



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Parks Now Coalition Statement on California State Parks Director Appointment**

The Parks Now coalition welcomes Armando Quintero as the [newly appointed director](#) of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. We look forward to working with Director Quintero, his team, and the California Natural Resources Agency to fulfill [the promise laid out by the Parks Forward Commission](#), to ensure our state parks system truly meets the needs of California's increasingly diverse population.

We would also like to thank outgoing Director Lisa Mangat for her leadership and commitment over the last five years. She came to California State Parks during a transformational period for the department, and we have been honored to work with her to improve the parks system to better serve all Californians.

From the passage of Proposition 68 to the development of the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, our coalition has had a fruitful partnership with state leadership on parks equity. At every level, from Governor Newsom and Secretary Crowfoot, to members of the Legislature, our leaders have shown what we can achieve when we refuse to settle for the way things have always been done, and make tangible changes that speak to the needs of today and tomorrow. We are grateful for all their thoughtfulness in making this appointment, and have every confidence Director Quintero shares our belief that all Californians--of every race and cultural background, gender, age, income, zip code, gender, mobility--deserve to enjoy our public lands. We invite him to join us in championing policy solutions that prioritize equitable access to the outdoors in our communities and cherished landscapes.

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#### **About Parks Now**

Parks Now represents a coalition of California-based organizations committed to public health and social and environmental justice, who share a belief that access to parks, the coast, and public land is fundamental to healthy, vibrant communities. For more information, visit <http://www.caparksnow.com/>