



## MARSHALL-NEW ERA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

August 16, 2025

TO: Sacramento City Council  
Sacramento City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUTTER'S LANDING REGIONAL PARK DRAFT SITE PLAN

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Sutter's Landing Regional Park (SLP) site plan prepared by the Department of Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment (YPCE). The Marshall-New Era Neighborhood Association represents city residents just to the south of SLP. Our neighbors are frequent visitors and often serve as stewards of the park. We support the Sutter's Landing Regional Park Site Plan with the hope and understanding that part of SLP will be kept as "wildlife areas" or "nature areas".

SLP is a rare patch of nature in the middle of our city where children and adults come to enjoy the natural world. Coyotes, Swainson's Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, rabbits and many other animals share the park with their human visitors. Designating SLP's "Mound" (the former landfill) as a nature area or wildlife area would provide an excellent and cost-effective way to protect nature and provide educational opportunities for the public. The Draft Site Plan includes areas of "Native Grasslands" and an extensive walking network leading to a Vista Point within the Mound area. It would be wonderful to have this vista point be an educational spot.

We encourage the YPCE planners to continue to look for creative ways to restore and open the remaining portions of the Mound now designated "Landfill Operations – No public Access." The [Puente Hills Landfill Park](#) in Southern California is an interesting example of how to proactively undertake park planning in a context similar to SLP.

The West SLP properties sit adjacent to the American River Parkway and also provide significant opportunities to connect visitors with nature. The Draft Site Plan notes native grass areas in this area as well. We understand that the City is planning to extend the Two Rivers Trail through this area and support that extension of the bike path, but we hope this section of SLP can be kept as "natural" as possible, similar to the American River Parkway.

Please designate the Mound and the West Sutter's Landing Park property as a "wildlife area" or "nature area" and apply to the Lower American River Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board for funding to plan and implement a habitat restoration plan for these areas.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our comments. We look forward to helping you maintain Sutter's Landing Park for our residents and for our wildlife neighbors.

Sincerely,

Marshall-New Era Neighborhood Association

[Info@marshallnewera.org](mailto:Info@marshallnewera.org)



Coyote on the "mound"



P.O. Box 160811  
Sacramento, CA 95816-0811  
[bpna@boulevardpark.org](mailto:bpna@boulevardpark.org)

August 19, 2025

Mayor Kevin McCarty and Councilman Phil Pluckebaum  
Sacramento City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mayor McCarty and Councilman Pluckebaum:

The Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association (BPNA) greatly appreciates the City's leadership in developing an updated site plan for Sutter's Landing Park ("SLP"). Boulevard Park residents greatly enjoy the many amenities that SLP currently provides. We believe the park can provide significantly more benefits for Sacramento residents with an improved plan, and the plan released on April 4<sup>th</sup> is an excellent start.

Last year, the BPNA board approved and sent to the City the attached resolution urging the adoption of a "*nature-oriented Master Plan Update for Sutter's Landing Park (that) prioritizes protecting, restoring and expanding the Park's natural areas, while enriching public access with nature oriented hiking and walking trails, extending the Two Rivers Bike Trail, and increasing educational programming and signage.*" Although the proposed plan does an admirable job of centering the development and active recreation around the southern edge of the park, where it would have the least impact, we feel that improvements could be made to strengthen the SLP's nature-oriented focus.

According to the City of Sacramento Parks Plan 2040, the most valued park uses among residents are "Trails for Walking and Biking", "Places to Picnic and Gather", and "Natural Places that Support Wildlife Habitat." Meanwhile, use of sports courts and fields came in seventh place. Although the June-July 2024 survey offered various perspectives, the survey would be stronger if it differentiated between residents' responses based on their proximity to SLP. While we believe every park should be useful and accessible to all City residents, we also feel the survey should accurately reflect the opinions of those living within one mile of SLP, as those residents are most likely to utilize SLP. Further, City residents living closer to parks such as McKinley, Southside, and Land Park, already have access to many of the Plan's proposed amenities at those parks. The



addition of over seven acres of paved parking is particularly concerning considering the other paved amenities which are being proposed and the lack of evidence that parking is a concern for those most likely to use the park.

Finally, Key Direction 6 of the Parks Plan, "Designate Natural Areas for the Purpose of Protection and Best Practice Maintenance Planning" indicates that City Council would define designated natural areas. We have noticed and appreciated that development has not been proposed for the areas outlined in the attached map; however, we feel the Plan can be improved by explicitly designating those areas as "designated nature areas" on the front end to ensure those areas remain nature-oriented in the future.

Given the foregoing, we would propose the following additions to the Plan:

- Designate SLP's Mound and West SLP properties (as outlined in the attached map) as "Natural Areas" or "Wildlife Areas" pursuant to Key Direction 6 of the Parks Plan
- Apply to the State's Wildlife Conservation Board and Lower American River Conservancy for funding to plan and implement restoration projects for the West SLP properties
- Implement informational placards to allow for self-guided nature-oriented walking tours along the proposed trails
- Encourage YPCE to host a greater number of events, both general and nature-focused, at SLP to increase awareness and interest in SLP
- Address connecting the Two Rivers Trail to the Sacramento Northern Bikeway via grade-separated paths
- Provide sufficient evidence of the demand for the planned additional parking areas among survey respondents who are likely to use SLP; or reduce the amount of parking areas to be added

Sutter's Landing Park provides the City with a great opportunity to address the shortfall of nature-oriented land south of the Lower American River. Other parks along the river, such as River Bend Park, Ancil Hoffman Park, and the Sunrise Recreation Area, thrive with almost complete nature-oriented focuses. We believe that SLP can similarly thrive with the appropriate direction and attention.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

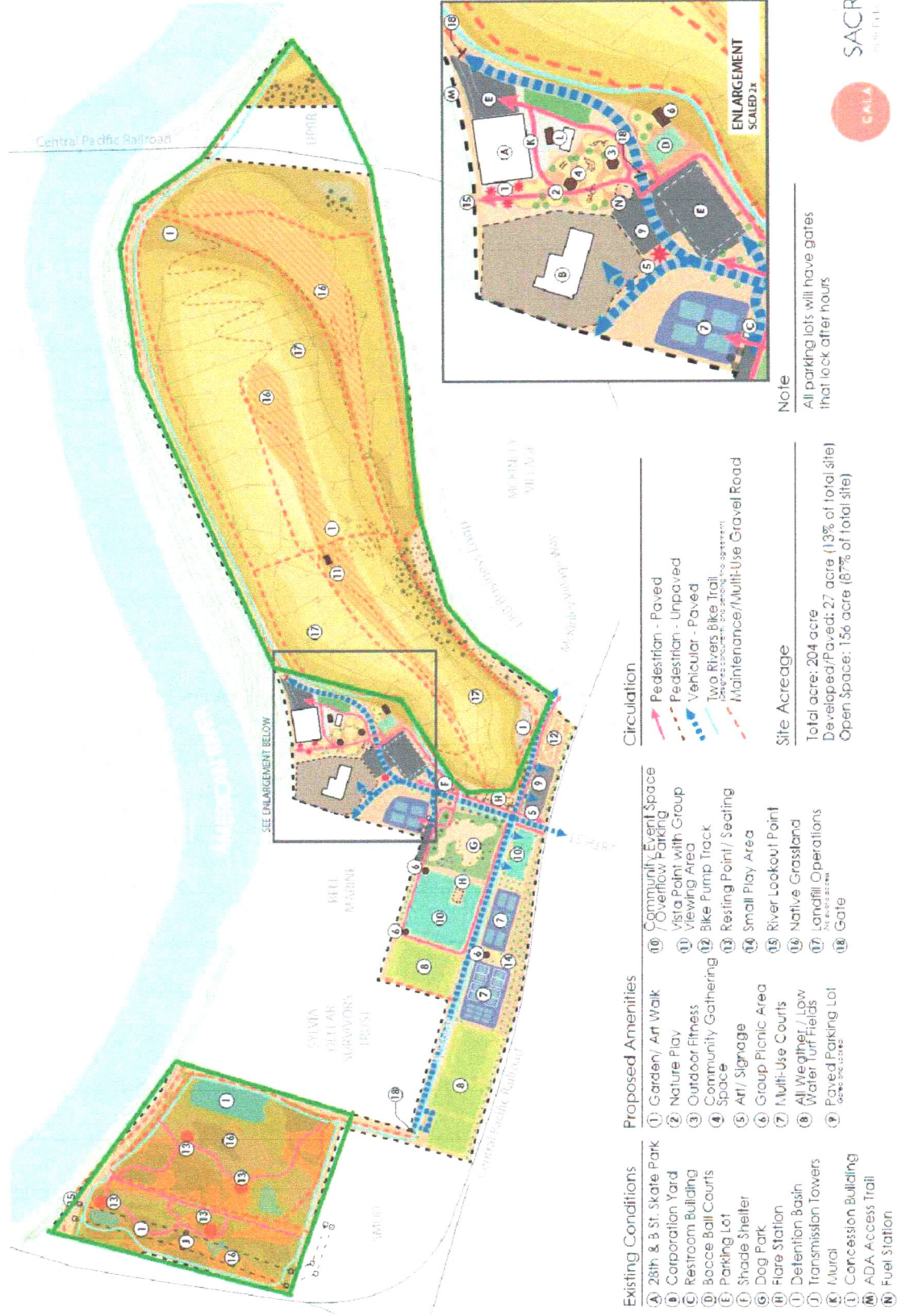
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noah Mebane", with a stylized, flowing script.

Noah Mebane, Chair  
Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association

# SUTTER'S LANDING REGIONAL PARK SITE PLAN

April 4th, 2025

Area to be designated  
as protected  
Nature/Wildlife area





**Midtown Neighborhood Association**  
*midtownsac.org*

**Mayor Kevin McCarty**  
915 I Street, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum**  
915 I Street, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 8, 2025

**RE: Sutter's Landing Park Plan Amendments**

The Midtown Neighborhood Association urges the City Council to protect Sacramento's gateway to the American River and prevent paradise from being paved.

On September 16th, when considering the new plan for Sutter's Landing Park (SLP), please preserve our most valuable natural assets by voting for two amendments to the plan as proposed: dedicating community spaces for people; and protecting natural areas.

**I. Community Event Spaces: People Over Parking**

*"Community Event Space / Overflow Parking" areas should be (1) exclusively designated as Community Event Spaces, and (2) include abundant shade and adequate seating.*

The proposed plan designates two areas as "Community Event Space / Overflow Parking" (Master Plan Draft (MPD) Amenity 10). In the initial public proposal, these areas were designated exclusively for surface parking. Following public feedback that the plan included too much parking, these areas gained the current dual designation. By trying to do two different things, the dual designation would fail to do either.

Effective Overflow Parking should be paved and free of obstacles like trees, shade, benches, or people. Effectively designated Community Event Space requires abundant shade and adequate seating for the area to be pleasant and safe on hotter days, made hotter by impermeable surfaces like asphalt and concrete that trap and radiate heat in an area, even when painted brighter or reflective colors.

We appreciate the need for parking to function as a Multi-Use Regional Park, and believe the current capacity and designated Paved Parking Lot (MPD Amenity 9) are more than enough to service an increase in regional demand induced by this expansion.

We would ask the City to add on-street parking along vehicle access routes, or select paid parking lots, instead of prematurely surrendering public space to unknown parking demands.

## **II. Natural Areas**

*The “Mound” and West SLP Areas should be designated as Natural Areas.*

As one of the few remaining habitats for wildlife undisturbed by city life and urban sprawl, these areas are critical for supporting the Lower American River ecosystem. Unnecessarily disturbing these habitats, as well as disturbing a still-settling landfill at great risk and great cost, threatens the vision of a nature-centered park so close to Midtown and Sacramento’s heart.

Designating The Mound and West SLP properties as Natural Areas is both environmentally and economically sustainable, focusing resources on amenities that can be enjoyed by all residents, while developing a river-access park that celebrates its remarkable natural resources without exploiting them.

**The Midtown Neighborhood Association urges the City Council to protect Community Event Spaces and Natural Areas at Sutter’s Landing Park.**

With any questions, please feel free to contact [info@midtownsac.org](mailto:info@midtownsac.org).

Holly Murphy  
Chair

CC: Councilmember Lisa Kaplan  
Councilmember Roger Dickinson  
Councilmember Karina Talamantes  
Councilmember Caity Maple  
Councilmember Eric Guerra  
Councilmember Rick Jennings  
Councilmember Mai Vang



## ***Midtown Neighborhood Association***

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Mayor  
City of Sacramento  
City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Pluckebaum, Member  
Sacramento City Council  
City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Jackie Beecham, Director  
Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment Dept.  
City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Victoria Vasquez, Chair  
Parks and Community Enrichment Commission  
City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mayor McCarty, Council Member Pluckebaum, Director Beecham, and Chair Vasquez:

***The Midtown Neighborhood Association strongly supports the adoption of a “nature-oriented” Master Plan Update for Sutter’s Landing Park.***

The Midtown Neighborhood Association approved the enclosed resolution urging the City to adopt a new Master Plan that prioritizes protecting, restoring and expanding the Park’s natural areas, while enriching public access with nature-oriented pedestrian trails, extending the Two Rivers Bike Trail, and increasing educational programming.

Our neighborhood is a short distance south from Sutter’s Landing Park, and many of our residents regularly visit and enjoy the Park. We were pleased that our 2018 support resolution was included in the City of Sacramento’s application to the Lower American River Conservancy/Wildlife Conservation Board for the successful grant, which was used to purchase property from Blue Diamond to expand Sutter’s Landing.

The addition of the Blue Diamond and SMUD properties, the wildlife-rich “Mound,” and other sections of the Park provide the City with an excellent opportunity to establish one of the most impressive and celebrated urban nature parks in California. With a well-conceived plan update, the City will be on the right path to further connect our community to nature by protecting and restoring the property’s rich wildlife resources, expanding the Two Rivers Trail, and inspiring children with creative educational and interpretive opportunities.

Midtown residents have enjoyed Sutter’s Landing Park for many years. We respectfully urge you to seize this opportunity to create an incredible nature-focused park that will be treasured for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Midtown Neighborhood Association

cc. Ms. Dana Repan, Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment Department

## **Resolution in Support of a Nature-Oriented Master Plan for Sutter's Landing Park**

### ***Midtown Neighborhood Association***

WHEREAS, the Lower American River provides a beautiful place for Sacramento families to connect with nature, enjoy quality outdoor time together, and inspire children to learn about science; and

WHEREAS, the Lower American River and the American River Parkway generate about 8,000,000 visitor days per year making this resource one of the most popular recreational areas in the Sacramento region; and

WHEREAS, there are very limited opportunities for City of Sacramento residents to access the southern banks of the Lower American River or enjoy significant natural areas along the river's southern banks within the City; and

WHEREAS, Sacramento area residents have rated parks, trails, and recreation areas as one of the amenities most in need of investment and have rated large habitats for walking and hiking where interpretive and educational programs can take place as one of their top priorities for the type of park and recreation facilities to be provided in the future; and

WHEREAS, Sutter's Landing Park already provides Sacramento residents with access to the largest section of open space lands along the Central City portion of the Lower American River; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento recently acquired and added properties to Sutter's Landing Park that provide additional opportunities to connect residents to nature; and

WHEREAS, with a renewed vision, Master Plan, and investments, the City of Sacramento can further expand and transform Sutter's Landing Park into one of the most impressive and celebrated urban nature parks in all of California, thereby expanding access for residents to nature and the Lower American River; and

WHEREAS, voter enactment of Proposition 4 (Safe Drinking Water and Wildfire Prevention Bond Act) in November 2024 provides \$10 million for the Lower American River Conservancy and hundreds of millions of additional dollars to the Wildlife Conservation Board providing significant funding opportunities for Sutter's Landing Park; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan should prioritize: protecting, expanding, and restoring habitat for sensitive wildlife including Swainson's hawks, Peregrine falcons, White tailed kites, and many others; increasing trails for hiking and walking so Sacramento residents can better access and enjoy nature; increasing interpretive signs and programming to further inspire children and adults to learn science; and adding new amenities including a wildlife-themed children's playing area.



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION respectfully urges the Mayor, City Council, and Parks, Youth, and Community Enrichment Commission to adopt a new Master Plan that prioritizes protecting, restoring, and expanding the Park's natural areas, while enhancing public access with nature-oriented hiking and walking trails, extending the Two Rivers Bike Trail, and increasing educational programming and signage.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION will transmit this resolution to the Mayor of Sacramento, Members of the Sacramento City Council, and Members of the Parks, Youth, and Community Enrichment Commission.

Diana Williams

NBNA Support for Sutter's Landing Master Plan

Mar 25, 2024 at 8:47:39 PM

To: dsteinberg@cityofsacramento.org, Katie B. Valenzuela

JBeecham@cityofsacramento.org,

drepan@cityofsacramento.org

Dear Mayor Steinberg, Council Member Valenzuela, Director Beecham, and Senior Planner Repan:

The Newton Booth Neighborhoods Association (NBNA) is very pleased to submit the attached resolution urging the City to adopt a nature-oriented Master Plan for Sutter's Landing Park.

The Park provides a great opportunity to connect Central City and other residents with nature, wildlife, hiking and bicycling opportunities, and the peace and tranquility of enjoying the Lower American River.

Our City has a shortage of natural lands along the south side of this federally and state-recognized Wild and Scenic River. A nature focused Master Plan will help the City correct this shortfall and establish an incredible park that will be enjoyed by current and many future generations of Sacramento residents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diana Williams Corless

President, Newton Booth Neighborhoods Association



**NBNA Resolution in Support  
of Expanding and Enhancing**



**Resolution in Support of Expanding and Enhancing Sutter's Landing Park  
(Newton Booth Neighborhoods Association)**

WHEREAS, the Lower American River provides a beautiful place for Sacramento-area families to connect with nature, enjoy the outdoors and inspire children to learn about science and; and

WHEREAS, the Lower American River, the American River Parkway, and Sutter's Landing Park provide vital habitat for a variety of wildlife, and

WHEREAS, there are very limited opportunities for Sacramento area residents to access the southern banks of the Lower American River; and

WHEREAS, Sacramento area residents have rated parks, trails and recreational areas as the amenities most in need for investment, and have rated large habitats for walking and hiking with interpretive and educational programs as their top priority for the type of park and recreational facilities to be provided in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the California legislature established the Lower American River Conservancy Program to assist local governments in protecting, restoring and expanding wildlife areas and public access along the Lower American River and voters approved millions of dollars of state park bond funding for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento has the opportunity to establish one of California's most significant urban riverside parks by expanding Sutter's Landing Park to the west of the existing park when these lands become available from willing landowners and protecting and restoring existing open space areas; and

WHEREAS, expanding and improving Sutter's Landing Park will provide Sacramento diverse populations with natural areas that can connect children and other community members with nature in the heart of our city; and

WHEREAS, expanding Sutter's Landing Park to the west is necessary to help fill the existing gap in the Two Rivers Trail gap between 16<sup>th</sup> Street and the current Sutter's Landing Park; and

WHEREAS, each generation has a responsibility to leave our children and future generations with an improved environment and affordable recreational opportunities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Newton Booth Neighborhoods Association respectfully urges the Mayor of Sacramento, the City Council, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, and the Wildlife Conservation Board to:

1. Make expansion, protection, restoration, and improvement of Sutter Landing Park a priority.

2. Support educational programs at Sutter's Landing Park and along the American River Parking to provide children with information about the river's contribution to the natural and cultural history one of America's most beautiful river.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Newton Booth Neighborhoods Association will transmit this resolution to the Mayor of Sacramento, Members of the City Council, Members of the Sacramento Board of Supervisors and members and staff of the Wildlife Conservation Board.





# Save the American River Association

8836 Greenback Lane, Suite C • Orangevale, CA 95662  
916-936-4555 • E-mail: [info@SARArivertwatch.org](mailto:info@SARArivertwatch.org) • [www.SARArivertwatch.org](http://www.SARArivertwatch.org)

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August 12, 2025

The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Mayor  
Honorable Members of the Sacramento City Council  
915 I Street, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
*Via Email*

Dear Mayor McCarty and City Council Members:

Save the American River Association (SARA) requests your support for designating the Sutter's Landing Park "Mound" and "West SLP" properties as "Wildlife Areas" when you consider the updated master plan for this park.

Since 1961, SARA has worked to protect, enhance and restore natural areas and compatible public accessways to the Lower American River. We were very pleased to support legislation in 2016 (McCarty) that established the state's Lower American River Conservancy as an important source of funding for projects to improve and increase access to this vital resource.

The Lower American River and its adjacent lands are so special that they are enjoyed by more than 8,000,000 visitors each year – more than Yosemite. The Lower American River is the only urban river in the Nation that is designated as "Wild and Scenic" under both the state and federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Acts.

Unfortunately, the flood control levees were built so close to the southern banks of the river that there is very little protected habitat lands for visitors to enjoy and wildlife to flourish. The City's *Parks Plan 2040* recognizes the public support for preserving natural areas along the river when it reported that the three park areas the public most values include:

- Trails for Walking and Biking
- Places to Picnic and Gather
- Natural Places that Support Wildlife Habitat

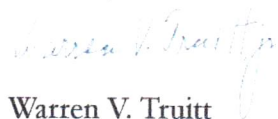
Sutter's Landing Park's Mound and West SLP areas provide the City's best opportunity to address these priorities, increase protected areas along the river's southern banks, and protect and restore the health of the wildlife that depend on the Lower American River and its adjacent habitat lands. These lands provide vitally needed habitat for a Fully protected White-tailed kite, and species of Special Concern: Northern Harrier; Peregrine falcon; Meadowlarks, and: many other varieties of wildlife including the threatened: Swainson's hawk; White-tailed kite, and; many others.

These lands already include a set of maintenance roads that can provide effective trail systems to connect families, school groups, and other visitors with nature when the landfill closure regulations allow. Furthermore, the City is already planning to extend

its *Two Rivers Trail* through the West SLP properties. The existing *Two Rivers Trail* segment in the park already runs adjacent to the Mound.

Designating the Mound and the West SLP properties as "Wildlife Areas" is one of the most important steps the City can take to further protect the Lower American River environment and assure that Sacramento residents and visitors for generations to come can connect with nature and enjoy these nationally respected resources.

Sincerely,



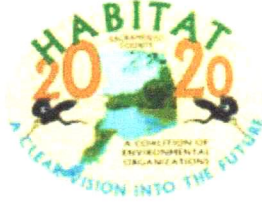
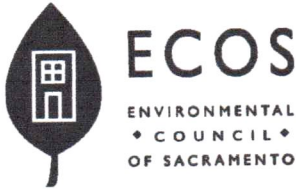
Warren V. Truitt

President

Save the American River Association

cc: SARA Board of Directors





Environmental Council of Sacramento P.O. Box 1526, Sacramento, California 95812 [office@ecosacramento.net](mailto:office@ecosacramento.net)

May 2, 2024

Ms. Dana Repan  
Senior Planner and Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan Update Manager  
City of Sacramento Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment  
Parks Planning and Development Services  
915 I Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814  
[drepan@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:drepan@cityofsacramento.org) Sent via Email

Subject: Comments on the City's Update to Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan

Dear Ms. Repan,

Habitat 2020, the Conservation Committee of the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), and ECOS would like to request that you adopt a **nature-centric planning approach** as you prepare the update for Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan.

On September 7, 2023, we presented to the Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment Commission the findings and recommendations from our *Campaign for Protecting Natural Areas in the City of Sacramento* report which is attached and incorporated by reference into these comments. Pages 14 and 15 of the report specifically identify Sutter's Landing Park as one of the nine critical natural areas in the City that merits strong protections because of its strong habitat values:

*"Native vegetation growing in the Park includes box elder, black walnut, cottonwood, Oregon ash, valley oak, willows, blackberry, California rose, coyote brush, elderberry, sedges, mushrooms, cucumber and grape vines, mugwort, and sacred datura.*

*"Notable birds include the Swainson's hawk (State-listed as Threatened, federally-listed as a Species of Concern). The Parkway provides an eastern extension of habitat and a vital ecological buffer for, white-tailed kites (State-listed as Fully Protected), and northern harriers (State-listed as a Species of Special Concern), bald eagles, hummingbirds, migratory songbirds, owls, waterfowl, woodpeckers, and many others. Park visitors can encounter butterflies, such as the western swallowtail and the pipevine swallowtail, and dragonflies that are so crucial to the reproduction and survival of birds and other wildlife. Other notable fishes, mammals, and reptiles include salmon, steelhead, catfish, clams, crawdads, beavers, river otters, jackrabbits, cottontails, coyotes, gopher snakes, rattlesnakes, western fence lizards, and western pond turtles (State-listed as a Species of Special Concern)."*

The report also highlights the park's important cultural history of the Nisenan (Southern Maidu) Native Americans who lived and hunted on the property.

Sutter's Landing Park's "Mound" provides the most important section of upland river habitat along the southern portion of the Lower American River within the City. The Mound supports the sensitive wildlife species listed above and other animals. Protected large sections of upland habitat like the "Mound" are critical to maintaining the rich array of wildlife the public enjoys along the Lower American River.

While the existing Master Plan designates the Mound as a "Future Natural Area," it does not preclude uses such as disc golf and mountain biking that would damage the habitat. The Mound should instead be designated as a "Natural Area" allowing for docent-led hikes and environmental interpretation, but free of more intensive uses that would degrade its habitat values.

The City should be commended for its recent acquisition of the Blue Diamond property and its acceptance of the land donation from SMUD that extend the park's boundaries westward. These properties already provide habitat for some wildlife and extraordinary opportunities to restore habitat for additional species through the planting of native species. These properties can also support sensitively extending the Two Rivers Bike Trail westward to the Northern Sacramento Bikeway bridge to provide the public with greater opportunities to connect with nature and a GHG free pathway for recreation and commuting. The City should also designate these properties as protected "Natural Areas" and work to acquire and restore the adjacent Dellar Trust and Bell Marine properties as future park extensions.

Sutter's Landing Park is inherently connected to the American River Parkway by its physical location, cultural history, wildlife uses, and public uses. The Master Plan should call for greater coordination of management between the City and the County of Sacramento's Regional Parks system to ensure that these precious resources are fully protected. Better coordination should include joint efforts to protect and restore the natural resources within both the Parkway and Sutter's Landing Park and increased law enforcement to prevent unauthorized damage to these fragile natural resources.

The City's draft Parks 2040 plan recognizes that Sacramento residents prioritize having connections to nature and places to hike:

*"What kind of park areas do you value most?" Participants indicated that places to walk, bike, picnic, socialize, play, and spend time in nature were most valued. Research shows that each of these contributes to our health." (Draft Parks 2040 Plan at page 92)*

*"In conversations with youth groups, as well as in findings from the Youth Art Expo & Contest, the mental and physical health benefits of parks were both implicitly and explicitly described. Youth described how parks benefited their mental health by providing fresh air, providing places (including Camp Sacramento and local parks) to experience nature and wildlife, and giving them alternatives to "screentime" (computer and phone use.) They associated parks, trails, the riverfront, and even duck ponds with "de-stressing," peace, relaxation, and fun. Trees were mentioned as particularly important, for shade, cooling, and visual respite in highly built-out neighborhoods; several participants described Sacramento as the 'City of Trees.'" (Draft Parks 2040 Plan at page 93)*



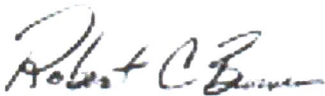
Accordingly, the draft Parks 2040 Plan identifies "Nature and Trail Connections" as one of the City's nine "Key Directions" for parks and open space. By taking the actions outlined above, the City can significantly advance both the "Nature and Trail Connections" key direction and the public's priority on having places to hike and connect with nature while enhancing, rather than degrading, the natural value of these resources.

The American and Sacramento Rivers were fundamental to the establishment of the City of Sacramento. The Lower American River is the premier natural and recreational resource in the region drawing more than eight million visitor days each year. The river's natural beauty and rich wildlife and cultural history are to be celebrated. Unfortunately, these resources continue to be degraded by various infrastructure projects and unauthorized uses, and only a small fraction of the original natural areas remain within City boundaries.

Designating these portions of Sutter's Landing Park as "Natural Areas", expanding and restoring the park's lands, and improving joint management with the American River Parkway are vital positive steps the City can take to preserve these precious resources for the enjoyment of current and future Sacramento residents.

For all of these reasons, Habitat 2020 and ECOS urge the City to adopt a nature-centric planning approach to the update of the Master Plan and to implement the recommendations in this letter and in our *Campaign for Protecting Natural Areas in the City of Sacramento* report.

Sincerely,



Rob Burness  
Co-Chair, Habitat 2020, ECOS



Susan Herre AIA AICP  
President of the ECOS Board of Directors

cc. The Honorable Katie Valenzuela, Member, Sacramento City Council  
Ms. Victoria Vasquez, Chairperson, Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment Commission  
Ms. Jackie Beecham, Director, Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment Department



April 4, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Dana Repan  
Senior Planner and Parks Plan 2040 Project Manager  
Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment  
Parks Planning and Development Services  
915 I Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Sutter Landing Nature Focused Master Plan Update

Dear Ms. Repan,

There are very limited opportunities for City of Sacramento residents to access the southern banks of the Lower American River or enjoy significant natural areas along the river's southern banks within the City. Sutter's Landing Park provides Sacramento residents with access to the largest section of open space lands along the Central City portion of the Lower American River.

Sacramento Audubon respectfully urges the Mayor, City Council, and Parks and Community Enrichment Commission to adopt a new Master Plan that prioritizes protecting, restoring, and expanding the Park's natural areas, while enhancing public access with nature-oriented hiking and walking trails, including ADA accessible trails, extending the Two Rivers Bike Trail, and increasing educational programming and signage. The Master Plan should also retain existing amenities including the dog park, skateboard park, and basketball and bocce ball courts.

Sacramento Audubon believes the City of Sacramento can expand and transform Sutter's Landing Park into one of the most impressive and celebrated urban nature parks in all of California, thereby expanding access for residents to nature and the Lower American River and contributing to conservation. We urge you to adopt a Master Plan that prioritizes protecting fish and wildlife habitat while promoting the Special Status Species that use the Park. Together with increasing trails, including ADA accessible trails, increasing conservation/science focused interpretive signs and programming, and by adding new amenities including a wildlife-themed children's playing area, the Park can play an important role in conserving and promoting our local fish and wildlife and their habitats while providing high quality access to nature.

We greatly appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to working with you on a final Parks Plan 2040 and the Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan Update.

Sincerely,



Cliff Feldheim  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Conservation Chair  
Sacramento Audubon  
[SacAudubonConservation@gmail.com](mailto:SacAudubonConservation@gmail.com)  
916-217-2920



**AMERICAN  
RIVERS**

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Katie Valenzuela, Member  
Sacramento City Council  
City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Jackie Beecham, Director  
Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment  
City Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Flood  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Comments on Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan Update**

Dear Councilmember Valenzuela and Director Beecham:

American Rivers encourages the City of Sacramento to adopt an updated Sutter's Landing Park Master Plan that protects and restores Sutter's Landing and the American River Parkway for the benefit of people and nature. Few cities have the rare opportunity to protect and enhance a river park within easy access of a vibrant urban center. We strongly encourage you to adopt a Master Plan update that achieves the following:

- Protects and enhances the valuable wildlife values on the "Mound" section of the Park, which provides habitat to sensitive species such as Swainson's hawk, red-tailed hawks, white-tailed kites, Northern harriers, Peregrine falcons, meadowlarks, and many other sensitive bird species.
- Restores habitat values on the recently acquired Blue Diamond and SMUD properties and build appropriate trails, including the westward extension of the Two Rivers Trail, consistent with the landfill closure regulations.
- Acquires additional properties to further expand the Park when those properties become available.
- Adds amenities that will expand and enhance public access, including the addition of a river-themed children's play area, picnic table, native shade trees, and other amenities.

In accordance with American Rivers' mission to protect, restore and increase public access to rivers throughout the United States, we urge the City of Sacramento to adopt a Master Plan update that will protect the ecological and cultural heritage of Sutter's Landing Park for future generations. As a Sacramentan, I am grateful for the joy and healing that the American River Parkway brings to my community, and I look forward to supporting projects that connect urban residents to their rivers. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Master Plan update.

Sincerely,

Kristan Culbert  
Associate Director, California River Conservation  
American Rivers

cc: Ms. Dana Repan, Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment Department