

SUPERINTENDENTS' CORNER

From Herbert S. Cables, Jr., Superintendent of Gateway NRA

I read the first issue of Pacific Park Science and found it to be a most important effort. I was especially interested because the interwoven responses of many different scientific disciplines are at the foundation of Gateway NRA and undergird our master plan. The accumulated scientific information about our vanishing local natural resources, impacted by urban sprawl and unplanned development, provided the framework for creation of that plan.

Management decisions need a catalyst — in the form of knowledgeable individuals responsible for implementation of monitoring, data collection and interpretation, and sound resource protection recommendations. Few NPS Regions, let alone parks, have such diversified expertise on their staffs. Here at Gateway in our early development stages, it was the Cooperative Park Studies Unit concept and the concrete help from CPSU's such as those at C.U.N.Y. and Rutgers University that helped provide much of the information for basing management decisions.

In a recent paper, written with Natural Resources Management Specialist John Tanacredi, (to be reviewed in the spring issue), I discussed our coastal management policy emphasis here at Gateway, covering several management scenarios. Without creditable and supportive scientific information, we could have taken actions that would have incurred irreversible long-term impacts on both natural and cultural resources. My own feeling is that it is not merely a matter of "more or less" science today, but instead a sense of "application" ... applying all available scientific resources to specific management problems in order to best serve the parks in our care and the people who enjoy them. I look forward to greater emphasis in the CPSU activities at Gateway.

