

Dear Governor Brown

It is with great sadness that I hereby tender my resignation. I have been honored to serve in your Administration these past 18 months, and to serve the visitors to California State Parks for the past decade.

While I was unaware of the excessive balance in the State Park and Recreation Fund, I must accept full responsibility as a Director of a department for the veracity of budget documents issued by the department. I have always taken the public trust to heart and honored it and I am personally appalled to learn that our documents were not accurate. Once I learned of these errors, our department reached out to the Department of Finance to correct the record.

The signature characteristic of a leader is to take responsibility and to be held accountable for the organization they lead.

The vast majority of State Park employees are of the highest caliber of any organization, public or private. They should not be maligned by the actions of a few. I know they will continue to provide outstanding service to the people of California. It has been my highest honor to serve them and the public.

In particular I am proud of every member of this department that worked so hard with community groups across the state to develop creative solutions that will keep all but two of the target list parks open this year. State parks are the jewels of the state's historic and natural resource legacy. I urge you to recognize the positive effort of this department in keeping the parks open to the public and include these unequalled assets in future year budget priorities for both operating funds and tackling the significant deferred maintenance backlog.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve since you took office.

Sincerely,
Ruth Coleman