



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
OLD SACRAMENTO STATE HISTORIC PARK
AND
CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM
GENERAL PLAN**

Date: May 30, 2012

To: Interested Parties

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

PROJECT LOCATION: The planning area is located along the Sacramento River in the City of Sacramento and encompasses the properties owned or leased by California State Parks in the Old Sacramento National Historic Landmark District (Old Sacramento), the Central Shops Historic District (Central Shops) within the Downtown Sacramento Railyards site (Railyards), and 16 plus miles of railroad right-of-way area on the heritage Sacramento Southern Railroad (SSRR) Walnut Grove branch line.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project is a General Plan to address the development and management of Old Sacramento State Historic Park (OSSHP), an existing state historic park in the northern portion of Old Sacramento, and the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM), planned as a separate and new state historic park with facilities in Old Sacramento, the Railyards, and the SSRR right-of-way area. OSSHP includes a large grassy area at the corner of I Street and Front Street, currently referred to as the 1849 Scene; and facilities of the Big Four Building, Dingley Steam Coffee and Spice Mill, Eagle Theatre, Tehama Building, CM&T Co. Building, B. F. Hastings Building, and Pony Express Plaza. The CSRM in Old Sacramento includes the facilities of the Railroad History Museum, Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR) Passenger Station, and CPRR Freight Depot. In addition, the larger planning area for the CSRM includes the SSRR right-of-way area and a future Railroad Technology Museum on the facilities and grounds of the Central Shops, within the Railyards and comprised of the historic Erecting Shop, Boiler Shop, turntable, transfer table, and firing line.

The purpose of the General Plan is to define and evaluate proposed land uses, facilities, concessions, management, and operation of both state park units; it also discusses environmental impacts associated with implementation of the General Plan. The General Plan will serve as a guide for future development, management, and operation of OSSHP and CSRM.

Together the facilities, artifacts, and resources in OSSHP, CSRM, and the greater Old Sacramento, and Central Shops historic districts depict Sacramento's critical role in commerce, communication, and transportation development. These parks interpret the character and accomplishments of the city's 19th century population and offer visitors different perspectives for experiencing, understanding, and discovering the rich history, resources, and artifacts unique to the Sacramento area. OSSHP focuses on interpreting the Gold Rush experience and significance of early Sacramento history and commerce in a park setting. CSRM interprets the development and significance of the railroad through its extensive collection of railroad artifacts, in a museum setting, focusing mainly on railroad history, science, technology, and contemporary themes. A variety of exhibits, programs, and interpretive media reflect the thematic focus of each state park, with a broader focus on human themes that allow visitors to create relevant meaning and connections to their personal lives and experiences.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The EIR identifies significant impacts with regards to noise, and includes mitigation measures to reduce some of these impacts to less than significant. However, even with implementation of mitigation measures, noise impacts related to passing trains adjacent to sensitive receptors would remain significant and unavoidable. All other impacts resulting from implementation of the General Plan are less-than-significant with the implementation of General Plan goals and guidelines and mitigation measures.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The EIR is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, beginning May 30, 2012.

Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments should be submitted no later than July 16, 2012, to the following address:

Petra Unger, Project Manager
AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento 95811

Comments can also be submitted by email to petra.unger@aecom.com

Copies of the EIR may be reviewed at the following locations during their business hours:

California State Railroad Museum Library
111 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento Central Library
828 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Belle Cooleage Community Library
5600 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822

The document is also available electronically on the internet at:

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION: This notice was published in the Sacramento Bee on May 31, 2012 and in the Sacramento Business Journal on Friday June 1, 2012.