

Subject: Increasing revenue from state parks

Dear Senator

State parks could produce more revenue if specific beaches were designated as “clothing optional” and a higher day use fee charged to visit these areas. The California Department of Parks and Recreation already has the authority to make such designations. The legislature just needs to prod the DPR to do so.

Background: Specific areas of two state beaches have been unofficially “clothing optional” for over 30 years. These beaches are Black’s Beach at Torrey Pines State Park and the beach at the end of Trail 6 at San Onofre State Beach. This year the director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation issued an order to personnel at San Onofre State Beach to start issuing citations to nude people on the beach at San Onofre. Interestingly, for the time being, at Black’s Beach people are still allowed to be nude without fear of being issued a citation.

I’ve visited San Onofre numerous times. Often the parking lots for beach access were empty till I got to the lot for Trail 6. There I would find lot’s of cars, generally of the higher end variety. Now that parking lot sits empty most of the time.

The state could fill that lot at Trail 6 and many more at other state beaches if there were designated “clothing optional” areas. People would be willing to pay a higher day use fee to use these areas. The increased revenue would allow the DPR to provide a higher level of service to the entire state park unit with the “clothing optional” beach.

Another benefit of “clothing optional” beaches is that they bring more dollars into the communities where the beaches are located. An economic analysis of Haulover Beach near Miami Beach estimated that visitors to that beach added \$179,509,990 to the local economy. (Source: <http://www.tanfl.com/hauloverspreadsheet1.pdf>)

The Naturist Society has already recommended to the DPR areas that should receive the “clothing optional” designation. All that is needed is for the legislature to direct the department to officially designate specific beaches in the state park system as “clothing optional.”

Thank you Senator for your commitment to serve all the people you represent.