

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) / NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) TO ADOPT  
AN INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**Space for Meaningful Outdoor Recreation and Education Project**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and the CEQA Guidelines, the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (“IS/MND”) that identifies and evaluates the environmental effects of the project and presents mitigation for significant impacts.

**Project Title:** Space for Meaningful Outdoor Recreation and Education Project (“Proposed Project”)

**Project Location:** The Proposed Project is located in Andrew Molera State Park (“AMSP” or “the Park”), in northern Big Sur in unincorporated Monterey County, California. AMSP lies approximately 28 miles south of the City of Monterey and is adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. The Park is on the western slope of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, one of California's most rugged landscapes. Los Padres National Forest, including the Ventana Wilderness, is east of AMSP. A combination of National Forest land and mostly undeveloped private property borders the Park to the north and south. State Route (“SR”) 1, which bisects AMSP, serves as the only access to the Park. The Big Sur River meanders through the Park along the west side of SR 1 before the river reaches the Pacific Ocean at the northwest corner of the Park.

The Proposed Project site (“Project site” or “site”) lies in the lower middle section of AMSP and comprises approximately two (2) acres of the 4,800-acre Park.

**Project Description:** The Proposed Project consists of the construction and operation of a permanent camping facility and associated infrastructure designed to support existing organized educational youth and family campouts facilitated by VWS. These facilities would facilitate future expansion of VWS campouts to accommodate 50 campers plus ten (10) staff (60 total peoples) and up to 60 campouts per year. VWS would transport campers in four (4) fifteen-passenger vans, and one (1) support vehicles. The Project would also support future special events or programs permitted by State Parks. The proposed improvements include:

- Two (2) designated tent camp areas that can accommodate a total of sixty (60) people;
- An amphitheater;
- Fire rings;
- A rustic kitchen/dining pavilion with BBQ(s)/Grills and picnic tables;
- Two (2) portable restroom facilities;
- ADA accessible internal decomposed granite pathways; and,
- A designated parking area comprised of one (1) ADA-accessible van parking space.

The Proposed Project also includes a graywater catchment system that would include a dry well for on-site water capture and storage. In addition, the Project also includes bear resistant trash receptacles, for wildlife safe solid waste disposal. The Proposed Project would restore approximately 4,851 square ft of previously disturbed habitat on site with native planting.

**Review Period:** The public comment period begins on **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024** and ends on **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

**Document Availability:** The IS/MND can be viewed and downloaded from the Department of Parks and Recreation's website, under the CEQA notices page for the Central California region, which can be found at the following location: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=982](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=982).

**How to Comment:** Interested parties may provide written comments on the IS/MND, which must be **received** no later than 5 p.m. on **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

Written comments on the IS/MND may be provided via email to:

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Contact: Daniel Shaw  
email: [Daniel.Shaw@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Shaw@parks.ca.gov)

Comments can also be sent by mail to the following address:

State of California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Attn: Daniel Shaw  
2211 Garden Road  
Monterey, CA 93940