

# Stakeholder Meeting

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

March 16, 2024





## Agenda

- Welcoming Remarks
- Introductions
- Project Overview
- Your Involvement
- Project Process
- Q&A
- Facilitated Discussion
- Next Steps

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### Welcome



#### Alexandra Stehl

#### California State Parks, Deputy Director of Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division







## Introductions: Project Team

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## **Project Overview**

- The Alameda-Tesla Classification and General Plan project will help State Parks add over 3,100 acres to the State Parks system.
- Anticipated to take three to five years to complete and includes multiple phases:
  - Classification
  - General Plan
  - Environmental Impact Report

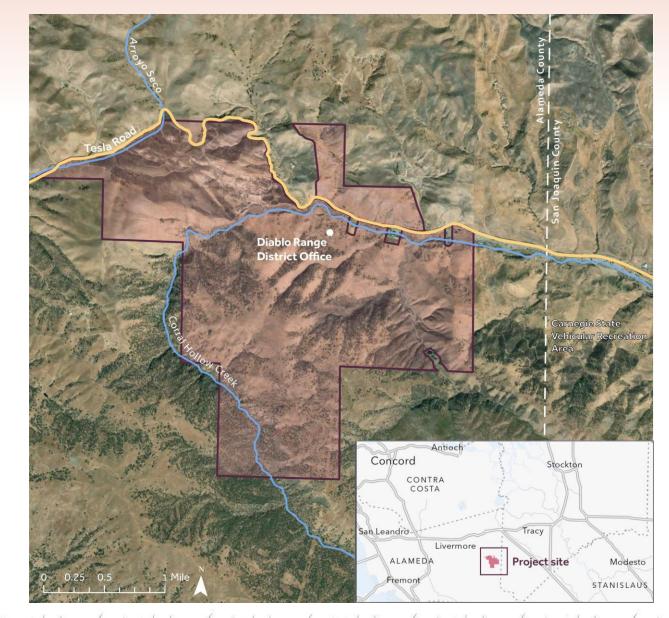




## **Project Overview**

#### Location

- In the Diablo Range, between the cities of Livermore and Tracy.
- Adjacent to the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area to the east.
- Surrounded by privately owned land along the remainder of its borders.

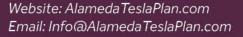


## **Project Overview**

### Background

- State Parks acquired the property in the late 1990s with plans for the expansion of adjacent Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area.
- After challenges to this plan, in 2021, Senate Bill 155 (PRC sec. 5090.42)
  - Authorized planning work to determine the best use of the land
  - Specified that the property shall not be designated as a state vehicular recreation area
  - Specified that the property shall not be considered for any future expansion of off-highway vehicle recreation.

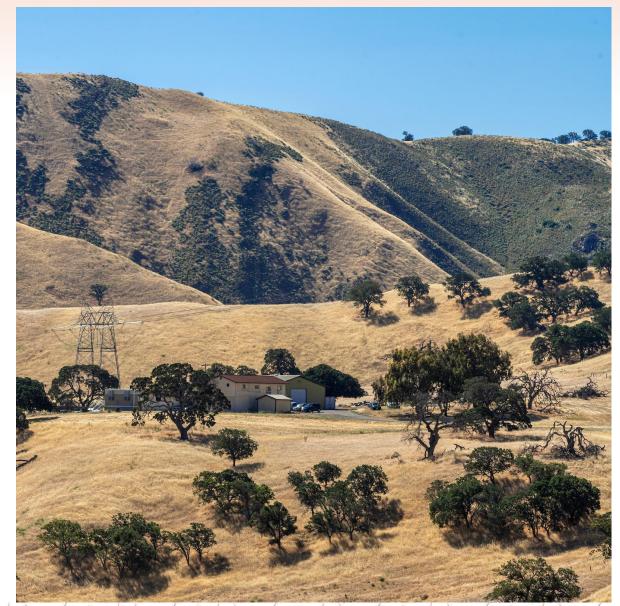






## **Your Participation**

- Stakeholder Meetings
  - Opportunity to share your perspective on the project
  - Identify potential areas for collaboration, or topics of concern
- Stakeholders include
  - Regulatory agencies
  - Local agencies
  - Natural, cultural and historic resource advocacy groups
  - Recreation and access organizations
  - Neighbors, including resident State Parks employees
- Help spread the word about the project with your constituency





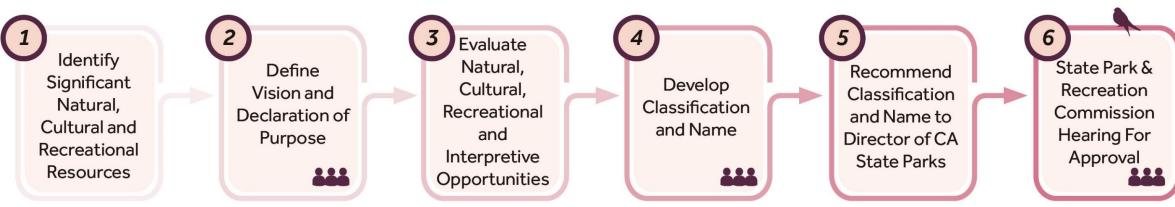
### **Your Participation**

	Summer/Fall 2023	Spring/Summer 2024	Summer/Fall 2024	Winter 2024/2025	2025	2026	2027
	Phase I : Establish Park Classification			Phase II: General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR)			
	Visioning	Develop Classification	Adopt Classification	Concept Plan	General Plan	EIR: Notice to Proceed	Draft and Final EIR
WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT	<ul> <li>Current conditions at the Alameda-Tesla site</li> <li>Introduction to Classification and General Plan process</li> <li>What do you envision for the site?</li> </ul>	• What is the most appropriate classification for the project site?	<ul> <li>This is the proposed classification for the project site based on the public input, site assessment, and other studies</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Draft Concept Alternatives for the project site</li> <li>Which Design Concept Alternative do you prefer?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Draft General Plan for the project site</li> <li>How can the Draft General Plan be improved?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The Environmental Impact Report will be prepared</li> <li>What environmental topics should be studied in the EIR?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Draft and Final EIR for the project site</li> <li>What are your comments for the Draft EIR?</li> </ul>
HOW TO PARTICIPATE	<ul> <li>Online survey</li> <li>Public Workshops</li> <li>» In-person (1)</li> <li>» Virtual (1)</li> <li>Stakeholder meetings</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Public Workshops</li> <li>» In-person (1)</li> <li>» Virtual (1)</li> <li>Stakeholder meetings</li> </ul>	State Park and Recreation Commission Meeting	Public Workshops     » In-person (1)     » Virtual (1)	• Public Workshops » In-person (1) » Virtual (1)	Email comments to project team     Public Scoping Meeting	<ul> <li>Public Hearing and Comments on Draft EIR</li> <li>Public Hearings on the Final EIR</li> </ul>
[			Other Ways			•	
STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	<ul> <li>Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resource Groups</li> <li>Local Agencies</li> <li>Regulatory Agencies</li> <li>Adjacent Landholders and Neighbors</li> </ul>			Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resource Groups       Recreational Groups         Local Agencies       Regulatory Agencies			
TRIBAL CONSULTATION	Ongoing consultation			Ongoing consultation			
OTHER ACTIVITIES	State Park and Recreation Field Trip (April 17, 2024)		I State Park and Recreation ion Meeting (TBD)	State Park and Recreation Commission Meeting (TBD)			

## **Project Process**

PHASE I: Establish Park Classification and Name

#### Timeframe: 2023-2024



**Base** Public Engagement Opportunities

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- Classification helps determine the purpose of a park and the range of conservation, recreation, and management activities that are appropriate for the park.
- California Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 5, Chapter 1, Article 1.7 describes the primary Classifications for park units:
  - State Recreation Areas:
    - State Recreation Area
    - Underwater Recreation Area
    - State Beach
    - Wayside Campground
  - State Park
  - Historical Unit

- Natural Reserve
- Cultural Reserve
- State Seashore
- State Wilderness
- Marine Managed Area
- State Vehicular Recreation Area (PRC Division 5, Chapter 1.25, Article 4)

• State Reserves:



- California PRC, Division 5, Chapter 1, Article 1.7 also includes three sub-classifications:
  - Natural Preserve
    - Preserves biological, geological, or topographical features, processes, or patterns that are of significance
  - Cultural Preserve
    - Protects features such as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California
  - Wilderness Area
    - At least 5,000 acres generally affected primarily by the forces of nature

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- Of the primary classifications, four could be applied to the Alameda-Tesla Property:
  - State Recreation Areas:
    - State Recreation Area
    - Underwater Recreation Area
    - State Beach
    - Wayside Campground
  - State Park
  - Historical Unit

- State Reserves:
  - Natural Reserve
  - Cultural Reserve
- State Seashore
- State Wilderness
- Marine Managed Area
- State Vehicular Recreation Area (PRC Division 5, Chapter 1.25, Article 4)
- Any primary classification can contain areas sub-classified as a Natural Preserve or Cultural Preserve





#### UNDERSTANDING CLASSIFICATION: **ACTIVITIES**

The classification of a state park contributes to the determination of the type and intensity of activities allowed in the park. This graphic illustrates the range of potential activities at Alameda-Tesla under each of the four potential classification categories.

#### **TYPES AND RANGE OF ACTIVITIES/DEVELOPMENT**



TRAIL SYSTEM Ex: Paved and unpaved trails

Low-Intensity: Fewer, narrower, or shorter trails, limited to hiking only. May have time restrictions. Smaller staging or parking areas.

High-Intensity: More, wider, and longer trails that allow biking and equestrian usage. Fewer time restrictions. More and larger staging and parking areas.



INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES Ex: Guided tours, programs, exhibits, and visitor centers

Low-Intensity: Limited guided tours, fewer exhibits and programs. Smaller visitor center, if any, with limited development footprint.

High-Intensity: Multiple and frequent tours, more exhibit and programs. Larger facilities and more extensive development footprint.



#### RECREATION

Ex: Wildlife viewing, picnicking, swimming, boating, rock climbing, and other recreational activities

Low-Intensity: Fewer and smaller areas for activities and support amenities. May have restrictions on hours, duration, and seasons. Smaller staging and parking areas.

High-Intensity: More and larger areas for activities and support amenities. Fewer restrictions on hours, duration and seasons. More and larger staging and parking areas.



OVERNIGHT LODGING Ex: Camping, RVs, trailers, and hotels

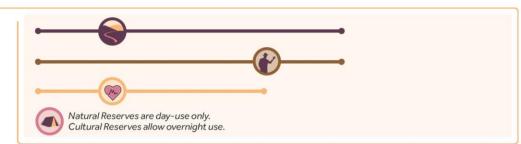
Low-Intensity: Fewer and smaller overnight options with minimal facilities. May have restrictions on hours, duration, and seasons.

High-Intensity: More and larger overnight options, with more facilities and amenities. Fewer restrictions on hours, duration and seasons.

ecological, and cultural value; allow for public enjoyment and education.

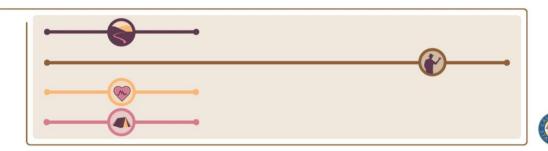
#### STATE RESERVES

Purpose: Preserve native ecological associations, unique biotic characteristics, geological features, scenic qualities, and/or cultural resources; allow for public enjoyment and education.



#### STATE HISTORICAL UNITS

Purpose: Preserve objects of historical, archaeological, and scientific interest.



**Typical Intensity of Activities** 





Low

#### STATE RECREATION AREAS

Purpose: Provide outdoor recreational opportunities.

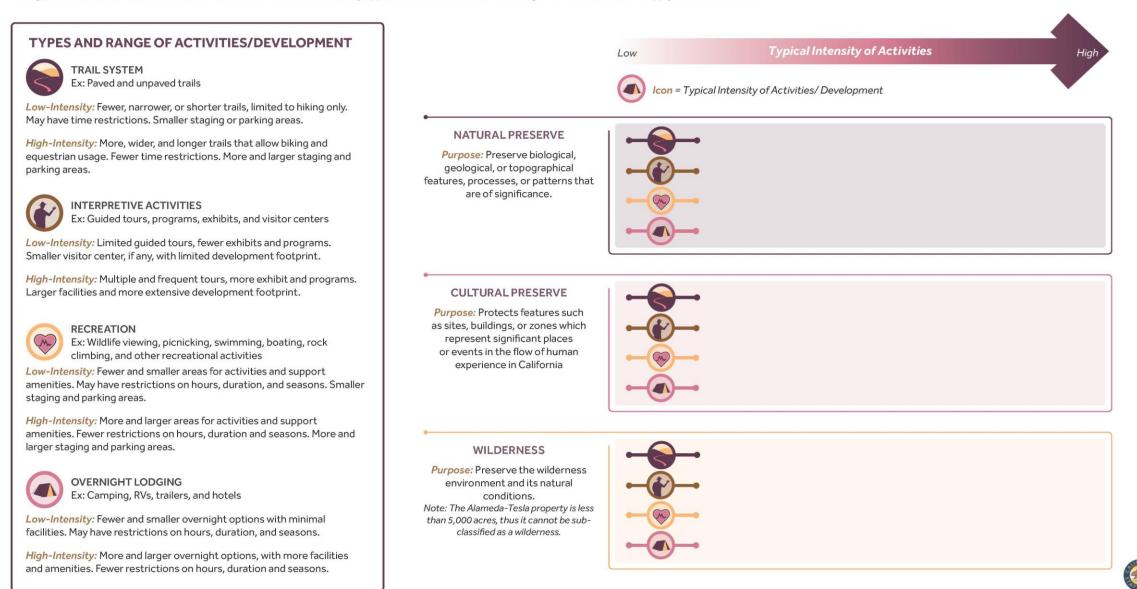
STATE PARKS

Purpose: Preserve areas of outstanding natural, scenic,

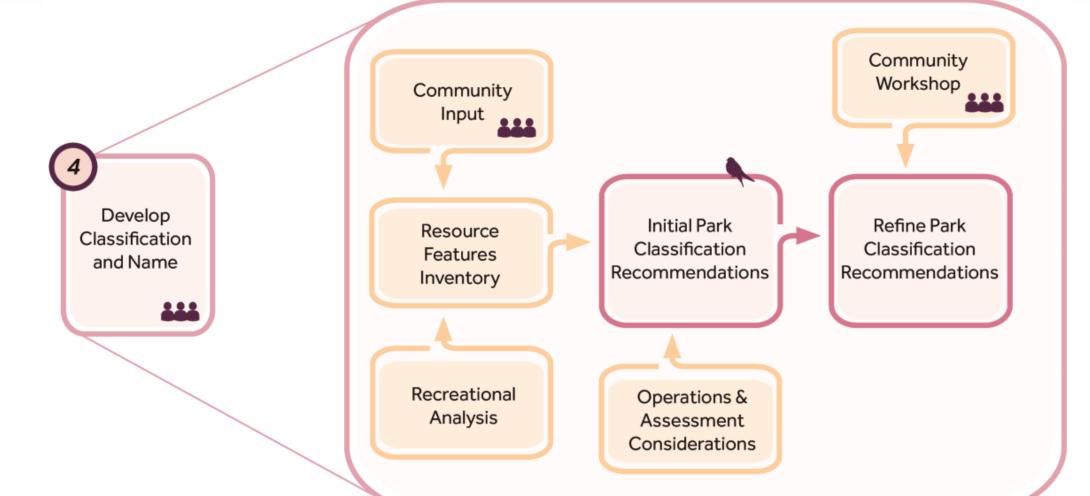


#### UNDERSTANDING SUB-CLASSIFICATION: ACTIVITIES

The State Parks classification system includes three sub-classifications: Natural Preserve, Cultural Preserve, and Wilderness Area. Sub-classification, if used, applies to a defined area within the larger park unit. As with primary classification, sub-classification contributes to the determination of the type and intensity of activities allowed in the sub-classified area. This graphic illustrates the range of potential activities under the two applicable sub-classification categories at Alameda-Tesla. The Wilderness Area sub-classification is only applicable in areas of 5,000 acres or greater and thus doesn't apply at Alameda-Tesla.



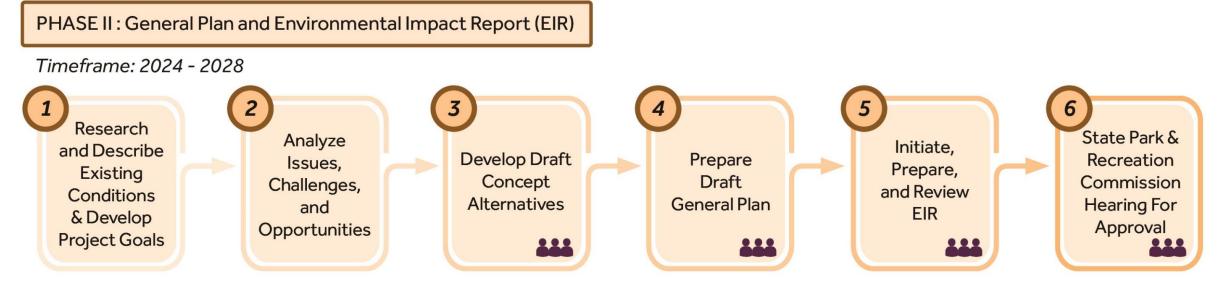






## **Project Process**





**Base** Public Engagement Opportunities



## **General Plan**

- General Plan defines the park's primary purpose and establishes a management direction for the park's future.
- Guides day-to-day decision-making and serves as the basis for developing focused feasibility and management plans, specific project plans, and other management actions necessary to implement the goals of the General Plan.



#### EIR

- The General Plan is considered a project under CEQA, requiring an EIR
- The EIR is a complete programmatic Environmental Impact Report
- Additional CEQA work is required for any project undertaken subsequent to the General Plan





## **Classification: Resource Features Inventory**

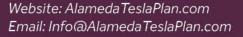
- Informs the initial park classification recommendations and includes:
  - Inventory of natural, cultural, and historic features on the site
  - Recreational analysis of the site
  - Community input





- Data sources include:
  - Studies prepared for the 2016 DEIR on Carnegie SVRA
  - California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records
  - Surveys conducted by consulting firms and Parks staff as part of on-going Habitat Monitoring System (HMS) surveys and other monitoring programs





#### **Vegetation Communities**

- Prepared by Parks in 2021 and 2022 according to the Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP) of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).
- 21 associations were mapped, as well as open water, developed and barren areas.
- Non-native grasslands and blue oak savannah are dominant, covering about 70% of the Study Area.





#### **Vegetation Communities**

- Seven of the vegetation types are considered sensitive natural community types with a State Ranking of 3:
  - needlegrass grassland
  - valley oak (woodland and forest and riparian forest and woodland)
  - buckeye
  - California sycamore
  - Fremont cottonwood
  - desert olive
  - Black sage-bush mallow
- These sensitive natural communities cover about 14% of the Study area





#### **Wetland Delineation**

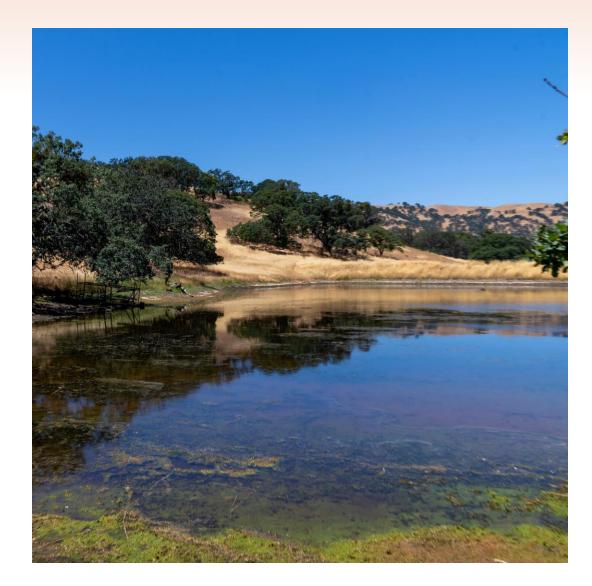
- Prepared in 2017, show verified limits of waters regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers:
  - 0.56 acres of wetlands associated with freshwater marsh and seeps
  - 23.71 acres of unvegetated other waters along drainages





#### **Wetland Delineation**

- CDFW has jurisdiction over about 46.5 acres:
  - 34.34 acres of vegetated streambed
  - 1.34 acres of unvegetated streambed
  - 10.79 acres of riparian vegetation beyond the top of bank







#### **Special Status Plants**

- Occurrences reported by CNDDB, floristic surveys in 2003, 2016, 2021, 2023, and 2024 (ongoing)
- 11 special status plant species
- No known occurrences of specialstatus plants with federal or state listing status
- Range of sensitivity status under the California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS)



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#### **Special Status Plants**

- Five special status plant species encountered in 2021:
  - Big tarplant
  - Hospital Canyon larkspur
  - Jepson's woolly sunflower
  - Santa Clara thornmint
  - Stinkbells

- Six other special status plant species are assumed to be present based on past records:
  - California androsace
  - California groundsel
  - Chaparral harebell
  - Michael's rein orchid
  - Phlox-leaf serpentine bedstraw
  - Sylvan scorzonella



#### Website: AlamedaTeslaPlan.com Email: Info@AlamedaTeslaPlan.com

### **Natural Resources**

#### **Special Status Plants**

- Twenty species reported from surrounding area or found in similar habitat but not detected in the Study Area:
  - Large-flowered fiddleneck
  - Round-leaved filaree
  - Diamond-petaled California poppy
  - Loma Prieta hoita
  - Showy golden madia
  - Caper-fruited tropicarpum
  - Alkali milk-vetch
  - San Joaquin spearscale
  - Big-scale balsamroot
  - Lemmon's jewelflower

- Mt. Hamilton fountain thistle
- Talus fritillary
- Diablo helianthella
- Brewer's western flax
- Shinning navarretia
- Sharsmith's onion
- Tehama County western flax
- Chaparral ragwort
- Carlotta Hall's lace fern
- Santa Clara red ribbons





#### **Special Status Animal Species**

- Occurrences reported by the CNDDB, routine HMS surveys conducted by Parks, and detailed assessments and surveys conducted by consultants retained by Parks
- 33 special-status animal species reported
- Includes species with federal and state listing status, CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC), others recognized because of their rarity

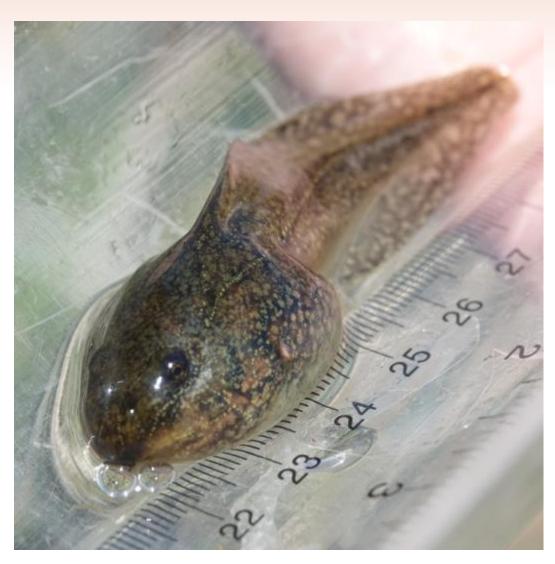




#### **Special Status Animal Species**

- Five species with federal and state listing status (or CDFW SSC) are presumed present within the Study Area
  - California red-legged frog
  - California tiger salamander
  - Alameda whipsnake\*
  - Foothill yellow-legged frog\*
  - San Joaquin kit fox\*
- Designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog and Alameda whipsnake extends over most of the Study Area

\*not observed on site



#### **Special Status Animal Species**

- Three listed species may be present, but essential habitat, such as nest locations, has not been confirmed
  - Valley elderberry longhorn beetle
  - Swainson's hawk
  - Tricolored blackbird





#### **Special Status Animal Species**

• 25 additional species known or suspected from the Study Area are considered SSC or Fully Protected by CDFW or are protected under other state or federal regulations.

#### Invertebrates

• western bumble bee

#### **Amphibians and Reptiles**

- California glossy snake
- coast horned lizard
- San Joaquin coachwhip
- silvery legless lizard
- western pond turtle
- western spadefoot

#### **Birds**

- burrowing owl
- California horned lark
- Ferruginous hawk
- golden eagle
- grasshopper sparrow
- loggerhead shrike
- prairie falcon
- northern harrier
- olive-sided flycatcher

- white-tailed kite
- yellow warbler

#### Mammals

- American badger
- fringed myotis
- pallid bat
- Townsend's big-eared bat
- western mastiff bat
- Yuma myotis
- San Joaquin pocket mouse

#### DRAFT Sensitive Biological Resources

Alameda-Tesla Property

Sensitive Natural Communities

Core Habitat for Special-Status Animal Species

> Special Status Plant Occurrences

**Delineated Waters** 

Creek

— Paved Route

--- Unpaved Route

Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (Not a part)

NOTE: Map intended to provide a broad overview of sensitive resources for preliminary planning purposes only and does not show all sensitive biological features, habitats, and movement opportunities. The locations of some mapped features have been deliberately obscured and some other highly sensitive features such as raptor nest locations have not been included on this map because of the risk of drawing public attention to them and posing a risk to the resource.

## **Cultural Resources**

#### **Tribal Consultation**

 Formal tribal consultation process is underway and ongoing with Northern Valley Yokut and Ohlone tribe and Confederated Villages of Lisjan



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## **Cultural Resources**

#### **Tribal Resources**

- Anthropological Studies Center at Sonoma State University completed a pedestrian survey for historic and tribal resources
  - Recorded sites using GPS and other methodologies
- Additional information gathered from tribal partners







## **Cultural Resources**

#### **Tribal Resources**

- Area was a gathering place for California Native American tribes in the area
- Special ceremonial center without long-term occupation sites
- Sites include bedrock mortars, lithic scatters, and gathering places
- Broad distribution of plants useful to California Native American tribes, including soaproot and sage

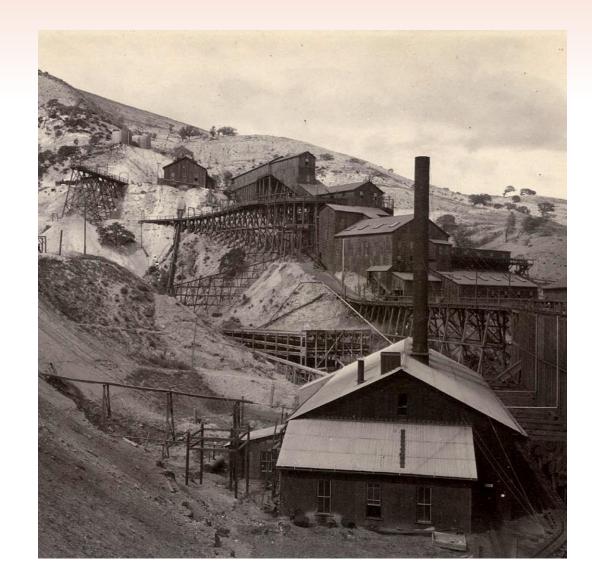




### **Historic Resources**

Relevant themes of the historic era include the following:

- **1846-1855:** Early American Settlements and Ranching
- 1855-1866: Early Coal Exploration and Mining
- 1890-1905: San Francisco and San Joaquin Coal Mining Company
- **1890-1908:** Sand Mining for the Pacific Window Glass Company
- **1901-1911:** Clay Mining for Carnegie Brick and Pottery Works
- 1950-1960: Mid-20th Century Sand Mining



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#### **Historic Resources**

- Historic-era features are found on the valley floor and slopes on both sides of Corral Hollow Creek
- Historic-era mining and residential features include:
  - Clay, coal, sand, and manganese mines and gravel quarries
  - Industrial brick, pottery, and coal operations
  - Townsites of Tesla, Treadwell Row, Jimtown, Frytown, and Chinatown
- Evidence of former ranching operations includes:
  - Livestock ponds, concrete water troughs, barbed wire fences



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### **Historic Resources**

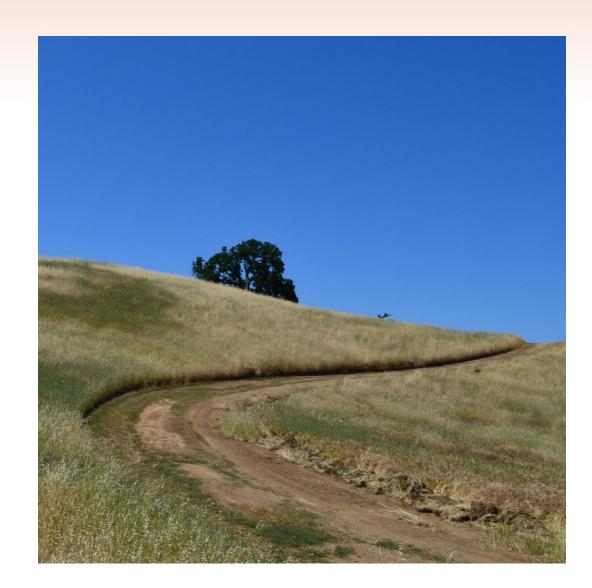
- Tesla Mining and Industry Historic District appears eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historic Resources
- Many of the extant historic-era resources are contributing elements of the Tesla Mining and Industry Historic District





### **Recreational Analysis**

- Will examine recreational potential of undeveloped areas and existing developed features such as roads and structures
- Will analyze existing recreational opportunities availability within the region
- Will examine potential recreational opportunities on the site





- In-person workshop at Livermore Public Library November 14, 2023
- Virtual workshop online November 28, 2023
- Online survey available October through December 2023
- Comments submitted to project email address and other State Parks email addresses





#### Workshop Topic: Learning about Resources at Alameda-Tesla

- Popular ways that people would like to learn about the resources at Alameda-Tesla include:
  - citizen science programs
  - cultural events and activities
  - exhibits in a visitor center
  - guided walk with an interpreter
  - interpretive signs on site
  - self-guided tours





#### **Workshop Topic: Activities and Preferences**

- Popular responses include
  - Bird watching and other nature observation
  - Camping
  - Hiking, walking, and running
  - Mountain, gravel, and e-biking
- New ideas include
  - California Native American cultural activities
  - Research and educational activities



#### **Workshop Topic: Visioning**

# Popular responses to complete the statement "For me, the future park will..." were:

- Protect the plants and animals that live on or pass through the property
- Preserve ecological and geological processes for future generations
- Respect and support California Native Americans that have used the site for generations
- Have multi-use trails for walking, biking, and equestrian use

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#### Workshop Topic: Naming

#### Suggestions included:

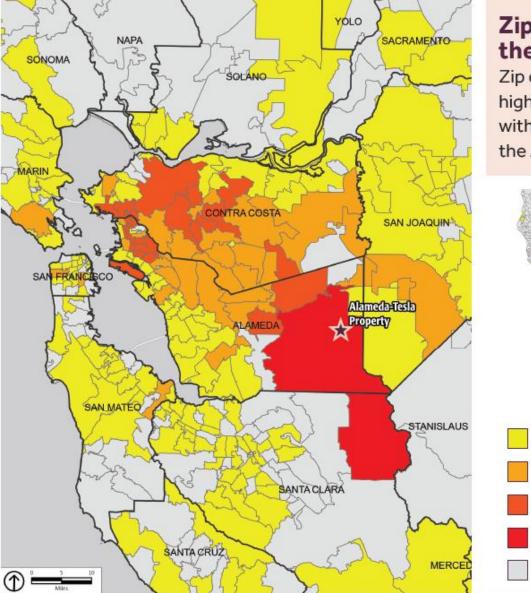
- Almeda-Tesla Ohlone
- Alameda Tesla Park
- Carnegie Canyon State Park
- Carnegie Park
- Corral Canyon State Park
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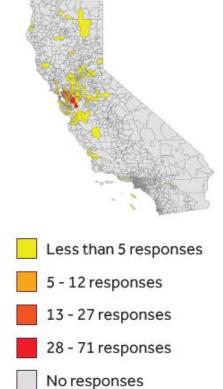
#### **Online Survey**

- 1,257 surveys submitted
- Responses received from throughout California
- Large number from within about 35 miles of the Alameda-Tesla property



#### Zip code 94550 had the most responses!

Zip codes with the five highest response counts fell within a 35-mile radius of the Alameda Tesla property.



#### **Online Survey**

- Popular types of activities were trail uses and non-trail recreation.
- About two-thirds of respondents would use trails for hiking, walking, or running while one-third would use trails for mountain biking, gravel biking, or e-biking.
- Popular non-trail recreation activities were birdwatching or other nature observation and picnicking.
- Respondents would most like to learn about the natural and cultural history of the property through interpretive signs on site, self-guided tours, and exhibits in a visitor center.

#### **Online Survey**

- Respondents would most like to learn about Alameda-Tesla's plants and animals and California Native American history and context.
- The following statements were aligned with respondents' vision for the site's future:
  - Preserve ecological and geological processes for future generations
  - Protect the plants and animals that live on and pass through the property
  - Respect and support California Native Americans that have used the site for generations

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#### **Comments Received**

#### • Comments received include the following topics:

- Balancing protection of natural and cultural resources with low-impact education and enjoyment
- Classification as a reserve
- Hiking and biking trails
- Including an oral history of the town of Tesla
- Location of facilities
- Naming of the property
- Protecting open space, plants, and animals
- Promoting dark skies for star gazing and reduced wildlife impact
- Restriction of bicycles





# **Questions & Answers**

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## **Facilitated Discussion**

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### **Facilitated Discussion**



- Do you have any additional thoughts about the information we've shared with you today?
- What is the experience would you like to have when you visit the park?
- Is there any other information you woud like to share today?

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### **Next Steps**



- April 17, 2024 State Park and Recreation Commission field trip at Alameda-Tesla
- Continued work on initial park classification recommendations
- Summer/Fall 2024 Community Workshop to refine park classification recommendations









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