



Friends of China Camp, Inc. (FOCC)

PLAN FOR the OPERATION of CHINA CAMP STATE PARK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

We are pleased to submit the Friends of China Camp operating plan for FY 2018-2019, 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.

The information in this document is presented from the time perspective of July 1, 2018, looking forward.

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 8:00 a.m. to sunset daily, except for special evening events 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 2018-2019 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 each hiker, biker or equestrian

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 the site use, the number 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 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) **FOCC Memberships Available in Stores.** FOCC has received agreement from a San Rafael bike shop to sell FOCC Trail Memberships. This year, we will finalize the promotion of the memberships and the transaction process. Given the number of park visitors who sidestep payment of trail use fees, we are optimistic that this initiative will encourage payment before the visitor even enters the park.
- c) **Size of Membership.** As of June 30, 2018, FOCC had approximately 1,100 members. We plan to increase membership to 1,500 members by June 30, 2019.

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 September 22.
- 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. Staff- and volunteer-led programs for adults and children
 - v. Green Friday free day passes sponsored by CSPF
 - vi. Monthly museum talks
 - vii. Earth Day volunteer opportunities for trail work (planned for April)
 - viii. Champion volunteer work events in partnership with CSPF
- c) **Weddings in the Village.** Since weddings can be a good source of new revenue, a PEF for weddings in China Camp Village and at China Camp Point has been submitted and is in progress.

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. As is the case with CSP, FOCC also has a close working relationship with SF Bay NERR.
- 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 workday, working on the easier sections. Although the Park Champions program is not technically focused on trail restoration, many Park Champions events focus on trail work. We also will be using the CCC for some work to take advantage of a labor hour credit that we currently carry with them.
- d) **Restoration/Repair of Trail Display Kiosks.** With the help of carpentry-skilled volunteers, several of the weathered and damaged display kiosks have been repaired. This project will continue with the intent to complete repairs on all kiosks this year.
- e) **Invasive Plant Removal Project.** CSP has given FOCC the approval to remove the following invasive plants from designated areas in the park: Fennel, Scotch/French Broom, English Ivy, Cape Ivy, Stinkwort, Spurge, Italian Bull Thistle. FOCC has been approved to remove those plant species from around the Peacock Gap Trail Road, Five Pines Point, Bullet Hill Trail, Northern Shoreline Trail, Turtleback Trail, and areas around Back Ranch Campground. These are areas in the park where invasive removal can be easily achieved without disturbance to the native flora or cultural resources. Through June 2018, FOCC has assigned numerous youth and adult groups for removal events, including boy/girl scout groups, school groups, Earth Day volunteers, and other groups. For 2018-19, FOCC plans to continue to have assigned monthly volunteer invasive removal events in the park. All invasive plant removal activities will continue to be overseen by 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 plans to submit a PEF this coming year for the replacement of an as-yet unspecified number of timber pilings that support the museum, processing sheds, and pier. If the project is approved, FOCC will seek funds this year to replace the eroded timber pilings via a capital campaign.

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 produced a 3-minute video showcasing the park and encouraging volunteerism in China Camp.

- a) **Programs.** FOCC will continue to provide 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 programs for elementary and middle school children and adults, specifically focusing on the salt marsh wetland ecology. 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 VIPP docents as well as professional naturalists from NERR, California Native Plant Society, and other nature-focused organizations.
- b) **Natural History Docent Training Program.** The FOCC Program Director has developed a natural history docent training program, which will be initiated in early Spring 2019. This training program will be in alignment with the goals and objectives of the Interpretation and Education Chapter of the California State Parks Department Operations 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.
- c) **The *Franca* Felluca.** A 10-year felluca-building project came to fruition for Frank Quan (posthumously) and John Muir on February 24, 2018 with the launching of the *Franca*. The launch of the *Franca* was the official kickoff of FOCC's plan to create a youth boat building program in China Camp Village. FOCC plans to raise money for this program, which will give local youth, particularly economically disenfranchised youth, an opportunity to participate in the cultural history of China Camp by building fishing boats that were common on the SF Bay in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

9. Maintenance

- a) **Housekeeping.** FOCC will continue its highly successful relationship with a local janitorial service for the daily cleaning and light maintenance of all restrooms and showers throughout the park and the emptying of all trash cans. 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) **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 VIPP maintenance volunteers, 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) **Second Pick-Up Truck.** With the transition from staffing the park with CSP employees to FOCC employees came the concomitant loss of the State Parks maintenance vehicle. FOCC quickly purchased one pick-up truck for FOCC's park aides and will seek to acquire a second pick-up truck in the 2018-19 year to be used for heavy-duty trail maintenance and general maintenance.
- e) **Dumper Trailer.** FOCC will purchase a dumper trailer to be hitched to the heavy-duty pick-up truck, when identified.
- f) **Compact Utility Loader.** FOCC is planning to purchase a compact utility loader to assist with mowing, maintenance, and trail and fence repair.
- g) **Eagle Scouts.** FOCC will continue to support and guide Eagle Scouts with projects that benefit CCSP as well as provide an opportunity for the Scout to plan, develop and give leadership to others.

10. FOCC Organizational Changes

At the behest of CSP, FOCC discontinued using CSP employees to staff the park by the end of 2017. FOCC initiated its own payroll in December 2017 and currently employs two administrative employees and three uniformed park aides, one of whom is dedicated to maintenance.

Park Operations Coordinator. Missing from the employee mix has been a "park operations coordinator" to coordinate and manage park operations. With one park aide due to leave FOCC in October 2018, FOCC plans to replace that park aide with a "park operations coordinator", beginning January 2019.

Security. With half-time Ranger Cecilia Rejas' transfer from CCSP on March 31, 2018, FOCC assessed its security needs in consultation with the Marin County Sheriff's Office and with CSP. In June, FOCC contracted with Barbier Security Group (BSG) to patrol the park.

For the 2018-19 year, BSG will continue to patrol CCSP 4 days/week until the end of the peak season, 3 days/week until winter, 2 days/week through winter, 3 days/week when spring arrives, and back to 4 days/week when the peak season begins.

Each day that BSG works is an 8-hour shift, which usually runs from 3 PM to 11 PM so that the agent can close the park and enforce quiet hours in the campground.

The CSP supervising ranger for Marin will continue to review the daily activity log from the Marin County Sheriff's Office and report to FOCC on any unusual activity so that the timing and location of the patrols can be adjusted to be more efficacious.



This report has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Friends of China Camp, Inc. Submitted: November 23, 2018.

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