



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

State Park and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, California 94286

Telephone: (916) 902-8651

Armando Quintero, *Director*

**STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE
Springhill Suites by Marriott
West Sacramento, CA
September 25, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: Planning Update

STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services
Division

SUBJECT: State Parks Planning Projects

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational only

BACKGROUND

Background on the agenda item

ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report
- State Park Plans in Progress Chart
- [Alameda-Tesla Classification and General Plan Project webpage](#)
- [Clear Lake SP General Plan Project webpage](#)
- [Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan Project webpage](#)
- [Dos Rios Classification and General Plan Project webpage](#)
- [Great Valley Grasslands State Park General Plan webpage](#)
- [Gaviota State Park, Refugio State Beach, and El Capitán State Beach Joint General Plan Project webpage](#)
- [LA State Historic Park General Plan Amendment Project webpage](#)
- [Wildwood Canyon Classification Project webpage](#)



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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September 25, 2025

STAFF REPORT: Update on State Park Planning Projects

STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services
Division

SUBJECT: State Parks 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, as well as guidance on both long-term and short-term goals, and clear guidelines. It also serves as the basis for developing focused feasibility and management plans, as well as 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 the ultimate purpose and intention of park managers and system operators, but stop short of defining a specific accomplishment and timeframe for achieving 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 involves classifying and naming the property as a new unit within the State Park System, as well as developing a general plan and an environmental impact report. These planning efforts will determine land use and public access and guide future management.

The planning team developed a range of potential land use concepts for resource management, visitor access and recreation, interpretation and education programs, facilities, and park operations. State Parks hosted an in-person workshop on September 20, 2025, in Tracy to present the draft land use concepts and receive comments. A virtual meeting with the same content will be held on Thursday, September 30, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/AlamedaTeslaConcepts2> to register for the virtual workshop. 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; the first public meeting was held on August 21, 2024, at Clear Lake State Park; the second stakeholder meeting was held virtually on June 18, 2025; and the second public meeting was held on July 16, 2025, at Clear Lake State Park. Draft Planning Concepts have been drafted and a Preferred Alternative is being developed. 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 519-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-quarter 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. A series of virtual stakeholder meetings was held the week of April 20, 2025. The Existing Conditions section and the Draft Planning Concepts of the General Plan are being drafted. 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's Rivers Sector 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 was started in the Spring of 2025 and is anticipated to take approximately three to five years to complete. The first in-person visioning workshop will take place at the Dos Rios Park Property on October 4, 2025, followed by a virtual community visioning workshop on October 16, 2025.

Please visit <https://PlanDosRios.org> for more information on the Dos Rios Classification and General Plan and 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, participate in a public 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 undergone significant changes since the adoption of the original General Plans, 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

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 in the city of Los Angeles. Approximately 2 of the park's 32 acres, or 6% of the park, would be dedicated to the aerial gondola system, and would therefore be subject to recreational use restrictions.

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) is needed to allow it.

Current Status: In May 2025, the California Court of Appeals overturned the Superior Court of Los Angeles' August 2024 denial of a lawsuit challenging the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority's (METRO) certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed LA ARTT project. The appeals court found that the EIR, certified by METRO in February 2024, did not adequately address construction noise mitigation and failed to properly consult with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which has review authority over natural and cultural resources within the project's footprint.

The appeals court decision directed METRO to set aside its approval of the project and certification of the EIR. Following LA ARTT's correction of issues addressed by the court, METRO will be required to reanalyze the project and recertify the amended EIR.

As the initial step in preparing the proposed GPA, State Parks embarked on a comprehensive outreach and engagement effort with the public, stakeholders and other interested parties beginning in October 2024. Given the appeals court decision, this outreach and engagement effort has been put on hold. It is likely to resume in late 2025, subject to METRO's reapproval of the project and recertification of the EIR. We recommend visiting the project website at lastatehistoricparkgpa.com for schedule updates.

Once re-engaged, State Parks will resume its public outreach and engagement effort and will review LA ART's draft GPA proposal. After State Parks determines that the proposed GPA meets required standards and conditions, the amendment will be scheduled for a State Park and Recreation Commission hearing.

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 has been drafted and is anticipated to be completed by September 2025. A public meeting was held on June 15, 2025 at the City of Yucaipa Community Center. Please visit the Wildwood Canyon Classification project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and get involved.

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 Park, 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 first public meeting was held on June 17th with a four-week public comment period. Staff is currently reviewing comments received as well as developing the Draft Plan. The RTMP 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.

NEXT STEPS

For information only.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

N/A

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 (Sept 2025)
Clear Lake State Park	Northern Buttes	General Plan	2027	Draft Planning Concepts Summer 2025
Delta Meadows Property	Diablo Range	Classification and General Plan	2028	Notice of Preparation (January-February 2025), Draft Planning Concepts (Fall 2025)
Dos Rios Property	Central Valley	Classification and General Plan	2028	Existing conditions data gathering and visioning
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 Fall 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	Existing conditions data gathering and visioning
Wildwood Canyon Park Property	Inland Empire	Classification Report	December 2025	Public meeting held June 2025. Preparing Draft Classification Report
Trione-Annadel SP	Bay Area	Road and Trail Management Plan	TBD	Data gathering and public outreach
Andrew Molera SP	Bay Area	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Winter 2025
Castle Crags SP	Northern Buttes	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Winter 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 Winter 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 Winter 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 Winter 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.