

State of California – The Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: aambriz



Notice of Preparation of a Partially Recirculated Environmental Impact Report

Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update

Scoping Period: September 17, 2026 – October 19, 2026

Date: September 17, 2026

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Interested Individuals and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Partially Recirculated Environmental Impact Report
Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is the lead agency for the preparation of a Partially Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (Partially Recirculated EIR) for the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) General Plan Update. The decision-making body for the General Plan Update and Partially Recirculated EIR is the OHMVR Commission, a body of appointees that advises the OHMVR Division and has final authority of approval of General Plans and certification of associated EIRs for SVRAs.

The OHMVR Commission certified a Final EIR and adopted a General Plan Update for Carnegie SVRA on October 24, 2024. The certification and approval were subsequently challenged in *Connolly Ranch, Inc., et al. v. State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, et al.* (Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 24WM000175). On March 10, 2026, the Court granted the petition for writ of mandate on the single ground that the EIR did not evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and denied the petition on all other grounds. In response to the Court's ruling and the peremptory writ of mandate, the OHMVR Commission rescinded its certification of the Final EIR and adoption of the General Plan Update on June 17, 2026.

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The OHMVR Division has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) pursuant to Sections 15082 and 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, due to this lawsuit and to comply with the Court decision. This NOP informs agencies and the public that a Recirculated EIR is being prepared to analyze additional alternatives to the proposed project, the *Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update*. The alternatives will focus on reduction of significant and unavoidable air quality impacts resulting from implementation of the General Plan Update. Agencies should comment on the elements of potential environmental effects that are relevant to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project's additional alternatives.

Please note that this is the scoping period only for a Partially Recirculated EIR that will analyze additional alternatives to the proposed project. Comments were already previously accepted on the original NOP and on the Draft EIR during the prior public comment period and responded to as part of the 2024 Final EIR. The Partially Recirculated EIR that is being prepared will be focused exclusively on revisions to the Alternatives chapter, as discussed further below. Therefore, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(f)(2), please submit your comments only on the scope of alternatives to the General Plan Update that may be capable of lessening the General Plan Update's significant impacts on air quality, to be analyzed under CEQA as part of the Partially Recirculated EIR.

SCOPING PERIOD

Comments on the scope of the Partially Recirculated EIR will be accepted until 5:00 PM on **October 19, 2026**. Please include "Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update" in the title and submit comments to:

By email: planning@parks.ca.gov

By mail:

C/O Katie Metraux, OHMVR Division, California State Parks

P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

SCOPING MEETING

A virtual Partially Recirculated EIR scoping meeting has been scheduled to provide additional information about the General Plan Update and Partially Recirculated EIR process and give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the scope and potential environmental effects of the additional alternatives to be analyzed in the Partially Recirculated EIR. Please note that comments will only be accepted on the additional alternatives.

The scoping meeting will be a **virtual meeting** using the Microsoft Teams platform held on the following date and time: **September 30, 2026, at 5:30 PM**

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The meeting link will be posted on the project website at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30807 on September 20, 2026, 10 days before the meeting. Please contact planning@parks.ca.gov if you need assistance or have questions about the virtual scoping meeting.

PROJECT TITLE

Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update

PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The regional location of Carnegie SVRA is shown in Figure 1. Carnegie SVRA is a 1,533-acre off-highway vehicle (OHV) park overseen by the OHMVR Division and operated by the Diablo Range District of State Parks. Carnegie SVRA is located within unincorporated Alameda and San Joaquin Counties, approximately 15 miles east of Livermore and 12 miles west of Tracy, as shown in Figure 2. To the north is the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory property. Open space and rural residential areas (i.e., ranchland) are located to the east, west, and south. Carnegie SVRA is largely located on a northern hillside and has been operated as an SVRA since around 1980, when State Parks purchased the site and it became a unit of the State Parks System. The original 1,533-acre site had been used by OHVs since the 1940s and was operated as a private motorcycle park from 1970 to 1979 before State Parks purchased it. The first General Plan was approved for Carnegie SVRA in 1981. Substantial improvements have been made to Carnegie SVRA since that time. A prior effort by State Parks to revise the General Plan in 2016 for both the original 1,533-acre Carnegie SVRA and an adjacent 3,100-acre expansion area was challenged in several lawsuits, leading to rescission of the approvals in 2021.

State Parks proceeded with preparing a General Plan Update and EIR limited to the 1,533-acre original Carnegie SVRA (Figure 2). The Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR were released for public review from January 16, 2024, through March 1, 2024. All interested persons, agencies, and organizations had an opportunity during the public review period to submit their written comments on the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR to State Parks. The OHMVR Commission adopted the General Plan Update and certified the Final EIR on October 24, 2024.

Following the lawsuit and Court decision discussed above, the OHMVR Division is now preparing a Partially Recirculated EIR, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5, to address the deficiencies identified by the Court, specifically focused on revisions to the Alternatives chapter to evaluate a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives to the proposed project. The recirculation is limited to the Alternatives chapter, together with updates to the Introduction, References, and List of Preparers. No other substantive sections or chapters of the Draft EIR are being recirculated, and scoping comments should focus on the additional alternatives.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A General Plan is the primary management document for each park unit within the State Park System, including SVRAs. The General Plan establishes the park unit's primary purpose and management direction. An approved General Plan is generally required before State Parks can move forward with site-specific improvements that are beyond minor capital outlay projects. The OHMVR Division is preparing a General Plan Update and associated Partially Recirculated EIR for Carnegie SVRA. The current planning effort is solely focused on developing additional alternatives to be analyzed in the Partially Recirculated EIR.

The General Plan Update preparation was based on extensive resource and user information developed during the prior planning effort and through ongoing management and operations. The General Plan Update documents existing conditions and includes a proposed land use plan, including specific use areas. Use areas are based on geographic relationships, resource values, management issues, and goals, and desired visitor uses and experiences, while recognizing this is an existing OHV park with existing uses. The General Plan Update also contains goals and guidelines that guide Carnegie SVRA management and provide long-term direction for the development of future facilities. Given that a previous General Plan/EIR is in place, adopted in 1981, the General Plan Update is more specific than other similar SVRA General Plans where no prior General Plan exists. Where appropriate, the location and extent of future facilities is also disclosed, and associated impacts were previously analyzed in the EIR. The Partially Recirculated EIR will focus on additional alternatives for the General Plan Update. If found acceptable, the alternatives or elements thereof may be incorporated into the Final General Plan Update, which will then be presented to the OHMVR Commission for re-approval. If re-approved, the Final General Plan Update will supersede the 1981 General Plan and guide long-term and day-to-day management at Carnegie SVRA.

INTENDED USES OF THE PARTIALLY RECIRCULATED EIR

This Partially Recirculated EIR is being prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5, which requires a lead agency to recirculate an EIR when significant new information is added to the EIR after public notice of the availability of the draft EIR but before certification. Recirculation is required to comply with the peremptory writ of mandate issued in *Connolly Ranch, Inc., et al. v. State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, et al*, which determined that a revised alternatives analysis was required for the EIR. Consistent with the Court's ruling, the Partially Recirculated EIR will include a revised alternatives analysis that considers a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening the significant effects of the project.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5, if the revisions to a previous EIR are limited to a few chapters or portions of an EIR, the lead agency only needs to recirculate the chapters or portions that have been modified. Thus, the Partially Recirculated EIR

will be focused on the revised Alternatives chapter and will incorporate the prior EIR analysis by reference where appropriate. Prior EIR documentation published in 2024 will remain part of the public record and available for reference on State Parks' website. If any updates are required to the prior documentation due to changed conditions, regulatory updates, or other factors, they will be explicitly identified in the Partially Recirculated EIR.

The OHMVR Commission will consider the Partially Recirculated EIR along with the prior Final EIR and determine whether to certify it as adequate under CEQA and whether to re-approve the General Plan Update and make any necessary related decisions under CEQA (e.g., adopting CEQA findings of fact, statement of overriding considerations, mitigation monitoring, and reporting program).

If the OHMVR Commission certifies the EIR and re-approves the General Plan Update, the OHMVR Diablo Range District staff will use the EIR to assess whether future park improvements or actions are adequately evaluated, or whether additional environmental review may be required. The OHMVR Diablo Range District staff will also use any mitigation monitoring and reporting program that may be adopted by the Commission for the long-term and day-to-day management of the SVRA.

Subsequent projects identified in the General Plan Update for which sufficient information is not currently available to enable a detailed impact analysis in the EIR will be examined at a later date in light of the EIR analysis to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared before the project approval and implementation.

By: Katie Metraux

Signature: *Katie Metraux*

Title: General Plan Manager

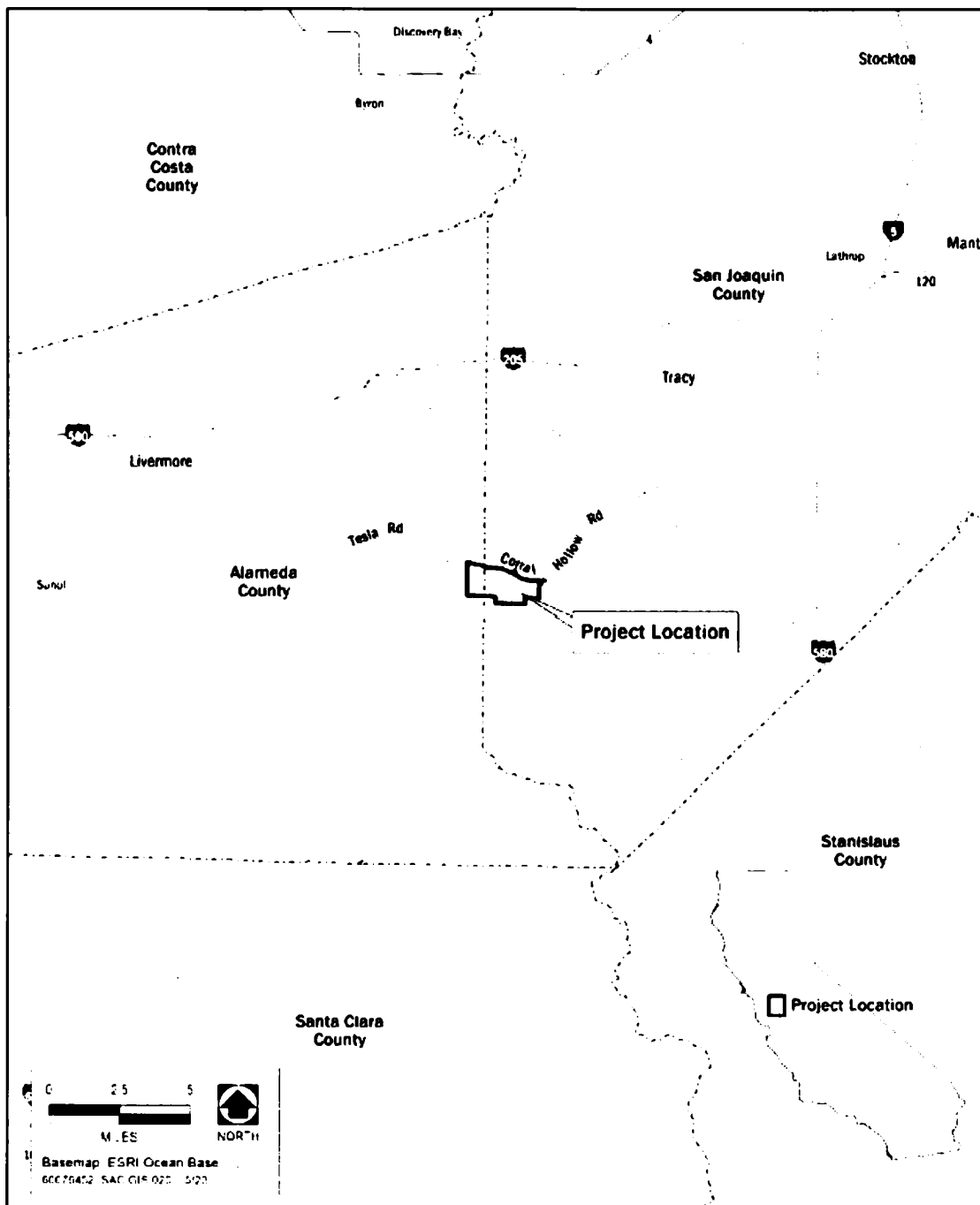


Figure 1. Regional Location Map

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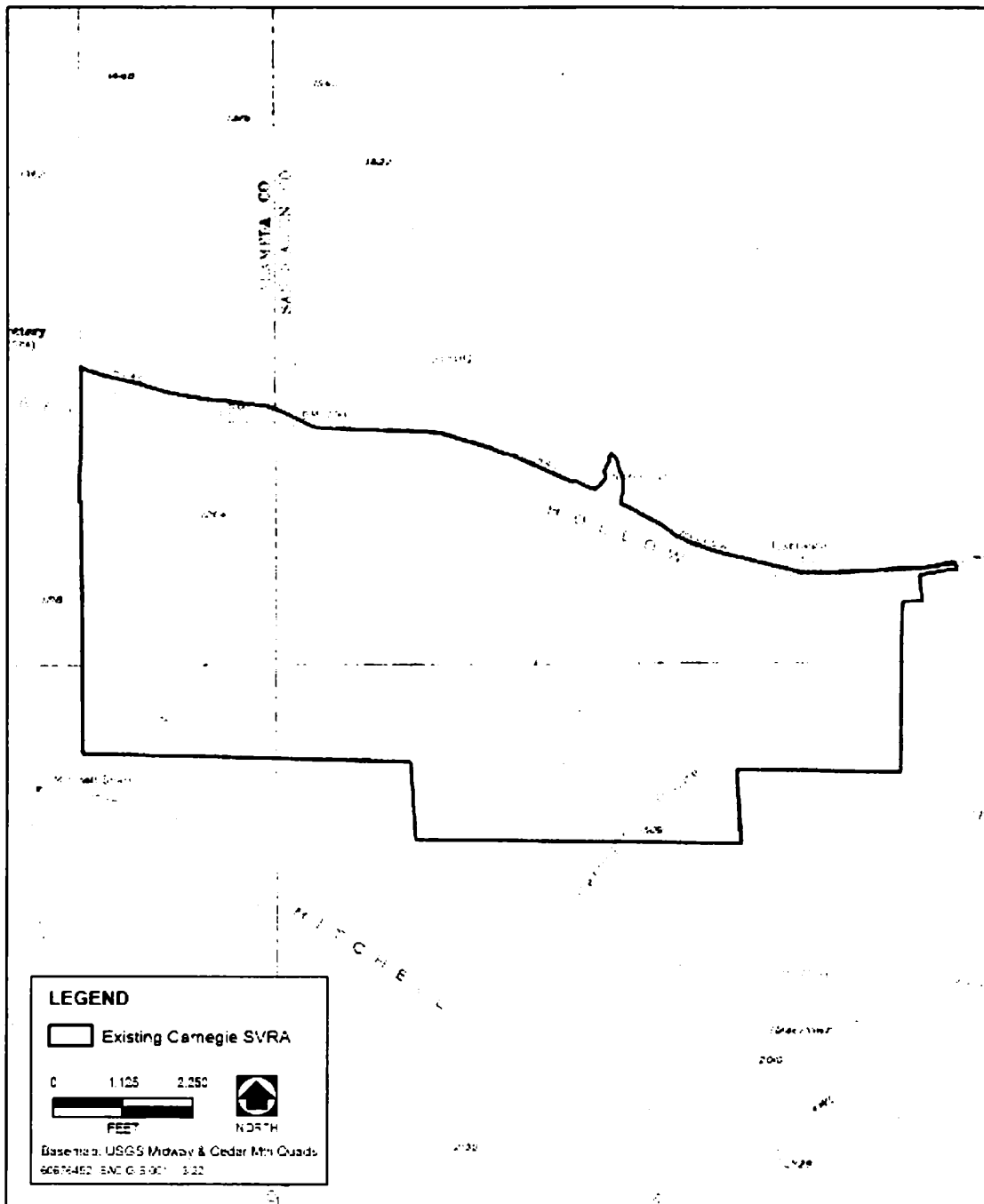


Figure 2. Carnegie SVRA Vicinity Map

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