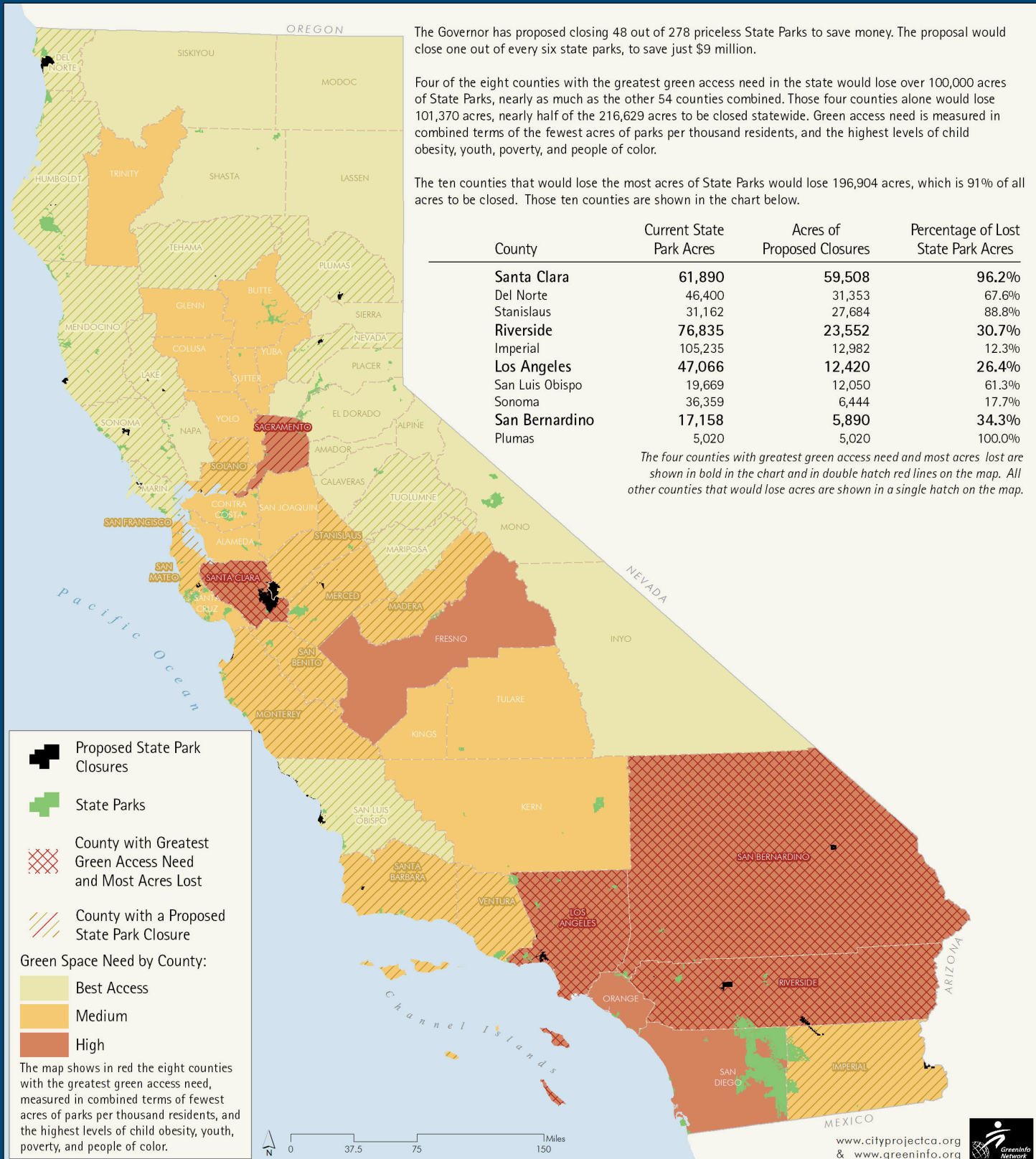




Keep State Parks Open for All!

Green Access, Child Obesity, Youth, Poverty and People of Color by County



The Governor has proposed closing 48 out of 278 priceless State Parks to save money. The proposal would close one out of every six state parks, to save just \$9 million.

Four of the eight counties with the greatest green access need in the state would lose over 100,000 acres of State Parks, nearly as much as the other 54 counties combined. Those four counties alone would lose 101,370 acres, nearly half of the 216,629 acres to be closed statewide. Green access need is measured in combined terms of the fewest acres of parks per thousand residents, and the highest levels of child obesity, youth, poverty, and people of color.

The ten counties that would lose the most acres of State Parks would lose 196,904 acres, which is 91% of all acres to be closed. Those ten counties are shown in the chart below.

County	Current State Park Acres	Acres of Proposed Closures	Percentage of Lost State Park Acres
Santa Clara	61,890	59,508	96.2%
Del Norte	46,400	31,353	67.6%
Stanislaus	31,162	27,684	88.8%
Riverside	76,835	23,552	30.7%
Imperial	105,235	12,982	12.3%
Los Angeles	47,066	12,420	26.4%
San Luis Obispo	19,669	12,050	61.3%
Sonoma	36,359	6,444	17.7%
San Bernardino	17,158	5,890	34.3%
Plumas	5,020	5,020	100.0%

The four counties with greatest green access need and most acres lost are shown in bold in the chart and in double hatch red lines on the map. All other counties that would lose acres are shown in a single hatch on the map.

- Proposed State Park Closures
- State Parks
- County with Greatest Green Access Need and Most Acres Lost
- County with a Proposed State Park Closure

Green Space Need by County:

- Best Access
- Medium
- High

The map shows in red the eight counties with the greatest green access need, measured in combined terms of fewest acres of parks per thousand residents, and the highest levels of child obesity, youth, poverty, and people of color.



**Keep State Parks Open for All!
Robert García and Meagan Yellott¹
The City Project
Policy Brief**



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State parks must be kept open for all!

In 2002, California voters passed Proposition 40, which provided \$2.6 billion for parks, clean water and clean air. Prop 40 passed with the support of 77% of Black voters, 74% of Latino voters, 60% of Asian voters, and 56% of non-Hispanic White voters. 75% of voters with an annual family income below \$20,000, and 61% with a high school diploma or less, supported Prop 40 – the highest among any income or education levels.²

In November 2006, the support of people of color was crucial to Proposition 84, a \$5.4 billion park and water bond. Only 45% of non-Hispanic whites favored Prop 84. Latinos supported Prop 84 by 84% and gave Prop 84 an 800,000 vote margin, accounting for Prop 84's margin of victory.³

These bonds provide important lessons. Communities of color and low income communities can propel properly framed initiatives to success. An equally important lesson is that it is necessary to ensure that the benefits and burdens of state parks and other public work investments are distributed fairly.

There should be a state-wide vision and strategic plan for fair access to parks and green space. Standards and criteria to measure needs and equity should be defined to distribute benefits, to achieve a fair system of finance, and to hold officials accountable. There should be a park needs assessment to guide planning and investments. There should be shared use of parks, schools, and other facilities to make optimal use of land, money, and resources. There should be an audit of park and resource bonds since 1999 (including Propositions 12, 13, 40, 50, and 84) to document who benefits and who gets left behind from the investment of public resources.

To learn more, please see The City Project's Policy Report *Healthy Parks, Schools, and Counties: Mapping Green Access and Equity for California* (2007), available at www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/362.

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² L.A. TIMES, *How Propositions 40 and 45 Fared Among Voters*, Mar. 7, 2002 (statewide exit poll).

³ Exit poll and turnout study by the William C. Velazquez Institute (WCVI), www.wcvi.org/press_room/press_releases/2006/exitpoll_caProp842006.htm.

Keep California State Parks Open for All!				
Acres of State Parks and Proposed State Park Closures by County				
County Name	Current Acres of State Parks	Acres of Proposed Closures	Percent	Green Access Need
Los Angeles	47,066.1	12,419.8	26.4%	Greatest Need
Riverside	76,835.3	23,552.5	30.7%	Greatest Need
San Bernardino	17,158.0	5,890.0	34.3%	Greatest Need
Santa Clara	61,890.3	59,508.0	96.2%	Greatest Need
Total of 4 Counties with Greatest Need & Most Acres Lost	202,949.7	101,370.2	49.9%	
Fresno	6,157.1	0.0	0.0%	Greatest Need
Orange	9,872.5	0.0	0.0%	Greatest Need
Sacramento	8,728.5	6.9	0.1%	Greatest Need
San Diego	584,380.1	0.0	0.0%	Greatest Need
Total of Next 4 Counties with Greatest Need	609,138.3	6.9	0.0%	
Alameda	8,564.4	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Butte	29,403.5	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Colusa	350.9	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Contra Costa	27,117.7	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Glenn	7.6	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Imperial	105,234.9	12,982.4	12.3%	Medium Need
Kern	27,891.1	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Kings	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Madera	3,923.1	27.0	0.7%	Medium Need
Merced	36,513.5	2,900.6	7.9%	Medium Need
Monterey	16,156.0	1,808.8	11.2%	Medium Need
San Benito	6,608.7	97.2	1.5%	Medium Need
San Francisco	148.3	148.3	100.0%	Medium Need
San Joaquin	1,412.9	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
San Mateo	16,432.2	2,553.7	15.5%	Medium Need
Santa Barbara	7,572.4	1,927.0	25.4%	Medium Need
Santa Cruz	45,144.6	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Solano	290.9	290.9	100.0%	Medium Need
Stanislaus	31,162.4	27,684.0	88.8%	Medium Need
Sutter	1,794.2	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Trinity	2.7	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Tulare	3,596.5	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Ventura	20,894.1	1.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Yolo	0.3	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Yuba	0.8	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Total of Medium Need Counties	390,223.6	50,420.8	12.9%	
Alpine	546.8	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Amador	135.2	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Calaveras	2,825.3	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Del Norte	46,400.4	31,353.2	67.6%	Best Access
El Dorado	26,901.3	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Humboldt	75,534.4	505.1	0.7%	Best Access
Inyo	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Lake	2,327.0	1,937.3	83.3%	Best Access
Lassen	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Marin	14,362.9	2,408.8	16.8%	Best Access
Mariposa	0.3	0.3	100.0%	Best Access
Mendocino	30,422.9	1,430.4	4.7%	Best Access
Modoc	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Mono	48,594.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Napa	5,902.5	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Nevada	8,158.4	3,300.5	40.5%	Best Access
Placer	32,672.2	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Plumas	5,019.9	5,019.9	100.0%	Best Access
San Luis Obispo	19,669.2	12,050.1	61.3%	Best Access
Shasta	11,176.4	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Sierra	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Siskiyou	11.3	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Sonoma	36,358.7	6,444.1	17.7%	Best Access
Tehama	351.9	351.9	100.0%	Best Access
Tuolumne	3,960.8	25.3	0.6%	Best Access
Total of Best Access Counties	371,331.8	64,826.9	17.5%	

	4 Counties with Greatest Need and Most Acres Lost	Next 4 Counties with Greatest Need	Medium Need	Best Access	Total
Proposed Closures (Acres)	101,370.2	6.9	50,420.8	64,826.9	216,624.8
Percentage of Total Park Space Lost	46.8%	0.0%	23.3%	29.9%	100.0%



Keep California State Parks Open for All!				
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County Name	Current Acres of State Parks	Acres of Proposed Closures	Percent	Green Access Need
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San Bernardino	17,158.0	5,890.0	34.3%	Greatest Need
Plumas	5,019.9	5,019.9	100.0%	Best Access
Total acres to be closed in top ten closure counties	446,795.1	196,903.9	44.1%	
Nevada	8,158.4	3,300.5	40.5%	Best Access
Merced	36,513.5	2,900.6	7.9%	Medium Need
San Mateo	16,432.2	2,553.7	15.5%	Medium Need
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Kings	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Medium Need
Inyo	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Lassen	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Modoc	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Sierra	0.0	0.0	0.0%	Best Access
Total acres to be closed in remaining 48 counties		19,720.8		
Total acres to be closed		216,624.8		
% in top ten closure counties		90.9%		

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