

Summary of Public Comments on the Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan, Fall 2008

This table summarizes written comments submitted by attendees at a series of public meetings that California State Parks held throughout the Central Valley in fall 2008, as well as comments submitted to California State Parks by U.S. mail and email in fall 2008.

View summarized comments on:

[State parks](#), both existing state parks in the Central Valley and state parks (and features such as heritage corridors) that the plan proposes

[Other topics](#) (such as comments on park districts, counties, cities, parks in the Central Valley that are not in the plan)

State Park/Topic	Comment summary
STATE PARKS	
Big Bend (proposed state park)	Thinks that only local people know where boating trails are located.
Blue Ridge (proposed state park)	Likes base camp strategy; Blue Ridge, for example, could open federal lands on ridge for public use of trail reaching to Vallejo; are you coordinating with folks planning that trail?
Caswell State Park and Stanislaus River	<p>More interpretation needed at Caswell.</p> <p>Generally wants more trails for hiking/biking, less for off-highway vehicles.</p> <p>Suggests canoe trail from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Ripon site to Caswell.</p> <p>Suggests bike/pedestrian trail from Caswell to Ripon, using newly built pedestrian bridge at Ripon.</p> <p>Wants boating-trail sites at Jacob Meyers Park (in city of Riverbank) and a new river access at Salida.</p>
Colonel Allensworth State Park	Improvement or expansion has great merit. Site has tremendous historical and cultural value to county and state.
Deer Creek (proposed state park)	<p>Views this park as a waste of money; it would receive little use.</p> <p>Will not be a willing participant in this proposal on their ranch. Wants advance notice; has many concerns about parkland near his ranch. Has seen public destruction, trash, etc., at other parks. Public interaction with livestock is dangerous; why are parks being considered when state has a budget crisis? Proud of their</p>

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	<p>ranch and its contribution and benefit to livestock and wildlife and it is pleasing to the public to drive by and “see a nice ranch with nice fences and a pretty setting.”</p> <p>Deer Creek is important because of its proximity to communities that are under-served. What about a campground at Deer Creek?</p> <p>Doesn’t understand the values that are being addressed by the proposed Deer Creek State Park. Other options would seem to offer greater recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Site is problematic for many reasons; not ideal site for park. Water present only a short time during year; limited access to site, lack of true geographic boundaries.</p>
<p>Dos Rios (proposed state park)</p>	<p>Would help replace valuable asset to which California Department of Fish and Game has restricted public access.</p> <p>Where Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers meet is a high priority area for new park land in the Central Valley. Acquiring the strategically located Dos Rios Ranch is crucial to ensuring these ecologically vital lands are connected and that the wildlife that depends on these lands is protected. As you know, this Valley is experiencing a population boom that is straining our natural resources and fragmenting habitat for struggling Central Valley wildlife, including endangered riparian brush rabbits. While I applaud your plans to acquire the Dos Rios property, I urge you to include stronger wildlife protections in your plans for developing this area in order to provide benefits to both wildlife and the people of the Central Valley. In particular, I would like to see California State Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate critical wildlife values into its proposal and be more supportive of wildlife conservation on our state's public lands. • Reconsider its plans to locate campgrounds on high ground, an action that could be detrimental to riparian-dependent wildlife -- like the endangered riparian brush rabbit -- that needs these areas to survive. • Collaborate with the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge to ensure the Dos Rios proposal is consistent with the wildlife refuge's needs while providing a great park experience. <p>Because Dos Rios Ranch connects the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge and other state-sponsored restoration projects further upstream, it's important to make sure wildlife conservation and habitat preservation are priorities as the state develops its plans. I support your efforts to protect ecologically sensitive areas in the Valley and encourage you to pursue a plan for the area that will benefit both humans</p>

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	<p>and wildlife.</p> <p>It is important to have state parks close to home for students – this is science in action. Recreational benefits as well. Excited that Dos Rios is being considered.</p> <p>Park would increase outdoor activity near Modesto; expand public access along Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers, provide more campgrounds, day use, boating access, etc.</p> <p>Public access to the river “would encourage people to take amore active role in protecting our resources.” Conservation necessary for diminishing wildlife.</p> <p>Close location is important – “After a long week of hard work, you want to go relax at a close location.”</p> <p>Good for a variety of recreation opportunities (picnic, river watching, animal watching.</p> <p>Hunters, fishers have to drive to Yosemite or Tahoe; Dos Rios would be perfect for those activities.</p> <p>Location next to wildlife refuge would encourage education about animals and birds.</p> <p>Modesto is a growing community [and needs this park].</p> <p>As part of Hispanic community and Tuolumne River Trust, strongly supports the Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan, especially Dos Rios.</p> <p>Would be beneficial; great resource as education for children; area could be used for field trips for kids, etc.</p> <p>Highly supports Dos Rios. Location at confluence of the rivers is ideal place to have a park to keep ecology of both.</p> <p>Bird migration there, would be used by wildlife observers of all kinds.</p> <p>Fills a need for natural park near Modesto; would attract many people.</p> <p>Sees a conflict with Dos Rios; high area is desirable as refugia for brush rabbit, not as a developed facilities site. States this is a very important issue</p> <p>Likes the idea of trails, restrooms, picnicking, and paddling at the site.</p> <p>Suggests joint ownership or ownership agreement.</p> <p>Suggests that hunting be allowed on river only (to protect brush rabbit) and that fishing should be emphasized.</p>

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Elkhorn Basin (proposed state park)	Supports this project.
Farm Trail Heritage Corridor (proposed heritage corridor)	<p>Yolo County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) could leverage agricultural and eco-tourism with the draw that a state park may have.</p> <p>Enthusiastically willing to partner on Central Valley Vision Farm Trails Heritage Corridors and related agritourism projects.</p> <p>Planned facility on Peach Avenue will be historic preservation/agricultural education site with demonstration farms and center; could be stop on the heritage corridor.</p> <p>Should coordinate with programs such as Blossom Trail, Fruit Trail, Citrus and Fall Foliage Trails, Wildflower Trail; many locations, activities, etc are identified there.</p>
Great Valley Grasslands State Park	<p>Adjacency to San Luis National Wildlife Refuge should be focus for a base camp.</p> <p>Importance of San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (“refuge at risk” on one of their reports) as a major Pacific Flyway stopover.</p> <p>Stresses the importance of preservation and stewardship of natural resources and wildlife species.</p> <p>Notes that the National Wildlife Refuge trail system goes through Great Valley Grasslands State Park.</p> <p>Suggests primitive camping at state park for hikers to extend hiking trips through the National Wildlife Refuge.</p>
Henry Coe State Park	<p>Can California State Parks provide access from Valley side?</p> <p>Wants access to Henry Coe State Park from Central Valley.</p>
Kings River (proposed state park)	<p>Wants to assign this park a priority rating.</p> <p>Asked how many Proposition 84 dollars are available for partnerships.</p> <p>Wants to see Kings River on priority list; want California State Parks to collaborate with local agencies.</p>
Old Sacramento State Historic Park	<p>California State Parks should have Gold Rush days more frequently and have camping at the 1849 scene; this would attract families as well as schools.</p>

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<p>Rocky Hill at Exeter (proposed state park)</p>	<p>Supports acquisition.</p> <p>This site has merit and should be considered. Supported by City Council of Exeter.</p> <p>Existing volunteers could provide some staffing.</p> <p>Add biking trails.</p> <p>Tie into Kaweah Oaks Preserve.</p> <p>Hope this critical rock art site is preserved by the state as a park.</p> <p>Tulare County has only one state park, Allensworth. As a growing county it is important that residents have the recreational and cultural opportunities another state park such as Exeter Rocky Hill would provide.</p> <p>It is a unique/wonderful/'magical'/special place. It needs the greatest protection.</p> <p>Exeter Rocky Hill is a unique cultural site that should be preserved.</p> <p>Tulare County has several active groups such as the Tulare County Historical Society, the Southern Sierra Archaeological Society, and members of nearby communities that would provide support for the park.</p> <p>A park at Exeter Rocky Hill would be a valuable tourist destination, which has easy access from Highways 65 and 198. The Hill is close to the city of Exeter, which has preserved its small-town character.</p> <p>Exeter Rocky Hill would make a wonderful Yokodo Yokuts cultural park because it has the prehistoric and historic cultural resources to qualify for National Register Status, as well as a World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Tulare County has a number of community groups whose members would provide support for the park.</p> <p>The hill would provide good educational opportunities for school children and adults.</p> <p>The hill would be a good place for the public to enjoy the open space, walk the trails, picnic with family and friends, and view the local plants and animals.</p> <p>We need to preserve as much of the valley and foothill area as we can as most of the land has been lost to the public. Our valley is a unique ecosystem and much of the wetland, native flowers, oaks and native trees have been lost for the native animals, birds, butterflies, etc. Please consider adding this land into our public park system.</p> <p>A park at Exeter Rocky Hill would be a valuable tourist destination, with easy access from Highways 65 and 198. The Hill is close to the city of Exeter, which has preserved its small town character and also is a tourist favorite.</p> <p>The Bay Area Rock Art Research Association, an advocacy group established in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1983, supports the five key points offered by the Southern Sierra Archaeological Society.</p> <p>Exeter Rocky Hill contains unique rock art resources of World Heritage Site quality and deserves the</p>

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San Joaquin River Parkway (proposed state park)	<p>Prioritize this park.</p> <p>Envisions continuous trails from Friant to City of Fresno.</p> <p>Encourages making it a destination with camping (incl. RV and horse), picnicking, paddling, fishing, and an aquatic center like Lake Natoma, operated by California State University Sacramento.</p> <p>Wants California State Parks to prepare for river restoration planning as that will affect recreation opportunities on the river as water gets deeper, faster, colder; include local partners.</p> <p>Suggests off-highway vehicle area.</p>
State Park at Sutter Buttes	<p>Supports park and public access.</p> <p>Concerned for tribes and landowners.</p> <p>Want California State Parks to establish reasonable access.</p> <p>Suggest further acquisitions should be adjacent to Spillman/North Butte Cemetery. It is near Gray Lodge.</p> <p>Sutter Buttes is an iconic Sac Valley landscape.</p> <p>Base camp at Gray Lodge (Department of Fish and Game) with areas at Upper Butte Basin, Sutter National Wildlife Refuge, Middle Mountain Foundation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service easements in Butte Sink could garner National Recreation Area status.</p>
Tejon Ranch (proposed state park)	<p>Tejon Ranch should be a great site for the large park at the south end of the Valley, with camping, trails, and equestrian facilities.</p> <p>Would like information on trails use, particularly in Tehachapi Mountains. Concerned that mountain bikes were excluded from rerouting of Pacific Coast Trail.</p>
OTHER TOPICS	
Boating trails	Supports water trails.
Bravo Lake Botanical Gardens	<p>Suggests these gardens would be an excellent addition to the system. Could have agricultural history and immigrant labor themes with interpretive center and planned reconstructed labor camp. Gardens are located on city land. Gardens are affiliated with University of California, Davis.</p> <p>Project includes collections of stone fruit, grapes, citrus, and permanent crops. Have also initiated an oral history project involving recording farm workers, farmers and other agricultural people. Would like to</p>

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	<p>develop a museum that would include a traditional farm and reconstructed farm labor camp. Potential for California State Parks to partner with City of Woodlake on this 11+-acre garden.</p>
Deer Creek Hills Preserve	<p>Add Deer Creek Hills Preserve (DCHP) and connections to Folsom and Parkway to Implementation Plan. California State Parks owns portion of DCHP already and could have Folsom connections.</p>
Farmersville (city of) and general comment	<p>Expand reservoirs/wetlands for recreation, which would assist in recharging our water table and would encourage water retention. Suggests extending San Joaquin Parkway east through City of Farmersville, thus connecting communities, encouraging walkability, and reducing traffic congestion.</p>
Farmland	<p>Agricultural land must be recognized as a working landscape, not open space. How will land be acquired? Have you considered impacts on adjacent landowners and their agricultural operations for Caswell proposed additions? And how will landowners near the Caswell project be contacted? What species is the agency looking to promote? Consider and review an ordinance regarding mitigation – if agricultural land is acquired, mitigation is required. Ordinance available through San Joaquin County Community Development Department.</p>
Feather River	<p>Supports plan generally. Feather River is more popular than Sacramento River.</p>
General comments about the Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan	<p>Recreation is important, but we need to focus less on providing more room for people and more on conserving land for future generations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should focus on the north area due to the fact that it is undeveloped and water sources are there. • In south, invest in areas that cross waterfowl migration flyways. • Look at agency growth, to increase jobs and level the workload for park personnel • Need to educate the public on conservation of forest and wildlife. • Involve California’s first-nation tribes. With gains in tribal income, they would be more than interested in a partnership to conserve lands; possibly federal support in that area also.

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	<p>Generally supports the Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Proposition 84 allocations, how much for museums etc., and who to contact?</p> <p>Praise for California State Parks' work to get most "bang for buck."</p> <p>Supports improvements ASAP.</p> <p>Need to increase communication/promotion of availability of local state parks; many, especially Non-English speaking, don't know that state parks exist.</p>
Golden Triangle Corridor	<p>Idea for a heritage corridor that features agriculture and recreation as well as habitat: Blossom Trail, Kings River trail, and farming near Reedley/Sanger/Dinuba.</p> <p>Really likes heritage corridor idea.</p>
Grasslands	<p>California State Parks should focus more on Madera and Fresno counties, especially grasslands, as they are disappearing and deserve higher priority; portions of Madera County have prime examples.</p>
Hunting and fishing	<p>Please provide some land for this.</p> <p>Believes the Plan misses an excellent opportunity to reach out to, and improve access for, the hunting public.</p> <p>Urges more emphasis be placed on opportunities for recreational hunting, as there is very limited mention of hunting in the draft document; California State Parks can also play an important role on its Recreation Areas and/or through cooperative agreements with other entities, both public and private.</p> <p>Demand for hunting is high; can be management tool for undesirable species; fees would help offset costs.</p> <p>Dos Rios and Tejon Ranch are desirable areas for hunting.</p>
Kaweah Oaks Preserve	<p>Would like trail from Kaweah Oaks Preserve to Tulare Basin.</p> <p>Would like a water storage/recreation area.</p> <p>Recommends expanding and improving this preserve. Owned and operated by Sequoia Riverlands Trust, a private non-profit. There is tremendous opportunity for partnership with California State Parks.</p>
Kings River Park Nature Preserve	<p>Collaborative effort with the state could provide increased access to this 95-acre natural open space parcel adjacent to Kings River.</p>

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Rocky Hill site in Porterville	Consider this site for future state involvement. It is adjacent to Lake Success, recreational body of water (boating, other water sports could be provided in park). Significant Native American archeological resources are present as well as numerous endangered species. Land under one owner. Included in Porterville General Plan; infrastructure to service the site is being planned.
San Joaquin County	Protect wildlife.
Sites Reservoir	Wants to include in recreation planning (potential State Recreation Area).
Stanislaus County	<p>Need more Class 1 paved trails and hiking/horse/bike trails to the parks, county is underserved. Trails within parks and trails connecting parks would provide much-needed recreation.</p> <p>Add connection to Henry Coe SP from the valley.</p> <p>Wonders how the state will pay for this ambitious plan given the current economic situation.</p> <p>Questions whether it is fiscally prudent to take productive agricultural land that adds to our state and county tax base and our local economic base out of production to create a center for the State of California?</p> <p>Wonders if a state park with public access is created next to an active agricultural operation, what protections or indemnifications surrounding landowners will have as they carry out generally accepted farming practices.</p> <p>Questions whether recreation is a greater need than food production.</p> <p>Concerned about losing agricultural land and local economic generators.</p>
Transportation	<p>Concerned with assumption that all access is by car.</p> <p>Wants “How to get there” added into plan.</p>
Tribes	<p>Suggests meeting with Central Valley Indian people privately.</p> <p>Wants California State Parks to add photo of State Indian Museum to plan.</p> <p>Suggests asking United Auburn Indian Tribes for historic images.</p> <p>Wants California State Parks to promote virtual web tours, contact more tribes.</p> <p>Wants California State Parks to ensure that brochures tell true story, especially at missions, and get tribal review.</p>

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	<p>Need to notify tribes of meetings.</p> <p>Questions whether there was any input from tribes on the plan.</p> <p>Need to include Native Americans in population projections.</p> <p>Need to include displays, brochures, etc., on Native American history and culture.</p>
Tulare County	<p>Ensure that plans will be integrated with plans already underway at city and county levels.</p> <p>Need to reassure private landowners that visioning plan is “100% contingent on willing seller.” Gets a lot of calls from ranchers and farmers who are concerned the plan will be a catalyst for eminent domain.</p> <p>Believes private land typically maintained better.</p> <p>Thinks public access and trails can become a nuisance.</p> <p>Concerned about funding, maintenance, and how acquisition will take place. Develop a park on south side of Pine Flat Reservoir (extend from below the river to upper end of lake).</p> <p>Include camping/boating facilities below Pine Flat, biking trails, and Off-Highway Vehicle.</p> <p>Suggests Off-Highway Vehicle recreation area between Porterville and Kern County line.</p> <p>Suggests Off-Highway Vehicle recreation area in the foothill area of Tulare County between Porterville and Kern County Line. Recreational vehicles, tent camping and day use.</p> <p>Concludes that plan was developed without any input from county.</p> <p>California State Parks is proposing to take 3300 acres of land.</p> <p>Wants approval delayed and to be notified in the future.</p> <p>Strongly supports the park areas proposed for Tulare County. Rocky Hill is a world-class cultural and historic site. Tule Elk SNR definitely needs more acreage and habitat restoration, so this is good news.</p> <p>Create bikeway links between the Cities of Visalia, Tulare, Farmersville, and Exeter to create connections between parks and historical sites in each of these communities. Trail system has tremendous opportunities given waterways that flow from Sierra.</p> <p>Supports strong partnerships for acquisition, development, expansion and maintenance of any new state park in Tulare County.</p>

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Tulare County and Rancho de Kaweah	<p>One suggestion for a state park in the Tulare basin is the historic Rancho de Kaweah, which is owned by the Lindsay Strathmore Irrigation District. It is located about four miles north of Exeter on the Kaweah River flood plain and consists of about 1300 acres. Part of the property has been developed for agriculture and has been used to produce row crops (about 320 acres).The site has a number of advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the Valley floor near population centers. Easy access without the necessity of long transits. • Historic connection to a fascinating part of California water history. Was used by the Lindsay Strathmore Irrigation District to extract water from the Kaweah River aquifer for transportation South and East, to water citrus and olive groves being developed around Lindsay and Strathmore, in the early years of the 20th century. Some of the old pump houses, which have not been used for about sixty years, still remain. • The site is home to huge Valley Oaks, Sycamores, open spaces and streams (over two miles of Kaweah River frontage). • The property is owned by a public entity now, so its conversion to state park status would have little effect on property tax rolls. • Part of the property may have some potential for use as a ground water recharge area in co-operation with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District or another agency. • The site is within about five miles of Exeter Rocky Hill and could be managed jointly. • The site could accommodate trails for hiking, horseback riding and open spaces for flying kites or enjoying the most spectacular views of the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Range. Different areas could accommodate camping and picnicking. • In close proximity to Kaweah Oaks Preserve.
Tuolumne, Turlock, La Grange	<p>Cooperate with Department of Fish and Game, Turlock Irrigation District, Turlock County; possible historic park at La Grange.</p> <p>Focus should be on the Tuolumne.</p> <p>Six miles of publicly owned riverfront at La Grange Bridge and the State-owned Foxgrove Recreation Area near Waterford could be boating trail points.</p> <p>Suggests action at 700 acres of undeveloped land in La Grange that is good put in/take out spot; old mine</p>

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	tailings, needs restoration.
Upper Sacramento Valley	<p>Concerned with lack of recreation in upper Sacramento valley.</p> <p>Notes development pressure on foothills and rivers.</p> <p>Need Off-Highway Vehicle areas and areas for hunting.</p>
Visalia, City of	Would like more time to formulate recommendations.
Yolo County	<p>Explore development of a State Historic Park north of Guinda in the Capay Valley; crosses Cache Creek and has significant riparian habitat. Such a park could tell Capay Valley stories: Black history of freed and runaway slaves, center for the southeastern Patwin of the Wintun Tribe; center of organic agriculture. Room for campground, creek access and there are significant federal and local public lands nearby. An interpretative center together with hands-on agriculture row crops and animal tending will offer a unique and experiential state park experience. Large and underserved Hispanic community in Woodland, Winters and Esparto would directly benefit from this park. They constitute about half of the users at the Yolo County Cache Canyon Parks that are extensively used and over capacity much of the summer.</p> <p>Opportunities to work with volunteer groups such as the Esparto After School RISE program or groups in the other communities in conjunction with the development and long term operation of a park at this location. Cooperative agreements can be reached with nearby organic farmers to farm the land while offering an experiential agriculture experience to visitors. We need this. We need to reconnect people to the land and youth to the outdoors.</p> <p>Scoping documents discuss the Blue Ridge. Recommend maintaining this concept to improve connections from western Yolo County to public lands along Blue Ridge to leverage California State Parks land acquisitions. Also is working on a trail to connect Putah Creek to Cache Creek which is a segment of our proposal for a northern Inner Coast Range Trail from the Bay Ridge Trail system to the Pacific Crest Trail in the Marble Mountains. The right-of-way for the Putah Cache segment is nearly complete, missing only one 2-mile piece.</p>