



BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK Facilities Management Plan

WEBINAR: Facilities Management Plan Project Summary and EIR Scoping Session

July 10, 2025

Q&A Summary

The following questions were asked before the webinar or at the webinar using the Q&A tool. Since not every question was answered at the webinar the following list includes responses to all questions.

A recording of the webinar is available at <https://reimaginingbigbasin.org>

1. What tribes are you working with?

Written answer provided during the meeting:

Staff have reached out to several Indigenous groups locally. Muwekma Ohlone and Amah Mutsun leaders were part of the Advisory Committee for the Reimagining Vision. We have visited the site with Tribal members and there is strong interest in a cultural center, for interpretation and education and for completing culturally important projects.

2. How will shuttle capacity compare to traffic levels pre-fire? What wait times do you expect?

Written answer provided during the meeting:

The plan allows for pre-fire visitation levels to the return to the park with the planned shuttle routes. The Saddle Mountain shuttle is expected to run approximately every 10-20 minutes.



3. When will a plan and timeline for opening the old trails be available?

Written answer provided during the meeting:

Trails are currently being rebuilt in-kind and will take many more years to complete. We hope to begin a road and trail planning process in the next year that will consider changes to the trail network.

4. What is the timeline for completion of each section?

Answered live during the meeting.

5. Restrooms? Where and what kind?

Written answer provided during the meeting:

There will be different kinds of restrooms throughout the park. These include vault restrooms, restrooms with flushable toilets, and some restrooms will even have showers.

6. Apart from Skyline to the Sea trail, are there other backpacking connections, e.g. to Castle Rock, Butano State Park etc. planned?

Response after the meeting:

State Parks plans to initiate a Regional Road and Trail Management Plan for Big basin within the next year, and this process will look at potential additional regional trail connections.

7. Big Basin Redwoods State Park celebrated its Centennial in 2002. That means the 125 year celebration should be in 2027, only 2 years from now. Will any of these new facilities/campgrounds be in place by then?

Response after the meeting:

The phased design, permitting, bidding and construction will start after completion of the Facilities Management Plan, expected in 2026. The process to rebuild all the utility systems and other infrastructure



needed for camping and other park facilities will take several years

8. Can you go deeper into the hydrological restorations work in Little Basin and what created the need to do so?

Response after the meeting:

Both Little Basin and the Main Day Use area in the Old Growth Zone are areas identified in the plan for hydrologic restoration. Both areas have drainages that have been diverted historically and were previously designed to convey stormwater away from roads, trails and structures. In both locations, the Facilities Plan includes some removal of roads, structures and parking in these areas, and restoration of natural hydrologic processes including channel restoration and stormwater retention.

9. I am curious if you've thought about climate friendly access via the north - via San Mateo County

Response after the meeting:

A shuttle system from the South Bay or from San Mateo County has been considered but is not feasible due to the distance and the narrow roads of accessing the park via upper Highway 236.

10. How were the local tribal communities involved in the larger plan, and what do they think of the current plans?

Response after the meeting:

See response to Question #1.

11. It looked like the new picnic area was more like an open field. Will there be picnic areas that are more tucked away, similar to the old design?

Response after the meeting:

Planned picnic areas are all small sites that are in the redwood forest, including at the Main Day Use area, Gazos Road, and Blooms Creek.



12. Is there a plan to incorporate the town of Boulder Creek for visitor services, shuttle, etc?

Response after the meeting:

The planned increased bus service from Scotts Valley will travel through Boulder Creek. State Parks will continue to pursue future opportunities with other partners to provide park-and-ride locations for park visitors to board the bus and access the park in addition to the Scotts Valley Transit Center.

13. Was there any consideration of a CCC style Redwood Ecology VC with design modifications for fire resilience? Seems better than an old chimney in the reflection are at the Old Lodge site.

Response after the meeting:

The Redwood Ecology Interpretive Center in the Main Day Use area will be designed for resilience and sustainability, with reverence to the past history of the park and the significance of the park setting. The siting of the building is based on providing an entry for visitors to the park arriving by shuttle to get oriented as they arrive at the park.

14. A bit off topic perhaps, but do we know anything about loss of wildlife to the fire?

Response after the meeting:

Wildlife is returning to the park after the fire. There are several researchers looking at this and some of their findings can be found in two symposiums of research about Big Basin, posted by the Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregional Council:

2022 — 1st Symposium on Post-fire Research <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pe2c8TDSgK0>

2023— 2nd Symposium on Post-fire Research <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtdmH3KCU8s>



15. How will visitors that may enter from the north, from Highway 9, then to Highway 236, be handled (i.e. via a separate park kiosk, turnabout, better wayfinding, shuttle or maybe some road side parking near China Grade)?

[Response after the meeting:](#)

Visitors will be able to drive to the park from upper 236 via Waterman Gap. They will be able to access the limited parking at the Old Growth Area or continue on three miles to the parking at Saddle Mountain. With Saddle Mountain becoming the primary entry point on weekends, more visitors may find it more direct to travel through Boulder Creek and access the park via lower 236.

A new trailhead parking area in the upper 236/China Grade area may be considered as part of the next phase of planning in the Road and Trail Management Plan.

16. Will there be any first come first service car camping sites?

[Response after the meeting:](#)

Management of the campground reservation systems will be based on future park operations.

17. What is the timeline for overnight sites? Sorry if I missed it

[Response after the meeting:](#)

See response #7.

18. Thanks for your written responses. I suppose that, sadly, the Berry Creek Falls loop will be the last trail reopened?

[Response after the meeting:](#)

Trails are being rehabilitated, repaired, made safe, and reopened in phases. The Skyline to the Sea Trail from the Old Growth to Berry Creek Falls, and to Waddell Beach, will take several years to reopen.



19. Any plans for ice cream sandwiches at the concession stand?

Response after the meeting:

Yes!

20. What is the intention for traffic access on the Lodge Rd/Sky Meadow Rd loop? Is the plan to have access solely via the Sky Meadow Rd side, one way in and out? Lodge Rd (on the non-park-property side) has had a hard closure due to landslide for a few years now and is not accessible. (And really was not a public-drive-friendly road before that.)

Response after the meeting:

Park access to the Sky Meadow areas will be via Sky Meadow Road from Highway 236. This road segment will require improvements to accommodate two-way traffic. Lodge Road from Sky Meadow to Highway 236 will be an emergency route only, not open to public vehicles.

21. What do you anticipate being the biggest challenge for the project?

Response after the meeting:

While rebuilding the park will have several challenges, Santa Cruz District staff looks forward to working in collaboration to rebuild the park over the next several years.

22. Car camping spots were historically difficult to obtain (very popular because they were affordable great experience for families and seniors). Will the number of car camping spots be decreased (to make room for cabins/tents/walk ins etc), stay the same, or increased?

Response after the meeting:

The plan includes a similar amount of overall camping as was in the park before the fire. The proposed



number of car camping spots will be roughly the same as before the fire once all campgrounds are rebuilt.

23. Can I reserve a friends and family campsite for July 2027? I am going to be celebrating being cancer-free for 30 years!!!

Response after the meeting:

Congratulations! And there are several State Parks and other parks with campsites available for reservation.

Please see response to Question #7.

24. Not sure if this pertinent to the Reimagining discussion, but there are reports that bikes will be allowed on trails which is a break from long time policy. Is this being considered?

Response after the meeting:

The Facilities Management Plan does not address specific uses on trails. State Parks anticipates initiating a regional Road and Trail Management Plan for Big Basin in the next year, and that planning process will address trails in Big Basin.

25. Will you be starting the shuttle earlier than the current 10 am

Response after the meeting:

When the park is rebuilt, shuttle schedules and operating days will be based on visitation patterns and other factors. Currently, there is a small pilot shuttle program operating in the park on summer weekends, and it is designed to run when it is needed by visitors starting to park at Saddle Mountain. This only occurs currently when the Main Day Use area fills, which is not typically before 10am.



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