



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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**STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Virtual Meeting**

February 8, 2022

**STAFF REPORT:** Planning Division – 2022 Look Ahead

**STAFF:** Alex Stehl, Deputy Director of Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division (SPRSD)

**SUBJECT:** Update on SPRC Agenda Items for 2022

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**OBJECTIVE**

This Staff Report identifies future planning agenda items to be brought to the SPRC for recommendations and/or action in the coming 2022 calendar year.

**INTRODUCTION**

This report includes:

- the official park unit count for the 21/22 fiscal year
- pending general plans
- potential classification of park properties
- the Cornerstone Documents effort, and
- Reexamining Our Past Initiative's renaming efforts.

**UPDATES/REPORTS**

**2021/2022 Official Park Unit Count**

As of January 2022, and throughout the 2021/22 fiscal year, the California State Park System will have an official total of 279 classified units and major unclassified properties. At this point, any reference to the system should use the figure of 279, until it is officially superseded by a new figure on July 1, 2022, a figure which will then be valid for the 2022/23 fiscal year.

The identity and basic information about each of the System's 279 units and properties will be found in the *Planning Milestones for the Park Units and Major Properties associated with the California State Park System*. This publication, and its accompanying map, are prepared by the Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division and will be available in approximately October 2022.

During FY 2020/21 and the first half of FY 2021/22, no new units were added to the State Park system. However, Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon, two previous major unclassified properties, were joined to become Ishxenta State Park (unit # 435), a classified unit. This action changed the official State Park System size by one.

The total figure of 279 represents 265 classified units and 14 major unclassified properties. The 265 units are labeled with ten basic classifications as defined in sections 5019.50 *et seq* of the California Public Resources Code. Not included in the System's official total are the 96 classified units that exist only as portions of a larger classified unit. There are three types of such "internal" classified units - Cultural Preserve, Natural Preserve and State Wilderness.

Please use the figure 279 to reflect the entire State Park System for the duration of the 2021/22 fiscal year.

### **General Plans**

Red Rock Canyon State Park: The planning team is finalizing the preliminary general plan and associated draft environmental impact report (EIR) for State Park's internal review. We anticipate these documents will be ready for public review and comment by May 2022. The final general plan and EIR will be presented at the State Park and Recreation Commission for consideration in Fall 2022.

### **Potential Classification of State Park Properties**

The SPRSD will be working with the Planning and Acquisition Committee on prioritizing a few major park properties for classification by the SPRC. As noted previously, currently there are 14 unclassified park properties.

### **Cornerstone Documents**

Planning Division staff is continuing to work on Cornerstone Document pilot project. Four parks make up the pilot: Emerald Bay SP and DL Bliss SP (both parks, which share a border, will be covered in one CD), Trione-Annadel SP, and Andrew Molera SP. These pilot documents will be shared with the SPRC for further guidance and input. The status of each document is provided below.

- The draft for Emerald Bay/DL Bliss CD is in progress. Planning staff worked with Sierra District staff in March 2020 to gather background information, schedule

meetings to discuss document components, and start the draft document. The project was put on hold in April 2020 due to planning staff being redirected to contact tracing and other staffing changes. The project resumed in December 2020, and planning staff submitted a draft CD to district staff in May 2021. Currently, Sierra District staff is working to finish the draft.

- A Trione-Annadel SP CD draft was submitted to Bay Area District for review and comment on January 13, 2022. Tribal consultation has also begun with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and cultural committee members will be providing comments on the draft. At the discretion of the District Superintendent, planning and district staff will schedule a stakeholder meeting to discuss the CD program and the draft document for the park. The document is on schedule and will be presented to the PAC at the April meeting.
- The CD for Andrew Molera SP has not yet started. The district has been unresponsive to Planning staff inquiries about beginning the project.

### **Reexamining Our Past Initiative**

As presented at previous SPRC meetings, State Parks is taking stock of and critically reexamining our past memorializing efforts, looking specifically at contested histories related to place names, monuments, and interpretation in state parks. In 2022, staff are scheduled to present one facility feature renaming request to the SPRC for recommendation.

State Parks has committed to changing the name of Negro Bar Day Use Area, located in Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Stakeholder and community engagement efforts have been conducted over the past year to identify a new name for the facility. Currently, the District/SPRSD are working with Cultural Resources Division to finalize any research the existing name and engage with statewide stakeholders who have an interest in the existing name, including subject matter experts of scholars, historians, etc.

The District/SPRSD will then draft a Staff Report and that will include a renaming recommendation that will be shared with an advisory group for any further guidance on the renaming. Once a final recommendation(s) has been selected, the Director will be briefed on the proposed recommendation of the new name.

The process by which a facility name is adopted or changed is defined by the California Public Resources Code (PRC), Commission Policy, and State Parks policy. Naming options are researched by staff and recommendations that conform with the PRC and relevant policies are forwarded to the State Parks Director (Director) for consideration. The Director is then authorized to select a preferred name and

forward to the SPRC for either final approval or recommendation, depending on the type of feature being renamed and the authorities of the SPRC.

In the case of the Negro Bar Day Use Area, the District can go directly to the Director with a proposed name change request. However, the Director has identified this naming to have statewide significance and will be asking the SPRC for additional input and guidance. This item is expected to be presented at the next meeting of the SPRC, in June.

### **COMMISSION ACTION(S)**

For review and comment.

### **NEXT STEPS**

As described in each report section.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Associated websites:

[Park Units Index](#)

[General Plans](#)

[Red Rock Canyon State Park](#)

[Cornerstone Documents](#)

[Reexamining Our Past Initiative](#)