Donner Memorial State Park

GENERAL PLAN
and ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Volume 2 of 2

Final Environmental Impact Report
Responses to Comments

Approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission
April 5, 2003

VOLUME 2

This is Volume 2 (of 2) of the Final General Plan/EIR for Donner Memorial State Park. It contains the Comments and Responses (comments received during CEQA public review of the General Plan and California State Parks (CSP) responses to those comments); and the Notice of Determination (as filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research), documenting the completion of the CEQA compliance requirements for this project. **Volume 1** of the Final General Plan/EIR for Donner Memorial State Park contains the Summary of Existing Conditions; Goals and Guidelines for park development and use; Environmental Analysis (in compliance with Article 9 and Article 11, Section 15166 of the California Environmental Quality Act); and Maps, References and Appendices relating to the General Plan. Together, these two volumes constitute the Final General Plan/EIR for Donner Memorial State Park.

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GENERAL PLANNING INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the general planning process used by the Department or have questions about specific general plans, contact:

General Planning Section
California State Parks
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296 - 0001

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Responses to Comments

for the

DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN

(Volume 2 of 2)

Lead Agency

State of California
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
Acquisition and Development Division
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall – Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814

Circulated for Public Review,
August 9 – September 23, 2002

State Clearinghouse # 2001102069

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I. INTRODUCTION

Final Environmental Impact Report

This document, Volume 2 of 2 of the Donner Memorial State Park General Plan, together with the General Plan, Volume 1 of 2, constitutes the Final EIR as complete and adequate under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Volume 1 contains an Environmental Analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the proposals contained in the General Plan. The General Plan/Final EIR was approved on April 5, 2003 by the State Park and Recreation Commission, and the Notice of Determination filed April 8, 2003, with the determination that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

This report has been prepared to respond to comments submitted on the August 2002 Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for Donner Memorial State Park. The Draft EIR identified the potential environmental consequences associated with implementation of the Preliminary General Plan.

This document, Volume 2, responds to comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR and makes revisions, as necessary, in response to these comments or to clarify any previous errors, omissions, or misinterpretations of material in the plan.

Environmental Review Process

California State Parks (CSP) is the lead agency for preparation of the General Plan. Lead agencies are required to consult with other public agencies having jurisdiction over a proposed project, and to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR.

In accordance with the Public Resources Code, Section 21091 and State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15105, the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR for Donner Memorial State Park was circulated for a 45-day public review and comment period. During this review period, public agencies, private groups and associations, and individuals were provided the opportunity to review and comment on the contents of the document, including the evaluation of potential project-related environmental impacts and proposed mitigation.

The public was advised of the availability of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR through public notices, a newsletter, and notification on the State Parks web site. Public notices were posted in the following local newspapers: Auburn Journal, Sierra Sun, Tahoe Daily Tribune, and The Union. Copies of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR were also available for review at the following locations: California State Parks - Northern Service Center, California State Parks – Sierra District Headquarters, Donner Memorial State Park, Madelyn Helling Main Library, Truckee Branch Library, Auburn-Placer County Main Library, Tahoe City-Placer County Branch Library, and Kings Beach-Placer County Branch Library.

The mandated 45-day public review and comment period ended on September 23, 2002. Copies of all written comments received on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR during the comment period are contained in this report.

Lead Agency: California State Parks

State Clearinghouse: #2001102069

II. CEQA DOCUMENTS

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

GENERAL PLAN

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan for Donner Memorial State Park. The Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and pursuant to Section 15082 (CCR) of the State EIR guidelines and has prepared the Notice of Preparation. Your agency's comments are requested in connection with the scope and content of the environmental information germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, possible environmental impacts, and map are attached.

Your response must be sent to the address below not later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of this notice. We would appreciate the name of a contact person in your agency. If you have any questions, please call Ellen Wagner at (916) 445-8929.

Ellen Wagner
Northern Service Center
Department of Parks and Recreation
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-8929

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The general plan will provide a long-term outline and guidelines for future proposed facilities, land use, resource policies, and management, operation, interpretation, and concession operations at Donner Memorial State Park. Specific development proposals or management plans are not part of the general plan. This general plan and draft environmental impact report is the first tier of environmental analysis. Future implementation of general plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

The general plan will be based upon the park's Declaration of Purpose and Vision, which will provide a context and direction for future park management and planning. The plan will consider project alternatives and will recommend further studies for future development projects. The general plan will evaluate potential alternative locations for a museum and visitor center: a) renovation/expansion of the existing museum; b) construction of a new museum at an alternate site within the park; and c) a new museum on an adjacent 100-acre parcel which would be donated to the Department of Parks and Recreation. The general plan will also examine existing traffic issues and parking options within the existing core use area.

POSSIBLE IMPACTS

There may be potential adverse impacts to soils, water quality and flows, wildlife, esthetics, cultural resources, vegetation, and recreational opportunities. There may be a change in traffic patterns.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST
GENERAL PLAN
DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the proposal:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Conflict with general plan designation and zoning?	θ	θ	θ	ν
2. Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project?	θ	θ	θ	ν
3. Compatible with existing land use in the vicinity?	θ	θ	θ	ν
4. Affect agricultural resources or operations?	θ	θ	θ	ν
5. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including low-income or minority community)?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: This effort will produce a General Plan for this park that will provide guidelines for future land use and development. This plan and draft environmental impact report is the first tier of environmental analysis. Future implementation of General Plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the proposal:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
6. Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?	θ	θ	θ	ν
7. Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly?	θ	θ	θ	ν
8. Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: The impact of this plan on population and housing requirements would be minimal. Future implementation of General Plan proposals will occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS Would the project result in or expose people to substantial impacts involving:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
9. Fault rupture?	θ	θ	θ	ν
10. Seismic ground shaking?	θ	θ	θ	ν
11. Seismic ground failure?	θ	θ	θ	ν
12. Seiche, tsunamis, volcanic hazard?	θ	θ	θ	ν
13. Landslides or mudflows?	θ	θ	θ	ν
14. Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavations, grading, or fill?	θ	θ	ν	θ
15. Subsidence of land?	θ	θ	θ	ν
16. Expansive soils?	θ	θ	θ	ν
17. Unique geologic or physical features?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: During future construction projects there may be temporary erosion, etc. This project is a General Plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

WATER Would the proposal result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
18. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	θ	θ	ν	θ
19. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?	θ	θ	θ	ν
20. Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity)	θ	θ	θ	ν
21. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body?	θ	θ	θ	ν
22. Changes in the currents, or course or direction of water movements?	θ	θ	θ	ν
23. Changes in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability?	θ	θ	θ	ν
24. Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater?	θ	θ	θ	ν
25. Impacts to groundwater quality?	θ	θ	θ	ν
26. Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supply?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: Projects resulting from this planning process may include minor increases in total hard surface area. This project is a General Plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

AIR QUALITY Would the proposal:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
27. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	θ	θ	θ	ν
28. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?	θ	θ	θ	ν
29. Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate?	θ	θ	θ	ν
30. Create objectionable odors?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: This project is a General Plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION Would the proposal result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
31. Increased vehicle trips or congestion?	θ	θ	ν	θ
32. Hazards to safety from design features (curves, dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)?	θ	θ	θ	ν
33. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby areas?	θ	θ	θ	ν
34. Insufficient parking capacity onsite or offsite?	θ	θ	θ	ν
35. Hazards or barriers for bicyclists or pedestrians?	θ	θ	θ	ν
36. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	θ	θ	θ	ν
37. Rail, waterborne, or air traffic impacts?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: Enhanced future facilities may result in increased visitor use. This project is a General Plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the proposal result in impacts to:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
38. Endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitats?	θ	θ	ν	θ
39. Locally designated species (e.g. heritage trees)?	θ	θ	θ	ν
40. Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat)?	θ	θ	θ	ν

41. Wetland habitat (marsh, riparian, and vernal pool)?	θ	θ	θ	ν
42. Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: Plan proposals for facilities locations may indicate impacts on above species/ habitats. This project is a General Plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES Would the proposal:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
43. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?	θ	θ	θ	ν
44. Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner?	θ	θ	θ	ν
45. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and residents of the state?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: This project is a General Plan, with a tiered approach to environmental review. Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

HAZARDS Would the project involve:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
46. A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including but not limited to oils, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation)?	θ	θ	θ	ν
47. Possible interference with an emergency response plan?	θ	θ	θ	ν
48. The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?	θ	θ	θ	ν
49. Exposure of people to existing sources of health hazards?	θ	θ	ν	θ
50. Increase fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass or trees?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: Donner Memorial State Park will increase in size during the planning process, with the new lands offering potential exposure of the public to existing sites containing potentially hazardous materials associated with the local railroad route. Any future facilities projects will be subject to additional environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

PUBLIC SERVICES Would the proposal have an effect on or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
51. Fire protection?	θ	θ	θ	ν
52. Police protection?	θ	θ	θ	ν
53. Schools?	θ	θ	θ	ν
54. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	θ	θ	ν	θ

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: The plan may recommend a different entry point for Donner Memorial State Park off Highway 40, and entry may be routed over an existing city or county road. Any future facilities projects will be subject to additional environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

UTILITIES AND SERVICES SYSTEMS Would the proposal result in the need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alteration to the following utilities:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
55. Power or natural gas?	θ	θ	ν	θ
57. Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities	θ	θ	ν	θ
58. Sewer or septic tanks?	θ	θ	ν	θ
59. Storm water storage or drainage?	θ	θ	ν	θ
60. Solid waste disposal?	θ	θ	ν	θ
61. Local or regional water supplies?	θ	θ	ν	θ

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: The plan may recommend a new site for the museum/ visitor center for the park. In any case the new building will be larger than the existing building, with attendant increases in sizes of utility components. Any future facilities projects will be subject to additional environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

NOISE Would the proposal result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
62. An increase in existing noise levels?	θ	θ	ν	θ
63. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: Depending on the location of the new visitor center, the semi-rural setting of the project area allows for relatively low noise levels in the vicinity of the project site. Noise levels would be increased by the operation of construction equipment during future construction projects. Any future facilities projects will be subject to additional environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
ESTHETICS Would the proposal:				
64. Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?	θ	θ	ν	θ
65. Have a demonstrable negative esthetic effect?	θ	θ	ν	θ
66. Create light or glare?	θ	θ	ν	θ

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: The visual impact of any new development is dependent on the expectation of the viewer. The proposed facilities and improvements would be common to park areas and would not be considered intrusive. Any future facilities projects will be subject to additional environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the proposal:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
67. Disturb paleontological resources?	ν	θ	θ	θ
68. Disturb archeological or historical resources?	ν	θ	θ	θ
69. Have the potential to cause physical change which would affect unique cultural values?	ν	θ	θ	θ
70. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	θ	θ	θ	ν

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: Donner Memorial State Park contains significant cultural resources. Any future facilities projects will be subject to additional environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

RECREATION Would the proposal:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
71. Adversely affect recreational resources?	θ	θ	ν	θ

SOURCES:

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: Plan recommendations may affect existing recreational use patterns by proposing new facilities in existing day use areas, etc. Any future facilities projects will be subject to additional environmental review.

MITIGATION: **None required**.

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Does the project have the potential to degrade the environment, substantially reduce habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	ν	θ	θ	θ
Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long term environmental, goals?	θ	θ	θ	ν
Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	θ	θ	θ	ν
Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantive adverse effects on human beings , either directly or indirectly?	θ	θ	θ	ν

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of the Initial Study:

θ I find that the proposed project could not have an adverse effect on the environment. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

θ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect because the mitigation measures described will be required. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

ν I find the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT will be prepared.

DATE: Oct. 9, 2001

PREPARER:
Gudrun Baxter
Northern Service Center
California Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK
(SCH #2001102069)

ON AUGUST 9, 2002 THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW A PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK. THIS NOTICE SERVES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND INTERESTED AGENCIES THAT THE DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT.

LEAD AGENCY: **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

PROJECT LOCATION: **DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK, NEVADA COUNTY, CA**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: **THE PLAN OUTLINES PROPOSED LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATIONS FOR THE PARK.**

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: **POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS INCLUDE THOSE COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND VISITOR USE. POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS IDENTIFIED INCLUDE DISTURBANCE TO OR LOSS OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, DEGRADATION OF WATER QUALITY, AND IMPACTS TO VISUAL RESOURCES.**

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: **THE PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN/DRAFT EIR IS BEING CIRCULATED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT FOR A PERIOD OF 45 DAYS. WRITTEN COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 23, 2002 TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER
ATTN: GUDRUN BAXTER
P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001

COPIES OF THE PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN/DRAFT EIR MAY BE REVIEWED AT THE FOLLOWING CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS LOCATIONS DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS:

Donner Memorial State Park
12593 Donner Pass Road, Truckee

Sierra District
7360 West Lake Blvd., Tahoma

Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento

Review copies are also available at the following libraries:

Madelyn Helling Main Library
980 Helling Way, Nevada City

Truckee Branch Library
10031 Levone Ave., Truckee

Auburn-Placer County Main Library
350 Nevada Street, Auburn

Tahoe City-Placer County Branch Library
740 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City

Kings Beach-Placer County Branch Library
301 Secline Drive, Kings Beach

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

SCH # 2001102069

Project Title: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan

Lead Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation **Contact Person:** Ellen Wagner

Street Address: One Capitol Mall, Suite 500 **Phone:** (916) 445-8929

City: Sacramento **Zip:** 95814 **County:** Sacramento

Project Location

County: Nevada **City/Nearest Community:** Truckee

Cross Streets: Interstate 80/ Hwy. 40 (Old Donner Pass Rd.) **Total Acres:** 1029.85

Assessor's Parcel No. **Section** various **Twp.** 17N **Range** 15/16 **Base** 16East MDBM

Within 2 Miles: **State Hwy #:** 80, 89 **Waterways:** Donner Creek, Cold Creek, Donner Lake

Airports: Truckee-Tahoe **Railways:** Union Pacific Railroad **Schools:** Tahoe Truckee High School

Document Type

CEQA:
- θ NOP
- θ Negative Declaration
- ν Draft EIR
- θ Supplemental/Subsequent

NEPA:
- θ NOI
- θ EA
- θ Draft EIS
- θ FONSI

OTHER:
- θ Final Document
- θ Joint Document
- θ Other: _____

Action

- ν General Plan
- θ General Plan Amendment
- θ Area Development Plan
- θ Management Plan
- θ Resource Management Plan
- θ Concession Development
- θ Coastal Permit
- θ Other: _____
- θ Acquisition Plan
- θ OHV Grant

Development Type

- *θ Campground*
- θ Day Use Area
- θ Roads/Parking Areas
- *θ Historical Structure*
- θ Utilities/Infrastructure
- θ Trails
- *θ Administrative Area*
- θ Other: _____

Projects Issues Discussed in Document

ν Esthetics	ν Flood Plain/Flooding	θ Schools/Universities	ν Water Quality
θ Agriculture	ν Forest Land/Fire Hazard	θ Septic Systems	ν Water Supply/Groundwater
ν Air Quality	ν Geologic/Seismic	θ Sewer Capacity	ν Wetland/Riparian
ν Archeology/History	θ Minerals	ν Soil Erosion/Grading	ν Wildlife
θ Coastal Zone	ν Noise	θ Solid Waste	ν Growth Inducement
ν Drainage	ν Population/Housing	ν Toxics/Hazardous Materials	ν Land Use
θ Economics/Jobs	ν Public Services/Facilities	ν Traffic/Circulation	ν Cumulative Effects
θ Fiscal	ν Recreation/Parks	ν Vegetation	θ Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Use

Donner Memorial State Park/Recreation

Project Description

The general plan provides long-term guidelines, directions, and goals for the operation, development, management, interpretation and resource management for this state park.

State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 9th Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

SUBJECT: Filing of the Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan

State Clearinghouse Number: #2001102069

Contact Person: Ellen Wagner Phone Number: 916-445-8929

Project Location: Donner Memorial State Park, Nevada County

Project Description: General Plan for the development, operation, management, and interpretation of Donner Memorial State Park

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has approved this project on April 5, 2003, and has made the following determinations:

1. ☒ The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
   ☐ The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ A Final Negative Declaration was prepared and adopted, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
   ☒ A Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed in compliance with CEQA, and has been presented to the decision-making body of this Department for its independent review and consideration of the information, prior to approval of the project.
3. Mitigation measures ☒were ☐were not made conditions of project approval.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations ☐was ☒was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings ☒were ☐were not made on environmental effects of the project.

The EIR or Negative Declaration and record of project approval may be examined at the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Northern Service Center, located at One Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, California 95814.

RECEIVED
APR - 8 2003
STATE CLEARING HOUSE
Date Received for Filing

Bill B. Berry, Jr.
Deputy Director, Park Operations

4/7/03
Date

III. LIST OF COMMENTING AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS

Written comments from the following list were submitted to California State Parks (CSP) during the public review period on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR. The comments are grouped by the affiliation of the commenting entity as follows: federal, state, regional, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals. (See Section V for copies of the letters.)

Federal, State, Regional, and Local Agencies

California Department of Transportation, District 3
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region
County of Nevada
Town of Truckee, Community Development Department

Organizations

Action Coalition of Equestrians
California Association of Business, Property and Resource Owners
California Equestrian Trails and Lands Coalition
Castle-to-Martis Horse Trails Committee
Disabled Equestrians Organization
Mother Lode Arabian Horse Association
Mounted Patrol San Mateo County
Truckee Donner Land Trust

Individuals

Comments related to Equestrian issues:

- Carla M. Ambriz
- Jeri Ayers-Scott
- J. Berkey
- Karl Boeger
- Kathleen Boeger
- Steve Braff
- Betsy Braun
- Spencer Scott Brown
- Christine F. Cooper
- Michele Dallam
- Pat Dallam
- Dan Dawson
- Rick DeBenedetti
- Michele Desiano
- Mary Everett
- Nancy Frank

Janice Frazier
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Glenn
Katie Guilliat
Janet B. Heimann
Catherine Kauer and Mark Hofmann
Sarah Konst
Jennifer Kurtzhall
B. J. Lingel
William Lorber
Melinda Lunn
Jean M. Machado
Cliff McDonald
Ernst O. Meissner
Wanda Moore
Sherry Moura
Carrie Nagy
Michael Peckham
Teri Personeni
Linda Potter
Michael Powers
Sharon Roseme
Ann Rubenstein
Connie Schurr
Lynnette Rollins
Michele Roush Shaw, DVM
Mr. and Mrs. P. Shewell
Candi and Larry Suddjian
Mrs. Robert Suhr
Laurie Sweeney
Casey J. Terribilini, D.C., AFICC
Jean Terry
Marilynn Terstegge
Linda Thomason
Victoria L. Thompson
Bill and Leslie Wraith III
James G. Yates

Comments from Teichert Aggregates:
Mike Isle

IV. CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS RESPONSES TO COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE GENERAL PLAN

This section contains a complete set of California State Parks responses to the comments received during the CEQA public comment period for the Donner Memorial State Park Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR. The responses include changes to the General Plan text and maps approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission. The responses are numbered to correspond to numbers annotated in the margins of the comment letters (see Section V).

The section also includes California State Parks staff-directed changes that cover editorial clarifications and minor revisions to the plan language to emphasize or clarify points or issues of interest.

Responses to Public Comments and Changes to the General Plan

The following are responses the Department provided for comments received on the Donner Memorial State Park Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR during the CEQA public comment period, from August 9, 2002 to September 23, 2002.

(**CSP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CALTRANS)**

1. The issues raised are not environmental, but pertain to operational issues concerning traffic patterns, signage, controls, etc. These matters will be considered at the time of specific project development when project design will be closely coordinated with Caltrans with regard to road and traffic matters.

   The General Plan is a first tier environmental review document that sets up general "zones" of authorized activities and future development at the park, but does not site or approve the specific projects that will be considered at a later time. Potential adverse impacts associated with specific projects proposed within any particular area cannot be reasonably determined during the General Plan phase of park development; attempts to analyze and mitigate potential impacts from hypothetical projects would be speculative and could overlook significant impacts that would be obvious during subsequent project definition and design phases.

   The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR (PGP/DEIR) generally discusses the possible impacts of future development as authorized by the General Plan and commits the Department to two general concepts: 1) to follow the management objectives and policies in the General Plan that are adopted to guide the development in a way that will avoid or mitigate impacts, and 2) to perform more detailed project analysis, including environmental analysis, prior to final decision and approval of those projects. These project-specific CEQA documents will be able to provide more detailed analysis of potential resource impacts and mitigation measures, including requirements for monitoring and success criteria (where applicable).

   This tiered approach to programmatic or general planning is clearly authorized by CEQA and has been reviewed and approved in a number of court cases. The courts have ruled that an EIR is required for a general or "master" plan, but as there are no specific development projects proposed in such a plan to analyze for environmental effects, there is a reduced requirement, under CEQA guidelines, for a detailed level of specificity in the EIR.

   All future projects for the park will go through an environmental review process that includes opportunities for public input. More information about the environmental review process is available at: http://www.opr.ca.gov/clearinghouse/Environmental.shtml, or you may contact the local State Park District office.

2. On page 141 of the Environmental Analysis section of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR, a potential increase in visitation following development of the plan's key proposals is acknowledged, and a statement made that adverse environmental impacts from this increase be avoided through improvements to existing facilities and development of new facilities. As part of a potential future planning process to build a new museum/visitor center for the park, site-specific evaluations, including traffic analysis, will be undertaken that will detail current and projected use patterns and traffic levels. If potential adverse impacts are indicated, appropriate mitigation will be developed to avoid or substantially lessen the impacts to less than significant levels.

3. Caltrans was notified of our public workshop held at the park on May 30, 2002, where State Parks staff explained the planning process and presented planning alternatives for public comment. See Response #1 for an explanation of the first tier environmental review requirements for this Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR. Further environmental and other documentation, including traffic analysis, will be conducted at the time a new museum/visitor center is proposed for development; Caltrans will be notified at that time for input and review.

(CSP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD – LAHONTAN REGION)

4. The Department recognizes the importance of water quality protection in the Truckee Basin. This Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report (page 130, Water Quality Impacts, Mitigation, paragraph 1) explicitly states that the "Department will comply with all applicable water quality control standards for the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit as contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan)." The plan identifies appropriate best management practices, including BMPs for the Lahontan Region as developed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, as one of a number of measures that the park will utilize to comply with these water quality control standards (see page 130, Mitigation, paragraph 2). Specific BMPs, as well as calculations relating to water quality treatments, will be determined as part of project-specific planning when detailed projects, project impacts, and potential mitigation are defined.

   The plan (page 84) also proposes development of a Watershed Management Plan that would identify water quality objectives, negative impacts to water quality, and management actions to minimize and prevent impacts from visitor use, park maintenance, and development activities.
   Please refer to Response #1 for a more complete discussion of the scope of this first tier environmental review document.

5. The Draft EIR describes the proposed project features, potential impacts, and potential mitigation at an appropriate level of detail for a General Plan level EIR. The discussion of project-specific source control measures and treatment measures are not appropriate in this first tier CEQA document. These mitigation

elements would be discussed in future site-specific project impact and mitigation documents. Please see Response #4.

6. A temporary and permanent Best Management Practices maintenance plan will, as appropriate, be included in future environmental analysis and potential mitigation when project-specific impacts have been determined. Please see pages 84-85 in the Plan Section for a park-wide guideline referencing the development of Best Management Practices for any future park project, and page 130 of the Environmental Review section for a discussion regarding compliance with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's water quality control standards and project requirements. Please see Response #1 for a complete discussion of the scope of this first tier environmental document.

7. The Department recognizes the importance of identifying potential impacts related to snow removal and storage, and deicing procedures (see page 130, Water Quality Resources, paragraph 3). Potential impacts from snow removal and storage and deicing procedures will be evaluated during site-specific project planning and development. Please refer to Response #1 for a discussion of this first tier environmental review document.

8. Page 129, Water Quality Resources, Discussion, paragraph 4 identifies, as requested, the surface waters within the park that are susceptible to water quality impacts. Surveys to identify surface waters (including rivers, streams, drainage swales, wetlands, springs, etc.) will be conducted as part of site-specific planning. Page 131 of the Environmental Analysis discusses potential mitigation for construction impacts to water quality, as well as developing improvements to the existing interpretive program in order to "educate the public on ways to improve and maintain water quality, including information on the water quality impacts of recreation."

9. Please see Appendix F of the document for a listing of agencies that would affect future planning and construction processes, including The U.S, Army Corps of Engineers. The Department will follow all applicable regulations with regard to water quality and disturbance to any surface waters, including wetlands and flood plain areas.

10. The Department is aware of the prohibition areas relating to surface waters and 100-year flood plain areas. The General Plan includes guidelines for water quality (p. 84) that indicate the Department will comply with all water quality protection standards available in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region. Environmental analysis of future site-specific projects will discuss compliance with the prohibitions or how any proposed disturbance will satisfy the exemption criteria specified in the Basin Plan. This level of detail is not appropriate for this first tier CEQA document. More detailed descriptions of future recreational, operational, and maintenance activities and future facilities will be provided as part of subsequent CEQA review for specific projects and management plans. Please

refer to Response #1 for a discussion of the scope of this first tier environmental review document.

11. The Regional Board has requested the identification of project-specific impacts and potential mitigation. As previously stated, this is a first tier environmental review document that offers a direction for park management, but does not provide details of specific park facilities or development. Tiering of the environmental process allows State Parks to conduct preliminary environmental analyses of planning concepts at the general planning stage, followed by a more detailed examination of actual development projects in subsequent environmental review documents. The Environmental Analysis section of this document identifies potential impacts and mitigation associated with proposed future activities, facilities, and plan development at a level appropriate with the scope of this first tier document. Please refer to Response #1 for more discussion of the scope of this first tier environmental review document.

(CSP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM NEVADA COUNTY)

12. Please contact the Sierra District for more information on the Roads and Trails Plan for the park.

(CSP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE TOWN OF TRUCKEE)

13. See Response #1. The commentor requested that the Draft EIR provide policies to address drainage and water quality to ensure that "policies are in place before a Watershed Management Plan is adopted." The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR (pages 84-85) contains a number of water quality goals and guidelines, including adherence to the water quality protection standards and control measures available in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region and development of best management practices for erosion control and surface runoff. For future developments with ground disturbance greater than one acre, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will also be produced for applicable projects as required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. This requirement will go into effect in March 2003.
    In addition, the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR (page 130) states that "the Department will comply with all applicable water quality control standards for the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit as contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan)." Site-specific mitigation measures, appropriate best management practices, and the implementation of park guidelines will ensure compliance of this mitigation measure.

    The Watershed Management Plan proposed in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR will identify surface and groundwater quality objectives, existing negative impacts to water quality, and establish policies and management actions to minimize and prevent impacts to water quality from visitor use, park maintenance, and development.

14. Existing noise sources in and adjacent to the park are discussed in the Plan on page 47. The existing major noise sources in the area are created by the freeway, railroad, power boats, and personal watercraft users. Potential noise impacts from proposed future developments in the park are discussed in the Environmental Analysis section on page 143. Increased noise levels may occur during normal park operations due to normal visitor use and traffic. Construction equipment and operations may produce temporary increases in noise levels. The plan proposes timing constraints to avoid negative impacts to park visitors, adjacent land users, and wildlife. Potential noise impacts would be further evaluated as part of future site-specific planning. Please see Response #1 regarding the purpose and goals of this first tier environmental review document.

15. The General Plan proposes a number of circulation improvements that are intended to reduce current traffic congestion, thus reducing the probability of carbon monoxide hot spots. These improvements (discussed on pages 47-49 and page 141) include a new entrance road design, separate bus parking, improvements in circulation to avoid traffic conflicts and eliminate the existing stack up congestion at the park entrance, and continuation of public transit availability at the park entrance. In addition, the General Plan proposes a Roads and Trails Management Plan to guide the development and location of future circulation and to analyze related circulation impacts. Appropriate air quality and traffic analyses will be undertaken in the planning of site-specific facility development. Please see Response #1 regarding the purpose and goals of this first tier environmental review document.

16. See Response #1 for a complete discussion of the purpose and goals of this first tier environmental review document. A resource inventory will provide the information needed to pursue park development that is compatible with protection of the resources. The Mitigation discussion in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR (page 125) includes a variety of mitigation measures that will avoid or lessen potential adverse impacts to sensitive species and habitats. A Natural Resource Management Plan is proposed that will provide guidance for identification, protection, habitat restoration, and adaptive management of the park's resources. In addition, site specific surveys for sensitive species and habitats will be completed as part of the planning process for resource management projects, construction, maintenance, or rehabilitation of facilities and trails. Subsequent management plans and specific project plans implementing the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR will be subject to additional environmental review under CEQA.

17. An assessment of future available service capacity of local public utilities was not studied in depth during this General Plan process, except to confirm that existing utilities will remain in place and have the potential for upgrades in the future. Until specific projects are proposed for development, maximum utility demands will not be known. See Response #1.

18. The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR, Park Summary, addressed potential flooding (page 23 and page 25), topographic (page 22-24), and snow avalanche (page 23) hazards in the park. Fire hazards and fire management are also discussed (pages 75-76). Goals and guidelines to protect the public from these hazards are contained in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR. The Environmental Analysis section also discusses these guidelines and their application as appropriate mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize potential hazards. More detailed analysis of any potential hazards will be provided as part of subsequent CEQA review for site-specific projects and future management plans.

19. The Preliminary General Plan addresses land use compatibility in several ways. Park-wide goals and guidelines include recommendations that decisions regarding fire management (p. 75), habitat linkages and biocorridors (p. 81), buffer zones for natural resources (p. 82), and road and trail linkages (p. 91), and aesthetics and noise (p. 97) be coordinated with surrounding agencies and landowners. Further land use compatibility issues, traffic, and visitation levels will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in future specific projects for the park. Refer to the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR, page 111, Planning Zone #3, Future Study Zone, Guidelines, 4th guideline (bullet), below. This guideline applies to Planning Zones #1 and #2 as well.

    > "Coordination with adjacent property owners (public and private), and federal, state and local agencies having jurisdiction over nearby lands will be necessary during these future planning processes. "

    See Response #1.

20. As previously stated, the Plan and Environmental Analysis sections have discussed a number of proposed improvements to park circulation in order to improve existing conditions and reduce traffic congestion (see pages 47-49 and page 141). In addition, the Department is committed to comply with Nevada County and Caltrans road requirements and the Town of Truckee General Plan recommendations to minimize impacts to users of Donner Pass Road, the primary park access (see page 141). Please see Response #1 for a discussion of the scope of this first tier environmental review document.

21. It is not the intent of the General Plan to create specific guidelines or policies in regard to a volunteer program for the park. The Department currently has programs in place to provide guidance to its District offices for administration of volunteer activities.

22. See Response #26.

(CSP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS, PROPERTY AND RESOURCE OWNERS)

23. The acquisition from The Nature Conservancy did not include the NW 1/4 of Section 20. The maps within the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR correctly show the Department's current ownership.

24. **Map #2**: **The final map will show these changes as requested: 1) repositioned U.S. Forest Service campground symbols; and 2) public property at Martis Creek Lake will be shown as such. A note for the park will be added: "See Map #3 for information regarding Donner Memorial State Park."** The railroad track in Section 21 is shown in beige, intended to be "other ownership" (depicted in beige on the whole map**). The final map will have a legend symbol for "other ownership" for the beige areas shown on the map.**

    Map #3: U.S. Forest Service and private properties were not identified on this map as it functions primarily as an identification of land uses and facilities within State Park boundaries.

25. The Planning Zones shown on Map #8 in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR have approximately the following sizes:

    Planning Zone 1: 78 acres
    Planning Zone 2: 29 acres
    Planning Zone 3: 1443 acres

26. The General Plan, as a planning document containing long-term goals and guidelines, defines the broadest framework for a park unit's development, management, and public use. The General Plan will help guide day-to-day decision-making and serve as the basis for developing focused management plans and specific project plans, and for other management actions necessary to implement the goals of the plan. Under this planning structure, the General Plan does not have a finite lifespan and does not identify a specific timeframe for implementation of its goals and guidelines.

27. Subsequent management plans or projects do not become General Plan Amendments unless they suggest actions contrary to the General Plan, in which case a General Plan Amendment may be necessary and require subsequent approval by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

28. See Responses #1 and #2. Specific future projects will evaluate changes in park visitation.

29. This comment does not appear to address environmental issues. The referenced Executive Order directs and reminds state agencies to consider the effect of their activities and projects on uses of private property so as to insure that private property rights are appropriately respected. In all of its activities, the Department is

mindful of its obligations with regard to property acquisition without just compensation. In connection with the General Plan and its implementation, the Department will continue to be sensitive to these issues whether or not the Executive Order remains in effect.

30. This comment does not raise an issue with regard to the Environmental Analysis section of the PGP/DEIR. However, the Roads and Trails Plan being developed by the Sierra District will include guidelines for monitoring of use and resource impacts. See Response #1.

31. This comment does not raise an environmental issue. Nevertheless, the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR describes in a general way the various municipal jurisdictions over the length of Coldstream Road. Please contact the Sierra District office and the Town of Truckee for more information regarding the exact locations of these jurisdictions, and what they believe their responsibilities to be for the road.

32. The acquisition of the Schallenberger Ridge property from the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) was to be conducted as a phased acquisition. It was necessary for TPL to reserve an access easement across that portion of Section 19 acquired as a Phase I acquisition, so as to allow TPL continued access to the Phase II property until such time as the Phase II acquisition is complete. As the current owner, TPL requires continued access to the property for the purposes of monitoring, inspecting, and maintaining the property. (The Phase II acquisition was completed in spring of 2003.)

33. The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR is not intended to be a document that contains a comprehensive listing of all easements and encumbrances existing for every parcel in the park. The section in the Park Summary on page 18 titled "Existing Utilities, Easements, and Encumbrances" describes several that do exist. These were noted as information to assist in determining appropriate alternate sites for a new park museum/visitor center, in Planning Zones #1 and #2. The Park Summary does not contain a complete listing of utilities, easements and encumbrances for the park, especially for those lands included in Planning Zone #3. This zone is the "future study zone," which was not a primary focus of this planning effort and for which future studies and planning processes will be conducted to determine appropriate land uses and management strategies. The Department is aware of the issues that are raised by the comment, and it is not the intent or purpose of the Department or any aspect of the Plan to deprive the public or other private landowner rights of access or uses that lawfully exist through the park.

34. Page 72 of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR, second paragraph under "Riparian and Wetland Areas" is to be revised as follows:

> **While park activities have probably not substantially disrupted the ecological integrity of wetland, riparian, and lakeshore**

habitats, prior uses <u>within the park</u> and management of adjacent lands and waters have had <u>substantial</u> negative impacts in some areas<u>, particularly on soils compaction and wildlife disturbance</u>. Logging, road and railroad construction, off-road vehicle use, and fire suppression have contributed to vegetation loss and corresponding fragmentation of wildlife habitat, while stream diversions and chemical contamination have reduced the viability of aquatic habitats.

35. The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR provides a variety of guidelines to encourage water quality improvements within the park as well as in the Truckee-Donner Basin. All of these water quality goals and guidelines are important to ensure water quality protection and improvements.

36. The Department does not wish to specify in the general plan "how and when" these actions will occur. We will consider appropriate methods to implement the necessary actions, including resource management plans, to achieve the desired outcomes. Please see Response #1 for further information on future projects.

37. The lack of a general plan does not preclude the Department from acquiring property. There were many different reasons for acquisition of the Phase I parcels on Shallenberger Ridge. The goals and guidelines included in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR provide overall planning guidelines and further justification for potential acquisitions, including guidelines related to scenic resources. The plan's broad framework will serve as the basis for developing focused management plans, specific project plans, and other management actions, including acquisitions, from willing sellers, of areas with high scenic quality, or to protect important scenic vistas.

    The last sentence of the last paragraph on page 135 is hereby revised as follows:

    The existing visual character of the park could not be improved or enhanced in a significant way, and existing scenic resources may be affected<u>.</u>~~, and protection of existing scenic vistas by acquisition or conservation agreement may not be provided with the no project alternative.~~

38. The goals and guidelines in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR are consistent with the mission of State Parks, which is to "provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valuable natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation." The Department, based on its mission, strives to acquire land that has the potential for providing resource protection and recreational opportunities where appropriate. Potential park acquisitions or conservation easements are evaluated for their natural, cultural and recreational values and, if acquired, become the subject of

resource inventory and planning processes to determine appropriate uses and management strategies for those lands.

The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR, page 139, Cumulative Impacts, last paragraph, will be modified as follows:

> **In addition, the possible acquisitions and conservation easements discussed in the General Plan ~~will~~ may act to protect existing park resources, preserve viewsheds, and enhance plant and wildlife habitat by providing habitat linkages and buffers.**

39. See Response #1. Appropriate at this level of general planning, the section on Fire Management (pages 75-76) incorporates consideration of and planning for the concerns of adjacent private landowners. The "role of the private landowner" is included in the guidelines under "integrate the park's management objectives into regional fire management policies and protocols through the incorporation of science, community involvement and agency cooperation." The plan also cites "safety and cultural concerns" and "other land uses" that must be considered during the development of vegetation management plans, including the use of prescribed fire and wildfire suppression protocols. This type of specific planning is appropriate for the more technically specific and subsequent tiers of CEQA compliance and park planning.

40. See Response #1. The agencies responsible for reintroduction of native wildlife species invite public participation in their processes. The California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted for further information on species reintroduction.

41. The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR does not refer to "establishing, maintaining, and preserving buffers" on neighboring lands as stated in the comment letter. Please see Response #1 for further explanation of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR's role in the designation of specific uses for park properties. The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR (page 82, third bullet) suggests seeking "cooperative agreements with adjacent landowners, neighbors, and local jurisdictions" in the quest for buffers for park resources, and to "consider acquiring neighboring properties from willing sources to serve as buffers…".

42. See Responses #1 and #41. The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR does not attempt to identify properties outside the park boundaries for any particular, specific use. Future management plans and projects will study and recommend appropriate recreational and other uses and programs to manage park property.

    The statements in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR regarding park-wide goals and guidelines for aesthetics (pages 97-98) noted in the comment letter were designed to emphasize the interconnectedness of resources between adjacent properties, and to stress the need for coordination and cooperation between State Parks and neighboring landowners. The plan also points out the Department's

desire for both the park and neighboring landowners to adhere to existing and future policies related to aesthetics contained in local planning documents, such as the counties' and Town of Truckee general plans, in order to preserve important aesthetic values for future generations (see page 98, first set of Guidelines, bullet two).

43. See Response #1.

(CSP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM DISABLED EQUESTRIANS ORGANIZATION)

44. See Response #1. The Department is committed to meeting accessibility code requirements in all of its recreational facilities.

(CSP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST)

45. It was not intended that the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR specify "imminent acquisitions" for the park. **Map #2 will be modified to delete the "Potential Acquisition" shown on the legend and map.** Map #3 shows several potential acquisitions for the park. As you indicated, some are in the final stages of property conveyance to the State.

46. The goals and guidelines of the general plan are intended to provide general guidance for park operations and activities, including park concessions. These activities are managed and enforced through contracts with specific requirements that must be consistent with the General Plan goals and guidelines.

47. See Response #1. The goals and guidelines developed for this Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR are intended to be used as overall management tools to avoid conflict between future resource and recreation plans that will be developed for the park. The Department will conduct site-specific studies for each future project, allowing all previous information to be utilized as well as further studies to determine impacts and mitigations of future actions. All of these plans and site-specific projects will benefit from in-house, agency, and public review to ensure compatible planning goals.

(CSP RESPONSES TO A COMMENT LETTER RECEIVED FROM BILL WRAITH. THIS LETTER WAS CHOSEN TO REPRESENT A TOTAL OF 57 LETTERS RECEIVED FROM EQUESTRIAN USERS THAT WERE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL IN CONTENT.)

48. As a first tier environmental review document, this Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR allows for the consideration of a wide variety of recreation facilities for the park, including equestrian facilities. Future site-specific studies and projects may be identified to evaluate the potential location, impacts, and appropriate mitigation for future recreational facilities.

In addition, in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR, the Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Recreation, Guidelines, page 92, second and sixth guidelines (bullets) will be combined and amended as follows:

> **Evaluate ~~the~~ ~~current capacities~~ ~~of the following kinds of~~ <u>the need for, and current capacities of, existing</u> <u>recreational</u> facilities, <u>and consider construction of new and/or upgraded facilities in order</u> to provide a quality visitor experience <u>for</u> ~~while embracing facility upgrades to make current and future programs accessible~~ ~~to~~ the general public. Facilities include, but are not limited to, small and large group day use facilities, vehicle-oriented campgrounds, group camping, environmental camps, <u>equestrian facilities</u>, a museum/visitor center facility, and trails. If recreation trends and visitor desires indicate viable interest in types of facilities that would be new to the park, complete feasibility studies as necessary to evaluate compatibility with other uses and resource management objectives.**

Please see Response #1 for further explanation of the role of this General Plan as a first tier environmental review document.

49. See Response #1.

50. Thank you for your suggestion of a Volunteer Trail Patrol at the park. The Donner Memorial State Park Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR is a first tier environmental document (see Response #1 above) and does not include details regarding specific plans and programs for the park. The Sierra District is currently conducting a Roads and Trails Plan planning process to determine appropriate uses and locations of roads and trails in the park, including equestrian trails. Please contact the Sierra District office to discuss the Roads and Trails Plan and volunteer activities in more detail.

(CSP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM TEICHERT AGGREGATES)

51. We agree there may be some confusion in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR regarding the use of the word “alternative(s).” The “preferred alternative” is contained in The Plan section of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR, which presents two preferred site locations: 1) The “Teichert site,” and 2) the “in-park site.” These two sites, preferred by our Department, are also reflected in the Summary of the Plan (page 6) and Environmental Analysis (page 115+) sections of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR document.

    In the Plan Section, Park Planning Zones, page 105, <u>Teichert Property Alternative</u>, revise the first sentence as follows:

A site within the A. Teichert and Son, Inc. property east of the current park is the General Plan's preferred ~~alternative for the~~ location ~~of~~ for a new museum/visitor center for Donner Memorial State Park.

52. In the Summary of the Plan, page 6, New Museum/Visitor Center Alternatives, second paragraph, first sentence, revise as follows:

    The Department, ~~along~~ with support from Teichert, ~~has~~ applied for a federal Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) grant, ~~to work in partnership~~ and in July 2002 was awarded a $3.1 million grant to build a new museum/visitor center ~~on a portion of Teichert's land~~, subject to further project site evaluation and study and a subsequent decision to proceed with the project using the TEA grant funds and other funding sources as required.

53. To date, the Department has been unable to confirm through documentation that the ponds have been fully reclaimed.

54. The sentence on page 102 of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR is hereby revised to reflect **35 acres**, not 40 acres as stated.

55. The Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR (pages 96-97) lists a variety of interpretive themes to be explored and interpreted for the public. The current museum contains a large amount of information about the pioneers and their hardships and successes in reaching California. A new museum would include additional information regarding transportation development through the region and a more extensive discussion of the park's natural resources, which are under-represented in the current museum.

56. See Response #1.

57. See Response #51.

58. See Response #51.

59. See Response #51.

60. **The note on Map #4, west side of the Teichert property, "Unconsolidated Material, Potential Contamination," will be eliminated in the final version of the General Plan.**

California State Parks Staff Directed Changes to the General Plan

1. In the SUMMARY OF THE PLAN, page 3, revise the following sentence in the first paragraph:

   ~~Although~~ Resource management programs and facility development have taken place over the years prior to the requirement that a General Plan be prepared for each park unit. ~~a general plan has not been prepared until now~~ This is the first unit-wide General Plan to be prepared to guide long-range management programs and facility development in the park.

2. In the SUMMARY OF THE PLAN, page 6, New Museum/Visitor Center Alternatives section, paragraph 4, remove the following sentence:

   ~~(The building was not constructed here because acquisition of that parcel of land had not been completed at the time funds were available for construction of a new museum.)~~

3. In the PARK SUMMARY section, page 17, first paragraph under Recreational Land Uses section, revise the following sentence:

   There are ~~154~~ 147 campsites in three separate campground loops…

4. In the PARK SUMMARY section , page 32, Significant Resource Values, Natural Resources Summary and Evaluation, Sensitive Animal Populations, second paragraph, will be changed as follows:

   Data from a few small scale wildlife surveys conducted since 1990 along with confirmed observations in the vicinity of the park show the presence of ~~1~~2 threatened species, and 7 sensitive species . .

5. In the PARK SUMMARY section, page 33, Significant Resource Values, Natural Resources Summary and Evaluation, Sensitive Animal Populations, Birds, a paragraph will be added between the 3rd and 4th paragraphs as follows:

   Bald eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* (Federal threatened, California endangered) nesting habitat is found in forests up to 7000 feet elevation, within 1 mile of a fish-bearing water body. Suitable habitat includes forest with large diameter trees (> 2 feet in diameter). Nest trees are usually within view of a water body and are often prominently located on the topography. Bald eagles may be seen foraging over Donner Lake or perching in nearby trees, but no nests or winter roosts have

been recorded. Bald eagle populations are gradually increasing in California and eagles continue to recolonize their former range. Each year, bald eagle pairs are discovered occupying new nesting territories. The suitable nesting and roosting habitat found within 1/2 mile of the lake shore may become occupied by breeding or wintering eagles in the future.

6. In the PARK SUMMARY section, page 51, in the Park Recreational Opportunities section, 4th paragraph, change the number of campsites from ~~154~~ to 147.

7. In THE PLAN section, page 79, Park-wide Management Goals and Guidelines, Animal Life Management, paragraph 4 will be changed as follows:

Twenty-~~seven~~ eight wildlife species known or potentially present in the park are . . .

8. In THE PLAN section, page 96, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Interpretation, Unifying Theme, the following additions will be made:

The interrelationships of many, diverse natural and cultural factors create opportunities and challenge adaptations confronting the essence of human endeavor in the Sierra Nevada Range.

9. In THE PLAN section, page 96, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Interpretation, first Primary Theme, the following additions will be made:

Natural processes of enormous scope create and change the land, water and inhabitants.

10. In THE PLAN section, page 96, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Interpretation, first Primary Theme, first Supporting Theme, the following change will be made:

The Sierra Nevada Range ~~defines the Donner Lake Region~~ is a dynamic landscape.

11. In THE PLAN section, page 96, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Interpretation, first Primary Theme, second Supporting Theme, the following change will be made:

The complex geological history of the Sierra Nevada Range is evident in ~~defines~~ the Donner Lake Region.

12. In THE PLAN section, page 97, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Interpretation, third Primary Theme, first Supporting Theme, the following additions will be made:

Humans repeatedly encounter the physical constraints of the Sierra Nevada barrier.

13. In THE PLAN section, page 97, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Interpretation, fifth Primary Theme, first Supporting Theme, the following additions will be made:

> **Limited <u>or empowered</u> by technological innovation, humans adapt the land to their needs and wants.**

14. In THE PLAN section, page 97, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Interpretation, sixth Primary Theme, the following additions will be made:

> **Humans <u>attempt to hold</u> dominion over nature; some win <u>and</u> some <u>lose in the attempt.</u>**

15. In THE PLAN section, page 97, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Interpretation, sixth Primary Theme, first Supporting Theme, the following additions will be made:

> **Those who located and built the mountain crossings, and why <u>and how</u> they did.**

16. In THE PLAN section, page 98, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for Aesthetics, paragraph #3, the following change will be made:

> **To sustain the aesthetic and ~~audible~~ <u>auditory</u> qualities…**

17. In THE PLAN section, page 100, Park-Wide Goals and Guidelines for the Use of Sustainable Design, Guideline #4, will be modified as follows:

> **Consider the building or structure/land interface to minimize disturbance to site character, skyline, <u>the dark sky</u>, vegetation, hydrology, and soils.**

18. APPENDIX D, Wildlife Habitats, will be modified as follows:

> **Mixed Conifer (Jeffrey pine dominated) – PRESENT: Osprey, <u>bald eagle</u>; POTENTIAL: . . .**
>
> **Water (Donner Lake, ponds left from gravel mining) – PRESENT: osprey; <u>bald eagle</u>; POTENTIAL: . . .**

V. PUBLIC COMMENT LETTERS

The following are copies of comment letters received during the CEQA public review period for the Donner Memorial State Park Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR. The letters are numbered in the margins to correspond to the comment numbers in Section IV, *Responses to Public Comments and Changes to the General Plan.*

ADDITIONAL CEQA COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED

The following letters were received during the CEQA public review phase along with the previous letters contained in this document. They consist of additional letters similar in form and content to the letter containing comments #48, 49, and 50 (from Mr. Bill Wraith), requesting inclusion of specific language in the General Plan directed toward development of equestrian facilities.

September 4, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Regards from Michele DeSiano
M Bar D Ranch

Name MICHELE DESIANO
Address 13436 SWAPS Ct, GRASS VALLEY CA 95949
Other contact info

September 4, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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Regards from:

Katie Guilliat Member "Gold Country Trails Council"
P.O. Box 1420 Cedar Ridge, Ca. 95924

September 4, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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Regards from

William Lorber
8025 Morningside Drive
Granite Bay, Ca. 95746

September 7, 2001

Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall
Suite 500
Sacramento CA 95814

RECEIVED
SEP 1 2 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

RE: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan

Dear Ms. Baxter,

My husband and I have learned about plans to provide access to the Coldstream Canyon. We are very supportive of providing access and horsecamps where ever possible so that the public can enjoy the beauty of these areas. We have been informed that the Lower Teichert Pond Area would be a great location for a horse camp seeing that it is located on relatively flat land and has both potable and livestock water available.

Equestrians are constantly fighting the battle of keeping existing trails open, so it is refreshing to find out that this area could become a great place to enjoy horse camping and riding. If we can be of assistance in any way, please let us know. We already work on the Pony Express National Historic trail and are co-chairperson for the Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve with hiking and equestrian trails in Penryn, CA. Equestrians are glad to donate time to help construct and maintain trail systems. We hope this area will provide us with another opportunity to enjoy the beauty of this country.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Linda Potter

Linda Potter
Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association member
Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve Co-chairperson
National Pony Express Association member

September 7, 2002

RECEIVED
SEP 1 2 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capital Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

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Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Glenn
8864 Water Song Circle
Roseville, CA 95747

September 4, 2002

RECEIVED
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NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

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Regards from

Carrie Nagy
2390 St Francis Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821

September 4, 2002

RECEIVED
SEP 1 2 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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Regards from

Jean M. Machado

Jean M Machado
3708 Don Julio Blvd
North Highlands, CA 95660

Laurie Sweeney
Past President – Meadow Vista Trails Association
17960 Squirrel Haven Lane
Meadow Vista, CA 95722
530-878-8234

RECEIVED
SEP 1 2 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 6, 2002

California State Parks

Northern Service Center

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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Michael Peckham
17960 Squirrel Haven Lane
Meadow Vista, CA 95722
530-878-8234

RECEIVED
SEP 1 2 2002
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September 6, 2002

California State Parks

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We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access:

- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from

Michael Peckham

September 4, 2002

RECEIVED
SEP 12 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

- While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.

  Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

  A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

- We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

- No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access:

- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from

Sherry Moura

Sherry Moura
23120 Hidden Ranch Road
Auburn, CA 95602

September 11, 2002

SEP 1 2 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

I am the Trails Chair for the Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association("LBHA")We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this planWe request that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

- While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. W e have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.
  We might be able cost share, provide labor for or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

  A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

- We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking

for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide linkage to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail and Placer General Plan trails, with equestrian access to:

- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above

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We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Very truly yours,

Sharon Roseme

3530 Auburn Folsom Rd
Loomis, CA 95650
916-652-7139
sroseme@mhalaw.com

3530 Auburn Folsom Rd
Loomis, CA 95650
916-652-7139
sroseme@mhalaw.com

RECEIVED
SEP 1 1 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 9, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: **Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR**
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

- While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.

  Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

  A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

- We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

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- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Nancy Frank
7071 Rancho Verde Lane
Loomis, CA 95650
916-660-0630

RECEIVED

SEP 1 1 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 10, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center

ATTN: Ms Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

A recent communication from Adda Quinn has alerted me to the urgency of the above referenced plan/draft EIR.

For many years I have represented equestrian interests on the San Mateo County Trails Advisory Committee but my personal interests go far beyond local issues. I have read and considered the following letter by Adda Quinn and support it in it's entirety. Please address the equestrian issues as outlined.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.

Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access:

Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner

Lakeview Canyon

Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail

Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Respectfully Yours

Ernst O. Meissner
1327 Johnson Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650 325-0479 phone and fax
eomeissner@aol.com

September 4, 2002

RECEIVED

SEP 1 1 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

- While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.

  Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

  A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

- We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

- No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access:

- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from

Janet B. Heimann

Janet B. Heimann
11565 McCarthy Road
Carmel Valley, CA 93924
E-mail Trailnet@aol.com

California Equestrian Trails & Lands Coalition

Charles (Toby) Horst, Chairman
36281 Lodge Road
Tollhouse, CA 93667

RECEIVED
SEP 1 1 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 6, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento CA 95814

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

We in the California Equestrian Trails & Lands Coalition (CET&LC) appreciate the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between some of our 43,000 member equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR are amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

- While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp,s assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.

- Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp. CET&LC can help coordinate some of this cooperative effort.

- A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

1295 Shaw Avenue, Suite104-151, Clovis, CA 93612, (559) 855-7765. FAX (559) 855-2236
www.calequestriancoalition.com Email: easyrider@psnw.com

We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian trucks and trailers. Again many of these equestrian rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of our members serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. Our member groups are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate equipment day parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access: Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner Lakeview Canyon Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above.

CET&LC understands that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place our organizational information on your notification list for future actions. We will make every effort to have our member groups respond.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians.

Sincerely;

Charles (Toby) Horst

J. Berkey
23047 Avis Lane
Hayward, CA 94541

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 18, 2002

California State Parks, Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the inal version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp, which is located 15 miles down Highway 20, has been suggested as a desirable template. Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station) or other similar location, this would be an ideal spot from which to stage rigs. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified or otherwise available to serve in a similar capacity.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide linkage to planned and existing trails such as the Pacific Coast Trail, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We appreciate the opportunity of working with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of varying lengths and an adequate day-parking area for rigs. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2, which included equestrian access to:

- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail · Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Sincerely,

J. Berkey

J. Berkey

Law Office Of
JONATHAN J. ZERIN

*Jonathan J. Zerin
Ann Rubenstein
*Licensed in California and Nevada

131 S. Auburn St., P.O. Box 3453, Grass Valley, CA 95945-3453 • Telephone: (530) 272-1524 • Fax: (530) 272-0125

September 6, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan which was presented in a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan.

We think that the Final version of the Plan and EIR should be more specific in addressing the needs and concerns of horsemen who anxiously await the development of and will use a Horse Camp and adjoining loop trails in the Coldstream Canyon area that will link with existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, etc. We also will need adequate day-parking areas for our horse rigs.

Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in the meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access for Emigrant Canyon/Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mt. Judah and Mt. Donner, Lakeview Canyon, the Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail, and smaller loop routes in the valley floor. Horsemen have contributed much to the Truckee Donner Land Trust and will contribute time and labor to maintain and build trails and horse camps (like Skillman) in the area. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working together to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians.

Very truly yours,

Ann Rubenstein

Ann Rubenstein
Attorney at Law

AR:hs

RECEIVED
SEP 09 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 5, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to me. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

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  Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

  A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

- We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again our rig is 42 foot long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar

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Regards from

Spencer Scott Brown

Spencer Scott Brown
11545 Oregon Blvd.,
Reno, Nevada 89506
Scott_Brown@washoehealth.com

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September 5, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Regards from

Lynnette Rollins

Lynnette Rollins
5080 Jilltree Lane
Garden Valley, CA 95633
lrollins@telecom.dgs.ca.gov

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California State Parks
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ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Sincerely yours,

C. Budd Colby, PhD
Mounted Patrol San Mateo County
Captain 2001
521 Kings Mountain Rd.
Woodside, CA 94062

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September 4, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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Sincerely,

Connie Schurr

Connie Schurr
P.O. Box 2682
Malibu, CA 90265

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September 4, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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Regards from

Rick DeBenedetti

Rick DeBenedetti
1533 Portola Road
Woodside, CA 94062

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Candi Suddjian Larry Suddjian

Candi & Larry Suddjian
5017 William Court
Auburn, CA 95602

530-878-2813

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PAUL & HAZEL SHEWELL
P.O. BOX 412
NEVADA CITY, CA 95959

Tel: 530-265-2323
Email: hazelshewell@sbcglobal.net

September 6, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Sincerely,

Hazel Shewell

Paul and Hazel Shewell
Member of: Gold Country Trail Council
San Ramon Horsemens Association
Moraga Horsemens Association

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CASEY J. TERRIBILINI, D.C., F.A.F.I.C.C.
Qualified Medical Examiner Appointed by the Industrial Medical Council
Fellow of the American Board of Disability Analysts

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 4, 2002

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3880 South Bascom Avenue, Suite 109 • San Jose, California 95124-2600
(408) 371-0260 - Fax (408) 371-2612

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Regards from

Casey Terribilini, D.C., FAFICC

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September 5, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Services Center
Attn: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
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- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
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Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

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We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Best regards,

Wanda Moore
41357 Roberts Ave.
Fremont, CA 94538
Email: wmoore1975@hotmail.com

RECEIVED
SEP 09 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 8, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

RECEIVED
SEP 09 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. I am the equestrian advisor to the Truckee Donner Land Trust. My donations have built the bridge over Gregory Creek in Negro Canyon, provided the State Parks with a snowmobile, and helped purchase land for the Schallenberger Ridge

In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

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We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from

Adda Quinn
Castle-to-Martis Horse Trails Committee
3027 St. James Rd Belmont CA 94002-2955 AND
11448 Deerfield Dr Ste 2 Box 196 Truckee CA 96161 PLEASE MAIL TO BOTH
530-562-0148 AND 650-592-0722 PLEASE CALL BOTH
envirohorse@yahoo.com

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SEP 0 9 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Disabled Equestrians Organization
231 Glenwood Ave
Woodside, Calif. 94062
650-851-8343 Voice
650-851-3914 FAX
www.DisabledEquestrians.org
mailto: donp@disabledequestrians.org
Sept 5, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter:

The Disabled Equestrians Organization (DEO) represents individuals that are moderately disabled and use a horse or mule to provide them access to trails in the outdoors. The causes of their disabilities are varied, and include accidents, old age and disease. Some of the areas affected are knees, lungs, hearts, backs, ankles and eyesight. In spite of the diversity of aliments, they all share a common solution to their disabilities: they use a horse or mule to carry their worn out bodies to the places that millions of Americans enjoy: the beautiful high country of the Sierras, the rolling hills of the California coast, and many other public parks and forests.

The DEO is very concerned about Federal, State and Local agencies that are restricting, limiting or reducing the use of horses on the public trails they manage. There appears to be a concerted effort by some people who seem to think such restrictions are somehow good for the environment. We disagree with this conclusion, but the issue we are concerned about is far more important.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336 enacted July 26, 1990 and the Department of Justice's regulation implementing title II, subtitle A, of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all services, programs, and activities provided to the public by Federal, State and local governments. A disability as defined by ADA is a " physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual". To watch the roar of the falls in Yosemite, see the snow-capped peaks of the high Sierras, listen to the wind rustling in the aspens, these are truly a major life activity.

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NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 requires all buildings and facilities built or renovated with Federal funds be accessible to and usable to physically disabled persons. This law forms the foundation of the legal mandate requiring Federally funded facilities and programs to be accessible to and usable by physically disabled persons.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978 states "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by Federal financial assistance or by an Executive Agency." This Act further broadens the Architectural Barriers Act in that it requires program accessibility in all services provided with Federal dollars.

To deny disabled horsemen the right to use their horse to access the public trails is a clearly a violation of Federal law and results in discrimination against disabled equestrians. The closures are reducing opportunities for disabled equestrians to access the backcountry. It is essential that disabled equestrians have a place to park their trailer to unload their horse, a place for their horse to spend the night, and the permission to ride on the trails.

We do not want to see our funds and public funds spend on a lawsuit to enforce our rights. We would rather work with the public agencies to improve the trails, raise funds for outdoor programs, expand horse camps, and raise public awareness. But if we are denied our rights, a lawsuit will be our only recourse.

Now that we have established our role, there are several concerns regarding the Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

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SEP 0 9 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

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Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner Lakeview Canyon

Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized right of access of disabled equestrians, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for disabled equestrians.

Please keep us informed of your progress in insuring this plan will comply with Federal Law.

Regards from

Sincerely,

Donald E. Pugh
President
mailto: donp@disabledequestrians.org

RECEIVED
SEP 09 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 4, 2002

TO: California State Parks, Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814
Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Dear Ms. Baxter,

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We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from Mrs. Carla M Ambriz

Name Carla M Ambriz
Address 15930 Foothill Ave
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-9574
Other contact info CAMBRIZ@EARTHLINK.NET

It would truly be a pleasure to be able to ride from this horse camp one day. Thank you for your efforts.

September 12, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Regards

Michele Dallam
4309 #4 Collins Ct
Mt View, Ca 94040

September 11, 2002

RECEIVED

SEP 2 0 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Regards from

Steve Braff
Back 40 Ranch
42600 Traverse Trail
Aguanga, CA 92536

1-909-763-5010 home
+1 (775) 242-5294 fax
+1 (909) 763-1487 Offic

RECEIVED

SEP 2 0 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks

Northern Service Center

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

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Regards,

Cliff McDonald

2128 El Monte St

Needles, Ca. 92363 760/326/2935

Jeri Ayers-Scott
Bookkeeping Service
4810 Sutcliff Avenue
San Jose, California 95118-2341
Telephone: 408-723-8231
Fax: 408-723-8235

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 12, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

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Regards from,

Jeri Ayers-Scott
4810 Sutcliff Avenue
San Jose, CA 95118-2341

cc: Adda Quinn
3027 St. James Road
Belmont, CA 94002
650-592-0722 phone
650-802-9654 fax but computer must be on,
call first envirohorse@yahoo.com Adda

September 11, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA. 95814
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

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Regards from

James G. Yates
243 San Carlos Way,
Novato, CA. 94945-1676

Other contact info
JamesGYates@aol.com

James G Yates

September 12, 2002

California State Parks

Northern Service Center

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

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process.

Regards from

Michele Roush Shaw, DVM
13054 Folsom St
North San Juan CA 95960
Docshaw@pacbell.net

September 13, 2002

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Regards

Linda Thomason

Linda Thomason
223 Addison Ct.
Fremont, Ca 94539

TO: California State Parks, Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814 Re: Donner Memorial State Park
General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

RECEIVED
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NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

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Regards from
Name [illegible]
1308 Canyonwood Ct #10
[illegible] CA 94595

e-mail –
Horsearound@WebTV.NET

California needs to provide for the horsewomen of this state. Please help.

September 15, 2002

TO: California State Parks, Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814
Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

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Regards from Mary Everett, 715 Promontory Terrace, San Ramon, CA 94583
Daytime phone: 925 355 3162

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 4, 2002

TO: California State Parks, Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814
Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Regards from

Karl Boeger
3397 El Monte Drive
Concord, CA 94519
925-691-7844

September 4, 2002

TO: California State Parks, Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814
Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Kathleen Boeger
3397 El Monte Drive
Concord, CA 94519
925-691-7844

September 16, 2002
California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

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Regards from

Janice Frazier
20508 Henwood Road
San Jose, CA 95120

September 16, 2002
California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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SEP 20 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

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Regards from

Dan Dawson
20508 Henwood Road
San Jose, CA 95120

California State Parks

Northern Service Center

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

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While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.

Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.
We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.
No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.
We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access:

Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner Lakeview Canyon
Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail Smaller loop routes in the valley floor Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards,

Jennifer Kirkpatrick

San Jose, Ca

California State Parks

Northern Service Center

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.

Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

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We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.
No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.
We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access:

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We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards,

Michael Powers
Santa Clara, CA

Marinera Ranch

September 11, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Ste 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General
Plan/ Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

I appreciate the chance to in put some thoughts on the captioned.

. In a meeting with Karl Knapp and some equestrians concerning the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, information of a positive nature was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It is obvious, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not clear enough in respect to some of the interests of horsemen.

The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

Page 92 speaks of the intent to "design group camps", but it does not appear to include a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's help we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. Preferably the location should be on relatively flat land, in the woods, and have drinking water for people and livestock. It is also important to have enough unpaved pads for long rig parking with good entrances and exits.

The Skillman Group Camp on Highway 20, the Skillman Group Camp is a good example of what is needed.

What we would propose would supply a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis. I feel sure the horse community can help with expenses.

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Robert B. Suhr-100 Marinera Road-Scotts Valley-California-95066
831-335-5933

We really like the ideas on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". But we need horse day camping facilities. We agree with the plan to provide LINKAGE to future and present trails.

Some of our needs were expressed to Mr. Knapp in the September 2 meeting. We would like to make sure that the final Plan recognizes the number of horseback riders in the area and their desire for facitlities.

We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs.

I know the planning process can be long and tedious at times, but we would like to be able to express our needs and would like to be able to attend workshops.

Thank you for your serious consideration of equestrian needs. We hope to work with you to make the Coldstream Canyon area into a wonderful recreational area with the inclusion of the horse community--a low impact user.

Thank you so much.

100 Marinera Road
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

September 4, 2002

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

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  Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

  A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

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- No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access:

- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from

Jean Terry

Jean Terry
6449 Marysville Rd.
Browns Valley,Ca.
95918

Name
Address
Other contact info

September 12, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

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* Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

* A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Lonely Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

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Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards,

Pat Dallam
416 Chaucer St
Palo Alto, Ca 94301

September 10, 2002

RECEIVED
SEP 2 0 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

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- We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

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We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from

VICTORIA L. THOMPSON

Victoria L Thompson
P O Box 243
Cedar Ridge CA 95924
530-273-6784
tori@gv.net

September 4, 2002

RECEIVED

SEP 2 0 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

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  Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

  A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

- We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

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- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Sincerely,

Christine Cooper

Christine F. Cooper
35 Martinez Road
Woodside, CA 94062

September 16, 2002

RECEIVED

SEP 2 0 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
Attention: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan, Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. Recently, during a meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, a wealth of information was exchanged on equestrian desires for horse access in Coldstream Canyon. However the Draft Plan and EIR are not currently specific in a number of areas relating to equestrian use. My letter is in request to amend the Final version of the Plan and EIR, to reflect equestrian community needs.

As a licensed landscape architect in the state of California (lic. no. 3526), I find recommendations for equestrian facilities noted in this letter and in similar letters from horsemen address important planning concerns.

While "design group camps" is mentioned in the Draft Plan / EIR text, I do not see provision specifically for equestrian camp facilities.

With Mr. Knapp's guidance, the Lower Teichert Pond Area was identified as the best possible horse camp location. In the best possible scenario, a horse camp should be on relatively flat land, in forest, have both potable and livestock water, and unpaved pads for equestrian trailer parking (up to 56 feet), with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp, 15 miles down Highway 20, was suggested as a desirable example facility.

A horse camp in this location will provide a missing and needed facility between Robey Horse Camp - Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale - Davies Creek.

Equestrians are willing to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for a horse camp.

I strongly support the plan as described (on page 90) to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision is made for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs, as many are long, requiring large turning radii.

If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (inside the gate near the 76 Station or similar location), it would be an ideal equestrian facility staging area for horse trailers. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

I'd like to suggest provisions made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many horsemen serve in this capacity in other jurisdictions and would be happy to be available to you. I endorse the intent of the plan to link to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail and Place General Plan trails. I am happy to have been part of the group to work with Mr. Knapp, to identify our desire for a number of loop trails in the area, of differing lengths, and an adequate rig day-parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2, 2002 that include equestrian access:

Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass between Mts. Judah and Donner Lakeview Canyon Ridge route on the Schallenberger, to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail, and smaller loop routes in the valley floor.

Many horsemen have worked to provide significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. As part of the equestrians supporting this effort, I would be thrilled if the final Plan document specifically recognized equestrian needs, and I ask for clarification of the issues outlined above.

I understand the planning process is long and will involve other opportunities for input. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful multi-use recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let me know how I can help you further in this process.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kauer and Mark Hofmann

1300 Anton Place,
Aromas, CA. 95004

Teri Personeni

From: "Teri Personeni" <terob@ncwebsurfer.com>
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2002 8:06 AM
Attach: DonnerDEIR.doc
Subject: FW: Action Item By Sept 20 Please

RECEIVED
SEP 13 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 4, 2002

California State Parks

Northern Service Center

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

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a.. Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner

b.. Lakeview Canyon

c.. Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail

d.. Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

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We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from Teri Personeni

Teri Personeni
12428 Personeni Lane

9/6/2002

Nevada City, CA 95959
530) 273-9144

September 18, 2002

California State Parks, Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

I understand that a meeting was held recently between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp to discuss the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Donner Memorial State Park Draft General Plan. From what I have learned, there was positive information exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. However, it appears that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. I am writing to request that the final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

The Lower Teichert Pond Area has been identified as the best possible location for an equestrian camp, which would be a very welcome addition to the area. The Skillman Group Camp, located 15 miles down Highway 20, has been suggested as a model. Many of our fellow horsemen would be happy to contribute both labor and a small assistance in funding for such a horse camp.

We strongly support the intention of the plan to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences." However, provision should be made for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs which are large, and long, requiring a large area for turning, or a drive through situation. Unpaved surfaces would be preferable. If the Teichert gravel storage area or other similar location becomes available, this would be an ideal spot from which to stage rigs. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide linkage to planned and existing trails such as the Pacific Coast Trail, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail and others. We appreciate the opportunity of working with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for loop trails in the area of varying lengths and an adequate day-parking area for rigs. Particular areas of interest would be:

- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. Throughout the state horsemen's organizations provide labor both for construction and maintenance of trails as well as for volunteer patrols. We are active participants and supporters of the parks and trail systems. We would appreciate the inclusion of these items in the final plan.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make this area into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians.

Sincerely,

Marilynn Terstegge
103 Tara Road
Orinda, CA 94563

RECEIVED
SEP 2 4 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

MOTHER LODE ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 7158 -- AUBURN, CALIFORNIA -- 95604-7158

Saturday, September 07, 2002

California State Parks

Northern Service Center

ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager

One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

This letter is to pledge the support of Mother Lode Arabian Horse Association for a horse camp within Coldstream Canyon. Over the years our group has supported various trail projects throughout northern California, both in terms of financial gifts for signs, water troughs, picnic tables, trail maintenance and improvements, etc. as well as many, many hours of volunteer time for patrol. We certainly will be very interested in helping to support this project as well.

Adda Quinn has already submitted several excellent suggestions reflecting equestrian concerns regarding a horse camp: long rig access, adequate water, shade, loop trails, and connections to the existing trail network, etc.

Thank you for your time and effort in considering the needs of horsemen in the Donner Memorial State Park General Plan.

Shirley Koch, Delegate
7050 King Road
Loomis, CA 95650
916-652-6842
elts@garlic.com

ACTION COALITION OF EQUESTRIANS

P.O. Box 1320, Meadow Vista, CA 95722

September 18, 2002

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
Attn: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall, Ste 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Ref: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Our organization is very pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/Draft EIR. Representatives from **Action Coalition of Equestrians** (ACE) attended the September 2, 2002 meeting conducted by Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the General Plan / EIR and the needs of equestrians accessing the Coldstream Canyon portion of this plan.

In the course of the meeting we came to understand that one of our requests, that of a horse camp in Coldstream Canyon, would require inclusion in the Final version of the Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/EIR. The inclusion of such a camp is seen by equestrians as an important and viable amenity to the overall trail system developing in the Sierra Mountains and adjoining foothills. Several horse camps exist now but they lack the continuity of trails between them and the distance from camps like Robie Park to the next closest camp, Yure Valley, is more than a days ride. Locating a primitive horse camp in Coldstream Canyon with vehicle access would make this wonderful journey possible.

With all due respect to the many, many issues you take into account in the development of a significant General Plan/EIR like that of Donner Memorial State Park, we request that the Final Plan/EIR include a horse camp in the Coldstream Canyon and that the design of the proposed horse camp include the following specifications:

1. Lower Teichert Pond is geographically desirable because the terrain is relatively flat and forested.
2. The camp needs both potable water and livestock water.
3. Unpaved roads and an unpaved parking pad suitable for rigs that need a large turning radius is necessary for such a camp and for a general use staging area.

4. Multiple loop trails of varying length are desirable. Specific trails forming loops include Emigrant Canyon/Coldstream Pass between Mts Judah and Donner, Lakeview Canyon, ridge route on the Schallenberger Ridge to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail, smaller loop routes on the valley floor.

You may already be aware of the horse camps in this area that were built and continue to be managed, maintained and supervised by volunteer equestrian organizations. Our organization and the 35 associations and clubs that we represent can be counted on to assist in the construction, material donation and maintenance needs for a horse camp located in Coldstream Canyon. Partnerships such as this have been successful through out the state and we would like to offer our assistance to this plan.

Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions. Our members appreciate the consideration given to this request and will remain available to participate further at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Janet Peterson

President, **Action Coalition of Equestrians**

P.O. Box 1320

Meadow Vista, CA 95722

(530) 878-4750

jpfood@pacbell.net

September 4, 2002

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

TO: California State Parks, Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that the Draft Plan and EIR were not sufficiently specific in a number of areas of interest to horsemen. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template. Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces.

If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station) or other similar location, this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the Pacific Coast Trail, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access to:

- Emigrant Canyon/ Coldstream Pass in the saddle between Mts. Judah and Donner
- Lakeview Canyon
- Ridge route on the Schallenberger to complete the Donner Lake Rim Trail
- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards,

Melinda Lunn

Melinda Lunn
1384 Anza Way, Livermore, CA 94550
925-606-6481
m.lunn@attbi.com

September 4, 2002

RECEIVED

SEP 2 6 2002

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. In a recent meeting between equestrians and Mr. Karl Knapp on the Road and Trail Plan portion of the Draft Plan, positive information was exchanged on equestrian needs for horses accessing the Coldstream Canyon. It became apparent, however, that **THE DRAFT PLAN AND EIR WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY SPECIFIC IN A NUMBER OF AREAS OF INTEREST TO HORSEMEN**. The following is a request to assure that the Final version of the Plan and EIR be amended to reflect specific needs of the equestrian community.

- While page 92 discusses the intent to "design group camps" no provision has been made specifically for inclusion of a Horse Camp. With Mr. Knapp's assistance we have identified the Lower Teichert Pond Area as the best possible location for such a camp. The camp should be on relatively flat land, in the forest, have both potable water and livestock water, and adequate unpaved pads for long rig parking (up to 56 feet) with easy ingress and egress. The Skillman Group Camp 15 miles down Highway 20 has been suggested as a desirable template.

  Please look to the horsemen to cost share or donate trail signs, troughs, picnic tables, hitch racks and corrals for such a horse camp.

  A horse camp in this location will provide a missing capability between the Robey Horse Camp and the Euer Valley/Jackson Meadows on the S-N axis of the Pacific Crest Trail, and between Loney Meadows/ Kingvale and Davies Creek on the W-E axis.

- We strongly support the intention of the plan expressed on page 90 to "provide more loop trails, staging areas, and backcountry trail experiences". However, it is unclear whether provision will be made specifically for adequate day parking for equestrian rigs. Again many of these rigs are long, requiring large turning radii. We prefer unpaved surfaces. If the Teichert gravel storage area becomes available (about a quarter mile inside the gate near the 76 Station or other similar

location) this would be an ideal spot to stage rigs from. Such parking facilities could double as emergency staging areas, when needed.

- No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.

We endorse the intent of the plan to provide LINKAGE to planned and existing trails such as the PCT, Truckee Town Trails, Donner Rim Trail, Place General Plan trails, etc. We are gratified to have worked with Mr. Knapp to identify our needs for a number of loop trails in the area of differing lengths and an adequate rig day- parking area. Please refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access:

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- Smaller loop routes in the valley floor

Horsemen have been instrumental in providing significant donations to the Truckee Donner Land Trust that have helped make the Schallenberger Ridge available to the State. We would feel more comfortable if the final Plan document more specifically recognized equestrian needs, and thus ask you for inclusion/clarification of the issues listed above in.

We understand that this planning process is long and will involve other potential opportunities to provide input and/or attend workshops. Please place my contact information on your notification list for future actions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from,

Sarah Konst
PO Box 7274
Auburn, CA 95603
Email: konst@oro.net

RECEIVED
SEP 2 7 2002
NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

September 10, 2002

TO: California State Parks, Northern Service Center
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager
One Capitol Mall Ste 500 Sacramento CA 95814
Re: Donner Memorial State Park General Plan/ Draft EIR
Comments due in writing by September 20, 2002

Dear Ms. Baxter,

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· No provision has been made for potential Volunteer Trail Patrol. Many of us serve in this capacity in other land management jurisdictions and would be happy to be certified, or otherwise available for you.

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refer to the needs expressed to Mr. Knapp in our meeting of September 2 that include equestrian access to:

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We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you to make the Coldstream Canyon into a wonderful recreation area for low impact users, including equestrians. Let us know how we can help you further during this process.

Regards from,

Betsy Braun

TTDC Crossroads Pony Club

As an active trail rider and user of our National Parklands I would support any & all efforts to create area's for all types of users. Including Equestrians.

Thank you

Betsy E Braun