

Fred L. Jones

MEETING OF THE
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK COMMISSION
Santa Barbara, California - January 14, 1966

MRS. JACKSON: Honorable Chairman, Mr. Stern -- and members of the State Park Commission -- state government representatives -- ladies and gentlemen:

I am Mrs. Duncan P. Jackson, Kathleen Jackson -- a native Californian -- formerly of Santa Barbara -- now of San Luis Obispo County.

I am the Chairman of the NIPOMO DUNES COMMITTEE, citizens concerned for the preservation of the remarkable and significant Nipomo sand dunes -- designated in your files as the SANTA MARIA DUNES -- and also called the Pismo Dunes, Oceano Dunes, even the Oso Flaco Dunes -- located, as you know, on the scenic central coast of San Luis Obispo County -- between Pismo Beach and Pt. Sal.

The Division of Beaches and Parks' feasibility study of these unusual dunelands - has impressed us, of the Nipomo Dunes Committee -- indicating -- as it does -- boundary lines commensurate with the stature of the Dunes, scientifically and recreationally.

You have studied this feasibility report -- and are aware it rates seventh from the top, in merit and desireability, of all currently proposed state park areas in California. However, the price tag of seven-and-a-half million dollars caused it to be set aside from present acquisition consideration.

Our Nipomo Dunes Committee appears before you today, not to ask you to alter your recent hard-reached decisions, not to ask for purchase money -- but to request what we feel is a reasonable action by the Commission: -- And that is -- to keep the Nipomo Dunes a live issue -- specifically, we ask you to endorse in principal the concept of a state park at the Nipomo Dunes.

Such endorsement would give substantial encouragement to citizens who feel the Dunes would be an extraordinary California state park -- would encourage our continued support of your work. There is reasonable expectation

for acquisition of the Nipomo Dunes someday. We wish to follow through with vigilance --- But ask you to make it possible for us to be more effective.

Endorsement in principal of the concept of a great state park at the Nipomo Dunes will also support and encourage the splendid work of the State Parks Staff -- whose feasibility study is outstanding!

Your schedule is heavy, your time valuable. You have access to sound information - on which to base decisions. Therefore, although we have come today with an abundance of factual material - to aid you -- and a supporting delegation -- we shall only introduce our delegation -- and shall offer only three -- speaking very briefly -- each qualified to bring you some new material -- some unique aspects of these most spectacular of all Pacific Coast dunelands.

MY STATEMENT is of a general nature -- gathered from several years -- leading group hikes and excursions in the Dunes -- and researching many interesting facts. In brief: these Dunes are DELIGHTFUL, VALUABLE, BEAUTIFUL and AN ECONOMIC BONANZA.

DELIGHTFUL - for recreation: more different pastimes possible here than in any park or recreation area in the West.

VALUABLE - for scientific research, for protection of a biotic complex found nowhere else. For archaeological studies yet to be done. For indelible evidence here of California's historical heritage. MOREOVER, many beaches are losing sand alarmingly. With damming of rivers and streams, sand supply is depleted -- as noted in the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan. HOWEVER, the Nipomo Dunes -- judging from geomorphological studies and Indian remains -- have been remarkably stable for thousands of years -- and one can venture to predict this largest and most accessible sand dune beach area in California -- eventually may become one of the few sandy beaches left

in California in the future.

BEAUTIFUL - for the aesthetic enjoyment of a rare type of scenery -- the only one of its kind in the West -- perhaps in the country -- entirely different from other dune complexes in the United States. Sweeping grandeur of extensive and very white sand dunes -- which rise to exquisite high crests -- in an incomparable array of varied formations -- a kind of white, wind-sculptured wilderness -- laced with green glades -- embracing small lakes -- of unmatched magnificence! BUT MORE IMPORTANT -- a beauty of surpassing serenity -- a place of stillness -- to save our sanity in a troubled world.

AND AN ECONOMIC BONANZA -- nearby state park statistics point up crucial need -- not only a 75% use increase, but 100% disappointment increase, in visitors turned away -- and money lost to the local economy. SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY is located more strategically -- for recreation -- than any other county in California -- by the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan index --- is the logical location for a major recreation economy -- falling within the exact middle of recreation use zones from the state's four major exploding population centers. HERE -- minimum expenditure for development and maintenance --- can service maximum use -- with negligible impact. Here - an ideal accomodation for mass recreation. AS YOU WELL KNOW, Park values are inexhaustible -- the State and the local economy enjoying consistent increment. A Nipomo Dunes State Park, - enhancing its surroundings - would improve the quality of living in what is now a blighted area. LOCAL ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS - which have been so vocal - can be realized through a recreation economy. Other county locations are suitable for the industry urged here in the Dunes by business promoters. THE IMMEDIATE AND TEMPORARY FINANCIAL BENEFIT TO A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - should not be a consideration - in a long view decision concerning a state park.

We plead your endorsement in principle of the concept of such a park.

A CROWN JEWEL of the California State Park System could be the NIPOMO DUNES.

