



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

PROJECT TITLE: LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and is considering the preparation of an environmental document for the project identified above. We need to know the views of your agency or organization as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's or organization's statutory responsibilities or interest in connection with the proposed project. If you do not belong to an agency or organization, this notice has been sent to inform you that detailed planning for the Los Angeles State Historic Park is commencing and to provide you with an early opportunity to learn more about the project at the Public Information Meeting and discuss the project. If you have issues that are important to you, a response to the Notice of Preparation will provide you the opportunity to request that the EIR identify these issues.

Your response must be sent to the address below not later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of this notice. We would appreciate the name and mailing address of a contact person to direct future correspondence.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: To meet requirements set forth in Title 14 of the California Administration Code, The California Department of Parks and Recreation is preparing the Los Angeles State Historic Park Master (LASHP) Development Plan and initiating the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Park General Plan/EIR (SCH # 2003031096) was approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission on June 10, 2003. The Master Development Plan synthesizes the General Plan/EIR goals and guidelines into design concepts that will be implemented in phases as funding becomes available. LASHP is located in the City of Los Angeles between N. Broadway and N. Spring Street and in close proximity to the Chinatown Gold Line Station. Interim park uses have provided for immediate public use of the Park as permanent planning and a long-term vision for the Park were developed. The Master Development Plan represents the design footprint of the long-term vision.

The 32-acre site occupies a critical nexus within the geography and cultural history of Los Angeles. LASHP is located at the foot of the Elysian Hills on the previous site of the historic Southern Pacific River Station Railyard, between the channelized Los

Angeles River and the expanding downtown core of the city. Surrounded by several diverse downtown neighborhoods, the Park's proposed long-term development design will express many of the interwoven histories and the multi-cultural significance of this site, while satisfying a broad range of year round recreational opportunities. The LASHP Master Development Plan includes the potential re-creation of more than ten acres of natural habitats that long ago vanished from the heart of the city, and blends the historical importance and narratives of the site with programs and environments that aim to fulfill the goal of establishing a major public open space and destination for future generations to celebrate the past, present, and future of Los Angeles. The design vision would incorporate partnerships with outside agencies and organizations and would occur in phases as approvals and funding became available.

The proposal for the park's organizational structure is derived from the linear grain of the historic railyard, with more hardscape park uses grouped closer to downtown and more resource-based uses biased towards the river. The downtown end of the Park would be activated by a Welcome Station/ Café (park orientation and food), a large Interactive Interpretive Fountain civic gathering area (water play and visual gateway), and an Interpretive Play Area (exercise and education). A "Railyard Plaza," would span the length of the N. Spring Street frontage, unifying this long edge of the project as a linear garden environment. This is planned to ensure that the pedestrian-friendly public realm of the park extends to the street and to accommodate on-site parking and flexible areas for special events, markets and festivals.

The river end of the park draws its inspiration from the Los Angeles River as the historic lifeblood of the city and a center of local biodiversity with a ground-breaking proposal to create over five acres of wetland and riparian habitats, and an additional five acres of transitional and upland habitats. These wet and dry ecologies would allow visitors to experience the incredible biological richness of the historic river corridor and may incorporate water cleansing bio-swales as a sustainability feature at this natural gateway into the site. Working in concert with these habitat zones, an Ecology Center along the edge of N. Spring Street will facilitate public access to a wide range of indoor and outdoor interpretive, educational, community and recreational programs as well as provide a possible restaurant venue.

At the heart of the park would be a five-acre multi-use lawn and performance venue that is oriented to a new plaza stage that would sit above the exact location of the archaeological remains of the historic turntable and roundhouse of the rail yard. As a new cultural nexus, the stage would be designed to protect and potentially expose some of these archaeological features. In doing so it would reference this railroad hub and recall the site's former robust industrial use and this important era in the history of the site, the city and the country. Spanning across the Park from the top of the Welcome Station to the North Broadway a fountain bridge will allow important access from the neighborhoods atop the adjacent bluff and Elysian Park and will provide shade, interpretive viewpoints, and a refreshing 'rain' as relief from the hot Los Angeles sun.

Interpretive paths and 'portals' thread throughout the entire Park to offer visitors a variety of learning, reflective, and interactive experiences that reveal, illuminate, and expand on the natural, cultural, industrial and agricultural facets of the site by merging contemporary technologies and historic cultural references. This will position the Los Angeles State Historic Park within the 21st Century context and allow it to remain

compatible with evolving technologies and to incorporate those future cultural histories as they develop.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) is working with a design team led by Hargreaves Associates, as Prime Consultant and Design Lead. CDPR, along with Hargreaves Associates, is coordinating the efforts of an interdisciplinary design team, and is supported by Michael Maltzan Architecture for the development of the building programs and architectural design and Ralph Appelbaum Associates for the integration of interpretive aspects throughout the project.

POSSIBLE EFFECTS AND MITIGATIONS: The project has potential effects on aesthetics, air quality, cultural and community resources, erosion and water quality, noise, land use and urban planning, public safety, recreation, transportation, and public utilities. It is anticipated that these potential effects will either be minor, avoided through careful planning and coordination, or will utilize mitigation measures and policies to reduce potential impacts of future projects and activities to a level below significance. However, additional environmental review may be conducted as related future projects and any corresponding mitigation measures are proposed.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: The California Department of Parks and Recreation has an active public involvement program for the planning and development of facilities at Los Angeles State Historic Park. A Public Information Meeting will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2008 between 6:30 and 8:00 PM at the Los Angeles Conservation Corps Clean & Green Headquarters at 1400 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA. An overview of the design concepts and project implementation will be presented and the planning team will respond to questions from the public. Notices associated with the project's CEQA review are available at two websites: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25022 and http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983

PLAN DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Once written and prepared, the Los Angeles State Historic Park Master Plan Draft EIR will be made available for public review and comment in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Draft EIR will then be refined, and responses to public comments prepared. The Los Angeles State Historic Park Final EIR with appropriate changes and responses to comment will then be submitted for approval by the California Department of Parks and Recreation Deputy Director of Operations.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT PERSON:

Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108
enviro@parks.ca.gov
(619) 220-5300
(619) 220-5400 (fax)