

FOLSOM

**Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park
General Plan/Resource Management Plan**



**Volume 1: Chapters I – III
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Prepared for
California Department of Parks and Recreation and
United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

November 2007



FOLSOM

**Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park
General Plan/Resource Management Plan**



**Volume 1: Chapters I – III
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Prepared for

California Department of Parks and Recreation

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources

Ruth Coleman, Director of Parks and Recreation

Department of Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**United States Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Reclamation**

Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region

Federal Office Building

2800 Cottage Way

Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

November 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION

A. Introduction to the Unit.....	I-1
1. Location	I-1
a. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area	I-1
b. Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park	I-4
2. Unit Characteristics.....	I-4
a. Physical Characteristics	I-4
b. Use Characteristics	I-5
3. Purpose of Acquisition	I-7
a. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area	I-7
b. Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park	I-7
4. Sense of Place.....	I-8
a. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area	I-8
b. Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park	I-10
B. Planning Process and Public Involvement.....	I-10
C. Purpose of the General Plan/Resource Management Plan	I-13
1. State Parks General Plan	I-13
2. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Resource Management Plan.....	I-15

CHAPTER II – EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Unit Summary.....	II-1
1. Existing Land Use	II-1
a. Folsom Lake.....	II-2
b. Lake Natoma	II-5
2. Adjacent Land Use	II-8
a. Folsom Lake.....	II-8
b. Lake Natoma	II-9
3. Significant Resource Values.....	II-10
a. Physical Resources.....	II-10
b. Natural Resources	II-17
c. Cultural Resources	II-27
d. Interpretive and Educational Resources.....	II-29
e. Scenic Resources	II-31
f. Recreation Resources.....	II-32
4. Existing Facilities	II-42
a. Circulation.....	II-42
b. Utilities and Public Services.....	II-42

B. Planning Influences	II-43
1. Systemwide Planning	II-44
a. Federal, State and Local Agencies	II-44
b. State Park System-wide.....	II-46
2. Regional Planning Influences	II-47
a. Placer County	II-47
b. El Dorado County.....	II-49
c. Sacramento County.....	II-51
d. City of Folsom	II-54
e. Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)	II-55
d. U.S. Bureau of Land Management	II-56
e. Other Organizations	II-56
3. Demographics	II-57
a. Population and Trends.....	II-57
b. Population Diversity.....	II-58
c. Visitation Characteristics.....	II-58
d. Other Regional Destinations	II-61
4. Public Input.....	II-62
a. Stakeholder Meetings.....	II-63
b. Community Workshops	II-63
C. Issues and Analysis.....	II-65
1. The SRA and Reservoir Operations.....	II-65
a. Existing Reservoir Operations	II-66
b. Future Reservoir Operations	II-66
c. Impacts of Future Reservoir Operations	II-68
2. Future of Mississippi Bar.....	II-72
3. Trails.....	II-73
4. Marina Capacity.....	II-75
5. Traffic Congestion at Major Day Use Areas	II-77
6. Camping	II-78
7. Urban/Wildland Interface	II-79
8. Off-Road Vehicle Use	II-82
9. Whitewater Course	II-82
10. Folsom Lake Quiet Day	II-83
11. State Indian Museum	II-84

CHAPTER III – THE PLAN

A. Unit Purpose and Vision.....	III-1
1. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area	III-1
a. Unit Purpose.....	III-2
b. Unit Vision	III-2

2. Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park	III-3
a. Unit Purpose.....	III-3
b. Unit Vision	III-3
 B. Classification and Management Zones.....	III-4
1. Classification.....	III-4
a. Sub-unit Classifications.....	III-4
2. Management Zones.....	III-6
3. Land Use Summary.....	III-10
 C. Unit-wide Management Goals and Guidelines.....	III-12
1. Resource Management and Protection	III-12
a. Unit-wide Management Goals and Guidelines for Natural Resources	III-13
b. Unit-wide Management Goals and Guidelines for Cultural Resources	III-48
2. Unit-wide Interpretation	III-60
3. Unit-wide Visitor Services	III-66
a. Aquatic Recreation.....	III-70
b. Upland Recreation.....	III-76
c. Multi-Use Facilities.....	III-88
d. Special Events and Concessions	III-88
e. Circulation and Public Access	III-90
f. Visual Resources and Aesthetics.....	III-93
4. Unit-wide Operations	III-95
a. Folsom Dam/Reservoir Operations	III-95
b. Employee Housing.....	III-99
c. Land Acquisition	III-100
d. Off-Road Vehicle Use.....	III-101
e. Fire Management	III-103
f. Sustainability.....	III-107
g. Accessibility Guidelines.....	III-111
h. Community Relations	III-112
5. Visitor Capacity	III-113
a. Visitor Capacity and the 1979 General Plan.....	III-114
b. Visitor Capacity and this General Plan/Resource Management Plan	III-116
 D. Specific Area Goals and Guidelines	III-121
1. Nimbus Flat/Shoals	III-121
2. Nimbus Dam	III-125
3. Lake Overlook	III-127
4. Mississippi Bar.....	III-130
5. Negro Bar	III-137
6. Natoma Canyon	III-140
7. Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park (SHP).....	III-144
8. Natoma Shore North.....	III-148
9. Natoma Shore South	III-151
10. Alder Creek/Pond.....	III-156
11. Lower Lake Natoma (AQ)	III-159

12. Upper Lake Natoma (AQ)	III-160
13. Folsom Dam.....	III-162
14. Beals Point.....	III-164
15. Mooney Ridge	III-167
16. Granite Bay South	III-168
17. Granite Bay North.....	III-172
18. Placer Shore.....	III-175
19. Rattlesnake Bar.....	III-177
20. North Fork Shore	III-180
21. Anderson Island.....	III-183
22. Peninsula	III-185
23. Darrington	III-188
24. Skunk Hollow/Salmon Falls	III-191
25. El Dorado Shore.....	III-194
26. Brown's Ravine.....	III-198
27. Mormon Island Cove	III-203
28. Mormon Island Preserve.....	III-205
29. Folsom Point	III-208
30. Folsom Lake (AQ)	III-212
31. Middle North Fork (AQ)	III-215
32. Upper North Fork (AQ).....	III-216
33. Middle South Fork (AQ).....	III-218
34. Upper South Fork (AQ)	III-219
E. Implementation and Monitoring	III-221

TABLES

Table EC-1: Folsom Lake Marina Facilities	II-33
Table EC-2: Boat Launch Facilities.....	II-34
Table EC-3: Whitewater Rafting Facilities	II-35
Table EC-4: Campground Facilities.....	II-37
Table EC-5: Day Use Facilities	II-38
Table EC-6: Trail Facilities	II-41
Table EC-7: Boat Launch Facility Operations by Lake Level	II-69
Table P-1: Management Zone Land Use Summary.....	III-11
Table P-2: Existing Visitor Capacity Expressions at Folsom Lake SRA....	III-115
Table P-3: Available Access to Folsom Lake at Various Water Levels	III-118
Table P-4: Boating Capacity and Lake Levels.....	III-119

FIGURES

Figure I-1: Regional Location.....	I-2
Figure I-2: Folsom Lake State Recreation Area Boundaries	I-3
Figure II-1: Folsom Lake State Recreation Area Land Ownership	II-3
Figure II-2: Folsom Lake.....	II-4
Figure II-3: Lake Natoma	II-6
Figure II-4: Folsom Lake Vegetation and Habitat	II-19
Figure II-5: Lake Natoma Vegetation and Habitat.....	II-20
Figure III-1: Land Use Designation by Management Zone - Folsom Lake.....	III-7
Figure III-2: Land Use Designation by Management Zone - Lake Natoma	III-8

APPENDICES

- A. Land Use Designation Descriptions
- B. Invasive Exotic Plant Species Management Guidelines for Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA)
- C. Native and Non-native Animal Control Guidelines for Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA)
- D. Management Guidelines for Specific Plant Communities by Management Zone
- E. General Plan Implementation and Monitoring
- F. Cultural Resources Management
- G. Acknowledgements

This page left blank.