



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals
Highway Three Rivers,
CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Contact: Deb Schweizer 559-565-3703

Alex Picavet 559-565-3131

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Receive up to \$14 Million as part of National Recovery Package

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks had five projects approved as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The projects are part of an investment of \$750 million in our national park system part of more than \$3 billion the Interior Department is investing in the nation's economy.

These projects for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks are:

- 1) Replacing potable water tanks and providing improved fire suppression capabilities at Ash Mountain headquarters. This project replaces an aging water tank system built in the 1930s and 1940s. The project includes replacing the tanks, new water distribution line and replacing and upgrading fire hydrant and fire service lines, and adding an emergency generator so that water systems can function during power outages. Estimated cost: up to \$10.4 million.
- 2) Replace propane generator with hybrid photovoltaic system at Crystal Cave. This project provides a greener, quieter, and more energy efficient system for the Crystal Cave facilities (including cave lighting and support of the cave tour operation). Estimated Cost is \$2-300,000
- 3) Replace Wastewater Monitoring Components. This project involves cyclic replacement of mandatory compliance monitoring components of the five wastewater treatment plants and 17 potable water systems in the parks. Estimated costs up to \$345,000
- 4) Rebuild storm-damaged Kennedy Pass Trail. This trail received damage during a severe rainstorm in August 2008 that resulted in a new gully on the trail switchbacks. Estimated costs are \$84,000
- 5) Rebuild trail damaged during Tehipite Fire and clear fallen trees from trail. Estimated costs in \$75,000

The Recovery Act funding provides for important maintenance projects that were identified needs for the parks. The projects are "shovel ready" and work should begin this summer.

"These parks are pleased with the projects that were selected as part of the National Recovery Package," said Parks Superintendent Craig C. Axtell. "It shows a continued investment in these parks for all Americans and also provides employment opportunities for local areas struggling during this tough economic time."

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