



**STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE**

JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa
Palm Desert, CA
March 26, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Planning Update
STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division
SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts

I STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No Action Needed, Informational Only.

II BACKGROUND

Katie Metraux, Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning and Recreational Services Division, will present a report highlighting several planning efforts underway within State Park units.

The update includes information regarding Alameda Tesla, Delta Meadows, and Dos Rios Classification and General Plan projects; Gaviota State Park, Refugio State Beach, and El Capitán State Beach Joint General Plan Update; Clear Lake and Great Valley Grasslands State Parks general plans; Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan Update; Wildwood Canyon Park Property Classification project; Trionne-Annadel Road and Trail Management Plan; Cornerstone Documents, and the California Recreational Trails Plan update.

III ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report
- Plans in progress chart



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Palm Desert, CA

March 26, 2025

STAFF REPORT: Update on State Park Planning Projects

STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation
Services Division

SUBJECT: State Park Planning Projects

OBJECTIVE

Summary

Several planning efforts and studies are underway at State Park units and statewide, including general plans, management plans, Cornerstone Documents, and visitor studies. This report describes each plan's purpose, process, and current milestones.

INTRODUCTION

This section describes the purpose of general plans and management plans

General Plans

The General Plan defines the park's primary purpose and establishes a management direction for its future. It guides day-to-day decision-making by providing a clear purpose and vision, guidance on long and short-term goals, and guidelines. It also serves as the basis for developing focused feasibility and management plans, specific project plans, and other management actions necessary to implement the goals of the general plan. The development of the general plan includes a complete programmatic Environmental Impact Report, which is considered a project under CEQA.

The general plan is primarily a "goal-based" rather than an "objective-based" document. General plan goals and associated guidelines define park managers' and system operators' ultimate purpose and intention but stop short of defining a specific accomplishment and timeframe for accomplishing those goals. Subsequent planning documents, such as management or specific project plans, develop this level of specificity. The development of a general plan includes a complete programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR), considered a project for CEQA (California Public

Resources Code (PRC) Division 13. Environmental Quality, Chapter 1, Commencing with [Section 21000](#)). See PRC Section [5002.2](#) about General Plans and related State Park and Recreation Commission's duties for reviewing and approving them.

Management Plans

Management plans provide specific guidance and direction for implementing the goals and guidelines of a park unit's general plan. These plans typically implement one resource of the general plan's goals and guidelines, such as cultural and natural resource management, facilities, interpretation and education, or trails. For example, road and trail management plans examine a park's existing road system and provide specific direction for its long-term construction, maintenance, and management. An environmental review document may be required per CEQA compliance.

GENERAL PLAN PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Alameda-Tesla Property Classification and General Plan

The Alameda-Tesla Property includes over 3,000 acres of land approximately eight miles west of Interstate 580, and midway between the City of Livermore to the west and the City of Tracy to the east. It is adjacent to the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area to the east and is managed by the Diablo Range District. This project includes classifying and naming the property as a new park within the State Parks system and developing a general plan and environmental impact report. These planning efforts will determine land use and public access and guide future management.

State Parks submitted a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as the lead agency on January 15, 2025. This NOP informs agencies and the public that an EIR is being prepared to address potential environmental effects resulting from the approval and implementation of the General Plan Project. The public comment period was from January 15 to February 14, 2025, and a virtual scoping meeting was held on January 28, 2025.

The next step in the planning process is developing a range of potential land use concepts for resource management, visitor access and recreation, interpretation and education programs, facilities, and park operations. The Planning Team will host a public meeting in Summer 2025, to present the draft land use concepts and receive comments. Please visit the Alameda-Tesla Classification and General Plan project [webpage](http://www.alamedateslaplan.com) (www.alamedateslaplan.com) to learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Clear Lake State Park General Plan

Clear Lake State Park (SP) is an approximately 590-acre park on the southeast shore of Clear Lake, the largest freshwater lake in California. The park is located within

unincorporated Lake County, about 125 miles north of San Francisco and 100 miles northwest of Sacramento. The Northern Buttes District manages the park. Clear Lake SP was fully opened to the public in 1952. Since then, the park has grown to include a visitor center, four campgrounds, cabins, a day-use picnic area, a boat launch and marina, a swimming beach, and hiking trails.

A guiding 'General Development Plan' map was created for Clear Lake SP in 1966, but no other long-term plan exists for the park. The General Plan process began in February 2024 and will be completed over three years. The EIR process will begin in early 2026 and be completed in early 2027. The first stakeholder meeting was held virtually on June 13, 2024, and the first public meeting was held on August 21, 2024, at Clear Lake State Park. Draft Planning Concepts are being drafted and a second public meeting will be held in summer 2025. Please visit the Clear Lake SP General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, take a visitor experience survey, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan Project

Delta Meadows is a 470-acre unclassified unit in Sacramento County, adjacent to Locke and Walnut Grove and 37 miles south of Sacramento. The property also includes a separate unclassified unit, the Locke Boarding House—a one-acre historic building and museum in the town of Locke. The Department acquired the Delta Meadows property in 1985 and adopted a purpose statement in 2000. Diablo Range District manages the property. Both units will be considered in the classification and general plan project, which is now underway and expected to finish in 2028.

The first in-person public meeting was held on November 12, 2024, in Walnut Grove, and a virtual follow-up public meeting was held on January 22, 2025. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report was released on January 14, 2025, and the NOP Scoping Meeting was held virtually on January 30, 2025. The Existing Conditions section of the General Plan is being drafted. A stakeholder meeting will be held in summer 2025. Please visit the Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Dos Rios Classification and General Plan Project

Located about 8 miles west of Modesto in the Central Valley, the approximately 1,600-acre Dos Rios property is the largest public-private floodplain restoration project in California to restore habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife at the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers. The property is between Modesto and Patterson in Stanislaus County and is adjacent to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. The Central Valley District manages the proposed park.

A portion of the park opened to the public on June 12, 2024, through a partnership between [River Partners](#), California State Parks, and the California Conservation Corps.

The Dos Rios Classification Process and General Plan Project includes work to classify and name the property as a new individual park unit within the California State Parks system and the development of a General Plan and EIR. The project will start in the Spring of 2025 and is anticipated to take approximately three to five years to complete. Please visit the Dos Rios Classification and General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Great Valley Grasslands State Park General Plan

Great Valley Grasslands State Park is a 2,826-acre park unit along the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley. It is located in Merced County, about 25 miles west of Merced and six miles east of Gustine. The Central Valley District manages the park.

The first stakeholder meeting was held virtually on June 5, 2024, and a virtual Community Outreach meeting was held on October 8, 2024. The Draft Planning Alternatives section of the General Plan is currently being drafted and a second public meeting to present the planning alternatives will be held in summer 2025. The General Plan process began in February 2024 and will be completed over three years. The EIR process will begin in early 2026 and be completed in early 2027. Please visit the General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, take a visitor experience survey, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Gaviota State Park, Refugio State Beach, and El Capitán State Beach Joint General Plan Update

El Capitán SB, Refugio SB, and Gaviota SP are all located off U.S. Highway 101 in Santa Barbara County, approximately 20-30 miles north of Santa Barbara. They provide unique recreational experiences to visitors from across the state and residents of nearby cities and towns like Lompoc and Santa Ynez. These three parks provide coastal access, developed day use, and overnight camping facilities and are rich in recreational opportunities and natural, cultural, and tribal resources.

All three parks have experienced many changes since the original General Plans were adopted, and the guidance provided in the 1979 plans is now outdated. Ongoing damage from severe winter storms, impending sea-level rise and other climate change impacts, aging infrastructure, significant acquisition of new property, high recreation demand, and the need to protect natural, cultural, and recreational resources all contribute to the need for updated plans that reflect the current realities at El Capitán SB, Refugio SB, and Gaviota SP.

The General Plan process began in 2023 and will be completed over five years. Resource data gathering has been a main focus, as well as garnering information

through the project webpage from visitors, stakeholders, and the general public on important issues, memories, and desires for these popular coastal units. In December 2024, the Notice of Preparation (NOP) required for the environmental review process was released. It closed in January 2025 after receiving comments on many diverse aspects of these parks. Meetings with stakeholders and preparation for the initial public workshops are underway. Visit the General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, take a visitor experience survey, sign up for updates, and get involved.

PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan Amendment

This provides an update on a proposed General Plan Amendment for Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP) located in the City of Los Angeles.

LA Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies LLC, the Project Proponent (LA ARTT), has proposed a 1.2 mile-long aerial gondola system project that would connect Los Angeles Union Station to Dodger Stadium. The proposed project would include an intermediate station at the southernmost corner of LASHP. The station would require the long-term use of 0.21 acres of LASHP land with approximately up to 1.87 acres of the 32-acre park (6%) that would have some use restrictions due to the aerial infrastructure of the system. State Parks has determined that this public transit use is not allowed within the current LASHP General Plan and that a general plan amendment (GPA) would be needed to allow it.

Current Status: In February 2024, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) approved the proposed LA ARTT project and certified its Final Environmental Impact Report with conditions, including the aforementioned LASHP general plan amendment. LA ARTT informed State Parks that they are moving forward with the required GPA.

The initial step in preparing the GPA will be a comprehensive Public Outreach effort to engage the public, stakeholders, and other interested parties to inform the proposed LASHP GPA. This public outreach effort began in October 2024 and plans to extend into early 2025. With the Palisades Fire impacting the workload and priorities for the Angeles District staff, the GPA outreach efforts have been put on hold. They would likely resume later in 2025. We recommend visiting the project website at lastatehistoricparkgpa.com for schedule updates.

When re-engaged, State Parks will participate in this public outreach effort and meet with LA ARTT during this period to ensure that this proposal addresses all impacts to LASHP. LA ARTT currently intends to submit the draft GPA proposal to State Parks for review once the GPA effort is re-engaged. Once State Parks reviews and determines that the GPA meets the required standards and conditions, it would be scheduled for a State Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda.

CLASSIFICATION PROJECTS

Wildwood Canyon Park Property (Inland Empire District)

Wildwood Canyon Park Property is located in the eastern foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains approximately two miles from the City of Yucaipa in San Bernardino County. The property preserves ancient oak woodlands, tribal sites, and pioneer homesteads. A draft classification report is in progress and is anticipated to be completed in September 2025. A public meeting will be held in the summer of 2025.

CORNERSTONE DOCUMENTS

The Cornerstone Document summarizes what is known about a park and expands on the unit's classification and Declaration of Purpose by highlighting its primary purpose(s) and values in detail. It is based on research and technical advice from diverse disciplines and input from community stakeholders, including California Native American Tribes. A Cornerstone Document forms the basis for future, detailed strategies and projects for park operations and improvements. It is a dynamic document that is subject to revision as new information is discovered about a park or as public recreation values change. Every unit of the State Park System should have a Cornerstone Document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management.

Eight (8) districts are currently working on completing nine (9) Cornerstone Documents. A consultant assists eight (8) park units in preparing and developing their Cornerstone Documents. The Big Basin Redwoods State Park Cornerstone Document was completed in October 2023.

The following park units are developing their Cornerstone Documents:

Castle Crags State Park, Andrew Molera State Park, Emerald Bay SP and D.L. Bliss State Parks, Tolowa Dunes State Park, Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, Mendocino Woodlands State Park, Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, and Trione-Annadel State Park.

ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLANS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Trione-Annadel State Park

The purpose of the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) is to provide a comprehensive planning document that examines Trione-Annadel State Park's existing system of roads and trails to provide direction for their long-term planning, design, construction, maintenance, and management. It considers current and potential public use, park operations, and the protection and enhancement of cultural and natural resources to ensure recreational trail opportunities are available to their fullest potential while protecting vital resources. The RTMP is just getting underway and should be

completed by early 2027. For further information, please visit the Trione-Annadel RTMP website. Please send any other project-related questions or concerns to trails@parks.ca.gov.

STATEWIDE CALIFORNIA RECREATION TRAILS PLAN UPDATE

The California Recreational Trails Plan (Plan) is a guide produced by California State Parks for all California agencies and recreation providers that manage trails. One outstanding benefit of the plan is how the input of the various statewide trail experts and constituents is implemented in providing guidance for improving our trail networks through aligned trails and programs. The Plan assesses present and future demand for trails and recommends an integrated system of trail routes.

The Statewide Trail Office Staff have held two public meetings and one workshop associated with the Plan. Over the next six months, the plan will be updated with new information and updated data/figures and brought to the State Park and Recreation Commission for review and comment later this year.

NEXT STEPS

For information only.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

State Park Plans in Progress Chart

Planning project status chart for State Park units.ⁱ

Unit Name and District	District	Type of plan	Potential Commission Hearing for Action	Current Milestone
Alameda-Tesla Property	Diablo Range	Classification and General Plan	2027	Notice of Preparation (January-February 2025), Draft Planning Concepts (Spring/Summer 2025)
Clear Lake State Park	Northern Buttes	General Plan	2027	Draft Planning Concepts Spring/Summer 2025
Delta Meadows Property	Diablo Range	Classification and General Plan	2028	Notice of Preparation (January-February 2025), Draft Planning Concepts (Spring/Summer 2025)
Dos Rios Property	Central Valley	Classification and General Plan	2028	Project Start up expected in Spring 2025
Gaviota Coast Unit General Plans (ECRG: Gaviota SP, Refugio SB, El Capitan SB)	Channel Coast	General Plan	2027	Notice of Preparation (December 2024-January 2025)
Great Valley Grasslands SP	Central Valley	General Plan	2027	Draft Planning Concepts Spring/Summer 2025
Los Angeles State Historic Park	Angeles	General Plan Amendment	TBD, Fall 2025	Public outreach and engagement
Salton Sea SRA	Ocotillo Wells	General Plan	2028	Project Start up expected in Spring 2025
Wildwood Canyon Park Property	Inland Empire	Classification Report	Fall 2025	Project Start up Winter 2024/2025
Trione-Annadel SP	Bay Area	Road and Trail Management Plan	TBD	Project Start up Winter 2024/2025
Andrew Molera SP	Bay Area	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025
Castle Crags SP	Northern Buttes	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025

Unit Name and District	District	Type of plan	Potential Commission Hearing for Action	Current Milestone
Colonel Allensworth SHP	Great Basin	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Public engagement underway
Emerald Bay SP/D.L. Bliss SP	Sierra	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025
Mendocino Woodlands SP	Sonoma Coast/Mendocino	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is being prepared.
Montgomery Woods SNR	Sonoma Coast/Mendocino	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is being prepared.
Railtown 1897 SHP	Central Valley	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025
Tolowa Dunes SP	North Coast Redwoods	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025
Trione-Annadel SP	Bay Area	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is being prepared.

ⁱ Does not include planning projects for State Vehicular Recreation Areas.