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Bowtie Youth Council:

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Thank you very much for your thorough and thoughtful study of the Bowtie. Your insight, ideas, and the information gained through your engagement with the local communities are valuable and will inform and shape the future design of the Bowtie. Many of your ideas and demands are closely aligned with the California State Parks mission statement and are also reflective of much larger dialogs happening across the country as park designers and managers seek to meet the changing, often challenging, and sometime conflicting needs of our natural resources and our communities. We have heard and embrace your goals, preferences, and requirements for the Bowtie and will seek ways to fulfill the intent of the demands put forth. We appreciate and value the perspective you bring to discussion.

In response to your presentation:

DEMAND #1: Habitat and Nature Restoration

What we heard:

- Restore habitat with native plants specific to the local conditions
- Community involvement for planting and maintenance
- Designated native plant garden
- Creating habitat for both wildlife and humans
- Interpretive elements and programing focused on indigenous histories, knowledge, and caring for the land
- Collaborate with local tribes in planning and implementation of restoration efforts

State Parks Commitment:

The General Plan identifies the Bowtie parcel as designated for natural systems and passive recreation. As such, site appropriate native habitats and restoration will be a key component in the future development of the Bowtie. As with any park, it is critical to balance the desire to support wildlife and habitat while also providing opportunities for people to enjoy nature and have a nice place to spend time. The Bowtie is no exception. Care will need to be taken in the design of the park to ensure those two activities can coexist harmoniously.

We acknowledge the importance of community involvement at the park to ensure its lasting success and look forward to continuing to build partnerships with local organizations and groups to provide a variety of opportunities for the community to be involved as the park is developed and continuing long after the park is open.

We recognize and value the history of the land and the people who have lived and cared for this land for many centuries before us. We have already begun working with the local indigenous groups to ensure they are engaged and collaborating in the planning and implementation of the park. As we continue with design, the interpretive plan will be developed. The stories and history of the indigenous people of the area will certainly be a key theme of the interpretive elements and programing and we are

committed to fostering ongoing involvement with the local indigenous groups in the planning, implementation, and future programming at the park.

DEMAND #2: Community-Centered Events and Resources

What we heard:

- Jobs and park involvement prioritized for local residents
- Commitment to ongoing outreach and engagement with local communities beyond the park development.
- Events targeting local residents
- Maintain awareness and responsiveness to the surrounding neighborhoods
- Ensure inclusiveness to less privileged park users

State Parks Commitment:

State Parks acknowledges and values the local communities surrounding the park and are striving to ensure this park is an asset within the community. As this is a State Park, we must also look beyond the local community's desires also pondering the statewide significance and relevance of the land and how it serves the people of California as a whole. Our mission statement guides and directs us in our efforts and decisions. While there are many things that are important and need to be done at a community level, it is necessary to recognize that some of those things fall outside of State Parks mission. This is why community involvement and partnerships with local organizations are so important. We acknowledge the need to remain engaged with and relevant to the local communities and will continue to build relationships with local organizations and residents that support the needs of and provide opportunities within the community.

State Parks will continue to seek out and support opportunities that will create meaningful and relevant programming and events at the Bowtie. A longstanding collaboration with Clockshop has already provided numerous programs and events at the Bowtie and it is our desire to continue to promote and support these types of partnerships, activities and events.

The design of the Bowtie and the park policies will strive to be inclusive and allow all residents the opportunity to enjoy the park.

DEMAND #3: Safety for Who?

What we heard:

- Park design for inclusiveness of people experiencing houselessness
- Consideration for the concern around police presence and how that impacts the atmosphere of the park.
- Provide gender neutral bathrooms

State Parks Commitment:

Public safety is a top priority for State Parks, from how we design the park, the amenities that are provided, to the management and operation of the park. We acknowledge that this is a park for all people and are committed to designing a park that will be both safe and comfortable for the wide variety of people who will use the park.

The discussion around "police presence" is a current topic with many park and recreation departments today, and while law enforcement is a necessary safety component of park management, options are being explored as to how to provide that necessary service while reducing the uneasiness many people

feel around uniformed officers and officers with firearms. State Parks is also engaged in this discussion and acknowledges your concerns and feelings about the issue.

The issue around restrooms and providing amenities that take into consideration the wide variety of comfort levels and needs is indeed a challenge that faces park designers today. The concerns around personal safety, inclusiveness, gender identification, and accessibility must all be considered when determining the design of public restrooms in open park space. It is likely that the restroom design for this park will be different than the traditional designs of the past.

DEMAND #4: Land Sovereignty

What we heard:

- Creating meaningful space for indigenous residents
- Land acknowledgement
- Park naming
- Collaboration with local indigenous peoples in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of the site (what is planted etc.)
- Education components
- Free access to tribe members
- Local tribal members can harvest native & sacred plants onsite
- Provide amenities for gatherings

State Parks Commitment:

We acknowledge and value the history, traditions, and knowledge of the local indigenous people and recognize the important role this site can play in connecting their past to the present and future. Ongoing engagement and consultation throughout the design and implementation of the park is a top priority and the hope is to build a lasting partnership with local indigenous groups that will continue to grow long after the park is open. As the interpretive plan is being developed, State Parks strives to work closely with local groups to develop themes, stories, and messaging that is reflective and relevant. We will continue to work closely with the groups to ensure that the park is readily accessible to them, restoring their ancestral connection to both the land and the river. We will work together to establish the best ways to ensure this site is an asset to their community.

The idea of providing a more meaningful name for the park is something that has also been discussed internally at State Parks. We are happy to hear this is an idea that might be well received by the community and would provide an opportunity for the community to engage in making this their park.

In Conclusion:

We want to thank you for the time and effort you put into this project. We encourage you and your peers to stay involved and engaged as the Bowtie planning moves forward. The voice of the community's youth and young adults should and can play an important role in shaping the future of this park. We look forward to your ongoing participation.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Campbell and Amy Schuessler

California State Parks