

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisory District Four
Supervisor Ken Yeager



BOS4-060909-04

Prepared by: John Mills
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DATE: June 9, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 

Ken Yeager
Supervisor, District 4

SUBJECT: Referral regarding the future of Henry W. Coe State Park

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Refer to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Administration a request to analyze the feasibility of absorbing that portion of Henry W. Coe State Park that lies within the borders of Santa Clara County into the County Parks system, should the Governor's proposal to close the park as a cost-saving measure be adopted.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Absorbing that portion of Henry W. Coe State Park that lies within Santa Clara County into the County Parks system would preserve public access and conservation efforts that currently protect this unique natural resource.

BACKGROUND

Henry W. Coe State Park is an open space gem in the Mount Hamilton Range southeast of San Jose. It is the largest state park in Northern California, encompassing over 87,000 acres straddling Santa Clara and San Joaquin Counties. It provides an escape for hikers, mountain bikers, horse enthusiasts, picnickers, campers, fishers and photographers.

Should the park close, gates would be locked, water and sewer service to park restrooms would be turned off, and structures would be boarded up. In this state, the park will be increasingly prone to dumping, vandalism and the ravages

of illegal fires. Maintenance of facilities and trails would be discontinued, increasing costs for any such potential work in the future.

The closure would negatively impact tourism revenues. State parks closures would begin after Labor Day and be phased over a period of two years. If the Governor's proposal is adopted, it is unclear when Coe Park would close.