



**CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE**

**Santa Rosa, CA
March 5, 2026**

STAFF REPORT: Update on State Park Planning Projects
STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services
Division
SUBJECT: State Park Planning Projects

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For information only

II. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

Update on State Park Planning projects currently underway.

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT

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SUBJECT: State Park Planning Projects

OBJECTIVE

Several planning efforts and studies are underway at State Park units and statewide, including general plans, management plans, Cornerstone Documents, and visitor studies. This report describes each plan's purpose, process, and current milestones.

INTRODUCTION

This section describes general plans, management plans, and cornerstone documents currently underway.

DESCRIPTION

Alameda-Tesla Property Classification and General Plan

The Alameda-Tesla Property includes over 3,000 acres of land, approximately eight miles west of Interstate 580, and midway between the City of Livermore to the west and the City of Tracy to the east. It is adjacent to the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area to the east and is managed by the Diablo Range District. This project involves classifying and naming the property as a new unit within the State Parks system, and developing a general plan and an environmental impact report. These planning efforts will determine land use and public access and guide future management.

The planning team will develop the preferred alternative, the administrative draft general plan, and the draft EIR in 2026. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the Preliminary General Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in early 2027, which will include recommendations on classification and naming.

Please visit the Alameda-Tesla Classification and General Plan project [webpage](http://www.alamedateslaplan.com) (www.alamedateslaplan.com) to learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and get involved.



Clear Lake State Park General Plan

Clear Lake State Park (SP) is an approximately 590-acre park on the southeast shore of Clear Lake, the largest freshwater lake in California. The park is located within unincorporated Lake County, about 125 miles north of San Francisco and 100 miles northwest of Sacramento. The Northern Buttes District manages the park. Clear Lake SP was fully opened to the public in 1952. Since then, the park has grown to include a visitor center, four campgrounds, cabins, a day-use picnic area, a boat launch and marina, a swimming beach, and hiking trails.

A guiding ‘General Development Plan’ map was created for Clear Lake SP in 1966, but no other long-term plan exists for the park. The General Plan process began in February 2024 and will be completed over three years. The EIR process will begin in early 2026 and be completed in early 2027. The first stakeholder meeting was held virtually on June 13, 2024; the first public meeting was held on August 21, 2024, at Clear Lake State Park; the second stakeholder meeting was held virtually on June 18, 2025; and the second public meeting was held on July 16, 2025, at Clear Lake State Park. Draft Planning Concepts have been drafted, and a Preferred Alternative is being developed. Please visit the Clear Lake SP General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, take a visitor experience survey, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan Project

Delta Meadows is a 519-acre unclassified unit in Sacramento County, adjacent to Locke and Walnut Grove and 37 miles south of Sacramento. The property also includes a separate unclassified unit, the Locke Boarding House—a one-quarter-acre historic building and museum in the town of Locke. The Department acquired the Delta Meadows property in 1985 and adopted a purpose statement in 2000. Diablo Range District manages the property. Both units will be considered in the classification and general plan project, which is now underway and expected to finish in 2028.

The first in-person public meeting was held on November 12, 2024, in Walnut Grove, and a virtual follow-up public meeting was held on January 22, 2025. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report was released on January 14, 2025, and the NOP Scoping Meeting was held virtually on January 30, 2025. A series of virtual stakeholder meetings was held the week of April 20, 2025. The Existing Conditions section and the Draft Planning Concepts of the General Plan are being drafted. Public meetings to present the Draft Planning Concepts are scheduled for March 7, 2026 (in-person) and March 10, 2026 (virtual). Please visit the Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Dos Rios Classification and General Plan Project



Dos Rios is an approximately 1,600-acre unclassified property at the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers in Stanislaus County. The property represents the largest public-private floodplain and riparian habitat restoration project in California. A portion of the park opened to the public on June 12, 2024, through a partnership between [River Partners](#), California State Parks, and the California Conservation Corps. The Central Valley District manages the proposed park.

The project involves classifying the property as a new park unit within the California State Parks system and will be considered as part of the general plan and is anticipated to be completed in 2028. The first in-person visioning workshop took place at the Dos Rios Park Property on October 4, 2025 and was followed by a community visioning workshop which took place virtually on October 16, 2025. Development of existing conditions analysis and draft planning concepts is underway.

Please visit www.PlanDosRios.org to learn more about the Dos Rios Classification and General Plan project and sign up for updates.

Great Valley Grasslands State Park General Plan

Great Valley Grasslands State Park is a 2,826-acre unit along the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley. It is located in Merced County, about 25 miles west of the City of Merced. The park is comprised of the former Fremont Ford State Recreation Area and the San Luis Island Project, which were combined, reclassified, and renamed Great Valley Grasslands State Park in 1992. The unit is part of the Grasslands Ecological Area, a patchwork of federal, state, and private lands managed to preserve one of the last few remaining intact examples of native grasslands and riparian woodlands on the floor of the Central Valley. The Central Valley District manages the park.

The General Plan was initiated in February 2024 and is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2027. The first virtual stakeholder and public outreach meetings took place in summer and fall of 2024. The second virtual stakeholder meeting took place on June 30, 2025, second virtual public meeting to present the proposed planning alternatives on December 3, 2025. Development of the Preferred Alternative is currently underway. Please visit www.parks.ca.gov/plangvgsp to learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and stay involved.

Gaviota State Park (SP), Refugio State Beach (SB), and El Capitán State Beach (SB) Joint General Plan Update

El Capitán SB, Refugio SB, and Gaviota SP are all located off U.S. Highway 101 in Santa Barbara County, approximately 20-30 miles north of Santa Barbara. They provide unique recreational experiences for visitors from across the state and for residents of nearby cities and towns, such as Lompoc and Santa Ynez. These three parks provide



coastal access, developed day-use facilities, and overnight camping, and are rich in recreational opportunities and natural, cultural, and tribal resources.

All three parks have undergone significant changes since the adoption of the original General Plans, and the guidance provided in the 1979 plans is now outdated. Ongoing damage from severe winter storms, impending sea-level rise and other climate change impacts, aging infrastructure, significant acquisition of new property, high recreation demand, and the need to protect natural, cultural, and recreational resources all contribute to the need for updated plans that reflect the current realities at El Capitán SB, Refugio SB, and Gaviota SP.

The General Plan process began in 2023 and will be completed over five years. Resource data gathering has been a main focus, as has gathering information through the project webpage from visitors, stakeholders, and the general public on important issues, memories, and desires for these popular coastal units. A public workshop was held on February 12, 2026, and a virtual workshop scheduled for March 4th. Visit the General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, take a visitor experience survey, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Salton Sea State Recreation Area General Plan

Salton Sea State Recreation Area is located along 14 miles of shoreline at the northeast corner of the Salton Sea in southern Riverside and northern Imperial Counties. The state recreation area (SRA) occupies 15,000 acres of land and water in a region that is the ancestral homeland of numerous California Native American tribal groups and peoples since time immemorial. These include the Cahuilla, Kumeyaay, Quechan, and Cocopah. The Ocotillo Wells District manages the SRA.

Salton Sea state park opened to the public in 1955, offering shoreline access and water-oriented recreation. It was designated an SRA in 1963, but a general plan has not previously been developed for the park. Declining water levels due to reduced inflows into the Salton Sea continue to reshape recreation opportunities at the park and impact the fragile ecosystem within which it exists. Despite these challenges, Salton Sea SRA offers many recreational opportunities, including camping, birdwatching, picnicking, photography, nature appreciation, and hiking.

The general plan process began in summer 2025 and will be completed over three years. The Planning Team is commencing with an initial round of public workshops and a separate project stakeholder meeting, which took place in February and March 2026, respectively. For more information, visit the [project website](#).

Lake Perris State Recreation Area (SRA) General Plan



Located about 65 miles southeast of Los Angeles and 11 miles southeast of Riverside, Lake Perris SRA is nestled between the cities of Moreno Valley and Perris and has been welcoming visitors since 1973. Encompassing over 8,800 acres, Lake Perris SRA also serves as the southern terminus of the California State Water Project and is one of the most popular recreation lakes along the State Water Project. The lake is surrounded by rugged hills and expansive natural landscapes, offering a variety of diverse recreational opportunities including boating, fishing, swimming, camping, hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, and rock climbing. Lake Perris SRA also welcomes a variety of special events throughout the year including concerts, festivals, and sporting events. The park also houses the Ya'i Heki' Regional Indian Museum, which showcases the history, culture, and traditions of Indigenous Peoples of the Inland Empire region. Whether visitors come for a day on the lake or beach, a weekend camping trip, or to explore the miles of trails, Lake Perris provides a vital recreational resource for the region.

The general plan process began in the Summer of 2025 and will be completed over three years. The Planning Team is gathering and analyzing existing conditions data. The [project website](#) and a public survey were launched in January 2026, and public outreach and engagement have commenced. The first public meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2026.

PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan Amendment

LA Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies LLC, the Project Proponent (LA ARTT), has proposed a 1.2-mile-long aerial gondola system project that would connect Los Angeles Union Station to Dodger Stadium. The proposed project would include an intermediate station at the southernmost corner of LASHP in the city of Los Angeles. Approximately 2 of the park's 32 acres, or 6% of the park, would be dedicated to the aerial gondola system and would therefore be subject to recreational use restrictions.

State Parks has determined that this public transit use is not allowed within the current LASHP General Plan and that a general plan amendment (GPA) is needed to allow it.

Current Status: In May 2025, the California Court of Appeals overturned the Superior Court of Los Angeles' August 2024 denial of a lawsuit challenging the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority's (METRO) certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed LA ARTT project. The appeals court found that the EIR, certified by METRO in February 2024, did not adequately address construction noise mitigation and failed to properly consult with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which has review authority over natural and cultural resources within the project's footprint.



The appeals court decision directed METRO to set aside its approval of the project and certification of the EIR. Following LA ARTT’s correction of issues addressed by the court, METRO reanalyzed the project and recertified the amended EIR in November 2025.

As the initial step in preparing the proposed GPA, State Parks embarked on a comprehensive outreach and engagement effort with the public, stakeholders, and other interested parties beginning in October 2024. That effort was put on hold following the appeals court decision.

State Parks has reviewed and is currently working on revisions to LA ART’s draft GPA proposal to ensure that it meets required standards and conditions. Once the draft GPA is finalized, State Parks will resume public outreach and engagement efforts. The amendment will then be scheduled for review and consideration by the State Park and Recreation Commission, which is likely to occur in September 2026.

CORNERSTONE DOCUMENTS

The Cornerstone Document summarizes what is known about a park and expands on the unit’s classification and Declaration of Purpose by highlighting its primary purpose(s) and values in detail. It is based on research and technical advice from diverse disciplines and input from community stakeholders, including California Native American Tribes. A Cornerstone Document forms the basis for future, detailed strategies and projects for park operations and improvements. It is a dynamic document that is subject to revision as new information is discovered about a park or as public recreation values change. Every unit of the State Park System should have a Cornerstone Document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management.

Nine (9) districts are currently working on completing ten (10) Cornerstone Documents. A consultant assists six (6) districts in preparing and developing their Cornerstone Documents, while three (3) districts are completing their Cornerstone Documents in house. The Big Basin Redwoods State Park Cornerstone Document was completed in October 2023.

The following park units are developing Cornerstone Documents: Castle Craggs State Park, Andrew Molera State Park, Emerald Bay and D.L. Bliss State Parks, Tolowa Dunes State Park, Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, Mendocino Woodlands State Park, Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, Trione-Annadel State Park, and Wildwood Canyon State Park.

OTHER PLANNING CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



The Visitor Use Management (VUM) Committee comprises Oregon State University (OSU) faculty, Parks California, and Department Staff. This multifaceted project will develop a standardized, statewide visitor use survey for implementation across all State Park facilities, along with additional questions that districts may use to address site-specific needs. In addition, it will provide data-gathering tools and strategies that can be used at both the district and headquarters levels. This data collection effort will inform efforts to improve understanding of park users and their needs.

The data gathered from this project will inform adaptive management strategies and equity initiatives within State Parks. These strategies will address “Theme 4: Equity”, “Goal 6: Build and deploy a comprehensive and compelling communications and marketing strategy”, and “Objective 1: Conduct market research to understand and to better serve the public and identify potential partners” found in the Path Forward Strategic Plan.

The VUM Committee will conclude in March 2026, at which time OSU will provide Parks with a detailed report that includes recommended statewide survey questions, a bank of district-level questions, data processing procedures, and an implementation strategy for the statewide visitor use program. The program will begin with a pilot project projected to start in Fiscal Year 2027-28, followed by a larger statewide implementation.

NEXT STEPS

For information only.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

N/A

Planning project status chart for State Park units.ⁱ

Unit Name and District	District	Type of plan	Potential Commission Hearing for Action	Current Milestone
Alameda-Tesla Property	Diablo Range	Classification and General Plan	2027	Preferred Alternatives, Preliminary General Plan, Draft EIR (2027)
Clear Lake State Park	Northern Buttes	General Plan	2027	Draft Planning Concepts Spring/Summer 2025
Delta Meadows Property	Diablo Range	Classification and General Plan	2028	Notice of Preparation (January-February 2025), Draft Planning Concepts (Spring/Summer 2025)
Dos Rios Property	Central Valley	Classification and General Plan	2028	Project Start up expected in Spring 2025
Gaviota Coast Unit General Plans (ECRG: Gaviota SP, Refugio SB, El Capitan SB)	Channel Coast	General Plan	2027	Notice of Preparation (December 2024-January 2025)
Great Valley Grasslands SP	Central Valley	General Plan	2027	Draft Planning Concepts Spring/Summer 2025
Los Angeles State Historic Park	Angeles	General Plan Amendment	TBD, Fall 2025	Public outreach and engagement
Salton Sea SRA	Ocotillo Wells	General Plan	2028	Public outreach and engagement, winter 2026
Lake Perris SRA	Inland Empire	General Plan	2028	Project Start up in Summer 2025
Trione-Annadel SP	Bay Area	Road and Trail Management Plan	N/A For Information Only	Draft Plan released January 2026. Final document is expected in 2027.
Andrew Molera SP	Bay Area	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025
Castle Crags SP	Northern Buttes	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025

PLANNING PROJECT STATUS

March, 2026

Unit Name and District	District	Type of plan	Potential Commission Hearing for Action	Current Milestone
Colonel Allensworth SHP	Great Basin	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Public engagement underway
Emerald Bay SP/D.L. Bliss SP	Sierra	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025
Mendocino Woodlands SP	Sonoma Coast/Mendocino	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is being prepared.
Montgomery Woods SNR	Sonoma Coast/Mendocino	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is being prepared.
Railtown 1897 SHP	Central Valley	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025
Tolowa Dunes SP	North Coast Redwoods	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Summer 2025
Trione-Annadel SP	Bay Area	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is being prepared.
Wildwood Canyon SP	Inland Empire	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is being prepared.

ⁱ Does not include planning projects for State Vehicular Recreation Areas.



California State Parks System Planning Efforts Map

