

LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT UPDATE GARIN & DRY CREEK PIONEER REGIONAL PARKS

February 2011

The East Bay Regional Park District Planning and Stewardship Department is currently preparing a land use plan amendment and environmental review in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to formally incorporate more than 3,000 acres of additional open space adjoining Garin and Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks into the regional park system. The open space is located on Walpert Ridge in the cities of Hayward, Union City and Fremont.

The land use plan amendment will establish policies and recommendations to guide the future development of physical improvements on this land, including a public access and trail plan, while fulfilling the goals of resource protection and enhancement. Key recommendations of the plan include:

- Conserving and protecting the park's natural, cultural and historic resources;
- Developing interpretive programs and materials;
- Improving public access and opening more than 20 miles of new multi-use trails and existing ranch roads, including 10 miles of potential Bay Area Ridge Trail;
- Developing a primitive group camp, three backpack camps and picnic sites; and
- Maintaining effective public safety response.

The Park District held its first public event concerning the planning process, a public input and environmental scoping meeting, at Stonebrae Elementary School the evening of January 12, 2011. At this meeting staff described the history of the land, existing conditions and offered a development concept. Several members of the public provided input at the meeting and staff has subsequently received a number of public comments providing additional input into the planning process.

Staff is now preparing a draft land use plan amendment based on public comments and staff input. When complete later this year, the Park District will disseminate the draft plan for public review. Staff will then host a second public meeting to solicit feedback on the draft plan. Staff will then revise the draft plan as appropriate and present a final plan to the Park District Board of Directors for adoption at a public meeting.

Please e-mail, write or call Raphael Breines, project planner, at rbreines@ebparks.org, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605, (510) 544-2325, if you would like to be added to the mailing list or would like to submit plan-related comments. Information, including updates, meeting notices, meeting summaries, handouts, maps and the draft plan, can be found on the *Park Planning* section of the Park District's Web site. Park District staff looks forward to your participation and partnering with all stakeholders to develop a balanced plan that will provide public access and recreational and environmental educational opportunities while promoting land management programs benefiting native wildlife and cultural resources.

