

Bucket list of state parks to see before they close

By Dixie Reid, Sacramento Bee

California's State Parks face an uncertain future. Because of budget cuts, Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed closing as many as 70 historic sites, beaches and recreation areas by July 2012.

If it happens, Californians no longer will have access to some of the state's most cherished treasures, such as the Governor's Mansion in Sacramento, a great fishing spot at Brannan Island and the enormous gold nugget on display at a Mariposa museum.

Here is a list of 15 must-see parks from the governor's "hit list" and the reasons they should be on everyone Californian's must-visit list during the next 13 months.

Be aware that services in some parks already have been reduced. For details on any site in the California State Parks system, go online.

Read the whole story