

# CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

2600 River Plaza Drive #250, Sacramento,  
California 95833

Ph. 916.696.6023  
800.522.2873



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2026

Contact: Brei Thompson, [brei@calkipa.com](mailto:brei@calkipa.com) 312-502-6072

## California Senate Blocks Park Ranger Staffing Cuts as Summer Crowds Loom CSLEA, SPPOAC Call on Assembly to Do the Same

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Statewide Law Enforcement Association President **Alan Barcelona** and State Park Peace Officers Association of California President **Matt Yarbrough** issued the following statement in response to the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2's rejection of the Department of Finance's proposal to cut 62 positions within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

"Twenty years ago, we had roughly 800 California state park rangers. Today, we have just around 500 rangers to cover 1.6 million acres of remote and often challenging terrain. As families flood our parks for summer vacations, we must make their safety the top priority.

We commend Senator Gómez Reyes and the rest of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2 for saving dozens of positions that are crucial to keeping visitors safe in California State Parks. We are already operating with a critical shortage of park rangers. Cutting additional positions would push our strained system past the breaking point.

Our state parks generate more than \$6 billion a year for the economy. They are a point of pride and a big part of why California remains the top tourism destination in the country. The only way to uphold that world-class reputation is to invest in the people who make visitors feel safe and welcome.

We urge the Assembly and Speaker Rivas to follow the Senate's lead and protect these vital state park ranger positions."