



Draft Resolution 1-2014
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its tele/videoconference meeting conducted in
Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Diego California
May 2, 2014

**General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report
for Old Sacramento State Historic Park**

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report ("Plan") for Old Sacramento State Historic Park ("Park"); and

WHEREAS, the proposed Plan includes the Preferred Alternative identified in the December 2013 Plan with revisions to Chapter 4-The Plan, Chapter 5-Environmental Analysis and the Response to Comments section removing references to planned uses or facilities on Sacramento Regional Transit District rail right-of-way and clarifying that future refined studies for excursion rail line implementation will be needed prior to the implementation of any improvements identified in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Park is a unique historic park interpreting both the Gold Rush-era and the years of railroad expansion across the United States; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the Old Sacramento Historic Landmark District, the Park is located in an urban area surrounded by private business fronting onto the Sacramento River and including the California Railroad Museum and historic shop buildings within the nearby Rail-yards site; and

WHEREAS, opportunities exist to improve and enhance the interpretive elements of the Gold Rush-era while also expanding elements of the rail era excursion train visitor components and collections, and

WHEREAS, this general plan will guide the development and management of the Park for public use and resource protection for the next 20 or more years, by establishing goals and guidelines to assist in the daily and long-term management of the park to ensure that its resources are protected, while encouraging a variety of interpretive and recreation activities; and

WHEREAS, as stated in section 5.7.1 of the Final EIR, new train operations would expose some new sensitive receptors to train noise in the areas between Baths and the Sacramento Zoo and between the Pocket/Meadowview Station and Hood. These new and expanded train operations resulting from implementation of the General Plan would expose sensitive receptors to noise levels in excess of applicable (Lmax) standards from both train pass-bys and from horn blasts and a substantial increase in ambient noise levels (+3dBA) during train operating hours. Mitigation measures are available that would reduce program-level noise impacts from train pass-bys to some extent. However, mitigation to completely avoid noise levels from train pass-bys and from hornblasts associated with the expanded excursion train service or reduce them to less-than-significant would be infeasible. Therefore, these impacts would remain significant and unavoidable; and

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WHEREAS, the General Plan will have the following economic, social, and cultural benefits that render acceptable the potential significant and unavoidable effects related to excursion train noise:

- Preserves cultural resources consistent with the Old Sacramento National Historic Landmark District,
- Improves overall park operations and visitor services and relationships with key planning partners,
- Improves public access to the Sacramento River and Riverfront Zone through enhancements to and bicycle access through Riverfront Park,
- Improves interpretive opportunities in the Gold Rush and Commerce Zone with reconstructions and active interpretation of the 1849 Scene,
- Improves facilities in the Railroad History Zone by enhancements to the passenger and freight depots, access to restored trains and showcasing railroad history,
- Adds new visitor experiences in the Railroad Technology and Shops Zone by improving the Railroad Technology Museum, enhancing interpretation of railroad and rail-related technologies,
- Expands opportunities in the Excursion Railroad Zone through an extension of the existing excursion line to the Sacramento Zoo with stops at other local museums and establishing a new excursion line from the Pocket/Meadowview area to the Delta agricultural town of Hood and;

WHEREAS, a statement of overriding considerations was made by the Director when he made the finding that a commitment to carefully consider measures to reduce noise of excursion trains to adjacent neighborhoods during future planning efforts, outweighs the potential adverse environmental effects of noise and incompatible land use required as a part of the approval of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and includes the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as a part of a General Plan, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5002.2 and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15166 (CEQA Guidelines), providing discussion of the probable impacts of future development, establishing goals, policies and objectives, and addressing all the requirements of an EIR; and

WHEREAS, the Plan and EIR function as a “tiered EIR” pursuant to PRC 21093, covering general goals and objectives of the Plan, and that the appropriate level of CEQA review will be conducted for each project relying on the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the Plan prior to approving the Plan, and this Commission finds and certifies that the Plan reflects the independent judgment and analysis of this Commission and has been completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and be it

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RESOLVED: In connection with its review of the Plan prior to approving the General Plan, this Commission independently finds that the environmental conclusions contained in the Environmental Analysis Section of the Plan are supported by facts therein and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial evidence in the record and that mitigation measures or other changes or alterations have been incorporated into the Plan which will avoid or substantially lessen the potential impacts identified in the Plan; and be it

RESOLVED: That all feasible mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan to substantially reduce significant effects on the environment, as described in the Findings and implemented through the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which have both been adopted by the Director of State Parks at the time of Project approval, and be it

RESOLVED: That the legal, social, economic, technological and other benefits of the Plan described herein outweigh the unavoidable short-term environmental risks, as described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations adopted by the Director of State Parks at the time of Project approval, and so the unavoidable significant environmental impacts are overridden by these factors and are, therefore, acceptable; and be it

RESOLVED: The location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings on which the Commission's decision is based is: State Park and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001, Phone 916/653-0524, Facsimile 916/653-4458; and be it

RESOLVED: The California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan with revisions noted within Chapter 4- The Plan, Chapter 5- Environmental Analysis and the Response to Comments section, and certifies the Environmental Impact Report prepared for Old Sacramento State Historic Park, dated December 2013; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a Notice of Determination will be filed with the Office of Planning and Research within five days of this approval.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on May 2, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at Sacramento, California.

By: _____ Date: _____

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret), Director
Secretary to the Commission