



**STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE**

West Sacramento, CA
September 25, 2025

STAFF REPORT: Diablo Range District Update

STAFF: Clinton Elsholz, District Superintendent

SUBJECT: Introduction to the Diablo Range District and Informational Update on the Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan Project.

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No action needed, information only.

II. BACKGROUND

Diablo Range District Superintendent, Clinton Elsholz, will present a report that provides an overview of the Diablo Range District and an update on ongoing projects throughout the district.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report

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on the Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan Project

OBJECTIVE

Staff will provide a brief introduction of the Diablo Range District (District) followed by informational updates on the Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan Project, Waterway Connections Initiative Funding, Alameda Tesla Property Classification and General Plan, Wildfire Management Program & Mount Diablo State Park, and Youth Corps Partnerships.

INTRODUCTION

The Diablo Range District contains 21 park units across 12 of the state's counties. These include two State Historic Parks (SHP), six State Recreation Areas (SRAs), two park properties undergoing a classification and general plan process, and two of the state's nine State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs), and a State Beach (SB). The District includes parks in the Bay Area, Sacramento, and the San-Joaquin Delta, as well as in the peaks and valleys of the Diablo Coastal Range. The District also has nine park units within the [Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area](#), the first in California.

DESCRIPTION (REPORT / UPDATE)

Diablo Range District Updates

The District manages 130,000 acres of parkland, both directly and through partnership agreements with counties, regional parks, and concessions. The District offers a wide range of recreational opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, equestrian trails, boating, hunting and fishing, camping, and a variety of interpretive programming. Our parks served approximately 605,000 visitors in 2024.

The District functions under a hybrid model with both programs and sectors. The Gavilan and Hollister Hills Sectors in the southern part of the District include Fremont Peak State Park (SP), San Juan Bautista SHP, Hollister Hills SVRA, and Henry Coe

SP, which, at over 87,000 acres, is the largest park in the District and the second largest in the State Park system. The southern half also includes its own Natural Resources program.

The northern half of the district is divided into the Altamont Sector, including Carnegie SVRA, Bethany Reservoir, and the Alameda Tesla property; the Contra-Solano Sector, including Mount Diablo SP, Marsh Creek SP, Benicia SRA, and Benicia Capitol SHP; and the Delta Sector, including Brannan Island SRA, Delta Meadows and Locke Boarding House, and Franks Tract SRA. Like the southern half, the northern portion of the District has its own Natural Resources program, while our Cultural Resources program covers the entire District. The Diablo Range District employs approximately 118 permanent staff and 102 seasonal positions.

Partnerships

The District benefits from numerous public and private partnerships. Several of our park units are operated by public entities, including Santa Clara County at Martial Cottle SRA, and five units in Alameda County that the East Bay Regional Parks District operates. We are actively collaborating with multiple tribes on access, interpretation, and protection of resources, including the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in the southern sector, Northern Valley Yokuts Tribe and Wilton Rancheria Tribe along the Central Valley, and the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Tribe in the Bay Area, among others. We have various interpretive partnerships throughout the District, including the Plaza Historical Association at San Juan Bautista SHP, Pine Ridge Association at Henry Coe SP, John Marsh Historic Trust at Marsh Creek SP, and Mount Diablo Interpretive Association at Mount Diablo SP, as well as co-operative associations including Hollister Hills Off Road Association at Hollister Hills SVRA and Locke Foundation at Locke Boarding House. We have a variety of concessions, including Faultline at Hollister Hills SVRA, Park Delta Bay, which runs Brannan Island SRA, and our newest concession, MotoPlus at Carnegie SVRA. We also have partners who help us with acquisitions, resource management, and fundraising, including Save Mount Diablo and Mount Diablo Trails Alliance. The District has been able to accomplish a great deal more through these important partnerships than we would be able to do on our own.

Ongoing Projects

- **Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan**

The Diablo Range District, the Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division, and our consultant, PlaceWorks, are working together with the public, tribes, and other stakeholders to classify and plan the 519-acre Delta Meadows property, which currently includes Locke Boarding House. The initial acquisition of this property occurred in the 1980s, and the recent Waterway Connections Initiative (WCI) funding made it possible to move forward with planning this property and providing more recreation opportunities and robust resource stewardship for this community. Stakeholder feedback so far has highlighted the community's desire for additional paths, nature observation opportunities, programs, and staffing to enhance the park, and the importance of protecting the natural and cultural resources on site. We

anticipate completing the classification and general plan process in 2027.

- **Waterway Connections Initiative Funding**

Consistent with the California Natural Resources Agency's Outdoors for All Initiative, State Parks launched the Waterway Connections Initiative to increase and expand inland water-related outdoor access to Priority Communities, which are communities of 2,500 or more near rivers, inland waterways, and inland water systems, and which lack meaningful connection to nature. The Diablo Range District received significant investment through WCI to expand opportunities in the District, including the Delta Meadows Classification and General Plan, additional resource stewardship and health and safety improvements at Delta Meadows and Locke, and significant recreational opportunity expansions at Brannan Island SRA and Bethany Reservoir SRA. Highlights of the improvements at Brannan Island SRA include replacement of a dilapidated marina, construction of a visitor's center, and parking lot and comfort station improvements.

- **Alameda Tesla Property Classification and General Plan**

The Alameda Tesla Property, spanning 3,400 acres, is situated directly west of Carnegie SVRA. It offers exciting opportunities for recreation access to nearby communities, particularly those in the Central Valley that have limited existing access to parks. The Classification and General Plan is well underway, with concepts available for review and input by the public. There will be a virtual public meeting to introduce and solicit feedback from the public on September 30, 2025. More information can be found at the projects website (alamedateslaplan.com). The plan is anticipated to be completed by 2027/28.

- **Wildfire Management Program & Mount Diablo State Park (SP)**

Vegetation management to promote wildfire resilience has been a key focal point in the District in recent years. In 2023, the Mount Diablo State Park California Vegetation Treatment Plan (CalVTP) and Restoration Management Permit (RMP) were approved by California Department of Fish and Wildlife, allowing us to scale up fuel reduction and reintroduce prescribed fire to Mount Diablo SP after 20 years, with our first burns occurring in spring and fall 2024. Approximately 150 acres of grassland were broadcast burned, reducing invasive species and shrub encroachment while encouraging native species like purple needlegrass to grow back. In 2025, we will continue to conduct ecologically restorative vegetation treatments such as grassland burns and shaded fuel breaks. Additional prescribed burns have occurred in the District at Henry Coe State Park in collaboration with local tribes and agencies, with additional burns on the horizon.

- **Youth Corps Partnerships**

The District works regularly with local youth corps, including the Greater Valley Conservation Corps, in Stockton, Civicorps, in Oakland, and works with a variety of other local and state CCCs on a project-by-project basis throughout our parks. We've been able to accomplish a variety of projects and deferred maintenance by

partnering with these corps and have been able to offer valuable work experience and career pathways to parks through our partnerships, including everything from trails work to solar energy upgrades to historic building repairs. These partnerships are incredibly important to the District, and incredibly rewarding as well, as staff build relationships with the youth and see them take ownership of the parks where we work together.

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

For information only.