



## Save Public Access for ALL at Sonoma Coast State Parks

Sonoma County leaders want **everyone** to have access to our coastal parks. Your income should not limit your access. The State Parks Department wants to now charge \$8.00 for anyone to park on coast to have access to key state parks, (see chart below). On Wednesday afternoon, April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Coastal Commission will meet in Santa Rosa to decide this issue. Please come. Remind the Commission that coast belongs to **all** Californians, regardless of income. Ask them to reject this fee which will hurt lower income households.

**BACKGROUND** - Fee collection along the rural coast is not unheard of. State Parks currently charges for access at seven parks on our coast that have major facilities and staff. Sonoma County also charges at Doran, Westside, Stillwater Cove, and Gualala Point Parks (which also have major facilities and staff.)

But Sonoma County allows free public access at coastal parks that are limited to parking lot access points to a coastal beach or bluff top trail. Sonoma leaders have asked the State to adopt this policy. The County and the Wildlands Conservancy have both offered to manage parking areas along the coast for State Parks to reduce their costs and overhead. These offers have been ignored or rejected.

The Coastal Commission will set a statewide precedent with this decision. Your voice can make a difference. The chart below shows the status of fees at State and County parks.

State Parks w/staff & facilities (Fees charged)	State Parks w/No staff – <b>Fee's proposed</b>	Sonoma Co. Parks w/staff & facilities (Fees charged)	Sonoma Co. Parks w/no staff (No fees)
Bodega Dunes, Wrights Beach, Reef, Fort Ross, Gerstle Cove, Woodside, Fisk Mill	Bodega Head Shell Beach/Kortum trail Goat Rock/Kortum trail Stump Beach	Doran, Gualala Point Stillwater Cove Westside	Shorttail Gulch Black Point Pebble Beach Stengel Beach Shell Beach Walkon Beach

**Coastal Commission meeting – Wednesday, April 13, at 2 P.M\*** (\*Approximately time for this issue)

**Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, 1351 Maple Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

For more info, see Coastal Commission Agenda: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html>

## Additional Background

### This is a social justice issue:

Public transit to the Sonoma coast is extremely limited. Auto access is the only viable option for the vast majority of visitors. Access to the beach is a fundamental goal of the Coastal Act. Access to coastal parks should **NOT** be restricted to low income households through the use of parking fees.



### This is a Safety and Environmental Issue:

Adding an \$8 dollar parking fee will increase efforts by people to utilize unsafe and environmentally damaging roadside alternatives



### Available Coastal Commission staff report:

The Coastal Commission's staff report on the "State Coastal Parks & Parking" issue should be available on the Commission's website as of Friday, April 1, 2016 at: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html>

**Note - The hearing on this issue is expected to go into the late afternoon or early evening. People with full time jobs might still have an opportunity to participate.**