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Carmel Area State Parks
General Plan

Carmel Area State Parks General Plan
Agency Meeting Handout

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Questions for Discussion

What are your agency's primary concerns for State Parks planning efforts in the area?

What is missing from the existing outdoor recreational opportunities in the area?

What types of uses would you suggest for the different park properties?

Who from your agency should receive the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) associated with the General Plan and/or be the main contact for the planning team?

What State Park properties and resources would you suggest State Parks preserve, enhance, or utilize?

Can you suggest or provide other sources of information to support the planning process?

What role do you envision your agency playing in the planning process?

Carmel Area State Parks
General Plan

What is the best way for your agency to coordinate with other regional agencies on matters of mutual concern/interest?

What challenges do you foresee State Parks having with your agency when working on development in this area?

What potential developments or improvements would your agency oppose in this process? What would you support?

Is there anything we are missing?

Additional Comments

CARMEL AREA STATE PARKS (CASP) GENERAL PLAN AND EIR

Agency/Stakeholder Alternatives Visioning Workshop
Workshop Summary

Date: January 14, 2015
Time: 9am – 12:30pm
Location: CDPR Monterey District Headquarters, Training Room, Monterey

Meeting Purpose

- Briefly review topics from the first agency/stakeholder meeting
- Summarize key issues, opportunities, and constraints for the CASP general plan
- Engage in alternatives visioning and idea-building exercise

Planning Team Participants:

Mat Fuzie, CDPR Monterey District Superintendent	Curtis Alling, Ascent, Project Director/Principal
Ellie Wagner, CDPR Northern Service Center Planning Section, Associate Landscape Architect	Donna Plunkett, practiceNATURE, General Plan Manager
Steve Bachman, CDPR Monterey District, Senior Planner and Environmental Scientist	Mike Parker, Ascent, EIR Manager
Jim Bilz, CDPR Monterey District, Monterey Sector Superintendent	
Patricia Clark-Gray, CDPR Monterey District, Interpretive Specialist	
Jeff Frey, CDPR Monterey District, Environmental Scientist	

For a list of agency and stakeholder attendees, please see the workshop sign-in sheet.

Workshop Summary

#		Summary of Presentations, Discussion, and Input
1		**Introductions and Presentation** **Summary of What We've Heard and CASP General Plan Issues and Opportunities**
2		Mat Fuzie, District Superintendent welcomed everyone to the workshop. He stated that the CASP General Plan is an important step in the long-term vision for these parks and agency and stakeholder participation and input is important. He also recognized Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter and thanked everyone for taking time to participate. Curtis Alling welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce him or herself. He provided an overview of the agenda, noting that the primary

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		purpose of the workshop is to gather and discuss ideas for the General Plan and EIR alternatives. He also mentioned the Transportation Study and Economics Study that are underway as part of the General Plan/EIR planning process. Donna Plunkett presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the general context of the park units, the timeline for the planning process, and the upcoming public meetings. She noted that the CASP GP project website (a public website) is a resource for everyone interested in keeping track of the process and getting important information related to public meetings. She then reviewed the key topics that the planning team heard during the first agency and stakeholder workshop. The key issues, opportunities and constraints that are important for participants to consider in the development of alternative ideas were discussed. These relate to the topics that will be the focus of the break-out groups later in the workshop. She then asked everyone to review the Alternative Features Matrix (handout) and talked about the format and sequence of the remainder of the workshop. Attendees took a short break and proceeded to their first break-out group table/location, based on a number given to each attendee on arrival.
3		**Alternative Idea-Building Break-out Groups**
4		Four break-out tables were staffed with members of the planning team. Each table/location included park unit maps and flip charts to record participant's comments. Comments were also noted on the Alternative Features Matrix given to each attendee. The four break-out locations addressed the following themes: • Resource Management • Visitor Experience and Management • Circulation, Parking and Access • Operations and Maintenance Participants were organized into small groups and attended each of the four facilitated break-out tables for approximately 30 minutes, and then rotated to another table to focus on a different theme. The facilitators worked with each group to focus on the features in the matrix related to each topic. Participants were asked to mark-up the park maps and/or provide comments related to their ideas for alternative features to be considered in the planning alternatives. Facilitators recorded the comments on flip charts. Markers and sticky notes were also used by participants to mark-up the park maps provided. All attendees were asked to add any further comments, ideas, edits or revisions to the Alternative Features Matrix and submit it to the planning team at the end of the workshop, or to Steve Bachman via email within one week of the workshop. A summary of comments and ideas from the break-out groups is provided below.

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5		**Summary Presentations of Ideas for Alternatives**
6		The facilitators from each of the break-out tables provided a brief summary of ideas that were discussed during the workshop. The summary points are presented below.
7	Steve Bachman, Facilitator – Resource Management	**Resource Management:** There was general support of the need for more educational opportunities (i.e. demonstration areas of resources, appropriate signage), the need for clarification/expansion of Natural Preserve designations, and adaptive reuse of historical buildings as a visitor/community center. The following items represent a subset of topics and ideas covered in more depth on the flip chart notes and the alternative features matrix notes submitted during the workshop: • Acquire the Upper Red Wolf parcels to provide a link between two Point Lobos Ranch Property (PLRP) parcels to protect maritime chaparral habitat/wildlife connectivity and trail-access connectivity to the Palo Corona property. • Potential uses of historical buildings: visitor center, special events venue, lodging, community facility, etc. • Need for educational/interpretive signs at a variety of locations, including San Jose Creek. Topics could include California red-legged frog, steelhead, and sandbar breaching at Carmel River State Beach (CRSB). • Need to consider resource management in this long-term drought. Also need to consider flooding from Carmel River at the CRSB/Odello West development. • Need for management of forest thinning occurring at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve (PLSNR) and PLRP, including the use of prescribed fire for resource management. • Support cooperative and multi-agency management, including planning and coordinating among larger regional agencies. Coordinate management strategies across agencies, develop resource management plans. • Re-establish working landscapes with grazing. • Need a comprehensive natural resource inventory and resource monitoring plan. Need on-going monitoring to note resource changes through time. • Can the Natural Preserve designation be changed to accommodate an ecosystem protective barrier (EPB) or land swapped to retain preserve acreage and allow EPB? In general, what can be developed within a "natural preserve" designation? • Foster communication among agencies with regard to the EPB. • In the Highway 1 Causeway Restoration Area, consider impact of flows on Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) facilities and minimize where feasible. • Specify the method for handling cultural artifacts on State Parks

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		property. • Consider and integrate non-native/invasive weed management into forest management. • Manage invasive feral pigs at CRSB. • Reduce wildlife habitat/movement corridor fragmentation. • Consider having a demonstration area to highlight wetland/riparian/floodplain restoration, including programming with local school groups. Also, repurpose the CRSB/Odello West buildings for a research and educational facility. • Plant coast redwoods for carbon sequestering.
8	Donna Plunkett, Facilitator – Visitor Experience and Management	**Visitor Experience and Management**: Many of the groups talked about similar ideas and there were many common recommendations about visitor uses, facilities and activities that participants would like to see in the park alternatives. The following items represent a subset of topics and ideas covered in more depth on the flip chart notes: • Need for strategically placed additional interpretive signage and facilities to educate visitors about resources and provide important safety and access messages. • Ensure all new facilities and uses protect the parks' natural and cultural resources. • Provide important regional and local trail linkages, (as noted on the park unit maps), and include access to PLRP at San Jose Creek and higher elevation areas in the eastern reaches of the park. • Develop a mixed-use science camp that can host overnight and day use for kids, students and adults. • Develop a visitor center to educate and direct visitors to different areas of the parks. • Overnight accommodations were not favored by all participants, but some that were mentioned include primitive camping, a hostel and small cabins or similar uses that are in keeping with park setting and not competing with the local lodging market. • Employ mechanisms to disperse visitors into more areas of the parks to avoid overcrowding and use in the same locations. • Balance use of social media and communications to focus people on public use areas, important messaging about the parks, resource education, and stewardship. • Review the carrying capacity of the parks and ensure that existing as well as new facilities and uses are managed within the resource capacity.
9	Curtis Alling, Facilitator – Circulation, Parking, and	**Circulation, Parking and Access**: There were a number of similar ideas regarding increased agency coordination, increased emergency/fire access, and pedestrian/bike access/parking. The following represent a subset of topics and ideas covered in more depth on the flip chart notes and the matrix notes

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	Access	submitted: • Need highway crossings for pedestrian/bike connections and continuous bike routes across properties and networked across regions. For example, include pedestrian/bike bridges across the Carmel River/SR 1 causeway, Hatton Canyon bike access and parking, and a bike underpass at CRSB/Odello between the east and west sides of SR 1. • Coordinate with various agencies (Monterey-Salinas Transit, Caltrans, California Highway Patrol, AMTRAK, Transportation Agency of Monterey County, Monterey County, and other transportation agencies) on connectivity, safety, access, special events, parking, shuttle, etc. • Consider a visitor shuttle system to reduce traffic and parking demand. Examples are "Skyline to Sea Trail" and Eastside Shuttle (Lake Tahoe). How will the shuttle be funded? Shuttle alone won't solve parking issues, however. Shuttle could be seasonal, with interconnections to regional transit and intercity transit, bikeway/trails, park and ride lots off park. • Consider a trail connection at north end of the Hatton Canyon property (HCP). Retain use of "Marathon Flats" for a staging area for the Big Sur Marathon. • Consider connectivity to other parks (Jack's Peak County Park, Hwy 68 area) through HCP. • Use digital technology (e.g., cell phones) to pay for access fees for parking. • Consider acquisition of property for access/parking off the park. Consider Odello East as parking. Agriculture overlay may be a constraint. Consider the Barnyard/Hatton Canyon South development for a staging and parking area. • Restore the CRSB parking lot; consider transferring the parking area to another agency for ownership and management; create a docent experience at the parking area and stabilize the paved area. Alternatively, consider building new CRSB parking farther inland and higher than the existing lot (which is subject to flooding and erosion). • Locate trails so they do not interfere with hydrology and flood hazards (e.g., maintain the Carmel River flood capacity). More specifically, trails in CRSB/Odello West need to be sensitive to resources and flooding and trails along San Jose Creek need to be sensitive to steelhead. Also, consider restoring Garrapata SP east side trails. • Need to consider kayaking access, because demand is increasing, including parking and water access. Protect resources if new parking is added. • For a park-and-ride lot in Carmel shopping center, locate it out of the view shed of the highway and provide creative messaging.
10	Mike Parker,	**Operations and Maintenance:** There was general support for increased agency

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	Facilitator – Operations and Maintenance	coordination through joint partnerships to increase facility maintenance and overall safety. Appropriate signage in potential hazard areas was also mentioned several times. The following represent a subset of topics and ideas covered in more depth on the flip chart notes and the matrix notes submitted: • Need a security plan to address security issues, including parked cars. • Clearly post and enforce open/close times for parks. • Need integration of planning efforts: causeway, golf course transformation, Eastwood Odello, Palo Corona Ranch plans, etc. • Need joint partnerships (e.g., MOUs, JPAs, shared facilities) with other agencies (at all levels) for projects. Some include park agencies, CAL FIRE, Fire Safe Council, etc. Need a fire/evacuation plan. • Explore better utilization of existing MOU with Caltrans and County, for fee-collection on highways. • Consider larger-scale, multi-jurisdictional climate change monitoring at a regional/watershed level. • Create specific public access points at Monastery Beach (using barriers or other design features to direct visitors) and place warning signs (to convey the threat level in more serious terms) at public access points. • Consider that if a lifeguard is provided at Monastery Beach, it might encourage swimming. • Need signage at CRSB to convey that sandbar breach by visitors is illegal and causes damage. • Vegetation clearing strategies and invasive species control treatments should be sensitive to native plants, but also control invasive plants properly. This is important for flood management. Use California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation vegetation management teams. • Identify volunteer programs for invasive species control and trail maintenance. • Work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for addressing "hazardous" plants/wildlife (poison oak, mountain lions) and incorporating the right signage with instructions, etc. • Need solid waste management for trails (recycling, compost promotion). • Consider the "Polo Field" area in PLRP for potential parking, but need to be sensitive to Native American resources. Cultural resources can be mitigated in this area. • Improve technology as a priority. A recent settlement agreement (not involving CDPR) requires a private land use developer to fund development of an interactive map to identify public access opportunities, rules, and minimize sign clutter. Wireless reception needs to be enhanced for any device-based tool (app) to work. • Identify and monitor carrying capacity of PLSNR. • Address homeless issues in HCP. Need bike/walking connection and

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		trash/recycling at the picnic area. • Evaluate how much well capacity exists for increased potable water. • Consider CAWD and their need for room for maintenance of infrastructure. There is wastewater treatment capacity; the infrastructure exists along the highway. Conveyance is the capacity issue. • Use PLRP barn area for science camp/education, Hudson House (PLSNR) for public use.
11		**Meeting Closure**
12		Donna reminded all participants to submit their comments on the alternative features matrix or to send them to Steve Bachman within one week of the workshop. She also reminded everyone to use the CASP GP public website to keep up-to-date on upcoming public meetings and status of the planning process. She then opened the floor for anyone who had additional comments or questions. Final comments are summarized as follows: • It was noted that one way to justify removing parking along State Route 1 is to document safety incidents. A County ordinance could be developed to achieve this goal. • The public will have an opportunity to comment on the CASP proposed unit classifications and naming alternatives and recommendations that are occurring in addition to the General Plan process. • Participants thought the workshop was successful and thanked the planning team for their efforts to conduct a productive workshop. • It was confirmed that the General Plan/EIR is a long range plan that directs the management and development of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. The GP can span a 20-30-year timeline, and can be reconsidered for amendments or revisions when necessary. • Mat Fuzie gave an overview of when the General Plan/EIR would be completed and also highlighted some of the key steps that will follow prior to implementation of specific projects recommended in the general plan. • It was suggested that a future meeting be organized to focus on each of the park geographic units in more detail. Donna thanked everyone for his or her strong participation. The meeting ended at 12:35pm.