

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

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3 WHEREAS, Due to a \$22 million general fund budget cut in 2011, the Department of Parks and
4 Recreation in California proposed the closure of 70 state parks in July 2012—the first time in
5 100 years that a state park will be closed; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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