CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION/CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC VISIONING WORKSHOP
FOR
CANDLESTICK POINT STATE RECREATION AREA ("SRA")
General Plan and Environmental Impact Report
Meeting Summary
Saturday, January 30, 2010
Bret Harte Elementary School
1035 Gilman Avenue, San Francisco 94124
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

The following is a summary of the first public workshop held for the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area General Plan amendment held on January 30, 2010 as per the attached agenda. Attachments include meeting handouts; mission statement and park themes, site analyses and existing activities and habitat diagrams; copies of the image boards with participant preferences as per the rating guidance provided as well as group mark-ups of the site plan. Attendees to the meeting were as per the attached sign-in sheet.

ITEM #	**DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY** (follows attached agenda)
1	**Sign-In and Refreshments** Upon signing-in each person received a name tag with a colored star and handouts, including the meeting agenda (available in Spanish and Chinese), a list of contact information, an activities matrix, a comment form, and a copy of the meeting announcement. During the sign-in period, various graphic boards of the park and existing conditions and activities were on display. These are also attached.
2	**Introduction / Planning Overview for Candlestick Point SRA** An announcement was made that summary translations for the introductory statements were available for Spanish and Chinese speaking participants and that there would be a break-out group for each as needed. Steve Musillami welcomed participants to the first public workshop for the updated Candlestick Point State Recreation Area (SRA) General Plan / Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Steve explained that the process is being conducted in partnership with SFOEWD and the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, City agencies involved in the adjacent Candlestick Point-Hunters Point Shipyard Phase II Development Plan Project. Steve explained the recent land exchange, an agreement in which State Parks provided a portion of the SRA currently used for parking during San Francisco 49ers' home games to the City. The area formerly within the SRA is now part of the development project's area. In exchange, the SRA received land along Jamestown Avenue and a long-term funding source for capital improvements and maintenance associated with the updated general plan. Please see the attached aerial map for the updated

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	SRA boundary.
3	**SRA General Plan Summary** Donna Plunkett from AECOM provided an overview of the SRA's general planning process, noting that the focus thus far has been on data collection. She also described the various handouts and encouraged people to complete the activity matrix and return at the end of the meeting. She explained that the planning process would involve the public through a series of meetings focused on understanding existing conditions, site opportunities and constraints and crafting alternatives for future development, as well as conducting environmental review associated with CEQA. She noted that part of today's session related to choosing preferences for the character of the park along a spectrum of natural to more urban park would help in the process of developing alternatives. Megan Walker from AECOM presented the vision for the SRA from the existing general plan (prepared in 1979 and amended in 1988), which is to bring State Parks values to an urban setting. Megan also noted that the SRA was the state's first urban park and that the foundational themes included in the current general plan focus on recreation resources, natural resources, community and cultural resources, and interpretation / education. Megan then explained the group exercises planned for the workshop, and the associated graphic boards, whose purpose was to facilitate discussion and refinement of the vision and themes for the SRA in order to guide the general planning process.
4	**Break-out Sessions** Participants broke into four groups based on the assigned colored star on their nametag. Each group of about 7-10 people was led by a facilitator from AECOM. The facilitators followed the same discussion format as they led two exercises, which focused on (1) locating particular features and areas needing improvement within the existing park and (2) determining future park character. Representatives from State Parks and OEWD rotated between the groups and were available to answer questions. At the end of the discussion period, which lasted about 45 minutes, each group was asked to identify a representative who would provide a summary of the key points discussed. For the first exercise, facilitators asked each group to use an aerial base map of the existing park to identify areas they frequently visit and/or areas that offer special qualities, such as a unique habitat or a popular viewing area. Additionally, participants were asked to locate areas of the park that are in need of improvement. The facilitator documented these areas on the map using markers and sticky notes, while other team leaders kept a record of ongoing group comments and concerns. In addition to marking up the map with comments, one group used green and red dots to convey their likes and dislikes. At the end of this exercise, each team's aerial map served as a visual tool to clearly identify areas of the park that are important to the community. The attached copies of the site map for each group show the notes and comments provided during the exercise. The second group exercise involved using an image board with examples of waterfront parks arranged along a spectrum of "natural to urban" to stimulate discussion about park character (how the park should look and feel). The spectrum ranged from parks with an ecological or

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	restoration focus with more resource-based recreation and activities to parks with more hardscape design amenities such as a waterfront promenade and more active recreation. . Images were organized by the four categories of recreational resources, natural resources, cultural and community resources, and interpretation/ education. Participants used a rating system of green, yellow, and red dots to identify the images that best or least represented their vision for the future Candlestick Point SRA. Participants placed green dots on images that best depicted how the SRA should look and feel in the future and red dots on images that least represented how the SRA should look and feel in the future. Participants used yellow dots on images that only partially illustrated the future look and feel of the SRA. The attached image boards are marked with group preferences by color.
5	**Group Summaries** Participants reconvened as a large group to hear the highlights reported by a representative from each discussion group. **<u>Common Themes</u>** Several comments and concerns were repeated across the discussion groups, such as enhancing natural open space areas; protecting the shoreline; improving connections between the SRA and the surrounding neighborhood, including Bayview Hill; creating local economic opportunities; and restoring wetlands in the Yosemite Slough area. The Fishing Pier was identified as a unique park asset, and several people advocated preservation of the community gardens and the mosaic mural and sculptures, which contribute to the SRA's overall sense of place. A number of participants noted their opposition to the development plan's proposal to build a bridge over Yosemite Slough. Most participants agreed that the park's character should be on the natural end of the spectrum. The groups emphasized that they want the park to be a natural, ecologically-focused setting where they can enjoy open space and get away from the urban environment. Any facilities, such as beaches, trails, or boat launches, should not feel overly developed. The following summaries highlight topics that were specific to each discussion group. As all four groups reported similar preferences for natural character, the summaries focus on existing areas of the SRA that are important or in need of improvement and ideas for the future. <u>Blue Team</u> Blue team participants identified areas on the map that are popular for recreational activities such as windsurfing, flying kites, playing soccer, and leisurely walks. They are fond of several areas of the park including the fishing pier, the group picnic areas with BBQ pits, Rock City (the Last Rubble area), the exercise trail, and the community garden, with its native plant nursery. Participants also pointed out an area of oak woodlands that is home to a variety of butterfly species. Grand, panoramic views were identified along the perimeter of the park, especially on the peninsula surrounding the Fishing Pier. Rock City was considered an area in need of improvement.

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	Participants advocated better access to the SRA and improved overall connectivity to the surrounding neighborhood. Some ideas include incorporating a trail that links the park to the adjacent neighborhoods and creating a natural corridor to connect to Bayview Park. Participants expressed that the future design of the SRA should benefit the existing community and not turn into a backyard for the future condo residents. Several people had strong feelings about keeping the park as natural as possible and restoring the SRA's wetlands. Another key issue involved the lack of stability along the shoreline. One idea was to develop an ecologically sound method, such as the creation of sub tidal habitat, to protect the shoreline from further erosion. Many people agreed the future SRA should have a small watercraft launching site for canoes and kayaks as well as a designated trail for biking. Opportunities for active "break-a-sweat" recreation within a natural setting were widely encouraged. <u>Gold Team</u> The Gold Team felt that the recreational amenities at the SRA are currently underutilized due to a lack of awareness regarding the park's offerings. During the general planning process, it would help to build awareness of the SRA in order to bring more recreationalists to the area. This team had several priorities for the future SRA, such as providing additional security (through funding for rangers) and offering programming activities for children and youth, such as frisbee and bike clinics. Additional ideas for the future SRA included providing a variety of trails for different uses; utilizing visual cues rather than signs along trails; creating better connections between the park and the surrounding neighborhoods; building playgrounds with age-appropriate structures; and creating an area suitable for special events. Several people promoted wetland restoration in the Yosemite Slough area as well as within the pockets of wetlands scattered along the shoreline. A suggestion to include a memorial for Carol Nelson at the future SRA was widely received. <u>Silver Team</u> Silver team participants identified popular trails within the SRA for biking and walking and suggested connecting the bike trails to the San Francisco Bay Trail. This team focused on providing ideas for future improvements. Some requests for the future SRA included enhancing the community garden and native plant nursery; preserving wildlife corridors; providing multilingual interpretative signs; initiating restoration at Yosemite Slough; and investing in protecting the shoreline. Participants requested that any future infrastructure have a natural feel and only incorporate wood design features (no concrete or asphalt). Several people thought it was important to increase funding for park rangers in order to provide a safe atmosphere for visitors. Furthermore, it was expressed that the SRA's character is conducive to having rangers on horseback. Most people believed the future SRA should benefit the community through creating job opportunities and youth programs. Participants expressed that down the road, it would be helpful to combine the planning processes for the SRA with those for Hunters Point and Visitation Valley. <u>Green Team</u> Green team participants visit the SRA to engage in a variety of recreational activities, such as

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	bird watching, wind surfing, jogging, biking, kayaking, fishing, swimming, picnicking, and exploring. Participants advocated conserving the natural areas of the SRA and retaining its "no-man's land" appeal. Some suggested future improvements included an interpretive center for Yosemite Slough, a learning center for bird watching, a youth hostel, new restrooms, and an amphitheater. Participants requested that any future buildings fit within the SRA's natural setting and include green design. In an effort to enhance water-based activities at the SRA, a launching site for small boats where people can rent kayaks, rowboats, and pedal boats was also discussed. It was noted that power boating should not be allowed in order to maintain the SRA's appeal as a peaceful oasis. Some other priorities included making the future SRA kid- and senior-friendly and maintaining the community gardens. The overall message was to improve the SRA without changing its character.
6	**Public Scoping/Comment** Following the group summaries, the meeting was opened up for participants to provide additional comments and questions. The idea for a memorial at the park for Carol Nelson, the first African American park ranger was mentioned again as was the opposition to a bridge over Yosemite Slough. It was noted that this was a great meeting and everyone looks forward to continuing community engagement in the planning process. Participants were given an opportunity to submit written comments that should be considered in the EIR. Participants were then asked to spend the last part of the meeting to complete the activities matrix handed out at the beginning of the meeting. The activities matrix listed a variety of existing park activities as well as potential future park activities and asked participants to mark whether existing activities should remain, if new activities should be added and what improvements are needed.
7	**Wrap-up and Next Steps** Participants were given contact information for State Parks and directed to the website for the SRA's general plan (http://www.parks.ca.gov/generalplans). Donna Plunkett from AECOM announced that the next step in the process will be to compile the input provided at the workshop and post it on the website. Future meeting announcement will also be posted there as well as additional mailings to let the community know about upcoming events.