



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Costa Mesa, CA

September 20, 2013

STAFF REPORT: General Plans Update
STAFF: Dan Canfield, Planning Manager
SUBJECT: Status of General Plans for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

Several of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) are in the process of updating their park general plans. A general plan directs the long-range development and management of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. This guidance is essential to the SVRA managers and staff, and is of value to those organizations and individuals who have an interest in the SVRA. SVRAs must have an approved general plan before funding can be appropriated for any major capital outlay projects to build new facilities in a park unit.

Discussion

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2, California State Parks is required to prepare general plans for units of the State Park System (e.g., SVRAs) prior to the development of new facilities. In 2007, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division performed a review of existing general plans for the SVRAs and determined that six SVRAs needed to initiate or update their general plans. A contractor was secured to prepare some of the general plans. A table identifying the status of the SVRA general plans is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 1).

Following is a brief summary of recent SVRA general plan developments:

Ocotillo Wells SVRA: Working Paper #2 is scheduled to be posted on the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan project website www.planocotillowells.com in fall 2013. Working Paper #2 describes the existing conditions for a set of topics relevant to the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan. The content of this working paper will constitute the "Existing Conditions" chapter of the General Plan. The information presented in this working paper will also serve as background for the development of the draft concept alternatives that will be presented to the public at a workshop tentatively planned for December 2013. Additionally, the technical information included in this document will be used to develop the existing setting for the corresponding Environmental Impact Report,

which will be prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts of implementing the General Plan.

Carnegie SVRA: The Carnegie SVRA General Plan team hosted a public workshop on June 10, 2013. The workshop, held in Tracy, California at Tracy High School, was staffed by employees from the OHMVR Division and Twin Cities District as well as representatives of the General Plan contractor, AECOM. Approximately 200 members of the public attended the workshop. Three planning concept alternatives were presented on proposed future recreational/resource land uses for the existing Carnegie SVRA and acquisition expansion area. Information was provided on the General Plan outreach efforts and underlying resource inventory work utilized to create the three planning concept alternatives. Comment cards were provided to allow attendees to submit written feedback. Concept alternative information and comment cards were also available online through the project website at www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com.

Comments were accepted on the three planning concept alternatives through July 15, 2013. Over 900 comments were received and are currently being reviewed by the General Plan team as a preferred General Plan concept is fashioned. A public workshop is planned for fall 2013 to present and receive feedback on the preferred concept.

Prairie City SVRA: The Prairie City SVRA General Plan team hosted a public workshop on June 18, 2013, in Folsom, California. The workshop kicked off the General Plan project and also served as the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) scoping meeting. Workshop attendees were able to learn about the General Plan process, provide input and comments on the scope of the General Plan EIR. The Notice of Preparation for the General Plan EIR is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 2).

A project website has been launched to facilitate public involvement in the project. The website allows members of the public to receive current project information, learn of upcoming public participation opportunities, and sign up to receive project updates. The project website can be found at www.PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com. Additionally, Fact Sheet 1 has been produced to provide information about the Prairie City SVRA General Plan project (see Attachment 3).

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

Attachment 1: SVRA General Plans Update – September 2013

Attachment 2: Prairie City SVRA General Plan EIR Notice of Preparation

Attachment 3: Prairie City General Plan Fact Sheet 1

OHMVR DIVISION

State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plans Update September 2013

| Park Unit | Adopted | Amended | GP Status & Updates in Progress |
|----------------------|---------|---------|--|
| Carnegie SVRA | 1981 | - | GP update underway including Alameda-Tesla properties. Draft preferred plan concepts public meeting held June 10, 2013 in Tracy, CA. |
| Clay Pit SVRA | 2012 | - | Approved by the OHMVR Commission June 2012 |
| Heber Dunes SVRA | 2011 | - | Approved by the OHMVR Commission December 2011 |
| Hollister Hills SVRA | 1978 | 2003 | - |
| Hungry Valley SVRA | 1981 | - | GP update pending, including new and proposed acquisitions |
| Oceano Dunes SVRA | 1975 | 1991 | - |
| Ocotillo Wells SVRA | 1981 | - | GP update underway including newly acquired properties. Planning alternatives currently under development |
| Prairie City SVRA | 1991 | - | GP update underway. First public meeting held June 18, 2013 in Folsom, CA. |

State of California—The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the
Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan

AND

Announcement of Public Scoping Meeting

Date: June 6, 2013

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and
Interested Individuals and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the
Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
Prairie City/Twin Cities District
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Contact: Jeanne Sisson, Sector Superintendent
Project Manager
Phone: (916) 985-1097
PrairieCityGP@parks.ca.gov

Consultant: AECOM
2020 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95811
Contact: Matthew Gerken, Project Manager
Phone: (916) 414-5800
PrairieCityGP@parks.ca.gov

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is the lead agency for the preparation of a General Plan (GP) and associated environmental impact report (EIR) for the Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). OHMVR Division has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This NOP informs agencies and the public that a program EIR is being prepared to address potential impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed *Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan*. Agencies should comment on the elements of potential environmental effects that are relevant to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

RESPONSES TO THIS NOP

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, responses to the NOP must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than July 6, 2013. Please send your written responses, including the name of a contact person, to:

AECOM

Attn: Matthew Gerken, Project Manager

2020 L Street, Suite 400

Sacramento, CA 95811

Email: PrairieCityGP@parks.ca.gov

PROJECT TITLE

Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan

PROJECT LOCATION

The regional location of the Prairie City SVRA is shown in Figure 1. The Prairie City SVRA is currently a 1,050-acre off-highway vehicle (OHV) park operated by OHMVR Division. The project area also includes the 68-acre Barton Ranch acquisition area which will be added to Prairie City SVRA upon completion of the General Plan.

Prairie City SVRA is located within unincorporated Sacramento County about two miles from the cities of Rancho Cordova and Folsom. The Folsom sphere of influence (SOI) is just north of the SVRA across White Rock and Prairie City roads (see Figure 2). To the north is land owned and operated by Aerojet, to the south is Barton Ranch, and to the south and east is land owned by Teichert.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A General Plan is the primary management document for each park unit within the California State Park System, including SVRAs. The General Plan establishes the primary purpose and management direction for the park unit. An approved General Plan is required before State Parks can move forward with site-specific improvements that

are beyond minor capital outlay projects. The OHMVR Division is initiating the process of preparing a General Plan and associated EIR for Prairie City SVRA to develop a long-term management framework and to establish the foundation for future park improvements. As part of this framework, the General Plan will describe appropriate recreational opportunities and management strategies for Prairie City SVRA.

Preparation of the General Plan is in its early stages, so land use and resource management provisions have not been developed. Initial General Plan research included documenting existing conditions, developing and launching a project website, and outreach to park users and interested parties to raise awareness of the planning effort. The next step will be to identify potential issues and opportunities to be addressed during the planning process. Based on the results of these efforts, planning alternatives will be developed to illustrate scenarios for how the management and visitor services at Prairie City SVRA may be improved over the long term. A preferred alternative will be generated based on public input and an evaluation of the planning alternatives developed for the project. The preferred alternative will be a land use plan that will be used to prepare the General Plan.

Use areas will be designated in the General Plan. Use areas will be based on geographic relationships, resource values, management issues and goals, and visitor use and experiences. The General Plan will also contain goals and guidelines that guide Prairie City SVRA management and provide long-term direction for development of future facilities.

GENERAL PLAN TOPICS

Topics that are being considered as part of the General Plan process include the following:

- Physical, biological, aesthetic, and cultural resources
- Land use and facilities
- Visitor use and experiences
- Operation and maintenance functions
- Planning influences, such as regional population projections and public input
- Recreational trends, opportunities, and constraints
- Access and circulation
- Law enforcement and public safety
- Education and interpretation opportunities

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The ultimate use areas and associated goals and guidelines have not yet been determined. A study has been made of the resource characteristics and generally anticipated recreational uses of the project area. The planning team has identified the types of environmental impacts that may result from implementation of the General Plan and from continued recreational use of the property. The potential environmental effects

that are anticipated to be addressed in the EIR include impacts on the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Climate change
- Geology, soils and mineral resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and management
- Noise
- Public services and utilities

SCOPING MEETING/PLANNING WORKSHOP

An EIR scoping meeting/planning workshop has been scheduled to provide additional information about the General Plan process, provide interested parties with the opportunity to provide early input into potential uses of the site, and give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the scope and potential environmental effects of the project. The scoping meeting/planning workshop will be held at the following time and location:

Tuesday, June 18, 2013
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Folsom Community Center, West Room
52 Natoma St
Folsom, CA 95630

The workshop will be held using an open house format where attendees are welcome at any time during the meeting hours. Comments will be accepted in writing at the workshop, online, email, or by U.S. mail. Additional information about the planning process can be found on the project website:

<http://www.prairiecitygeneralplan.com/>

INTENDED USES OF THE EIR

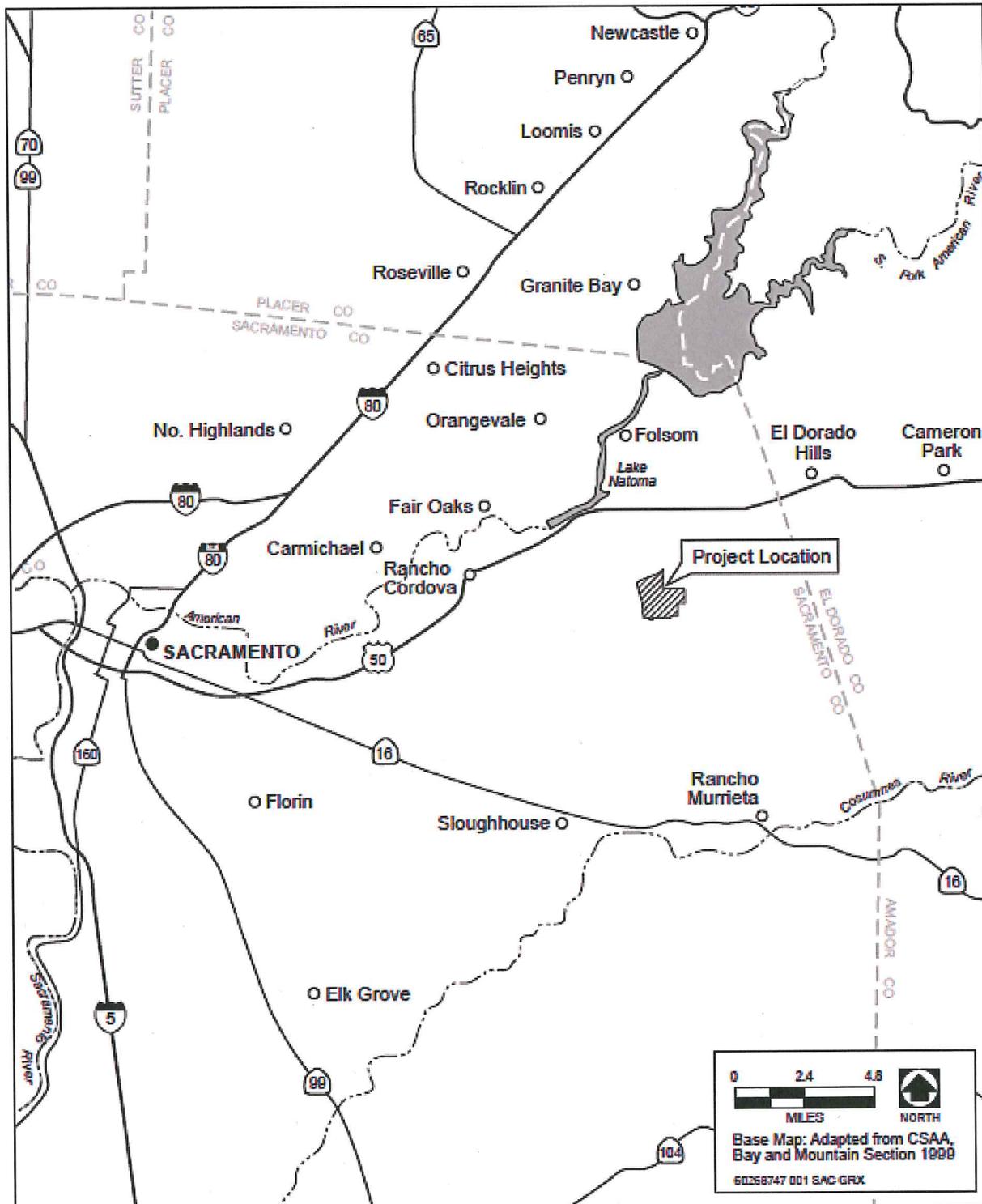
State Parks will use the EIR to consider environmental effects of the proposed General Plan, provide mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts resulting from General Plan implementation, and evaluate alternatives for site use. The OHMVR Commission will use the EIR to support decisions made related to its respective administration jurisdictions. The EIR will serve as the CEQA compliance document for adoption of the General Plan. It will also serve as a program EIR that may be referenced in implementing future actions included in the General Plan. Subsequent project-level activities identified in the General Plan will be examined in light of the program EIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared before project approval and implementation (State CEQA Guidelines 15168[c]).

By: Jeanne Sisson

Signature: 

Title: Sector Superintendent

Date: June 6, 2013

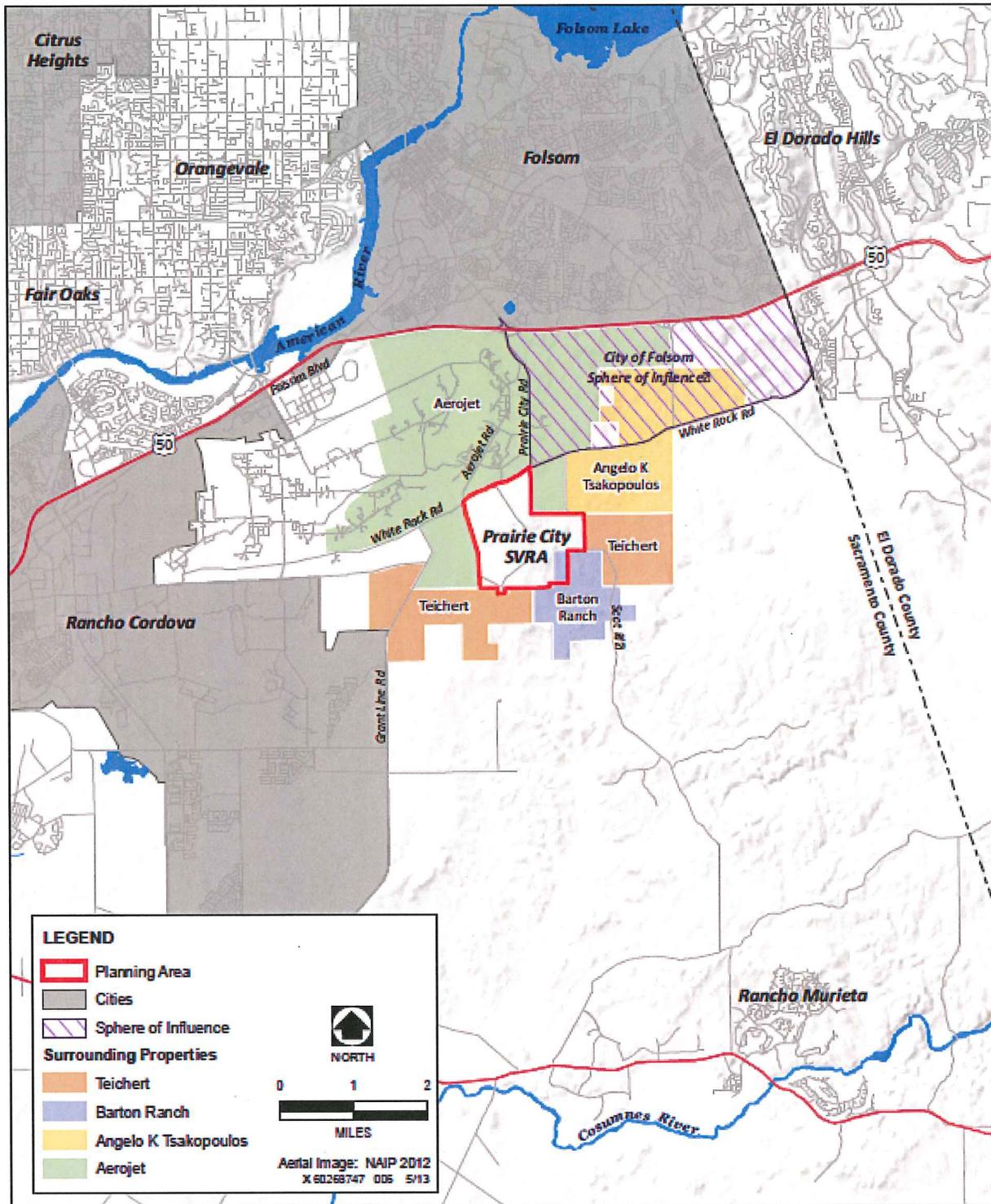


Source: AECOM 2013

Figure 1

Regional Location Map

California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
 Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report
 Prairie City SVRA General Plan



Source: DPR 2012, SACOG 2011

Figure 2

Basemap



PRAIRIE CITY

STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA

GENERAL PLAN AND EIR



Fact Sheet 1

June 2013

Planning for the Future of Prairie City

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks (State Parks) invites the public to be part of a long-range planning process for Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

Management of Prairie City SVRA is currently guided by a Master Plan approved in 1991. Since then, State Parks has acquired additional land immediately adjacent to the SVRA. Before this land may be added to the SVRA, State Parks must update the long-range plan. This update process will result in the completion of a General Plan document used to guide future management and operation of Prairie City SVRA. As part of the planning process, State Parks will assess all of the resources present at the SVRA and include management goals and guidance for these resources in the General Plan.

The consideration of a broad range of thoughts, experiences, viewpoints, and interests from Prairie City SVRA's many visitors and other stakeholders will be essential to the development of a robust General Plan. A comprehensive General Plan, once adopted and implemented, will ensure off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreational opportunities and enjoyment for current and future generations, while also providing stewardship for the SVRA's many resources. The General Plan will be accompanied by an environmental impact report (EIR).

Get Involved

Your input is vital to the planning process to ensure that the General Plan addresses resource management and visitor needs for the long term. The General Plan process will provide many opportunities for stakeholder input. Information will be provided via fact sheets (like this one), a website, and special events. You will be able to provide input at public workshops, through website activities, and a visitor survey.

General Plan Website

A website for the General Plan has been launched and can be accessed at www.PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com. The website provides the most up-to-date information on the planning process, including a project schedule, announcements of public meetings, and opportunities to provide input and participate in the planning process. A document library and materials from the public workshops will also be posted on this site.



The website will be used to collect contact information and keep interested parties up-to-date with e-mail reminders of important events. Please visit the website and provide your contact information to get on the mailing list.

Upcoming Events

Public Workshop

June 18, 2013

Notice of Preparation of EIR

June 6, 2013

Online Survey

June 19 - October 31, 2013



Public Workshop/EIR Scoping Meeting

State Parks is inviting you to attend an open house-style public workshop to:

- ▶ receive additional information about the General Plan process,
- ▶ provide your input into the planning effort, and
- ▶ comment on the scope and potential environmental effects of this effort.

Meeting Location and Time

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

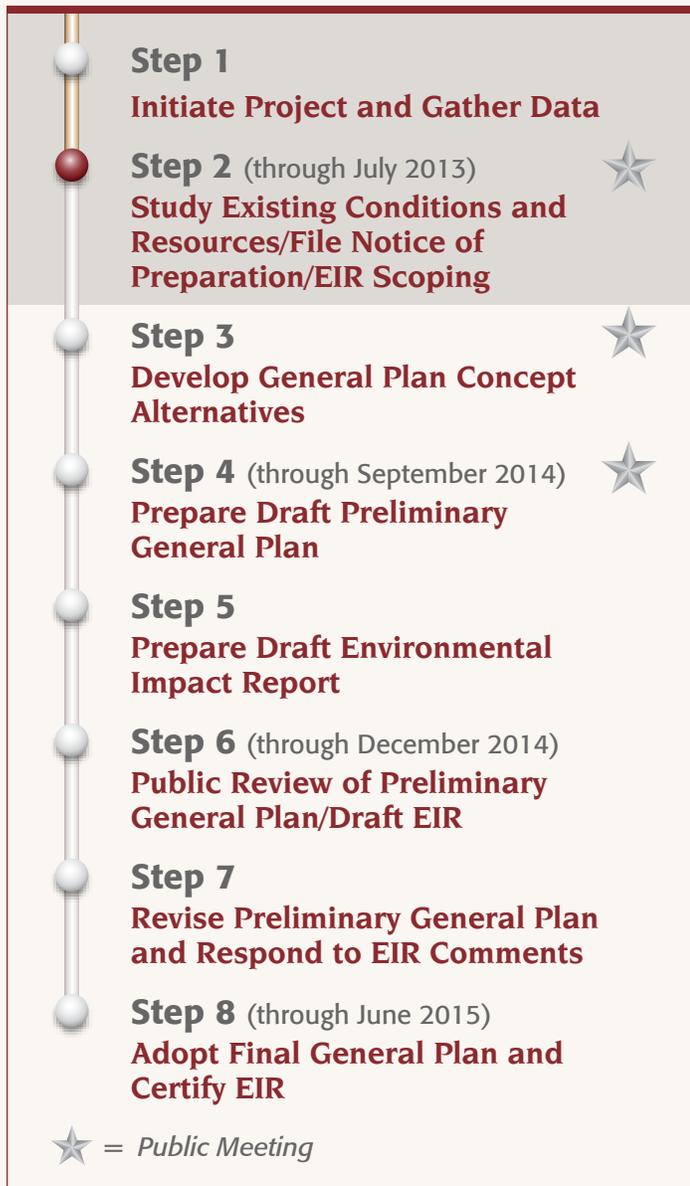
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Folsom Community Center, West Room

52 Natoma Street

Folsom, CA 95630

General Plan and EIR Schedule



The workshop will be an informal meeting that will allow attendees to talk to the planning team and SVRA staff one-on-one. Attendees are welcome to attend anytime during the meeting. The project team will provide a short welcome around 7:00 p.m. Materials and comment cards will be posted on the website after the meeting.

Environmental Review

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires public agencies to analyze all “reasonably foreseeable significant environmental effects” of approving a project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15152). This analysis is contained in a document called an environmental impact report (EIR).

An EIR looks at the current environmental factors, including cultural resources, biological resources like plants and animals, soils, air, water, noise, traffic, utilities, etc. in the context of other projects occurring nearby. The EIR analyzes how these factors might be impacted by the proposed development or policies, and provides alternatives and mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or offset impacts on these resources. The planning team will announce the beginning of the environmental review by publishing a notice of preparation (NOP). State Parks requires that the Prairie City General Plan be “self-mitigating,” meaning that measures normally included in an EIR to avoid, minimize, or offset environmental impacts would instead be included in the General Plan itself as goals or guidelines. When the NOP is published, there will be a 30-day comment period. During this time, the planning team is looking for input on what potential environmental impacts could result from the General Plan. This is to help the planning team ensure that the General Plan and EIR consider these issues before they are drafted.

The 30-day NOP comment period is anticipated to be from June 6, 2013 to July 6, 2013. Visit the website to sign up on our mailing list.

Ideas for the General Plan will be accepted even after the comment period is over.

Thank you for your interest in the planning process. We hope you will get involved and we look forward to hearing from you!