

ASPHALT PAVEMENT NEWS



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FIX OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND SUPPORT 16,543 JOBS IN CALIFORNIA; NEW ANALYSIS SHOWS POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. (January 25, 2018). An analysis commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts and prepared by Cadmus Group shows that investing in the maintenance of our national parks could create or support more than 16,500 jobs here in California, and 110,169 jobs across the country.

“This new projection shows that investing in our national parks pays off right here in our state by creating or supporting good jobs,” said Russell Snyder, executive director of the California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA). “Many national parks have waited too long for these needed and backlogged repairs. By addressing these infrastructure challenges, we can better protect these national treasures from further infrastructure challenges.”

The National Park Service (NPS) reports it has more than 42,000 assets across its 400-plus sites that have overdue infrastructure repairs and that fixing them will cost approximately \$11.3 billion (based on 2016 data). This deferred maintenance includes crumbling roads, deteriorating historic buildings, impassable trails, and outdated utility systems, all of which can negatively impact visitor access and safety, the protection of our nation’s history, and local communities that depend on park visitation for economic survival.

In California alone, approximately \$1.7 billion is needed to address deferred maintenance repairs, including repairs to roads, bridges and other infrastructure systems. If an investment were made to fully address the deferred maintenance in each of the National Park units in our state, it could create or support 16,543 jobs.

“Our national parks are not only important places to visit—offering educational and recreation opportunities to visitors—they are proven economic drivers, playing host to more than 41 million visitors each year in California, adding nearly \$3 billion to our state economy,” said Mike Herlax with Syar Industries of Napa, Calif., Immediate Past Chairman of CalAPA. “Infrastructure-related jobs help to ensure the longevity of parks in California, maintain a positive visitor experience, and benefit our local, regional, and state economies. This is essential to the quality of life we cherish here in California.”

Park rangers have had their hands tied because they have not received adequate and reliable congressional funding to make the necessary repairs at sites that are often decades old and are experiencing pressure from increased visitation. National parks help all Americans celebrate and commemorate our history, marvel at natural wonders, and enjoy a myriad of recreational activities. By investing in them, we will create or support jobs and ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy them.

To download a copy of the infrastructure study of the National Parks System commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trusts, click [HERE](#).

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The California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA), founded in 1953, is a non-profit trade association representing the asphalt pavement industry in California. CalAPA members include asphalt producers, refiners, paving contractors, testing labs, consulting engineers, product suppliers, equipment manufacturers and representatives from other companies related to the asphalt pavement industry in California. CalAPA member firms employ tens of thousands of people in California.