A Resolution against the Closure of 70 California State Parks in July 2012

WHEREAS, Due to a $22 million general fund budget cut in 2011, the Department of Parks and Recreation in California proposed the closure of 70 state parks in July 2012—the first time in 100 years that a state park will be closed; and

WHEREAS, The California state parks are of economic, natural, historical and cultural importance to the people of California, generating a total of $4 billion in economic activity across the state in 2010 and creating greater revenue than funding it received from the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, The Bay Area is economically supported by the cultural, historical, natural and recreational values of local state parks that are slated to close, including Benicia State Recreation Area, Benicia Capitol State Historical Park, Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, Portola Redwoods State Park and Gray Whale Cove State Beach; and

WHEREAS, The closure of the state parks will leave habitats, species, cultural and historical landmarks, and natural resources without protection from deterioration and crime, prohibiting students of all ages from developing their education; and

WHEREAS, That, as an initiative to raise awareness surrounding the importance of conserving our natural resources, CSSA passed Resolution 27-11 to suggest amending the California State University Sustainability Policy; and

WHEREAS, Legislation, such as AB42 ("An act to add and repeal Section 5080.42 of the Public Resources Code, relating to state parks"), SB644 ("An act to add Section 5451.5 to the Government Code, relating to local finance, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately"), and SB974 ("An act to add Section 5080.45 to the Public Resources Code, relating to state parks"), will continue to be written and passed through the Legislature to support the state parks in their time of need; and

WHEREAS, The students at CSU East Bay and across the California State Universities, particularly those in environmental science, geography or biology majors, will be primarily affected by these closures due to their loss of job opportunity and supplement to classroom instruction; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of the California State University, East Bay (CSU East Bay), as the voice for students on campus, oppose the state’s decision to close the 70 state parks as a solution to the budget cuts across the state; be it further

RESOLVED, The ASI of CSU East Bay support AB42, SB644, AB587 and subsequent legislation that will provide for the state parks through establishing alternate funding programs; be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be distributed widely among all California State University (CSU) campuses to encourage other campus entities to protect the state parks.