



Friends of China Camp, Inc. (FOCC)

Operations Report for China Camp State Park Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Since the Operating Agreement between The State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation and Friends of China Camp was activated on July 27, 2012, FOCC has met its contracted financial and stewardship obligations each quarter which resulted in uninterrupted funding for DPR/CSP staffing, general operations and maintenance, protection of the natural and cultural features and expansion of interpretive programs. During this third year of the operational contract, the Park and its facilities were open and accessible to the public seven days a week.

In November 2013, FOCC entered into a Partnership Financial Contribution and Matching Fund Agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation which amended previous agreements. Operations and maintenance of Tomales Bay State Park and Olompali State Historical Park continued under CSP management and FOCC/MSPA provided monetary support from donations and matching funds through FY 2014-2015.

FOCC maintained operator status for China Camp State Park in partnership with CSP through the 2014-2015 FY per amendment signed in November 2013.

FOCC is currently negotiating with DPR to enter into a new operational agreement to cover the period from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. (See FOCC Operations Plan for 2015-2016)

I. Keeping China Camp State Park open, accessible and thriving

FOCC's primary goals during the 2011-2012 "Save the Park" campaign were to insure that all the Park facilities would be open to visitors 365 days a year and that these visitors would have the opportunity to experience the exceptional natural and cultural features of China Camp in a well-cared-for environment.

During this third fiscal year of the operational contract, all facilities of the park remained open daily.

II. Friends of China Camp (FOCC) organization changes

Due to the increased responsibilities of FOCC as park operator and the size and complexity of its operating budget, changes to the organizational structure were initiated in 2013/2014. These included incorporating with the California Secretary of State to limit the liability of board members, revising and expanding the Bylaws, and filing with the IRS for 501(c)(3) status, adopting new conflict of interest and notice policies (to reflect more common current use of electronic communication). All these changes were intended to make FOCC a more agile organization and one that meets state and federal legal requirements.

FOCC, Inc. received approval of its own 501 (c)(3) status on September 16, 2014. Previously FOCC operated as a subcommittee under the umbrella group Marin State Parks Association (MSPA). While FOCC, Inc. continues as a subcommittee of MSPA for some purposes, all duties, and responsibilities under the operating agreement are now those of FOCC Inc. DPR approval of the amendment to the operating agreement reflecting the change was received on March 25, 2015. Transition legally and financially from FOCC to FOCC, Inc. is in process.

III. Revenue Building, Financial Oversight, and Distribution of Funds

a. Improved park use fee collection technology

The on-going operational costs of running China Camp State Park required the implementation of day-use fees at the Park during FY 2012-2013. As part of FOCC's emphasis on equitable public access, parking and trail use fees continue to remain at the same levels. The processing of Annual Parking and Trail Usage Passes continues to be done on-site in the park office, expediting the receipt of passes for purchasers.

Day-use and parking fees and annual passes continue to be collected via strategically placed VenTek pay-stations that accept both cash and credit cards. The low-revenue pay station previously located at the Miwok Meadows gate, which was moved last FY to the Shoreline trail head by the Ranger Station, has seen a large increase in revenue since the completion of the Shoreline Trail renovations. Passes were also available for purchase at the FOCC website. Iron-rangers were maintained which accept cash and checks. These payment options offer convenient choices to park visitors.

Longer hours of operation have resulted in increased park use and funding potential. FOCC is promoting reserved fee-based, day-use opportunities for recreational programs and varied activities.

b Financial accountability

FOCC collaborated closely with CSP and MSPA to insure compatibility among the financial tracking systems using QuickBooks for Non-Profits. To further improve real time financial tracking, QuickBooks On-Line was installed this FY to allow for multi-person access to records simultaneously. FOCC is currently shifting all of its “MSPA-based” accounts and various automatic deposits into those of FOCC, Inc.

The following three levels of funds were overseen during the FY:

- (1) CSP Matching Funds,
- (2) CSP Contingency Funds and
- (3) CCSP Unexpended Revenue and FOCC, Inc. Revenue

(1) CSP Matching Funds

As a result of Legislative Action in the 2012-2013 FY, matching state funds were made available to FOCC with a use-by, or commitment to use-by date of June 30, 2014. By May 2014, FOCC and MSPA had fulfilled all obligations to DPR in cash, volunteer hours and in-kind expenses to secure all the match funds. These matching funds for CCSP totaled \$ 998,764 and were used for, or committed to be used for, the following purposes.

1. CSP Operations and Expenses
2. Restoration of sections of Shoreline Trail to DPR standards

These funds matched generous donations received from the community, including individuals, foundations, other non-profit organizations and businesses as well as credits applied to tens of thousands of hours of volunteer service.

(2) CSP Contingency Funds

According to the operating agreement, cash contribution of \$363,000 from FOCC was kept in a CSP contingency account and not to be used until all match funds are expended. Somehow due to unexpected CSP accounting methods, \$80,000 was used and cannot be reversed. By the end of the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year, it was reported that there was \$283,000 in the account. Financial reporting from CSP during the 2014-2015 FY had been challenging.

Monthly accounting of CSP expenses had been sporadic and accuracy is questionable. The latest report received showed expenditure of \$223,363 for the Fiscal Year. That would mean there is \$59,637 left in the account.

(3) CCSP Unexpended Revenue and FOCC, Inc. Revenue

During this FY, FOCC funds have continued to pay for porta-jon servicing at Miwok Meadows and the Group Campsite, several replacement picnic tables and barbecue grills and two informational display panels, and a large cache of trail maintenance tools, as well as many other operations expenses.

In addition to these funds, substantial in-kind contributions were received in the form of materials and labor to upgrade the public Village Pier, salvage and berth the historical boat St. Erina, provide additional office furniture for the Natural History Center and Ranger Station, and Map Boxes/Mountain Bike Repair Kits.

At the end of FY 2014-2015, FOCC had net assets of \$ 914,455 with \$889,727 in cash. We experienced gross income of \$421,843 with \$383,948 in Park Revenue. FOCC total expenses for this FY was \$74,527.

IV. Day to Day Operational Functions

Regular California State Parks CSP/FOCC operational meetings and working group meetings were held to share information, resolve issues and make decision regarding day to day operations

a. Collaboration and Division of Duties between FOCC and CSP

Operating the Park under the terms of the operational contract between DPR and FOCC has been a new experience for both entities and required ongoing clarification of duties and procedures and establishment of effective communication channels. While accounting for FOCC revenue and expenses has been streamlined and data readily available, accounting for CSP expenses continues to be a challenge. Reporting for actual CSP expenses has been months behind. The time lag has made identification and resolution of discrepancies and irregularities more difficult, and financial planning less reliable.

b. State Park staffing

The following California State Park positions were funded

- 1 full time Peace Officer/Park Ranger
- 1 full time Maintenance Worker I
- 2 Seasonal Park Aides
- 2 Seasonal Maintenance Aides

We experienced periods of understaffing due to vacations, illnesses and retirements. We were told that even though we contracted and provided funding for the above staffing level, there is not enough staff in the sector and district to cover absences. As a result, there is a noticeable drop in services and upkeep of the park. We are actively working with sector and district staff to solve this challenge.

c. Operations handled through volunteer support

We have no paid positions to assist in the FOCC segment of operational responsibilities. Core volunteers handled such responsibilities as collection of park-user fees, vendor contracts, park use permitting and special events, educational/interpretive programs as well as oversight, strategic planning, administration needs, financial planning, accounting, fundraising, volunteer coordination and community relations among others.

d. Communication Systems

FOCC continues to pay for the WiFi internet connection which was established in 2013-2014 to serve camp hosts, CSP staff and volunteers working at the Back Ranch campgrounds and road-head Kiosk. This allowed for easier communications regarding camp reservations, visitor services and other operational needs. The installation cost was contributed by CSP.

Some sections of the park have poor or nonexistent cell phone coverage for most carriers. We have mapped out trails and other public areas of the park as to the degree of cell phone coverage, and made this information available on volunteer days in case of emergency. On volunteer days, the crews keep in touch by using a combination of cell phones and walkie-talkies.

Ongoing communication among board members and core volunteers is maintained by e-mail and a password secured administrative section of the website, which contains an updated calendar and copies of board minutes, committee notes, and key documents.

V. Maintenance, Stewardship and Capital Improvement

a. Park Informational Signage

Two new ADA approved informational display panels were approved for installation at Bullet Hill trail head and at Backranch kiosk.

b Trail Survey Work

A GPS system was developed last FY to more precisely identify the location of reported emergencies and to pin-point areas on the 15 miles of park trails that require maintenance. The system also provides information that helps FOCC/CSP plan for needed trail and grounds improvements over the long term. A Trail Survey of Shoreline Trail was used by CSP and FOCC for planning appropriate treatment for each segment of trail. Similar Trail Survey work was begun on Bayview and Oak Ridge Trails as well.

c. Trails Maintenance and Restoration Project

The Trails Work Group is a committee of the FOCC that is tasked with the restoration and long term maintenance of the trail system in China Camp State Park. The Work Group is led by a board member and two core volunteers.

The goals for the Work Group are:

- The restoration of the full trail system to current CSP Multi-use Trail Standards.
- The development of trails maintenance standards for CCSP Training VIPP volunteers capable of executing both construction and maintenance work.
- Restoration of the fire roads within CCSP
- Developing “Best Practices” that make the volunteers experience both fun and productive.

Achievements for the past fiscal year:

- Over 14 successful volunteer work days and 18 different crews on the trails
- On track to complete the first trail section done entirely by volunteers
- Oversight and support for the CCC Trail spikes in completion of 3 miles of the Shoreline Trail.
- Over 1000 Volunteer hours on the trails, with an additional 125-150 hours anticipated in June.
- Over 200 VIPP hours dedicated to the trails.
- New equipment inventory capable of supporting over 20 volunteers on site.

- An understanding of safety, maintenance and reporting of DPR equipment use

The Working Group addressed the following challenges:

- Recruiting VIPP volunteers with diverse talents such as equipment operators, experienced trail builders, volunteer management and motivation and general management skills.
- The increased logistical difficulty in working on the Bayview Trail.
- Funding for additional CCC contracts.
- Funding for materials and equipment for trails reconstruction.
- Managing the long term for both building and maintaining the trails.
- Developing a working relationship with the biking community to both meet the needs of the park and the desires of our bicyclists.
- Creating a written Trail Operations Manual and development of formal training for VIPP volunteers.

d. Campground Improvements and Management

The Group Campsite, since January 2015, has been available for reservation on Reserve America, which has substantially increased revenue from that area.

e. Addressing Vandalism

FOCC continued to partner with Marin County Bicycle Coalition to address illegal trails and prevention of bike related problems. Rehabilitation of damaged areas was periodically accomplished through the efforts of park staff, the Coalition and other volunteers. There is routine monitoring of the rehabilitation work and if it has been tampered with, volunteers quickly repair the area to discourage renewed use of those areas. Expanded volunteer foot and bike patrols also provide a visible deterrent and are able to report problem areas in a timely manner. FOCC contributed to Trail Partners, a collaborative between Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Marin Horse Council and Marin Conservation League focused on trail safety and resource protection. Trail Partners launched a trail etiquette campaign in June called “Slow & Say Hello”. FOCC has placed their informational handout at the ranger station and campgrounds to encourage safe trail use and to reinforce an appreciation for the parks wildlife and natural habitat.

f. Village Improvements

FOCC volunteers worked to maintain and stabilize the Village's historic fishing equipment including the shrimp shaker, the shrimp cooking vat, and boat ways engine. FOCC also coordinated the in-kind donation and installation of six pier pilings, replacing dangerously rotted ones. FOCC volunteers also installed new roofing material on one of the historic structures, and rebuilt five of the pier ladders. FOCC volunteers continued the restoration of the engine and hull of the historic fishing vessel St. Erina, intended for interpretive display and demonstration at the pier.

VI. Improved Web Site and Email Services

The website, www.friendsofchinacamp.org which was developed during the Save the Park Campaign, continued as a key bridge to visitors and supporters of the Park. It includes information on park amenities, fees, reservations, park programs, and in-depth natural and cultural history. Information regarding how community members may become involved as volunteers and supporters is emphasized. The website provided updates regarding current events and issues of importance to the park as well as access to FOCC annual operational reports and media coverage. Links to partners and areas of interest were provided.

FOCC currently uses Vertical Response to notify our supporters of upcoming events. Further development of a periodic newsletter is underway. An extensive consultation project with the California State Parks Foundation Technical Assistance Team has just begun which will result in a better coordinated and integrated website and e-mail procedures. This process is expected to be completed in November 2015.

Plans have been developed to convert the current website, which is in HTML format, to a more content management system. Current volunteers are able to keep the site up to date, but are very limited in the ability to make other changes. A grant was awarded to FOCC from the California State Parks Foundation which will provide financial support for conversion of the website to a more manageable format.

VII. Volunteer Services

Volunteers continued to be of extreme value to the park's operation, services, and maintenance.

FOCC continued to work with CSP in expanding the Volunteers in Parks Program at China Camp which provided certified volunteers who supported and participated in the Natural History Docent program, in Ranger Station coverage, in expanded Foot Trail Patrol, Trail Maintenance, Village Docent activities, and in Bike Patrol. FOCC also recruited a volunteer professional videographer, who filmed a VIPP training and donated the files that will potentially be used for CSP online training. During this FY, CSPF Park Champions workdays, which add much needed trail work and other projects, were held on a regular monthly basis. FOCC continued to host a Coastal Clean-up Day at China Camp Village. Other FOCC volunteers are regularly involved in handling administrative duties, maintenance projects, in working groups and in the development and implementation of educational programs.

a. Park Champions Volunteer Workdays (CSPF Program)

Three FOCC volunteers, trained by CSPF, continue as workday project leaders. Monthly Park Champion workdays, sponsored and promoted by the California State Parks Foundation, were planned and implemented to address China Camp needs such as trail maintenance, erosion control and vegetation clearance, fence repairs, etc. Each workday brought in volunteers valuable to the stewardship of parklands and structures. In addition, work crews from corporations and other nonprofit organizations provided valuable trail and Village work.

From July 2014 through May 2015, fourteen (14) CSPF events were scheduled; two were cancelled due to rain. The volunteer hours totaled just over 800 hours of actual trail work and about 200 hours of preparation, clean up and reporting. In addition to volunteers, Service Park Aides and Maintenance Aides provided over 50 hours of help with the trail renovation.

b. Volunteers in Park Program (VIPP) Trail Maintenance Work

During the past year, in addition to CSPF Champion events, eight China Camp Trail Maintenance VIPP's have led and/or participated in four organized volunteer events and worked countless hours providing ad hoc trail maintenance work.

c. Board & Volunteer Development and Participation

In addition to monthly working meetings, members of the FOCC Board and/or key volunteers participated in the annual Park Advocacy Day sponsored by the California State Parks Foundation, the Parks Forward Commission workshops, the Bioneers Conference, the annual California League of Park Associations (CALPA) Conference and in the Center for Volunteers and Nonprofit Leadership programs.

VIII. Media Coverage and Promotion

Marin Mommies: The go-to guide for parents and families in Marin County
July 8, 2014 **“Outdoor Family Fun at Marin’s China Camp State Park”**
Article and numerous photos describing CCSP

Marin IJ, Front Page Feature Article, Mark Prado, July 29, 2014
“Locals Facilitate China Camp Rehab: \$360,000 project: Friends of China Camp raise money, receive matching state funds” California Conservation Corp trail restoration project.

Marin Chinese Cultural Association, August 2014 Newsletter, August 1, 2014
Interview with Ed Lai, Friends of China Camp Board Chair
Full page article regarding the financial status, operations and accomplishments of FOCC on behalf of China Camp State Park.

Marin IJ, In Your Town column, August 4, 2014
“Annual Heritage Day set for China Camp” Heritage Day announcement.
Sat. Aug. 2, 11-4. Events include performances from MCCA Lion Dancers, the Redwood Empire Chinese Assn. dancers, chorus, tai-chi, live music from Stephen Shen, exhibits from the Marin History Museum, SF NERR, Marin Wildlife. Free, \$5 parking, shuttle service from ranger station.

Marin IJ, Front Page Feature Article, Mark Prado. August 11, 2014
“When Hollywood Came To China Camp” filming of *Blood Alley* at CC Village in 1955. Interview with board members Frank Quan, Steve Deering.. Film will be shown as fund raiser 8/20 at *Film Night in the Park* with overview of Chinese racial status during filming and today by Ed Lai.

Marin IJ, Mark Prado, August 21, 2014
“China Camp: Saturday event celebrates Chinese-American heritage”
China Camp Heritage Day Celebration, 11-4, 9/23. “The event at China camp Village brings the community together to celebrate Chinese-American heritage, seafaring culture and the natural history of China Camp State Park, along the shores of San Pablo Bay.”

CBS, Channel 5 (San Rafael KPIX 5), August 29, 2014
“Historians, Artists Revive Legacy of Chinese Shrimp Industry in San Francisco Bay” The team will sail along the sites of some of the 26 shrimp

fishing villages from Suisun to Redwood City in the replica Chinese junk, the Grace Quan and video their journey. Last stop is China Camp State Park.

KQED: Forum with Michael Krasny, September 10, 2014

“Retracing the Bay’s History of Chinese Shrimping”

Guests: Rene Yung of Chinese Whispers and John Muir, curator of small craft for the SF Maritime National Historical Park and leader of the team which constructed the shrimping junk “Grace Quan”. (Board member FOCC)
“At China Camp State Park in Marin County, visitors can still explore the remnants of a 19th century Chinese shrimp fishing village”

Marin IJ, In Your Town, September 13, 2014

CA Coastal Cleanup Day (Earth Day) at CCSP 9/20 beginning at 8:00 am. History chat and tour of China Camp Village was led by Marcie Miller of the Marin History Museum.

San Rafael News Pointer / Marinscope, September 24, 2014

Volunteers put trash in its place: Coastal Cleanup Day 9/20

“Roughly 20 volunteers at China Camp collected what was expected to be a record haul for the park. Among the bottles and cans, one lucky volunteer found a \$5 bill. Photo Board member Ernie Stanton with collected trash.

Marin IJ, Mark Prado October 8, 2014

Touring Parks from the Couch: Google technology photo-maps Marin outdoor facilities and trails. CCSP listed as one of five Marin Co. State Parks included in Google Photo-Maps that document parks and trails. Viewing available through Parks.ca.gov and Google Street View
Trekker

SF Chronicle, Bike About Town column, Kristin Smith, Nov. 26, 2014

Three Stellar Bay Are mountain bike rides: includes CCSP. “Try riding in Marin County. One of the best places to start is CCSP near San Rafael”. Recommends Shoreline and Bay View trails; provides route information to the park.

Traveler’s Choice online **“Trip Advisor” 2014 Certificate of Excellence for China Camp State Park as an outdoor destination:** hiking, camping, mountain biking

CVNC “Hearts of Marin” annual awards luncheon. January 8, 2015

Board members represented FOCC at the annual Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership awards. **(Friends of China Camp was nominated in the “Achievement in Nonprofit Excellence” category).**

Marin IJ, Mark Prado, feature article< January 28, 2015

China Camp State Park: TRAIL WORK PROGRESSES: Renovation will make 6-mile stretch a safer hiking site for users. Text and photos give update regarding trail renovation progress and future work schedule along Shoreline Trail.

Marin IJ, photo and caption, Local News, March 16, 2015

Marin Weather: Dog Days of March. Photo of upper Village picnic area.

“Picknickers enjoy a warm day Sunday at China Camp State Park in San Rafael”

California Parklands: quarterly newsletter of the CA State Parks Foundation
Article by Phoebe Oelhein, Program Coordinator, Spring issue, 2015

Park Champions Volunteer Program: Park Champions Keep China Camp Thriving Two page article and photos recognizing the work of FOCC volunteers and board members Joyce Abrams, Andy Kives, Ed Westbrook and Ed Lai for their work in support of CCSP and the Park Champions program. The article features an overview of the major trail restoration project in progress at CCSP and successful partnership with CSP, CCC and volunteers.

Pacific Sun, March 27, 2015

China Camp State Park voted Best Place to Bike for the second straight year in the Pacific Sun Best of Marin 2015 Readers’ poll.

Marin IJ, photos by James Cacciatore, March 29, 2015

Volunteers Renovate Trail: Two shifts of volunteers spent three hours with the CA State Parks Foundation to renovate a well-worn section of the Bayview Trail in China Camp State Park in San Rafael.

Marin IJ, This, that and the other thing column, June 24, 2015

A reception for **“China Camp: A Photographic Journey”** with photographer Osher Levi at Osher Marin JCC. Free

IX. Interpretive / Educational Programs

a. Natural History Center

The natural history display area at the Ranger Station was developed into the Natural History Center with enhanced interpretive displays and materials in 2012-2013. Staffed by volunteers, the center provided visitors with an opportunity to become acquainted with the wildlife and other natural features of the Park. In addition, information regarding interpretive programs, trails, camping and other services were provided.

b. Natural History Interpretive Programs

Training Series: We have not held any formal training of new docents this year. The Park in general plans to focus on volunteer recruitment in the coming year.

Nature Walks: A new series of natural history walks were offered this year, one per month, and led by well-known and respected Marin County and Bay Area naturalists. The program has been very successful, with each walk filling to capacity, and in some cases resulting in offering an additional walk that month. Walk topics this year include wildlife tracking, migrating birds, wildflowers, salt marsh ecosystems, King Tides, and Miwok history, each led by an acknowledged expert in that topic. Most are family friendly but a few are targeted for adults and seniors.

Campfire Programs: From April through October, Natural History interpretive volunteers provided between three and four campfire programs per month for campers at Back Ranch Meadows. These were supplemented in late Fall and Winter months with campfire programs as we had enough campers and/or upon request. The campfire programs included topics such as endangered salt marsh animals and habit, the history of mountain biking at China Camp, specific animals (owls, coyotes, raccoons, wild turkeys) or animal interdependencies. We also offered an astronomy evening at the campground once a month, led by a local astronomer.

c. Ongoing Stewardship and Interpretive Partners:

MSEL: An ongoing partnership was developed with the Marin School for Environmental Leadership at Terra Linda High School. This is the fourth year we have been working with them on long-term projects, such as a presentation to elementary schools on China Camp's endangered species, an interpretive signage project, and the recently completed campfire project--chosen by the MSEL students in response to a project framework and supervised by FOCC and State Parks personnel. We also had our first MSEL senior intern this year, four hours a week for the entire school year; she assisted with visitor data collection and entry, developed a new campfire program topic, and helped with Visitor Services at the Ranger Station. Our new intern for the coming school year has already been selected and will start in September. We will also be working with a group of MSEL freshmen in the Fall and Spring of 2015/16.

Venetia Valley K-8: We continued our ongoing program with Venetia Valley k-8, one of our local schools, with both a school visit and a natural history China Camp field trip.

The Marin School: In addition, we have begun a stewardship partnership with The Marin School, a local independent high school. 90 students came out for a three hour service project (primarily trail work), and then 30 of those students returned for a combined natural and cultural field trip related to their academic studies.

The California Conservation Corps, working for several months at China Camp on our trail restoration, requested and received two enthusiastically received natural history presentations (which are part of the CCC's required educational component) this year.

East Bay Regional Parks: By request, we organized an information session about the role of FOCC for 25 staff members of the East Bay Regional Park system. They would like to return to share further ideas about natural and cultural history interpretation approaches.

NERR: Our partnership with the National Estuarine Research Reserve continues to grow. Working with the NERR Education Director, we are in the process of developing our first Citizen Science project, to be launched in the Fall of 2015. We also received through NERR a grant for an interpretive exhibit on ocean debris to be installed at China Camp within the next few months. We hope to collaboratively develop interpretive curriculum to accompany this exhibit. Staff from NERR also led natural history walks related to the annual winter "King Tides", the salt marsh, sea level rise indicators, and endangered species at China Camp.

d. School and Youth Organization, Seniors Tours:

We have also provided an increasing number of natural history docent guided field trips this year, including a group of 120 fifth graders from one school and 80 elementary students from another, as well as a hiking group and a biking group.

By request we have also done several Junior Ranger programs for Girl Scout Troops, families groups and others (often camping in the Group campground). These programs follow the formats suggested in the Junior Ranger manual.

e. Outdoor Education Center

Site planning and program development continued on this potential major project, an educational center which will be located adjacent to the Ranger Station. The scope of the project is still under consideration, but may consist of an open pavilion and development of the surrounding area for class/program activities, a native plants demonstration garden and other features. Visits were made to State Parks and other facilities to learn more about the planning and construction of similar Outdoor Education Centers, and in particular we received detailed architectural plans from the completed Education Center at Clear Lake State Park. Funding and scope are major next steps to be considered.

f. China Camp Fishing Village Museum

The museum, which is housed in one of the historic structures along the waterfront at China Camp Village, provided exhibits and interpretive displays about the history of the village and the Chinese shrimp fishing industry.

Six dedicated docents, one of whom speaks Mandarin and Cantonese, staffed the museum on weekends during the high season and gave tours by appointment for school groups, scout troops, senior citizens, and others.

Several videos and CDs on China Camp and on San Francisco Bay were played for various groups according to their interests.

g. College level course on China Camp State Park's cultural and natural history

The well-received history course developed by FOCC and NERR, "*China Camp State Park: A Unique Cultural and Natural Resource*" was again presented through the Community Education Department, College of Marin, with one class on campus and a field trip to China Camp. Speakers included a FOCC/VIPP cultural history docent and a scientist/educator from the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Participants studied and experienced first-hand the interwoven natural and cultural history of China Camp's marshes and mudflats, with an emphasis on the historic China Camp Village, a once-thriving shrimping village established by Chinese immigrants.

X. Special Events

This third year of FOCC operations again focused primarily on operational needs. However we were able to offer the following events which were free to the public except for parking fees, optional food and China Camp related purchases.

Heritage Day Aug. 26, 2014. This annual all-day family oriented event celebrated the cultural history of China Camp State Park.

Film Nights in the Park June and August 2014. These events offered visitors a chance to experience the Park at night along the scenic San Pablo Bay at the historic village while viewing quality films. A special fund-raising showing of *Blood Alley*, which was filmed at China Camp Village, was preceded by a talk by FOCC board president regarding attitudes and laws affecting Chinese immigrants during the time portrayed in the film.

Chinese Whispers China Camp celebration Sept. 14, 2014

CCSP was the last stop on a program that connected local sites to the larger history of Chinese shrimp fishing in the Bay. An interdisciplinary team was led by CW Director Rene Yung, along with John C. Muir, FOCC board member, Archaeologist and Curator of Small Craft at the SF Maritime National Historical Park. Muir, who built the replica Chinese junk - the Grace Quan - piloted the group around the Bay to retrace the forgotten 100 year history of Chinese Fishing on SF Bay.

Public Meeting - FOCC FY 2013-2014 Operations Report Nov. 8, 2014
FOCC and CSP representatives provided reports and led audience discussions regarding the state of the park and its operations and plans for next FY.

Coastal Cleanup Day celebrated at CCSP. Sept.8, 2014

Marin Historical Museum and San Rafael Boy Scout Troop 101, with FOCC, gathered over 120 pounds of trash. This was followed by a tour at CCSP

China Camp: A Photographic Journey June 24, 2015

Exhibition and fundraiser at Osher Marin JCC featured the work of Osher Levi and a presentation about the park by a FOCC representative. A portion of the sales were donated to FOCC. Reception free.

XI. Building Partnerships

a. New and expanded partnerships and joint projects

During the Save the Park campaign, numerous alliances were formed and continued in support of operations and enhanced visitor experiences in recreation, natural and cultural history and park appreciation. These groups

include cultural associations, educational institutions at various levels, conservation organizations, historical societies, community services groups, foundations, clubs and government agencies. A few of these include Dominican University of California, College of Marin, Marin School of Environmental Leadership, Marin Chinese Cultural Association, Marin County Bicycle Coalition, National Estuarine Research Reserve, WildCare, etc. FOCC joined Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Marin Conservation League and Marin Horse Council as Trail Partners in sponsoring the development of the Roads and Trails Management Plan, a program to address trail safety and resource protection through education and outreach efforts in the park.

XII. Financial Status

The Friends of China Camp financial reports for FY 2014-2015 operations of China Camp State Park are attached.



This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp. Submitted August 3, 2015.

Ed Lai

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