



fort ord dunes state park general plan

PARTNERS IN PLANNING

The Fort Ord Dunes State Park Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report has been completed and is available for review. The Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report includes:

- Executive Summary – plan overview
- Introduction (Chapter 1) – Fort Ord Dunes and planning process introduction
- Existing Conditions and Issues (Chapter 2) – existing Fort Ord Dunes resources summary
- The Plan (Chapter 3) – parkwide goals and guidelines and planned park proposals
- Environmental Analysis (Chapter 4) – potential impacts and mitigation measures of the plan, and alternatives to the proposed plan

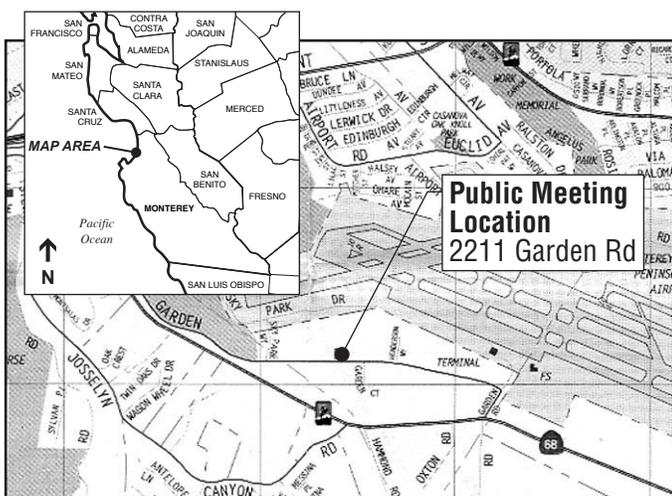
The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency for the Environmental Impact Report, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and is now seeking public comment during a 45 day public review period from **January 29, 2004 to March 14, 2004.**

The attached Notice of Availability lists locations at which the document is available for review.

A public open house will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at which the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report will be presented and Department staff will be available to answer questions.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

California Department of Parks and Recreation has provided many opportunities for your participation and involvement in park planning in order to receive your knowledge about Fort Ord Dunes and your feedback on related environmental issues. Input garnered from this process has been incorporated into the Plan. Information regarding this planning process has been available to you through newsletters, informational workshops, and in electronic format on the California State Parks web site.



You are invited to attend the Preliminary General Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Report Open House on:

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

California Department of Parks and Recreation

Monterey District Office

2211 Garden Road

Monterey, CA 93940

Printed on recycled paper

Design by **ESA** Environmental Science Associates

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE? (cont.)

We are now providing an opportunity for you to review and comment on the Fort Ord Dunes Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report. To effectively participate in the public review process, commenters should be detailed and focused in their comments. Although you may comment on any aspect of the proposed general plan, when reviewing Draft Environmental Impact Reports, the primary focus should be on how well the document identifies environmental impacts from planning proposals and methods to avoid or mitigate those impacts. Comments are most helpful when they describe additional possible impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate the potential significant environmental effects of the proposals. To be most helpful, commenters should explain the basis for their comments and should support them by substantial evidence such as data, references, expert opinion, or other facts. In addition, all commenters should include the name of a contact person who would be available for later consultation, if necessary.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Responses to the agency and public comments received during this California Environmental Quality Act public review period will be provided in a Final Environmental Impact Report – Response to Comments document. This document will be available for public review prior to the State Park and Recreation Commission Hearing, tentatively scheduled for Spring/Summer 2004, where the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report will be considered for approval. Notices indicating locations where this document will be available for public review will be posted on the park web site (www.parks.ca.gov).



The beach at Fort Ord Dunes.

GENERAL PLAN PROCESS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring 2003

Information Gathering
Fieldwork
Summarize Existing
Conditions

Summer 2003

Public Workshop #1
Discuss Opportunities &
Constraints
Develop Plan Possibilities

Fall 2003

Public Workshop #2
Evaluate Plan Possibilities

Winter 2003

Prepare Draft Plans

Spring 2004

Public Review of Draft
Plan/EIR
Distribute Final Plan/EIR
Agency Approvals



California Department of Parks and Recreation
Monterey District Office
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FORT ORD DUNES STATE PARK PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: January 22, 2004

To: All Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Persons

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) for the Fort Ord Dunes State Park Preliminary General Plan (General Plan). The Department is the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

PROJECT LOCATION

Fort Ord Dunes consists of approximately 990 acres of future parkland located in an unincorporated area of Monterey County. Fort Ord Dunes includes 4 miles of ocean beach and 11 acres east of SR 1. The Fort Ord Dunes property is dominated by a continuous coastal sand dune formation that rises steeply to block ocean views from most of SR 1. The property includes the remnants of fifteen small arms firing ranges, the former Fort Ord ammunition storage area that includes twelve bunkers, and other military era structures that are not in use, including a wastewater treatment plant. Fort Ord Dunes also includes an internal road system and utility lines.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 990 acre Fort Ord Dunes State Park unit is a new park unit that will provide a unique opportunity to preserve and make available for public use, inspiration, aesthetic enjoyment, and education, an area along the Monterey Bay shoreline of unique natural beauty and scientific significance including sandy beaches, coastal dunes, and remnants of the site's military history.

The Fort Ord Dunes State Park General Plan has been prepared to address management of these lands in a comprehensive manner. The purpose of a California State Park General Plan is to provide the primary management guideline for a park unit by defining a framework for resource stewardship, interpretation, facilities, visitor use, and services. General Plans define the ultimate purpose, vision, and intent for unit management through goal statements, guidelines, and broad objectives, but stop short of defining specific objectives, methodologies, and designs on how to accomplish these goals.

Five management zones were identified for Fort Ord Dunes: the Natural Resource Zone (approximately 785 acres), the 8th Street Zone (approximately 30 acres), 1st Street Zone (approximately 45 acres), Storage Bunker Zone (approximately 80 acres), and the Administrative/Operations Zone (approximately 25 acres). Desired resource condition, desired visitor experience, and potential uses and facilities were identified for each zone, along with zone specific goals and guidelines. In association with the management zones, potential circulation routes and access points have been identified based on existing resources and uses and facilities described for management zones. Site-specific management zone and circulation and access development will be analyzed, designed, and implemented on a project specific basis.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The EIR analyzes a program-level analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the Preliminary General Plan. No significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 45-day public comment period for this Draft EIR will commence on January 29, 2004 and concludes on March 14, 2004. Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR will be available at www.parks.ca.gov (click on General Plans – In Progress, located at the bottom right hand side of the home page, then click on Fort Ord Dunes State Park) and at these local locations:

Monterey District Headquarters
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

Monterey City Library
625 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Monterey County Free Library –
Marina Branch
266 Reservation Road
Marina, CA 93933

Monterey County Free Library –
Seaside Branch
550 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Please submit comments in writing to the address provided below. Comment letters must be postmarked by March 14, 2004.

Mr. Jason Spann
Project Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814