



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

Loma Linda, California
December 17, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Report Only - Planning Update

STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

SUBJECT: State Park Planning Projects

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Information Item only.

II. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

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.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- California State Parks System Planning Efforts Map
- Planning Projects Status Chart for State Park Units
- [Alameda-Tesla Classification and General Plan Project](#)
- [Clear Lake State Park General Plan Project](#)
- [Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan Project](#)
- [www.PlanDosRios.org](#)
- [Great Valley Grasslands State Park General Plan Project](#)
- [Gaviota State Park, Refugio State Beach, and El Capitán State Beach Joint General Plan Update](#)
- [Salton Sea State Recreation Area General Plan Project](#)
- [Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan Amendment Project](#)



State of California • Natural Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Armando Quintero, Director

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STAFF REPORT: Planning Update

STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

SUBJECT: State Park Planning Projects

OBJECTIVE

Informational only

Summary

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 the purpose of general plans and management plans.

GENERAL PLAN PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

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 developed a range of potential land use concepts (concept alternatives) for resource management, visitor access and recreation, interpretation and



education programs, facilities, and park operations. State Parks hosted an in-person workshop on September 20 in Tracy, CA, and a virtual meeting on Thursday, September 30, 2025, to present the concept alternatives. Participants were also asked to complete a survey and submit comments about the concept alternatives, which was open through November 30, 2025. The workshops were well attended, with over 200 combined participants. The planning team will work on developing the preferred alternative, the administrative draft general plan, and the draft EIR in the next year.

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 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](http://www.alamedateslaplan.com) 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 during the week of April 20, 2025. The Existing Conditions section and the Draft Planning Concepts of the General Plan are being drafted. 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's Rivers Sector manages the proposed park.

Classifying the property as a new park unit within the California State Parks System will be considered as part of the general plan project 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. A survey inviting the public to help State Parks develop a vision for the property is available on the project webpage and will be open for input until January 2026. Please visit www.PlanDosRios.org for more information on the Dos Rios Classification and General Plan and learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and stay involved.

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 in Merced County, about 25 miles west of the City of Merced. The park comprises what was the 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 Central Valley District manages the park.

The General Plan was initiated in February 2024 and is anticipated to be completed in summer 2027. The first virtual stakeholder meeting was held on June 5, 2024, and a virtual Community Outreach meeting was held on October 8, 2024. A second virtual public meeting to present the proposed planning alternatives was held on December 3, 2025. Please visit www.parks.ca.gov/plangvgsp to learn more about the project, participate in a public survey, sign up for updates, and stay involved.



Gaviota State Park, Refugio State Beach, and El Capitán State Beach Joint General Plan Update

El Capitán State Beach (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. In December 2024, the Notice of Preparation (NOP) required for the environmental review process was released. It closed in January 2025 after receiving comments on a wide range of aspects of these parks. Meetings with stakeholders and preparation for the initial public workshops are underway. Visit the General Plan project [webpage](#) to learn more about the project, take a visitor experience survey, sign up for updates, and get involved.

Public workshops are being scheduled for February 2026 to update the public and gather input on initial planning concepts.

Salton Sea State Recreation Area General Plan

Salton Sea State Recreation Area is located along 16 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. The park was classified as an SRA in 1963, but no general plan has ever been developed for the Salton Sea SRA. 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 the park 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 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 October 2025, and public outreach and engagement have commenced.

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 Los Angeles State Historic Park (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 will be required to reanalyze the project and recertify the amended EIR.

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. Given the appeals court decision, this outreach and engagement effort had been put on hold. LA ART recirculated the amended EIR in Fall 2025. On December 4, 2025, LA METRO recertified the project EIR..



After State Parks determines that the proposed GPA meets required standards and conditions, the amendment will be scheduled for a State Park and Recreation Commission hearing. We recommend visiting the project website at lastatehistoricparkgpa.com for schedule updates.

CLASSIFICATION PROJECTS

Wildwood Canyon Park Property (Inland Empire District)

Wildwood Canyon Park Property is in the eastern foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, approximately two miles from the City of Yucaipa in San Bernardino County. The property preserves ancient oak woodlands, tribal sites, and pioneer homesteads. The Classification and Naming Recommendations report will be presented at the December 17, 2025, Commission meeting for their consideration.

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.

Eight (8) districts are currently working on completing nine (9) Cornerstone Documents. A consultant assists six (6) districts in preparing and developing their Cornerstone Documents, while two (2) 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 Crags State Park, Andrew Molera State Park, Emerald Bay SP and D.L. Bliss State Parks, Tolowa Dunes State Park, Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, Mendocino Woodlands State Park, Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, Ralitown 1897 State Historic Park, and Trione-Annadel State Park.



ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLANS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Trione-Annadel State Park

The Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) is a comprehensive planning document that examines Trione-Annadel State Park's existing road and trail system to provide direction for long-term planning, design, construction, maintenance, and management. It considers current and potential public use, park operations, and the protection and enhancement of cultural and natural resources to ensure recreational trail opportunities are available to their fullest potential while protecting vital resources. The first public meeting was held on June 17, 2025, with a four-week public comment period. Staff is currently reviewing comments received and developing the Draft Plan. The RTMP should be completed by early 2027. Please send any other project-related questions or concerns to trails@parks.ca.gov.

STATEWIDE CALIFORNIA RECREATION TRAILS PLAN UPDATE

The California Recreational Trails Plan (Plan) is a guide produced by California State Parks for all California agencies and recreation providers that manage trails. One outstanding benefit of the plan is how the input of the various statewide trail experts and constituents is used to guide improvements to our trail networks through aligned trails and programs. The Plan assesses present and future demand for trails and recommends an integrated system of trail routes.

The Statewide Trail Office Staff has held two public meetings and one workshop associated with the Plan. Over the next six months, the plan will be updated with new information and updated data/figures and brought to the State Park and Recreation Commission for review and comment next year.

OTHER MANAGEMENT PLANS

NEXT STEPS

For information only.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

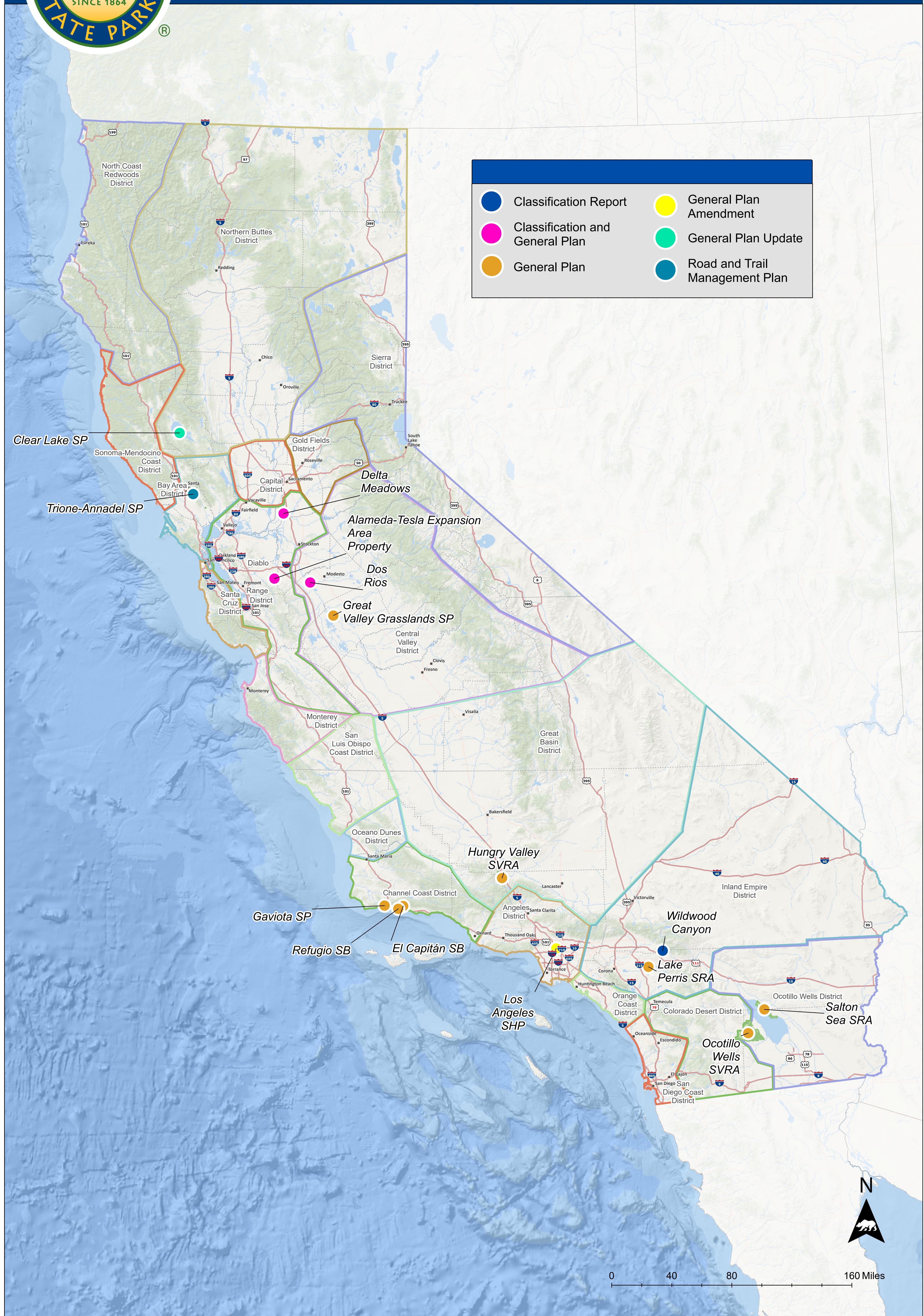
COMMISSION ACTION(S)

N/A



California State Parks System

Planning Efforts Map



Planning project status chart for State Park units.

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	Notice of Preparation (January-February 2025), Draft Planning Concepts (Sept 2025)
Clear Lake State Park	Northern Buttes	General Plan	2027	Draft Planning Concepts Summer 2025
Delta Meadows Property	Diablo Range	Classification and General Plan	2028	Notice of Preparation (January-February 2025), Draft Planning Concepts (Fall 2025)
Dos Rios Property	Central Valley	Classification and General Plan	2028	Existing conditions data gathering and visioning
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 Dec 2025
Los Angeles State Historic Park	Angeles	General Plan Amendment	TBD, Spring 2026	Public outreach and engagement
Salton Sea SRA	Ocotillo Wells	General Plan	2028	Existing conditions data gathering and visioning
Wildwood Canyon Park Property	Inland Empire	Classification Report	December 2025	Commission Hearing Dec 2025
Trione-Annadel SP	Bay Area	Road and Trail Management Plan	TBD	Data gathering and public outreach
Andrew Molera SP	Bay Area	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Winter 2025
Castle Crags SP	Northern Buttes	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. Final document is expected in Winter 2025

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. The final document is expected in Winter 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 The document is expected in Winter 2025
Tolowa Dunes SP	North Coast Redwoods	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is under review. The final document is expected in Winter 2025
Trione-Annadel SP	Bay Area	Cornerstone Document	N/A For Information Only	Draft Cornerstone Document is being prepared.

¹ Does not include planning projects for State Vehicular Recreation Areas.