



# News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Public Open House Set to Review Future Plans for Auburn State Recreation Area

*SACRAMENTO, Calif.* — California State Parks is holding a public open house to solicit comments on the future of [Auburn State Recreation Area \(ASRA\)](#) on **Thursday, December 7, 2017** at the Gold Country Fairgrounds Sierra Building in Auburn.

Preparation of the **ASRA General Plan/Resource Management Plan (Plan)** includes a series of public input opportunities. A public workshop, held two years ago, asked Californians to suggest the types of recreation that could be enhanced and improved, such as camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, rock climbing, bird watching, nature exploration and more. The agencies also asked for input on the important natural and cultural resources within ASRA and ways to protect and preserve them for future generations to enjoy. This information was used to prepare proposals for additional facilities and management actions.

Three action alternatives for the Plan have been prepared.

- **Resources Management Emphasis:** Focuses on restoration and stewardship of the natural environment, and preservation of cultural resources.
- **Recreation Emphasis:** Focuses on increasing and diversifying recreation opportunities to accommodate increased visitation.
- **Equal Emphasis:** Proposes increased resources management and recreation opportunities.
- **No-action Alternative:** Describes continued management under the existing Interim Resource Management Plan.

An opportunity to comment on proposed features and actions under the Plan alternatives will be offered in a public open house on **December 7, 2017** at the **Gold Country Fairgrounds Sierra Building, 209 Fairgate Road, Auburn, CA 95603**. For convenience, members of the public may visit anytime from **5 p.m. until 8 p.m.** to study the exhibits, ask questions and leave their written comments. There will not be a scheduled presentation. Children are welcome.



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Open house materials and an online questionnaire will also be available on the webpage [www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA](http://www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA) through January 5, 2018.

This open house will serve as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting. Additional information and suggestions about the potential environmental effects of Plan implementation are requested from members of the public. The CEQA Notice of Preparation, which describes the public scoping period, is available on the web page.

**If you would like to be added to the contact list to receive email notifications of public outreach opportunities, please contact Project Lead Cheryl Essex at [plan.general@parks.ca.gov](mailto:plan.general@parks.ca.gov).**

Your input into decisions about how to best provide high-quality recreation while preserving the park for future generations is an important step in ensuring successful Plan development. The planning process has involved the public, scientists, technical experts and land managers in documenting and understanding the park's important natural, cultural and recreational resources, existing uses and visitor needs. The Plan alternatives, now in development include resource preservation and land use strategies that will best serve the communities and recreating public in the long term. Once Plan alternatives are finalized, an analysis of the potential environmental impacts of Plan implementation will be conducted. Finally, a preferred Plan will be identified and presented to the California State Park and Recreation Commission and the Bureau of Reclamation for review and adoption. The entire process—including the environmental review of the selected plan alternative(s), is expected to be completed by October 2019.

The ASRA is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, northeast of Sacramento. It includes about 30,000 acres of public land that is situated along nearly 40 linear miles of the north and middle forks of the American River. It is located immediately east of the city of Auburn and straddles the boundary of El Dorado and Placer counties.

Reclamation acquired lands to support construction, operation and maintenance of the Auburn Dam and Reservoir beginning in 1965. A portion of that land was designated as a state recreation area in 1979. Because there is currently no plan or schedule in place to construct the dam, a management plan is necessary to provide a long-term and comprehensive framework for the management of the state recreation area without a reservoir. Federal lands in the area, including those owned by Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Land Management, are managed by California State Parks and other agencies such as the Placer County Water Agency and the Auburn Recreation District. California State Parks also acquired parcels of land for the SRA since 1979. No management changes to areas outside California State Parks jurisdiction will be proposed in this planning effort.

**More information about the Plan, the public outreach and the schedule is available at [www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA](http://www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA).**

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