

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and is considering the preparation of a program level (first tier) environmental document for the project identified below.

Project Title: Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan Amendment

Project Location: Kern County

Red Rock Canyon is a approximately 27,000 acre unit within the Mojave Sector of the Angeles District of the California State Park System, located along State Highway 14 in Kern County, about 80 miles east of Bakersfield. Red Rock Canyon provides magnificent views of the pristine desert landscape, includes two natural preserves, and offers, among other recreation activities, camping, sightseeing, equestrian activities, hiking, and opportunities for reflection and solitude.

Project Description

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) proposes take the following actions for Red Rock Canyon State Park which will provide DPR with clear and current guidelines on management issues:

- Amend the General Plan to include a Statement of Management Intent for Red Rock Canyon which is consistent with the California Desert Protection Act (CPDA), and the existing Declaration of Purpose for Red Rock Canyon State Park, and which defines DPR's purpose and vision for the Last Chance Addition.
- Amend unit boundaries to include the Last Chance Addition, and associated lands now under DPR ownership.
- Identify of legal precedents and rights in connection with past and present land uses.
- Develop of broad management goals and guidelines consistent with the current Declaration of Purpose for Red Rock Canyon State Park
- Identify and evaluate all resources, giving priority to significant physical and cultural features, and rare or endangered species that are critical to the Parks and the region ecosystems.

- Develop goals and guidelines for resource protection, including, if significant resource are identified which require special protection, recommendations for the designation of preserves or special districts within the park.
- Develop goals and guidelines that address public safety in regards to remoteness, mines, and roads and trails.
- Amend Red Rock Canyon's unit boundaries to reflect to reflect acquisitions since the 1982 General Plan.
- Establish "Use Zones" for new acquisitions, and identification of constraints/criteria for determining appropriate activities to provide adequate direction for law enforcement activities..

Facilities

- Identify desirable facilities/recreation activities, and suitable locations for such activities/facilities.

Interpretation

- Identify interpretive opportunities within the new acquisitions for development of interpretive programs.

Possible Environmental Effects

The project may have potential effects on the natural environment, wildlife, water quality, erosion, recreation, aesthetics, and transportation, and historical, archaeological and paleontological resources. By establishing management zones, goals and guidelines, the Amendment to the General Plan will endeavor to identify broad level avoidance and mitigation measures and policies to reduce the potential impacts of future projects and activities to a level below significance. However, additional environmental review will be conducted as these projects and any corresponding mitigation measures are proposed.

Public Involvement, Plan Development and Environmental Review

Public involvement in the development of this plan is being sought through review of the preliminary draft amendment at a public workshop to be held November 16, 2002. Once written and prepared the Draft Amendment to the General Plan, including a first-tier environmental analysis section, will be made available for public review and comment in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Draft Amendment to the General Plan will then be refined, and responses to public comments prepared. The Amendment will then be presented along with public comments, and responses to comments, to the California State Parks and Recreation Commission for approval at a public hearing. Site specific management plans or facility development plans will subsequently be prepared in conformance with the approved Amendment to the General Plan and CEQA, as funding becomes available.

We need to know the views of your agency or organization as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's or organization's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your response must be sent to the address below not later xxx 2002, the close of the review period. We would appreciate the name of a contact person in your agency or organization.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT PERSON

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