

State of California – The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

**PROJECT TITLE: Carmel Area State Parks General Plan**

**Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Carmel River State Beach,  
Point Lobos Ranch property and Hatton Canyon property**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) is the Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is considering the preparation of an environmental document for the project identified above. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. The project description, location, and possible environmental effects are included.

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.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT PERSON:**

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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The regional location of the Carmel Area State Parks is shown in Exhibit 1. The planning area consists of four State Parks properties: Point Lobos State Natural Reserve (SNR) and Carmel River State Beach, both of which are classified State Park units; and two unclassified properties commonly known as Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon. The planning area is located south of Monterey and includes properties to the east and west of Highway 1.

A combined General Plan (GP) for Point Lobos SNR and Carmel River State Beach was adopted in 1979 and amended in 1988 and 1996. This plan needs to be updated to

accurately reflect current land ownership, resource conditions, park management, and potential opportunities. To determine appropriate uses for all four properties and ultimately classify and name Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon as park units, State Parks will go through a thorough planning process which includes evaluating existing conditions and assessing current and potential uses.

State Parks is developing the Carmel Area State Parks GP in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5002.2 referencing GP guidelines and Section 21000 et seq. concerning CEQA. Consistent with the Public Resources Code, the GP will evaluate and define proposed land uses, facilities, concessions, operation of the units, resource management, and any environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the GP. The GP will serve as the guide for future development, management and operation of the Carmel Area State Parks planning area.

The Draft Program EIR for the Carmel Area State Parks GP will address the full range of planning issues, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Land use;
- Protection and long-term management of sensitive resources;
- Circulation, access, transportation, and parking;
- Visitation;
- Recreation opportunities;
- Public programs/interpretive opportunities;
- Safety and security.

#### **POSSIBLE EFFECTS AND MITIGATIONS:**

The Draft Program EIR will evaluate the potential environmental effects resulting from implementation of the proposed GP. Potential environmental effects that are anticipated to be addressed in the EIR include the following:

- Aesthetics;
- Air quality/greenhouse gases;
- Sea-level rise;
- Biological resources;
- Cultural resources;
- Land use;
- Traffic, circulation and parking;
- Noise;
- Utilities and public services;
- Security and public safety;
- Water quality.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION RELATED TO THIS NOP:**

##### **Scoping Meeting**

A planning workshop/Program EIR scoping meeting has been scheduled to provide additional information about the proposed project and to give interested parties an



opportunity to comment on the scope and potential environmental effects of the project. The scoping meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Wednesday, April 18, 2012  
6:00 to 7:30 pm  
Rancho Cañada Golf Club  
4860 Carmel Valley Road  
Carmel, CA 93923

Additional information about the planning process may also be found on the following website:

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/caspgp>

**INTENDED USES OF THE PROGRAM EIR:**

California State Parks and the State Park and Recreation Commission will use the Program EIR component of the GP to consider potential environmental effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives during the GP process. The Program EIR will serve as the State's CEQA compliance document for adoption of the GP and will serve as the program environmental document for implementing future actions included in the GP. In addition, State Parks will prepare policy guidance to direct the classification, appropriate uses, and management of each property. The end result of the planning process will be a GP that will guide the long-term management of the parks.

**Attachment:** Exhibit 1: Regional Location of Carmel Area State Parks.



Source: California Department of Parks and Recreation 2012

**Regional Location of Carmel Area State Parks**

**Exhibit 1**