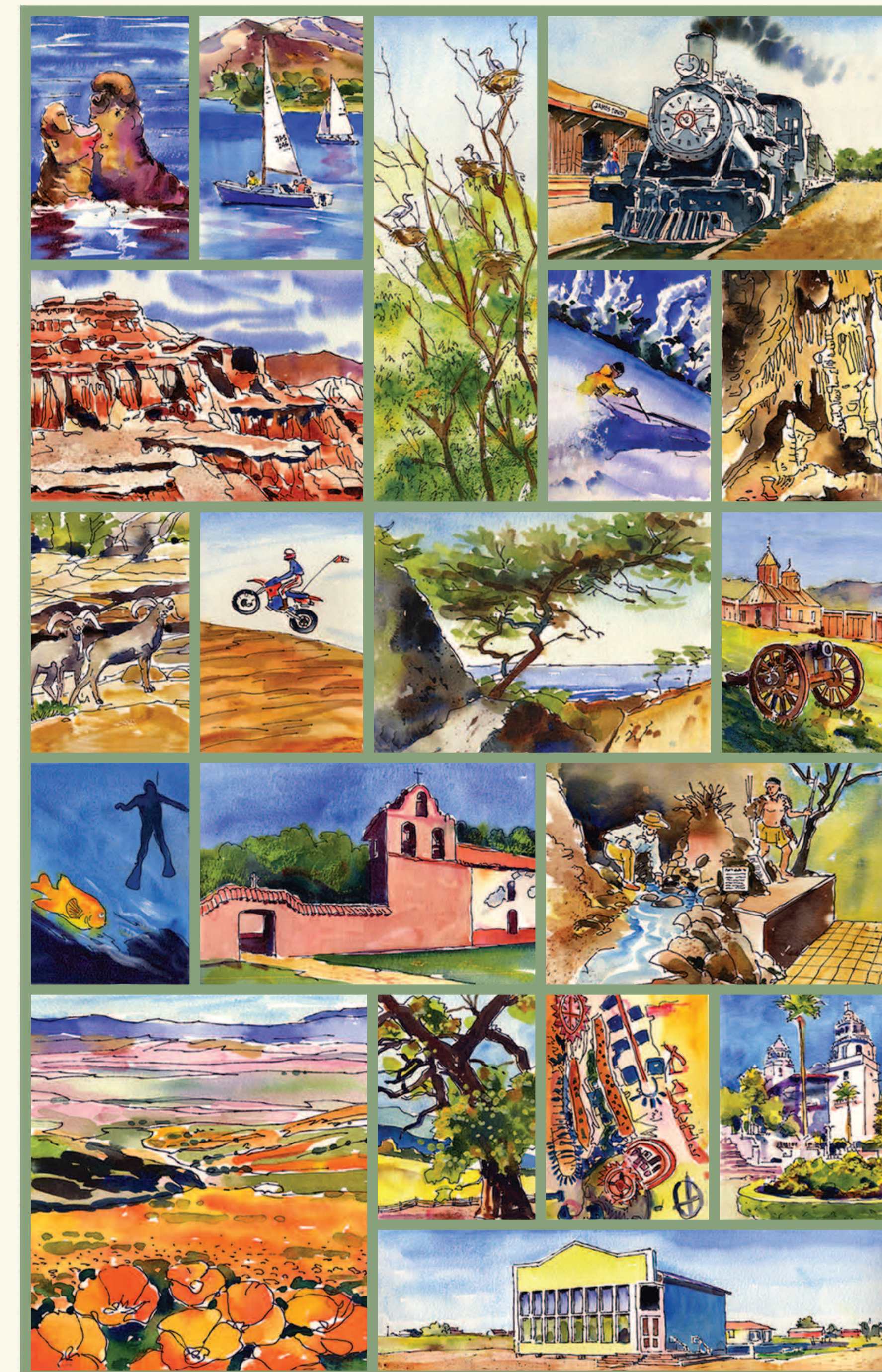




This state park isn't here by accident. It's the result of the generosity and foresight of many individuals and taxpayers. It is also a lasting tribute to their hard work – and to the belief that places of exceptional natural, cultural and recreational value are worth preserving forever.



1864

In the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signs a law preserving Yosemite Valley and making it the nation's first state park – it later became a national park.

1890

Preservation groups protect sites representing the state's past. The first official historical monument, a statue of James Marshall, who discovered gold in 1848, is erected in Coloma.

1902

Led by Andrew P. Hill and the Sempervirens Club, citizen groups and the State purchase forests in Big Basin for a public park.

1928

California voters overwhelmingly approve a bond issue that would help acquire or enlarge more than 40 parks.

1933

Building and improving state parks for public use, the Civilian Conservation Corps begins constructing trails, campgrounds and other facilities, many of which are still in use.

TODAY

More than 270 state parks help preserve California's natural and cultural heritage, extraordinary biological diversity, and quality outdoor recreational opportunities for this and future generations to enjoy.

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

A Brief History of California State Parks



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Illustration by David Lobenberg
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