

Article 3.6. Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve

(Article 3.6 added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 670, Sec. 1)

5045. (a) The tufa and associated sand structures at Mono Lake are a valuable geologic and scientific natural resource and are unique in North America for their beauty, abundance, diversity, and public accessibility. Their extreme fragility requires special measures for their protection and preservation for the enjoyment and education of the public.

(b) The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve is hereby established as a unit of the state park system and shall consist of the state-owned portions of the Mono Lake bed lying at or below the elevation of 6,417 feet above sea level. As soon as practicable after January 1, 1982, the State Lands Commission shall issue a permit for occupancy to the department pursuant to Section 6221.

(Added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 670, Sec. 1.)

5046. (a) The reserve shall be managed primarily for the purpose of protecting the tufa and associated sand structures and providing for their interpretation. The department shall designate public accessways to Mono Lake for recreational and other purposes that are not in conflict with the preservation of the tufa and associated sand structures.

(b) The department may enter into agreements with any other public agency to provide for the joint management of the reserve and the provision of visitor and interpretive services and facilities in connection therewith. For purposes of administrative support, departmental personnel may be assigned to any other unit of the state park system in the vicinity of the reserve.

(c) The department shall commence managing the reserve as soon as practicable after January 1, 1982, and, to this end, the reserve is exempt from the requirements of subdivision (a) of Section 5002.2 because the only improvements contemplated at the reserve are temporary facilities within the meaning of subdivision (c) of Section 5002.2.

(Added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 670, Sec. 1.)

5047. (a) No provision of this article shall be construed to interfere with any reasonable use of land or other activity existing or occurring on or before January 1, 1981, within the boundary of the reserve that does not conflict with the purposes for which the reserve is established. Accordingly, any such use of land or other activity is not subject to Section 5001.65.

(b) No provision of this article or Section 5019.65 is intended, nor shall be construed, to interfere in any way with the City of Los Angeles' diversion of water from streams tributary to Mono Lake pursuant to state water rights licenses numbered 10191 and 10192.

(c) No provision of this article shall be construed to affirm or deny the legal right of the City of Los Angeles to divert water from the Mono Basin.

(d) No provision of this article shall be construed for the purpose of establishing, or interfering with the establishment of, the ownership of relicted lands in the current litigation between California and the United States.

(Added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 670, Sec. 1.)

5048. Any disturbance, defacement, displacement, or other interference with any

tufa or associated sand structure by any person or instrumentality is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

This section shall apply to all tufa and associated sand structures within the Mono Lake basin, regardless of their location on public or private lands or within or without the boundaries of the reserve. The department shall provide for the enforcement of, and any other peace officer within the Mono Basin shall enforce, this section.

(Added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 670, Sec. 1.)

5049. Natural or artificially caused accretion or reliction of the waters of Mono Lake shall not be deemed contrary to the purposes of this article.

(Added by Stats. 1981, Ch. 670, Sec. 1.)

Article 4. Hostel Facilities

(Article 4 added by Stats. 1974, Ch. 265)

5050. This article shall be known and may be cited as the Collier-Keene State Hostel Facilities Act.

(Added by Stats. 1974, Ch. 265.)

5051. The Legislature finds that a substantial number of Californians bicycle and walk for recreational enjoyment and that, given safer routes and more suitable accommodations, would choose such travel means to reach and enjoy scenic areas and recreation facilities throughout the state. The Legislature finds that it is in the public interest to provide means for bicyclists and hikers to reach safely, and utilize conveniently, units of the state park system and local and regional parks and recreation areas. The Legislature specifically finds that the existing mix of motor vehicles and bicycles on the highways of the state creates hazards to motorists and cyclists alike and demands immediate remedial action.

(Amended by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1440.)

5052. As used in this article, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

(a) "Hostel facility" means a supervised overnight lodging or sleeping accommodation provided primarily for use by persons, including bicyclists and hikers, arriving at state park system units and local and regional parks and recreation areas. Hostel facilities shall include sleeping areas for individuals or groups, water, washrooms, sanitary facilities, and means by which the users of hostel facilities may prepare their own meals.

(b) "Recreational trail" means a pathway situated and constructed so as to provide safe and convenient means for persons, including bicyclists, hikers, and horsemen, to travel to and between state park system units other than by motor vehicle.

(Amended by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1440.)

5053. (a) The department may provide hostel facilities in any unit of the state park system where consistent with the general development plan for such unit, and may provide for hostel facilities in the general plan for any unit; provided, however, that no hostel facility may be provided in any unit classified as a state wilderness, natural