Carmel Area State Parks
General Plan/EIR

May 2016
Newsletter 3

The CASP Preferred Alternative is Here!

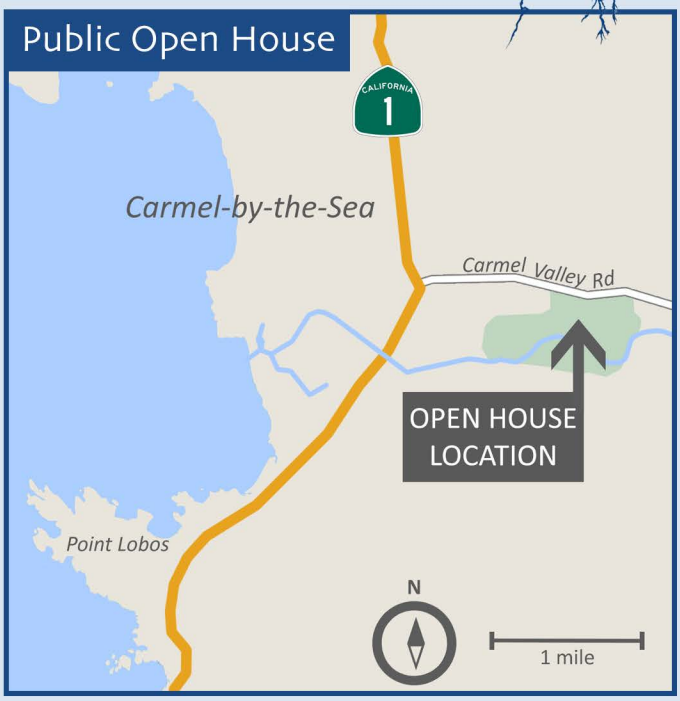
Come to the next public open house to learn about the preferred alternative proposed for the Carmel Area State Parks (CASP) Preliminary General Plan (GP) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The State Parks planning team will be sharing the preferred alternative for the parks that has been crafted with your comments and concerns in mind. The open house will consist of a short presentation and will be followed by an opportunity to learn more about the preferred alternative at unit breakout stations.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the July 2015 public workshop and who also submitted comments on the proposed alternatives. The planning team reviewed all feedback in depth and further analyzed the factors affecting the identification of a preferred alternative. The July 2015 public workshop summary can be found at **www.parks.ca.gov/caspgp**.

A New State Park for the Region

An exciting component of the preferred alternative is a unified approach to park management and resource conservation through the creation of a new State Park. Carmel River State Beach and Point Lobos Ranch property are proposed to be combined into a single State Park unit. Point Lobos State Natural Reserve will keep its current classification.

Save the date and come learn more about the preferred alternative proposed for the CASP units!



June 1, 2016 | 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Wedgewood Wedding & Banquet Center
Rancho Cañada Golf Club
4860 Carmel Valley Road
Carmel, CA 93923

July 2015 Public Workshop

A Focus on Conservation

The preferred alternative addresses the full range of planning topics for the parks while focusing strongly on conservation. A unifying, parkwide recommendation for the preferred alternative is:

> **In collaboration with local partners, protect, appreciate, and celebrate the unique and sensitive resources with adaptive management, engaging interpretation, and strategically placed visitor facilities.**

With a conservation focus, the preferred alternative includes high-quality visitor experiences that emphasize resource protection, new natural and cultural preserves, and comprehensive adaptive management to avoid resource degradation and implement ecosystem restoration.

The Preferred Alternative

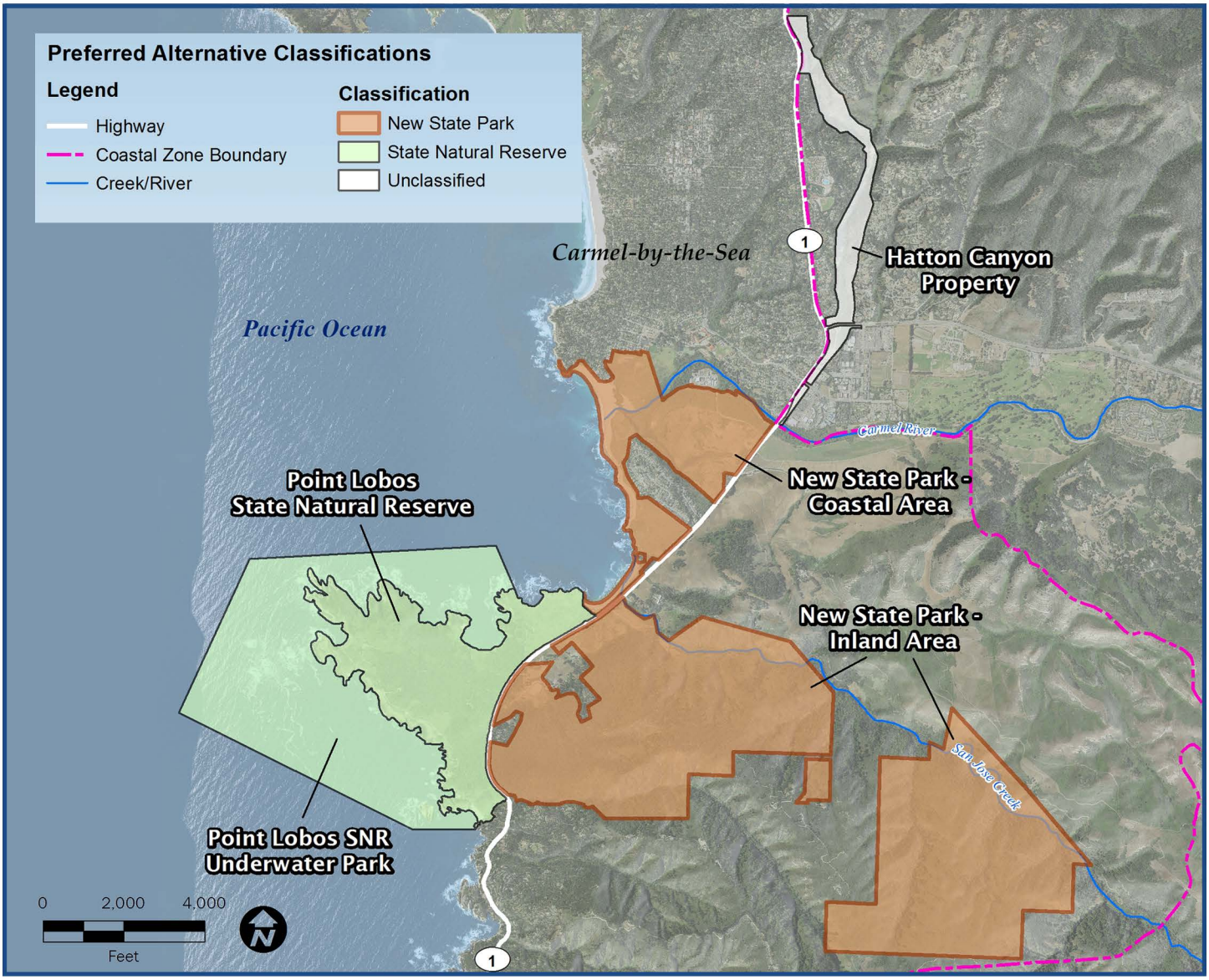
The State Beach and Unclassified Property Become One State Park

The map shows the unclassified Point Lobos Ranch property as the inland area and Carmel River State Beach as the coastal area of this new State Park.

Key Components of the Preferred Alternative

- Emphasize protection of cultural resources and conservation/restoration of natural resources
- Limit visitor facilities to balance visitor use with resource conservation and preservation
- Stabilize and adaptively re-use historic buildings
- Focus visitor use strategically to protect and preserve sensitive resources
- Use interpretation to educate and inspire visitors
- Continue to foster strong local and regional partnerships

More details about specific management zone elements of the preferred alternative will be available at the open house.



What You Need to Know

Information available

The preferred alternative maps and open house materials, as well as the Economic Study and Traffic and Parking Study, will be available for your review about 2 weeks before the open house at **www.parks.ca.gov/caspgp**. Written comments can be submitted during the open house, via regular mail to the address listed on the **CASP General Plan website**, or via email (**plan.general@parks.ca.gov**). The comment deadline is June 15th.

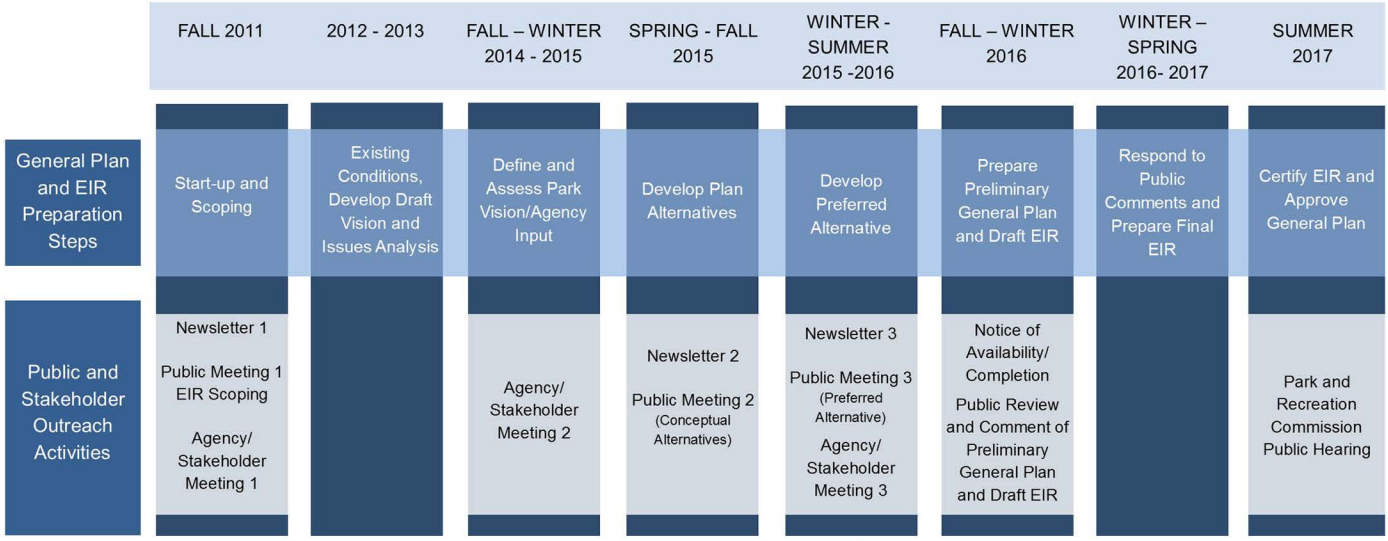
Please forward this newsletter to others who may be interested.

Next Steps

After the preferred alternative is finalized, the planning team will prepare the Preliminary GP/Draft EIR, which is expected to be released for public review this fall. Shortly after the release of the document, the planning team will present the Preliminary GP/Draft EIR to the public in an information session. There will be an opportunity to submit your written comments at this information session and during the formal public comment period for the Preliminary GP/Draft EIR. Updates regarding the document release date and the public information session will be provided on the project website and via email/mail to those on the project contact list, so please stay tuned!

Please attend this important milestone public open house to learn more about the CASP preferred alternative.

Planning Timeline



Carmel Area State Parks GP/EIR

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www.parks.ca.gov/caspgp