

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Project consists of the construction and operation of new camping facilities (i.e., low-cost visitor-serving accommodations) and associated infrastructure within the Park. More specifically, the Proposed Project would result in the construction and operation of new low-cost overnight accommodations consisting of nine (9) cabins and related infrastructure. The Project would be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and with State Parks’ 2015 Accessibility Guidelines. The proposed improvements include the following:

- Nine (9) prefabricated hard wall camping cabins with accessible ramps and exterior amenities (e.g., picnic table, fire pit, etc.)
- A comfort station (combination restroom and shower building) consisting of three (3) lavatories and three (3) showers,
- Renovation of the existing parking lot,
- Internal campground paths,
- Split rail cedar fencing around the outer perimeter of the site to preclude access and associated direct and indirect effects to adjacent sensitive habitats (i.e., riparian),
- Infrastructure improvements, including extending existing utilities to the site and upgrading existing water distribution lines and sanitary sewer facilities,
- Restoration and landscaping in temporarily disturbed areas, as well as other associated environmental enhancements to create, restore, and enhance existing habitat values, and
- Other miscellaneous site improvements (e.g., signage, interpretive elements, maintenance, lighting, fire hydrants, etc.).

MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation Measures – Biological Resources

- 4.3-1** State Parks shall implement the following Best Management Practices measures during all phases of construction (i.e., pre-, during, and post-):
- A qualified biologist will conduct an Employee Education Program for the construction crew prior to construction activities. The qualified biologist will meet with the construction crew at the onset of construction at the project site to educate the construction crew on the following: a review of the project boundaries; all special-status species that may be present, their habitat, and proper identification; the specific mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the construction effort; the general provisions and protections afforded by the regulatory agencies; and the proper procedures if a special-status animal is encountered within the project site.
 - Trees and vegetation not planned for removal or trimming, and sensitive habitats immediately adjacent to the project site will be protected prior to and during construction to the maximum extent possible with protective fencing. A biological monitor will supervise the installation of protective fencing and monitor at least once per week until construction is complete to ensure that the protective fencing remains intact. Protective fencing may include straw bales, protective wood barriers, or orange construction fencing. Only certified

weed-free straw will be used to avoid the introduction of non-native, invasive species.

- Following construction, State Parks will restore all disturbed areas to pre-project contours to the maximum extent possible and revegetate using locally occurring native species and native erosion control seed mix, per the recommendations of a qualified biologist.
- Grading, excavating, and other activities that involve substantial soil disturbance shall be planned and implemented in consultation with a qualified hydrologist, engineer, or erosion control specialist, and will utilize standard erosion control techniques to minimize erosion and sedimentation to native vegetation and sensitive habitats.
- All trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the construction site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

4.3-2 State Parks shall implement the following measures to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species:

- All landscaping, planting, and seeding will use native species from local stock, approved by State Parks.
- Any landscaping or replanting required for the project shall not use species listed as noxious by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (“CDFA”).
- Bare and disturbed soil will be landscaped with CDFAs recommended seed mix or plantings from locally adopted species to preclude the invasion on noxious weeds in the project site.
- Before mobilizing to arrive at the construction site and before leaving the construction site, construction equipment shall be cleaned of mud or other debris that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds and inspected to reduce the potential of spreading noxious weeds.
- All non-native, invasive plant species shall be removed from disturbed areas prior to replanting.

4.3-3 Construction activities that may affect nesting raptors and other protected avian species can be timed to avoid the avian nesting season (February 1 through September 15). Specifically, vegetation and/or tree removal can be scheduled between September 16 and January 31. If this is not possible, pre-construction surveys for protected avian species shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 15 days prior to the commencement of construction activities in all areas that may provide suitable nesting habitat that exist in or within 300 feet of the project boundary. If nesting birds are identified during pre-construction surveys, an appropriate buffer should be imposed within which no construction activities or disturbance will take place (generally 300 feet in all directions). A qualified biologist should be on-site during work re-initiation in the vicinity of the nest offset to ensure that the buffer is adequate and that the nest is not stressed and/or abandoned. No work should proceed in the vicinity of an active nest until such time as all young are fledged, as determined by the qualified biologist, or until after September 15 (when young are assumed fledged).

4.3-4 No more than seven days prior to construction, a qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for MDFW nests within the project site and in a buffer

zone 25 feet out from the project site. All nests within 25 feet of the project site shall be flagged for avoidance and protected during project activities. Nests that cannot be avoided shall be manually deconstructed prior to land clearing activities to allow animals to escape harm. If a litter of young is found or suspected, nest material shall be replaced, and the nest shall left alone for two to three weeks before a re-check to verify that young are capable of independent survival before proceeding with nest dismantling.

- 4.3-5** No more than three days prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for western pond turtles and their nests within the project site. If a western pond turtle nest is found, it will be monitored and avoided until the eggs hatch. All western pond turtles discovered within the project site immediately prior to or during project activities shall be allowed to move out of the area of their own volition. If this is not feasible, they shall be captured by a qualified biologist and relocated out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat at least 100 feet upstream or downstream from the project site where the individual was found.
- A qualified biologist will survey the project site and immediately adjacent areas 48 hours before and the morning of the onset of work activities for the presence of CRLF. If any life stage of CRLF is observed, construction activities will not commence until the USFWS is consulted and appropriate actions are taken to allow project activities to continue.
 - During ground disturbing and vegetation removal activities, a qualified biologist shall survey appropriate areas of the construction site daily before the onset of work activities for the presence of CRLF. The qualified biologist shall remain available to come to the site if a CRLF is identified until all ground disturbing activities are completed. If any life stage of CRLF is found and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the qualified biologist shall be contacted, and work shall stop in that area until the CRLF has moved on its own out of the work area and the USFWS has been contacted. Construction activities will not resume until the USFWS is consulted and appropriate actions are taken to allow project activities to continue.
 - After ground disturbing and vegetation removal activities are complete, or earlier if determined appropriate by the qualified biologist, the qualified biologist will designate a construction monitor to oversee on-site compliance with all avoidance and minimization measures. The qualified biologist shall ensure that this construction monitor receives the sufficient training in the identification of CRLF. The construction monitor or the qualified biologist is authorized to stop work if the avoidance and/or minimization measures are not being followed. If work is stopped, the USFWS shall be notified. The qualified biologist and the construction monitor shall complete a daily log summarizing activities and environmental compliance throughout the duration of the proposed project.
 - To prevent inadvertent entrapment of CRLF during project construction, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep will be covered at the close of each working day with plywood or similar materials. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals.

- Only tightly woven fiber netting or similar material may be used for erosion control at the project site. Coconut coir matting is an acceptable erosion control material. No plastic mono-filament matting will be used for erosion control, as this material may ensnare wildlife, including CRLF.
- Because dusk and dawn are often the times when CRLF are most actively foraging and dispersing, all construction activities should cease one half hour before sunset and should not begin prior to one half hour after sunrise.

4.3-7 To protect S-CCC steelhead critical habitat, water quality, and riparian habitat during construction, the following measures shall be included on the construction specifications, with construction oversight by a qualified biological monitor:

- The project contractor shall ensure that trenching, excavating, and any other activities that involve substantial soil disturbance adjacent to riparian habitat and the Big Sur River are implemented in consultation with a qualified hydrologist, engineer, or erosion control specialist, and shall utilize standard erosion control techniques to minimize erosion and sedimentation to these sensitive areas.
- Stationary equipment such as motors, generators, and welders located within 100 feet of the Big Sur River and riparian habitat shall be stored overnight at staging areas and shall be positioned over drip pans.
- No debris, soil, silt, sand, oil, petroleum products, cement, concrete, or washings thereof shall be allowed to enter—or be placed where they may be washed by rainfall or runoff—into riparian areas or the Big Sur River.
- All construction debris and associated materials stored in staging areas shall be removed from the work site upon completion of the project.
- Whenever possible, cleaning or refueling of equipment shall take place within turnouts or staging areas at least 50 feet from riparian areas and the Big Sur River.
- All refueling shall be conducted over plastic bags filled with sawdust or other highly absorbent material. Clean-up materials for spills shall be kept on hand at all times. Any accidental spills of fuel or other contaminants shall be cleaned up immediately.

4.3-8 Riparian habitat shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible. Riparian habitat adjacent to the project site that will not be impacted by the Project shall be protected during construction with protective fencing. Protective fencing shall be installed prior to construction and a biological monitor shall supervise the installation of the fencing and monitor at least once per week until construction is complete to ensure that the protective fencing remains intact. Impacts to riparian habitat shall be quantified during construction and habitat shall be restored following construction. Riparian habitat shall be restored on-site at a 1:1 ratio for temporary impacts and off-site (within PBSSP or within another unit) at a 3:1 ratio for permanent impacts.

4.3-9 Prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall prepare a restoration plan for impacts to riparian habitat. The plan should include, but is not limited to:

- On-site restoration at a 1:1 ratio for temporary impacts,
- Off-site restoration (within PBSSP or within another unit) at a 3:1 for permanent impacts,
- Planting and/or seeding of only locally occurring native species collected from the project vicinity,
- Procedures to control non-native species invasion,
- Provisions to ensure compliance with the requirements of the plan,

- A detailed description of seeding and planting specifications, and
- A description of a monitoring program, including specific methods of vegetation monitoring, data collection and analysis, goals and objectives, success criteria, adaptive management if the criteria are not met, reporting protocols, and a funding mechanism.

Mitigation Measures – Cultural and Tribal Resources

- 4.4-1** To minimize potential impacts to previously unknown or subsurface historical or archaeological resources, a qualified archaeologist shall monitor all ground-disturbing Project activities. All work shall stop if a cultural resource is discovered during construction. A qualified professional will evaluate the resource to determine whether the finding is significant. If the finding is a historical resource or unique archaeological resource, avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation shall be implemented. Work will cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until mitigation can be implemented. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(f), work may continue in other parts of the project site during the implementation of potential resource mitigation (if necessary). State Parks will be responsible for reviewing and approving the mitigation plan in consultation with the qualified professional prior to the resumption of ground-disturbing activities.
- 4.4-2** To minimize potential impacts to unknown buried human remains to less than significant, State Parks will immediately halt work in the event of the discovery or recognition of any human remains. No further excavation or ground disturbing activities will occur at the site or nearby area suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the Monterey County coroner has been contacted in accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the Coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, the Coroner shall ensure that notification is provided to the NAHC within twenty-four hours of the determination, as required by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(c) and PRC 5097. The NAHC shall identify the person or persons it believes to be most likely descended (“MLD”) from the deceased Native American (PRC Section 5097.98). The designated MLD then has 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains (AB 2641). If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work will not resume in the immediate area of the discovery until such time the remains have been appropriately removed from the site.
- 4.4-3** To minimize potential impacts to previously unknown or subsurface tribal cultural resources, Native American tribes shall be notified prior to ground-disturbing activities and shall be allowed to monitor all such activities. All work shall stop if a tribal cultural resource is discovered during construction. The Native American monitor will evaluate the resource to determine whether the finding is significant. If the finding is a historical resource or unique tribal cultural resource, avoidance

measures or appropriate mitigation shall be implemented. Work will cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until mitigation can be implemented. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(f), work may continue in other parts of the project site during the implementation of potential resource mitigation (if necessary). State Parks will be responsible for reviewing and approving the mitigation plan in consultation with the Native American monitor prior to the resumption of ground-disturbing activities.