

# FOLSOM

General Plan/Resource Management Plan



## Chapter I: INTRODUCTION



# CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION

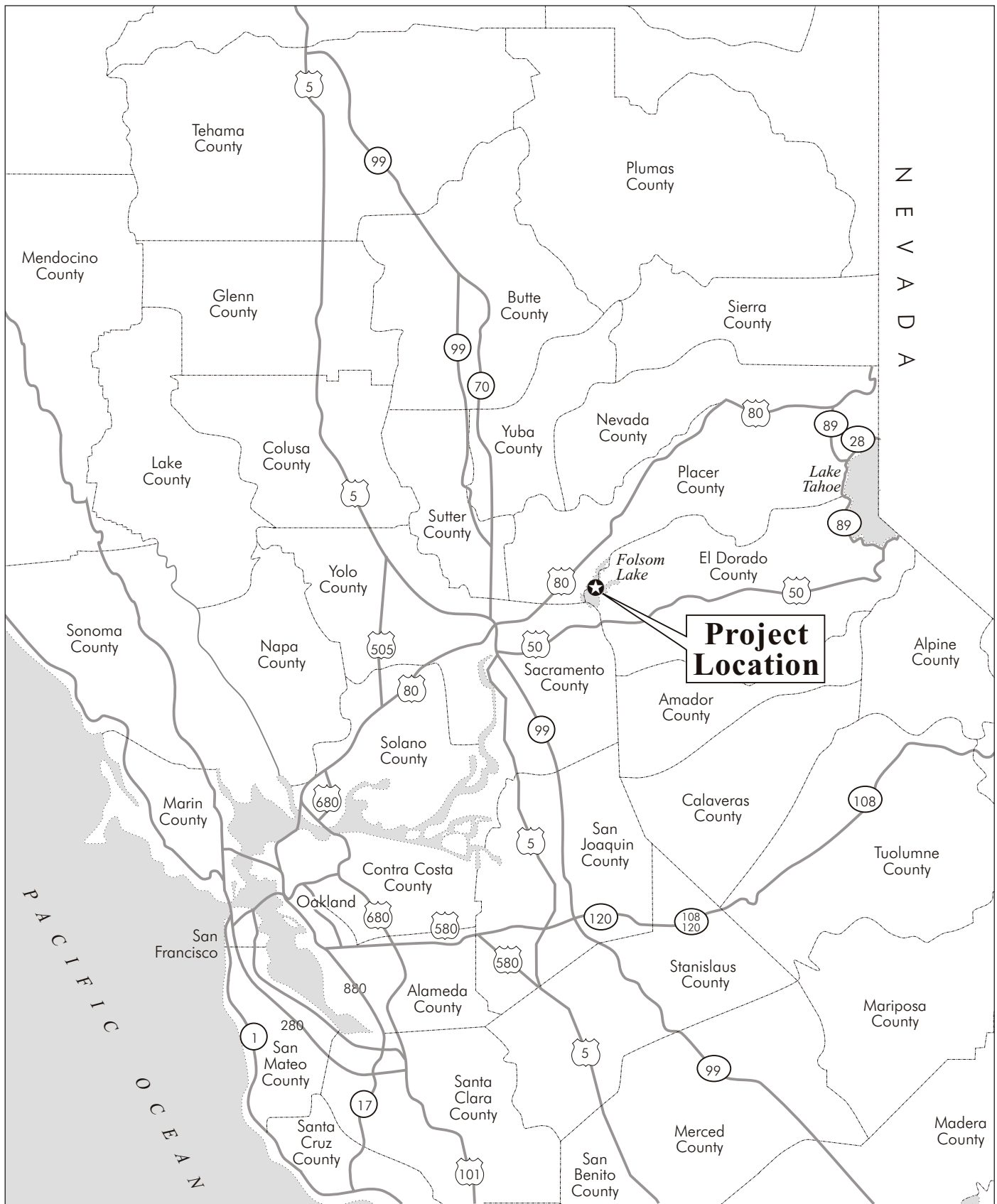
## A. INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIT

### 1. Location

#### a. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) is located at the confluence of the North and South Forks of the American River in the Sierra Nevada Foothills at the eastern edge of the Sacramento metropolitan region. Encompassing approximately 20,000 acres of water and land, the SRA extends across the boundaries of three counties (El Dorado, Placer, and Sacramento) as well as the City of Folsom. Figure I-1 illustrates the regional location of the SRA. The majority of land within the State Recreation Area (SRA) is owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and managed by State Parks through an agreement. The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has acquired some property within the SRA unit. Figure I-2 illustrates the SRA boundaries.

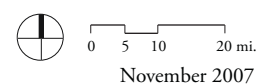
Access to the SRA is available through a network of regional and local roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and public transit. Regional access to the SRA is provided via two major freeways: Interstate 80 which connects the San Francisco Bay area with the Sacramento and Lake Tahoe/Reno regions, and Highway 50 which connects the Sacramento region with the southern Lake Tahoe region. Direct access from I-80 is provided via the interchange at Douglas Boulevard, while access from Highway 50 is provided via the interchange at Folsom Boulevard. Local access to the SRA is provided from six key roadways: Douglas Boulevard, Auburn-Folsom Road/Folsom Boulevard, East Natoma Street, Green Valley Road, Salmon Falls Road, and Hazel Avenue. In addition to bicycle facilities on several of these roadways, paved and unpaved trails—including segments of key regional trails such as the Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail and the Pioneer Express Trail—provide pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle access to and through the SRA. Transit service to the area is provided by several agencies, including Folsom Stage Line, Roseville Transit, Sacramento Regional Transit, and Placer County Transit.



Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park  
General Plan/Resource Management Plan

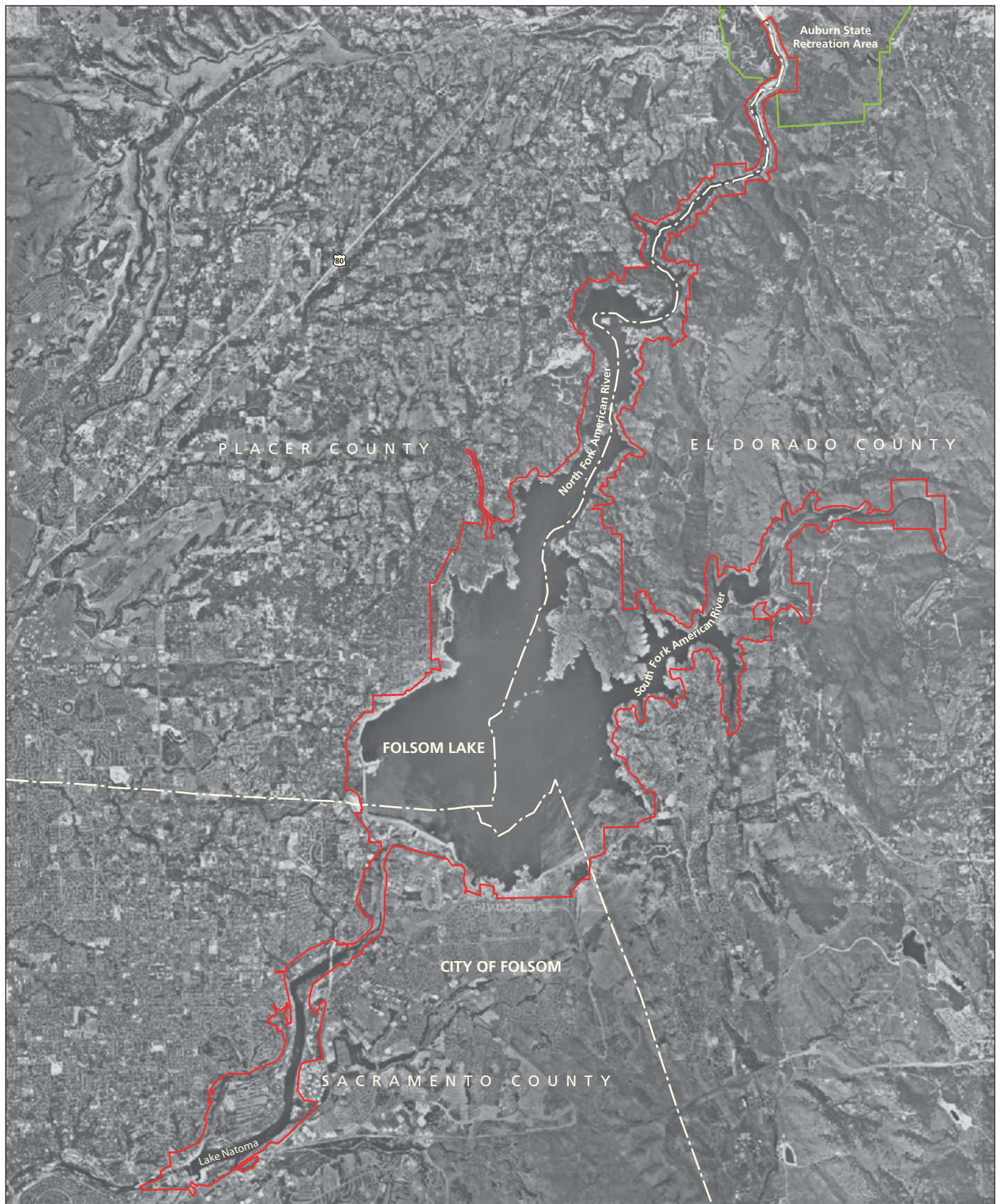
Credit: LSA Associates

**Figure I-1**  
**REGIONAL LOCATION**



November 2007

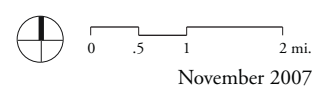




Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park  
General Plan/Resource Management Plan

Credit: Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC

**Figure I-2**  
**FOLSOM LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA BOUNDARIES**



## **b. Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park**

The Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park (SHP) is located adjacent to Folsom Lake SRA along the southern shoreline of Lake Natoma. The park unit is also adjacent to the Historic District of the City of Folsom. The SHP is 35 acres in size, about half the unit is state-owned property and the other half is under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ownership and managed by State Parks through the lease agreement for the SRA.

## **2. Unit Characteristics**

### **a. Physical Characteristics**

Situated within the westernmost extent of the Sierra Nevada Foothills, the unit's landscape consists of two reservoirs—Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma—surrounded by rolling oak-studded foothills, upland plateaus and deep river canyons carved by the North and South forks of the American River system. The reservoirs were created in the 1950's by damming the American River at Folsom. Developed as part of the Central Valley Water Project, the primary function of the reservoirs is to provide flood control, water supply and power generation for the Sacramento region. The waters of Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma comprise approximately 70 percent of the total SRA area and thus represent the unit's dominant physical features. Generally, the reservoirs are surrounded by a relatively narrow, and frequently steep, band of upland area.

Folsom Lake, which is the larger of the two reservoirs, includes roughly 11,500 acres of water surface area at an elevation of 466 feet and over 75 miles of undulated shoreline that provides numerous and varied opportunities for water-dependent recreation and support facilities. The largest and most natural upland area on Folsom Lake is the 1,465-acre Peninsula, which is formed by the confluence of the North and South forks of the American River. The Peninsula includes the highest point in the SRA, at just over 800 feet, and is also the most remote from urban development.

Lake Natoma, which is the afterbay of Folsom Dam, is located about one mile below Folsom dam at the foot of a steep river gorge. The long, narrow lake includes approximately 540 acres of water surface area and 14 miles of highly scenic riparian shoreline. The dramatic 300-foot high cliffs of the Lake Natoma Bluffs line the western shore of Lake Natoma from Negro Bar to Mississippi Bar. Mississippi Bar is the largest upland area along Lake Natoma. This 750-acre river terrace is undeveloped and includes an array of significant natural resources. It also displays the effects of past mining activities which left behind dredge tailings in the form of cobblestone piles up to several stories high.

The SRA represents a significant resource within the region on many fronts. As a visual and scenic resource, the SRA's many miles of shoreline coupled with hilly topography provide significant variety in both viewpoint orientation and available viewsheds and create a wealth of viewing conditions and opportunities. These resources include a combination of panoramic views and distinctive landscape and built features. As a natural resource, the SRA supports nine major vegetation communities typical of the lower foothills of California's Central Valley. These communities provide habitat for a diverse mix of terrestrial and aquatic fauna, including several special status species. As a cultural resource, the SRA is rich in history spanning more than 4,000 years and includes at least 229 known archaeological sites.

Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park (SHP) is a separate unit in the State Parks system that is managed by the Folsom Sector and is also being addressed in this General Plan. The Folsom Powerhouse represents one of the oldest hydroelectric facilities in the world and the nation's first power system to provide high-voltage alternating current over long distance transmission lines. The historic structures that form the core of the SHP include the main powerhouse and turbine room, the pump room, transformers and switches, the lower powerhouse, the blacksmith shop, forebay, spillways and about one half mile of the canal that once brought water to the Powerhouse from the original Folsom Dam. The site also includes a bedrock mortar. Outside the core of the Folsom Powerhouse SHP, the area consists of interior live oak and riparian woodlands. Visitor services facilities include a small picnic area, walking paths, restrooms, and a small parking area. A small visitor center and improvements to the parking area at the Powerhouse which began construction in September 2006 will be completed in winter 2007 and will be opened to the public sometime in 2008.

## b. Use Characteristics

With an average of 1.5 million visitors over the past five years<sup>1</sup>, the SRA is one of the most popular units in the State Parks system. This is due largely to the location of the SRA within a growing metropolitan area, good highway access, and opportunities for use year-round – although 75 percent of all visits occur during the warmer spring and summer months.

Visitor use in the SRA varies by lake. On Folsom Lake, aquatic activities account for about 85 percent of all recreation visits. Due to the size of Folsom Lake, and the nature of the available facilities, it is ideal for a wide range of aquatic activities, including boating, personal

---

<sup>1</sup> Visitor use figures are estimates derived from paid attendance counts, estimates of unpaid attendance and factors such as average number of occupants per vehicle. The formulas for estimating use at Folsom Lake SRA have not been altered for many years. It is believed that the use figures underestimate the actual use within the SRA, particularly the amount of unpaid use.



water craft use, water skiing, wake boarding, sailing, windsurfing, swimming, and fishing. Due to their narrow configuration, the upper arms of the Folsom Lake are designated slow zones that accommodate quiet cruising, fishing, paddling and nature appreciation. In addition, each year as many as 80,000 whitewater rafters on the South Fork of the American River take their boats out of the water where the river empties into Folsom Lake. On Lake Natoma, aquatic activities account for about half of all recreation visits. The sheltered waters of Lake Natoma make it an ideal location for paddling (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, outriggers, etc.), swimming, and fishing. Motorized watercraft on Lake Natoma are limited to 5 mph.

Visitors to the SRA also participate in a variety of land-based activities, such as hiking, biking, picnicking, camping, and horseback riding. The more than 170 campsites in the SRA—which typically fill quickly on peak season weekends—range in setting from the more convenient and developed Beals Point Campground and Negro Bar Group Campground to the more primitive and out-of-the-way Peninsula Campground. The majority of the SRA’s campers are car campers, although RVs are also accommodated. Five major day use areas serve as the primary gateways to the SRA for approximately 60 percent of visitors. Granite Bay, Beals Point, Folsom Point, Negro Bar, and Nimbus Flat offer a full range of facilities including swim beaches, picnic areas, food and beach equipment concessions, restrooms and drinking water, equestrian staging areas, and trailheads. The 94 miles of trails in the SRA are increasingly popular with a host of users, including hikers and runners, equestrians, mountain bikers, and cyclists.

Folsom Powerhouse SHP provides tours, exhibits, and interactive activities that explore the history of hydro-electric generation and transmission of electricity. Interpretive and education programs at the SHP are provided by the Folsom Powerhouse Docents, a group of volunteers with California State Parks. The Friends of the Folsom Powerhouse, a non-profit charitable organization independent of State Parks, also provides support for the SHP. Over the past decade the Powerhouse has been open limited hours and has been staffed primarily by the docents. Most of the visitation at the Powerhouse occurs through pre-arranged tours for school groups and others, plus some drop-in use on weekends. The Powerhouse visitation is estimated at 2,000-5,000 visitors annually. These patterns of use will change when the new visitor center at the Powerhouse is completed.



### 3. Purpose of Acquisition

#### a. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

In 1956, the construction of Folsom Dam by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and Nimbus Dam by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation were completed, resulting in the creation of Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma. The dams and lakes were designed as part of the massive Central Valley Project, a network of dams, reservoirs, canals, powerplants, and pumping stations extending over 500 miles south from the Cascade Mountains and 100 miles west from the Sierra Foothills to the Coastal Range. The purpose of the project is to provide flood control, water supply and power generation. Responsibility for the operation of these facilities belongs to Reclamation.

Shortly after construction of the dams, State Parks entered into an agreement with Reclamation to build and manage recreation facilities on Reclamation's lands at Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma. The area was subsequently designated as Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) and the first facilities opened to the public in 1958. The earliest statements of purpose for the SRA, including the unit classification sheet completed in 1962, convey that the purpose of acquisition was to provide for and manage public use of the recreation opportunities created by the impoundment of Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma. The provision of facilities for aquatic recreation—including boating, fishing, swimming and water skiing—as well as trails and overnight use were also acknowledged. Other values highlighted include the Sierra foothill vegetation within the unit—oak woodland, grasslands and chaparral—and the varied historic values associated with the area from historic gold mining to the Folsom Powerhouse. The accessibility of the area to the Sacramento region and the San Francisco Bay area were also noted.

Since the creation and classification of the SRA, State Parks has and continues to acquire property for the SRA, thus adding to the original federal holdings around the lakes. Such acquisition has been motivated by a number of objectives, including improving public access to the SRA, protecting environmental and cultural resources, and enhancing recreational opportunity.

#### b. Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park

The Folsom Powerhouse SHP is comprised of property deeded to California State Parks by Pacific Gas and Electric in 1957 and property owned by Reclamation that was withdrawn as part of the Folsom Dam Project and then leased to State Parks. State Parks acquired the PG&E property to preserve and protect the Folsom Powerhouse site, structures and historic

features. The Powerhouse was managed as a portion of Folsom Lake SRA until 1995 when it was classified as a separate unit within the State Park system. The Folsom Powerhouse was classified as a separate State Historic Park unit to acknowledge the special historical significance of the site, to focus public attention on these unique values, and to provide interpretive, educational and recreational opportunities to the people of California.

The Folsom Powerhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also listed as a California Historical Landmark, National Historic Landmark, National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, and National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

## **4. Sense of Place**

### **a. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area**

The construction of Folsom and Nimbus Dams impounded waters of the American River to form Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma, which are the primary reasons for the existence of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA). However, in addition to the two lakes, the SRA also provides diverse landscapes, recreation opportunities, natural and cultural resources. The setting of these two reservoirs situated at the confluence of the North and South Forks of the American River and at the edge of the Sacramento Valley and the Sierra Nevada foothills is key to the SRA's sense of place. The visual contrast provided by the lakes reflecting blue sky against a backdrop of rolling foothills of oak woodland and grasslands, alternately green in winter and spring and golden brown in summer and fall, is striking. In summer, the reservoirs are a natural attraction for people seeking to escape the valley heat and recreate on or near the cool waters. The rich and diverse range of archaeological and historic resources throughout the area attests to the attraction this place has had for people long before the construction of the dams and reservoirs.

Human history on the American River spans more than 4,000 years. The number and variety of prehistoric sites within the SRA illustrate Native American lifeways and the importance of the river corridor for settlement and trading. The SRA's historic resources reflect the importance of the area during the Gold Rush, from early placer mining to later hydraulic mining and dredging. The development of water resources and hydropower is evident in the many historic sites related to these activities within the unit, most notably the Folsom Powerhouse.

There are a variety of landscapes in the SRA, from rugged canyons along the North and South Forks of the American River, to the rolling hills and upland plateaus above Folsom Lake, to the bluffs and broad river plain of Lake Natoma. These settings showcase many of the typical and unique landscapes of California—chaparral, blue oak woodland and savanna, and willow riparian plant communities—and support important habitat for a variety of native animal species including mule deer, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, quail, bald and golden eagles, herons, egrets, western pond turtle and California horned lizard.

For all its beauty and history, the SRA's easy accessibility to both recreation and nature is one of its primary assets. Located in a metropolitan area of nearly 2 million people, increasingly surrounded by urban development, and close to the San Francisco Bay Area and the rapidly growing communities of the Central Valley, the SRA provides visitors of all ages and abilities the opportunity to experience its resources in an hour, an afternoon, a weekend, or longer. The SRA provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities and activities for visitors, whether it is part of a daily exercise routine, a weekly recreational change of pace or an annual special event. The lakes provide diverse aquatic recreation opportunities including fishing, water skiing, sailing, windsurfing, personal watercraft use, rowing, whitewater rafting, canoeing and kayaking. Upland facilities and activities include camping, hiking, jogging and running, road and mountain biking, and horseback riding. The SRA also provides opportunities for learning about nature, history and the intersection of technology and human use of this landscape. Salmon and steelhead spawning in the American River below Nimbus Dam, prehistoric Native American sites, the diversity of gold mining communities, power generation and water development are a few of the unique educational and interpretive opportunities the SRA provides.

Early weekday mornings find joggers and bicycle commuters hitting the paved paths along Lake Natoma to get a jump on the day while rowers glide silently along the glassy waters. In the evenings, these same paths and trails are popular with bicyclists and runners getting exercise to wind down the workday while others venture out for a walk in the cool air of dusk. Weekday afternoons provide the perfect opportunity to get away from the office to paddle on Lake Natoma or sail on Folsom Lake. Spring and summer weekends at the major recreation use areas of the SRA are a vibrant mix recreation pursuits including swimming and sunbathing; picnics, barbeques and family gatherings; water skiing and pleasure boating; walking, horseback riding, and biking; and the occasional rowing competition, special event, or festival. The SRA also provides the opportunity for escapes to more tranquil and remote areas along the North and South Forks of the American River. The backcountry of the SRA is within reach of those willing to work a little harder—whether on foot, bike, horseback or boat—to experience the beauty of this classic Sierra foothills landscape.

As the population of the Sacramento region continues to grow, the demand for high-quality outdoor recreation in a natural setting, the importance of the remaining natural habitat and the need for open space will also intensify. A sustainable Folsom Lake SRA is vital to the quality of life for the region and to providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors.

## **b. Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park**

Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park (SHP) preserves a complex of historic features and structures that provided the first long distance transmission of hydroelectric power west of the Mississippi. The complex includes the main powerhouse and its generators, turbines and transformers; the canal, forebay, wooden headgates and penstocks; and the lower powerhouse, office, shop, and other buildings. The complex provides a window into the technology of this pioneering facility that began generating electricity in 1895 and transmitting it 22 miles to Sacramento.

The integrity of the structure and associated features, the solid unadorned rectangular two-story brick main powerhouse building sitting on a granite outcropping, the granite masonry on the forebay, and massive bulkheads for the headgates all project a sense of stability and permanence. The generators, the marble-faced control switchboard, and other historic mechanical equipment sit as an anachronism amid recent development and allow visitors to imagine the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when electricity was a novelty and the dark of night dictated life's rhythm. With the modern hydroelectric plants of Folsom and Nimbus dams nearby, and the numerous other historic mining and water development features, the historical thread of water and power runs through the site and connects it to the larger watershed.

The scenic setting along the banks of Lake Natoma, the native interior live oak and blue oak woodlands surrounding the historic landscape, and the large bedrock mortar outcropping on the site all contribute to the rich opportunities for interpretation, education, recreation and inspiration that the SRA provides.

## **B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

In Spring 2002, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), began working with a team of planners, scientists, and engineers to update the General Plan/Resource Management Plan (the Plan) for Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. This update

represents the first comprehensive revision of State Park's general plan for Folsom Lake SRA since the current plan was adopted in 1979. The 1979 plan was amended three times: twice in 1988 (Nimbus Flat, Nimbus Shoals/Mississippi Bar) and 1996 (Negro Bar, Willow Creek, Beals Point). This plan will replace the 1979 plan and all three amendments. It also represents the first Resource Management Plan for the area under Reclamation's land planning and management requirements. An Environmental Impact Report in compliance with CEQA and Environmental Impact Statement consistent with NEPA were also prepared.

Since the adoption of the 1979 general plan for the SRA, outdoor recreation has changed substantially. The popularity of personal watercraft (jet skis), wake boarding, and sailing has transformed the boating environment on Folsom Lake. Likewise, rowing, kayaking and other paddling sports have become favorite activities on Lake Natoma. Land-based recreational activities have also changed over the years. When the SRA first opened, the trails were used primarily by equestrians and hikers. The rising popularity of running and jogging in the 1970s, and mountain biking in the 1980s and 90s have greatly increased the volume and variety of trail use within the SRA.

The most significant change to occur since 1979 is the 62 percent increase in the population of the Sacramento region, and more specifically the new development in the immediate vicinity of the SRA. With urban development surrounding the southern half of the SRA, and roughly 930,000 new residents expected in the region by 2020—a 49 percent increase—the new Plan is needed to articulate the character and level of use envisioned for the SRA, how existing facilities will be used, what future facilities may be needed, and how existing natural and cultural resources may be protected and managed.

Another change which has occurred since the 1979 General Plan and subsequent amendments were adopted is the designation of the Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park as a separate State Park unit. This plan will be the first General Plan direction for the area since its designation as a State Historic Park.

The extended Plan update process represents the commitment by State Parks and Reclamation to prepare a comprehensive and in-depth plan that is adequate to guide the SRA through these times of change. Work began in June 2002 with the preparation of the Resource Inventory for the SRA. In October 2002, a series of agency stakeholder and focus group meetings—involving recreation and environmental groups, SRA neighbors, responsible agencies, and other interested parties—were held to identify and clarify issues to

be addressed in the Plan. An initial community workshop was held in November 2002 to introduce the project to the general public, review the findings of the draft inventory of the SRA's resources, and solicit public input on key issues and opportunities of concern to the public. During this initial round of public input the issue of trails was identified as a topic that warranted further consultation and analysis. As such, additional meetings were held with a select group of trail stakeholders to inform the overall goals and objectives for the SRA's trail system and lay the groundwork for the preparation of a trails management plan after adoption of the updated General Plan/Resource Management Plan. Key stakeholder meetings were also held to discuss the potential for creating an artificial whitewater course in the area of Nimbus Shoals in conjunction with a planned fish diversion structure below Nimbus Dam. Reclamation has subsequently determined that a fish passage structure which also accommodates whitewater use is not feasible.

In addition to public meetings, two public surveys were used to expand the quantity and variety of public input. A telephone survey of 400 households in the region was conducted to identify how these households perceive the SRA, whether they use the SRA, and what recreation needs they might have that are not currently being met. A series of on-site intercept surveys were also conducted to gather more detailed information about the SRA and its facilities from those who use it. These surveys were conducted at different locations within the SRA and during different seasons of the year in order to capture a broad cross-section of current SRA users' opinions. More than 1,200 responses were collected.

In the following months, preliminary alternative concepts for the SRA were prepared based on the input from the general public, SRA visitors, public agencies, other stakeholders, and State Parks and Reclamation management and staff. These alternatives were the subject of a second community workshop in June 2003. The workshop was used to present a series of preliminary alternatives for the SRA's future, and solicit public input on a preferred SRA concept. Based on this input, further review of the Resource Inventory findings, and consultation with State Parks and Reclamation staff, a preferred concept was prepared and a Preliminary General Plan/Resource Management drafted. A third community workshop will be held in December 2008 to present the Preliminary Draft General Plan/Resource Management Plan to the public.

The Plan update planning process involved substantial public consultation and input at each stage of development. As noted, agency and other stakeholders were involved in focus groups to highlight issues to be addressed in the plan. Three community workshops attended by more than 350 people kept the public informed about the planning process, and informed



the planning team of issues and concerns that only those very familiar with the SRA could know. Five newsletters were prepared to inform and update the 600 contacts on the project mailing list, and countless others using the SRA's planning project web site, on the plan's progress. The SRA's planning project web site also facilitated on-going public forum and included an on-line comment form, as well as a posting of the alternative concept exhibits, and all interim planning and environmental documents. In all, some 150 comment sheets and letters were received by the planning team in addition to e-mail communication with an additional 100 people.

## **C. PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL PLAN/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **1. State Parks General Plan**

A park general plan is the primary management document for a unit of the State Parks system, establishing its purpose and management direction for the future. By providing a defined purpose and vision, long-term goals, and guidelines, the general plan defines the broadest management framework for the development, ongoing management, and public use of a park. This framework will guide the day-to-day decision-making for the park, and serve as the basis for developing focused management plans, specific project plans, and other management actions necessary to implement the goals of the general plan.

The scope of a park general plan is intended to be broad and programmatic in nature. The *State Parks Planning Handbook (January 2004)* indicates that general plans should include broad goals and strategies that define the ultimate purpose and aim of management, but should stop short of defining specific accomplishments and/or the timeframe for fulfilling those goals. The intent is to provide a long-lived planning document that is clear in its direction, but flexible in its proposed approaches to solving future management issues and concerns that are certain to arise. Specific objectives and strategies for implementation of the general plan are intended to be developed in subsequent planning efforts as they are needed, including preparation of management plans and specific project plans.

Management plans define the specific objectives, methodologies and/or designs for accomplishing management goals. Occurring on an as-needed basis, they typically focus on specific management topics, goals, or issues. Depending on their purpose, management plans can apply to all or part of a park. Typical examples of management plans include resource management plans, operation plans, interpretive plans, concession plans, and facility

development plans. Unlike the general plan, resource, use, or area-specific management plans are more dynamic, changing as necessary to be responsive to management's needs. Specific project plans are the detailed implementation plans needed to accomplish specific projects. For example, specific project plans would include design concepts, site plans, and details for development of the multi-use aquatic training/activity facility proposed at Brown's Ravine or Folsom Point.

Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code requires that a park general plan be prepared prior to the development of permanent facilities within a park. Park general plans are required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to undergo a programmatic environmental analysis and prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Given the broad, goal-oriented and programmatic nature of general plans, subsequent development or enhancements proposed in a general plan are subject to additional project-specific environmental review to address specific matters that were either unknown or unforeseen during the general plan process. This project-specific environmental review may be "tiered" to the EIR prepared for the broader general plan if such projects are pursuant or consistent with the general plan. This approach encourages efficiency by eliminating the need to repeat the discussion of general matters already contained in the general plan EIR.

This Plan will provide General Plan direction for both Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park (SHP). Specific and detailed direction for the management of the Folsom Powerhouse SHP is provided in the Specific Area Goals and Guidelines for the Folsom Powerhouse SHP management zone.

This document will guide future efforts to balance recreation and conservation, protect the natural and cultural resources, and expand opportunities for public enjoyment of the Sierra Nevada Foothills setting. These goals will be achieved with new facilities, enhancements to existing facilities, resource management programs, and interpretive and educational activities, whose design will be undertaken subsequent to this General Plan. Not only must these components of the park's future be consistent with the overall vision for the park as articulated in this plan, they must also clearly relate to each other in a comprehensive and coordinated manner and be consistent with the site's environmental values.

## 2. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Resource Management Plan

This document represents a combined State Parks General Plan and Bureau of Reclamation Resource Management Plan for the SRA and SHP. As such, the document meets the general planning and resource management planning requirements of the respective agencies, as well as State and federal environmental analysis requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). As with a State Parks General Plan under CEQA, a Resource Management Plan for Reclamation must undergo programmatic environmental analysis and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under NEPA. “Tiered” environmental review of subsequent projects pursuant or consistent with the resource management plan is also encouraged under NEPA.

There are substantial similarities between the requirements for a State Parks general plan and a Reclamation resource management plan. Both documents are intended to identify and integrate management direction, implementation, and monitoring. The planning processes for both involve an inventory of resources, identification of issues, analysis of opportunities and constraints, formulation of goals and objectives, and identification of implementation procedures. As for the documents themselves, the required components of a resource management plan identified in the Reclamation *Resource Management Plan Guidebook* (February 2003) are almost identical to those required of a general plan under the State Parks *Planning Handbook* (February 2002).

Due to the similarities in purpose, process, and required components, there is no need or attempt to cross-reference State or federal requirements, or to specifically address consistency between State and federal requirements. A combined General Plan/Resource Management Plan for Folsom Lake SRA has been prepared that fully meets the planning requirements of both agencies.

As noted above, California State Parks manages Folsom Lake State Recreation Area through a long term agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation. The original fifty-year lease agreement between Reclamation and State Parks for the management of Folsom Lake SRA was executed on April 17, 1956. The lease agreement allows DPR to occupy the federal lands within the SRA for the purpose of developing, administering and maintaining the area as a state park. This agreement expired in April 2006. Reclamation and DPR have been working on developing a new long term agreement for the continued operation and

management of the Folsom Lake SRA. During the interim period DPR and Reclamation have been operating under the terms of the existing lease agreement until a new agreement is developed, finalized and executed.

At the outset of the process to develop a new General Plan/Resource Management Plan, both agencies expected the GP/RMP would be completed prior to the expiration of the lease agreement. Both agencies also anticipated having a new long term agreement in place by the time the original agreement expired. Reclamation and State Parks fully expect to reach agreement on a new long term agreement for the continued administration, operation and maintenance of Folsom Lake SRA. However, should the two agencies fail to reach a new long term agreement, all or portions of this plan may no longer be valid. If Reclamation and State Parks do not reach a new long term agreement and Reclamation develops a management agreement with another entity or manages the federal portion of the area on its own, this Plan may need to be revised, amended or redone completely.

Additionally, while the majority of the lands within the SRA are federal property acquired for Folsom Dam and Reservoir, California State Parks has acquired fee title to approximately 2,250 acres of additional property in various locations around the SRA. Should the two agencies not develop a new long term management agreement, it is likely that management plans for these federal and State lands would be developed separately and the designation of the area as a State Recreation Area would need to be re-considered.

As noted above, State Parks and Reclamation are both committed to developing a new long term management agreement for Folsom Lake SRA and are in the process of developing such an agreement at this time.