural resources of concern or interest to the tribes within Parks Districts, Units, and Programs. These MOUs establish protocols for continuous open discussions and outline the responsibilities of each party to promote successful cooperation and partnership.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

[PARTNERSHIPS \(ca.gov\)](#)