

Big Basin Redwoods State Park General Plan Amendment and Supplemental EIR

Primer for Review of the Draft General Plan Amendment and Final EIR

July 2, 2026

In response to losing all park facilities in the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire, Santa Cruz District has prepared the *Big Basin Redwoods Facilities Management Plan (BBFMP)* to guide rebuilding the park according to the *Reimagining Big Basin Vision Summary (2022)*, and the *Big Basin Cornerstone Document (2024)*.

To address consistency with the park's 2013 General Plan, staff has prepared a proposed General Plan Amendment (GPA) to update specific sections of the 2013 General Plan to ensure consistency with the BBFMP.

A supplement to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2013 General Plan has been prepared according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to cover both the BBFMP and the GPA.

Following the public review of the Draft EIR and GPA from October 17, through December 1, 2025, the planning team prepared a Final EIR (FEIR), including copies of all received comments and responses to these comments. No comments were received on the GPA and no changes were made to the GPA.

This primer provides a summary of the existing documents.

Timeline:

The timeline for the preparation of the GP and EIR has been as follows:

- The CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Supplemental EIR was circulated to the appropriate agencies June 16, 2025, for a 30-day review period, ending July 18, 2025.
- A scoping meeting was held on July 10, 2025 to provide additional information about the BBFMP, GPA, and Supplemental EIR process and to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the scope of the Supplemental EIR.

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- The Draft GPA and Draft Supplemental EIR were released for public review, along with the Final Public Draft FMP, on October 17, 2025, for a 45-day review period, ending December 1, 2025.
- The Final EIR was prepared between December 2, 2025, and April 29, 2026, was posted to State Clearinghouse on April 29, 2026, and is attached for review.
- No updates to the Draft GPA were made when preparing the Final EIR, and the final Draft GPA is attached for review.
- Minor edits to fix typographical errors were made to the BBFMP, and the Planning and Acquisition Committee reviewed and approved the Final BBFMP on April 13, 2026, contingent on the State Parks and Recreation Commission approving the GPA and certifying the Supplemental EIR.
- The commission hearing for approval of the GPA and certification of the Supplemental EIR is scheduled for July 2, 2026.
- A Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse following certification of the Supplemental EIR.
- The Final General Plan Revision will be published following the Commission hearing and adopting the associated resolutions.

Content of the Proposed General Plan Amendment

The proposed General Plan Amendment consists of the following sections:

1. **2026 Amendment Summary:** this includes an overview and explanation of why the amendment was prepared and what it includes.
2. **Lower Sky Meadow Amendments:** this includes updates to the recommendations for Lower Sky Meadow, Sky Meadow Group Camp and Upper Sky Meadow to reflect the BBFMP recommendation to develop new overnight camping facilities and related amenities.
3. **Saddle Mountain Amendments:** A recommendation is added to develop staff housing and staff operation areas on properties owned by State Parks around Saddle Mountain.
4. **Little Basin Amendments:** Recommendations are added to provide a mixed Tribal use area with a cultural center for collaboration with Indigenous groups for stewardship, interpretation and cultural activities, and to provide staff housing.

5. **Map of General Plan Areas:** Future acquisition parcels around Saddle Mountain are mapped that would be added to the General Plan area.

Content of the Final EIR

The Final EIR document consists of the following:

Chapter 1, “Introduction,” provides a brief overview of the document organization and environmental review process.

Chapter 2, “Response to Comments,” provides a list of agencies, organizations, and individuals that submitted comments during the public review period, and complete responses to all written comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR received during the public review period.

Chapter 3, “Revisions to the Draft Supplemental EIR,” provides a reproduction of portions of the DEIR with proposed revisions to text made by State Parks and in response to comments.

Appendices: includes the revised Biological Resources Standard Project Requirements in response to comments, the revised Marbled Murrelet Literature Review in response to comments, and Draft Supplemental EIR Comment Letters.

Content of the Facilities Management Plan

The Final Big Basin Facilities Management Plan consists of the following:

Chapter 1, “Introduction,” provides an overview of the document, the planning area, and planning objectives.

Chapter 2, “Parkwide Design,” provides discussion of the BBFMP’s recommendations for parkwide issues including climate adaptation and restoration, day-use facilities and interpretation, visitor circulation and shuttle program, overnight facilities, aesthetics and design, operations and safety, and utilities.

Chapter 3, “Site Plans,” provides proposed park program of facilities for each of the opportunity areas within the project area.

Chapter 4, “Implementation,” includes recommendations for phasing and implementing the project.

Appendices include the Draft Supplemental EIR, the Basis of Design prepared for the BBFMP, the Summary of Design Alternatives prepared for the BBFMP, and the Engagement Summary for the BBFMP.

Next Steps

The Final EIR and the Draft EIR constitute the Supplemental EIR, which the Commission will consider for certification before deciding whether to adopt the General Plan Amendment. CSP is required by the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15090) to certify that the EIR was completed in compliance with CEQA, was reviewed and considered by CSP decision makers, and reflects CSP’s independent judgment and analysis before approving the General Plan. CSP would adopt CEQA Findings of Fact, and the Statement of Overriding Considerations. Because no mitigation measures were identified as feasible to reduce potential impacts resulting from General Plan Implementation to less-than-significant, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d), is not needed.

After certification of the Supplemental EIR and adoption of the General Plan Amendment, a Final General Plan Revision will be published.

Content of the Final General Plan Revision

This document will include a revised reprint of the 2013 Big Basin Redwoods State Park General Plan document along with a copy of the Resolutions approving the General Plan Amendment and certifying the EIR, inserted into the front of the document. The Final General Plan Revision will be comprehensive, include all revisions made in the proposed General Plan Amendment, and look similar to the 2013 General Plan.