



Friends of China Camp, Inc. (FOCC)

PLAN FOR the OPERATION of CHINA CAMP STATE PARK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

We are pleased to submit the Friends of China Camp operating plan for FY 2017-2018, 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, which will expire in January 2019.

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 business 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

The planned fees for 2017-2018 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. As of August 1, 2017, reservations are made by contacting Reserve California: (800) 444-7275 or through their website at www.reservecalifornia.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. Membership in FOCC

- a) **Event Fees for Members.** We will continue to promote our new FOCC membership model by offering free admission to events for people who have an FOCC Full Membership. The fee for non-members will be minimal to encourage inclusivity, as we seek to encourage community participation throughout our programming and events. Examples of events where this fee model applies are our monthly Village Museum Talks and our docent-led hikes.
- b) **Size of Membership.** As of June 30, 2017, FOCC had about 900 members. We plan to increase membership to 1,100 members by June 30, 2018.

4. Special Event Plan

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) **Annual Heritage Day Celebration.** Heritage Day is held at the end of every summer, charging no fees except for \$5.00 parking. Heritage Day this year will be held on August 26.

- b) **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)

- c) **Weddings in the Village.** Since weddings can be a good source of new revenue, we will consider submitting a PEF for weddings in China Camp Village and at China Camp Point.

5. 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.

A specific trail project this year will be the reconstruction of the washed-out section of Shoreline Trail. The wash out occurred during an atmospheric river storm in February 2017, and FOCC has received approval for its PEF to rebuild the section with gabions, which will create a secure yet porous base.

- 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.

6. 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 Pilings.** FOCC will seek funds this year to repair eroded timber pilings in the Village. Prospective donors include the local Chinese American community as well as local service organizations, such as Rotary.

7. Interpretive Plan for Natural History

FOCC's new program director will continue to develop and implement interpretive programs in natural and cultural history. FOCC intends to produce a 3-minute video showcasing the park and encouraging volunteerism in China Camp.

- 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) **Natural History Docent Training Program.** Sheila will work to create a natural history docent PowerPoint training presentation and manual.

8. 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) **St. Erina Project.** The St. Erina, a boat with historical China Camp Village connections, has been brought ashore and displayed on the boat railway as a permanent marine history interpretive feature. FOCC plans to develop interpretive signage, educational materials, and programs around historic fisheries equipment and processes in the Village, including the St. Erina.

9. Maintenance

- a) **Housekeeping.** In lieu of one full-time maintenance worker and two seasonal maintenance workers, FOCC will continue to contract to a local janitorial service the daily maintenance of all restrooms and the showers at the campgrounds and village. The park aides will assist with litter removal and be responsible for mowing and watering grassy areas, weed and branch removal from public areas, including trails, and other tasks as needed.
- b) **Rebuilding the Washed-Out Section of Shoreline Trail.** In February 2017, a 30' section of Shoreline Trail was washed out due to an atmospheric river storm. In the summer of 2017, FOCC received approval from CSP for its engineered design to rebuild the washed-out section. After the summer of 2017, FOCC intends to use the CCC and to request donations of material from a local rock quarry to rebuild the section.
- c) **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.
- d) **Bullhead Flat Burned Bathroom.** FOCC intends to raise money to repair the burned bathroom building at Bullhead Flat.
- e) **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.
- f) **Pick-up Trucks.** With the move from CSP employees to direct FOCC employees, FOCC will seek to acquire two pick-up trucks in the 2017-18 year to be used by our park aides for both maintenance and visitor services.

10. FOCC Organizational Changes

Having received a strong request in the spring of 2017 from CSP to begin moving away from utilizing State Parks employees in China Camp, FOCC plans to become a direct employer by the end of 2017.

- a) **Maintenance Worker.** FOCC has begun the process of seeking a full-time maintenance worker to replace the CSP Maintenance Worker I currently in the park.

- b) **Park Aides.** FOCC will see whether the two CSP Park Aides currently in China Camp have an interest in joining FOCC as direct employees. It remains to be seen whether FOCC's operating budget will allow for a third park aide.
- c) **Housing.** With five employees expected to be on the payroll, FOCC will seek either a residential unit or a trailer pad from CSP for one of the five employees.
- d) **Security.** With Ranger Dan Vianueva's retirement on August 31, 2017, FOCC will need to reassess its security needs. China Camp will still have a half-time ranger, who works Mondays, Tuesdays, and every other Wednesday. However, the board and the park staff all believe that a closer relationship with the Marin County Sheriff's Office who behoove China Camp.



This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp, Inc. Submitted: June 30, 2018.

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