

State of California – The Resources Agency

Department of Parks and Recreation



Public Notice

Notice of Availability

Draft Environmental Impact Report

for the Proposed Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update

State Clearinghouse # 2022030810

Public Comment Period: January 16 to March 1, 2024

Date: January 15, 2024

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Interested Individuals and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Notice Is Hereby Given that the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has directed the preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) consistent with requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. State Parks is the lead agency under CEQA.

PROJECT TITLE:

Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update

PROJECT LOCATION:

Carnegie SVRA is a 1,533-acre off-highway vehicle (OHV) park overseen by the OHMVR Division (Division) and operated by the Diablo Range District of State Parks. Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) is located within unincorporated Alameda and San Joaquin Counties, approximately 15 miles east of Livermore and 12 miles west of Tracy, as shown in Figure 1. To the north is the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory property. Open space and rural residential areas (i.e., ranchland) are located to the east, west, and south. Carnegie SVRA is largely located on a northern hillside and has been operated as an SVRA since around 1980 when the Department of Parks and Recreation purchased the site and made it a unit of the State Parks System. The original 1,533-acre site had been used by OHVs since the 1940s and was operated as a private motorcycle park from 1970 to 1979 before the Department purchased it. The first General Plan for Carnegie SVRA was approved in 1981. Substantial improvements have been made to Carnegie SVRA since that time.

The OHMVR Division previously prepared a General Plan Revision and associated Program EIR for the original Carnegie SVRA and the adjacent 3,100-acre Alameda and Tesla Expansion Area. While the General Plan Revision was approved and the EIR certified by the OHMVR Commission in 2016, the Commission rescinded these decisions in 2021 as the result of several lawsuits. The lawsuits and subsequent legislation requiring that the Alameda and Tesla Expansion Area not be designated as an SVRA resulted in the Department and the Division electing to prepare a standalone General Plan Update for the Carnegie SVRA. The Department is conducting a separate planning effort for the Alameda and Tesla Expansion Area to determine a suitable classification and future use of these properties. Therefore, this proposed General Plan Update and EIR are limited to the 1,533-acre original Carnegie SVRA (Figure 2) and specifically exclude the Expansion Area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

A General Plan is the primary management document for each park unit within the State Park System, including SVRAs. The General Plan establishes the park unit's primary purpose and management direction. An approved General Plan is generally required before State Parks can move forward with site-specific improvements that are beyond minor capital outlay projects. The Division prepared the General Plan Update and associated EIR for Carnegie SVRA to update the long-term management framework set in the 1981 General Plan and establish the foundation for future park improvements. As part of this framework, the General Plan Update describes appropriate recreational opportunities and management strategies for the Carnegie SVRA. The preparation of the

General Plan Update is based on extensive resource and user information developed during the prior planning effort and through ongoing management and operations. The General Plan Update documents existing conditions and includes a proposed land use plan, including specific use areas. Use areas are based on geographic relationships, resource values, management issues, goals, and desired visitor uses and experiences while recognizing that this is an existing OHV park with existing uses. The General Plan Update will also contain goals and guidelines that guide Carnegie SVRA management and provide long-term direction for the development of future facilities. Given that a previous General Plan/EIR is in place, adopted in 1981, this General Plan Update is more specific than other similar SVRA General Plans where no prior General Plan exists. The location and extent of future facility upgrades or additional projects are also described in the General Plan update, and the associated impacts are analyzed in the General Plan Update EIR. If approved, the General Plan Update will supersede the 1981 General Plan and guide long-term and day-to-day management at Carnegie SVRA.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:

The Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR are being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, beginning January 16, 2024. Written comments germane to the environmental review will be considered and responded to in the Final EIR. Written comments should be submitted with a contact name and mailing address for the public record. Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments should be submitted no later than March 1, 2024, to:

Postal:

California State Parks
Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

ATTN: Katie Metraux

Or Email: Planning@parks.ca.gov (subject line CSVRA GP/DEIR Comments)

Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR may be reviewed online at the project website: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30807. The following locations will display the printed copies during normal business hours:

California State Parks, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division
715 P Street, 1st Floor Lobby

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
M-F 8:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Diablo Range District Office
15751 Tesla Rd.
Livermore CA 94550
M-F 8:00 PM to 5:00 PM

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION HEARING

This project will be considered before the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission in a public hearing to be held at a local venue after the public comments are received, State Parks' responses are developed, and a Final EIR is prepared. Notice of the hearing will be mailed to all agencies, organizations, and individuals that have expressed interest.

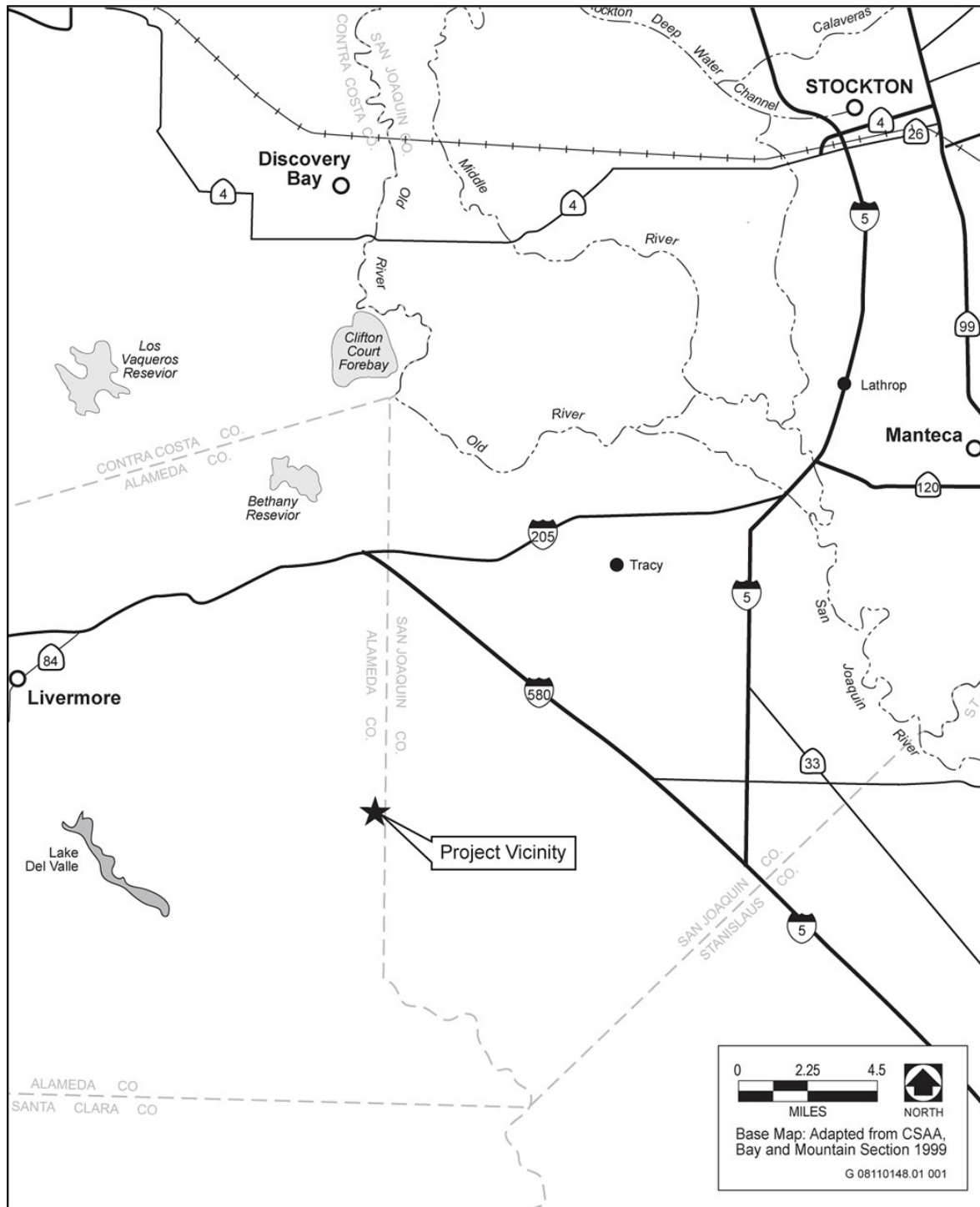


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

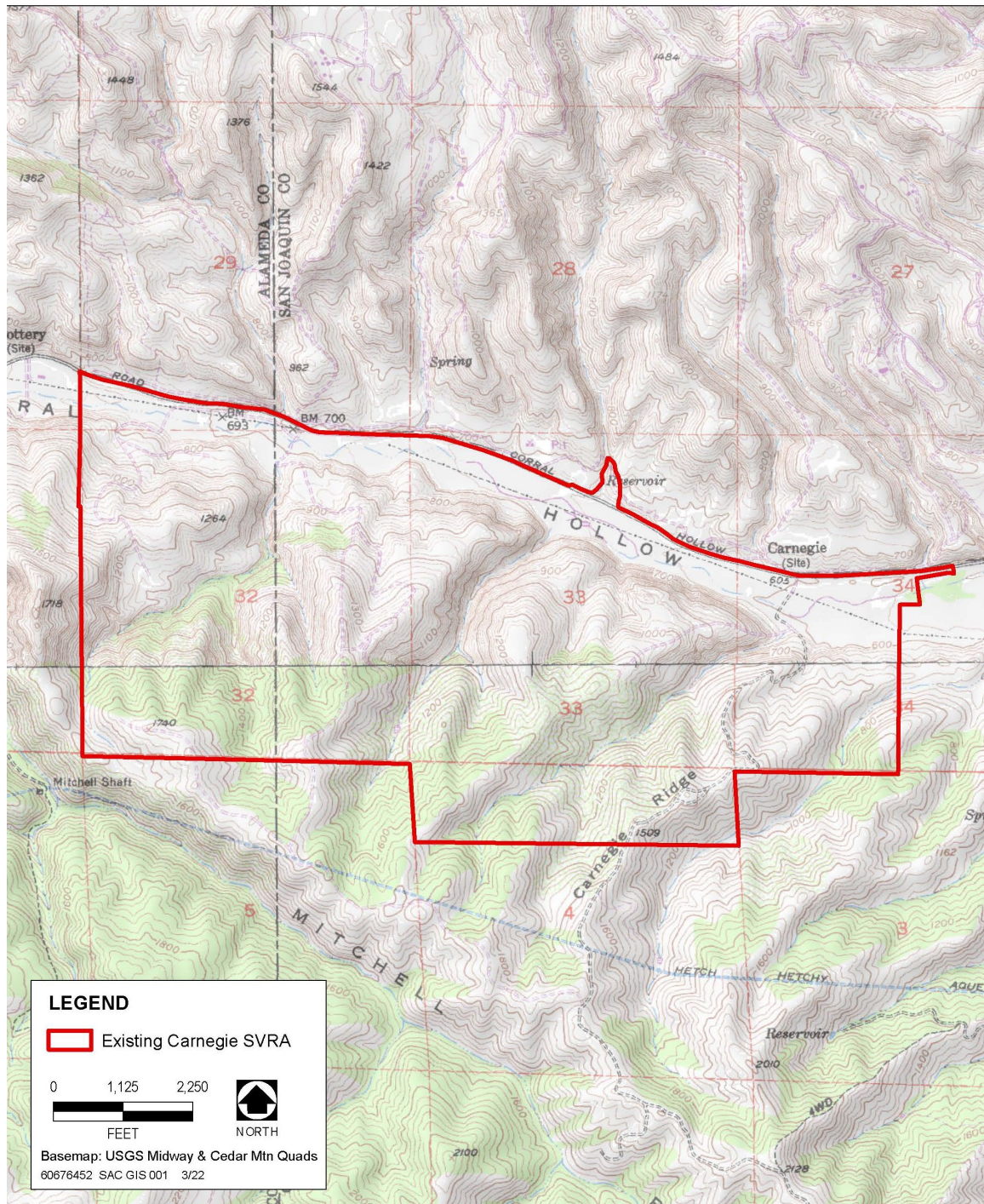


Figure 2. Project Area