
Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan Update

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To: <Kvalenzuela@cityofsacramento.org>, <drapan@cityofsacramento.org>

Bcc: Betsy Weiland <flweiland@yahoo.com>

February 10, 2024

Ms. Dana Repan, Senior Planner
City of Sacramento
Department of Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment

The Honorable Katie Valenzuela
Member of Sacramento City Council

RE: Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan Update

Dear Senior Planner Repan and Council Member Valenzuela:

As a long-time resident of the City of Sacramento and a regular visitor to Sutter's Landing, I wanted to express my appreciation for the City of Sacramento's current Sutter's Landing Master Plan Update, and the opportunity to provide comments.

The size and location of Sutter's Landing Regional Park provides a very unique and grand opportunity for the City to reuse the old landfill and adjoining lands to provide a premier park experience for Sacramento residents and visitors. I strongly support a nature-centric vision for the Master Plan Update given the proximity of the park to the Lower American River Parkway (Parkway) and the opportunity to expand natural habitat and associated recreational opportunities within the City of Sacramento.

The Master Plan Update allows for creation and implementation of a cohesive and well-planned vision for Sutter's Landing Park. Until this Master Plan Update is in place, piecemeal projects within Sutter's Landing are premature and should be avoided.

The Sutter Landing Park areas immediately adjacent to the Parkway include the "Mound", "Blue Diamond" and SMUD" properties which are all former landfill properties, and the existing skateboard park. All of these properties should be "redeveloped" as natural areas through habitat restoration and nature-oriented activities including recreation. The skateboard facility is an important amenity for Sutter's Landing Park and should be relocated to another location within the park. The existing building for the skateboard park does not

conform to the City's existing development standards for new buildings adjacent to the Parkway, and it will impede development of a cohesive nature-centric plan serving as the gateway to the Parkway.

The City should aim for a world-class nature-centric plan that is cohesive, distinctive and inspiring. Please consider what has been done with other ambitious redevelopment projects such as at San Francisco Presidio/Crissy Field which have successfully combined nature, recreation and community engagement adjacent to a dense urban center. This will require the City to engage with consultants with extensive experience in "redeveloping" landfill properties, and also importantly with consultants with an innovative vision to create healthy natural environments assessable to all communities.

Developments within Sutter's Landing Park will necessarily bring more visitors to the Parkway which is operated by Sacramento County Regional Parks. Currently there is already significant visitation to the Parkway through Sutter's Landing Park. This has resulted in significant nuisance impacts to the Parkway including litter, noise, illegal camping, and vegetation destruction. The City should closely work with County Parks to assure that this area is sustainable as wildlife habitat providing family friendly nature benefits to a diversity of visitors. It is important for the City to provide supporting resources for this portion of the Parkway including ranger patrols, and to support habitat restoration efforts including removal of invasive plants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide recommendations for the Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan Update.

Sincerely,

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