



Friends of China Camp, Inc. (FOCC)

PLAN FOR the OPERATION of CHINA CAMP STATE PARK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

We are pleased to submit the Friends of China Camp operating plan for FY 2015-2016, as operator of China Camp State Park in partnership with the California State Parks. The operating plan is in keeping with the Operating Partnership Agreement currently being negotiated with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

We are aware that all areas of operation have potential resource impact implications. We will work closely with DPR staff and follow necessary procedure on certain maintenance activities, construction, special events, trail work, sign installation, interpretive programs, etc., where they are subject to the review and approval of the State and must comply with CEQA and the Public Resources Code.

All State Park Volunteers will have successfully completed required VIPP training and background checks, if needed, before reporting to volunteer.

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 be closed and locked
- d. 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 has been 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 2015-2016 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 are for up to 2 adults and children : \$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

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

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 2016, no fees except for \$5.00 parking.
- Film Nights in the Park: donations only, but FOCC receives a percentage of food/beverage sales. This event is currently being evaluated. The event will be evaluated jointly by FOCC and DPR staff.
- Open public meeting with CSP and MSPA to review operations during FY 2014-2015 and plans for the coming FY. Both annual reports will be posted on the website prior to the meeting. November 2015. No fees.

b. Examples of Recreational and Environment Related Events:

- Triathlon / Half Marathon
- King Tide interpretive walk with NERR staff (with King Tide Initiative photo opportunities)
- Nature Walks

All events will be evaluated by DPR Resources staff prior to event taking place. This is to ensure that there is no potential resource damage

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 Operating Partnership Agreement.
- 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 on tidal marshes and lowlands at CCSP and surrounding communities. All planning and fundraising done for cultural and natural resource protection will be approved by District resources staff, as needed, prior to being initiated to ensure that the efforts are feasible and focused on current DPR resource management goals.
- d. **Trails Restoration Project Continuation:** FOCC, in collaboration with CSP and the Cal Parks *Park 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. FOCC VIPP volunteers are leading Parks Champions volunteers on a once monthly workday, working on the easier sections. Work on more difficult sections will be contracted out to the California Conservation Corps as needs are identified and resources allow following the

procedures that were successful during the 2014-2015 major trail restoration projects.

- e. **Trail Marker Project Continuation:** In conjunction with the trails restoration, a new stone mile marker PEF has been submitted to DPR for review. We proposed that 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 in the park and help first responders in locating people on the trails in an emergency. We plan to work closely with DPR staff on feasibility, design and installation.
- f. **Non-system trail evaluation and prescription Continuation:** 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. A Road and Trails Plan will be filed if and when this project advances.
- g. **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. A Road and Trails Plan will be filed if and when this project advances.

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 safety railings, security fence, ladders and decking. All permitting and planning for historic structures and pier repairs will be reviewed by District resource specialists as needed.
- b. The second segment of China Camp Village documentation projects is planned, as money is available, to further fill out the interior plans and elevation of the village structures produced by NPS Heritage Documentation Unit, history component.

Finished drawings and digital files will be developed as well and produced for FOCC and DPR use and preservation planning purposes. Products will be submitted into the Library of Congress.

- 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.
 - . 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 three years' increase in volunteers by continuing to operate, develop and implement interpretive programs in natural and cultural history.

a. **Natural History:**

FOCC will continue providing many of the natural history interpretive programs for the Park, including 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 will continue to emphasize the hands-on and experiential education techniques developed by State Parks. We plan to expand our well-received nature walks provided by Park Rangers and VIPP docents as well as professional naturalists from MCL, NERR and other nature focused organizations.

- The newly expanded Nature Center at the Ranger Station will be utilized for more 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 will continue to participate in MSEL's year-long internships for their high school seniors. We began a partnership this year with The Marin School, a local independent

high school and hope to expand their involvement. Partnerships with other local schools are being developed, as well as with scout troops and seniors.

- The Outdoor Classroom Project, which will complement and expand both the quality and physical space possible for natural history interpretive projects, continues to be developed. It will build upon the existing site plans for the north-west side of the Ranger Station, which includes a covered pavilion, native plant accessible gardens and play area and amphitheater. We plan to work closely with DPR staff on feasibility, design and installation.
- 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.
- Through NERR, FOCC received a grant for interpretive signage related to marine debris. The design is now in the approval process and installation should take place later this year.

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, recruitment of more docents will continue, 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 FOCC, NERR, CSP and other partners.

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 I worker and two seasonal maintenance workers. Maintenance staff is jointly responsible with FOCC, Inc. staff for all park maintenance operations and other duties as needed. The operating agreement 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, in accordance with our operating agreement, 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 Ambassador 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 were made to the organizational structure in FY 2014-2015. These included incorporating with the California Secretary of State to limit the liability of board members, revising and expanding the Bylaws, obtaining IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit status, and adopting new conflict of interest and notice policies (to reflect more common current use of electronic communication). All these actions are intended to make FOCC a more agile organization and one that meets state and federal legal requirements.

Friends of China Camp is fortunate to be one of the nonprofit organizations invited to participate in a new program launched by California State Parks Foundation to work with their Technical Assistance Consultants (TAC). This program, Wraparound Services (WAS), is designed to build capacity and growth within FOCC. The working

partnership will begin in July 2015 and continue into 2016. A more complete plan and long term goals will be developed after priorities and resources are assessed.



This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp, Inc. Submitted : January 22, 2016.

Ed Lai

Ed Lai
Chairman, Friends of China Camp, Inc.
email: elai001@aol.com
phone: 310-365-0629