



## Friends of China Camp (FOCC)

### PLAN FOR the OPERATION of CHINA CAMP STATE PARK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

We are pleased to submit the Friends of China Camp operating plan for FY 2014-2015, our third 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 Amendments signed in FY 2013/2014. 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](http://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](mailto: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 continue to evaluate which FOCC functions would best be served by full or part-time paid positions, the costs involved, and potential funding resources. The priority for staffing remains with filling CSP positions including additional ranger and park aide coverage for the park.

## **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 standardized trail fees and changed rate fees on signage and website. The pay station at Miwok Road will be replaced by an iron ranger and the pay station will be moved to the Ranger Station in order to reach more visitors. Pay stations will continue to operate at the upper and lower Village and at the Backranch Kiosk.

The planned fees for 2014-2015 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**

Rate remains \$75 per day. Reservations are made by contacting Reserve America: (800) 444-7275 or through the FOCC website at [www.friendsofchinacamp.org](http://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 two years 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 intention 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, inclusive. Fees will be determined for each event according to its scope and projected expenses involved. Non-FOCC 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: August 23<sup>rd</sup>, no fees except for \$5.00 parking.
- Film Nights in the Park: July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, donations only, but FOCC receives a large percentage of food/beverage sales.
- In partnership with Chinese Whispers, a research and storytelling group, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the building of the Grace Quan, a replica Chinese junk moored at the Park during the summer. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. No fees other than \$5.00 parking
- Grand opening of new Outdoor Classroom at the Ranger Station if sufficient site work is completed. Tentative date May 2015. No fees.
- Open public meeting with CSP and MSPA to review operations during FY 2013-2014 following website posting of the annual report. September or October 2014. No fees.

**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 Regatta
- 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 Park 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. Areas of mutual interest include climate change and its effect of tidal marshes and lowlands at CCSP and surrounding communities.
- d. FOCC, in cooperation with CSP staff, has prepared a comprehensive compilation of Safety and Other Regulations and Guidelines applicable to the bayside, woodlands, and developed environs of CCSP. The document was submitted to CSP for review and approval in October 2013 and is in review process.
- e. **Trails Restoration Project:** FOCC, in collaboration with CSP and the Cal Parks *Parks Champions Program* is working to restore over 14 miles of trails in the park. The goal of the project is to restore the trails to the current DPR standards. DPR is preparing a trail prescription and has contracted with

the California Conservation Corp to take on some of the tougher sections of trails that require machinery. FOCC VIPP volunteers are leading Parks Champions volunteers on a once monthly Saturday workday, working on the easier sections.

- f. **Trail Marker Project:** In conjunction with the trails restoration, a new stone mile marker project has been submitted to DPR for review. These markers will be installed trailside every half mile with a mile code and a Chinese Character that will relate to the history of China Camp. They will aid visitors to the park and help first responders in locating people on the trails in an emergency.
- g. **Non-system trail evaluation and prescription:** A number of old trail and road alignments dating back to before the park was formed, still exist and are used by hikers and bicyclists. FOCC, in collaboration with CSP, would evaluate the most established non-system trails and roads in the park and determine if any should be adopted or permanently closed. Either action would require funding and partnership with other organizations such as CCC, CCNB and MCBC to implement the prescriptions and conduct outreach to educate park visitors about the changes to gain their cooperation.
- h. **Back Ranch Fire Trail road to trail conversion:** Study Back Ranch Fire trail between Bay View Trail and the camp grounds to determine if it would make a good candidate for a road to trail conversion to reduce sediment run-off and to provide a better experience for pedestrians and bicyclists.

## 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. Repairs are planned for the public pier including needed replacement of pilings and upgrading of railings.
- b. The first segment is planned, as funding is available, to document village historic structures and the 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. A boat on the beach that was becoming a hazard was removed. The St. Erina, a boat with historical China Camp Village connections has been brought to the village area for repairs and restoration and use as a marine history interpretive feature.

## 6. Interpretive Plan

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

- a. **Natural History:** FOCC will continue filling in some areas such as campfire programs, school programs, junior ranger 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 VIPP 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. At present, we have ongoing partnerships with Venetia Valley k-8, our local neighborhood school, providing interpretive programs both at the school and at China Camp. We also provide intensive programming in partnership with the Marin School of Environmental Leadership (MSEL) at Terra Linda High School, and are in the process of developing year-long internships at the Park for seniors in the MSEL program. Partnerships with other local schools are being developed, as well as with scout troops and seniors.

The Marin School of Environmental Leadership (MSEL) project involving interpretive signs for Shoreline Trail, Miwok Meadows and Bullhead Flats sites was developed and submitted to CSP for review in June 2013.. Completion of the

project is contingent upon CSP approval. Signage costs are covered by donations of existing recycled materials and costs for printing would be covered by FOCC

Site plans for the Outdoor Classroom Project on the north-west side of the Ranger Station, including a covered pavilion, native plant, accessible gardens and play area and amphitheater, have been developed and are in the approval process. Funding and implementation of the plans are scheduled beginning in June 2014 and continuing through 2015. The Outdoor Classroom Project will complement and expand both the quality and physical space possible for natural history interpretive projects.

Replacement of the damaged and faded natural history interpretive signage around Turtle Back Trail is planned, re-using the artwork and materials from the initial signage project to the extent possible. A display kiosk at Bullet Hill Trailhead is being planned

**b. Cultural History:**

**Village Museum Programs:** We are working towards expanding the Village Museum VIPP docent hours beyond the current summer weekend schedule so that there are better opportunities to engage the visitors and provide assistance. VIPP 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 will be explored for a self-guided walking tour of the Village with interpretive signs.

**College Course at COM:** The affiliation with College of Marin will continue with community educational classes about CCSP offered by FOCC with expert speakers from NERR, CSP and other entities. The next class is scheduled on September 20 for the classroom lecture and September 27 for the field trip at China Camp.

**St. Erina Project:** Development of interpretive signage, educational materials, and programs around historic fisheries equipment and processes in the Village, including the newly obtained historic boat St. Erina, the shrimp shaker, and the marine railways.

## **7. Maintenance**

- a. FOCC'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.

## **8. FOCC Organizational Changes**

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





This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp. Submitted May 30, 2014.

Ed Lai, Chairman    email: [elai001@aol.com](mailto:elai001@aol.com)    phone: 310-365-0629