



Get Loud! Contact Your Policy Makers With This Email

FATRAC appreciates your active support with the “Build Don’t Bulldoze” cause. FATRAC wants to work with CA State Parks, but we need to be heard. Please help us make some noise by emailing your local policy makers with this pre-written and addressed letter and together we can break through the dead end that is FLSRA. **It takes 5 seconds!**

How To: Fatrac had done all the work for you! All you need to do is COPY, PASTE, FILL IN YOUR NAME & SEND! Open up a new email now and simply copy and paste the email addresses into a new email. Then copy and paste the body. Please edit, personalize and revise as you see fit...this message is *much* better if it's personalized. And the letter is ready to send.

And don’t stop there! contact **Assembly Member Kevin Keily** and demand FLSRA to work with FATRAC. Leave a voicemail with the demands listed in our email! **(916) 319-2006**

Thank you for your support and we will see you at the Build Don’t Bulldoze Memorial Ride this Saturday, May 22nd @ 1pm RSVP here <https://fb.me/e/PnaTRDz4>

Copy/Paste each group into correct field:

TO:

luz.rivas@asm.ca.gov, assemblymember.kiley@assembly.ca.gov, eduardo.garcia@asm.ca.gov, megan.dahle@asm.ca.gov, henry.stern@sen.ca.gov, brian.jones@sen.ca.gov, David.Orosco@sen.ca.gov;

CC:

Rocky.Deal@mail.house.gov, armando.quintero@parks.ca.gov, Wade.Crowfoot@resources.ca.gov, secretary@resources.ca.gov, Vicki.Perez@parks.ca.gov, SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov, alexandra.stehl@parks.ca.gov, barry.smith@parks.ca.gov, Rich.Preston@parks.ca.gov, jim.micheaels@parks.ca.gov

BCC:

fatrac@kmcreative.com

SUBJECT::

Hold State Parks Accountable to Incorporate Community Recreational Needs and Meet Schedules

Copy/Paste letter into email body. Feel free to add personal comments at the start or finish.

Dear Policy Maker,

My name is [insert name]. I am a resident of [State/City] and I am emailing today to request that you:

- Hold legislative hearings to re-enforce, the intent of the Parks Forward Commission and SB 204 to effectively partner with volunteer organizations;
- Hold State Parks and staff accountable to complete on the ground trail maintenance and construction;
- Complete important Road and Trail Management Plans and Change in Use requests that are years

overdue in most cases;

- Require State Parks to balance recreational uses for all users, but specifically underserved youth and mountain bikers with conservation.

I saw the recent social media post (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CORUeOOJSDp/>) and KCRA news story related to the destruction of a bicycle jump area in the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA) in Granite Bay by State Parks staff. I think the outpouring of well over 1,000 negative responses to State Parks action speaks for itself as to how far out of touch State Parks is with the primary users of this Park.

While one might reasonably ask why young people feel the need to build things in a State Park without the appropriate approvals and official oversight; the answer is quite simple...State Parks consistently fails to meet the needs of trail recreation enthusiasts, especially youth. The construction of the jumps was a symptom of Parks failure to provide adequate recreational resources, even in accordance with Park's own goals to move any project forward in a reasonable time frame. Please do not view this situation through the myopic lens of preventing unsanctioned trail building; or as an example of good Parks stewardship. State Parks appears to have an anti-recreation bias that prioritizes conservation interests far above and beyond the needs and expectations of park users or statutes. Gold Fields District is especially remiss, and that shows at Granite Bay which is officially part of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Conservation is important, but Parks needs to serve all users, and that includes people who like to ride bikes on dirt trails with some challenge and even the associated risk.

As a member of the Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition (FATRAC), I know that the mountain bike community has been working with State Parks since the late 1980s. Much was done in those early years, including construction of trails in both Auburn and FLSRA. Sadly, there have been no new trails built since the Foresthill Divide Connector, in approximately 2003 and the Sweetwater Trail in approximately 1996. In addition, the key document to building new trails, the Road and Trail Management Plans (RTMP) for FLSRA has been held up for well over 5 years, but really should have been updated and implemented over a decade ago, and Auburn SRA is on the same path. This lack of direction ties the hands of anyone hoping to make improvements within these SRA trail systems. Unfortunately, this problem is systemic in probably 70+% percent of the State Parks in California, one of the many reasons I also joined the newly formed California Mountain Biking Coalition.

The trails we do have do not get maintained in Folsom Lake and Auburn SRAs. FATRAC has volunteers and expertise to maintain those trails, but is consistently prevented from doing so because of a misguided bureaucracy that favors procedure over getting things done on the ground. Which makes it all the more frustrating that Parks would prioritize removing those existing jumps in lieu of other deferred maintenance projects that are of far greater safety and environmental concern. It appears in practice, if not actual policy that underground regulations are used to prohibit basic trail maintenance, let alone new projects. CEQA is very clear that maintenance of existing trails does not need such extensive environmental reviews, but Parks staff insist on it.

Active recreation such as mountain biking is very important for youth and for adults who need healthy pastimes. COVID has made that more obvious than ever. I request you hold legislative hearings to re-enforce the intent of the Parks Forward Commission and SB 204, and consider any and all other ways to make State Parks more responsive to active recreation groups.

Thank you,

[name]

[complete address (so they know you live in their district)]