

# Sutter's Fort State Historic Park General Plan Amendment

## Primer for Review of the General Plan Amendment for Sutter's Fort SHP

---

In 2020, the California State Parks committed to reassessing historic narratives through the Reexamining Our Past Initiative. State Parks Capital District, in consultation with local tribal partners, developed the 2022 Interpretation Master Plan (IMP) for Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) with the goal of guiding the creation of interpretive experiences that provide inclusive, and accurate explorations of history. The IMP represents a new chapter for Sutter's Fort by including indigenous experiences, history of Sutter's Fort, analysis of its lasting impacts, and its role in California's complicated and sometimes dark history. Due to the nature of a State Historic Park, the interpretation element is a key component of programs and activities at the Fort. The interpretation of history is so embedded in the 1990 General Plan's goals and objectives that an amendment to the General Plan was necessary to incorporate the new interpretive direction, per Public Resource Code 5002.2. The purpose of this Amendment to the General Plan is to update the themes, goals, and strategies for interpretation at Sutter's Fort. To support implementation of the IMP, this Amendment removes restrictions on interpretive approaches in the 1990 General Plan and allows for greater flexibility to pursue visitor experiences that encompass a broader historical perspective of the Fort.

### SFSHP General Plan Amendment

The timeline for preparation of the GPA is:

- The Sutter's Fort SHP General Plan was adopted February 9, 1990.
- The 2022 Interpretation Master Plan was approved by the Planning and Acquisition Committee (PAC) August 14, 2023.
- Efforts to amend the 1990 General Plan kicked off in September 2023.
- The Sutter's Fort SHP General Plan Amendment was approved by the Planning and Acquisition Committee in April 2024.
- Commission hearing for approval of the General Plan Amendment is scheduled for June 11, 2024 [To come]
- The Final General Plan Amendment will be published following the Commission hearing [To come]

### Content of the General Plan Amendment

The General Plan Amendment document consists of the following:

0. 2024 Amendment Summary
1. 1990 General Plan Introduction
2. Resource Element
3. Land Use and Facilities Element
4. Interpretive Element
5. Operations Element

6. Concessions Element
7. Environmental Impact Element
8. Appendix A – 1990 General Plan Appendix
9. Appendix B – 2022 Interpretation Master Plan

In this document, changes were made to the 1990 General Plan. California State Parks transcribed the original plan and made changes based on the interpretive direction of the 2022 IMP. All changes made to the document are a reflection of the IMP's move towards an open and honest discussion of the past. You will see these changes reflected as strikeouts where information in the document is no longer relevant or are in conflict with the interpretive direction discussed in the IMP and has been replaced with recommendations, goals, themes, and/or objectives from the IMP. The most impactful and substantive updates are contained in the Interpretive Element of the General Plan Amendment. The amendment expands interpretation at the park from the limited scope of interpretive tools and resources identified in the 1990 plan to a broader understanding of the history before, during, and after the Fort's operational period. In alignment with the current IMP, State Parks will have greater flexibility to utilize existing interior rooms and exterior spaces with the aid of an extensive range of interpretive tools such as modern exhibits and displays that are not bound to any one interpretive period or method.

This document proposes no structural alterations or additions to the existing footprint of the Fort. There are no significant impacts to the environment as all changes will be to interpretive content and not the structures or landscape.

### Next Steps

The Draft General Plan Amendment will be considered by the Commission for certification and adoption as the Final General Plan Amendment.

### Content of the Final General Plan Amendment

This document will include a revised reprint of the 1990 document along with a copy of the Resolution approving the General Plan Amendment inserted into the document. The Final SFSHP Final General Plan Amendment will finalize the amending text, including the Amendment Summary which describes the changes that have been made to the document. Finally, text identified with strikeouts in the draft General Plan Amendment will be removed for the Final Amendment.