



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

and

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

AND SCOPING MEETING

of an

Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the

Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan/

Auburn Project Lands Resource Management Plan

Release Date: November 29, 2017

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies, and Interested Individuals and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan/Auburn Project Lands Resource Management Plan

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation
Acquisition and Development Planning Section
1 Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Cheryl Essex, Project Manager
Phone: (916) 445-8814
plan.general@parks.ca.gov

Consistent with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) is the lead agency under CEQA for the preparation of a General Plan/Resource Management Plan (GP/RMP) and associated environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) for the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) and Auburn Project Lands (APL). The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is serving as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CDPR has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This NOP informs agencies and the public that an EIR/EIS will be prepared to address potential impacts resulting from

implementation of the proposed ASRA GP/APL RMP. Agencies should comment on the elements of potential environmental effects that are relevant to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the adoption of the proposed GP/RMP.

RESPONSES TO THIS NOP

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, responses to the NOP must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than January 5, 2018. Please send your written responses, including the name of a contact person, to:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Acquisition and Development Planning Section
1 Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Cheryl Essex, Project Manager
Phone: (916) 445-8814
plan.general@parks.ca.gov

PROJECT TITLE

Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan/Auburn Project Lands Resource Management Plan

PROJECT LOCATION

ASRA and the APL are located in the Sierra Nevada Foothills, northeast of Sacramento. ASRA is a majority of these lands. They include approximately 30,000 acres of public land and 40 linear miles of the North and Middle Forks of the American River. They are located immediately east of the City of Auburn and straddle the boundary of El Dorado and Placer Counties (see Exhibit 1-1, Project Location.)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 1965, Public Law 89-161 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the Auburn-Folsom South Unit, American River Division, Central Valley Project. As a principal part of the Unit, the law authorized construction of Auburn Dam and Reservoir and the acquisition of lands for the Auburn Dam and Reservoir (in this document, referred to as Auburn Project Lands), and to provide for the purposes of water supply, hydropower generation, outdoor recreation, public use and enjoyment, and fish and wildlife enhancement. The law specified that non-Federal public bodies may agree to administer lands for these purposes, with certain cost-sharing provisions. Reclamation acquired lands to support construction, operation, and maintenance of the Auburn Dam and Reservoir consistent with Public Law 89-161. ASRA was designated as a State Recreation Area in 1979. The State of California acquired additional lands since that time, which were added to ASRA. Thus, ASRA is managed by CDPR through a series of agreements with Reclamation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Transportation, and other local agencies. This GP/RMP will not include proposed actions on lands which are not managed by CDPR, such as RMP Lands Managed by Others shown on Exhibit 1-1.

The proposed action is the adoption of the GP/RMP EIR/EIS by CDPR and Reclamation, because the construction of the Auburn Dam has been delayed indefinitely. A series of complications, including concerns about seismic safety, put construction of the dam on hold for an indefinite period until Congress determines whether the dam will be constructed. With the indefinite delay in construction of the dam, Reclamation and CDPR prepared an Interim RMP in 1992 that provided guidance for the management of the area until the dam was constructed. This Interim RMP focused on the management of resources within ASRA/APL with the assumption that much of the area would eventually be inundated by the Auburn

Reservoir. This Interim RMP still provides direction for the management of ASRA/APL today. In January 2012, Reclamation and CDPR finalized a 25-year Managing Partner Agreement (MPA) for the management of ASRA and Folsom Lake SRA. With the development of the long term MPA and because the construction of the Auburn Dam continues to be on hold indefinitely, a GP/RMP is necessary to replace the Interim RMP and provide a long-term and comprehensive framework for management.

GENERAL PLAN TOPICS

Topics that are being considered as part of the GP/RMP process include the following:

- Physical, biological, aesthetic, and cultural resources protection and management
- Land use and facilities
- Visitor use and outdoor recreation experiences
- Operation and maintenance functions
- Planning influences, such as regional population projections and public input
- Recreational trends, opportunities, and constraints
- Access, circulation and parking
- Law enforcement and public safety
- Education and interpretation opportunities

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Because the NOP is being released early in the planning process as part of public outreach, the ultimate use areas, facilities, resource protection features, and associated management unit goals and guidelines of the ASRA GP/APL RMP have not yet been determined. A study has been underway of the existing resource characteristics, existing recreation areas and facilities, and generally anticipated recreational uses. The planning team has identified the types of environmental impacts that may result from implementation of the GP/RMP and from continued recreational use of the property. The potential environmental effects that are anticipated to be addressed in the EIR include impacts on the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics and visual resources
- Agriculture and forestry resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology, soils and mineral resources
- Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and management
- Noise
- Population growth and housing
- Transportation, parking and circulation
- Public services and utilities

SCOPING MEETING/PLANNING WORKSHOP

A CEQA scoping meeting and open house has been scheduled to provide additional information about the GP/RMP and CEQA processes. It will provide interested parties with the opportunity to provide early input into potential uses of ASRA and management of its resources, as well as to comment on the scope of

environmental issues and potential environmental effects to be included in the EIR/EIS. The CEQA scoping meeting and open house will be held at the following time and location:

Thursday, December 7, 2017
 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 Gold Country Fairgrounds – Sierra Building
 209 Fairgate Road
 Auburn, CA 95603

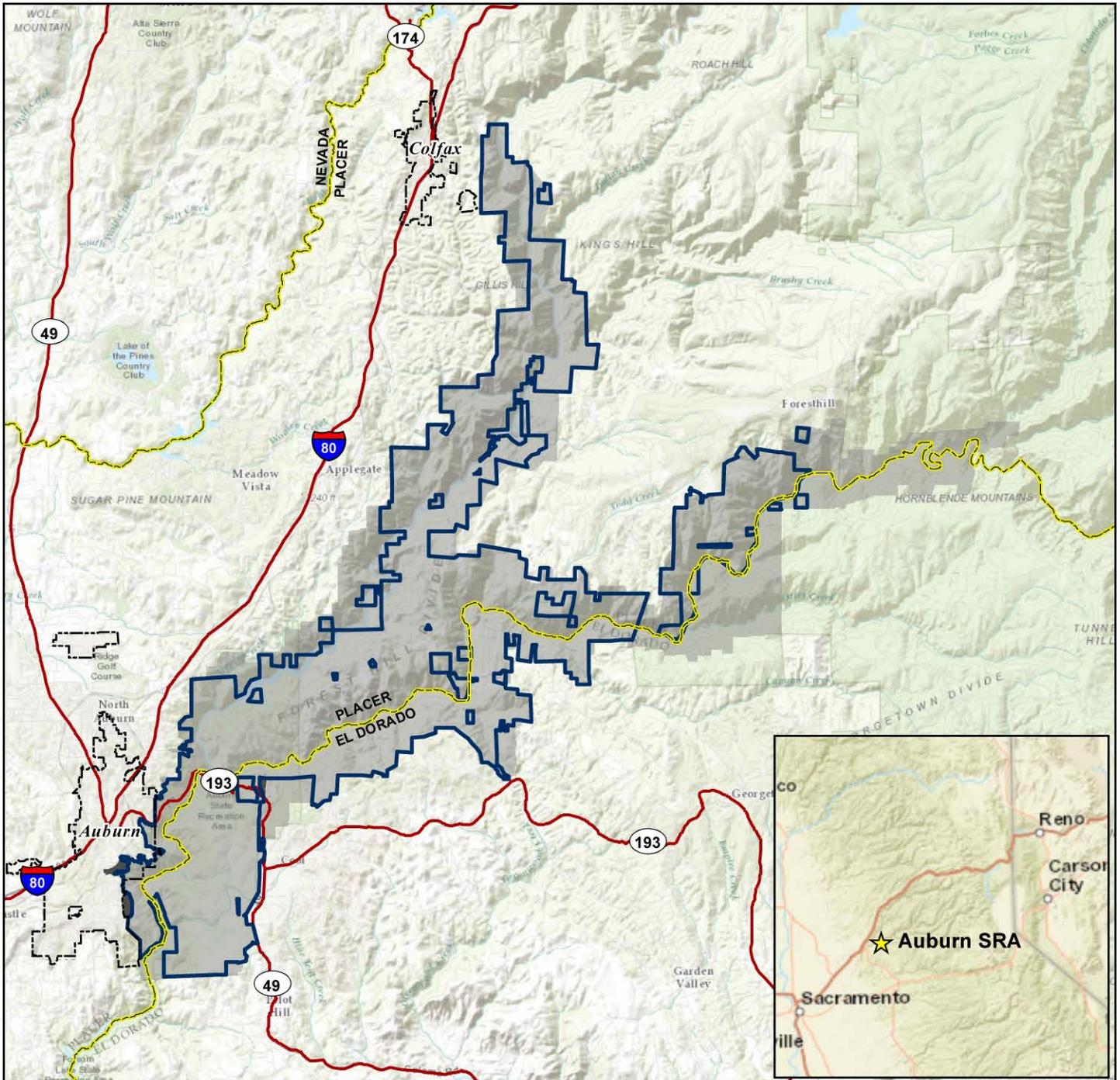
Additional information about the planning process can be found on the project website:

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

INTENDED USES OF THE EIR

CDPR will use the EIR/EIS to consider environmental effects of the proposed GP/RMP, provide mitigation measures to reduce potential significant impacts resulting from GP/RMP implementation, if any, and evaluate alternatives for planned recreation uses and management of resources. CDPR will use the EIR/EIS to comply with CEQA and make informed environmental decisions regarding adoption of the GP/RMP. It will also serve as a program EIR that may be referenced in the environmental review of later activities implementing the GP/RMP. Later activities identified in the GP/RMP will be examined in light of the information in the program EIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared before project approval, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168[c].

By: STEVEN MUSILLANI
 Signature: 
 Title: SENIOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
 Date: NOV. 27, 2017



Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan/Resource Management Plan

Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auburn SRA Auburn Project Lands RMP Lands Managed by Others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Limits County Boundary Highways |
|--|--|



Source: CA State Parks 2016
 Basemap: ESRI 2015

G13010017.03.016

Exhibit 1

Project Location