

State Park Not a Bargain for Taxpayers:

This letter is in response to the Appeal Democrat editorial on the Sutter Buttes on April 28.

Taxpayer dollars were spent on a landlocked property, known as Peace Valley, located on the north slope of the Sutter Buttes. Parks and Recreation paid over two million dollars more for the property than it sold for just five years prior for a grand total of \$2.9 million. The property is beautiful in the spring, unusable in the winter and a rattlesnake, insect, feral pig infested bake oven the rest of the year.

After a little research on the purchase of the property, one could conclude that the entire “deal” smacks of insider trader. In addition, the State has used strong arm tactics trying to gain a public right of way through the middle of productive farm land, forcing property owners to hire attorneys to protect their private property rights.

When the budget crunch hit, a list of parks were chosen to be shut down. Instead of choosing Peace Valley, more popular and heavily used parks, such as Colusa, were selected. How was this decision made? Where was the public participation, what criteria was used and, finally, why was this landlocked, unfriendly, and unusable property given a pass?

The answer is obvious. The State sees Peace Valley as their first acquisition of the Sutter Buttes with the ultimate goal of owning the entire mountain. They have demonstrated contempt toward private property rights and a willingness to squander taxpayer dollars and use the heavy hand of government to achieve this goal. This bureaucratic empire has lost sight of their reason for existence, which is to serve the public. Perhaps it is time for the taxpayers to stand up and say, “Enough is Enough! Dump “Peace Valley” and other “loser” parks and support the parks that are frequented, popular and economically feasible.

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