DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

NONPROFIT OPERATORS

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5080.42

FISCAL YEARS 20/21 AND 21/22

Electronic copy available at: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27908
To obtain a hardcopy of this report contact: 916-653-8380

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In compliance with Public Resources Code §5080.42(h)(1), this report serves as the Department of Parks and Recreation's (Department) notification regarding the status of Operating Agreements with Nonprofit Organizations.

Consistent with notification requirements, the following information outlines the core responsibilities of each nonprofit partner, and the Department, for each State Park; operating costs; revenues; and the benefits to the Department and the State Park System as a result of the partnership.

Note: Operating costs identified in this report only reflect those costs associated with the nonprofit partner operator.[1] Additionally, some partners submitted financial reports based on the calendar year instead of fiscal year. This will be noted throughout the report where applicable.

[1] Where the partner is also a cooperating association (Public Resources Code 513), the costs shown in this report only reflect the partner's costs under Public Resources Code 5080.42. Exceptions to that are noted within the report.

Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve (SNR) and Austin Creek State Recreation Area (SRA)

Nonprofit partner: Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods for the operation of Armstrong Redwoods SNR: Armstrong Redwoods SNR (ca.gov) and Austin Creek SRA: Austin Creek SRA (ca.gov)

Partner Website: https://www.stewardscr.org/

Partner Core Duties:
In Armstrong Redwoods SNR, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) is responsible for basic park operations including visitor services, fee collection, special events, housekeeping, and volunteer programs (including interpretation and education). Armstrong Redwoods SNR was closed during the COVID 19 pandemic and subsequent Walbridge Fire but reopened in October 2021. While Austin Creek SRA has been closed since the 2020 Walbridge Fire, Stewards' responsibilities include the overall maintenance and operations for a primitive campground with 24 sites, three back-country campsites, roughly 37 miles of designated trails and two day-use areas. Austin Creek SRA includes Pond Farm Pottery, a significant cultural site listed on the National Historic Landmark for its association with the Studio Pottery Movement and ceramist and teacher Marguerite Wildenhain, who lived, worked, and taught at Pond Farm. Pond Farm Pottery was reopened following the fire with a temporary water system.

Department Core Duties:
The Department retains responsibility for maintenance in Armstrong Redwoods SNR, a state trail crew, two water systems, four septic systems, natural and cultural resource protection, public safety, employee residences, environmental reviews, special event permitting, and overseeing volunteers.

Assessment of Benefits:
Volunteers recruited by Stewards contributed 6,104 hours in 2021 (despite Armstrong Redwoods SNR not being open until November 2021) and 7,408 hours in 2022. During this time, over 120 school field trips were guided by volunteer docents who provided hands-on, outdoor opportunities for students. Stewards hosted a robust community education calendar hosting 24 events/trainings in 2021 and 54 events/trainings in 2022. Under normal circumstances, Austin Creek SRA is open year-round with campsites available, weather permitting.

Projects

- Preparation for reopening of Armstrong Redwoods SNR and Austin Creek SRA
- Trail maintenance

- Fence repair
- Bear safe trash cans
- Automatic payment machine
- Roof replacement on Bullfrog Pond campground bathroom
- Cleanup and removal of brush and weeds
- Rehabilitation of Pond Farm site and installation of temporary water system
- Documentary film production of Marguerite: From the Bauhaus to Pond Farm

Programs

- Artist-in-Residence Program and Workshops
- Docent-led tours
- Forest to the Sea Education Program
- UC Naturalist and Climate Stewards Certification Programs

Interpretation and Education

- Docent-led hikes
- Volunteer trainings
- Field trips for schools
- Seminar about the legacy of Pond Farm and Marguerite Wildenhain

Special Events

- Sonoma County Pomo Dancers in the Redwood Forest Theater
- Tidepool Touch Table exhibitions
- Hikes/lectures/tours (birding, forest immersion, animal tracking, yoga)

Financial Information	2021	2022
Revenue	$21,739	$381,191
Operating Expenditures	$165,442	$284,597
Total	**-$143,703**	**$96,594**

Note: Stewards submits its reports based on the calendar year, not fiscal year. Therefore, this biennial report captures data from calendar years 2021 and 2022. Regarding the uncharacteristic revenue loss in 2021, please see the narrative above for more information about the related park closures.

China Camp State Park (SP)

Nonprofit partner: Friends of China Camp, Inc. for the operation of China Camp SP: China Camp State Park

Partner Website: https://friendsofchinacamp.org/

Partner Core Duties:
Friends of China Camp, Inc. (FOCC) is responsible for park operations including visitor services, fee collection, FOCC volunteer recruitment and coordination, fundraising, special events, trail maintenance, general maintenance, and housekeeping for a 1,500-acre park. China Camp SP contains 30 campsites and one large group campsite which can accommodate 40 campers. In early 2020, operations at China Camp SP were disrupted when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the temporary closure of park facilities – in-person events and programs were also suspended. FOCC continued to offer online programs until in-person gatherings were once again permitted by the Marin County Health Officer.

Department Core Duties:
The Department is responsible for managing and preserving the natural and cultural resources, conducting environmental reviews, maintaining the sewer lift stations and main line connections to the city water main, conducting tree hazard inspections, and providing supervisory oversight for Department staff. The Department provides public safety oversight, a public safety chain of command, a partnership liaison, and administrative oversight.

Assessment of Benefits:
China Camp SP and the campground are open year-round.

Projects

- Signage: Faded and incorrect signage was replaced or repaired. New signage included COVID-19 rules and closures, safety reminders, fee information, and emergency locator numbers to aid first responders in rescues.
- Trail Work: Routine trail grooming, culvert clearing, and split rail fencing repair. Several dozen fallen trees that obstructed trails were removed. Bridge repair and maintenance was performed. Additionally, a portion of Shoreline Trail was restored to ADA standards.
- Fire Mitigation: Vegetation was removed around structures throughout the park. BBQ boxes and prep tables were repaired or replaced. Ash in barbecues and fire rings was removed on a weekly basis. Four firehose boxes were built, mounted, and stocked. All wharf hydrants were inspected, tested, and confirmed functional.
- Storm Damage: Debris that collected in the flooded campground, trails, parking lots and picnic areas was cleaned up. Ruts in the utility access road were repaired, and culverts were cleared multiple times. Multiple slides on various trails were cleared.

- Garbage Can Containers: Two new wooden garbage can containers replaced old ones, and two new critter proof metal containers replaced deteriorating wooden ones.
- Potholes: The Turtle Back parking area was graded and compacted for ADA use. The N. San Pedro Road shoulder was filled, graded, and compacted at the Turtle Back Trailhead for ADA use. Potholes were repaired on Miwok Meadows Fire Trail, China Camp Village parking lot, Monument parking area, access road to the lower campground, Peacock Gap Fire Road, and the enroute/group camping parking area.
- Structural Repairs: Picnic tables throughout the park were inspected and repaired or replaced. The shrimp processing building in China Camp Village was cleaned, and raccoon scat professionally removed. The shrimp processing area is closed to the public due to needed repairs.
- Invasive Plant Removal: Under the direction of the Department, various invasive plants were removed. The app Survey123 was used to document invasive plant locations and/or removal.
- Plumbing: A water line in China Camp Village was repaired, saving five gallons of water per hour.
- Kiosk: Repair to the Back Ranch Meadows Entrance Kiosk.

Interpretation and Education

- Implemented virtual programs including a virtual naturalist book club, an online birding class, and a naturalist educational series.
- Village Talks: Due to the pandemic, the monthly Village Museum lecture series was cancelled through 2021. In-person educational programming resumed throughout 2022. FOCC continued to host monthly docent-led virtual and outdoor programs. Programs included birding, the history of local indigenous people, and the history of China Camp Village.
- Monthly natural and cultural history lectures led by naturalists and professional experts around the region.
- Remote programming: From March 2020 to May 2021, interpretive programming was only offered via Zoom. All in-person educational and recreational programs were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic, including guided hikes, scheduled recreational programs, campfire programs, Junior Ranger programs, school tours, and museum tours. FOCC worked closely with DPR and the Marin County Health Department to determine when it would be safe to, once again, hold in-person programs. In place of outdoor programs, Friends of China Camp offered monthly virtual programming via Zoom.
- Self-guided tour of Miwok Meadows Shoreline Trail Loop: Funded by a grant from the California State Parks Foundation, this short educational booklet

was produced and printed in English and Spanish and made available on FOCC's website beginning in Spring of 2022.

- Handicap-accessible programming: Offered an educational program for visitors with mobility disabilities. This included a guided tour around Turtle Back Trail, and a handicap-accessible loop, which offered visitors an up-close experience of China Camp SP's tidal saltwater marsh.
- Foreign language docents: Volunteers who speak Mandarin and Cantonese staffed the Village Museum on weekends and by appointment. The China Camp Village Museum was closed for the majority of 2020 due to the pandemic. Museum was open throughout 2021.

Special Events

- China Camp SP resumed California State Parks Foundation Work Days in 2021. Either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test was required for volunteer participation.
- Heritage Month: In 2020 and 2021, Heritage Day was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of a large in-person festival, FOCC produced Heritage Month, a series of online programs that celebrated the cultural history of China Camp Village. The programs took place throughout October 2020 and featured programs about the indigenous Coast Miwok and Chinese American history of the park. Virtual programs included speakers from the Museum of the American Indian, an interview with an original resident of China Camp's shrimping village, and a docent-led lecture about the history of China Camp Village.
- Heritage Day: This annual celebration primarily recognizes Chinese heritage. This event was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. The in-person event resumed in 2022 and was the most well-attended in the park's history, with over 300 people in attendance.
- Annual Public Meeting: In accordance with its Operating Agreement with the Department, FOCC presents updates on its operation of China Camp SP. The annual meeting in October 2020 was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Earth Day: The 2020 events were unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic. In 2021, FOCC partnered with the California State Parks Foundation to host an Earth Day event on April 10, 2021, where 25 volunteers collected approximately 200 pounds of trash and cleaned up over 1.5 miles of coastline. On April 2, 2022, 41 volunteers removed 2,500 square feet of invasive plants at the Back Ranch Meadows Campground.
- Coastal Cleanup Day: On September 18, 2021, 26 volunteers collected 371 pounds of trash and 200 pounds of recycling along China Camp Village Beach, China Camp Point, and Five Pines Point. On September 10, 2022, 11 volunteers collected 16 pounds of trash and 9 pounds of recycling.

- Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event held at the China Camp Maintenance Shop to recognize dedicated volunteers for their hard work. In 2020, in place of an in-person event, FOCC produced a video that celebrated the dedicated volunteers for all their hard work to support the park during the pandemic. The video was released in December 2020.

Financial Information	2021	2022
Revenue	$1,144,355	$794,972
Operating Expenditures	$754,950	$ 892,665
Total	**$389,405**	**-$97,693**

Note: FOCC submits its reports based on the calendar year, not fiscal year. Therefore, this biennial report captures data from calendar years 2021 and 2022. Additionally, this accounting includes sales authorized under PRC §513. Finally, please note that the revenue loss in 2022 was a result of a variety of factors, including a major donor making a 2022 gift in December 2021, and repairs to the Back Ranch kiosk being funded in 2021 with expenses incurred in 2022.

Crystal Cove State Park (SP)

Nonprofit partner: Irvine Ranch Conservancy for the co-management of Crystal Cove SP: Crystal Cove State Park (ca.gov)

Partner Website: http://www.irconservancy.org/

Partner Core Duties:
The Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) supported the restoration, maintenance, protection, and co-management of select natural resources within Crystal Cove SP. The agreement between the Department and IRC consisted of two phases. Phase 1 focused on the development of a Natural Resources Management Plan by the IRC. Consistent with the park's approved General Plan and supportive of the Crystal Cove SP natural resources management program, the Plan focused on several key areas including management objectives, management of wildlife and sensitive plants, invasive species, wildfire, recreational use and infrastructure, and opportunities for public engagement and stewardship. Phase 2 or "Maintenance Obligations" included implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plan to guide annual natural resource management activities. The Department provided direction and participation throughout the process.

Crystal Cove SP contains almost 3,000 acres of coastal terrace and backcountry, including globally important Mediterranean ecosystems, centrally positioned as a major component of more than 12,000 acres of publicly owned conservation and recreation landscape.

Department Core Duties:
The Department is responsible for managing Crystal Cove SP. During the time addressed by this report, the IRC provided the resources necessary to develop the Natural Resources Management Plan.

Assessment of Benefits:
The Natural Resources Management Plan, developed under this agreement, is aimed at reducing Departmental cost and increasing efficiency.

Financial Information	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022
Revenue	$0	$0
Operating Expenditures	$0	$0
Total	**$0**	**$0**

Note: The Crystal Cove cabins are operated under a concession agreement and therefore, those revenues and costs are not identified in this report.

Fort Ross State Historic Park (SHP)

Nonprofit partner: Fort Ross Conservancy for the co-management of Fort Ross SHP: Fort Ross SHP (ca.gov)

Partner Website: About Fort Ross Conservancy

Partner Core Duties:
Fort Ross SHP is a day-use park containing a museum, Russian fort, historic shipwreck, limited special event venues, picnic grounds, and a marine sanctuary of coastal terraces and ocean coves which shelter many animals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, (such as Steller Sea Lions and Harbor Seals). The park also contains sensitive archeological and native sites, significant habitat area for many threatened and listed species, including various species of butterflies, Guadalupe Fur Seals, Sunflower Sea Stars, and migratory Purple Martins.
Fort Ross Conservancy is responsible for basic park operations including visitor services, fee collection, special events, educational programs, wildlife surveys, and volunteer recruitment. Additionally, the Conservancy is responsible for the operation of Reef Campground, located just south of the main park entrance, however, due to extensive storm damage and a failed culvert, the campground has been closed since 2017. Fort Ross SHP also includes the Call House, a ranch-era home and historic headquarters for shipping and ranching operations out of Fort Ross Cove in the late 1800s, which is maintained by the Conservancy, its volunteers, and the Department.

Department Core Duties:
The Department is responsible for maintaining the water distribution system to the park and Reef Campground, conducting water testing and maintaining water

treatment, maintaining septic systems within the park, tree hazard inspections and maintenance, trail maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection, native Kashaya liaisons, ongoing museum care, archaeological and environmental reviews, pest maintenance, building inspections and maintenance, fire suppression systems, and public safety.

Assessment of Benefits:
Despite COVID restrictions, the Conservancy was able to maintain public access and programming to the public. The Conservancy also hosted the Fort Ross Dialogue with the Kennan Institute, where a shared history provided a platform for cooperation and exchange between Russians and Americans.

Projects

- Co-management and kiosk operation of Fort Ross and Reef Campground
- Ongoing planning and development of Fort Ross Cultural Trail
- Fort Ross Dialogue
- Scouts Service Projects
- Sea Lion Survey

Programs

- Marine Ecology Program
- Limited Environmental Living Program (distance learning)

Interpretation and Education

- Docent-led tours covering the Russian fort era and Alaskan Natives
- Information regarding local Native Kashaya relations, and natural history
- Nature Hike

Special Events

- Fort Ross Dialogue (virtual)

Financial Information	2021	2022
Revenue	$452,163	$602,140
Operating Expenditures	$411,861	$479,566
Total	**$40,302**	**$122,574**

Note: Fort Ross Conservancy submits its reports based on the calendar year, not fiscal year. Therefore, this biennial report captures data from calendar years 2021 and 2022. Additionally, this accounting includes sales authorized under PRC §513.

Jack London State Historic Park (SHP)

Nonprofit partner: Valley of the Moon Natural History Association for the operation of Jack London SHP: Jack London State Historic Park (ca.gov)

Partner Website: http://www.jacklondonpark.com/

Partner Core Duties:
Valley of the Moon Natural History Association (VMNHA) is responsible for the development, operation, and maintenance of Jack London SHP including visitor services, recreation programs, fee collection, interpretation and education, fundraising, special events, volunteer management, and housekeeping. Jack London SHP is a day-use park containing the House of Happy Walls Museum, private event venues, and picnic grounds. This park was home to the famous writer, Jack London and contains historical sites including Jack London's Cottage, his house (Wolf House), his grave site, and his pig pen (Pig Palace).

Department Core Duties:
The Department is responsible for management and protection of cultural resources and has primary responsibility for stewardship and management of cultural resources. Additionally, the Department is responsible for public safety and enforcement, water treatment and testing, maintenance of water main distribution system pipelines, ongoing museum care and maintenance training, tree hazard inspections, providing environmental review process training, and project concept overview and reviews.

Assessment of Benefits:
Jack London SHP is open daily all year from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Volunteer resources, community support, and community events have increased since the beginning of the pandemic, including the expansion of environmental education programming.

Projects

- Historic orchard replanting and stabilization
- Repair of Storm Damage to Sherry Barn Roof
- Stabilization of Winery Ruins North Wall
- Cottage Garden Historic Restoration
- Engineering Assessment of historic structures
- Expanded Fire Mitigation Project
- Trail maintenance
- Invasive species removal
- Fence repair
- General day-to-day housekeeping

Programs

- Mindful walks
- Family walks
- Organized hikes; wildflowers, First Day, Redwood Experience, Historic Orchard
- Wildflower guide for self-guided hikes
- Piano concerts
- Public reading (historical readings from short stories written by Jack London)
- Lectures
- Art and photography classes/demonstrations
- Legacy garden tours
- Nature/sensory programs for disabled groups
- Spanish language community programs; nature hikes, tours, etc.
- Private Venue Model – Partnering with non-profit organizations to conduct their programming in the park, venue fees waived

Interpretation and Education

- Weekend; free guided tours provided by docents
- Weekday; private tours provided by docents
- Docents staff the museum and cottage
- School group educational tours (K-12)
- Docent Enrichment programs: interpretation skills, nature, history
- Jack London Adventure quest program
- Nature's Design: 7th grade science program (Common core compliant)
- Adventures in writing: 4th/5th grade writing program (Common core compliant)
- Forest to Farm summer program for students
- Family Adventure Days

Special Events

- In A Landscape Outdoor Piano concert
- Call of the Wild Day – Free entry family events

Financial Information	2021	2022
Revenue	$1,238,704	$1,011,631
Operating Expenditures	$863,074	$1,117,653
Total	**$375,630**	**-$106,022**

Note: VMNHA submits its reports based on the calendar year, not fiscal year. Therefore, this biennial report captures data from calendar years 2021 and 2022. This accounting also includes sales authorized under PRC §513. Additionally, it is worth noting that since 2020, VMNHA's annual budget more than doubled, with expenditures outpacing revenue in 2022. By 2023, VMNHA was able to get back to budget surplus.

Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP)

Nonprofit partner: Sacramento History Alliance for operation of Old Sacramento SHP: Old Sacramento State Historic Park (ca.gov)

Partner Website: Sacramento History Alliance – Sacramento History Museum (sachistorymuseum.org)

Partner Core Duties:
The Sacramento History Alliance (SHA) began operating the Sacramento Visitor Center in the historic BF Hastings Building in October 2016. The Visitor Center offers tourists and visitors an introduction to the history of Sacramento, as well as information about other Sacramento cultural spots. The Visitor Center is generally open and staffed seven days a week from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, except select holidays. Consistent with COVID-19 pandemic protocols, the Visitor Center was temporarily closed to public access from March 2020 through the end of October 2020.

In November 2021, SHA's operating agreement was amended to include two additional spaces in the street level portion of the BF Hastings Building. One space is now used for costume storage; the other became a satellite museum and the new Visitor Center. The previous visitor center space is now used for children's educational programming, public programming and special events.

Department Core Duties:
The Department is responsible for general utilities, natural and cultural resource protection. Portions of the building will continue to be managed and maintained by the Department.

Assessment of Benefits:
The Alliance has increased accessible free public programming while providing necessary orientation to visitors and tourists to Old Town SHP.

Projects

- Acquired several displays to match the flavor and décor of the location to enhance visitor knowledge of the historic district

- Installed new signage and interpretive panels

Programs

- Living history demonstrating period music, games, and crafts

Interpretation and Education

- Conducted several Historical research workshops for the community (Research 101)
- Ghost Tours
- Seasonally themed tours

Financial Information	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022
Revenue	$4,542	$55,602
Operating Expenditures	$17,061	$50,932
Total	**-$12,519**	**$4,670**

Note: Old Sacramento State Historic Park was closed to the public for seven months in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park (SP)

Nonprofit partner: Sonoma Ecology Center for the operation of Sugarloaf Ridge SP: Sugarloaf Ridge State Park (ca.gov)

Partner Website: https://www.sonomaecologycenter.org/

Partner Core Duties:
Although Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) is the principal entity in the operating agreement, the responsibility for park operations is shared among other group members of Team Sugarloaf: Robert Ferguson Observatory and United Camps Conferences. Each group member is responsible for overseeing their areas of specialization. Team Sugarloaf is responsible for park operations, including visitor services, fee collection, special events, trail maintenance, and housekeeping for a 5,000-acre park. The park includes 47 campsites and one large group campsite which can accommodate 50 campers, and 24 miles of trails. Also worth noting, COVID requirements limited the activities and events offered in 2020 and 2021. Field trips and large events were cancelled and the number of camps offered were reduced.

Department Core Duties:
The Department is responsible for managing and preserving natural and cultural resources, conducting environmental reviews, testing and treating water, maintaining the water main distribution system, conducting tree hazard inspections, providing environmental review process training, trail maintenance guidance, and partner training.

The Robert Ferguson Observatory continues to operate under a concession agreement with the Department.

Assessment of Benefits:
The park is open for camping year-round (weather permitting), the Visitor Center is open three days each week, and volunteer hours have increased as a result of increased community support.

Projects

- Trail maintenance
- Repaired fire-damaged trails and facilities
- General road maintenance
- Cleaned culverts and ditches along the roads
- Repaired and rebuilt food boxes and added bear canisters

Interpretation and Education

- K-12 ecology school field trips
- Summer Science Camp
- Interpretive Visitor Center, operated by trained docents, assisted visitors in understanding the park and its features
- Holiday day camps
- Nature hikes emphasizing natural history, plant ecology, general ecology, wildflowers, mushrooms, fitness, and Parks Rx to increase health and happiness

Financial Information	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022
Revenue	$730,011	$751,462
Operating Expenditures	$678,310	$778,264
Total	**$51,701**	**-$26,802**

Note: A fire in 2021 touched part of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Recovery and cleanup increased operating costs for that year.

Multiple park units within Santa Cruz District:
Año Nuevo State Park, Bean Hollow State Beach, Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park, Butano State Park, Castle Rock State Park, Castro Adobe State Park, Coast Dairies State Park, Half Moon Bay State Beach, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Lighthouse Field State Beach, Manresa State Beach, Montara State Beach, Natural Bridges State Beach, New Brighton State Beach, Pescadero State Beach, Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park, Pomponio State Beach, Portola Redwoods State Park, San Bruno Mountain State Park, San Gregorio State Beach, Santa Cruz Mission State Historic

Park, Seacliff State Beach, Sunset State Beach, The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, Twin Lakes State Beach, and Wilder Ranch State Park.

Nonprofit partner: Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (FOSCSP) for the co-management of multiple park units: https://thatsmypark.org/

Partner Core Duties:
The FOSCSP is responsible for visitor services, assisting with the care, maintenance, operation, administration, restoration, improvement and development of parks; working with District staff to plan, design, and implement innovative projects, programs, and initiatives, identify and prioritize projects; plan, design, construct, staff, improve, and manage facilities to enhance community use, enjoyment and understanding of parks; collaborating on strategic planning, marketing and revenue development planning; assisting District staff with marketing and outreach efforts; supporting District special events through planning, funding, and staff assistance; providing community outreach services to engage current and potential park users with the goal of expanding use of the State Park System by people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities; engaging in environmental and historic restoration projects, conservation, and related programs; and fee collection. In addition to adapting to impacts from the 2020 CZU fire, throughout 2020 and into 2021 park operations were disrupted when the COVID-19 pandemic forced many programs, including field trips, to be offered remotely.

Department Core Duties:
The Department manages and preserves the natural and cultural resources, conducts environmental reviews, and provides training to FOSCSP and volunteers about the project review process.

Assessment of Benefits:
The first few months of the agreement ran according to FOSCSP's FY 2019/20 budget developed in conjunction with the Department's Santa Cruz District. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic protocols, in March 2020, park entrance stations and kiosks were closed resulting in a significant loss of revenue. During this time, FOSCSP worked closely with District Staff to make budget decisions. FOSCSP retained staff which enabled them to help explain COVID-19 safety protocols and restrictions to park visitors, as well as help resume park operations as soon the restrictions were lifted. FOSCSP continued their practice of making decisions in a collaborative process, which included consultation with Department staff, review by the Sustained Unified Revenue Facilitators (SURF) Committee, and the Finance Committee, culminating with final adoption by the Board of Directors. Discussions regarding process improvements are ongoing and include senior State Park staff.

Projects:

- Marketing for the parks: In concert with a professional marketing firm, FOSCSP provided marketing services in support of local state parks and

launched the Find New Adventure campaign to encourage visitation during off-peak days and hours. With the assistance of the State Parks Tribal Liaison, FOSCSP began to incorporate land acknowledgments on their website and public materials.

- Worked with the Department to design and implement service improvements
- Castro Adobe State Historic Park (SHP) restoration work including:
    - Installation of a fire monitoring, fire suppression, and burglary systems
    - Ceiling repair and painting
    - Installation of a new roof with Prop 68 funds completed in June 2022
- CZU Fire recovery, including:
    - Establishment of a fire fund to provide direct assistance to State and FOSCSP employees who lost their homes, and provide investment in long term recovery work for parks that were damaged
    - Funded Codifi, an innovative, high-tech assessment and documentation tool to aid the initial assessment of the damage to Big Basin Redwoods State Park SP and Butano State Park
    - Helped save15 old growth redwood trees and funded hazard removal with the support of the Sempervirens Fund
- Collaborated with State Parks to create an award-winning short film and 3-D Virtual tour marking the one-year anniversary of the CZU fire
- Castro Adobe SHP interpretive planning
- Managed and improved Castro Adobe SHP adjacent facilities at the Kimbro House and McClune Properties for park purposes
- Funded a new power equipment shed at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
- Provided support to repair and replace the Horse Barn Doors at Wilder Ranch State Park. Reclaimed lumber from Big Basin Redwoods SP was used by skilled state park workers that were funded by FOSCSP
- Reroofed the Fog Signal Building on Ano Nuevo Island in partnership with Oikonos, UC Santa Cruz and State Parks
- Received the Dolkas-Mertz grant in collaboration with State Parks to build a Virtual Mission Bell Exhibit Kiosk at the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park
- Installed new kiosk window at Castle Rock State Park (SP)

Programs:

- Field trips for the Kids2Parks, an innovative park equity program to bring students from Title 1 schools on State Parks field trips. Field trips were held on-line and in person

- Administered Commemorative Picnic Table Program. This program grew from 6 tables in 2019/2020 to 23 in 2020/2021, largely due to increased marketing efforts
- Administered the Beach Wheelchair Program, funded by the Coastal Conservancy, doubling the number of chairs at local beaches
- Provided materials and supplies across the district for kiosk operations and interpretive activities, including equipment and technology to move interpretive programs online
- Funded Park Unit Department staff positions across all program areas, including:
    - 33 State Park interpreters who provided educational programs at local parks and beaches
    - 2 State Park maintenance positions at Castle Rock SP
- Provided and managed staff, including FOSCSP' Visitor Service Aides and Senior Visitor Service Aides who collect fees and assist with park operations
- Provided up to 90 Visitor Service Aides (VSA), staffing each park unit at levels determined by operational need as defined by District staff
- Provided up to 12 full-time Senior Visitor Service Aides (SVSAs) who worked closely with staff at the various parks serving as leads for Visitor Service Aides and provided a higher level of support for the Visitor Services Program
- Provided 16 FOSCSP program staff who supported education, equity and inclusion, conservation, facilities improvements, historic preservation, and cultural events

Special events:

- Supported all State Park public special events
- Transformed the Gerbera Festival into a Covid-friendly Gerbera-N-Go event benefitting Kids2Parks
- Continued the Annual Feed-the-Force event to support State Parks and other members of allied agencies who work to keep our beaches and community safe on the 4th of July

Financial Information	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022
Revenue	$6,171,439	$6,969,790
Operating Expenditures	$5,261,995	$6,149,267
Total	**$909,444**	**$820,523**

Conclusion:

The intent of the Operating Agreement authority provided by Public Resources Code (PRC) §5080.42, was to assist the Department in operating parks that may have been in jeopardy of closure during years when adequate resources were not available to support the continued operation of some parks. Although the original purpose was for a nonprofit organization to operate a State Park in its entirety, it became apparent that, in many cases, there is a continued need for the Department to perform critical, and often, legally mandated roles in the operation of park units.

As the roles of the nonprofit organizations and the Department became more defined, PRC §5080.42 was revised in 2016 to authorize 'co-management' of park units. As the Department continues its efforts with nonprofit park operators, it will continue to evaluate the strengths of each partner and develop agreements accordingly, sharing operational responsibilities to maximize benefits to the State Park System.

These agreements allow the Department to achieve visitor expectations while conserving valuable Department resources, which can be utilized in other park units with less partner support. The Department depends on nonprofit operators to engage communities in valuable educational experiences such as Star Parties and exposing students to local ecology at summer camps at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Partners have found new and creative ways to attract visitors to State Parks, including the operation of the Old Sacramento Visitor Center in Old Sacramento State Historic Park.

The value these partners add to the Department is almost immeasurable. The connections developed with local communities and the new programs they have provided have made positive impacts to visitors' experiences that may not have otherwise been achievable without these partnerships. These impacts have been especially important during the substantial increase in visitation to State Parks during the COVID-19 pandemic.