



California Indian Heritage Center General Plan

Purpose of the General Plan

General Plans serve as the primary management document for each unit within the California State Park System. By state law, State Parks is required to develop a General Plan for each unit it manages. In the General Plan State Parks states the primary purpose for acquisition of the unit and defines the vision it has for how the unit will function within the State Park system. General Plans also provide guidance on long term management direction and day to day operation of the park and serve as the basis for future more site-specific planning such as the preparation of management plans and specific project plans.

Lifespan of the General Plan

In the past, State Parks considered General Plans to have a 15 to 20 year lifespan. Today, General Plans are no longer considered to have finite life spans as long as they serve the purpose of guiding management of the park unit. General Plans may be amended based on specific circumstances and needs such as additional land acquisitions or development considerations.

Considerations for the General Plan

A wide variety of State Park internal and external influences are considered during preparation of the General Plan. These include the existing resources and facilities at the unit; the role of the unit within the larger context of the State Park System; and the unit context within surrounding federal, state and local public lands. Regional land use planning needs and interests of the public, and existing local, regional, and private recreational opportunities and services are also considered.

Native American Community Outreach

Because of the importance of the California Indian Heritage Center to the Native Community, the CIHC General Plan involves a focused outreach component to the California Native American Tribes. Two series of workshops will be held in the North, Central and South part of the state. The first round of meetings will be hosted at the very beginning of the planning process, while the second round will be held during review of alternatives developed for the CIHC site. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that the "Native Voice" is an integral part in driving the development of the General Plan. Issues expected to be addressed during these meetings include collections and collections management, interpretation and education, design criteria, governance, and general operations. In addition, any aspect of the General Plan of interest to the Native Community will be discussed.

Community Advisors

Because the CIHC is located in the City of West Sacramento, it presents opportunities and constraints specific to its location in the heart of the community. To ensure the General Plan addresses community interest and concerns, two community specific workshops will be held during General Plan preparation. These workshops will focus on issues of concern to the local community such as traffic and circulation, parking, public use, safety, design and others, as applicable.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement Process

General Plan development also includes ample opportunity for public and stakeholder input, review and feedback. Input is typically sought at the very beginning of the planning process, during alternative management scenario development, and once a preferred management scenario has been chosen. A variety of outreach methods such as newsletters, a planning website, public meetings and focused workshops may be used. Three public meetings are planned during the development of the General Plan.

Environmental Review

The CIHC General Plan is considered a “project” implemented by a public agency and therefore is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be developed concurrently with the General Plan and will examine the potential effects on the environment resulting from General Plan implementation. The Draft EIR will be circulated for public review along with the Preliminary General Plan and written comments will be solicited. Upon completion of the public review period, the General Plan team will respond in writing to all comments received and will proceed to prepare the Final General Plan and Final EIR. Upon completion of the Final General Plan and Final EIR, the State Parks and Recreation Commission will adopt the General Plan and certify the EIR.

For additional information about the planning process, upcoming meetings and to review materials prepared in support of General Plan preparation, please visit the planning website at the following link:

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26094

Additional information about the CIHC can be found at:

<http://www.CIHC.parks.ca.gov>

Thank you for your interest in the planning process -

We hope you stay informed and become involved!