Friends of China Camp, Inc. (FOCC)

PLAN FOR the OPERATION of CHINA CAMP STATE PARK
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

We are pleased to submit the Friends of China Camp operating plan for FY 2016-2017, 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.

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 China Camp 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.
2. Fee Schedule & Payment Systems

a. **Pay Station Tickets.** The tickets issued at the four pay stations in the park have caused some confusion among park visitors. The tickets have not conveyed clearly enough that the ticket is only a temporary pass that needs to be redeemed at the FOCC website for the annual pass.

   *Action to be Taken:* In 2016-17, FOCC will redesign the pay station ticket, and VenTek will implement it.

b. **Firmware Upgrade.** MasterCard has announced that they will add a new 2 series BIN range, effective October 2016. Merchants, who do not already run 291 firmware (China Camp runs 229 firmware), will have to upgrade their firmware for $295 per controller.

   *Action to be Taken:* In October 2016, VenTek will replace the controllers in the four pay stations and will upgrade their firmware to accommodate the new MC numbers.

c. **PayStation SIM Cards.** The four pay stations currently use T-Mobile SIM cards. However, our pay station vendor is unable to tell us whether the pay stations connect to the nearest T-Mobile cell tower or whether they roam to an AT&T cell tower. Since AT&T has announced the discontinuation of its 2G service, effective December 2016, we do not yet know whether our pay stations will require SIM card upgrades.

   *Action to be Taken:* Starting January 2017, we will monitor the connectivity of the four pay stations to determine whether we need to upgrade the SIM cards.

d. **Review of Annual Pass Pricing.** FOCC will review its current Annual Trail and Annual Parking Pass pricing to determine whether the time is right to increase the price for one or both passes.

As it stands, the planned fees for 2016-2017 are:

**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

**Trail Use: Daily Use Fee**
- $3.00 for hikers, bikers and equestrians
Annual Passes
Parking passes include trail use passes for up to four people. $60.00
Trail use only passes: $35.00

Campground 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

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 their website at www.reserveamerica.com

Permitted day-use fees at other sites
Fees at Miwok Meadows, China Camp 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.

a) Membership in FOCC. It is also our intention to promote a newly formulated
FOCC membership structure by offering free admission to events for FOCC
members. The fee for non-members will be minimal to encourage inclusivity, as
we seek to encourage community participation throughout our programming
and events.

b) Annual Heritage Day Celebration. Heritage Day is held every August, charging
no fees except for $5.00 parking. Due to the passing of Frank Quan on August 15,
2016, FOCC is respecting the wishes of the Quan family to cancel Heritage Day.

c) Frank Quan Celebration of Life. Due to the passing of Frank Quan, FOCC and
the Marin Chinese Cultural Association will organize a public event to celebrate
the life of Frank Quan. The event is scheduled for October 15, 2016 in China
Camp Village.

d) Examples of Recreational and Environmental Events.
   i. Triathlon / Half Marathon
   ii. King Tide interpretive walk with NERR staff (with King Tide Initiative
      photo opportunities)
   iii. Nature Walks
iv. Ranger-led programs for adults and children
v. Green Friday free day passes sponsored by CSPF (planned for November)
vi. Monthly museum talks (to be launched in January)

vii. Earth Day volunteer opportunities for trail work (planned for April)

4. Natural Resource Protection Plan

a) **General.** 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) **Partnerships.** FOCC will continue to develop and maintain working relations with other partners to move natural resources planning and implementation forward through mutual projects and fundraising 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.

c) **Trails Restoration Project Continuation.** FOCC, in collaboration with CSP and the CSPF’s 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 Champion volunteers on a once monthly Saturday workday, working on the easier sections.

d) **Restoration/Repair of Trail Display Kiosks.** Many of the trail display kiosks are weathered, damaged, and have faulty locks. FOCC will seek out carpentry-skilled volunteers to rebuild display kiosks and will work with CSP to provide and supervise the installation of new interpretive signage.

e) **Invasive Plant (Fennel) Removal Project.** CSP has given FOCC the approval to remove fennel, an invasive plant, from the park. FOCC plans to assign youth groups to those areas in the park where fennel removal can be easily achieved without disturbance to the native flora. All invasive plant removal activities will be overseen by a ranger or a VIPP.

f) **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, will 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.

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) **Stabilization of Historic Structures.** FOCC will continue the ongoing stabilization program of historic village buildings, including corrugated roof structures, building foundation structures, gutters, windows, and siding, as needed.

b) **China Camp Village Documentation.** 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) **St. Erina.** The stabilization of historic boat railways and windlass system on site. The St. Erina, a boat with historical China Camp Village connections, will be brought ashore and displayed on the boat railway as a permanent marine history interpretive feature.

6. **Interpretive Plan for Natural History**

FOCC will continue to develop and implement interpretive programs in natural and cultural history. Having lost a key programmatic volunteer this past year, FOCC will either seek a lead volunteer of programs or hire a program director.

a) **Programs.** 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.
b) **Signage.** As stated in Section 4, Paragraph c, 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.

c) **Marine Debris Interpretation.** 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.

7. **Interpretive Plan for Cultural History**

   a) **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.

   b) **Self-Guided Tours.** FOCC will explore the demand and feasibility of a self-guided walking tour of the Village with audio and interpretive signs.

   c) **College Course at COM.** The affiliation with College of Marin may continue with community educational classes about CCSP offered by FOCC with expert speakers from FOCC, NERR, CSP and other partners.

   d) **St. Erina Project.** FOCC plans to develop 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) **Housekeeping.** 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, weed, branch removal from public areas, including trails, and other tasks as needed. The operational agreement allows FOCC and CSP to jointly review and adjust staffing needs according to funds available.

   b) **PEF and CEQA.** 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) **Volunteers.** 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 ambassadors, who regularly monitor the trails, remove trash and report hazards or other issues.

d) **Meetings.** 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**

a) **Executive Director.** After evaluating which FOCC functions would best be served by full or part-time paid positions, the costs involved, and potential funding resources, a full-time Executive Director position was created and filled effective August 1, 2016.

b) **Program Director.** With the loss of a key volunteer in the area of programming, FOCC is looking into identifying either a replacement lead volunteer or to create a paid position, the responsibilities of which would include programming, events, volunteer coordination, and social media.

This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp, Inc. Submitted: July 10, 2017.

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