

April 5th, 2021



Protecting Marin Since 1934

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President Pro Tem
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Email:

Re: Support Confirmation of Armando Quintero as Director of California Department of Parks and Recreation

Dear Pro Tem Atkins:

Marin Conservation League is writing to offer our strong support for the confirmation of Armando Quintero as the Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

Marin Conservation League was founded in 1934 with the express purpose of acquiring Marin's scenic and special lands for the public's enjoyment. Anticipating the rush of population that would follow completion of the Golden Gate Bridge, then under construction, the League founders recognized that only Muir Woods, municipal water district lands, and the beginnings of Mt. Tamalpais State Park were open to the public. They enabled a plan that targeted the county's most spectacular coastal lands and uplands. Over the next decades, MCL worked to see them become the state and national parks, and later county preserves, that together now make up more than half of the county. MCL's job now is to steward these lands for present and future generations.

This story is not unlike stories across the state, in which treasured lands have gradually been brought into state trusteeship by local advocates for the public's enjoyment. In addition to the 280 park units, the DPR also has enabled public access to lands and waters for other forms of recreation. Together, these constitute an immense cultural and natural resource for the residents of California and visitors from around the world.

Armando Quintero is the perfect choice to comprehend the importance of this legacy and to direct it wisely through the critical times – a changing climate, opening doors to diverse populations, expanding youth opportunities to become the next generation of stewards – all of these demands, with the reality of chronic budget shortfalls. MCL has worked with Armando most recently during his term as a Director of Marin Municipal Water District and Chair of the State Water Commission. Beginning with his "boots on the ground" experience as a State Park Ranger, Armando has experienced in his career every facet of public lands management, facing many difficult decisions

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Marin Conservation League was founded in 1934 to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County.

along the way and interacting with both staff and the public with equal empathy. The State could not find a better person to take on this important role as a leader and director!

We respectfully request that you and the Senate Rules Committee confirm Armando Quintero as the Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller
President



Nona Dennis
Chair, Parks and Open Space Committee

cc: Senate Rules Committee
Vice Chair, Senator Patricia C. Bates
Senator Shannon Grove
Senator Sydney Kamlager
Senator John Laird

cc: Sharon Farrell, Executive Vice President, Projects, Stewardship & Science, Golden Gate
National Parks Conservancy
Senator Mike McGuire