**You can Help Establish Tesla as a State Reserve -**

**Email State Parks supporting**

**Tesla Reserve classification**

Dear Friends of Tesla Park,

**Tesla needs you again.**

We continue to work to have Tesla classified as a State Reserve. As a Reserve, the management priority will be to protect Tesla’s abundant and sensitive natural and cultural resources, while allowing low intensity passive recreation.

California State Parks is in the process of developing their classification decision. It is expected to be made at a public hearing of the State Park and Recreation Commission this Fall. Opposition is forming to classifying Tesla as a Reserve.

We need your help now to call on the State Park and Recreation Commission to classify Tesla as a State Reserve.

**Take an important step today - Email State Parks to classify Tesla as a Reserve.**

Please email the State Park and Recreation Commission and call on them to classify Tesla as a State Reserve.

A sample email follows which you can use or customize your own message. Even if you have emailed before or attended a meeting, please email again.

Local Indigenous leaders have given Tesla the name “*Hismet Warep*” meaning “*Sacred Earth*” in the Chochenyo language of the Ohlone people. It is a call to action to protect this sacred land.

Thank you for sending an email to the State Park and Recreation Commission today. And thank you for your continued help to establish Tesla as a State Reserve.

**Sample Email to Send to State Parks Commission**

**TO: California State Park and Recreation Commission Chair and Commissioners and Armando Quintero, Director, California State Parks**

**EMAIL TO:** **info@alamedateslaplan.com****;** **SPR.Commission@parks.ca.gov****;** **info@parks.ca.gov**

Dear Chair Ginsburg, Commissioners and Director Quintero:

I am writing to ask that the State Park and Recreation Commission classify Tesla as a State Reserve. Classification as a Reserve is needed to best protect Tesla’s exceptional and irreplaceable biodiversity, ecological values and cultural resources.

Tesla has natural, cultural and scenic values of statewide significance exceeding the statutory requirements for Reserve classification. It has at least 52 threatened, endangered and other protected special status wildlife species. Tesla is Federally Designated Critical Habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake and California Red-legged frog and part of an Audubon Important Bird Area. There are 45 rare plants and 74 locally rare/watch list plants identified thus far in Tesla’s varied habitats and it is part of an East Bay California Native Plant Society Botanical Priority Protection Area. A Critical Linkage Habitat Corridor runs through Tesla and it’s home to golden eagles, mountain lions and tule elk. It has been identified as a top conservation target in multiple assessments and research. It holds the site of the historic Tesla coal mine and town. It is ancestral homeland for the Ohlone and Northern Valley Yokut people with numerous archeological features and sacred ceremonial sites. Local Indigenous leaders have given Tesla the name “*Hismet Warep*” meaning “*Sacred Earth*” in the Chochenyo language of the Ohlone people.

There are over 20 other local, regional and state parks in the area that provide a wide range of active recreation opportunities and developed facilities. But there are no State Reserves in this district. Tesla is a unique natural and cultural landscape and intact ecosystem that is irreplaceable because of its specific wildlife, plants and habitats and because of its geographic location and associated biological functions. The biotic and cultural values that Tesla holds cannot be replicated.

If State priorities for achieving 30x30 conservation goals, biodiversity preservation and Native American restorative justice are to be real, then Tesla is the place where words must be put into action.

Classifying Tesla as a Reserve organized around its natural and cultural heritage is an incredible opportunity for State Parks that should not be minimized or passed by. Please classify Tesla as a State Reserve to permanently protect this iconic part of our State.

Name, City