STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DEPARTMENTAL NOTICE NO. 88-65

MANUAL

CHAPTER

SUBJECT
MOUNTAIN BIKE USE POLICY

ISSUED
DEC 13 1988

REFERENCE

EXPIRES
When Superseded

DPR 375 (Rev. 6/81)

WHEN APPLICABLE, ENTER THE NUMBER AND DATE OF THIS DEPARTMENTAL NOTICE IN THE MARGIN OF THE MANUAL PAGE, ADJACENT TO THE SECTION(S) AFFECTED BY IT.

Effective January 1, 1989, the Department's policy regarding the use of mountain bikes in units of the State Park System is:

MOUNTAIN BIKE USE POLICY FOR THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARK SYSTEM

PREFACE

This policy is adopted based on the recognition: 1) that bicycling on unpaved roads and trails (mountain biking) has become an extremely popular recreational activity; 2) that providing areas for mountain biking in the State Park System is consistent with our mission to provide recreation opportunities for the general public; and 3) that the increasing use of mountain bikes has created a need to develop management policies to reduce the potential conflicts with other users and the impact on park resources.

This policy is not intended as a means of limiting mountain bike use, but rather as a means of ensuring that such use is consistent with the Department's responsibilities to all users and to the stewardship of park resources.

POLICY

Generally, paved and unpaved* park roads, unless otherwise posted, are open and trails closed to bicycles. Unpaved roads may be closed and trails opened upon a written order by the District Superintendent, approved by the Regional Director, that specifically considers criteria which reflects the safety of all users and potential impacts to park resources and values.

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*Unpaved park roads are defined as fire roads, dirt roads, and service roads with a width of over 60 inches.

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS

- Bicycles will be operated, especially when passing other users, at a safe speed and in a responsible manner as determined by Department staff.

- Bicycles are prohibited in areas classified as wilderness.

- Bicycles in State Reserves and in Cultural or Natural Preserves are allowed only on paved roads.

- As with other trail uses, off-trail or off-road (cross country) bicycle use is prohibited in all units.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will take effect immediately for paved and unpaved roads. This policy will take effect for trails in nine (9) months from date of adoption, in order for district management to complete a use determination of major trails and to prepare for signing of each. Trails currently approved for mountain bike use should be given special consideration for continued use. District Superintendents are encouraged to work with local trail users in implementing this determination criteria.

In the interim period, the District Superintendent may open or close trails based on a posted order.

DETERMINATION CRITERIA

- Safety of bike user and other park users:

  o width, slope, visibility, grade, length, surface of road or trail

- Impact of trail/road use on the unit's environment:

  o wildlife, plants, cultural resources, soil condition, aquatics

- User conflicts:

  o impact on recreation experience of other users

- Volunteer participation by members of the mountain bike community in conjunction with efforts of other trail users:

  o volunteer patrols, trail/road building and maintenance and user education

- Purpose of the area within the unit:

  o zones (primary historic zone, open space, entrance, etc.), interpretive trails

- Compatibility with adjoining land management of trail/road corridor
- Demonstrated demand for activity (public testimony as appropriate)
- Ability to accommodate activity:
    - o staffing, including volunteer patrols
    - o carrying capacity
- Seasonal conditions which might require periodic closure
- Type of trail/road
    - o point-to-point access
    - o through travel
    - o loop trails

ADOPTED AS THE OFFICIAL MOUNTAIN BIKE USE POLICY OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARK SYSTEM.

Henry R. Agonia
Director

G-3952M

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Central Coast Region
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, California 93940
(408) 649-2840

February 27, 1989

RECEIVED
MAR 2 1989

Mr. Bob Mimiaga
Harris & Associates
4281 Katella Avenue, Suite 207
Los Alamitos, California 90720

Dear Mr. Mimiaga:

This letter is in response to your inquiries about the Department of Parks and Recreation's Mountain Bike Policy and, specifically, as implemented by District Superintendent Felix Arteaga for Mount Diablo State Park.

The Mountain Bike Policy is quite clear that District Superintendents have the authority, upon approval by the Regional Director, to close or open unpaved roads and trails. At Mount Diablo State Park, unpaved roads on the west side of North Gate and South Gate Roads are open for mountain bike use. This became effective January 1, 1989 (see attached). Other unpaved roads remain closed until we have the ability to ensure their safe utilization based on the criteria below.

It has been suggested by you that the District Superintendent's decision on what trails and unpaved roads will be closed or open was done in a capricious manner. I can assure you that this has not been the case.

The decision to open the unpaved roads, as mentioned above, is based on sound reasons. They are outlined below.

1. User groups, such as the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay, recommended this initial area for opening because of readily available access points, and the 10-15 mile loop makes for a good ride.

2. It gives the District time to establish a volunteer bike patrol that can monitor use and be incorporated into regular park operations. This is in the making and should be in full operation in the next year or so.

3. Park Rangers can respond to emergencies much faster in this area than in any other areas of the park, therefore, making it safer for the users.

4. Damage to resources and user conflict, if any, can be accurately monitored.

The policy gives District Superintendents nine months to make a determination if any trails should be opened; the Diablo District will also include the remaining unpaved roads, which did not meet the determination criteria at this time.

The criteria that will be used in determining future openings is outlined below.

Determination Criteria

1. Safety of bike user and other park users:

   a. width, slope, visibility, grade, length, surface of road or trail.

2. Impact of trail/road use on the unit's environment:

   a. wildlife, plants, cultural resources, soil condition, aquatics.

3. User conflicts:

   a. impact on recreation experience of other users.

4. Volunteer participation by members of the mountain bike community in conjunction with efforts of other trail users:

   a. volunteer patrols, trail/road building and maintenance and user education.

5. Purpose of the area within the unit:

   a. zones (primary historic zone, open space, entrance, etc.), interpretive trails.

6. Compatibility with adjoining land management of trail/road corridor.

7. Demonstrated demand for activity (public testimony as appropriate).

8. Ability to accommodate activity:

   a. staffing, including volunteer patrols.
   b. carrying capacity.

9. Seasonal conditions which might require periodic closure.

10. Type of trail/road:

    a. point-to-point access.
    b. through travel.
    c. loop trails.

Once these issues are satisfactorily addressed, we can look forward to unpaved road utilization currently not available to mountain bike use. If you have any questions, please feel free to write to the address above.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Felty
Regional Director

Attachment

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

District Superintendent's Order Number 238-002-89
January 1, 1989

1. The riding of bicycles on the roads, trails, paths, and grounds of Mount Diablo State Park is hereby prohibited.

   EXCEPTIONS:

   A. This order does not apply to the use of bicycles on the roads open to motor vehicles operated by the general public, or on special designated bicycle routes.

   B. The unpaved roads, located west of North Gate and South Gate Roads (see attached map), are hereby designated open for bicycle traffic. Hiking trails in this area remain closed to bicycles unless approval is granted in writing by the District Superintendent.

2. The riding of scooters, skateboards, and other self-propelled devices on the roads, trails, and grounds of Mount Diablo State Park is hereby prohibited.

3. Exceptions to this order may be granted in writing by the District Superintendent, Diablo District, 4180 Treat Blvd., Suite D, Concord, California 94521.

4. Nothing herein shall affect any existing private contract or property rights.

5. Nothing herein shall be construed in derogation of other provisions of law.

SIGNED:

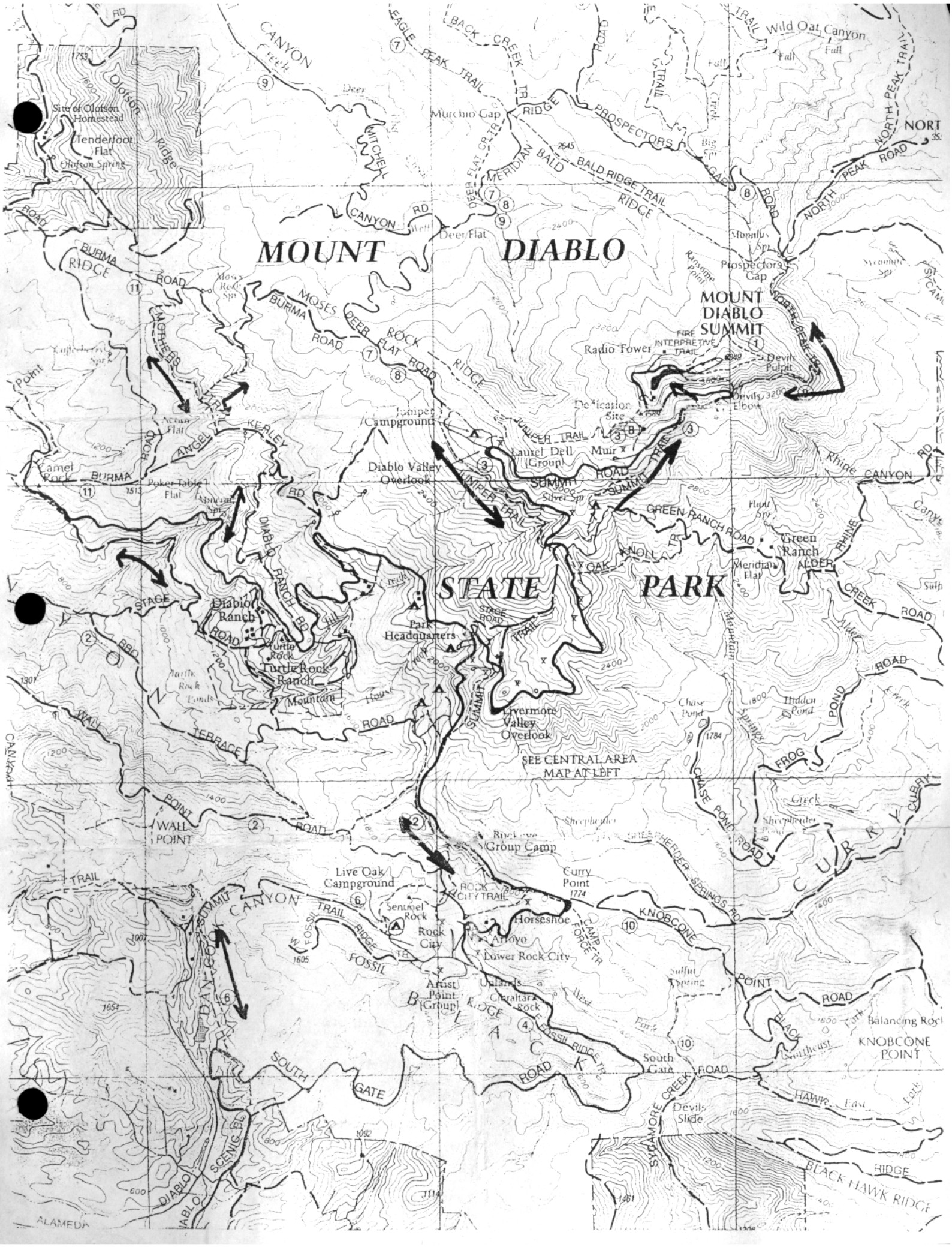
Felipe L. Arteaga
Superintendent, Diablo District

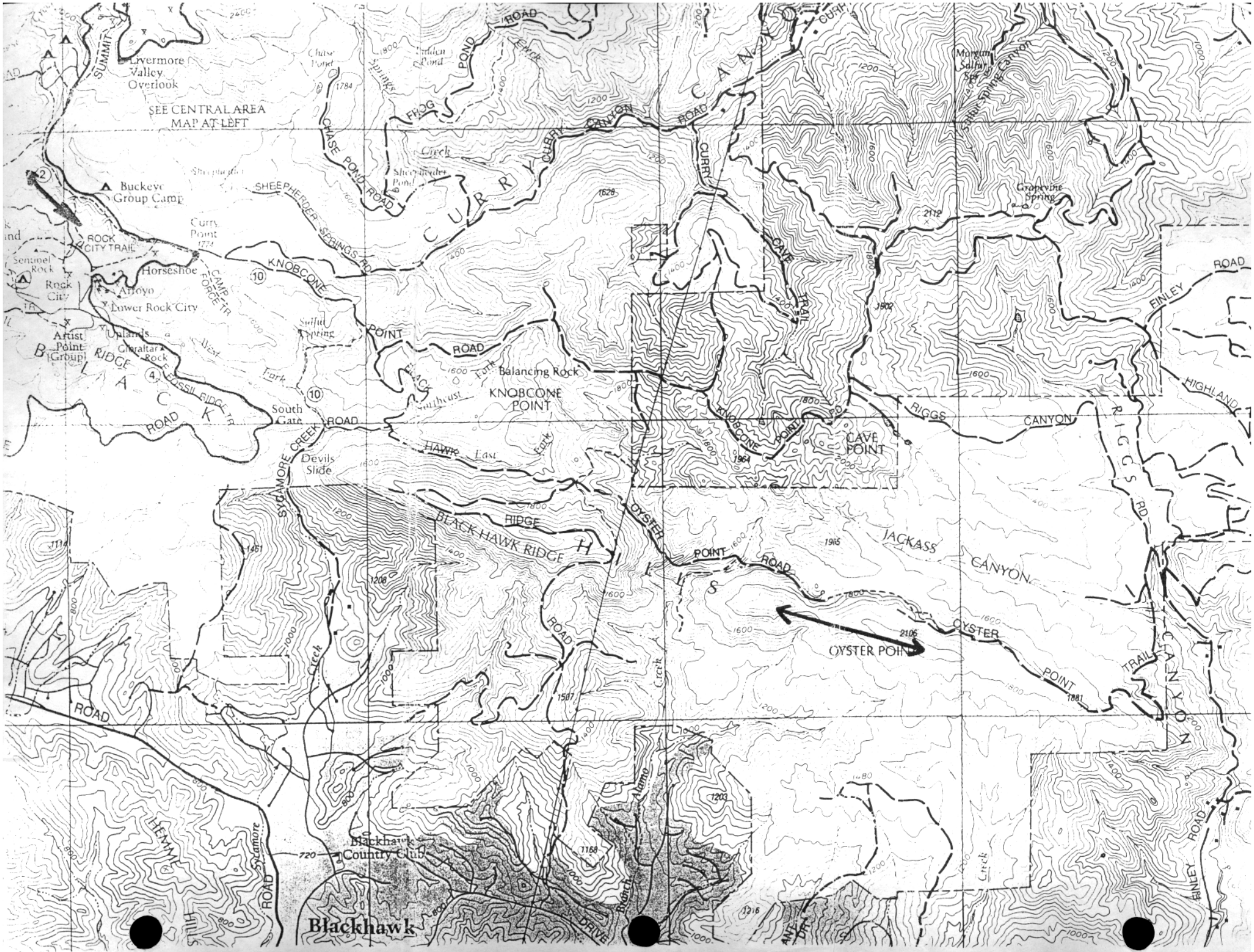
CONCUR:

Regional Director, Central Coast Region

AUTHORITY:

California Public Resources Code, Section 5003
California Code of Regulations, Section 4360


MOUNT DIABLO STATE PARK
MOUNT DIABLO SUMMIT
Site of Olofson Homestead
Tenderfoot Flat
Olofson Spring
Olofson Ridge
Eagle Peak Trail
Back Creek Trail
Wild Oat Canyon
North Peak Trail
Murchio Gap
Prospectors Gap
North Peak Road
Deer Flat
Deer Flat Creek
Deer Flat Trail
Meridian Ridge
Bald Ridge Trail
Bald Ridge
Canyon Creek
Canyon Rd
Mitchell Canyon
Burma Road
Moses Rock Spr
Moses Rock Trail
Deer Flat Road
Rock Ridge
Mother Lode Trail
Angel Ridge
Kerley Trail
Acorn Flat
Lamet Rock
Poker Table Flat
Diablo Valley Overlook
Juniper Campground
Juniper Trail
Laurel Dell (Group)
Summit Road
Summit Trail
Radio Tower
Fire Interpretive Trail
Devils Pulpit
Devils Elbow
Dedication Site
Muir
Rhine Canyon Rd
Green Ranch Road
Green Ranch
Meridian Flat
Oak Knoll Trail
Alder Creek Road
Diablo Ranch Road
Diablo Ranch
Stage Road
Park Headquarters
Turtle Rock
Turtle Rock Ranch
Mountain Trail
Livermore Valley Overlook
Chase Pond
Hidden Pond
Pond Road
Frog Creek
Curry Creek
Wall Terrace
Wall Point
Point Road
See Central Area Map at Left
Group Camp
Live Oak Campground
Rock City Trail
Sentinel Rock
Rock City
Horseshoe
Curry Point
Knobcone Point Road
Camp Forge Tr
Arroyo
Lower Rock City
Fossil Ridge Trail
Artist Point (Group)
Outlands
Gibraltar Rock
Black Point Road
Balancing Rock
Knobcone Point
South Gate Road
South Gate
Devils Slide
Black Hawk Ridge
Danger Trail
Diablo Scenic Blvd
Alameda


SEE CENTRAL AREA MAP AT LEFT
Livermore Valley Overlook
Buckeye Group Camp
Rock City
Rock City Trail
Horseshoe
Arroyo
Lower Rock City
Sentinel Rock
Artist Point Group
Uplands
Gibraltar Rock
Sulfur Spring
Balancing Rock
Knobcone Point
Cave Point
Devils Slide
Black Hawk Ridge
Jackass Canyon
Oyster Point
Blackhawk Country Club
Blackhawk
Chase Pond Road
Frog Pond
Curry Canyon Road
Sheepherder Springs Rd
Knobcone Point Road
Cave Trail
Finley Road
Riggs Road
Highland
Sycamore Creek Road
Hawk East Fork
Oyster Point Road
Oyster Point Trail
Canyon
Hills
Drive
Ranch
Adamo
Grapevine Spring
Sulfur Spring Canyon
Summit
Chase Pond
Hidden Pond
Sheepherder Pond
Curry Point
Camp Forde Tr
Fossil Ridge Tr
South Gate
Ant Dr