



CENTRAL VALLEY VISION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Outdoor Recreation for a Growing Population



**California State Parks
Planning Division • 2009**

www.parks.ca.gov/centralvalleyvision

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Message from the Director



California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman addresses the audience at one of many Central Valley Vision public meetings.

Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

The Central Valley is changing like never before. By 2030, the Valley's population will nearly double. It will be more ethnically diverse, with swelling numbers of children and seniors.

The Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan is a 20-year roadmap for improving state parks in the Central Valley. Its recommendations can meet Valley residents' recreation needs and protect and interpret its incredible resources.

A good map is especially important during a difficult journey. During trying times, a clear sense of direction helps one arrive at the desired destination.

California State Parks' tradition of long range planning helps provide these maps. When the first California State Parks Plan was prepared during the prosperous Roaring Twenties, its authors could not anticipate that much of it would be implemented by the Great Depression's job creation projects or by recreation-seeking veterans returning from the stress of World War II. That early plan provided clear objectives for using funds that became available to create many of the state parks that Californians enjoy today.

This plan is also being released in unpredictable times. Budgets are tight, and funds are not in hand to implement many of the plan's recommendations. However, we must not lose sight of what we want for our communities in the future. By planning now, we will be prepared to wisely use resources that become available, pursue our vision with the means available, and point a direction for those who come after us.

We believe the California State Parks' Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan will assist the State Legislature in crafting future funding programs that will benefit this key region of the state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Coleman".

Ruth Coleman

Director, California State Parks

Executive Summary

Purpose of this document

This *Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan* was prepared at the direction of the California Legislature (PRC 5095.50-5095.54, from AB 1426). The Plan includes schedule and budget information.

Plan description

The Plan is a **catalog of proposed initiatives**, to be implemented over the next twenty years, to improve recreation and resource protection in the Central Valley. The Plan resulted from analysis by California State Parks (CSP) with input from Central Valley residents and partners, including public agencies and non-profit organizations.

The need for improved recreation opportunities

Compared to other California regions, the Central Valley lacks parks for residents and visitors. Major trends—including significant population growth, shifting ethnic composition and increasingly sedentary lifestyles—all drive the need for more parks.

Plan highlights

- **New and improved facilities** at existing parks (pages 18-31)
- **Eleven new state parks** (page 6 and pages 18-31)
- Designation for five **heritage corridors** to interpret Valley history and culture (pages 32-33)
- **New boating trails** (water-access points) to link outdoor recreation areas along rivers (pages 18-31)
- **Extensive use of partnerships** for funding and volunteers (page 13 sidebar)

Plan impact (partial list)

- More than doubles the number of campsites
- Increases by over 70% the number of picnic sites
- Increases by almost 20% the acres of state parks land
- Adds ten visitor centers and three museums

Next steps

Legislators, the California State Parks Director and future administrators direct the use of existing resources or allocate new bond funds to implement the Plan. High-priority parks are on page 6. With their help, the Central Valley recreation opportunities outlined here can become reality.

Milestones in Central Valley State Parks

1928 Frederick Law Olmsted's plan for the State Park System recommends state parks on the Sacramento River from Solano to Sutter counties.

1958 Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, the most popular Central Valley state park, opens.

1973 Governor Reagan's administration prioritizes 35 new or expanded Central Valley state parks.

1981 Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area, the first Central Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area, opens.

2003 California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman initiates the Central Valley Vision project to enhance state parks in the Central Valley.

2003 Property for a state park at Sutter Buttes is acquired (the first new Central Valley state park in 20 years).

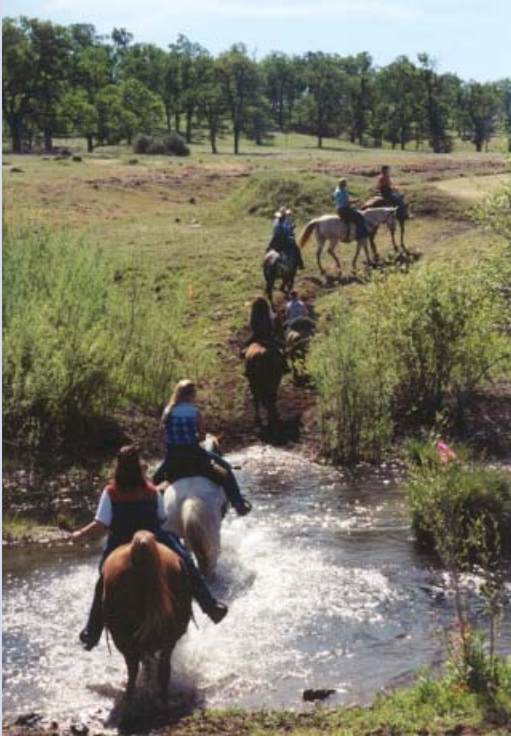
2004 CSP releases the "California State Parks and the Great Central Valley" report.

2005 CSP holds public outreach meetings in the Central Valley.

2006 CSP releases "California State Parks' Central Valley Vision" report. CSP Director Ruth Coleman initiates a detailed internal report that researches Central Valley rivers.

2007 Governor Schwarzenegger signs into law PRC 509.50-5095.54, calling for the Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan.

2009 CSP releases the Central Valley Implementation Plan (this document) to legislators.



Horseback riding at Paynes Creek near Big Bend, Shasta County



Fishing at Folsom Lake SRA

This plan proposes to help meet the outdoor recreation needs of Central Valley residents and visitors by upgrading thirty-five existing parks, adding eleven new state parks, improving park facilities and building economic and volunteer partnerships.

Improving Recreation Opportunities

Purpose, Impact and Strategy

Purpose

In the next twenty years, the Central Valley—which already suffers from a lack of parks—will experience tremendous population growth (see map at right). This twenty-year Implementation Plan (“Plan”) by California State Parks (CSP) addresses the need for more and better parks that provide recreation opportunities and preserve and interpret valuable natural and cultural resources.

The Plan is a **catalog of potential initiatives**, including costs and schedule, as mandated by Public Resources Code 5095.50-5095.54 (AB 1426).

Impact

Improved and increased recreation facilities and parks:

Full implementation of the Plan would improve and increase CSP recreation facilities and add over 22,000 acres of land to the CSP system. Some examples:

- Campsites would more than double, from about 1,600 to about 3,500.
- Picnic sites would increase from about 1,500 to about 2,500.
- Acres of state-park land would increase from about 121,000 to about 143,700. Of the 22,400-acre increase, about 8,400 acres could be transferred to CSP from other public agencies.

Enhanced use of public land and resources:

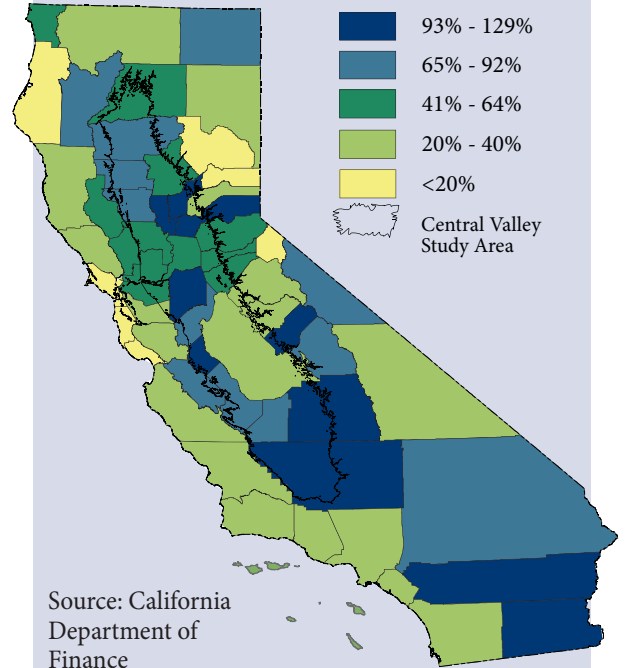
Plan strategies emphasize increasing recreation opportunities while minimizing impact on financial, human and natural resources. Plan impact in specific regions is described in the Initiatives by Region and Park section, pages 18-31.

California State Parks Abbreviations

Abbreviations used in this document are:

- CSP (California State Parks, the department)
- SHP (State Historic Park)
- SNR (State Natural Reserve)
- SP (State Park)
- SRA (State Recreation Area)
- SVRA (State Vehicular Recreation Area)

Projected percent population change by county, 2000-2030



Marina at Folsom Lake SRA



Path of the Padres at San Luis Reservoir SRA

Improving Recreation Opportunities

Purpose, Impact and Strategy, continued



The Gov. Stanford, Central Pacific Railroad Steam Locomotive No. 1, at the California State Railroad Museum, Old Sacramento SHP



The confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne rivers at the proposed Dos Rios park



Rafting on the South Fork of the American River

Strategy

Plan strategy includes four elements to maximize recreation opportunities while minimizing impact to the state budget.

1. Enhance the thirty-five existing state parks and their facilities.

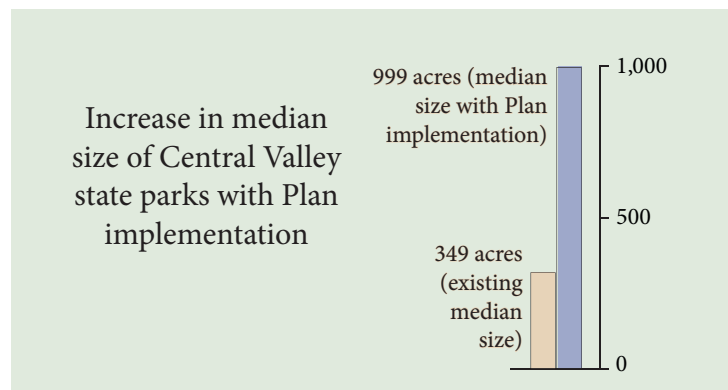
Improvements will make existing units more sustainable by increasing revenue-generating recreation facilities and maximizing use of land that CSP already owns. A major expansion project, the California State Railroad Technology Museum, in Old Sacramento SHP, is among these improvements.

To improve recreation opportunities in the underserved Central Valley, the Plan proposes adding almost 2,000 campsites and about 1,000 picnic sites.

2. Add eleven new parks to better serve the growing Central Valley population.

In addition to initiatives to enhance existing parks, these new parks are proposed:

- Five new parks in the San Joaquin River Valley and Tulare Basin will provide recreation for rapidly growing and underserved populations and protect special resources.
- Two new parks in the northern Sacramento River Valley above Red Bluff will link existing Sacramento River parks to recreation areas at Redding.
- A new California Indian cultural center in West Sacramento and two new parks in Yolo county will serve the greater metropolitan Sacramento area.
- A new park in Solano County will help link other conserved lands to the Delta.



These parks will be added as needed to meet recreation demand, beginning in the San Joaquin River Valley and the Tulare Basin, where there are few existing state parks.

3. Create “networks of recreation” to improve use of existing lands and waterways, enhance enjoyment and boost tourism. Most existing and proposed Central Valley parks would be linked to other outdoor recreation sites by driving routes, improved river access and trails.

- **Five heritage corridors**, driving routes that guide visitors to areas and sites with historic and cultural interest. Business involvement could boost local tourism (see pages 32-33).
- **Boating trails**, networks of access sites along rivers and waterways. To maximize recreation opportunities at existing park lands and waterways, boating trails are proposed along these Central Valley rivers:
 - Sacramento River
 - Feather River
 - Stanislaus River
 - Tuolumne River
 - Merced River
 - San Joaquin River
 - Kings River
- **Multi-use trail corridors**, such as the American Discovery Trail, that accommodate hiking, biking and horseback riding.

4. Maximize resources with partnerships.

- CSP will partner with public agencies, non-profit organizations and volunteers to efficiently use resources, including funds, land, facilities and programs.
- The base camp strategy (page 11), which locates parks near existing public lands to expand recreation opportunities, has received very positive feedback from potential partners and the public.



Camping at Millerton Lake SRA



Volunteers at Caswell Memorial SP with their completed project

Parks, costs and revenue summary

Existing parks	35
Proposed new parks	11
Proposed total parks	46
Plan costs (over 20 years) ⁽¹⁾	\$271.9M
Estimated annual revenues from Plan enhancements ⁽¹⁾	\$3.7M

1. Building and facility development costs and annual estimated revenues for the California State Railroad Technology Museum and the California Indian Heritage Center are not yet determined. Both projects are public-private partnerships; substantial funding for construction of these facilities is being raised privately.

Priorities and Proposed Parks

Focusing on 46 Existing and Proposed Parks



Waterway in the Delta

Regions

The Plan divides the Valley into seven regions. Each region has a section in this document:

- Northern Sacramento River Valley, pages 18-19
- Southern Sacramento River Valley, pages 20-21
- Greater Metropolitan Sacramento, pages 22-23
- State Capital, pages 24-25
- Delta, pages 26-27
- San Joaquin River Valley, pages 28-29
- Tulare Basin, pages 30-31

High-priority Parks

The Plan assigns high priority to improving seven existing Central Valley state parks and five proposed Central Valley state parks (indicated by blue type). See map on facing page. High-priority parks (indicated by red triangles on maps) are, from north to south:

- State Park at Sutter Buttes (12)
- California Indian Heritage Center (proposed) (18)
- Old Sacramento State Historic Park (19)
- Delta Meadows and the Locke Boarding House (CSP Property) (25)
- State Historic Park at Cowell Ranch/John Marsh Home (29)
- Caswell Memorial State Park (32)
- Dos Rios (proposed) (33)
- Turlock Lake State Recreation Area (34)
- San Joaquin River Parkway (proposed) (41)
- Rocky Hill at Exeter (proposed) (43)
- Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park (44)
- Tejon Ranch (proposed) (46)

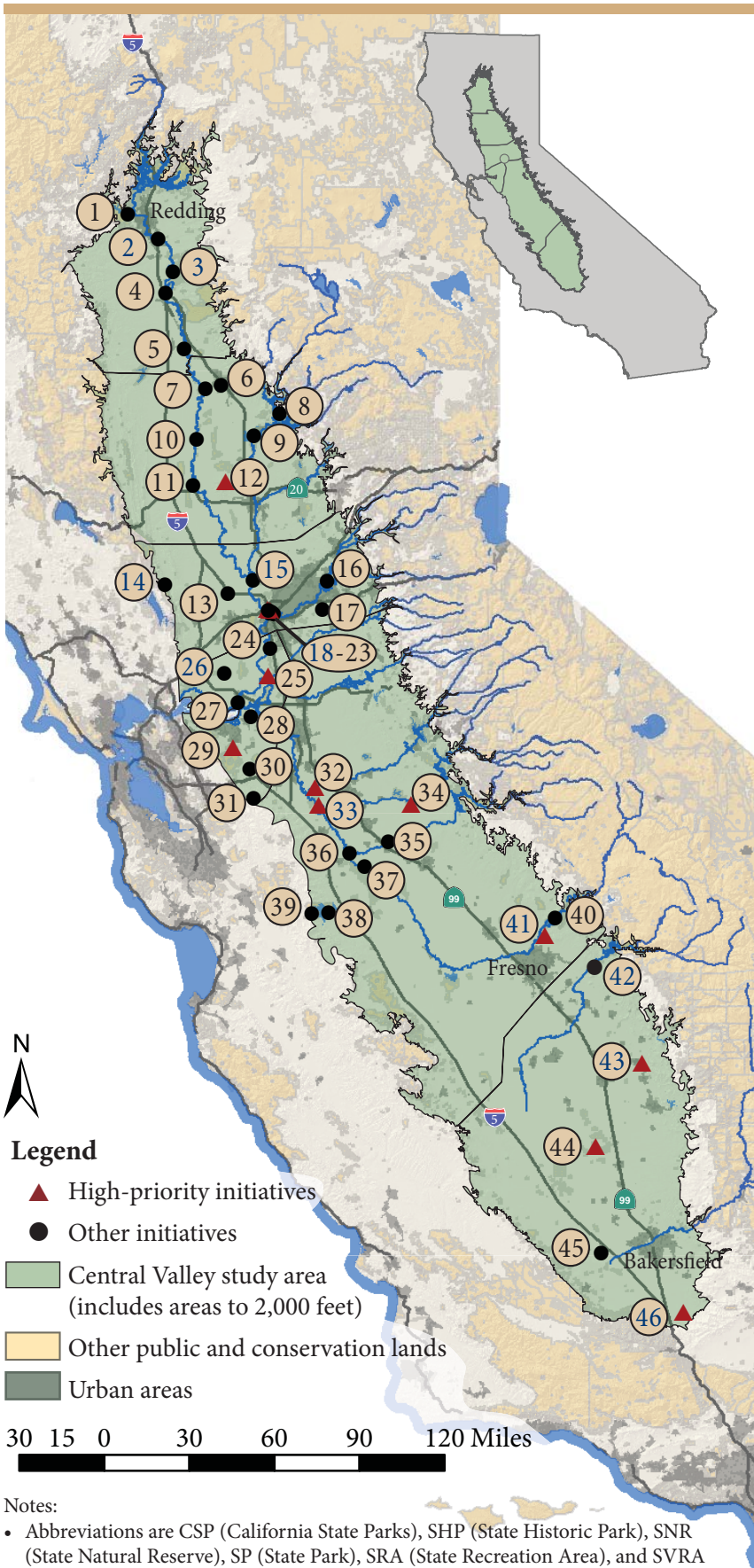
Proposed New Parks

Over the twenty years of the Plan, eleven new parks are proposed for the California State Park System. See map on facing page. Proposed parks (indicated by blue type) are, from north to south:

- Anderson-Sacramento River (2)
- Big Bend (3)
- Blue Ridge (14)
- Elkhorn Basin (15)
- CA Indian Heritage Center (18)
- Barker Slough (26)
- Dos Rios (33)
- San Joaquin River Parkway (41)
- Kings River (42)
- Rocky Hill at Exeter (43)
- Tejon Ranch (46)

Summary—Campsites, Picnic Sites and Land Initiatives

Central Valley Region	Existing campsites	Proposed additional campsites	Existing picnic sites	Proposed additional picnic sites	Proposed visitor centers	Proposed additional acres	Proposed acres, restored habitat
Northern Sacramento River Valley	47	153	32	175	-	3,082	176
Southern Sacramento River Valley	711	310	343	122	1	7,463	851
Greater Sacramento Metropolitan	92	205	374	212	-	3,000	1,480
State Capital	-	-	12	-	2	77	-
Delta	230	330	135	174	2	730	500
San Joaquin River Valley	539	848	534	280	2	4,913	600
Tulare Basin	15	10	18	85	3	3,220	300
TOTALS (all regions)	1,634	1,856	1,448	1,048	10	22,485	3,907



Legend

- ▲ High-priority initiatives
- Other initiatives
- Central Valley study area (includes areas to 2,000 feet)
- Other public and conservation lands
- Urban areas

30 15 0 30 60 90 120 Miles

Notes:

- Abbreviations are CSP (California State Parks), SHP (State Historic Park), SNR (State Natural Reserve), SP (State Park), SRA (State Recreation Area), and SVRA (State Vehicular Recreation Area).
- Locations of parks are approximate.
- Smaller (inset) map shows Central Valley regions and boundaries.

California State Parks by Region

Northern Sacramento River Valley

1. Shasta SHP
2. Anderson-Sacramento River (proposed)
3. Big Bend (proposed)
4. William B. Ide Adobe SHP
5. Woodson Bridge SRA

Southern Sacramento River Valley

6. Bidwell Mansion SHP
7. Bidwell-Sacramento River SP
8. Lake Oroville SRA
9. Clay Pit SVRA
10. Butte City (CSP property)
11. Colusa-Sacramento River SRA
12. SP at Sutter Buttes

Greater Metropolitan Sacramento

13. Woodland Opera House SHP
14. Blue Ridge (proposed)
15. Elkhorn Basin (proposed)
16. Folsom Lake SRA and Folsom Powerhouse SHP
17. Prairie City SVRA

State Capital

18. CA Indian Heritage Center (proposed) (replaces CA State Indian Museum)
19. Old Sacramento SHP, including railroad museums
20. Leland Stanford Mansion SHP
21. California State Capitol Museum
22. Governor's Mansion SHP
23. Sutter's Fort SHP

Delta

24. Stone Lake (CSP property)
25. Delta Meadows & Locke Boarding House (CSP property)
26. Barker Slough (proposed)
27. Brannan Island SRA
28. Franks Tract SRA
29. SHP at Cowell Ranch/John Marsh Home
30. Bethany Reservoir SRA
31. Carnegie SVRA

San Joaquin River Valley

32. Caswell Memorial SP
33. Dos Rios (proposed)
34. Turlock Lake SRA
35. McConnell SRA
36. George J. Hatfield SRA
37. Great Valley Grasslands SP
38. San Luis Reservoir SRA
39. Pacheco SP
40. Millerton Lake SRA
41. San Joaquin River Parkway (proposed)

Tulare Basin

42. Kings River (proposed)
43. Rocky Hill at Exeter (proposed)
44. Colonel Allensworth SHP
45. Tule Elk SNR
46. Tejon Ranch (proposed)

Implementation Schedule and Budget

Priorities and Funding Sources



Trail bridge construction



Park road construction



Park restroom construction



Utility construction at a state park

Overview

The Legislature, the Director of California State Parks (CSP), future administrations and others will make key decisions that influence the Plan schedule and funding. The Plan is a catalog of **potential opportunities**; however, CSP may pursue initiatives outside the Plan (for example, day-use and overnight facilities at a new reservoir), or currently envisioned initiatives may prove undesirable or infeasible as additional information arises.

Funding is not yet available to implement most initiatives. About \$13.6 million annually over twenty years will be needed for the \$271.9 million in park improvements that this Plan proposes, excluding development costs for the Railroad Technology Museum and the California Indian Heritage Center, both of which are expected to benefit from private contributions and other sources of funds.

Schedule and Funding: The First Five Years

High-priority initiatives. These high-priority initiatives are underway:

- Purchases, gifts or transfers of land are underway to expand the State Park at Sutter Buttes, Old Sacramento SHP's California State Railroad Technology Museum, Governor's Mansion SHP, Turlock Lake SRA, and Colonel Allensworth SHP and to acquire the California Indian Heritage Center site in West Sacramento.
- Discussions are in progress with the Tejon Ranch Company and the Tejon Ranch Conservancy on creating a new state park at Tejon Ranch.
- New park general plans are being developed for Old Sacramento SHP (including the California State Railroad Museum) and Colonel Allensworth SHP.
- The first phase of development at the California Indian Heritage Center will be undertaken.

Other Plan initiatives. These initiatives are being pursued as funds become available:

- *Northern Sacramento River Valley.* Acquire the historic Bystle House at Shasta SHP. Add property at Kopta Slough to Woodson Bridge SRA.
- *Southern Sacramento River Valley.* Restore wildlife habitat and improve facilities at Bidwell-Sacramento River SP and Butte City. Update the general plan, improve boat launching and restore day-use facilities at Colusa-Sacramento SRA.
- *Greater Metropolitan Sacramento.* Update general plans and

improve trails at Folsom Lake SRA and Folsom Powerhouse SHP.

- *Delta.* Complete the general plan for the SHP at Cowell Ranch/John Marsh Home and improve day-use facilities at Brannan Island SRA and Delta Meadows.
- *San Joaquin River Valley.* Update the general plans for Millerton Lake SRA and San Luis Reservoir SRA.

Funding sources. Funding for the first five years comes from a variety of sources, including Proposition 84; other agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Department of Boating and Waterways (DBAW); and private donors. Additionally, some initiatives (such as facility rehabilitation) are “shovel-ready,” requiring only construction funds to proceed, and may become eligible for federal economic stimulus funding.

Schedule and Funding: Beyond Five Years

A schedule for initiatives beyond the first five years has not been established. Many initiatives, especially those that are not high priority, may not occur for many years. Most depend on future state park bond funds; however, initiatives may be funded by various sources. Some initiatives may be funded by partners—for example:

- Initiatives that protect floodplains or help mitigate flood project impacts may be eligible for DWR’s Flood Corridor Protection Program;
- The Wildlife Conservation Board may support projects that protect or restore wildlife or fish habitat;
- DBAW will partner in providing boating facilities and developing boating trails; the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) may support improvements to enhance angling opportunities;
- The federal government may provide other funds, such as appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund or BOR support for facilities at its reservoirs;
- National Park Service grants may become available for the California Delta Heritage Corridor; and
- CSP concessionaires may invest in some facilities.

Contributions from cooperating associations and private donors will also be essential. Tourism businesses, marinas and other Central Valley industries, including agriculture and the oil and gas industry, will be key partners in the heritage corridors proposed by the Plan.



Camping at Millerton Lake SRA

Parks help local economies

That state parks provide recreation to millions is widely accepted. Other benefits may be less obvious. Two of these are outlined here.

Visitors to state parks contribute millions of dollars in travel spending to Central Valley economies. One CSP study estimates that for every \$1 spent on state parks, \$2.35 is returned to California’s General Fund from spending in the local communities. Many park visitors, about half of whom hail from out of state or other parts of California, stay at hotels and enjoy attractions such as wineries, museums and specialty shops. State park visitors also patronize outdoor recreation businesses such as equipment shops, guides, marinas and camp stores.

State parks help make Central Valley cities desirable places to do business or call home. “Livability” tops the list of criteria for the service and technology businesses that are increasingly locating in the Central Valley. Research shows that successful communities include ample recreational green space—for its natural beauty, its attraction to tourists and its health benefits. Urban parks, such as the Central Valley’s Old Sacramento SHP, provide city dwellers and visitors with valuable recreational experiences. Current trends such as higher gas prices may help make urban living more desirable and increase the need for urban parks.

Schedule and Budget, continued

Costs, Revenues and Process Overview

Costs Overview

This chart summarizes estimated costs by region. Costs shown include:

- Land acquisition
- Park planning
- Habitat restoration
- Development of camping and picnicking facilities
- Development of visitor centers

For more information, see the Initiatives by Region and Park section (pg. 18).

Region	Estimated costs (millions)
N. Sacramento River Valley	\$40.6
S. Sacramento River Valley	\$36.4
Greater Metropolitan Sacramento	\$43.7
State Capital ⁽¹⁾	\$1.8
Delta	\$26.1
San Joaquin River Valley	\$95.1
Tulare Basin	\$28.3
TOTAL (all regions)	\$271.9

1. Building and facility development costs and annual estimated revenues for the California State Railroad Technology Museum and the California Indian Heritage Center are not yet determined. Both projects are public-private partnerships; substantial funding for facilities construction is being raised privately.



Revenues Overview

Proposed campgrounds, picnic sites, boating facilities and other improvements can generate an estimated \$3.7 million annually (excluding museums). This amount can help offset operating costs. Estimates are calculated based on:

- the number of proposed additional campsites and picnic sites (see chart on page 6);
- attendance data for existing or comparable facilities. This includes the approximate annual number of sites reserved and the estimated annual days occupied per site; and
- existing or comparable fees for day and overnight use.

Process Overview

CSP will use standard department processes to implement initiatives. Initiatives are for long-range planning purposes only and do not imply land acquisition or development commitments.

- **Land acquisition.** Parcels have not yet been identified for many proposed acquisitions. Some lands will be transferred from other agencies (see pie chart at left). Land is purchased only from willing sellers at fair market prices; a certified appraiser values land. A public meeting in the affected community is held on all large land purchases. In the Plan, less than 5,000 acres of land proposed for purchase are producing agricultural lands—less than .03% of the farmland in the study area counties. Some farmland may be retained in farm production to interpret agriculture history or provide agritourism attractions, such as u-pick orchards.
- **Park planning.** Park General Plans, required by PRC 5002.2, are prepared after land is acquired; they guide park land use, development and management. A General Plan must exist before permanent park facilities are developed. Impacts on the environment are assessed, and public meetings are held before General Plans are approved at a public hearing of the Park and Recreation Commission.
- **Design and construction.** Initiatives move to this step only after they are part of the CSP program that identifies development projects for the next five years, the Multi-Year Capital Outlay Program (MYCOP). Initiatives also must conform to department planning policies and strategies and have approved General Plans. Development proposals are subject to environmental review and regulatory approvals.
- **Program and budget for operations and staffing.** Operations budgets are set every fiscal year. If changes are needed (due to park expansion, for example), these would be reflected in the Governor’s annual budget proposal.

“Base Camp” Strategy

Partnering for Recreation

The Plan provides the public with access to thousands of acres of public land using the “base camp” strategy.

Public lands in the Central Valley have many owners, including CSP and other public agencies such as the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and BLM. Using the base camp strategy, CSP partners with other public land owners to increase access to public lands while minimizing services and facilities costs.

In this strategy, a state park near other public lands operates as a base camp and provides services, like park rangers and interpretive services, as well as facilities, such as parking, restrooms, picnic sites, boat ramps and campgrounds.

From the state park, visitors may take roadways, boating trails, and heritage corridors to nearby hiking, wildlife viewing, angling, hunting, boat launches, historic sites and other day activities.

Benefits of the base camp strategy include:

- Making full use of existing public lands and reducing the need for land acquisition;
- enhancing recreation opportunities in areas where public land has multiple owners; and
- concentrating intensively developed recreation facilities in one area to minimize impact on natural resources.

The illustration here shows a hypothetical example.

Example of the “base camp” strategy, proposed when a state park can be located near other public land.



The Great Central Valley

Geography, Resources and Recreation Opportunities



The Sundial Bridge in Redding

The Valley's priceless rivers

One can scarcely imagine the Central Valley without its waterways. These spectacular rivers provide residents and visitors with a variety of recreation experiences. Rafting enthusiasts revel in the white water of the American River; anglers hope for nibbles at the banks of the Kings; salmon and other fish migrate through the tributaries of the Sacramento; swimmers, tubers and toe-dippers seek relief from summer heat in the Tuolumne; and rivers feed reservoirs that host daring skiers and wakeboarders.

Although just as precious as California's coastline, Valley rivers are less well-known. Plan initiatives focused on rivers, such as riverside parks and boating trails, can help boost their status. And public agencies and partners who are working to improve water supply reliability, protect land from flooding, restore habitat and increase opportunities for recreation can partner to mutual benefit. These efforts will help instill and increase appreciation for the Valley's magnificent rivers, provide habitat for plants and animals and ensure that future generations of Californians will enjoy the Valley's incredible river resources.

A Big Land

It is easy to understand why the Central Valley is often called the Great Central Valley. From Redding in the north to Bakersfield in the south, the Valley is over 450 miles long. It consists of almost 19 million acres, bordered by the Coastal Range on the west and the Sierra Nevada on the east. The Central Valley Vision study area comprises about 19% of California land and includes all or part of 26 counties. About 6 million people called it home in 2000.

A map of the Central Valley Vision study area is on page 7.

A Place of Abundant Resources

The Valley holds a wealth of natural and cultural resources:

- Rivers and streams and their associated wetlands, riparian forests and floodplains are a primary feature of the Valley. In the hot Valley summers, they offer a cool respite for people and wildlife; in winter, they are a welcome stopover on the Pacific Flyway for millions of birds.
- Blue oak and valley oak woodlands, vernal pools and native grass prairies harbor remnants of the Valley's diverse biota, including kit fox, tule elk, songbirds such as warblers and sparrows, Swainson's hawks and native wildflowers.
- Archaeological sites, historic buildings and farm towns help millions relive history and celebrate Valley culture. Through interpretation, visitors can follow in gold miners' footsteps, ride a steam-powered railroad, enjoy an ethnic festival or view California Indian cultural treasures.
- Orchards, vineyards, rice and other crops cover the Central Valley in an edible landscape that supports the premier farm economy in the United States.



Pacheco State Park

Outdoor Recreation is Integral

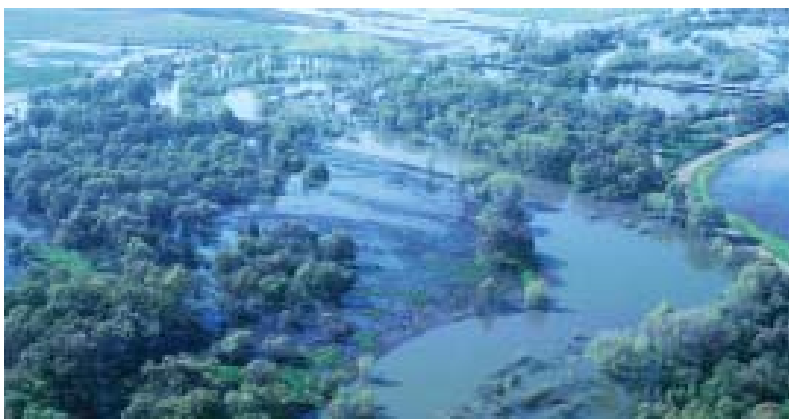
California State Parks is a major provider of outdoor recreation areas in California, with 279 parks statewide. Outdoor recreation in the Valley is as much a part of the Central Valley lifestyle as a sweet peach, a county fair or a vista of the sunset behind the Coastal Range.

Attracted by low-cost, safe and family-friendly recreation, about 5 million people visit the Valley's 35 state parks every year. This represents about 6% of the total visitation at state parks statewide. State parks in the study area include:

- State parks with campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails such as Caswell Memorial SP and Bidwell-Sacramento SP
- Historic sites such as Shasta SHP, Old Sacramento SHP and Colonel Allensworth SHP
- Recreation areas on water bodies such as Lake Oroville SRA and Folsom Lake SRA
- Off-Highway Vehicle areas such as Prairie City SVRA

A list of state parks in the study area is on page 7.

Other recreation opportunities are available in local and regional parks. Access is available in the almost 1.8 million acres of wildlife refuges, ecological preserves, reservoirs and other outdoor recreation lands managed by a variety of state and federal agencies. These agencies include the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).



The Merced River floods George J. Hatfield SRA, 1983



Volunteers at Caswell Memorial SP on Earth Day

CSP relies on its partners

Many types of partners help CSP meet its mission:

- **Federal and state agencies.** For example, DWR and BOR own Central Valley reservoirs and Delta land, and DFG, USFWS and BLM protect wildlife and fish habitat as well as recreation land.
- **Cooperating associations, conservancies, trusts, foundations and tribal and other organizations.** These groups' activities include acquiring land, acting as advisors to CSP and providing program funding and management.
- **Volunteers.** Thousands of individuals offer time and effort to support CSP. Their contributions include activities such as providing interpretive services, assisting in cultural and natural resource management and providing assistance and information in park patrols.
- **Local trails agencies and businesses.** Hiking, biking, equestrian and boating trails could not exist without local agencies. In the Central Valley, organizations such as private marinas and ecotourism companies also will contribute and benefit.

A Vision for the Valley

Determining Needs for Outdoor Recreation



Caswell Memorial SP

Recreation for all

Parks in the Central Valley must meet significant challenges posed by changing demographics as well as recreation and health trends.

Responding to changing recreation trends. In addition to serving a growing population, parks must satisfy a wide range of recreational preferences. For example, group camping and picnicking is becoming more popular; increasing the number of group picnic areas and group campgrounds in state parks can help meet this need.

Encouraging healthy habits. Californians are increasingly sedentary, and the percentage of children who are obese continues to grow. Parks offer interesting and enjoyable opportunities for outdoor play and physical activity, which are parts of a healthy lifestyle.

Initiating the Vision

In 2003, in response to research suggesting that Central Valley residents have insufficient outdoor recreation opportunities, CSP Director Ruth Coleman initiated the Central Valley Vision.

Analyzing Needs

By analyzing a wide variety of information (including government statistics, state parks General Plans, and input from local agencies and other partners), CSP staff assessed today's Valley parks and projected future needs.

Not only are Valley parks insufficient for today's needs, but demographic projections suggest that tomorrow's needs will be even greater.

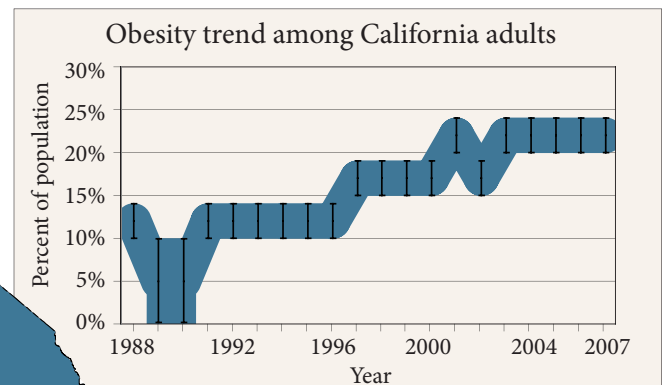
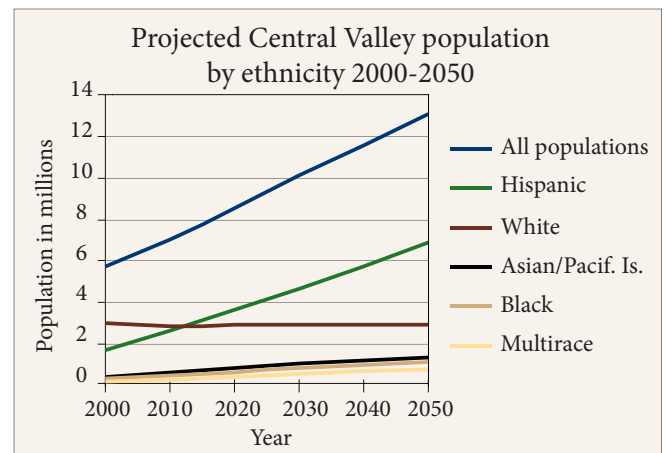
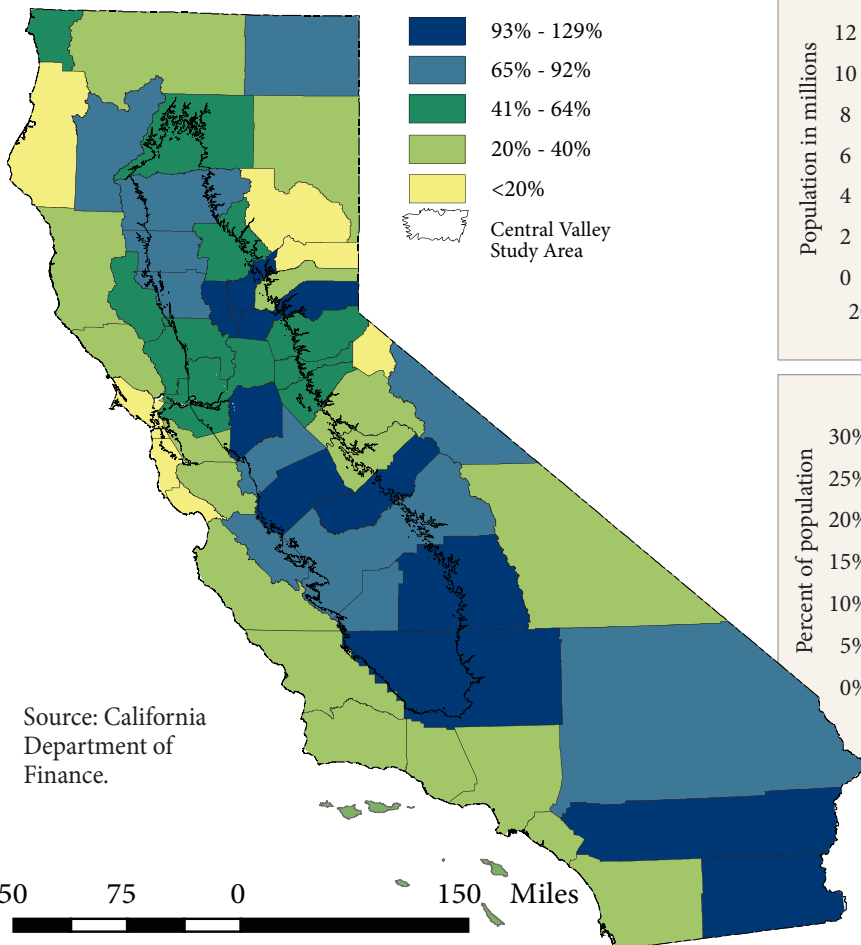
Today's parks are inadequate. Today's Valley parks are lacking in these key areas:

- Many state parks in the Valley are smaller and have fewer amenities than those in other areas of California. The San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin regions have particularly few state parks to serve their growing populations.
- The Valley lacks well-developed regional park systems such as those in some coastal counties and the Bay Area.
- While the Valley study area is 19% of California land, it contains only 4% of California's public land. Additionally, although the Valley's public land parcels are large, they are often wildlife refuges, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, or other properties without extensive facilities for recreation and public access.
- Due to budget constraints, many local agencies such as counties and cities are struggling to maintain their recreation facilities.
- Central Valley residents travel an average of 50 minutes to reach favorite recreation areas—up to twice as long as residents of southern California or the Bay Area.

Tomorrow’s demands will be greater. Valley demographic trends and other data reveal profound changes that will not only tax natural resources and increase the need for parks, but also require changes in park design. A few trends:

- Population will nearly double in study area counties by 2030, going from about 7.8 million in 2000 to about 14 million.
- Small agricultural-based towns and communities are becoming urbanized, negatively impacting open space and cultural and natural resources.
- Ethnic composition in the Valley is changing dramatically. For example, in 2000, Latinos made up about 30% of the population and Anglo-Europeans about 53%. In 2030, projections show that the Latino population will be about 4.6 million, exceeding an Anglo-European population of about 3 million (see graph below). These changes will affect which facilities—such as turf for games and group recreation areas—are most desired.
- The number of Californians over 60 years of age is projected to double between 1990 and 2020.
- The percentage of obese adults continues to rise, making it imperative to offer park amenities that present interesting and enjoyable opportunities for physical activity (see graph at bottom).

Projected percent population change by county, 2000-2030



A Vision for the Valley, continued

Determining Needs for Outdoor Recreation



Director Coleman at a public meeting, May 2006



Kids in the Tuolumne River at the popular Turlock Lake State Recreation Area



Colonel Allensworth SHP, c. 1915



Working in agricultural fields

Guiding the Vision

Agency policy leaders, community activists and CSP partners have helped shape the Plan and its recommendations.

Incorporating Survey Results

Surveys of Californian's recreation preferences were important in the Plan's development.

CSP's 2007 Survey on Public Opinion and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California, a random telephone and mail survey of California adults and youth, shows that recreation activities at lakes, rivers and reservoirs are very highly valued.

Popular activities at or near water include swimming, angling, motor boating and non-motorized boating, sailboating, windsurfing and beach activities.

Additionally, the survey confirmed that walking, picnicking, developed camping, swimming, sightseeing and visiting nature centers and historic sites will likely continue to be visitor favorites.

Listening to the Public

CSP staff held numerous public meetings and workshops in Valley cities and towns to assess residents' recreational preferences. Residents said they wanted state parks that provide:

- River access, for swimming, angling, boating and other water sports.
- Varied recreation opportunities, including group picnic areas, updated and increased camping facilities, areas for sunning and open areas for kite flying, pickup games and unstructured play.
- Trails, including multiuse trails for equestrians, hikers, walkers and bikers; boating trails for paddlers and motorized boats; and off-highway vehicle use areas.



Bicycling along the Sacramento River

- Resource protection, including preservation of riparian woodlands, oak and sycamore groves, native grasslands and vernal pools.
- Interpretation of Central Valley culture and history, especially related to California Indians, agriculture, water development, immigrants and the oil and gas industry.

Here are a few representative samples of the many thousands of comments received from the public during the 2008 comment period:

- Please add this park to your priority list.
- I support the creation of this park.
- I would like a water storage/recreation area nearby.
- Please do more restoration and interpretation.
- We need to educate the public on conservation of forest and wildlife.
- The base-camp idea makes a lot of sense.
- Can we use the abandoned rail lines for trails or excursion trains?
- Be sure to include first-nation tribes in park planning.
- We need Off-Highway Vehicle areas and places for hunting.
- Please build more trails.
- Please establish reasonable access to existing parks.
- Heritage corridors could boost my local business.
- How would a nearby new park affect my farmland?
- How will you get the money to create these new parks?

As briefly shown above, public workshops and meetings revealed a variety of opinions, including preferences for park sites and amenities. Comments were compiled and integrated into the Plan.



A Central Valley Vision meeting, May 2006



San Joaquin Kit Fox

Parks and the environment. Central Valley outdoor recreation is limited not only by a lack of facilities but by the region's degraded environment. Poor air quality from smog or farm odors, especially in summer, can make recreation unpleasant or even unhealthy. Declining salmon and steelhead populations and contaminant warnings hinder angling. Endangered species protections can limit recreation in habitat areas of rare plants and animals.

Climate change will further strain outdoor recreation. Changes in precipitation and water use will make reservoirs less stable settings for recreation. Rising sea levels will change Delta recreation. Fish, wildlife and wildflowers will be increasingly threatened.

Additionally, cultural resources are threatened by environmental changes, development and growth.

Plan initiatives will support outdoor recreation by:

- Restoring almost 4,000 acres of wildlife and fish habitat and planting 500,000 trees
- Building "green" facilities
- Expanding state parks only in areas with unimpaired water quality
- Siting parks where upstream reservoirs ensure reliable river flows, set back from floodplains, and outside areas threatened by rising sea levels
- Enhancing existing and preserving additional cultural resources



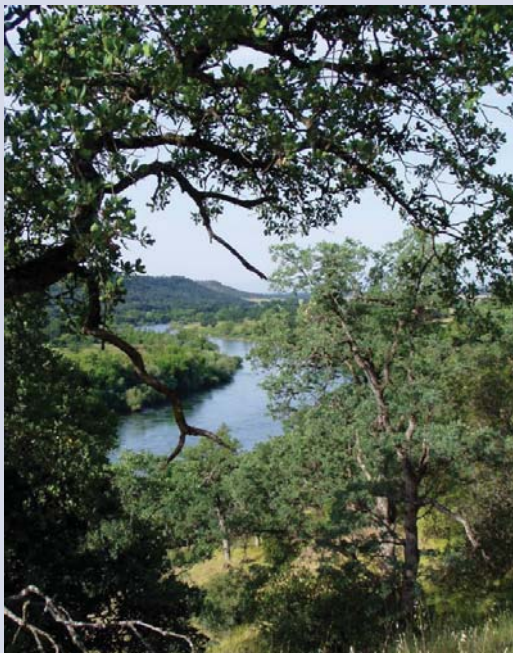
Winter-run chinook salmon

Northern Sacramento River Valley

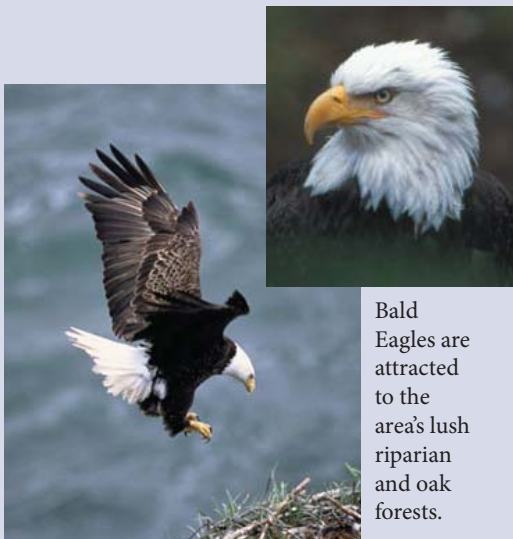
Shasta and Tehama Counties



Anglers on the Sacramento River



Sacramento River



Bald Eagles are attracted to the area's lush riparian and oak forests.

Regional character. Abundant wildlife, celebrated angling areas, stunning views and historic towns are all found in this region. The Sacramento River flows past lush riparian forests, cattle ranches and orchards. Visitors are especially attracted to the region's water-based recreation opportunities and cultural history. Travel spending in 2006 for region counties totaled \$470 million, with most travelers arriving by Interstate 5.

Recreation attractions. Public land occupies over 400,000 acres, or about 20%, of the region. Recreation facilities include Lake Shasta, the Sundial Bridge at Turtle Bay Exploration Park and the Sacramento River Trail. Local parks and marinas provide river access and other recreation facilities.

Existing state parks are:

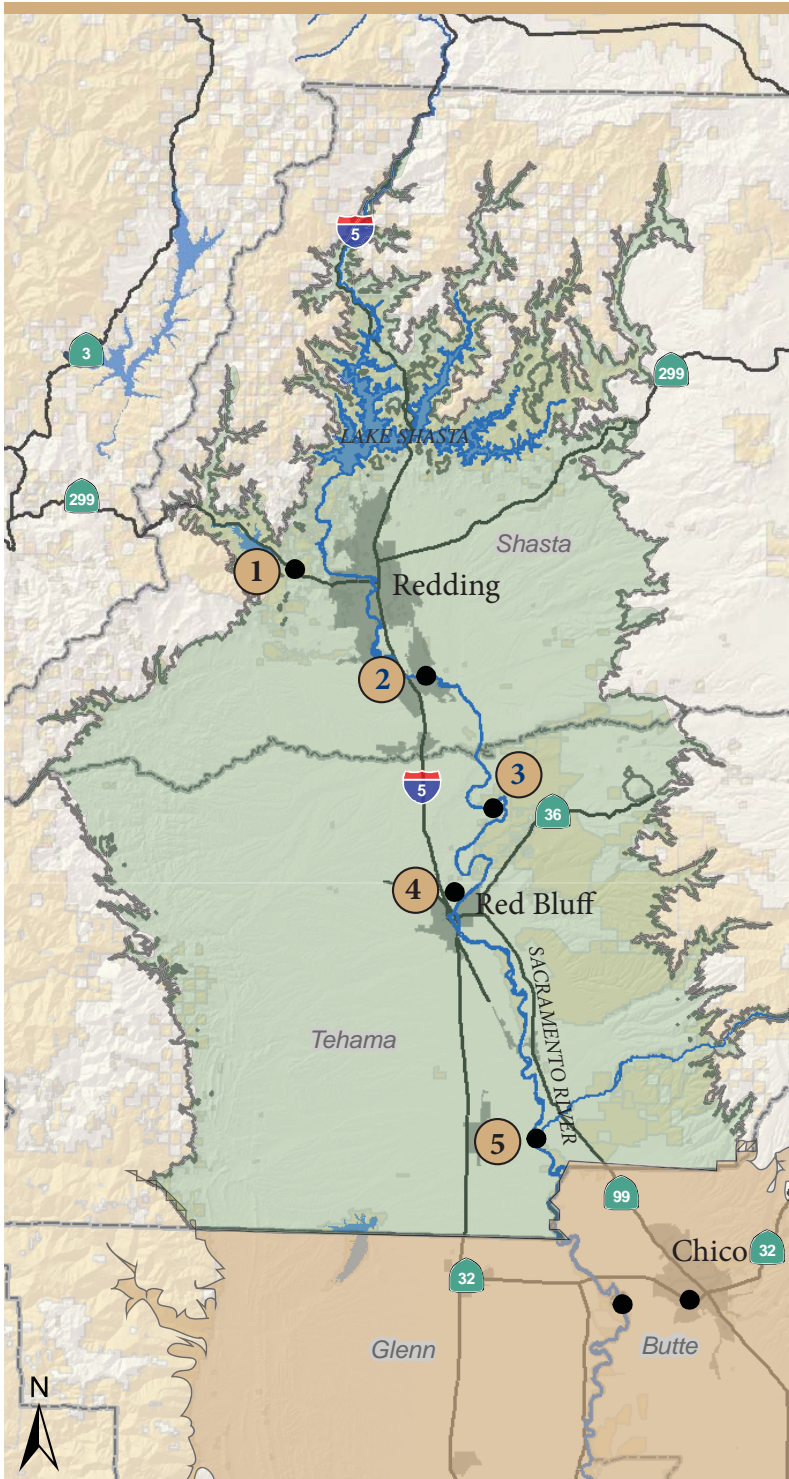
- **Shasta SHP.** Restored historic buildings and museum collection preserve a piece of the Gold Rush era's northern mining district.
- **William B. Ide Adobe SHP.** Memorializing a leader of the 1846 Bear Flag Revolt, the historic ranch setting takes visitors back to California's pioneer days.
- **Woodson Bridge SRA.** Riparian forests and oak woodlands are home to bald eagles and songbirds. Visitors enjoy picnicking, camping, angling and trails.

Initiatives summary. Initiatives would expand water access and water-based recreation in the region, including:

- Adding two new state parks linking Redding and Red Bluff recreation areas.
- Adding 2,800-3,200 acres of land, 140-160 campsites and 150-180 picnic sites and restoring about 175 acres.
- Expanding hiking, biking, and equestrian trails; angling access; boating facilities; and interpretation and education opportunities.
- Adding a Sacramento River Boating Trail to connect river-oriented recreation facilities.



Docents and volunteers at William B. Ide Adobe SHP



Legend

- Initiatives
- Northern Sacramento River Valley Region
- Other Central Valley study area regions (includes areas to 2,000 feet)
- Other public and conservation lands
- Urban areas

Initiatives

- 1 Shasta SHP**

 - Continue historic preservation and interpretive services.
 - Acquire the historic Bystle House.
 - Protect the viewshed by securing about 165 acres from BLM.
 - 2 Anderson-Sacramento River (proposed)**

 - Acquire about 225 acres of riverfront property.
 - Develop about 25 campsites, about 50 picnic sites, trails, angling access, boating facilities and interpretive services.
 - 3 Big Bend (proposed)**

 - Acquire about 2,000 acres of riverfront property
 - Develop about 115 campsites, about 125 picnic sites, trails, angling access, boating facilities and interpretive services.
 - 4 William B. Ide Adobe SHP**

 - Enhance river access, trails, angling and interpretive services.
 - 5 Woodson Bridge SRA**

 - Accept the 700-acre Kopta Slough property.
 - Restore about 180 acres of wildlife habitat.
 - Add 1 group campsite, 10 alternative campsites and a campfire center; add new trails and improve accessibility.
 - Cooperate with USFWS, DFG, The Nature Conservancy and DWR to manage and interpret resources.
- Sacramento River Boating Trail (proposed)**
- With river guidebooks, events and the Internet, organize and promote river recreation from Redding to Sacramento at boat-in campsites and day-use areas at existing parks and marinas.



Southern Sacramento River Valley

Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Yuba Counties



Angling at Lake Oroville SRA



Sacramento River rafters



Bedrock mortars at the Sutter Buttes are proof of habitation in ancient times



A Great Blue Heron and wildflower at the Sutter Buttes

Region character. Here, massive oaks and cottonwoods shade rivers and harbor songbirds that nest or migrate along waterways. The Sutter Buttes overlook marshes and rice farms where millions of waterfowl congregate each winter. The Sacramento and Feather rivers offer boating and angling. Water development projects, key to the success of region agriculture, include the Sacramento River Flood Control Project and the DWR reservoir, Lake Oroville.

Over 390,000 people lived here in 2000, primarily in Chico, Yuba City and Marysville. Population is expected to nearly double by 2030 to 734,000. Travelers, who typically use Interstate 5 or Highway 99, spent about \$488 million in region counties in 2006.

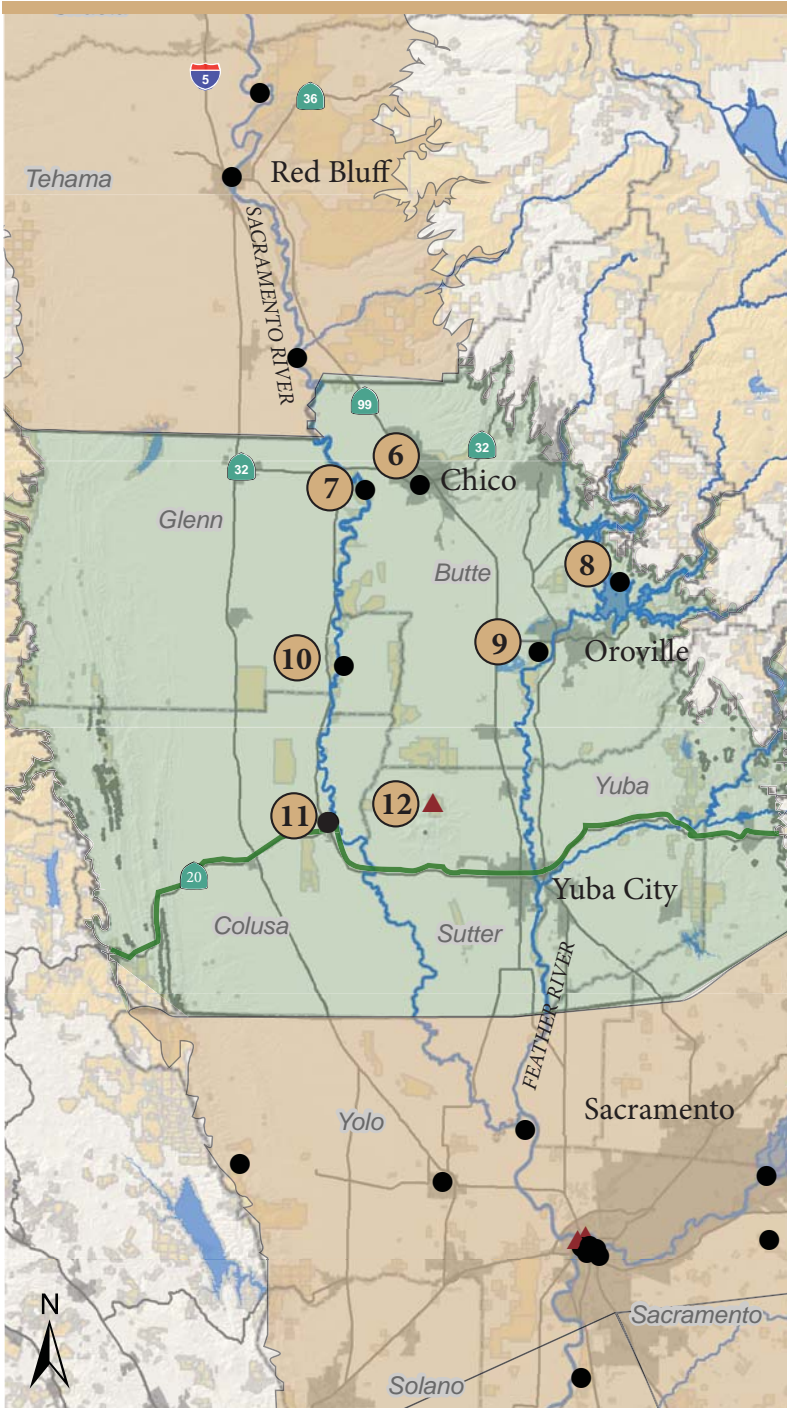
Recreation facilities. The region holds about 245,000 acres of public land, including twelve national wildlife refuges and state wildlife areas. Local parks, historic mining towns and farm centers are other regional facilities.

Existing state parks and properties are:

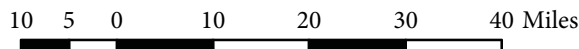
- **Bidwell Mansion SHP.** This Victorian mansion memorializes pioneers John and Annie Bidwell.
- **Bidwell-Sacramento River SP.** Angling and boating are popular activities; riparian forests are being restored.
- **Lake Oroville SRA.** Boating, camping, picnicking, and trails are all available at this 29,450-acre recreation area.
- **Clay Pit SVRA.** This off-highway use area is near Oroville.
- **Butte City (CSP property).** Access to the Sacramento River is a major feature of this 40-acre property.
- **Colusa-Sacramento SRA.** A favorite of anglers and boaters, the angling here is some of the best in California.
- **State Park at Sutter Buttes.** Scenic oak woodlands and grasslands are preserved in this new, undeveloped park.

Initiatives summary. Priorities include preserving the Sutter Buttes and improving water recreation on the Sacramento River.

- Develop 300-350 campsites and 100-120 picnic sites, protect an additional 7,200-7,800 acres and restore about 850 acres of wildlife habitat at state parks.
- Expand hiking, biking and equestrian trails; angling access; boating facilities; and interpretation and education opportunities.
- Develop boating trails on the Sacramento and Feather rivers for boaters to cruise between state parks, boat landings and other recreation lands.



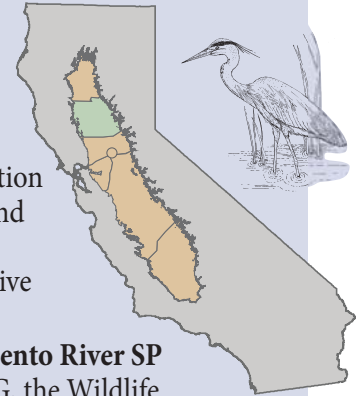
Legend



- ▲ High-priority initiatives
- Other initiatives
- Southern Sacramento River Valley Region
- Other Central Valley study area regions (includes areas to 2,000 feet)
- Other public and conservation lands
- Urban areas
- Cross California Ecological Corridor (Highway 20)

Initiatives

- 6 **Bidwell Mansion SHP**
 - Continue restoration of the mansion and grounds.
 - Expand interpretive services.
- 7 **Bidwell-Sacramento River SP**
 - Partner with DFG, the Wildlife Conservation Board, USFWS and others to restore habitat.
 - Add about 55 campsites, about 10 picnic sites, a visitor center, trails, angling access.
- 8 **Lake Oroville SRA**
 - Assist DWR in adding 75-100 campsites, 20-50 picnic sites and expanding trails and boating facilities.
 - Partner with DWR and BLM on adding 5,800 acres around the lake.
- 9 **Clay Pit SVRA**
 - Add new track, about 10 picnic sites and day-use facilities.
 - Interpret and protect vernal pools.
- 10 **Butte City (CSP property)**
 - Develop about 10 picnic sites, trails, interpretive services and angling facilities.
 - Provide day-use access to the neighboring USFWS wildlife refuge.
- 11 **Colusa-Sacramento River SRA**
 - Acquire about 13 acres and restore about 140 acres of wildlife habitat.
 - Add about 20 campsites, about 10 picnic sites and interpretive services; enhance boating and angling facilities.
- 12 **State Park at Sutter Buttes**
 - Work and consult with local landowners and tribal organizations to acquire about 1,000 acres, develop about 150 campsites outside of Peace Valley, develop about 50 picnic sites and add trails and interpretation.
- 🌊 **Sacramento and Feather River Boating Trails (proposed)**
 - With guidebooks, events and the Internet, organize and promote river recreation from Redding to Sacramento and from Oroville to Sacramento at boat-in campsites and day-use areas.



Greater Metropolitan Sacramento

Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo Counties



Windsurfing at Lake Natoma, part of Folsom Lake SRA



Generators at Folsom Powerhouse SHP



Riding at Prairie City SVRA



Kayaking on Cache Creek

Region character. Stretching from the Sierra foothills to the Coastal Range, this region is characterized by its rivers (the Sacramento and American) and its mix of city, suburbs and farms. Parkland, open space and water-based recreation are especially valuable in this rapidly growing area, home to over 2 million people. Several freeways serve the region—Interstates 5 and 80 and Highways 50 and 99. Travelers spent over \$4 billion in region counties in 2006.

Recreation facilities. Within the region's approximately 191,000 acres of public land, many facilities are near the American and Sacramento rivers. Public agencies cooperatively manage major recreation areas, including Folsom Lake, the American River Parkway and the Yolo Bypass.

Existing state parks are:

- **Woodland Opera House SHP.** Audiences enjoy theatrical performances and school programs at this restored theater.
- **Folsom Lake SRA and Folsom Powerhouse SHP.** Boating, swimming, camping and picnicking are top lake activities; the powerhouse looks much as it did in 1895.
- **Prairie City SVRA.** Tracks and open areas for off-highway vehicles are main features of this popular OHV site

(**State Capital parks** are on the next pages.)

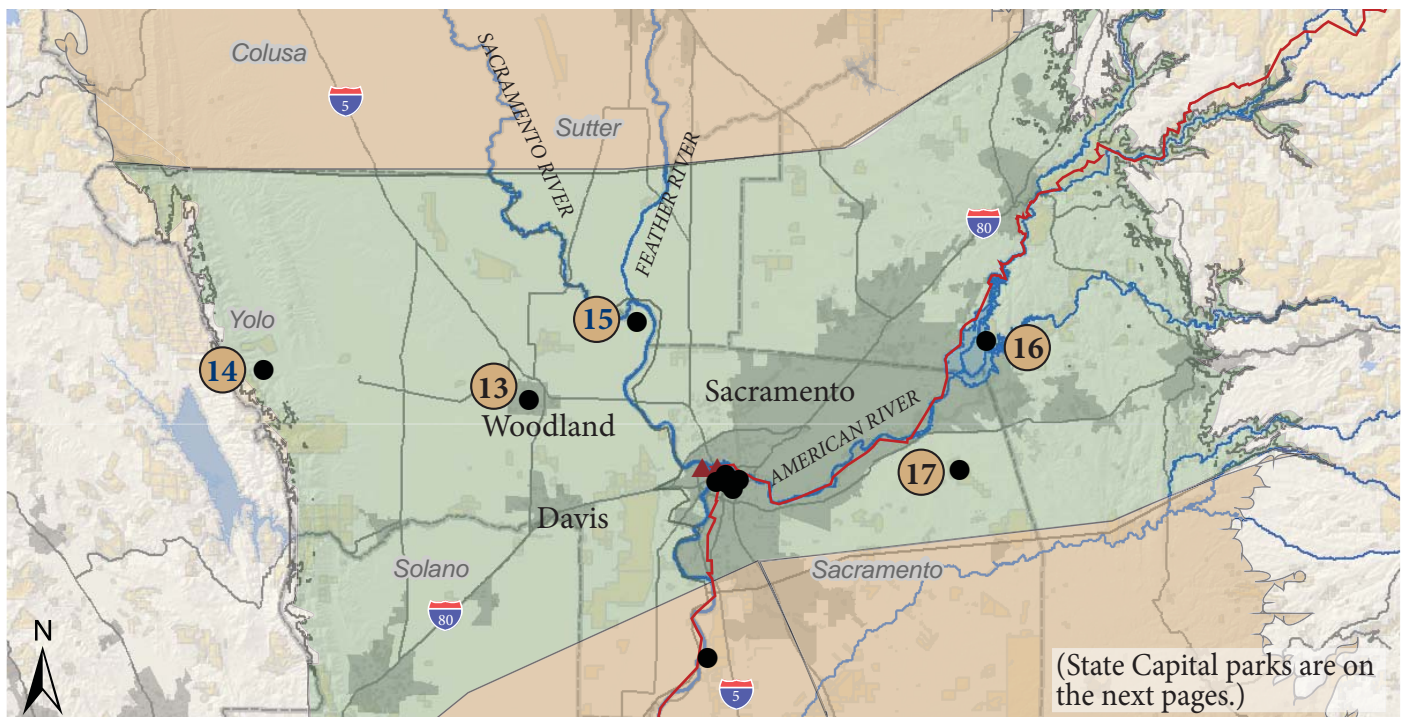
Initiatives summary. Major initiatives include proposed new parks on the Sacramento River and Cache Creek and improvements at Folsom Lake SRA:

- Acquire 2,800-3,100 acres of land and restore 1,300-1,500 acres of wildlife habitat.
- Develop 190-215 campsites and 200-220 picnic sites.
- Develop hiking, biking and equestrian trails; angling access; boating facilities; new interpretation and education opportunities and newly acquired historic sites.
- Explore adding an excursion train originating in Old Sacramento to link downtown Woodland and the proposed Elkhorn Basin park.
- Organize and market the Sacramento River boating trail so that boaters can more easily cruise between state parks, boat landings and other recreation lands.

Initiatives

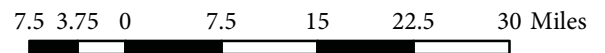
- 13 Woodland Opera House SHP**
 - Improve accessibility and continue programs.
- 14 Blue Ridge (proposed)**
 - Acquire about 1,500 acres in Capay Valley for a new state park; develop about 50 campsites, about 50 picnic sites, boating facilities, trails; include interpretive services that emphasize African-American heritage.
- 15 Elkhorn Basin (proposed)**
 - Partner with landowners on the Sacramento River to acquire about 1,500 acres and restore habitat on about 1,300 acres of it.
 - Partner with Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Yolo Land Trust, Yolo County and others to provide about 75 camp sites, about 75 picnic sites, trails, angling and interpretive services at this historic site.

- 16 Folsom Lake SRA and Folsom Powerhouse SHP**
 - Improve access from Folsom to Lake Natoma.
 - Restore about 180 acres of wildlife habitat.
 - Add about 80 campsites, about 75 picnic sites, trails, boating facilities and interpretive services.
 - Connect to regional trail systems and facilities, including Deer Creek Hills Preserve.
- 17 Prairie City SVRA**
 - Add about 12 new picnic sites and expand the track and interpretive services.
- Sacramento River Boating Trail (proposed)**
 - With guidebooks, events and the Internet, organize and promote river recreation at boat-in campsites and day-use areas at existing parks and marinas.



Legend

- ▲ High-priority initiatives
- Other initiatives
- Metropolitan Sacramento Region
- Other Central Valley study area (includes areas to 2,000 feet)
- Other public and conservation lands
- Urban areas
- American Discovery Trail

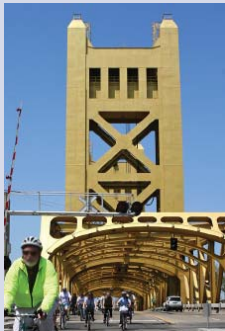


State Capital

Sacramento and Yolo Counties



Conceptual drawing, proposed California Indian Heritage Center



Bicyclists on the Tower Bridge



Leland Stanford Mansion SHP



California State Railroad Museum



Sutter's Fort SHP

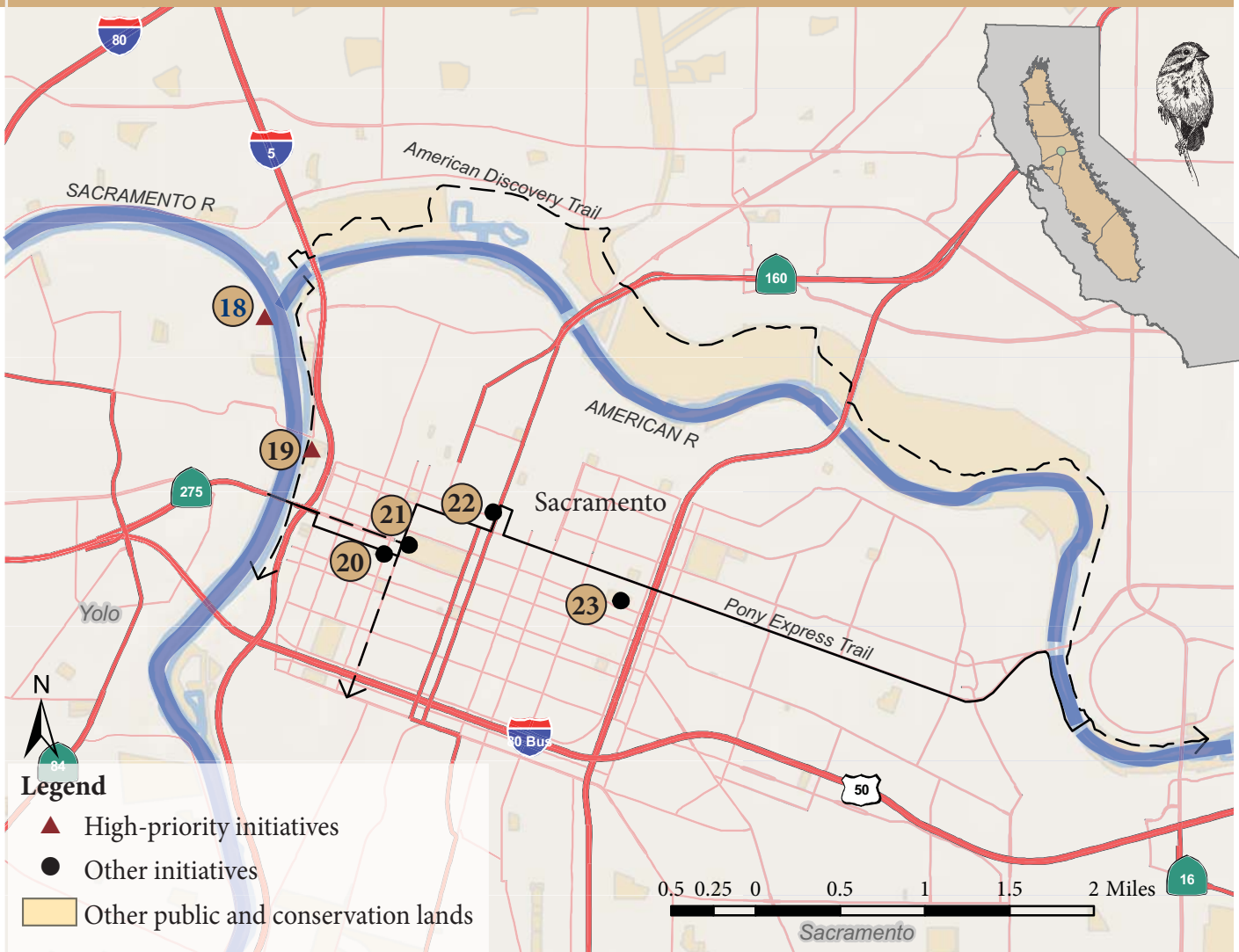
Region character. Bordered by the Sacramento and American rivers and crisscrossed by freeways, the seat of California's government features shopping, dining, entertainment and historical attractions. World-renowned museums celebrate the era of the Gold Rush and the Transcontinental Railroad and attract visitors from the state and beyond; travel spending in Sacramento County totaled about \$2.3 billion in 2006. The historic Southern Pacific Railyards, north of downtown, is the nation's largest urban infill redevelopment project.

Recreation facilities. The region's State Historical Parks and State Museums preserve and interpret the heritage of California's Capital City and illuminate the forces that have shaped Sacramento and the State. Existing state parks, trails and attractions include:

- **Old Sacramento SHP.** This 28-acre National Historic Landmark District has 53 historic buildings, a number of which CSP owns and operates. It includes the **California State Railroad Museum**, North America's most popular railroad museum, which houses one of the world's finest collections of historic railroad engines; the **California State Railroad Technology Museum**, an upcoming attraction of the park; and the **Sacramento Southern Railroad excursion trains**.
- **Leland Stanford Mansion SHP.** This restored home, built in 1856, serves as the state's official reception center.
- **California State Capitol Museum.** The State Capitol, which has housed California's Legislature since 1869, also features exhibits.
- **Governor's Mansion SHP.** This Victorian mansion was home to 13 governors from 1903 to 1967.
- **Sutter's Fort SHP.** Sacramento Valley's earliest European settlement is a frequent destination for school field trips.
- **California State Indian Museum.** Exhibits and artifacts illustrate cultures of the state's first inhabitants. (The proposed California Indian Heritage Center will replace this museum.)
- **Pony Express National Historic Trail and the American Discovery Trail.** These State Recreational Trails go through downtown.
- **Other attractions** include paddlewheel boats on the Sacramento River, art museums, shopping and restaurants.

Initiatives summary. The focus is on preserving and interpreting cultural resources. Initiatives will be executed in concert with the Sacramento Riverfront Master Plan.

- The proposed California Indian Heritage Center will house a center with interpretive trails on a 67-acre site at the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers.
- The upcoming California Railroad Technology Museum (part of the California State Railroad Museum), located in the Railyards, would house CSRM's collection of historic locomotives and railroad cars and galleries interpreting railroad engineering and technology.



Initiatives

- 18 California Indian Heritage Center (proposed)**
 - Acquire 67 acres; develop this new museum and cultural center (which will replace the existing California State Indian Musum).
 - Develop trails and interpretive services.
- 19 Old Sacramento SHP**
 - Expand existing facilities, interpretive services and recreation opportunities:

California State Railroad Technology Museum

 - Transfer from the City of Sacramento about 10 acres in the Railyards development; rehabilitate the boiler shop and the erecting shop for the museum complex.
 - Develop interpretive services at this historic site.

California State Railroad Museum

 - Expand interpretive services. For excursion trains and trolleys, use existing alignments for access to Delta and Yolo Co. Provide alternative transportation between downtown parks.

- 20 Leland Stanford Mansion SHP**
 - Expand interpretive services.
- 21 California State Capitol Museum**
 - Expand interpretive services.
- 22 Governor’s Mansion SHP**
 - Acquire land and develop a visitor center and parking; expand interpretive services.
- 23 Sutter’s Fort SHP**
 - Convert existing State Indian Museum to Sutter’s Fort visitor center; expand interpretive services.
- Sacramento River Boating Trail (proposed)**
 - Water programs: Provide alternative transportation options between downtown parks.
- Pony Express National Historic Trail and American Discovery Trail**
 - Partner with the City of Sacramento to improve bicycle and pedestrian routes that link parks along these trails.

Delta

Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin and Solano Counties



Angling on Three Mile Slough, Brannan Island SRA



Water sports are popular in the Delta



Historic town of Locke



Agricultural workers with thresher



Historic Walnut Grove fruit label

Region character. The Delta is the meeting place of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. Its network of waterways includes the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Cosumnes and Mokelumne rivers and countless sloughs and backwaters that support a diverse but imperiled ecosystem. The Delta is renowned for its angling, boating, waterfowl hunting and rich cultural history. Settlers from many countries established communities along its waterways and railroad routes.

Significant change is coming to the Delta, as rising sea levels threaten some islands and engineers study water projects; some islands may be converted to habitat to restore the ecosystem. Over one million new residents will settle in Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties between 2000 and 2030. Travel spending in region counties was \$4.8 billion in 2006.

Recreation facilities. The Delta's 145,000 acres of public and conservation lands include the Cosumnes Preserve, two wildlife refuges, eight state wildlife areas and ecological reserves and local parks. State parks in the Delta are small, but they provide a gateway to one thousand miles of waterways. Existing state parks and trails are:

- **Stone Lake.** This property protects habitat within Stone Lake National Wildlife Refuge.
- **Delta Meadows (CSP property) and the Locke Boarding House.** Here visitors enjoy Delta landscapes of marshes, riparian forests and river towns.
- **Brannan Island SRA.** Swimming access, angling, a large boat launch, camping and day-use facilities and a visitor center are features of this popular recreation area.
- **Franks Tract SRA.** Popular with anglers and waterfowl hunters, this recreation area is accessible only by boat.
- **SHP at Cowell Ranch/John Marsh Home.** This 3,600-acre property features a historic farmstead, archaeological sites, and oak savannahs; it is not yet open to the public.
- **Bethany Reservoir SRA.** Local boaters are the main visitors at this little-known reservoir.
- **Carnegie SVRA.** Motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and four-wheel drive area.
- **American Discovery Trail, Mokelumne Coast-to-Crest Trail, and Juan Baustista de Anza National Historic Trail.** These California Recreational Trails connect the Delta to the Sierra foothills and the Coastal Range.

Initiatives summary. To meet growing demand, existing units will be improved and the Delta's "sense of place" enhanced. Initiatives, which are consistent with the Governor's Delta Vision Committee recommendations, are:

- Develop 320-340 campsites, about 175 picnic sites and 700-750 acres of land; restore about 500 acres of wildlife habitat.

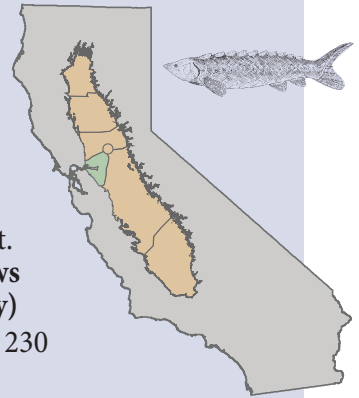


Legend

- ▲ High-priority initiatives
- Other initiatives
- Delta Region
- Other Central Valley study area (includes areas to 2,000 feet)
- Other public and conservation lands
- Urban areas
- American Discovery Trail (ADT)
- Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail (MCCT)

Initiatives

- 24 **Stone Lake (CSP property)**
 - Continue managing as wildlife habitat.
- 25 **Delta Meadows (CSP property)**
 - Acquire about 230 acres.
 - Improve access; develop about 50 campsites, about 25 picnic sites, trails, angling and boating facilities.
 - Develop education and interpretive services with the Locke Boarding House.
 - Partner with Cosumnes River Preserve and BOR to expand recreation.
- 26 **Barker Slough (proposed)**
 - Transfer about 500 acres from DFG.
 - Restore as wildlife habitat and develop about 10 picnic sites, trails, small boat facilities and interpretive services.
- 27 **Brannan Island SRA**
 - Add about 30 campsites and about 12 picnic sites; expand trails, angling, boating facilities and visitor center. If feasible, restore windsurfing area.
 - Cooperate with DWR and DFG to provide recreation at Twitchell, Sherman and Lower Sherman Islands.
- 28 **Franks Tract SRA**
 - Continue existing uses and access.
- 29 **SHP at Cowell Ranch/John Marsh Home**
 - Preserve historic John Marsh home.
 - Develop about 200 campsites, about 55 picnic sites, trails and education and interpretive services.
- 30 **Bethany Reservoir SRA**
 - Add about 50 campsites, about 60 picnic sites, trails, angling and interpretive services.
- 31 **Carnegie SVRA**
 - Add about 10 picnic sites and interpretive services.
- Great California Delta Trail**
 - Cooperate with the Delta Protection Commission to incorporate ADT, MCCT and other trails into this proposed trail.



San Joaquin River Valley

Calaveras, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties



Group picnic at Caswell Memorial State Park



Angling at Turlock Lake SRA



Millerton historic courthouse



Wakeboarding at a reservoir



Dos Rios Ranch, site of a proposed state park

Region character. Orchards, vineyards and dairies dot the landscape of this productive region. The over 2 million residents in region counties rely on local rivers and reservoirs for low-cost recreation. Population is expected to double by 2030, increasing pressure on parks and open space. Highways 99 and 152 and Interstate 5 bring travelers, who in 2006 spent more than \$3 billion in region counties.

Recreation facilities. Reservoirs, three national wildlife refuges and eight DFG wildlife areas and ecological reserves contribute to the 624,000 acres of public land in the region. Local partners are organizing greenways along the Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers. Existing state parks are:

- **Caswell Memorial SP.** The Stanislaus River meanders near day-use facilities and campgrounds at one of California's finest examples of a mature oak riparian forest.
- **Turlock Lake SRA.** With its location between the Tuolumne River and Turlock, this park offers 26 miles of shoreline.
- **McConnell SRA.** Angling, picnicking and camping on the Merced River are favorite recreational activities here.
- **George J. Hatfield SRA.** Popular activities at one of Merced County's best riparian habitats include swimming, angling in the Merced River and picnicking.
- **Great Valley Grasslands SP.** An intact example of native grasslands, this park contributes to California's largest contiguous block of wetlands.
- **San Luis Reservoir SRA.** Located near Interstate 5, this is one of the state's most visible and diverse recreation areas. The reservoir holds Central Valley Project and State Water Project water.
- **Pacheco SP.** Scenic vistas, golden eagles, and 28 miles of trails for horseback riding, hiking, and mountain biking characterize this park.
- **Millerton Lake SRA.** With over 40 miles of shoreline, this reservoir offers swimming, angling, boating and camping. The San Joaquin River Trail leaves from Millerton Lake for the High Sierra.

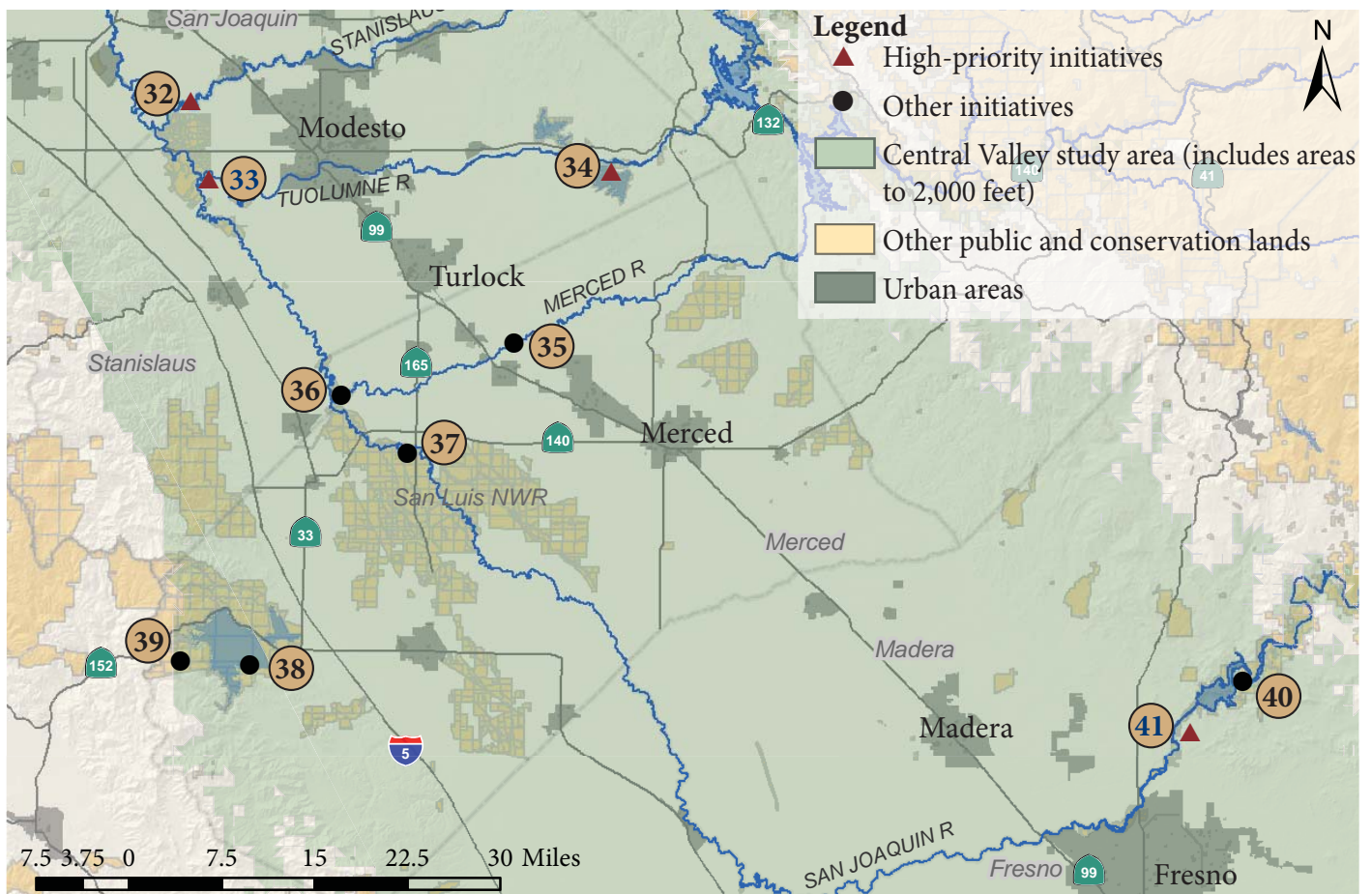
Initiatives summary. Initiatives in this region focus on improving recreation opportunities on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, San Joaquin and Merced rivers. About 850 campsites and over 250 picnic sites will be developed, and about 600 acres of wildlife habitat will be restored. These parks are proposed:

- Dos Rios, a 1600-acre park at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne rivers, will provide a recreation area near Modesto.
- CSP will cooperate in planning San Joaquin River restoration and create a new park for both recreation and natural resource protection.

Initiatives

- 32 Caswell Memorial SP**
 - Acquire about 200 acres and restore about 100 acres of wildlife habitat.
 - Add about 65 new campsites, about 30 new picnic sites, trails and interpretive services.
- 33 Dos Rios (proposed)**
 - Acquire about 1,600 acres and restore 500 acres of wildlife habitat to create a new state park.
 - Develop about 100 campsites, about 100 picnic sites, trails, angling and boating facilities and interpretive services.
- 34 Turlock Lake SRA**
 - Acquire about 1,650 acres to expand access to the Tuolumne River.
 - Add about 150 campsites, about 60 picnic sites, trails and angling facilities; add interpretive services.
- 35 McConnell SRA**
 - Acquire about 200 acres.
 - Add about 50 campsites and about 30 picnic sites; add trails and interpretive services.
- 36 George J. Hatfield SRA**
 - Improve day-use facilities; convert the 21 existing campsites to about 25 picnic sites.

- 37 Great Valley Grasslands SP**
 - Cooperate with others in San Joaquin River restoration.
- 38 San Luis Reservoir SRA**
 - Add about 300 campsites and about 10 picnic sites; add trails, angling and boating facilities.
- 39 Pacheco SP**
 - Add about 90 campsites and about 25 picnic sites; add trails and interpretive services.
- 40 Millerton Lake SRA**
 - Add about 75 campsites; add trails and boating facilities.
- 41 San Joaquin River Parkway (proposed)**
 - Accept about 1,250 acres of existing public land in the new park. Partner with the San Joaquin River Conservancy at this new park.
 - Develop about 15 campsites, about 25 picnic sites, trails, boating facilities and interpretive services.
- Boating Trails (proposed)**
 - With guidebooks, events and the Internet, organize and promote recreation on rivers at boat-in campsites and day-use areas at existing parks and marinas.



Tulare Basin

Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare Counties



Tule Elk at Tule Elk SNR



Kings River



Rocky Hill



Tulare County Library at Colonel Allensworth SHP

Region character. In ancient times, the Tulare Basin was a system of wetlands teeming with wildlife and grasslands browsed by herds of Tule Elk. Native Californians thrived and consecrated their sacred places. European settlers created a complex water management system to support farms and towns; concurrently, fortunes were made and lost searching for oil. Today's prosperity is directly tied to water and oil development. The population will nearly double to over 4.3 million by 2030. Even though many travelers simply pass through on Interstate 5 or Highway 99, the four region counties brought in about \$2.7 billion in travel dollars in 2006.

Recreation facilities. Two wildlife refuges, five state ecological reserves and local parks are among the region's nearly 211,000 acres of outdoor recreation land. Existing state parks are:

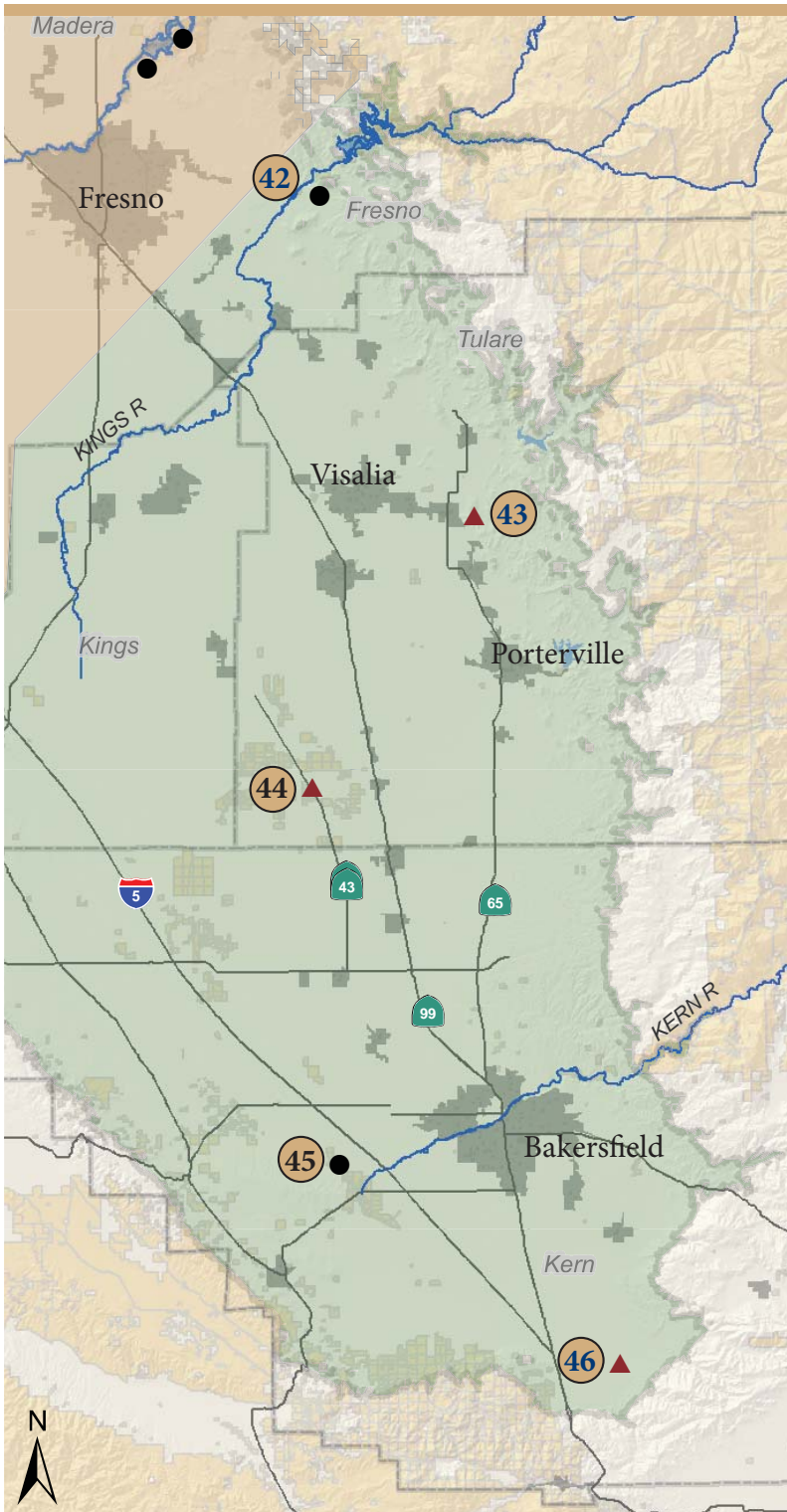
- **Colonel Allensworth SHP** is the site of the first African-American governed town in California. It offers historic structures, a visitor center and interpretative services, picnic areas and a small campground.
- **Tule Elk SNR** protects its petite elk at the site of the first endangered species recovery effort in the nation. It offers wildlife viewing, a visitor center and picnic areas.

Initiatives summary. Initiatives will protect outstanding natural areas and historic sites and provide recreation facilities that the Tulare Basin lacks:

- Develop three new parks—Kings River, near Fresno; Rocky Hill at Exeter, a California Indian rock art site; and Tejon Ranch, a park south of Bakersfield.
- Develop campsites and picnic sites and restore about 300 acres of habitat.
- Develop hiking, biking and equestrian trails; angling access; boating facilities; new interpretation and education opportunities; and protect historic sites.



Docents at Colonel Allensworth SHP



Legend

- ▲ High-priority initiatives
- Other initiatives
- Tulare Basin Region
- Other Central Valley study area (includes areas to 2,000 feet)
- Other public and conservation lands
- Urban areas

Initiatives

42 Kings River (proposed)

- Partner with Fresno and Tulare County Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Kings River Conservancy to acquire 500 acres on Kings River.

- Create a new park to provide about 25 picnic sites, campsites (using existing), fishing, trails and a boating trail on the Kings River.

43 Rocky Hill at Exeter (proposed)

- Work and consult with local landowners and tribal organizations to:
 - Acquire about 2,300 acres to create a new park that celebrates California Indian culture.
 - Develop accessible trails and viewing platforms to view the rock art.
 - Develop a visitor center and museum, about 50 picnic sites, guided tours and a vista point.
 - Support regional trail initiatives, including connections to the Kaweah Oaks Preserve.

44 Colonel Allensworth SHP

- Develop visitor center and expand interpretive services at this historic site.
- Cooperate with regional conservation initiatives.

45 Tule Elk SNR

- Acquire about 420 acres and restore about 300 acres of wildlife habitat.
- Add about 10 campsites, about 10 picnic sites, angling access and interpretive services.
- Work with partners to provide water for habitat restoration and other uses.

46 Tejon Ranch (proposed)

- Cooperate with partners to establish this new park at this historic site at the south end of the Central Valley.
- Develop campsites, picnic sites, trails and interpretive services.
- Evaluate the feasibility of an equestrian center or a dude-ranch concession.



Central Valley Heritage Corridors

Driving Routes with Historic and Cultural Interest



Historic Delta vegetable crate label



Historic Sacramento farm equipment poster



Farmers' markets and fruit stands offer fresh produce throughout the Valley



Threshing crew, 1904

Vision

The Central Valley enjoys an abundance of heritage resources, ranging from historic communities such as Locke, to Delta boating excursions, “u-pick” fruit stands and historic farm trails. As part of the state’s storied past, these resources help California earn its position as the top U.S. destination for cultural and heritage tourism.

The CSP Director can enhance the status of these prized heritage resources by designating driving routes as “heritage corridors” under the California Recreational Trails Act.

Potential benefits of this status include:

- increased support and cooperation among public agencies for resource preservation, especially if National Heritage Area status is a possibility;
- improved amenities for visitors, such as maps, brochures, multi-lingual programs and kiosks; and
- an expansion in rural tourism.

Laws help preserve heritage lands. Heritage corridors are part of the California Recreational Trails System; CSP assists organizations that support the heritage corridors and provides guidebooks for nearby state parks.

California law states that a **heritage corridor** is “a regional, state, or nationwide alignment of historical, natural, or conservation education significance, with roads, state and other parks, greenways, or parallel recreational trails, intended to have guidebooks, signs, and other features.” For details, see California Public Resources Code 5070-5077.8 at www.leginfo.ca.gov. (Select “California Law,” then “Public Resources Code.”)

A **national heritage area** is “a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally-distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography.” Learn more at www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas.

Initiatives

CSP recommends establishing five Central Valley driving routes as heritage corridors to help visitors enjoy valuable heritage resources. A few highlights of each heritage corridor candidate are described here.

The California Delta Heritage Corridor would link historic Delta towns, recreation sites, nature areas and agricultural sites. **Highlights:** Historic communities such as Rio Vista and Locke; recreation areas such as the Big Break region near Oakley; wildlife and fish habitats such as Woodbridge Ecological Reserve; agritourism attractions such as “u-pick” fruit orchards and festivals; trails such as parts of the American Discovery Trail; and Delta excursion boats.

The Cross-California Ecological Corridor (already a heritage corridor) links natural areas and other examples of California ecosystems. **Highlights:** Rivers and their riparian habitats; marshes and wildlife-friendly rice farms; public recreation land such as Sutter National Wildlife Refuge; public recreation land such as South Yuba River State Park; and wildlife areas.

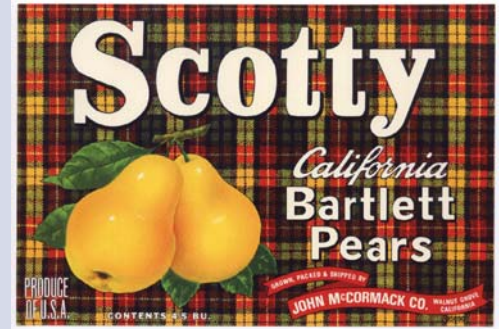
The Black Gold Heritage Corridor would connect sites associated with oil development in Kern and Kings counties. **Highlights:** Important oil fields such as Elk Hills; Bakersfield refineries; museums such as the Kern County Museum; and events such as “Bakersfield sound” performances at Buck Owens’ Crystal Palace.

The Central Valley Farm Trails Heritage Corridor would link Highway 99 and Interstate 5 to local farm trails and other agricultural sites. **Highlights:** Local farm trails and “u-pick” farms; farmers’ markets; agritourism sites; historic farms, ranches and farm communities such as Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park and Locke; farm history museums; farm labor history sites; water facilities such as reservoirs; and local rodeos and charreadas, cook-offs and festivals.

Echoes of Our Ancestors Heritage Corridor. The Great Central Valley has been home to many diverse cultural groups, beginning with California Indians. This heritage corridor links aspects of California’s rich history of ethnic diversity.



Celebrating Portuguese culture with a festa



Historic Delta fruit label



Chinese agricultural workers in the Delta



Oil wells, 1956



Sacramento Valley cherry orchard, c.1900

Sacramento

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Improving Recreation Opportunities. Horseback riding at Paynes Creek photo: U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM, Redding Office. Data for Projected percent population change by county, 2000-2030 graphic: California Department of Finance; Rafting on the river photo: Department of Boating and Waterways.

Priorities and Proposed Parks. Data for California State Parks by Region maps: U.S. Geological Survey 90' Statewide Hillshades and California Environmental Information Clearinghouse (2008), which provided the Green Info database showing public lands (2008) and the Vestra database (2005).

Implementation Schedule and Budget. Data for base camp graphic: U.S. Geological Survey 90' Statewide Hillshades.

The Great Central Valley. The Sundial Bridge in Redding photo: Department of Boating and Waterways.

A Vision for the Valley. Data for Projected percent population change by county, 2000-2030 graphic and Projected Central Valley population by ethnicity 2000-2050 graph: California Department of Finance; data for Obesity trend among California adults graph: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Bicycling along the Sacramento River photo: City of Sacramento; San Joaquin Kit Fox and Winter-run Chinook salmon photos: California Department of Fish and Game.

Initiatives by Region and Park. Line drawings: original drawings by Cindy Bruner, courtesy of the artist.

Northern Sacramento River Valley. Anglers on the Sacramento River and Sacramento River photos: U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM, Redding Office; Bald Eagle, bottom photo: California Department of Fish and Game.

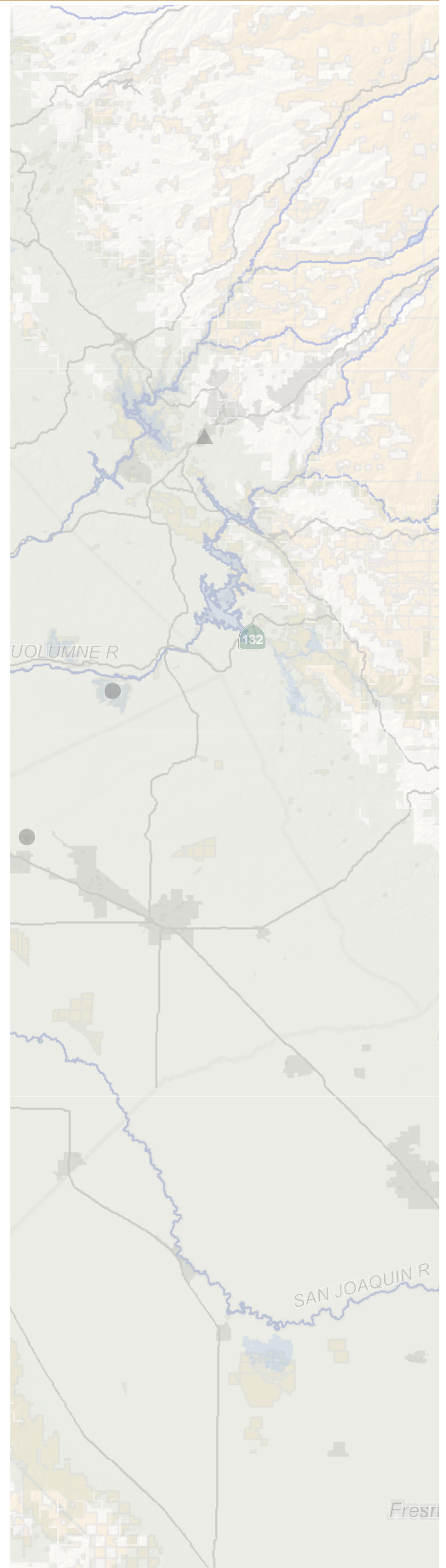
Southern Sacramento River Valley. Sacramento River rafters photo: U.S. Dept. of Interior, BLM, Redding Office; Great Blue Heron photo: California Department of Fish and Game.

Greater Metropolitan Sacramento. Kayaking on Cache Creek photo: Yolo County Parks.

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Delta. Pear-crate label photo: Delta Protection Commission.

Central Valley Heritage Corridors. Baroni's label, Walnut Grove Ferry, Scotty label and Chinese agricultural workers photos: Delta Protection Commission.





Turlock Lake State Recreation Area and the Tuolumne River

Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan



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