

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and is considering the preparation of a program level (first tier) environmental document for the project identified below.

PROJECT TITLE:

Point Sur State Historic Park General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT LOCATION:

Point Sur State Historic Park is located in Monterey County, approximately fifteen miles south of Carmel along Highway 1.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The general plan will provide a long-term outline and guidelines for future proposed facilities, land use, resource policies, management, operation, interpretation, and concession operations at Point Sur State Historic 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 may 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 classification, Declaration of Purpose, and Vision, which will provide a context and direction for future park management and site-specific planning and development. The plan will consider project alternatives and will recommend further studies for future development projects.

The general plan will develop park-wide goals and guidelines and may also call for the preparation of management plans covering subjects such as scenic resources, natural resources, sensitive species, cultural resources, park recreation, interpretation, trails, access, regional influences, and carrying capacity.

The following are some of the primary planning issues anticipated in this process:

This planning effort will focus on the protection and preservation of significant scenic, cultural, and natural resources, while improving public access and use of Point Sur State Historic Park.

Regional influences and parks relationship with surrounding areas.

Opportunities may exist to improve the park's ecological, biological, recreational, and educational relationships with neighboring lands, land uses, landowners, jurisdictions, services, and facilities.

Visitor use impacts on resources. Opportunities may exist to evaluate the impacts of existing and potential development and visitor use on sensitive resources, particularly at the former Naval facility, beach, and the lighthouse complex on Moro Rock.

Preservation and restoration of significant cultural/historic resources. The park includes significant cultural resources. Opportunities may exist to preserve and restore historic buildings related to the historic lighthouse operations, and consider appropriate adaptive uses of the Naval facility site.

Preservation and restoration of sensitive plant and animal species and habitats in the park. The park includes significant natural resources. Opportunities may exist to enhance native habitats as well as restore degraded habitats.

Transportation, circulation, and parking. Opportunities may exist to improve park entrances, circulation, parking, and visitor staging areas. Road and trail systems may need improvement or realignment to meet future park operations, resource management, and recreation needs.

Beach access. Opportunities may exist to evaluate the potential for visitors to experience the sandy beach environment for appropriate activities, such as passive recreation and interpretation.

Viewshed protection and enhancement. Opportunities may exist to evaluate and enhance the scenic resources in this unique and sensitive coastal environment. The potential exists for removal of non-significant structures to enhance coastal views within the Highway 1 corridor.

Park interpretive and educational resources, programs, and facilities. Opportunities may exist to improve the park's interpretive and educational programs and facilities. The general plan may evaluate opportunities to interpret the Naval facility site and consider alternatives for public access and tour staging areas.

Employee housing. Opportunities may exist to improve and/or increase employee housing for Department staff and others along the Big Sur coast.

POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

If the guidelines and proposals made by the general plan were implemented there may be potential adverse impacts to scenic resources, cultural resources, water quality, wildlife and habitat, and sensitive vegetation. There may be modifications to traffic patterns.

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