Sustainable Agriculture In California State Parks

Park Assessment & Implementation Strategy
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Introduction

This study reviews the potential for expanding and enhancing current agricultural operations on lands managed by California State Parks (CSP). The study originated through the efforts of Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE), a 501c3 corporation dedicated to sustainable agriculture at the urban edge.

SAGE has conducted prior studies defining the concept of a sustainable agriculture park (AgPark), which promotes active agriculture on publicly-owned and privately-owned lands at risk of urbanization. Some of the AgPark principles, including location on publicly-owned lands, integration of education and economic development with farming, and demonstration of sustainable agriculture by small farmers in the public realm, have evolved further and been incorporated into this report.

For this study, SAGE applied for and obtained a grant from the Risk Management Agency of the US Department of Agriculture. SAGE approached California State Parks staff with the idea of studying agriculture on parkland. The fit between USDA’s grant objectives and California State Parks Department was strong, as Parks had been exploring linkages between healthy foods and park activities. In addition, State Parks had just issued a Request for Interest (RFI) for a private farmer to develop a demonstration organic farm on a 10-acre parcel of Carmel River State Beach, which had been an historic agricultural landscape. Thus, this report has been framed as an assessment of initiating a sustainable agriculture demonstration program on state-owned lands in state parks, bringing together resource management, interpretive and education goals.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to assess current conditions in a selected group of state parks in order to identify candidates for future farmer solicitation to expand sustainable agriculture within State Parks. This expanded sustainable agriculture program would bring numerous potential benefits to State Parks, state residents, visitors, and educators, including as follows:

- Provide a continuation of interpretation of historic agriculture using contemporary methods
- Demonstrate agriculture with limited or zero environmental impact
- Produce fruits, vegetables, grain, and dairy products that can be sold on-site, marketed to schools and hospitals in the area, and/or used in local restaurants, depending on the scale of the operation at each park
- Restore the natural and managed landscape
- Educate children, teens, adults, and visitors from around the world about the state’s vast agricultural commerce and heritage in a public setting
- Link food to recreation, healthy lifestyles, natural resource conservation, and cultural tradition
- Generate limited revenue to State Parks as appropriate
Methodology

The methodology for this study followed these steps:

1. **Identify Parks for Assessment** – California State Parks Department conducted an initial review of its 270+ park units, including several recently obtained land dedications. The review focused on meeting the following criteria:
   
   a. Agriculture specifically allowed by General Plan  
   b. Diversified agriculture was a past use  
   c. Benefits of agriculture in encouraging historic interpretation  
   d. Generally available water, climate, and soils favorable to agriculture  
   e. Some measure of diversified agriculture currently in practice  
   f. Enthusiasm of Park staff in exploring options for expanded agriculture  
   g. Likely receptivity of community and opportunities for engagement

   This process yielded 7 parks for further assessment.

2. **Identify Constraints to Agriculture for Each Park** – This involved collecting and summarizing existing General Plans, environmental documents, and other background materials for each park (see Appendix B for matrix of information).

3. **Conduct Site Visits to Seven State Parks** – SAGE’s study team, profiled in Appendix A of this report, conducted in-person site visits to each park. For each visit, Park Superintendents conducted a site tour and assembled additional park staff, district staff, and lead docents to give an orientation to the Park and to answer questions.

4. **Conduct Follow-Up Interviews** – SAGE’s study team conducted follow-up interviews with park staff, support organizations, and active neighbors to further clarify support for agriculture at each park. These interviews also included discussion with Jamie Collins, the recently selected farmer for the Carmel State Beach parcel, to understand the attractiveness of this type of operation in a public park setting.

5. **Rate Each Park for Immediate, Mid-Term, and Long-Term Agriculture Potential.** This involved formulating a set of six key criteria to assess each park’s opportunities for future enhanced sustainable agriculture. These criteria are: agronomic conditions, infrastructure conditions, new term availability of farm-ready parcel, access to markets, likely community support, and flexibility for types of production. Each park was then rated according to each of these criteria, using a scoring system of 1 to 5, with 1 as the lowest score, and 5 as the highest.

6. **Formulate State Parks Sustainable Agriculture Strategy.** This involved seeking mitigations or other initiatives to overcome known constraints, as well as to frame the “opportunity” to the farming community of an expanded agriculture initiative on State Park lands.
7. **Recommend Terms for Request for Interest.** The RFI proposed for one of the parks represents a distillation of the opportunities and constraints identified through this investigation.
Summary of Park Conditions & Opportunities

This chapter provides an assessment of seven parks for sustainable agriculture.

Coast Dairies

Overview
Coast Dairies, located north of Wilder Ranch State Park in Santa Cruz County, was acquired by California State Parks in late 2006. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) had purchased the property in 1998, in order to preserve the 6,831 acres containing bluffs, scenic resources, and agricultural lands. Due to its recent acquisition, California State Parks system has not yet formulated a General Plan for this site, offering the opportunity to plan this park from inception as an integrated recreational facility with agriculture as a primary feature of the site.

The Coast Dairies acquisition is divided into three parts:
- California State Parks – 407 acres, all coastal bluffs
- Agri-Culture – 737 acres, all east of Hwy 1, mostly lowlands
- Bureau of Land Management – 5,687 acres, all east of Highway 1, mostly uplands

On the California State Parks land, vegetable row-crop agricultural and dry land farming will be maintained on those coastal terraces and coastal terrace bluff areas that were in agricultural production as of the date of purchase by TPL (October 1998). Orchards and vineyards will not be permitted as they are considered to be incompatible with the character of the existing landscape. California State Parks, as part of its acquisition, is obligated to maintain agriculture in the Park, but the extent of agriculture may be reduced due to the extension of a coastal walking trail along the bluffs, as well as less favorable environmental conditions on some of the bluff areas. An additional condition for continued agriculture is that it is sustainable and economically viable (i.e., conducted without subsidy from the land management agencies).

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1 Ag leases held by TPL were assumed by CSP in the acquisition. Most leases are held by descendants of Italian immigrants. There is no legal requirement for CSP to conduct a bidding process on a land concessions – this provides flexibility in negotiating contracts.

2 Agri-Culture is a 501(c)(3) associated with the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. This Farm Bureau could be a potential model for other Farm Bureaus that want to protect agricultural land around the country. The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is currently leasing land to farmers.
### Current Conditions for Agriculture

#### Soil, Water, and Climactic Conditions
The types of soil on the Coast Dairies property vary widely depending on location, slope, and underlying parent material. Some of the land has very clay-heavy soil. For example, Big Ranch, the northernmost area consisting of about 100 acres, is reportedly soggy through late spring due to clay soils and also lacks access to water for irrigation. Previously dry-farmed for hay production, this area was reportedly not a viable agricultural location, and will likely be taken out of production in the future.

Water access poses a significant challenge for agricultural viability on some areas of the Coast Dairies property. When the property was acquired by TPL, many violations of farmers illegally using water emerged. Further research is needed to clarify the availability of water for agriculture for various areas of the property.

#### Crops
The crops that historically have grown well in these soils and climate are limited to those that are tolerant of the salty air, such as artichokes, leeks and Brussels sprouts. Twenty percent of Brussels sprouts in US are grown in Santa Cruz County. Recently, a number of farmers have grown pumpkins successfully in the area. This year is the first in which lettuces are being grown on the coastal side; in addition, they will be grown organically. Other cool weather crops such as strawberries and broccoli are currently grown successfully on the Agri-Culture land located east of Highway 1 away from the bluffs.

#### Infrastructure and Improvements
Each agricultural area has significant infrastructure that is owned by current lessees, including irrigation systems (wells, mainlines, etc.) as well as buildings. The value of this infrastructure varies, ranging from tens of thousands to several hundred thousands of dollars per parcel. Based on visual inspection, it appears that many buildings need improvement to comply with building codes.

#### Current Support for Education and Interpretation
A master plan developed by Trust for Public Land and its three partner organizations (e.g., California State Parks, federal Bureau of Land Management, and Agri-Culture) has not yet been adopted. As a result, implementation of the plan has been delayed. A publicly-available version of the document could not be obtained at the time of this study; thus no details on plans for education and interpretation have been included here.

Coast Dairies adjoins Wilder Ranch State Park, an established state park which has extensive agricultural land holdings along with education and interpretation programs. It is not yet known if these adjacent operating programs will be expanded to the Coast Dairies site, or what additional education or interpretation may be initiated at Coast Dairies.
**Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges**

**Opportunities**

- **Crop diversity.** The climate and soils have tended to favor the production of Brussels sprouts, artichokes, leeks and strawberries here on the coast. However, the bourgeoning community of growers in this coastal area is experimenting with other cool-season crops such as lettuces, greens, and brassicas, suggesting that more diverse crops may be viable in this location.

- **Community of organic growers.** Organic and sustainable production methods are a fundamental approach for an increasing number of growers in the area, which dovetails with the agency’s interest in organic systems as a means to protect natural resources.

- **Economic viability.** At the current time there are no open areas available for lease at Coast Dairies. However, State Parks anticipates that new land opportunities will arise in the next few years. Considering agriculture to be a viable business, the agency expects farming operations established on Park lands to be independently viable and not require support from the Park.

- **Synergy with Wilder Ranch.** It should be noted that beyond the boundaries of the Coast Dairies property, adjacent properties may offer additional opportunities. For example, Wilder Ranch (on the south side of Coast Dairies), acquired by California State Parks in 1978, has approximately 900 acres of agricultural land. After starting without any organic growers, Wilder Ranch now has 25 percent of its agricultural land under organic cultivation. Leasing opportunities may become available in the future at Wilder Ranch, offering a synergy with lands at Coast Dairies and the parcel owned by Agri-Culture. In addition, Sand Hill Bluff, a property located outside of Coast Dairies on its coastal side, is also owned by California State Parks; however, this site is currently leased out to a tenant who intends to stay on the property.

**Challenges**

This site poses a number of challenges in establishing a viable farm operation, all of which can be overcome. Farmers are currently practicing agriculture extensively on the property.

- **Future reduction in agricultural lands.** Despite some future reductions in agricultural land due to construction of the coastal trail, and the elimination of one field due to poor soil and lack of water access, agriculture will continue being an important part of this Park in the future when codified in its General Plan.

- **Soil, water, and climate.** Heavy clay soils, a lack of reliable agricultural water source for many parcels, and the harsh salty air and wind may constrain agriculture in this Park. As with current farming operations on and near Coast Dairies, the success of farmers’ operations will depend on how these issues are mitigated.

- **Purchase of infrastructure.** A significant challenge in leasing this land, particularly to limited-resource farmers, is that its extensive infrastructure owned by current lessees will have to be purchased by the new tenants. This includes irrigation systems (wells, mainlines, etc.), as well as buildings. The value of the infrastructure varies, but will cost approximately several hundred thousand dollars for each section.
Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park

Overview
The historic town of Allensworth is located in the midst of predominantly agricultural lands in Tulare County at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, approximately 40 miles north of Bakersfield and within a 4-hour drive from both San Francisco and Los Angeles. The region is characterized by a flat landscape of primarily large-scale conventional farming operations, most commonly cotton and alfalfa, dotted by small rural towns.

The 240-acre site was established as a State Park in 1976. This was nearly 60 years after the town was abandoned a few years after the death of its founder, Colonel Allen Allensworth, in 1914. As the only representation of an African-American pioneer town at the turn of the century, Colonel Allensworth State Park preserves the historical and cultural resources of the boom and bust of a small rural community during the period of 1908 to 1918.

The Park is approached by a straight country road paralleled by railroad tracks. During Allensworth’s brief heyday, the train stopped in town. Deserted for decades, the town and its’ flourishing agriculture have been replaced by historical re-creation of the buildings with limited landscaping and fallow fields. Historically, the residents had a wide range of animals and livestock for home consumption and for sale, and raised horses for farming. Historically grown crops included cotton, hay, alfalfa, sugar beets, as well as grains such as oats, wheat, and barley. In these early years, artesian wells provided an ample supply of water.

Today, the Park consists of a small grid of historic buildings, including a school, a library, individual homes, and a post office. The Park’s small public camping area is adjacent to the historic core. The Park’s agricultural fields to the west and north have not been planted for many years, and the irrigation canal is dry.
Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park
Current Conditions for Agriculture

Soil, Water, and Climactic Conditions
Allensworth’s terrain is flat and arid, and its soils are compromised by severe alkalinity, salinity and naturally-occurring arsenic. The alkaline sinks are characterized by sag ponds and old marsh areas where soils contain large quantities of soluble minerals. Although this soil is not suitable for horticultural crop production, it may be suitable for field crops, such as cotton or alfalfa. Flushing the minerals from the soil is possible provided there is ample inexpensive water and a drainage and collection system for the accumulated minerals. Because the arsenic contamination is not thoroughly documented, the constraints on growing certain crops are unknown.

The Park currently has no operating water source or delivery system. A dry but functioning water canal exists near the northern edge of the property; however, the extent of work necessary to re-establish this system for agricultural irrigation has not been determined. In the area, other farm operations that rely on ground water dig wells up to 1,200 feet deep in order to reach a reliable water source.

This part of the valley experiences extreme ranges in temperature. Summer temperatures peak at 120 degrees Fahrenheit and can linger around 100 degrees for weeks during July, August, and September. Winters are cool, with six to seven inches of annual rainfall typically accumulating between January and April. As low-lying land, the valley has more Tule fog than surrounding areas, resulting in weeks of grey, sunless skies during the winter months.

Infrastructure and Improvements
The Park has no infrastructure adequate for modern agriculture operations. A fence surrounds the entire Park property, and some access roads in need of improvement run along the dry irrigation canal. It is likely that electricity could be accessed via the town site. As noted above, there is no functioning irrigation system.

Conceivably, there could be space available for farmer housing at the trailer site in the service area where ranger residences are currently located. Since this is a somewhat depressed rural area, there are likely other houses for rent or sale nearby.

Current Support for Education and Interpretation
Specially-scheduled Amtrak trains stop in front of the Park during annual celebrations. These events connect urban residents with the rich cultural history of this town, originally established in an effort to create a place free of discrimination during the early 1900s. This education mission is currently being fulfilled by the activities of the nonprofit organization, Friends of Allensworth Interpretive Association.

The Association has six chapter affiliates located in Bakersfield, Compton, Fremont, Oakland, Sacramento, and Vallejo. The group supports and manages four events throughout the year: Black History Month, Old Time Jubilee, Juneteenth, and Rededication. These events take place in the spring and fall, and engage urban residents from Los Angeles and San Francisco as well as from some of the cities in the Central Valley.
The Association has been very active in contesting the establishment of a 900-head commercial dairy operation recently proposed for the property across the road from Colonel Allensworth Park. Busloads of Association members from the Bay Area and Los Angeles have crowded recent County meetings to protest the plan for this dairy operation. Additional protest has come from about 150 families, mostly migrant Latino farm workers living in trailers nearby, as well as environmental lawyers and urban residents, all of whom are concerned about the detrimental effects of the dairy operation on air quality and the quality of life for the community.

**Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges**

**Opportunities**

- **Restoration of Historic agriculture.** This Park offers the opportunity to implement agriculture that reflects the historical practices of 1908-1918. This would require an investment in non-productive, but historically accurate farming operations that would be supported by grants and carried out by volunteers. Although there are challenges in this approach, it is a viable option for establishing a form of agriculture in the Park. This is also an idea suggested in the General Plan completed in 1976.

- **Association support.** The Friends of Allensworth Interpretive Association would likely form a committed base of support and possibly a market base for new agricultural production.

**Challenges**

There are limited opportunities for implementing sustainable agriculture operations without considerable investment in research, infrastructure development, and outreach to potential farmers. Challenges include:

- **Unsuitable soil.** The soils are not suitable for most crops. A rotation of cotton and alfalfa, although likely to grow in this area, is not considered a sustainable farming system due to the reliance on the chemical inputs required for production.

- **Water.** Establishment of a reliable water source and delivery system for irrigation would likely require a significant investment of resources. The presence of arsenic in wells tested over the last 40 years has indicated high levels of contamination, and establishing and pumping from deep wells is increasingly expensive. Thus, wells are not likely to be a feasible option, especially for relatively low-priced crops.

- **Climate.** The extreme temperatures in the summer would prevent most orchard crops and many row crops from growing successfully.

- **Access to markets.** Local markets are very limited. All production would need to be trucked to metropolitan regions many hours away.

- **Farmer recruitment.** The recruitment of a farmer to this area would pose a challenge as local communities lack many public services.
Cowell Ranch/ John Marsh Home Property

Overview
Cowell Ranch/ John Marsh Home Property, one of California State Park’s newest parks, was acquired from the Cowell Foundation in 2004 with the help of the Trust for Public Land, other public agencies, and concerned citizens. The nearly 4,000-acre property is located southwest of the City of Brentwood in eastern Contra Costa County. The site is in the gently rolling foothills of the Diablo Mountain Range. The John Marsh Historic Home, ranch and agricultural historic landscape, Native American resources, Marsh Creek and riparian habitat, vernal pools, and Briones Valley are some of the cultural and natural resources included in the entire property now under State Parks management.

The property is located close to Black Diamond Mines Regional Reserve, Mount Diablo State Park, Round Valley Regional Park, Margen Territory Regional Preserve, and Los Vaqueros Watershed. Collectively, these areas encompass over 81,000 acres of almost contiguous public open space located in close proximity to the fast-growing metropolitan Bay Area.

To the northwest is the rapidly expanding City of Brentwood. The Park’s location near the city’s boundaries has facilitated a planning partnership between State Parks and the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department.

Due to the recently acquired status of Cowell Ranch, State Parks has not yet prepared a General Plan for the property; therefore, this site offers the opportunity to consider sustainable agriculture from the park’s inception.

To commence the Park’s General Plan and EIR, a visioning and scoping meeting was held in May 2006 with State Parks staff and consultants, City of Brentwood representatives, and community members. As part of the discussion, participants were asked to address five questions related to park resources, recreation, and facilities. Suggestions included strong support for agriculture at the Park, such as ideas for organic agriculture, agricultural tourism, and on-site concessions. Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining open space uses on most of the newly acquired property.

The area under consideration for expanded sustainable agriculture operations is at the eastern edge of the Park; a 225-acre section bordered by Walnut Boulevard to the east, Camino-Diablo Road to the south, and close to Marsh Creek Road to the north. This area is divided into two sections by the Highway 4 Bypass, with a 185-acre portion located to the south of the Bypass and approximately 40-acres to the north of the Bypass.

Historically, the 265 acres were used as grazing land. Currently, this acreage is planted in a trellised apple orchard. Established about 10 years ago, the operation proved to be not economically viable over the long term. The orchard was last harvested commercially in 2004, and the farm lease has since been terminated by the Park. The untended and unirrigated trees, now infested with apple coddling moth and apple moth, no longer have any production value, and in fact have become a dangerous vector for the spread of these insect pests.
John Marsh / Cowell Ranch
Current Conditions for Agriculture

Soil, Water, and Climactic Conditions
The area is comprised of a flat valley and rolling hills with sandy clay soils, which likely offer good drainage for a variety of agricultural uses.

Water infrastructure conditions serving the two portions of the agricultural site are difficult to fully ascertain at present. Previous to the Highway 4 Bypass construction, the entire site was served by a reliable irrigation system that met the needs of an intensively-planted apple orchard established in 1998. During construction of the Bypass, however, the water system was cut, resulting in lack of water service to the southern 225 acres for the past three years. However, it should be noted that the mechanical portions of the water system (well/pump/storage), located in the northern 40-acre section, are intact. State Parks and CalTrans are in the process of addressing the need to restore the main water line.

Infrastructure and Improvements
The apple orchard portion of the site, last farmed in 2004, is at the end of its productive life. The intensive trellis system, including pressure-treated support posts, heavy wire, and irrigation tape, now serves as a constraint to new agricultural use of the site. The cost of demolishing this trellised orchard will most likely be relatively high, due to the need for deconstructing and removing the entire operation’s infrastructure.

Several improvements can likely be retained and re-used. These include a metal storage structure (~ 600 SF), a well, and a water main in the smaller section. The site also has excellent roadway access and a good perimeter fence. Although there are no options for farmer housing on site, surrounding areas may offer a range of housing options.

Current Support for Education and Interpretation
There are no support groups currently active at the John Marsh/Cowell Ranch property, but the engagement of the community at the scoping and visioning meeting indicates that there will be strong public support and a volunteer base in the future. The Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust (BALT), a local organization with extensive local knowledge, could play an important role in shaping a new sustainable agriculture opportunity and promoting it to interested farmers.

The development of a community college is proposed on property adjacent to the John Marsh/Cowell Ranch property near the John Marsh Historic Home. This has the potential to be an exciting collaboration that engages post-secondary students in the variety of social, biological, and physical sciences through hands-on research and community development projects on Park lands.

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3 Commercial orchards of this type typically produce highest yields between years five and fifteen.
Future Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

- **Agronomic conditions.** The site’s good soils, moderate growing climate, and likely access to water once the system is restored all provide support for sustainable, productive, and economically-viable agriculture.

- **Planning opportunity.** The pending General Plan and EIR may serve to establish a long-term commitment to sustainable agriculture. This plan could integrate the ecological, cultural, and interpretive goals of State Parks through a near-term sustainable agriculture project, reinforcing land conservation and public education.

- **Potential for concessions.** Participants of the scoping and visioning meeting encouraged on-site concessions as an opportunity for the Park. By integrating the Healthy Foods Initiative program with agricultural activities, on-site concessions could provide healthful, locally-sourced, fresh products to visitors. On-site sales could be implemented through a simple farmstand.

- **Local markets.** In addition, the City of Brentwood presents a number of opportunities for marketing fresh, local produce to local restaurants and independently-owned produce markets and corner stores.

- **Opportunities for interpretive programs.** This Park presents opportunities for establishing interpretive programs that integrate local productive agriculture, the agricultural history of the region, and the local food and farming systems. The participants of the scoping and visioning meeting promoted the initiation of interpretive programs representing the rich and diverse history of the local area, such as highlighting Native American sites and the John Marsh Home.

- **Local partnerships.** Park staff and a new farmer could explore creating a partnership with the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust (BALT) to establish agriculture conservation easements, obtain grant funding, create workable lease arrangements, and related support.

Challenges

- **Cost of removing orchard trellis system/restoring irrigation system.** The biggest challenge for this site is determining the strategy for removing the apple orchard infrastructure and re-establishing the irrigation system. Local farmers have estimated that the orchard removal would cost about $250,000. Park staff has begun to address these issues and is considering employing prison inmates to cut the wire and irrigation tape, pull out the trees and pressure-treated wood, and burn the waste.

- **Infestation.** The orchard is also infested with both codling moth and apple moth, a new invasive species that has appeared in the United States in the last three to five years. This infestation adds to the urgency and pressure on State Parks to devise a pest control strategy or remove the orchard. Nearby productive orchards can be detrimentally affected; the 265-acre property serves as breeding and feeding grounds for the moths. If no action is taken, State Parks could face reprimand and litigation from regional natural resource agencies and farmers.

- **Timing.** Despite the urgency, the lack of resources to remove the orchard may postpone the initiation of a new farming opportunity for an unknown period.

- **Pending plan.** Another possible impediment in soliciting and developing a new farming opportunity is the lack of a General Plan and EIR. Completion of these documents could delay implementing a long-term agricultural strategy at this park, but could still allow for an interim agricultural management strategy.
Fort Ross State Historic Park

Overview
Fort Ross State Historic Park lies on the northern coast of California, approximately twelve miles north of the town of Jenner on Highway 1. Established in 1906, the Park is the former site of the southernmost of the Russian colonies in North America. The original acquisition by State Parks created a 358-acre park, and additional acquisitions in 1962, 1976, and 1990 nearly tripled the acreage to the current total of 3,200 acres. The agricultural area of the Park under consideration is the historic orchard, with the oldest portion to the south of Fort Ross Road. The historic orchard is situated uphill from the Fort Ross compound located near the ocean bluffs.

Fort Ross has unique cultural sensitivities due to a large number of unexcavated archeological sites and its location on the San Andreas fault. Before the arrival of the Russians in 1812, the Fort Ross site was the seasonal home of the Kashaya tribe that had lived on this land for centuries. The orchard in particular is a geologic interest area because a portion of the San Andreas fault line rises to the surface adjacent to the main orchard area. This fault trench has been studied by UC researchers using borings; and a new study will be completed over the next several years.

The primary focus of Fort Ross SHP centers on historic values, particularly Russian political and economic affairs with special concern for the Russians’ relationships with Spain and Mexico. Consideration is given to Russian international affairs, colonization, territorial expansion, economic and material growth, and the development of agriculture. Secondary themes include Native American and American ranching history stressing the economic, agricultural, ranching and shipping activities.

Fort Ross is a popular destination for both day and overnight recreational activities, with over 150,000 visitors per year. Passive recreation facilities include a museum, historic exhibits, an extensive library, and beach access. In addition, Fort Ross offers ongoing docent, private, and school tours. In the fall, the facility hosts an annual harvest celebration, including collecting fruit from the untended historic orchard.

The Russians planted the original orchard, which had several strains of apples, some pears, plums, and sour cherries. When the property passed into private hands through two different families, most recently with the Call family, the orchard was greatly expanded. The belief is that the private farmers used Russian plant cuttings to create daughter trees, meaning the trees that have survived mostly originated from the Call family era, using genetic stock from earlier trees. At its height during Call family era (early 1900s), the orchard contained 1,200 to 1,800 trees. Most but not all of the Call family era trees died, with the exception of two 100+ year old pear trees, which still bear fruit.

In the 1980s, a local resident created more daughter apple trees from the existing orchard, resulting in about fifty 25 year old trees currently growing in several clumps in the orchard today. These trees bear fruit despite the lack of caretaking, and during the annual fall Harvest Celebration, locals gather to pick the apples and press them. There is a strong belief that the current orchard tree stock contains unusual genetic material due to lineage, most likely with some heirloom varieties and possibly even a predecessor to today’s Gravenstein apples. This material may have come from Russia and South America (via the Spanish who traded with Russians at that time).
The Fort Ross General Plan references crops and intensive agriculture practiced by the Russians but does not provide much detail. The General Plan states that agriculture, grazing, and logging activities must be interpreted to represent the Russian period using historically accurate methods and breeds of animals. Truck farming and dairying are mentioned as historic agricultural activities. The General Plan also recommends developing research programs to investigate sustainable grazing practices as well as implementing apple orchards and utilitarian kitchen gardens.

The Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA) is an active group of volunteers who help organize restoration of the fort compound, lead tours, staff the extensive on-site research library, and undertake special projects. This group is very interested in seeing the historic orchard restored to productive agricultural use, and could be a strong resource for a partner farmer.
Fort Ross State Historic Park
Current Conditions for Agriculture

Soil, Water, and Climactic Conditions
Fort Ross is composed of wide level coastal terraces (used by Russians for row crops), an abundant source of mountain spring water, and high meadows (for fruit trees) against a backdrop of densely forested ridges. According to the General Plan, soils have moderate to good drainage on nearly level to steep loam and clay loams. The solum layer varies from 25 inches to more than 60 inches.

In summer, day temperatures vary between the 60s and low 70s with nights in the 50s. Wind speed ranges between 10-25 mph with gusts of up to 50-60 mph. Fog is prevalent during summer days, and some moisture results from fog drip and night-time drizzle. In winter, storms frequently batter the coastline with gale force winds. Winter temperatures range from the 40s at night to the high 50s to low 60s during the day; freezing point is reached only occasionally. Seasonal rainfall from November to April is about 35 inches.

The Park currently uses rainwater, but just approved a rehabilitation of its water cisterns. Despite the presence of natural spring water in the orchard and elsewhere in the Park, according to park staff, Sonoma County will not allow State Park to use these sources for visitor water. Cistern water is not enough to support orchard activities, and is barely enough to support the Park’s visitors through dry years, even with expanded cisterns. According to Fort Ross volunteers, new apple trees require about five years of daily or frequent watering to become established. After that, "ambient" rainwater is likely sufficient for orchard agricultural.

Slope stability is compromised in the sandstone area along the coast and along the San Andreas Fault line. Two rare and endangered plant species plus the state flower are present at Fort Ross SHP.

Infrastructure and Improvements
Although an orchard fence was installed in the 1980s, feral pigs come through the fence and root around in orchard area, posing a problem for any potential farmer.

Road access to the orchard, via Fort Ross Road, is available.

Current Support For Education and Interpretation
The Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA), formed in 1976, operates a museum bookstore and the Fort Ross Visitor Center 365 days a year. FRIA’s volunteers and staff organize Fort Ross’ library, producing exhibits for the Park. FRIA has also published books and brochures about Fort Ross and developed a cultural trail with the Native Kashaya community, UC Berkeley, and CSP. FRIA also restored the historic Call Ranch House and is currently restoring the Rotchev House, the oldest surviving wood structure in California. Fort Ross hosts tour groups, school visits, and the Environmental Living Program (ELP). In the ELP program, students take on the character and costume of a historical Fort Ross resident, spending a day and a night performing some of the tasks to experience daily life at Fort Ross. The curriculum supplements the curriculum of fourth or fifth grade California History. In the annual Fort Ross Harvest Celebration, locals and visitors gather to learn about Fort Ross’ history while harvesting and
pressing the orchard apples. On Fort Ross Heritage Day, volunteers host an educational event highlighting the history of Fort Ross.

**Future Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges**

**Opportunities**
- **Tree propagation.** During the 1980s, a company bought grafts from new trees and sold them elsewhere for $10 each. This site holds potential for an heirloom tree propagation or cutting business.
- **Strong local volunteer support.** The Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA) is active in supporting and restoring this park, and has a strong interest in restoring the orchard as a key part of the overall agricultural heritage. With upwards of 1,000 trees at its peak, the orchards are thought to contain unusual genetic material.
- **Local gardens.** Several District employees, and some volunteers who serve as docents also grow their own agricultural produce at their homes in the area.
- **Local farmers market/marketing opportunities.** The Fort Ross area has a regular Sunday farmers market, offering opportunities to sell produce from the orchard if reestablished. Other opportunities exist to sell product to area restaurants and local grocery stores.

**Challenges**
- **Feral pigs.** These pigs come through orchard fence and root around in orchard area, and would need to be mitigated if a commercial orchard were re-established.
- **Water.** The availability of natural springs throughout the orchard site needs to be further investigated with Sonoma County to ascertain if these could be used for agriculture.
Jack London State Historic Park

Overview

Jack London Orchard is a recent addition to the Jack London State Historic Park located in Glen Ellen in Sonoma County. Acquired from the state-run Sonoma Development Center (SDC) in 2002, the addition of the 600-acre orchard nearly doubled the size of the Park. The orchard lies between the approximately 1,000-acre SDC property to the east and the Woodcutter's Meadow area of the original park to the west. The orchard is accessible via a paved road through the SDC from Arnold Drive, which is the main road into Glen Ellen and a main north-south road through Sonoma Valley.

The orchard was originally part of the large land holdings of the Sonoma Development Center hospital that serves individuals with developmental disabilities. The hospital was established in 1891, and the orchard was planted around 1906 to provide a food source and meaningful work for residents. Originally planted in apples, pears, apricots, and prunes, the orchard was actively managed until 1966, when the orchards behind the hospital were closed. Selected portions were maintained by private lessees through the 1990s.

Today the remaining orchard includes 2.14 acres of European pears, 3.30 acres of European plums, 4.49 acres of apples, 1.10 acres of apricots, 10.18 acres of prunes, and .11 acres of sweet cherries. Apple varieties include Pippin, Newton, Spitzer, Winesap, and others. Unfortunately, the trees have been in decline for many years and are generally in poor condition. The healthiest areas are in apples and pears with a third to a half of the trees in fair or good health. The largest orchard area is planted in prunes; however, it has seen the worst decline, with most of the historic prune trees either dead or in poor condition. The European plums, apricots, and sweet cherry orchards have few trees to salvage at this point. Of the 1,090 total trees, 0.2% is classified as in good condition, 10.8% fair, 57.9% poor, and 31.1% are dead. It is estimated that 90% of the orchard is not commercially viable.

The National Park Service prepared a condition report and stabilization plan for the orchard in November 2006. The plan identifies threats and recommends stabilization activities to halt further deterioration and losses. The immediate threats to the health of the trees were identified as: encroachment of woody vegetation; poor orchard floor condition; wood rat dens in tree trunks; drought and lack of water; hollow trunks and leaning trees; and presence of deadwood and rootstock suckers.

The stabilization plan suggests both immediate and long-term maintenance that will be both labor and capital intensive. Controlling the woody vegetation that has taken over large portions of the orchard will require ongoing efforts. The pest problem, which is likely to remain significant until all wood rat dens are eradicated, is a health and safety concern for public use of the area. Additionally, the fruit trees require one inch depth of water each week, year round, to remain healthy. At this time the orchard has no irrigation or supplementary water source for the trees.

The Jack London Orchard site also includes hilly areas of mixed forest. Oak, madrone, California buckeye, and Douglas fir grow abundantly in the areas surrounding the fruit orchard, and a nearby ancient giant redwood tree called "Grandmother Redwood" is estimated to be 1,800 to 2,000 years old. The orchard site is bisected by an unimproved road, and has a partial perimeter road.
Today the orchard lies mostly abandoned and has not yet been fully incorporated into the Jack London State Historic Park. The Park plans to extend existing multi-use trails into the area for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. One existing trail leads from Woodcutter’s Meadow to a path that loops around the orchard. A park brochure site map indicates that the trail is subject to closure, and it is possible that improvements need to be made before it is fully open to the public.

Since the orchard was acquired well after the General Plan was written in 1988, there are no existing guidelines for resource development or interpretation. However, the deed to the property specifies the orchards need to be maintained and used for educational purposes, and that only low-level recreation and day use will be allowed. In addition to the recreational opportunities, the Park’s primary interest in the site is in restoring the orchard, maintaining old varieties of apples and prunes, and possibly adding new, commercially-viable varieties.
Current Conditions for Agriculture

Soil, Water, and Climactic Conditions
The Jack London State Historic Park and Orchard are located in the Sonoma Mountains of the Coast Range Geomorphic Province, a geological designation characterized by high hills, steep slopes, and deep canyons. The orchard sits on a wide shelf at approximately 1,000 feet with a steep slope rising to 2,000 feet to the southwest. To the north and east, the topography drops in a gradual slope. To the north and west into the Jack London Park area, the landscape rises gradually into clearing and meadow. The soils in the wider area are described as being in the Northwestern Coast Ranges Soil Region. There is no specific information on the soils of the orchard.

The orchard lies in Climate Zone 2, a Mediterranean climate characterized by moderate, warm and dry summers and cool, wet winters. Temperatures in the summer usually exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit for about ten days and drop below freezing for about five days during the winter. Mean annual precipitation is about 49" inches with 95 percent of precipitation falling between October and April. A moderate amount of fog usually occurs in the summer and winter, but 80 percent of the days see sunshine during this time period.

The water source for the orchard when it was under management is unclear, as it has no irrigation system today and had none historically. There is a possibility that the Sonoma Development Center would authorize water rights to the site, but this requires further investigation. The Development Center property historically maintained two lakes for water storage.

The water supply onsite in the Park includes a five-acre reservoir and three major watersheds that pass through the park and drain into the San Pablo Bay. The reservoir needs work to remove the sediment accumulating on the bottom. However, the water quality is generally good except for high coliform bacteria count. Supplying water to the orchard from the reservoir should be further explored.

In addition to preservation of the giant redwood, the existence of Northern spotted owls along the boundary between the orchard and Jack London SHP will require special considerations for site use and improvements. To protect the owls, machinery would be prohibited during nesting season.

Infrastructure and Improvements
There are several buildings across the access road from the orchard area. One of these was used as a staging area for the tending of the orchard by SDC but is not in use today. The re-establishment of a commercial orchard operation will require, at a minimum, access to water delivery, or water storage. At this time, the Park has no housing available. Future farm workers could likely find housing in Glen Ellen or other small communities nearby. Other infrastructure onsite includes an access road, perimeter road, and trails.

Current Support for Education and Interpretation
There are currently no educational or interpretive guidelines for Jack London Orchard. However, there

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4 The high precipitation level seems to contradict other statements about periodic drought conditions.
may be opportunities to create programs about the history of the heirloom orchard and about any new efforts to preserve the stock through propagation and or genetic conservation. At some point, the orchard could be included on guided hikes, with signage made available for self-guided tours.

Valley of the Moon Natural History Association, the most active volunteer organization at Jack London, would likely take on extended programs in the orchard. The Association gives regular tours of the park, helps curate Park resources, and runs the visitors center and bookstore. Sonoma County Trails Council might also have an interest in Orchard programs because the Orchard trail links up to the larger trail system. The only concession in the Park is for horseback riding services. Private uses include weddings, which have become a large source of revenue.

Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

- **Local technical expertise.** Jack London Orchard has the natural amenities of the Sonoma landscape that supports the growth of agriculture. Several local organizations and people may potentially be interested in various aspects of the orchard. Benziger operates an 85-acre biodynamic grape production nearby. In this rigorous form of farming, Benziger eliminates all chemical inputs, implements crop rotations, and emphasizes a closed, self-sustaining ecosystem. This type of local expertise could be helpful in assessing and implementing the restoration of the orchard.

- **Value of heirloom stock.** The local chapter of the California Rare Fruit Society may also have an interest in assessing the value of preserving the stock through propagation and possibly genetic conservation.

- **Opportunity for planting new trees.** There may be the possibility of planting new crops in unused acreage and those parts of the orchard where the trees are dead or clearly beyond restoration. CSP has mentioned vineyards in this discussion.

Challenges

- **Orchard in decline.** This site is composed of a large acreage of mostly non-commercially viable fruit trees. Clearing out woody vegetation, wood rats, deadwood, and rootstock suckers would likely be cost intensive.

- **Plan unclear.** The deed requires maintenance of the orchard. However, it is not clear whether or not this means that the trees cannot be removed. It is also unclear how the site is intended to be integrated into Jack London State Historic Park.

- **Lack of irrigation system.** There is no existing source or delivery system for irrigation water to the site, and the land is susceptible to drought.
La Purisima Mission State Historic Park

Overview
La Purisima Mission State Historic Park is located near the town of Lompoc in Santa Barbara County. Established in 1933, the Park has grown over time, currently encompassing over 1900 acres centered around a small valley formed by the Los Berros Creek and also including some surrounding hillside land. The Park is situated between open space to the north and south, the Mission Hills development and a small treatment plant, operated by Mission Hills, to the east, and private farmland to the south.

The historic period of 1822 dictates the interpretive, cultural, and ecological resources that the Park maintains in accordance with preserving the site as an important Mission Period institution. At its peak, the Mission produced significant amounts of agriculture and livestock, with a productive capacity that dwarfed all other California missions. The Franciscan fathers of La Purisima Mission planted many acres of beans, wheat and barley. Later, colonists planted apples and harvested mustard seeds.

La Purisima is the most fully reconstructed and restored of all 21 California missions. The historic core consists of a building complex, including: the main church, Padres’ residence building, shops and quarters, blacksmith shop, pottery shop, padres’ kitchen, fountains, gardens, and fields. La Purisima has 20 to 25 small livestock of the Mission-era in large pens in the historic area for public viewing. There are also four acres of gardens with about 60 feet by 60 feet in vegetables. Water for the core was delivered historically via a brick-lined surface aqueduct, fed by a spring and holding pond upstream.

The area under consideration for expanded diversified sustainable agriculture production is the 80-acre section of flat valley land upstream from the historic core. Historically, grains, beans, fruit trees, and grapes were grown on this section of land. One historic pear tree estimated to be about 200 years old remains at the edge of the 80-acre section. This tree has been subjected to DNA identification and a current propagation effort is exploring the feasibility of re-establishing part of the original pear orchard. The pears from this type of tree were thought to have been used to make brandy.

Currently, a farmer is producing dry-farmed oat hay on the site using modern farm machinery. The arrangement with the current farmer is atypical of most California State Parks agricultural operations; the farmer pays CSP with 20 percent of the hay crop, which is used to feed the animals within the Park, and manure from the animals is used to fertilize the fields.
La Purisima Mission
**Current Conditions for Agriculture**

**Soil, Water, and Climactic Conditions**
According to the General Plan from 1991, Elder sandy loam is the dominant soil in the agricultural fields. This soil texture class is suitable for diverse agricultural crops and typically has good drainage.

Currently, there is no water source or delivery infrastructure for the 80-acre section. The historic aqueduct is not under consideration as an agricultural water delivery system because it is in need of restoration and would not adequately serve the 80 acres in any case. However, the spring-fed holding pond and the treatment plant at the northern border of the property could be potential sources.

La Purisima is located in the Lompoc Valley, a Climate Zone 5. This area enjoys a long growing season. The summers are not particularly warm, and usually have a morning marine layer of fog that clears by mid-day. The region experiences nearly 14 inches of rainfall annually and rarely freezes. Historically, local farmers have grown a wide variety of vegetables, including potatoes, beans, beets, onions, and corn during longer growing days, and, carrots, lettuce, cauliflower, celery, and broccoli in the fall and winter seasons.

The riparian buffer zone established to protect sensitive resources along the Los Berros Creek must be maintained.

**Infrastructure and Improvements**
The fields are regularly tilled for the hay production. However, the site has no existing infrastructure necessary for diversified, horticultural or agronomic crop and orchard production, such as fencing, water system, or agricultural buildings. Any of these improvements would need to be implemented as part of the project.

Road access is available and adequate. Farmer housing may not be available on-site in the four buildings that are designated for employee residences. However, nearby Lompoc has a wide range of housing options.

The Park store, located at the park entrance, currently sells concessions for visitors. The Park also holds annual events with some concessions, such as the Mission Art Show & Sale, where local artists depicting California missions sell their works and donate a percentage of proceeds to support the educational exhibits in the new Visitor Center.

**Current Support for Education and Interpretation**
There is a wide range of highly engaged support groups and volunteer associations working at La Purisima Mission, including Lompoc Valley Botanical and Horticultural Society, Santa Barbara Botanical Society, Santa Barbara City College, and the local high school.

Prelado de los Tesoros de la Purisima has been supporting educational and interpretive programs at the Park since 1973. The Park holds several events, such as Village Days and Mission Life Day, highlighting the different eras and practices of the Mission’s residents. Over 125 dedicated docents and volunteers...
present living history, guided tours, and community outreach that have made La Purisima famous for its high quality and unique programs. These volunteers raise funds to support these programs as well as to support research and livestock care.

Docents and staff present Student Learning History programs to groups of about 1,000 fourth grade students 11 times per year. Students learn about local and historical agriculture. Additionally, local community residents take a strong interest in park activities and use the park regularly for recreation including hiking, jogging, and nature study.

Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities
La Purisima Mission State Historic Park is a promising site for the implementation of expanded diversified sustainable agriculture on the 80-acre site.

- **Agronomic suitability.** It is possible to transition the hay production site into a more intensive, diversified cropping system with field and horticultural crops as well as olive and pear orchards.
- **Additional potential management opportunities.** The individual that managed the 80-acre site could also potentially develop an agreement with the park to enhance maintenance of the 4-acres of gardens, which are currently tended by volunteers.
- **Potential for re-introduction of historic crops and varieties.** The pear orchard has potential based in part on the feasibility of re-introducing the historic pear varieties and using them to make value-added products, such as brandy or conserves. The olive orchard also has potential, based on the success of other local olive oil companies such as the Santa Barbara Olive Oil Company. Establishment of orchard crops would require a sufficiently long-term lease to amortize investment costs. One advantage of orchard crops is that conceivably they would not require water beyond the first few years of getting established.
- **Potential for native plants.** There are a number of native plants that could be cultivated, including elderberries, golden currants, and cactus with tunas. Figs, roses, and herbs are also historically appropriate and could be grown under the site conditions.
- **Outstanding community support.** The community volunteer and docent organizations that provide a variety of maintenance, interpretive, and event activities could be a great resource for expanded agricultural operations. It would be important for the new farmer to build relationships with these groups and to identify ways for them to engage with the new agricultural activities.
- **Access to receptive markets.** Marketing opportunities are optimized for this Park due to its proximity to the City of Santa Barbara, which is well known for supporting local and organic farming. Products could be potentially be “branded” and sold at the Park store as well as through local markets and to local institutions in Lompoc.

Challenges

- **Water.** In order to realize any of the proposed farming operations, the farmer and/or the Park need to address the lack of water source and delivery system. Although dry-farmed crops, such as tomatoes and melons, are sometimes viable for productive, profitable farming operations, these operations can be risky and can also require one to three irrigations in the early part of the season. In addition, Lompoc summers are a little cool for these crops.
• **Fence.** The site would also need fencing against deer, and other wild animals, such as turkeys, if present.
Sonoma State Historic Park

Overview
Sonoma State Historic Park (SHP) was established in 1962 at the site of the northernmost Franciscan Mission in California in an area that later became the Town of Sonoma. It is composed of six distinct historic areas, most of which border the Town's central plaza. The historic sites on the plaza include the Mission Sonoma complex, a former barracks, and Casa Grande, the original home of General Mariano Vallejo, who led the Mexican military command in the colonization of the Northern Frontier of California. One-half mile west and north of the plaza is Lachryma Montis, a second home site commonly referred to as the Vallejo Home. This historic Vallejo estate is the portion of the Park that is under consideration for expanded, diversified, sustainable agriculture.

Lachryma Montis is a remnant of a rural landscape now enveloped by suburban and commercial development on three sides. The estate consists of 50 fairly flat acres, with residential neighborhoods to the west and south, a state maintenance facility to the east, and a wooded hillside to the north. A church and synagogue are located in a cut-out of the park parcel near the Park's entry road on the south.

On the site, a complex of historic buildings is located in the northern portion of the property. These buildings include: Vallejo's Victorian era house; a warehouse currently used as the visitor's center and museum; a historic reservoir; the Hermitage guest house; and a garden pavilion. This area also now includes a picnic area; several storage yards; and a parking lot. Beyond the buildings and extending to the southern edge of the property lie large, open grasslands that were once farmed. A traditional Spanish Alameda, a stately entrance road lined with the remnants of an alle of cottonwood trees, provides the main access between West Spain Street and the historic buildings. A compound of small park service buildings is located at the corner of the entrance road and the city street. A paved public walking trail cuts through the east-west axis of the site.

Before the missionary period, Native American Coast Miwok resided and intensively used the valley where the Vallejo home lies. The location of the home site within an area of seasonal springs accounts for its name, which is a Latin translation of the name given by its native residents, “tears of the mountain.” A number of surveys conducted up to 1983 have indicated a high likelihood that archeological sites exist around the Vallejo home. However, extensive archeological research has not been completed.

Today, the Vallejo Home is a popular destination for historic sightseeing, seasonal festivals, educational activities, outdoor recreation, and private events. The Vallejo Home hosts a number of ongoing visitor education programs including weekend docent tours of the home, school tours of the property, and interpretive displays at the museum. Several annual events draw visitors to the park, the largest event being the Sonoma Heritage Tour in the fall. Docents dressed in period costume lead historic enactments and tours of all the historic areas including buildings that are not normally open to the public. Community residents use the outdoor recreational improvements at Lachryma Montis, including a bike trail, walking paths throughout the building grounds, and a picnic area set in an olive grove next to the reservoir. The outdoor areas surrounding the Vallejo Home can also be reserved for private events and have become a popular venue for weddings. Revenues from such events compose a significant part of the Park’s income.
The General Plan for Sonoma State Historic Park was written in 1985 and recommends a focus on the historic period from 1823 to 1910 for new uses and interpretive programs for all six historic areas of the Park. For Lachryma Montis in particular, the period of interest is 1851 to 1880 when Vallejo attempted the transition to American methods of business and agriculture, while retaining the social gentility of his Mexican heritage. During this period, agriculture at the home site primarily consisted of commercial orchards and vineyards that supported the economic livelihood of General Vallejo. The orchards and vineyards were grown on a plot of approximately 20 to 30 acres, located in the open fields south of the building complex. Vallejo experimented with Mediterranean crops, and had plantings of grapes, figs, olives, apricots, peaches, quince, pomelos, plums, apples, cherries, pomegranates, pears, nectarines, lemons, oranges, berries, wheat, barley, beans, and roses. Vallejo became a respected horticulturist and a leader in California's fledgling wine industry; in fact, he was one of the first commercial winemakers in the region.

The General Plan specifically recommends replanting the orchards, vineyards, and gardens, as well as supporting chickens and small livestock at a rebuilt hennery. The plan also expresses concern about the visual urban intrusion to the Vallejo home site. It makes additional recommendations to establish windrows of appropriate native trees to improve the viewshed from the homesite and make it more authentic.

The historic orchard and vineyard fields were farmed for nearly a century. The property then traded hands and was privately held until State Parks purchased the Vallejo house in 1933. Over time, the Park added more of the original home site to its holdings. Today, the former agricultural fields are open grasslands with just one small plot (about 1/8th of an acre) of very old grapevines remaining, to the southwest of the Vallejo home. These are tended by a dedicated volunteer. There is also a remnant olive orchard of about 20 trees near the picnic area and parking lot. These trees, un-pruned for years and now 30-40 feet tall, are not suitable for commercial olive oil production.
Sonoma State Historic Park

- Park Boundary
- Historic Buildings
- Potential Agricultural Park
- Historic Vineyard
- Park Service Buildings
Current Conditions for Agriculture

Soil, Water, and Climatic Conditions
Lachryma Montis is located in the Foothill and Low Coastal Mountains Landscape Province on the eastern edge of the Sonoma Creek Valley and at the foot of the Sonoma Volcanic Highlands. Steep slopes rise on the northerly 3.67 acres of the property, ranging in slope from 5 percent to 40 percent. A small oak woodland grows on the hillside in this area. The historic agricultural areas in front of the Vallejo home occupy a mostly flat terrain with small areas of seasonal wetlands. The regulations governing farming and wetlands will require further investigation.

The agronomic conditions can be characterized by moderately fertile soils and favorable climatic conditions. Four types of soils are predominate on the property: Huicica loam and small areas of Clough Gravelly loam on the flat ground and Red Hill clay and Goulding-Toones Complex on the slopes at the northern edge of the property. Erosion is moderate to high in the sloped areas. The property is in a Mediterranean climate zone with hot, dry summers extending from May to September. The region’s cool, wet winters typically see an average of 28 inches of precipitation each year. Crops could potentially be grown year round with irrigation in summer and sufficient drainage in winter.

Water to the Vallejo Home is currently provided by the City at rates which would likely be cost-prohibitive for agricultural operations.

Infrastructure and Improvements
Lachryma Montis currently has no dedicated agricultural buildings. However, there may be an opportunity to construct temporary structures as long as they comply with CEQA rules. There may also be an opportunity to reconstruct a few historic buildings that have fallen into disrepair over the years for farm service use. Most of the existing historic agricultural buildings have been repurposed to provide park visitor services and interpretive programs. However, the General Plan recommends the reconstruction of the hennery to house appropriate farm animals and also mentions possibly rebuilding a Gothic Barn to “accurately portray the historic appearance of a working farm.”

Agricultural infrastructure is virtually nonexistent today. The site lacks an irrigation system or functioning water storage facility. A spring-fed reservoir that once provided water for domestic and agricultural use is out of order and has poor water quality. To be functional, it needs new recirculation and distribution systems and requires structural improvements. At one time, the spring produced 6,000 gallons of water per hour, most of which was stored in the reservoir with a portion sold and piped into town. It is unclear if it would be economically feasible to bring the reservoir back to a working condition and whether it would be the best source of water for agriculture. Park staff are investigating the possibility of re-establishing an unused on-site well, which has been found to be viable but will require considerable refurbishment. The well contains non-potable water that could serve the water demands of productive agriculture on-site with some use for Park irrigation. There is likely an expectation that a new farmer would be responsible for re-establishing and maintaining the water system.

The site has electricity next to the fields in the park maintenance and office buildings, offering the potential to extend service to the edge of the fields if needed for a well pump or for a small farm support
The site has very good road access to and around the Vallejo Home. The Alameda runs the length of the property from West Spain Street to the south up to the building complex on the northern portion of the property. The historic orchard area could be accessed at any point on the east side from the Alameda, or from a residential road that borders the west side. The historic vineyard field is also accessible from the Alameda and from one point on its eastern border from First Street West.

There is no existing fencing around the open field areas, and game fencing will likely not be allowed at the Park. In recent years, the open fields have functioned as public open space, with a bicycle path running across the fields. Creative alternatives for internal fencing of row crop areas to protect against wildlife intrusion and against vandalism are possible, and would need further investigation.

**Current Support for Education and Interpretation**

The educational objectives in the General Plan are focused on Vallejo's horticultural pursuits and commercial ventures. The primary theme is California's "green gold," the great agricultural potential for California as realized at Lachryma Montis. Vallejo's experimentation with a wide range of crops, sharing of horticultural knowledge and nursery stock, and commercial wine making are all notable achievements cited in the Plan.

The current interpretive programs at Lachryma Montis mainly focus on tours of the home and historical displays at the visitors' center. The Sonoma State Historic Park Association trains docents for public and school tours and organizes seasonal celebrations. The group’s primary mission is to preserve and interpret the Park, it has also contributed to a number of major improvements to Park buildings including the Vallejo Home.

At some point in the past, the Vallejo Home had a concession to sell water, wine, and agricultural products but it is unclear when this ended. While no formal concession exists currently, a nonprofit organization called Mission Olive Oil Preservation, Restoration, and Education Project (MOREP) is interested in harvesting the remnant olive orchard. In 2005, the group harvested olives, pressed them for oil, and also sold root cuttings from the trees. MOREP was formed to preserve and propagate historic olive trees at California's missions. This group has also been active at La Purisima Mission.

**Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges**

**Opportunities**

- **Historical precedent.** Lachryma Montis has a historical precedent for growing a wide variety of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Trees in particular would also meet the identified need for screening out surrounding land uses to create a more authentic viewshed from the historic building core.

- **Agronomic potential.** The flat, likely fertile ground, the section configuration, the year-round growing climate, and the likely availability of water, all contribute to the high agronomic potential of this site. Detailed soil tests are still needed.

- **Current Cultural Context.** Sonoma – both the City and County – are actively engaged in
developing and promoting their agricultural identity, with a focus on specialty production. Sonoma residents are supportive of local food industry, and the strength of the volunteer groups and general public interest also indicate a pride of heritage.

- **Market opportunities.** Nearby markets in Sonoma likely to be receptive to the project’s products include: restaurants, farmers markets, schools and other institutions. An on-site stand providing both fresh and value-added products might also be possible. This could provide a great opportunity to integrate farm production with educational programs about local food. There is also the potential to produce products for on-site use at both private and public events. For example, cut flowers could be offered for weddings, or seasonal specialty crops could be tied to interpretive events and celebrations throughout the Park. There may be potential to restore and/or re-establish the olive grove, as boutique olive oils are in demand. The cultural and market conditions would make it relatively easy to create a brand around the produce.

**Challenges**

- **Infrastructure.** Options for water source, storage, and delivery systems will need to be assessed and the best options will need to be developed. Fencing is probably not allowed at the Park. Although the Park does not have strong deer pressure currently, this situation might change with the planting of diversified crops and make fencing a necessity. Other infrastructure that would likely be needed for expanded agriculture includes basic storage building and utilities.

- **Neighbors.** Neighbors and the community at large are used to the current open fields as vistas and as places for passive recreation. Their buy-in would be important for the project’s success.

- **Archeological surveys.** There may be areas that require archeological surveys before active farming can begin or that will need to be excluded from the project areas.

- **Wetlands.** Some wetlands areas may need to be excluded from the project area. The Sonoma SHP ecologist has strong concerns about the impact that farming will have on the seasonal wetlands, and CSP is wary that this use would not match their natural resource stewardship and conservation goals.

- **Public access/bike path.** Any proposal for the site must accommodate the bike path which is a key public access route for recreation.

- **Recent failed efforts.** Despite having historical precedent for agriculture on the site, the site also has had failed agricultural efforts. About 30 years ago, a farmer planted a hay crop at the Park. After about 15 to 20 years, however, the ground squirrels and other small vertebrate pests created enough lumps in the fields to damage his equipment and he slowly phased out his farming activities.
Evaluation of Agricultural Opportunities

Evaluation Criteria

In order to summarize and rate the seven parks evaluated for this report, the study team formulated a set of six key criteria to assess each park’s opportunities for future enhanced sustainable agriculture.

The criteria have been defined as follows:

- **Agronomic Conditions** – This criteria summarizes soil, climate and growing conditions at the park, especially in the areas cited for agricultural suitability.

- **Infrastructure Conditions** – These criteria summarizes the availability of water, roadway access, and other infrastructure needed to support viable sustainable agriculture. If a park faces challenges in terms of cost to improve the infrastructure or demolish outdated infrastructure, it is rated as “low” in this category.

- **Near-Term Availability of Farm-Ready Parcel** – This factor summarizes the availability of land if California State Parks were to initiate a Request for Proposals in the next two years.

- **Access to Markets** – This factor summarizes the potential for an agricultural operation to easily access markets to sell farm products, including location near sufficient population, presence of local farmers markets, opportunities for new concessions, or other means.

- **Likely Community Support** – This criteria summarizes the existing support from local organizations, local government, and general community support to introduction or expansion of agriculture in a State Park.

- **Flexibility.** This factor summarizes the diversity of agricultural production (e.g. types of row crops, orchard crops, and livestock operations) that is feasible for the property as determined primarily by agronomic conditions and the Park’s General Plan.
Evaluation and Ranking of Opportunities

Each park has been rated according to each of the above criteria, using a scoring system of 1 to 5, with 1 as the lowest score, and 5 as the highest. This means that a park could achieve a possible maximum score of 30 points (6 criteria times high score of 5).

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<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Ag Conditions</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Parcel Available</th>
<th>Access to Markets</th>
<th>Likely Community Support</th>
<th>Flexibility</th>
<th>Total Score (30 Possible)</th>
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Summary of Evaluation

- **Coast Dairies.** Overall, this site has strong potential to continue to develop its agricultural component as the Park is formally integrated into the State Park system. Agronomic conditions are generally very favorable across the multiple fields, especially for cool weather crops. All fields available for agriculture have operating agricultural wells, and several fields also have functional packing sheds and worker housing, although some facilities will require rehabilitation. The site currently is fully occupied by several agricultural tenants. Coast Dairies is suited to both commercial/large scale as well as small-scale, niche-market farming and is located in the agriculturally active Santa Cruz region. However, it lacks good access to support businesses, and local farmers must travel to Santa Cruz and often Watsonville or Salinas to purchase equipment, materials and inputs. Coast Dairies is very close to markets. The current market has good viability for historical crops, and market viability for organic “versions” of historical crops is even stronger. Although there is no “friends” organization, the site has the potential to extend neighboring Wilder Ranch’s public component and educational opportunities. While CSP staff is supportive of agriculture, all agricultural land is currently occupied by long-term leases without openings in the near future.

- **Cowell Ranch.** Overall, this site ranks as the highest near term opportunity for establishment of a sustainable agricultural operation, given its favorable agronomic conditions, proximity to markets, and its stage of development as a state park. The site’s soil and climate are very favorable for agricultural production, and there are no current contracts with farmer tenants. The site is appropriate for diversified crop production and could be leased to a single, large operator. Located in agriculturally active area, it is suitable for both commercial/industrial and small-scale, niche-market farming. Cowell Ranch does not yet have a general plan, providing an opportunity to incorporate sustainable agriculture from inception. However, strong commitments by CSP and the
public will be required to overcome its challenges. The abandoned apple orchard on site needs to be
removed as soon as possible due to pest-infestation. Access to functioning agricultural well has
been severed by highway construction; restoring access is technically feasible, but investment in the
well and water delivery system would likely be required by new farmer tenants. The land will not
be available until orchard and water issues are resolved. Very little infrastructure exists on the
property, outside of a packing shed and fencing. There is currently no public component or
“friends” group, but local organizations and public interest indicate great potential for educational
and support opportunities. As a recent acquisition together with the City of Brentwood Parks
Department, the CSP Healthy Food Initiative may become a strong programmatic match (once there
is on-site concession).

- **Colonel Allensworth SHP.** Overall, this site ranks low in terms of potential to establish viable
commercial agriculture. Although the site has an extensive history of agriculture, its current
agronomic and infrastructure conditions are unfavorable to contemporary practices, and would
require substantial capital investment due to high soil alkalinity and salinity, with naturally-
occurring arsenic. In addition, there is currently no operating water source and delivery system.
Although production agriculture is occurring in the surrounding areas, it does not appear to be
sustainable or organic. Access to markets is also limited. While CSP staff is supportive of
agriculture, the surrounding area does not provide a support network for farming, due to the park’s
isolation. There is virtually no support network for sustainable agriculture, given the isolation of the
Park. Although there is an active “friends” organization, agriculture is not a focus of its work.

- **La Purisima Mission State Historic Park.** This site ranks the second highest in terms of its
potential for expanded diversified agriculture. Attributes include its long history of extensive and
highly productive diversified agriculture operations, its current active (though limited) agriculture,
and the considerable agronomic potential of the under-utilized 80-acre site in question. There are
also numerous marketing opportunities for this site due to its proximity to the City of Santa Barbara,
well-known for its support of high quality specialty foods. The Park’s engaged docent and
volunteer organizations and the involvement of the Lompoc community are additional factors that
could readily support expanded agricultural operations, especially if community outreach was
prioritized. The main drawback to this site is lack of infrastructure, primarily a lack of a developed
water source and delivery system and secondarily, lack of a fence around the field. Also, the cool
weather somewhat limits crops that can be grown in summer.

- **Fort Ross State Historic Park.** This Park offers some mid-term to longer-term opportunities for
restoring and re-establishing the large orchards. Once a major producer of apples, pears, cherries,
and plums, the hillside orchard areas are fenced and fed by spring water. However, the current
water source for the park utilizes cisterns which experience periods of drought and can not support
agriculture; County regulations require further research to ascertain if the springs could be used for
orchards. Local support for agricultural activities is very high, and the site already hosts an annual
Harvest celebration including gathering of the untended trees’ produce.

- **Jack London State Historic Park.** The site under consideration is the orchard that was added to
the Park in 2002. This orchard site ranks low in terms of its potential to sustain viable agriculture in
the near future. The main challenge is the requirement that the first priority is the stabilization of the orchard, with restoration as possible and removal of trees as necessary. However, with most of the trees are in poor condition, many dead, and just 2% in good condition, it is estimated that 90% of the orchard is not commercially viable. In addition, there is no existing source or delivery system for irrigation water and the land is susceptible to drought. The main opportunities for this orchard are preservation of stock through propagation and possibly genetic conservation. However, this is unlikely to be a profitable enterprise in the foreseeable future.

- **Sonoma State Historic Park.** This site ranked third in terms of its potential to be developed as an agricultural park. In many ways it offers the most opportunities. These include the historical precedent of diversified agricultural production; flat, fertile fields; ready access to highly receptive and diverse market outlets; and current, though limited, agricultural operations (olive grove and vineyard) that could potentially be expanded. However, the challenges to this site are considerable and include both drawbacks and unknowns. There is no current water source or delivery system. Fencing to protect against deer would probably not be allowed or would need to be unobtrusive to neighbors used to the open fields and in terms of historical viewshed. Unknowns include the extent of seasonal wetlands and archeological areas that would need to be excluded.

**Recommended Parks for Near-Term Farmer Solicitation**

Based on the above rating, the following four parks are recommended for a near-term farmer Request for Proposals:
- Cowell Ranch
- La Purisima Mission State Historic Park
- Sonoma State Historic Park
- Fort Ross State Historic Park

The following are recommended for a second round of Request for Proposals over the longer term:
- Coast Dairies (as leases permit)
- Jack London Orchard Site

For now, Colonel Allensworth is recommended for limited volunteer demonstration agriculture only.
The California State Parks Sustainable Agriculture Strategy

This chapter builds on the park assessments in the previous section, to outline a comprehensive State Parks Sustainable Agriculture Strategy. This chapter begins with an overview of how sustainable agriculture meets State Parks goals and objectives, and then describes the steps to create an overarching strategy across all parks rated as having potential for agriculture. The same concepts could be applied at an even broader scale, if State Parks were to evaluate other park units using the relaxed criteria related to uses specifically allowed in the park’s General Plan and environmental documentation.

Overview of State Park Goals

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CA State Parks) is:
“To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.”

CA State Parks manages more than 270 park units, which contain the finest and most diverse collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources of any state agency in the nation. State park units include parks, reserves, historic parks, recreation areas, off-highway vehicle areas, and more, encompassing 1.4 million acres, with over 280 miles of coastline; 625 miles of lake and river frontage; nearly 15,000 campsites; and 3,000 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. These parks protect and preserve an unparalleled collection of culturally and environmentally sensitive structures and habitats, threatened plant and animal species, ancient Native American sites, historic structures and artifacts - the best of California's natural and cultural history.

To maximize educational and recreational experiences for visitors, CA State Parks strives to recreate the historic atmosphere of a park unit through conduct of historic businesses such as daguerreotype studios, demonstration of historic occupations such as black smiths, and recreation of historic landscapes such as specialty crops. For example, Wilder Ranch State Park on the Central California coast was originally the main rancho supplying the Santa Cruz Mission and later became a successful and innovative dairy ranch. Some of the traditional practices of the ranch are carried on today as a living history exhibit. However, many parks with a history of agriculture have no developed living history/agricultural program.

To further the health and educational aspects of its mission, CA State Parks has undertaken a new “Healthy Foods Initiative” to educate the public about the importance of healthy foods and to provide healthy foods at all State Park food venues. Part of the Healthy Foods Initiative includes the Organic Farm Program. As managers of nearly 1.4 million acres in California, CA State Parks is able to provide land to traditionally under-served farmers for the purposes of developing small-scale organic farms that help achieve the goals of the Healthy Foods Initiative.

The objectives of the Organic Farm Program are to (1) develop farms that can be used to educate the public about the importance of locally-grown, sustainably harvested, organic foods; (2) provide interpretive (educational) programs and materials regarding organic and sustainable farming and healthy
diets; (3) provide volunteer opportunities for the public to learn about organic and sustainable farming and healthy diets; and (4) provide locally-grown, sustainably-harvested, and organic foods for sale at reasonable prices to the public.

CA State Parks has recently awarded the first contract of this kind to a small farmer from Monterey who will establish an organic artichoke farm on ten acres in Carmel River State Park.

**Important Factors for Success**

For this report, research into factors for success of a Sustainable Agriculture program at California State Parks was conducted through convening a general focus group of participants at the Eco-Farm Conference, January 26, 2007, as well as an interview with Jamie Collins, the selected concessionaire for the 10-acre organic farm at Carmel River State Beach. Several important factors for the success of the farmer solicitation, as well as for program implementation, were identified from this research.

1. **Clearly Define the Agricultural Opportunity**

   The potential bidder on a Request for Proposals is already operating within a high-risk industry. Agricultural operators face risks from weather conditions, pest infestations, market fluctuations, and general economic/business cycles. Most small farmers who would propose on an RFP also typically are not highly capitalized, and many do not earn a consistently high income.

   At the same time, the environment of defining a specific parcel and offering it to private farmers from within a large state agency means that the specific allowable functions, agricultural methods, and access to the public need to be clearly defined in the RFP. Ms. Collins also suggested that the educational and historic interpretation aspects of the program may need to be phased or flexible, in order to allow the farmer to first establish a working farm and focus on the business operations.

2. **Estimate Site Preparation and Infrastructure Costs**

   Key to a successful program will be the accurate estimation of all site preparation, initial capital investment in infrastructure, and ongoing upgrades to infrastructure. Each of the parks reviewed for this report faces unique situations regarding local infrastructure, as well as, in some cases, the need for expensive demolition, fencing, and other site preparation costs.

3. **Identify Costs to be Borne by Farmer**

   The RFP should clearly identify those costs which California State Parks, outside funders, and others are prepared to fund, and which costs must be borne by the farmer. Concession contracts could be written which limit or cap the private farmer’s capital costs to establish a level of certainty. To help address this challenge, California State Parks could establish a small revolving loan fund, or seek assistance from an existing loan fund, in order to invest in site capital costs, to be repaid through concession payments over the longer term.

4. **Conduct Broad Outreach to Sustainable and Organic Farmers in Each Location**

   Successful responses to the Sustainable Agriculture Program RFP will require broad and targeted outreach to local farmers in each area. The ideal farmer will already be operating nearby, or able be able
to establish a satellite operation at the Park. Several statewide non-profit organizations with broad networks of small sustainable farmers are available to assist in this process.

5. Provide Technical Support for Concession Agreement Process
Critical to the success of the process will be assistance to the selected farmers in managing the bonding, insurance, licensing, and other regulatory requirements imposed by the California governmental procurement process. Many smaller farmers, while dedicated to their craft, have not participated in public-private partnerships and are not familiar with the process. CSP staff dedicated to assisting with basic procedures will assist the farmers and help establish an ongoing public-private partnership.

6. Consider Longer Initial Concession Agreements
Depending on the amount of investment needed to be made by the participating farmers, the five-year concession contract may not serve to encourage full participation by the best-qualified farmers for this program. Establishing and growing a sustainable agriculture operation is a time-consuming, multi-year process, including in many cases, crop rotation to restore soils, experimentation with the best irrigation and pest-control techniques, and even identification of the best types of crops suited to the micro-climates present at most Parks. Thus, if possible under current procurement rules, an extended concession agreement with appropriate performance measures and termination mechanisms is recommended, or at a minimum, the option to renew the agreement for an additional five-year term is encouraged.

7. Allow for Flexible Concession Payments
The draft concession agreement for the 10-acre demonstration organic farm at Carmel River includes a minimum payment of either $500 annually, or 5% of gross receipts, whichever is greater. Further, the agreement calls for a monthly accounting of gross receipts. While the minimum rent of $500 is reasonable for most agricultural parcels, this term necessitates complex bookkeeping to meet its structure. Jamie Collins indicated that this is being changed to a quarterly accounting process, which makes it simpler and more convenient for the farmer to provide the information.

Establishing a viable agricultural operation, particularly along with educational/interpretive programs, may require several years at the Parks considered in this report. Challenges such as demolition of prior improvements, establishing new crops, remediating soil conditions, and finding markets for the produced crops may all require a phased approach to building the operation. To the extent possible, it is recommended that the RFP offer a flexible rent payment approach, especially in the first two years of the agreement, provided other performance requirements are met.

8. Obtain Capital Facilities Grant Funding
Due to the financial status of the Parks, and the likely need for capital investment, a Sustainable Agriculture program at State Parks may benefit from a capital facilities grant source. New global warming reduction grant funding may also be applicable, along with participation in a carbon offset program.

9. Investigate Pooled Insurance Policy
In order to minimize one of the highest cost items for a small farmer, California State Parks should investigate a pooled insurance policy for general liability insurance.
10. Consider Common Branding/Marketing Support
One of the features offered by this program will be the extensive marketing reach already enjoyed by the State Parks to its loyal patrons. The State maintains an excellent series of web pages for the parks system, and is also supported by the California State Parks Foundation. A common logo and brand (e.g., ParkGrown or ParkFarm) and an inexpensive marketing campaign included in direct mail for state residents could greatly benefit the individual farmers, and could build the educational and retailing efforts across parks.
Next Steps

This report identifies the agronomic conditions, potential sustainable agriculture opportunities, and highest rated Parks for purposes of soliciting farm concessionaires. In order to create a Department-wide ongoing Sustainable Agriculture program, the following next steps are recommended for immediate implementation:

- Refine information regarding water sources and delivery to the top four parks
- Develop a marketing/outreach mailing list, drawing on statewide non-profit organizations actively promoting agricultural opportunities to sustainable farmers
- Investigate potential pooled insurance policies
- Develop Requests For Proposals / Requests for Interest for four sites

Some further investigation of the AgParks concept and of possible opportunities at Sonoma State Historic Park has already been carried out.

- In January 2007, a focus group meeting was held at the Eco-Farm conference to discuss the opportunities and constraints involved in developing AgParks on both public and private lands, and to generate a list of the information and resources farmers would require before considering operations at an AgPark. Participants included the SAGE team and a group of experienced farmers and other agricultural experts.
- In September 2007, a focus group meeting was held at Sonoma State Historic Park to discuss the opportunities and constraints specific to proposed operations at Sonoma SHP, to clarify CSP’s vision for the park, and to identify methods for making the project attractive to experienced farmers. Participants included the SAGE team, CSP staff, and a group of experienced farmers.
- In December 2007, SAGE drafted a memo to CSP outlining a proposed course of action to ensure the continued development of the AgPark concept at Sonoma SHP. As an attachment to this memo, SAGE also drafted language for a Request for Interest (RFI) to be issued to farmer/educator teams interested in taking on a two-year pilot project at the park.

SAGE suggests releasing a summary of the opportunity at the Vallejo Home to the following organizations that can help identify farmers how might be interested in the RFI:

- California FarmLink
- Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association
- Santa Rosa Junior College, Environmental Horticultural Program
- UC Cooperative Extension, Sonoma County Office
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
Appendix A: SAGE Study Team

SAGE Staff
Sibella Kraus
Sibella Kraus directs Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE), a nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to revitalize urban edge agriculture. Sibella also directs Agriculture at the Metropolitan Edge, a program initiated in 2006 under the auspices of the Global Metropolitan Studies Center at UC Berkeley. Prior to forming SAGE, Kraus founded, and directed from 1993-2000, the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture (CUESA) and the Ferry Plaza Farmers’ Market in San Francisco. Sibella was the project director.

Alethea Harper
Alethea Harper is the AgParks and Food Systems Project Manager for SAGE. Alethea recently completed a Master’s degree in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at the University of California, Berkeley; her thesis entitled Repairing the Local Food System: Long-Range Planning for People’s Grocery was prepared for a West Oakland nonprofit, and focused on regional food systems and improving access to healthy food in low-income communities.

ALBA
Brett Melone
Brett is the Executive Director of the Agriculture and Land Based Training Association (ALBA) is a 501-c3 non-profit organization. The mission of ALBA is to advance economic viability, social equity and ecological land management among limited resource and aspiring farmers on California’s Central Coast, through the provision of training, demonstration, technical and marketing assistance, and access to land, at its two bilingual education centers in Salinas and Watsonville. Brett was deeply involved in all aspects of the project.

BAE
Janet Smith-Heimer
Janet Smith-Heimer is the Managing Principal of Bay Area Economics (BAE). Since 1986, BAE has focused on creating sustainable communities by providing real estate economics and development advisory services to clients throughout the U.S. BAE’s experience ranges from statewide policy studies to strategic planning to development projects. BAE’s services include feasibility studies, strategic planning, revitalization, public-private transactions, public financing, fiscal and economic impacts analyses, and development advisory services. Janet also serves as a lead instructor for the ULI Real Estate School, and speaks regularly at U.C. Berkeley.

Serena Unger
Serena Unger is an Associate at BAE and provides market, financial, and economic development strategic planning support to many BAE engagements. Serena earned a Master’s degree in City Planning with a specialization in Urban and Regional Economic Development and Land Use from the University of California, Berkeley; as part of her studies she co-authored the Oakland Food System Assessment: Toward a Sustainable Food Plan, for the City of Oakland’s Mayor’s Office of Sustainability.
California FarmLink
Steve Schwartz
Steve is the Executive Director of California FarmLink (CFL), a 501c3 non-profit established in 1998 that provides technical assistance to low-income, minority and women farmers. California FarmLink’s mission is “to build family farming and conserve farmland in California by linking aspiring and retiring farmers; and promoting techniques and disseminating information that facilitate intergenerational farm transitions.” CFL provides professional training and referrals on land-use planning, business planning and financial planning for those committed to sustainable land-use and farming solutions. In addition, the organization provides in-depth technical assistance to individuals committed to starting or transitioning farm enterprises, but without the means to cover crucial planning costs. Steve, along with CFL staff Reggie Knox and Kendra Johnson, advised on outreach and technical assistance aspects of the project.
Appendix B: California State Parks Team

Park Assessment Participants

Coast Dairies
Victor Roth; Senior Parks and Recreation Specialist, Santa Cruz District

Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park
Ron Krueper; District Superintendent 4, Tehachapi District
Joe Ramos; Sector Superintendent, Twin Cities District

Jack London State Historic Park
Craig Mattson; Sector Superintendent, Diablo Vista District (retired)
Don Monahan; District Superintendent 5, Diablo Vista District

La Purisima Mission State Historic Park
Theresa Armas; State Park Peace Office Supervisor (Ranger), Channel Coast District
Danita Rodriguez; Sector Superintendent 3, Channel Coast District

Sonoma State Historic Park
John Crossman; former Silverado Sector Superintendent; District Services Manager and Public Safety Superintendent; Diablo Vista District

Additional Participants
Catherine Caldwell; former Concession Specialist, Concessions, Reservations, and Fees Division
Ruth Coleman; Director, California State Parks
Eileen Hook; Associate Parks and Recreation Specialist, Planning Division
James A. Luscutoff; Chief, Concessions, Reservations, and Fees Division
Noah Tilghman; Assistant Deputy Director, Park Operations