



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FORT ORD DUNES STATE PARK PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: January 22, 2004

To: All Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Persons

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) for the Fort Ord Dunes State Park Preliminary General Plan (General Plan). The Department is the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

PROJECT LOCATION

Fort Ord Dunes consists of approximately 990 acres of future parkland located in an unincorporated area of Monterey County. Fort Ord Dunes includes 4 miles of ocean beach and 11 acres east of SR 1. The Fort Ord Dunes property is dominated by a continuous coastal sand dune formation that rises steeply to block ocean views from most of SR 1. The property includes the remnants of fifteen small arms firing ranges, the former Fort Ord ammunition storage area that includes twelve bunkers, and other military era structures that are not in use, including a wastewater treatment plant. Fort Ord Dunes also includes an internal road system and utility lines.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 990 acre Fort Ord Dunes State Park unit is a new park unit that will provide a unique opportunity to preserve and make available for public use, inspiration, aesthetic enjoyment, and education, an area along the Monterey Bay shoreline of unique natural beauty and scientific significance including sandy beaches, coastal dunes, and remnants of the site's military history.

The Fort Ord Dunes State Park General Plan has been prepared to address management of these lands in a comprehensive manner. The purpose of a California State Park General Plan is to provide the primary management guideline for a park unit by defining a framework for resource stewardship, interpretation, facilities, visitor use, and services. General Plans define the ultimate purpose, vision, and intent for unit management through goal

statements, guidelines, and broad objectives, but stop short of defining specific objectives, methodologies, and designs on how to accomplish these goals.

Five management zones were identified for Fort Ord Dunes: the Natural Resource Zone (approximately 785 acres), the 8th Street Zone (approximately 30 acres), 1st Street Zone (approximately 45 acres), Storage Bunker Zone (approximately 80 acres), and the Administrative/Operations Zone (approximately 25 acres). Desired resource condition, desired visitor experience, and potential uses and facilities were identified for each zone, along with zone specific goals and guidelines. In association with the management zones, potential circulation routes and access points have been identified based on existing resources and uses and facilities described for management zones. Site-specific management zone and circulation and access development will be analyzed, designed, and implemented on a project specific basis.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The EIR analyzes a program-level analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the Preliminary General Plan. No significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The 45-day public comment period for this Draft EIR will commence on January 29, 2004 and concludes on March 14, 2004. Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR will be available on line at www.parks.ca.gov and at these local locations:

Monterey District Headquarters
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

Monterey City Library
625 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Monterey County Free Library –
Marina Branch
266 Reservation Road
Marina, CA 93933

Monterey County Free Library –
Seaside Branch
550 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Please submit comments in writing to the address provided below. Comment letters must be postmarked by March 14, 2004.

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