



Friends of China Camp (FOCC)

PLAN FOR the OPERATION of CHINA CAMP STATE PARK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

We are pleased to submit the Friends of China Camp operating plan for FY 2013-2014, our second year as operator of China Camp State Park in partnership with the California State Parks. The operating plan is in keeping with the original Operating Partnership Agreement signed in July 2012 and it should be assumed that efforts will be made to adhere to the terms of that agreement.

Information regarding Park hours, fees, reservations, interpretive programs and events, and safety regulations will be posted on our website at www.friendsofchinacamp.org.

Contact information including the Park phone number (415-456-0766), the FOCC phone number (415-488-5161), and the FOCC email friendsofchinacamp@gmail.com will also be included.

1. Hours of Operation

Due to their popularity and success in promoting greater visitor access, FOCC plans to keep the operating hours the same as the previous fiscal year.

- a. The Park will remain open seven days a week. 365 days a year, from 8:00 a.m. to sunset.
- b. The bayside day-use locations including the Village, Buckeye Point, Weber Point, Bullhead Flat, and China Camp Point will remain open from 9:00 a.m. to sunset daily except for special evening events at the Village when the hours may be extended.
- c. The Campgrounds will continue being available seven days a week throughout the year. Check-in time will be after 2:00 p.m. Check-out time will be by 12:00 noon. The campground gate at San Pedro Road will close and be locked at 9:00

p.m. There will be a 7 day camping limit between April 1 and October 30. The rest of the year there will be a 15 day limit with an annual limit of 30 days.

- d. We are evaluating which FOCC functions would best be served by full or part-time paid positions, the costs involved, and potential funding resources. Clearly at some point we will need some paid staff to handle day to day operations like accounting, permits, reservations and passes.

2. Fee Schedule

Because of the porous nature of the Park, there are no entrance gates and no way to collect admission fees at all the entry points. During the previous year, FOCC has assessed what reasonable fee schedule the public is willing to accept and which will still provide the needed revenues for operation. Pay stations were installed to aid in collection. In mid-year we plan to review the financial revenues and expenses and determine whether any fees should be modified. The planned fees for 2013-2014 are:

a. Parking at designated lots: Daily fees

Passenger cars \$5.00 (includes trail use for four passengers)

Buses up to 24 passengers \$20.00

Buses with 25 or more passengers \$40.00

b. Trail Use: Daily fee

\$3.00 for hikers, bikers and equestrians

c. Annual Passes:

Parking passes include trail use passes for up to four people. \$60.00

Trail use only passes : \$35.00

d. Campgrounds fees:

Individual campsites with a capacity of 8 campers each are \$35 per night.

Group campsite with a capacity of 40 campers is \$175 per night.

Hike & bike sites with a capacity of 8 campers per site are \$5.00 per person

Winter camping (Nov 1st -May 1st) Sunday-Thursday is \$25 for both tent sites and En Route, \$35 on Fridays, Saturdays

e. Permitted day-use fees for picnic grounds at Buckeye Point and Weber Point

Reservations are made by contacting Reserve America: (800) 444-7275

Or through the FOCC website at www.friendsofchinacamp.org

f. Permitted day-use fees at other sites

Fees at Miwok Meadows, The Village and China Camp Point are dependent upon the nature of site use, the numbers of people attending, hours of use, and special conditions or circumstances such as the presence of alcohol at the event which requires additional staff time.

3. Special Event Plan with Fee Schedule

The first year of operations concentrated upon the details of the administrative and general operational aspects and special events were planned as staffing and opportunities arose. It is our intension to organize special events in the coming year which will be in keeping with the recreational, cultural and natural history aspects and mission of the Park. It is also our intention to promote a community spirit through these events and maintain a fee structure that encourages visitor involvement and is therefore, not exclusive. Fees will be determined for each event according to its scope and projected expenses involved. Fund raising events will be marketed as such and an appropriately larger fee will be assessed.

a. Examples of Cultural and Community Events:

- Annual Heritage Day Celebration: no fees except for \$5.00 parking.
- Film Nights in the Park: donation only, but FOCC receives a large percentage of food/beverage sales.

b. Examples of Recreational and Environment Related Events:

- Triathlon / Half Marathon
- Cycling
- King Tide interpretive walk with NERR staff (with King Tide Initiative photo opportunities)
- Loch Lomond Community sailing School Outings.
- Dolphin Club Annual Rowing and Swimming Regata
- Master Mariners Benevolent Association Summer Sail-in.

4. Natural Resource Protection Plan

- a. FOCC will continue to partner with CSP, with CSP taking the lead to plan and implement review actions and procedures that meet legal requirements for

compliance with approved planning documents, environmental laws, internal and external regulatory mandates and polices required for China Camp State as outlined in the original Operating Partnership in July 2012. (sec. G. pages 49-51)

- b. FOCC will continue with FOCC/CSP cooperative planning through regular committee and team meetings and working group discussions and will continue to provide funding for Park based CSP staff. When agreed to by both parties, we will partner with CSP on appropriate resources management projects with oversight provided by CSP.
- c. FOCC will continue to develop and maintain working relations with other partners to move natural resources planning and implementation forward through mutual projects and fund raising efforts on behalf of the Park's natural resource protection and rehabilitation. For example, our current board chairman has joined the SF Bay NERR Advisory Board and will be exploring possible join projects, especially in the area of climate change and its effects on tidal marshes and lowlands at CCSP.
- d. FOCC, in cooperation with CSP staff, is preparing a comprehensive compilation of safety and other regulations and guidelines applicable to the bayside, woodlands, and developed environs of CCSP. These will be available to better inform visitors as well as volunteers of the rules in place to protect both the natural/cultural environments as well as visitor well-being. This reference document will be available on the website as well as at various facilities within the park. Document is currently in the review process at CPS. See attached.

5. Cultural Resource Protection Plan

FOCC will continue to support CSP's mandate to secure and protect historical and cultural artifacts through the funding of historical building maintenance and volunteer workdays designated to address needed repairs or safety issues. Insurance protection will continue to be provided.

- a. The ongoing stabilization of historic village buildings, including corrugated roof structures,, building foundation structures, gutters, windows, and siding, as needed
- b. (tentative) The documentation of village historic structures and overall village site, using National Park Service Heritage Documentation team(formerly HABS HAER - Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering

Record). Process will involve the use of 3D laser scanners to produce full set of detailed plans of structures, as well as panoramic photographs and 3D representations of site for use on internet or in interpretation.

- c. The stabilization and demonstration of historic shrimp fishing processing features on site, including shrimp shaker, boiling tank, and redwood water tank and its support structure.
- d. The stabilization of historic boat railways and windlass system on site. This will include the removal of the hazardous boat currently on the railways, and its possible replacement with an historic China Camp fishing boat.

6. Interpretive Plan

FOCC plans to build upon the momentum of last year's increase in volunteers by continuing to operate, develop and implement interpretive programs in natural and cultural history.

- a. **Natural History:** With the departure of the Park's interpretive ranger, FOCC has begun filling in some areas such as campfire programs, school programs and nature walks. Our emphasis will be on continuing to develop middle and high school programs, as well as supplementing WildCare elementary school programs. We plan to augment WildCare's popular school day training in hands-on and experiential education techniques. We will continue our well-received nature walks provided by Park Rangers and VIP docents as well as guest leaders from MCL, NERR and other nature focused organizations. The newly expanded Nature Center at the Ranger Station will be utilized for field trips, school groups, scout programs, nature walks and other interpretive programs.

We are also in the initial planning stages for an outdoor classroom and interpretive picnic area on the north-west side of the Ranger Station. It will complement and expand the physical space we have for natural history interpretive programs.

- b. **Cultural History:** We are working towards expanding the Village Museum VIP docent hours beyond the current summer weekend schedule so that there are better opportunities to engage the visitors and provide assistance. FOCC is doing outreach at community schools to determine the areas of interest. VIP docents will also continue to provide educational programs to groups of adults and

children by appointment. To enhance these services more docents will be sought, especially those with skills in Spanish and Chinese languages.

Plans for a self-guided walking tour of the Village and upper China Point Area beyond the Museum are underway. In order to reach non-English speaking visitors, the content would address the cultures which had ties to the land (Miwok, Spanish and Chinese) and the text would be in English, Mandarin and Spanish).

7. Maintenance

- a. FOOC's operating plan provides for one full time maintenance worker and two seasonal maintenance workers, one of whom will have primary housekeeping responsibilities. This will include daily maintenance of all restrooms and the showers at the campgrounds and village. The maintenance workers will also be responsible for litter removal, mowing and watering grassy areas, and weed and branch removal from public areas and other tasks as needed. The new amendment allows FOCC and CSP to jointly review and adjust staffing needs according to funds available.
- b. FOCC understands that all maintenance and construction activities, including changes in use, are subject to State Park review through the Project Evaluation Form (PEF) process and CEQA, PRC 5024.5 to ensure that activities do not have harmful impacts to resources and provide equal access.
- c. FOCC will continue to use maintenance workers in the operating plan as well as CSPF Park Champions volunteers, the Marin County Bicycle Coalition trail workers, and other volunteers such as VIPP trail patrol members who regularly monitor the trails, remove trash and report hazards or other issues.
- d. A team/committee composed of FOCC members and CSP staff will continue to meet on a regular schedule in order to discuss day-to-day maintenance issues and solutions so that both parties are aware of priorities and assignments.



This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp. Submitted December 18, 2013.

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