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Director of California State Parks to be Keynote Speaker at River Partners' Annual Dinner

Event Celebrates State Parks & Restoration in the Central Valley

CHICO, CA –March 5, 2007 – Chico-based River Partners proudly announces that Ruth Coleman, Director of California Department of Parks and Recreation, will be the keynote speaker at its Annual Dinner, March 23, 2007, at the Sierra Nevada Big Room in Chico.

River Partners' Annual Dinner & Silent Auction is a tradition that is growing into a community event. This year's theme is "Celebrating Restoration and California State Parks" In addition to raising money to support environmental restoration projects, the Annual Dinner program hopes to raise awareness of River Partners' role in increasing public lands and river land habitat in the Central Valley. Admission is \$40 per person and reservation may be made by contacting River Partners' Chico Office at (530) 894-5401 ext 22, or visiting River Partners' website, www.RiverPartners.org.

"River Partners is honored and thrilled to have Director Coleman as our special guest speaker. We're also proud to support the California State Parks and its goals for the Central Valley," says John Carlon, President of River Partners.

Ruth Coleman has served as director of the Department of Parks and Recreation since 2003. She previously served as chief deputy director and deputy director for legislation from 1999 to 2002. Before coming to State Parks, Ms. Coleman worked as Policy Director for Assemblywoman Helen Thomson for one year, responsible for legislative issues relating to water, agriculture and land use. Prior to that, she was Legislative Director for State Senator Mike Thompson, coordinating his legislative agenda and providing staff leadership on such major environmental legislation as a park bond, salmon and steelhead restoration, and the protection of the Headwaters Forest.

River Partners, an environmental nonprofit with offices in Modesto and Chico, specializes in river habitat restoration. Since 1998 it has planted over 750,000 native trees, shrubs and plants and initiated restoration on over 6,000 acres along the Sacramento, Feather, Tuolumne, Stanislaus and San Joaquin rivers. Its mission is to create wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment.

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